In this Disability Education and Employment News, we have information regarding a part-time NDCO position in Western Sydney, and NSW Enhancing the Links information session down in Goulburn, 2009 Working in the West Conference and the Vision Australia's Further Education Bursaries. Plus further information on other Resources, Conferences and Workshops, News articles and other information for the Disability Education, Training and Employment Sectors.

Please distribute the Newsletter to those that you think would be interested in it.

For information on subscribing, please go to the end of the newsletter.

Western Sydney National Disability Coordination Officer NDCO part-time position

We are looking for someone to work as an NDCO 2 days a week (preferably Tuesdays & Thursdays) for a 6 month period in the Penrith/Blacktown/Hawkesbury & Penrith regions.

The NDCO (National Disability Coordination Officer) is a great position with a wide diversity of duties and stakeholders working in a friendly team at the Werrington North campus of University of Western Sydney.

Key duties include building networks and working closely with key regional partners in strengthening local capacity for increased participation in and better transition of people with disability to post-school education, training and qualified employment.

The position also involves developing and delivering new information resources, oral presentations and workshops for people with disabilities, educators (secondary and post-secondary), service providers and employers.

Working as an NDCO also incorporates helping individuals with disabilities and their associates to find useful information and contacts when making the transition to and from and/or participating in adult education and training settings and/or subsequent employment.

For the Selection Criteria and Position Description e-mail m.hayter@uws.edu.au.

Salary will be paid at HEW Level 7, including fixed term leave entitlements. For more information please contact Michelle Hayter on 0404 493 965. Expressions of Interest addressing the Selection Criteria below should to be submitted via email to m.hayter@uws.edu.au by 18 September 2009.
**Education News:**

**Schools telling disabled children to stay at home**
Justine Ferrari, Education writer | August 26, 2009
Article from: The Australian

SCHOOLS are turning children with disabilities into part-time students by restricting their attendance hours in breach of anti-discrimination laws.

Some school principals are limiting the time disabled students are in class to match the hours a teacher's aide or other assistance is available, Macquarie and Sydney university researchers have found.

The study, based on surveys with principals in mainstream schools in city and rural areas of NSW, identified several practices that breach education and anti-discrimination laws.

The breaches included negotiating with parents to limit a child's attendance, sending children directly to doctors to obtain a diagnosis without parental approval and pressuring parents to enrol their children in other schools or support classes.

The study also highlights the subjective nature of labelling children with behavioural problems -- responsible for a rise in the number of students with disabilities. One principal was quoted as saying: "Well, a behaviour problem at (this school) would be a child who just doesn't do what he's told."

For the rest of the article go to http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/story/0,25197,25982712-5013404,00.html

**Gillard to face students over youth allowance changes**
By Lyndal Curtis for AM

Thousands of students have called on Ms Gillard to pull back from proposed changes. (ABC News: Damien Larkins)

The Federal Opposition says the Government is preparing to back away from controversial changes to the youth allowance.

The Government has been criticised over its plan to change the eligibility criteria for students receiving the payments.

Education Minister Julia Gillard will today meet a group of students who say they are adversely affected by the proposed changes.

Students from regional and rural Australia have criticised the changes to the number of hours they have to work to be considered financially independent in order to qualify for the allowance.

Those most immediately affected are those who are taking a gap year and planning to work for 12 months before taking up their studies.

For the rest of the article go to http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/08/24/2664399.htm?section=justin

**Capped funds for pupils with disabilities**
Anna Patty Education Editor, August 15, 2009.

SCHOOL funding for students with special needs will be capped and no longer distributed according to the number of individual students, under NSW Department of Education proposals.

Principals and teachers are concerned that funding for students with autism and mental health disorders will be capped for the next three years at 2009 levels. The State Government plans to allocate grants based on the prevalence of disorders in the wider community.

Schools attract funding of up to $6000 for each child with a low-level of special needs. Children with severe needs will continue to attract at least $6000 each.
Cheryl McBride, the head of the independent Public Schools Principals Forum, said schools would receive a fixed amount of funding regardless of any fluctuations in the number of students with disabilities. This would contain costs and prevent budgets increasing with an expected rise in the number of children being diagnosed with special needs.

