
In this Disability Education and Employment News, we have information on the upcoming DEAN professional development day and AGM, the Vision Australia’s Further Education Bursaries and the revamped Towards Success in Tertiary Study series.

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.

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Welfare News:
Disability insurance a real reform
Mike Steketee | September 12, 2009
Article from: The Australian
A CHILD born with an illness can receive medical and hospital treatment under Medicare, if necessary for the rest of its life.
A person injured in a car accident is paid compensation under third-party insurance schemes. An employee hurt at work is eligible for workers compensation. But for people who are deaf, blind, autistic, have cerebral palsy, Down syndrome, severe intellectual or many other kinds of disability, there is no system and no safety net, only a patchwork of ad hoc services that are rationed until the money runs out. Thirty-five years ago, Gough Whitlam described it as "one of the great factors for inequality in society: inequality of luck".
Bill Shorten, the Rudd government's Parliamentary Secretary for Disabilities, calls it "a national disgrace". He says Australians with a profound or serious disability number more than 1.1 million, about the population of Adelaide.
than 30 per cent of households that include a person with disability live on less than half the median income but their living expenses are significantly higher than average. Twenty per cent of people in NSW prisons have a serious intellectual disability, compared with 1 per cent to 2 per cent of the general population. "What are we doing wrong that is turning them to crime?" Shorten asks. He surmises that unemployment, discrimination and poor housing options are contributing factors.

Shorten, the former union leader best known for his progress reports, via television, on efforts to free trapped miners at Beaconsfield in Tasmania in 2006, has become a passionate advocate for people with disabilities. "It is core to Labor values of social inclusion and it has become my cause that they should be liberated from the shackles of their genetics and their accidental circumstance," he said in April. A committee of outside experts he appointed is about to present him with a report recommending the government look at the feasibility of a national disability insurance scheme.

For the rest of the article go to http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/story/0,25197,26056151-25072,00.html

Aussies struggle with multiple disabilities
September 09, 2009
Article from: Australian Associated Press
PEOPLE with multiple disabilities are struggling to have their daily assistance needs met, a report has found. In 2003 more than two million Australians had at least two disabilities, the Disability in Australia report shows. Those who were in need of frequent assistance were far less likely to have their needs met than those people with fewer disabilities. "What we found is that the more disabilities people had, the less likely they were to have needs fully met," report author Dr Xingyan Wen said today. "So that's the challenge for the service sector and the government."

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare report also found that a "substantial proportion" of care provided to people with multiple disabilities came from family members and friends. "These people need to be targeted as the highest priority when it comes to service sector resources," Dr Wen said. http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/story/0,25197,26047890-12377,00.html

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Conferences and Workshops:

Call for Papers for NDS NSW 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. In an era of unprecedented growth in the disability services sector and a new vision for the future founded firmly on the basis of partnership, the emerging integrated system and the breaking down of barriers between non-government and government signal a new world of opportunities.

All of us involved in providing quality disability services – both government and non-government – must go forward confidently and positively, embracing the brave new world that lies before us and lead the way to a future that ensures quality outcomes for people with disability and their families.

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 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 Co ordination Officer
Julie Williams or Paula Davidson:
Telephone: (02) 42627155 or (02) 6297 68 99
Email: julie.williams@northcott.com.au paula.davidson@northcott.com.au

DEAN Professional Development Day
Tuesday 29 September 2009
An update on Australian developments in disability rights
Don’t forget to register for the upcoming DEAN PD Day on 29 September!

We are delighted to have Graeme Innes, Disability & Race Discrimination Commissioner, Australian Human Rights Commission, and Joanna Schulman, Principal Solicitor, NSW Disability Discrimination Legal Centre as confirmed presenters.

The implications of Australia’s ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the recent significant amendments to the DDA and other related Human Rights legislation will be presented. Participants will also receive a summary of themes from complaints against the tertiary education sector and implications for determining reasonable adjustments.

The DEAN Council also invites participants to submit relevant questions and/or examples of complex case studies in advance. These will then be sent to speakers to respond to on the day. If you are registered to attend the day, please send any questions you may have to n.ison@uws.edu.au

Register online at www.deaninc.org.au Registrations will close at 5pm, Wednesday 23rd September, or earlier if maximum numbers are reached. Places are limited so please register early to avoid disappointment.