For the rest of the article go to

Don't shrink wrap the kids
Janet Albrechtsen | August 12, 2009
EVERY generation prides itself on being smarter than the previous one.

We point to impressive medical advances, huge technological leaps, vastly improved lifestyles, better government, more progressive parenting and so on. But in some areas we are not so smart after all.

Last week The Australian reported on a new study that revealed an increasing number of children were being diagnosed with something called oppositional defiant disorder and other similar behavioural disorders. In the past decade the number of children diagnosed with these disorders has risen from 2.6 per cent to 6.7 per cent. The study by researchers at Macquarie University, to be published in the International Journal of Inclusive Education, found that the diagnosis of conditions such as oppositional defiant disorder had risen by 600 per cent in mainstream schools.

Is it possible that the real sickness lies with a society that diagnoses an increasing variety of common childhood behaviour as a disorder? Perhaps we should label modern society as suffering from ODD: obsessive diagnosis disorder.

For the rest of the article go to

The danger of labels
August 10, 2009
Article from: The Australian

WE need more rigour in diagnosing problem children.

LABELS help and harm but recent reports suggest we are getting the balance wrong. Research reveals schools appear to be inflating the numbers of children with psychological and emotional disorders in an effort to secure funds to help them with troubled students who need support and discipline rather than a medical diagnosis.

The proportion of children with conditions such as oppositional defiant disorder and conduct disorders has risen dramatically in the past decade - from 2.7 per cent to 6.7 per cent. Many of these kids are the ones we used to call scatterbrained or delinquent or prone to temper tantrums. They are the kids who used to be dealt with by teachers in normal classrooms, as part of a regular discipline regime. As Linda Graham, the Macquarie University researcher who blew the whistle on this medicalisation of behaviour, says, we now appear to be “diagnosing the mainstream” as disordered.

For the rest of the article go to

When learning's a disability
August 10, 2009

It's a condition that causes bright children to be labelled stupid - and thousands of cases of dyslexia go undiagnosed. Elisabeth Tarica reports.

AFTER 30 years as a teacher, Andrew Bridge was confident he had encountered most issues that could be thrown up in a classroom. So he was more than taken aback by the turn of events in the literacy classes at Wedge Park Primary School this year.

The school, on the edge of Melton, was one of two in Melbourne's outer western region to take part in a dyslexia resilience pilot program.

Although the program trains teachers to recognise, support and empower students with dyslexia, its strength lies in teaching these students to become their own advocates in overcoming their learning disability.

For the rest of the article go to
Fickle funding deprives disabled students
August 10, 2009
WHEN Sandy Porter's family moved from Sydney to Brisbane, and from a public to a private school, the extra disability funding he received for support in the classroom shrank from five hours a day to one hour a week. "It wasn't as if he suddenly didn't have a disability any more," his mother Fiona Anderson said.
It is one of the many frustrations facing parents of children with disabilities: the inconsistency in the money students receive in different states and school systems.
Sandy, 14, has a brain injury and is classified as severely disabled because he is unable to sit, stand or walk on his own.
He uses a power wheelchair to get around, has limited movement in his right arm, and needs help with all aspects of his personal care, so that if his laptop is in his bag on the back of his wheelchair, someone needs to hand it to him.
For the rest of the article go to

Employment News:
Branded stupid, but his problems were literal
TERRY SMYTH
August 31, 2009.
THE Double Bay real estate agent Bradley Pillinger is at the top of his game, with a tally of benchmark sales in the most expensive addresses in Australia - streets that smell of money.
To name but a few: 9 Wolseley Crescent, Point Piper, sold for $24 million; Caerleon, in Bellevue Hill, home of the grandson of the Herald founder John Fairfax, $21.5 million; Rene Rivkin's Point Piper pile, Craig-Y-Mor, $16 million.
Yet there was a time when Pillinger, 43, was labelled an underachiever. Struggling with undiagnosed dyslexia, he was all but written off as stupid. As it has turned out, though, dyslexia may be the secret of his success. "I grew up in Burwood and went to school at Trinity Grammar," Pillinger says. "I have vivid memories of the letters jumping around on a page. I remember looking at letters that seemed to superimpose on themselves."
While dyslexia is a learning disorder that affects people of all levels of intelligence, in the early 1970s, when Pillinger was in primary school, it was often mistaken for intellectual disability. His school suggested he give up sport, at which he excelled, to attend remedial classes.
However, his father, Ronald (also an eastern suburbs realtor) took an opposite tack, encouraging even more involvement in rugby, cricket and swimming, and hiring tutors to coach his son in the evenings. "That built up my confidence, and my dad was determined to conquer whatever this was. It was still undiagnosed.
For the rest of the article go to
http://www.brisbanetimes.com.au/national/branded-stupid-but-his-problems-were-literal-20090830-f400.html

30pc surge in jobless benefits
Posted Sat Aug 22, 2009 12:00pm AEST
New figures show there has been a 30 per cent increase in the number of people claiming unemployment benefits.
The statistics released by the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations shows the number of people on Newstart or Youth Allowance rose to more than 640,000 in the 12 months to July.
According to the report the number of job seekers also rose by 45.5 per cent.
There was also a massive jump in the number of short-term job seekers to nearly 250,000.

Briton with prosthetic arm wins case against US retailer
August 14, 2009
A British woman with a prosthetic arm has won her case for wrongful dismissal against US clothing store Abercrombie & Fitch, after she claimed she was harrassed because of her disability.
Riam Dean, a 22-year-old law graduate who was born with no left forearm, said she was forced to work in the store's
stock room because she did not fit the company's strict "look" policy.

She resigned following the row, and during an employment hearing in central London accused company employees of "bullying" and "debasement".

The tribunal on Thursday awarded her a total of 9000 pounds ($17,700) - 7,800 pounds compensation for injury to her feelings, 1077 pounds for loss of earnings and 136 pounds for wrongful dismissal.

For the rest of the article go to

Welfare News:

30pc surge in jobless benefits

Sat Aug 22, 2009 12:00pm AEST

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No longer shut away, people with a disability are still shut out

Rhonda Galbally
August 10, 2009

A candid report into a broken system is the first step to fixing it.

The trouble with disabilities is that most Australians think they happen to someone else. Recently I was talking to a man whose partner was disabled by a recent accident and he told me: "I just didn't realise how bad things were for people with a disability - until it happened to us."

He is not alone. Without first-hand experience of disability, most people assume things are better than they used to be - or at least that they are getting better.

It is true that many of the large institutions that once housed people with a disability - out of sight and out of mind - are now closed. It is true that Australians with a disability are now largely free to live in the community. But that does not mean they are welcome.

Where once they were shut in, now people with a disability find themselves shut out. Shut out of housing, employment, education, health care, recreation and sport. Shut out of kindergartens, schools, shopping centres and community groups. Shut out of our way of life. This segregation is a national disgrace.

Late last year the National People with Disabilities and Carer Council was given the task of co-ordinating public consultations regarding the development and implementation of the Rudd Government's National Disability Strategy.

For the rest of the article go to

International News:

Call for dyslexia screening in schools

By MICHAEL FORBES - The Southland Times

Specialists want the Education Ministry to screen for dyslexia in schools, claiming thousands of parents might not realise their children suffer from the learning disability.

But the ministry has poured cold water on the idea, saying a targeted programme would not meet the diverse needs of
The Dyslexia Foundation estimates one in 10 New Zealanders have dyslexia, including 70,000 schoolchildren. Kip McGrath Southland director Clayton Riley said the ministry had put virtually no money towards helping sufferers since it officially recognised dyslexia in 2007.

"I understand it comes down to cost, but I really believe if we nipped this problem in the bud we would have a lot less angry and frustrated kids at high school," Mr Riley said.

Schools needed to be trained to screen children for the disability so parents didn't have to do it themselves, he said.