Registration costs $25 for Members of DEAN or $35 for Non-Members. Membership of DEAN is open to anyone employed in a NSW/ACT TAFE or University, whose role is wholly or partly concerned with the provision of disability support and services. Non-DEAN members and other interested professionals outside the tertiary education sector are however very welcome to attend PD Days. All payments for PD Days must be made in advance using PayPal or on the day by cash or cheque.
Notice of DEAN NSW/ACT Inc. Annual General Meeting

In accordance with the DEAN NSW/ACT Inc. Constitution, the DEAN Council notifies members that the Annual General Meeting of the Association will be held on:

Tuesday 29 September, 200
University of Technology Sydney, UTS City Campus, Jones Street Building CB10, Rooms 02.460 and 02.470
Commencing at 2:30pm.

The business of the Annual General Meeting will include:

§ Confirmation of the minutes of the 2008 Annual General Meeting
§ Presentation of the Chairperson's Report
§ Presentation of the Association's audited financial statement
§ Appointment of Auditor
§ Election of members of the Council (see below)
§ Fixing of the membership fee and fees for PD Days
§ Proposed amendments to DEAN Inc. Constitution - notice is hereby given that at the Annual General Meeting to be held on Tuesday 29 September 2009 it will be moved that the attached amendments to the DEAN Inc. Constitution be adopted. A special resolution will be required for these amendments to be carried, that is, a 75% majority vote.

Membership of DEAN Council

There are nine positions on the DEAN Council:

§ Three positions designated for members from the NSW or ACT university education sector whose position focuses in part or in full on disability services
§ Three positions designated for members from the NSW or ACT TAFE education sector whose position focuses in part or in full on disability services; and
§ Three positions designated for members from NSW or ACT who are National Disability Coordination Officers (NDCO's).

Positions on Council are elected for a two-year period. The following positions will be elected at the 2009 AGM:

§ University representative - two positions
§ TAFE representative - one position
§ NDCO representative - one position

If you would like to nominate yourself or another person for a position on the DEAN NSW/ACT Council, please complete the attached DEAN Council Nomination Form and return it to Nicole Ison, DEAN NSW/ACT Secretary no later than Tuesday 22nd September, 2009. Nomination forms can be mailed to PO Box 1045, Meadowbank, NSW 2114, or signed, scanned and emailed to n.ison@uws.edu.au.

Please note that nominations can only be received at the Annual General Meeting if insufficient nominations were received in advance to fill the vacant positions. If you wish to nominate for Council please send the nomination form in advance to ensure that it will be considered; do not rely on being able to nominate at the Annual General Meeting.

Members' voting rights

Financial members of DEAN NSW/ACT Inc have the right to vote in person at the Annual General Meeting, or by proxy. Should a member wish to appoint a proxy, please complete the attached Appointment of Proxy Form and return it to Nicole Ison, DEAN NSW/ACT Secretary no later than Friday 25th September, 2009. Nomination forms can be mailed to PO Box 1045, Meadowbank, NSW 2114, or signed, scanned and emailed to n.ison@uws.edu.au.

Dysphagia Certification Workshops: Dysphagia Screening Assessment for Children and Adults with Developmental Disability: Certification Workshop

21 October 2009
Presented by Dr. Bronwyn Hemsley, NHMRC Postdoctoral Fellow (Public Health), The University of Queensland Chief Investigator/Project Manager "Communication in Hospital" Project

Wednesday 21 October
This is a certification workshop for the Dysphagia Disorders Survey (DDS) and the Dysphagia Management Staging Scale (DMSS). The Choking Risk Assessment (CRA) and Pneumonia Risk Assessment (PRA) is also included.

8.30 am – 4.30 pm
Pre-Registration is essential and closes Friday 16 October We apologise - Registrations cannot be accepted on the day
Venue: Cerebral Palsy League, Level 3 Conference Rooms 55 Oxlade Drive, New Farm, Brisbane
COST: $418 per person  $1925 (5 people* extras $385)  $3630 (10 people* extras $363)
* from one organisation  All prices include GST.
The registration fee includes admission, The DDS and DMSS, CRA and PRA manuals and test forms, registration as a trained user, and the Certificate, suitable for framing, that documents the participant's qualification.
Morning tea, sandwich lunch, and afternoon tea are also included
If your booking is part of a group booking, it is helpful for your organisation to register all names at the same time. Please contact your learning and development office prior to registration with CDS.
The Centre for Disability Studies (02) 8878 0500 ; Mail to PO Box 6 Ryde NSW 1680 fax (02) 9807 7053 or email to cdds@med.usyd.edu.au

For a list of all NSW Events click here.