Dyslexia was an umbrella term that encompassed problems with the cerebellum or motor function, and those who struggled with light sensitivity, known as Irlen syndrome, Mr Riley said.

For the rest of the article go to

Conferences and Workshops:

**Dyspraxia: The Teaching/Learning Process**

An intensive one day skill building workshop for parents and teachers.

Where:  
- ACT - Dickson Mon 28th Sept.  
- VIC - Melbourne Fri 2nd Oct – Traralgon Fri 16th Oct - Bendigo Tues 13th Oct  
- NSW - Albury Wed 30th Sept – Wollongong Mon 19th Oct - Campbelltown Mon 26th October – Ryde Fri 6th Nov - Newcastle Mon 16th Nov – Bathurst Mon 9th Nov - (Nov - Port Macquarie & Coffs Harbour to be confirmed)  
- WA - Lathlain Fri 9th Oct.

NB: all workshops are 10am – 3pm except Traralgon which is 10:30 – 3:30pm

Cost:  
- $110 (ADA members)  
- $140 (Non members)

Morning Tea and a light lunch is provided

Workshop Overview: When people think of Dyspraxia, most conjure thoughts of a clumsy child who appears capable but unwilling to learn. Nothing could be further from the truth. Dyspraxia is a complicated and hidden specific learning disability which does not respond to normal methods of teaching. If a child is to be given any chance of reaching their true potential, educators must ensure that they are equipped with a solid understanding of how the child learns, the ability to identify the child’s learning barriers and the skills to instruct, accommodate and scaffold appropriately.

This workshop is specifically designed to develop your teaching skills (teachers/parents) and to provide you with a solid understanding of Dyspraxia and its implications in children aged 2 – 18 yrs. Together we will identify skill deficits and learning barriers and then determine appropriate support measures to ensure that the teaching/learning process is less stressful and more successful.

Be warned, this workshop is designed to be different. If you think you will be sitting in an audience listening to a speaker for the day, then this is not the workshop for you. This is an intensive, faced paced, hands on workshop and you will be expected to actively participate in all activities during the day. Activities will include group discussions, role plays, games and other practical exercises which are designed to strengthen your teaching skills, increase your understanding of Dyspraxia and enrich your learning experience.

Presenter: Christine Meredith OAM.

Christine has worked in the disability sector for the past 36 years in various roles which include; special needs tutor, supported employment manager, disability service manager and social educator. Christine is currently the CEO of the Australian Dyspraxia Association, a qualified trainer and assessor, a TAFE Disability Support Teacher and the mother of a 21 year old son who has global Dyspraxia.

This workshop is a must attend for parents/carers, teaching staff (preschool/school/TAFE/workplace), teacher aids & allied health students. Places are strictly limited so register early to avoid disappointment.

To register contact the ADA on 0245 776220 or email information@dyspraxia.com.au

2009 Working in the West Conference – ‘Unravelling the Complexities—Finding Solutions’
The conference will be held at Ascot Racecourse 70 Grandstand Rd Ascot, Thursday 22nd October 09 and Friday 23rd October 09.
Registration forms can be downloaded from www.nds.org.au/wa
For Further Information
Contact Trevor Paterson
NDCO Edge Employment Solutions
Telephone: (08) 9286 6600
E-mail: trevor.paterson@edge.org.au

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
Australia’s welfare 2009 Conference – Whose needs? How well met?
Our one-day national welfare conference to be held in the Canberra region on Tuesday 17 November 2009 brings together the nation's leading thinkers and the latest statistics in areas as diverse as housing, homelessness, children's services, disability, ageing, carers and families.
This year's event features speakers such as the Reverend Tim Costello, Australian of the Year Mick Dodson, the Hon Jenny Macklin MP, and Chair of the Australian Social Inclusion Board Ms Patricia Faulkner.
International guest speakers include Professor Eric Emerson - Disability and Health Research, Lancaster University (UK) and visiting Professor, Faculty of Health and Sciences, University of Sydney and Dr Ed Sondik, Director – Director for the National Center for Health Statistics (USA).
This year the conference is focused on encouraging a deeper understanding of the importance of social inclusion and wellbeing, while exploring the impact of government programs and services.
If you would like more information on the conference or wish to register your attendance, please visit our conference website by following this link Australia’s welfare conference 2009, http://guest.cvent.com/EVENTS/Info/Summary.aspx?e=7be89b98-74da-47c9-bca4-a617198cc580
Alternatively you can contact the AIHW conference team at conference@aihw.gov.au or on 6244 1012

The 2nd Strengthening Disability Advocacy - Working Together Conference
Tuesday 17th – Wednesday 18th November 2009
Jasper Hotel, Melbourne
The Conference Organising Committee invites submissions for proposals to present at the conference from advocates, people with a disability, educators and practitioners of social policy.
Keynote speakers at the conference include:-
· Dr. Helen Szoke - Chief Conciliator/Chief Executive Officer Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission
· Dr. Fiona Kumari Campbell - Senior Lecturer in Disability Studies, School of Human Services and Social Work, Griffith University
· Paul Ramcharan - Co-ordinator Research and Public Policy, Australian Centre for Human Rights Education
Expressions of interest are now being sought from people with disabilities, advocates, educators and practitioners of social policy who would like to be part of the program.
We would like you to submit ideas for presentations, exhibitions, displays or performances. We invite you to be as bold and imaginative as you like with your proposal.
Possible topics may include (but are not limited to):
· Empowering people involved in advocacy and self advocacy
· Human Rights
· Advocacy and self advocacy models and tools
· Checklists for advocacy groups and service providers
For further information please visit www.daru.org.au or contact DARU on Email: admin@daru.org.au Phone: 03 9639 5807
Closing Date for Expressions of Interest is Friday 28 August 2009

EOPHEA Conference 2009, Excellence for All: Social Inclusion in Higher Education
Tuesday 1 – Thursday 3 December 2009, Sydney, Australia
Registrations for the EOPHEA Conference 2009 are now open and conference delegates can take advantage of an **Early Bird** registration rate until **25 September 2009**. Student discounts are also available.

EOPHEA 2009 will offer a stimulating 2-day conference program with plenary sessions featuring high calibre keynote speakers, in-depth workshops and two entertaining and informative social and networking functions.

* Full Early Bird Registration $595.00
* Student Registration $220.0


**NDS launches Call for Papers for State Conference 2010 – ‘Dare To Be Different’**

Over the past 10 years, the popular annual NDS NSW State Conference has become the policy centrepiece for disability service providers in NSW. The 2010 NDS NSW State Conference will be held on February 15 and 16, 2010 in Sydney.

**Invitation to Present**

NDS NSW invites abstracts for conference presentations which reflect the strengths of the disability sector in one of the following themes:

**Integration:**
- Early intervention and prevention through effective collaboration with mainstream services (at all or any stages in a person’s life);
- Engaging family and carers as partners in care;
- Reducing cross-program barriers by collaborating at transition points.

**Innovation:**
- Best practice in reducing inefficiencies;
- Experimenting with new innovative models of service delivery;
- Attracting and retaining a skilled and professional workforce.

**Personalisation:**
- Developing and implementing person centred approaches and tools;
- Show me the evidence: Self directed services (addressing either value for money or better outcomes for clients, or both).

Submissions should relate to a specific service type (accommodation, supported employment, open employment, children’s services, post school and day programs), or cut across a number of service types and organisational practices (such as transition points, occupational health and safety, governance).

Further detailed information regarding abstract submissions can be accessed by downloading the NDS NSW Annual State Conference 2010 – Call For Papers.


The closing date for submissions is strictly Thursday 1 October, 2009. No abstracts will be considered after this time.

For further information and enquiries, please contact Emily Caska, [emily.caska@nds.org.au](mailto:emily.caska@nds.org.au) State Policy Coordinator at NDS NSW, (02) 9256 3112.