Scholarships:
Vision Australia’s Further Education Bursaries
Each year Vision Australia awards financial bursaries to tertiary students who are blind or have low vision for the purchase of adaptive technology such as CCTVs, laptops, screen reading and magnification software.
Vision Australia’s Further Education Bursaries aim to assist clients who would not otherwise be able to afford adaptive technology, thus increasing their ability to participate in further education.
Since 1996, 168 bursaries have been awarded by Vision Australia to students studying a broad range of disciplines – from Arts and Music to IT and Business.
Who is eligible?
To be eligible, applicants need to:
Be an Australian citizen or permanent resident of Victoria, New South Wales, the Australian Capital Territory, Queensland, the Northern Territory or Tasmania.
Be (or become) a client of Vision Australia
Demonstrate the need for financial assistance to purchase adaptive technology
Be applying for, or enrolled in, a tertiary course graded Certificate IV or above.
Be available to attend a presentation ceremony in May.
How to apply?
To apply for a bursary, applicants need to:
Complete an application form – download available from August at www.visionaustralia.org/bursary
Have an adaptive technology assessment with a Vision Australia consultant
Provide some documentary evidence (outlined on the application form).
(Applications are treated in the strictest confidence.)
Important dates
Applications open in August and close at the end of October. Recipients are selected in December, equipment is purchased and delivered after proof of enrolment has been provided (around March) and the Bursaries are presented at ceremonies in May.
For more information contact:
Max Bini
Tertiary Education Consultant
Vision Australia
201 High Street
Prahran Vic 3181
Max.Bini@visionaustralia.org
Ph: 03 9520 5555
New Resources:
Towards Success in Tertiary Study series.
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.
The updated series is available online via the NDCO Victoria website: www.ndcovictoria.net.au or via the University of Melbourne’s Equity and Planning site: http://www.services.unimelb.edu.au/edp/policy/publications.html
For a list of New Resources click here

Media Releases:
Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs | Community and Disability Services Ministers’ Conference Communiqué
PORTFOLIO: Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs
SNIPPET: Community and Disability Services Ministers’ Conference Communiqué. Further to progress reform priorities under the NDA, Ministers: Endorsed the interim National Quality Framework for Disability Services, including revising the National Standards for Disability Services Agreed to a national stocktake of current initiatives to help older carers and people with disability plan for the future. The National Disability Strategy will be launched in 2010.

Increasing university applications and students show strong interest in higher education
PORTFOLIO: Education, Employment and Workplace Relations
SNIPPET: The Minister for Education, Julia Gillard, has today announced that university applications have grown by 5.6 per cent this year - the largest increase since 2002 - while the number of students in higher education in Australia continued to grow in 2008, reaching 1,066,095. Today's report showed that applications for science courses are 17 per cent higher this year, reversing declining interest and falling applications since 2004. The total number of enrolments for Indigenous students in higher education in 2008 increased 1.7 per cent and new enrolments increased 7.1 per cent.

100,000 students better off under Labor - 146,600 worse off under the Coalition
PORTFOLIO: Education, Employment and Workplace Relations
SNIPPET: The Minister for Education, Julia Gillard, said the Government will move to benefit more than 100,000 students with changes to Youth Allowance to be introduced into the Parliament tomorrow, while the Opposition seeks to take almost $50 a fortnight away from 146,600 students. The Government's proposed changes will mean that all university students receiving Youth Allowance, ABSTUDY or AUSTUDY will be eligible for scholarships, students and their parents will be able to earn more before they lose their allowance and students will be able to claim independence earlier. Next year this equates to 146,600 students losing the equivalent of $24 a week, each and every week they're at university.
Government to reintroduce Bill to rebuild essential student services and amenities

PORTFOLIO: Education, Employment and Workplace Relations


SNIPPET: Kate Ellis, Minister for Early Childhood Education, Child Care and Youth, announced today that the Australian Government will introduce the Higher Education Legislation Amendment (Student Services and Amenities) Bill 2009 into the Parliament tomorrow. This Government is determined to deliver on our election commitment to rebuild essential student services and amenities on university campuses, Ms Ellis said. I know that the National Party recognises how important this Bill is and I call on them to join with the Government to rebuild essential services and amenities on our university campuses.

Many Australians coping with multiple disabilities (media release, Wednesday 9 September 2009) (AIHW)

PORTFOLIO: Health and Ageing


SNIPPET: The latest report on disability in Australia, released today by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, examines the frequency of multiple disabilities and their impact on the care needs of Australians. The report, Disability in Australia: multiple disabilities and need for assistance, shows a substantial proportion of care for people with multiple disabilities is provided by their family members and friends. Support needs of people with early onset multiple disabilities vary depending on the nature of their disabilities and their life stages.