*For a list of all current national and international conferences and workshops click here.*

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**NSW Events:**

**Enhancing the Links: A Free Information Seminar for education staff and disability service providers**

**Date:** Wednesday 23rd September 2009, 9:00 am to 3:30 pm (Registration from 8:15am)

**Venue:** Goulburn Soldiers Club, 15 Market St, Goulburn

Enhancing education and employment opportunities for people with disability

for the registration form and/or further information please contact:

National Disability Coordination Officer

Julie Williams or Paula Davidson:

Telephone: (02) 42627155 or (02) 6297 68 99
Scholarships:
Vision Australia's Further Education Bursaries
Vision Australia's Further Education Bursaries 2010 is now open for applications. The application form can now be accessed by visiting:
www.visionaustralia.org/bursary
The closing date for 2010 bursary applications is Friday 30 October 2009.
Each year Vision Australia awards financial bursaries to tertiary students who are blind or have low vision for the purchase of adaptive technology. Vision Australia's Further Education Bursaries aims to assist clients who would not otherwise be able to afford adaptive technology, thus increasing their ability to participate in further education.
For more information contact:
Max Bini, Tertiary Education Consultant,
Phone: 1300 84 74 66
Email: max.bini@visionaustralia.org

New Resources:
Towards Success in Tertiary Study
Region 15 - University of Melbourne
Towards Success in Tertiary Study is a resource for all students who are studying or intending to study at tertiary level and includes strategies for students who have a disability.
- Chronic/ongoing medical conditions
- Mental health conditions
- Learning disabilities
- Deaf or hard of hearing
- Blind or low vision
- Acquired brain injury
- Asperger's Syndrome
- Learning Styles

Media Releases:
Tue, 25th August 2009
Taking students with disabilities out of the too hard basket
The Hon Christopher Pyne MP
Shadow Minister for Education, Apprenticeships and Training
Manager of Opposition Business in the House
The Hon Malcolm Turnbull MP
Leader of the Opposition
Senator Mitch Fifield
Shadow Parliamentary Secretary for Disabilities, Carers and the Voluntary Sector
Joint Release
Today, the Opposition held a major stakeholder forum in Melbourne to discuss the significant challenges faced by students with disabilities and their families. This issue has been languishing in the too hard basket for too long and the Coalition wants to work with parents, educators and the providers to find a solution to ensure every child has the opportunity to reach their potential.
For the rest of this media release go to http://www.liberal.org.au/news.php?id=3637

Minister listens to gap year student concerns
PORTFOLIO: Education, Employment and Workplace Relations
SNIPPET: The Minister for Education, Julia Gillard, today met with students from around Australia to discuss the Government's proposed changes to Youth Allowance. The more generous Parental Income Test will mean that students will no longer need to take a gap year in order to be eligible for assistance. Under the proposed changes, around 150,000 students would also receive a $2,254 per year start-up scholarship to assist with expenses at the beginning of each academic year and more than 14,000 students who are required to move to study would be eligible to receive an additional relocation scholarship of $4,000 in their first year, and $1,000 each subsequent year.

Minister to meet with students on Youth Allowance
PORTFOLIO: Education, Employment and Workplace Relations
SNIPPET: The Minister for Education, Julia Gillard, has today announced that she will meet with students from around Australia to discuss the proposed changes to Youth Allowance at Parliament House on Monday. The changes to Youth Allowance recommended by the Bradley Review into Higher Education are designed to ensure that the Allowance is targeted to the students who need it most. Together with the changes to the Parental Income Test, the Rudd Government will ensure more students receive Youth Allowance and more students will receive more assistance to study.

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If you wish to unsubscribe send an e-mail to thart@med.usyd.edu.au with “Unsubscribe Disability Education and Employment News” in the subject line.
To read the Disability Education and Employment News Disclaimer click here.

To Contribute:
If you have any comments, suggestions or articles, resources, scholarships, workshops, conferences, Events or any other information that is Disability Education, Training or Employment related and you wish to promote it send an e-mail to thart@med.usyd.edu.au
The Disability News Archive can be found at http://www.cdds.med.usyd.edu.au/ndco/DisabilityNews/
Funded by the Australian Government Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) under the National Disability Coordination Officer Programme.

No , Vol - Compiled by Timothy Hart the NDCO for North Sydney and Central Coast