In this Disability Education and Employment News, we have information on the upcoming Australian Network on Disability (AND) training sessions, the next DEAN Professional Development Day on mental health issues, the Stepping into... program has opened a new round and PWD is conducting a supporters survey. 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.

**Education News**

**Labor to bring back compulsory university amenities fees**

THE Gillard government will introduce legislation today to restore compulsory student amenities fees at Australian universities.

Minister for Tertiary Education Minister, Senator Chris Evans, appealed today to the new parliament to support the bill, saying he wanted it to be passed by Christmas to ensure it will take effect next year.

Senator Evans said it was important to restore a range of depleted services at universities, particularly in regional Australia, and cited sporting, health and counselling services as key areas.

The legislation would allow students to be charged a fee of up to $250 a year for the provision of student services with
Senator Evans claiming it was supported by both universities and students.

He also took a swipe at the Howard government’s voluntary student unionism legislation which had abolished services and amenities fees for students.


**Uni housing model may exacerbate antisocial conduct**

Heath Gilmore HIGHER EDUCATION

October 1, 2010

A BOOM in new university housing complexes could generate more antisocial behaviour among students like the infamous pro-rape Facebook page, a leading mental health researcher says.

More than $3.2 billion of large-scale housing is being built or planned for universities around the country, as parents want safer and more affordable accommodation for their children, particularly after the widespread reports of violence towards Indian students.

Professor Ian Hickie, who led the first beyondblue national depression initiative and now heads the Brain and Mind Research Institute at the University of Sydney, said the complexes with hundreds of rooms built on-campus or nearby had many unacknowledged dangers.

The mental health campaigner has worked with a number of traditional residential colleges to address aberrant behaviour.


**No gain without paying – Australian**

22/09/2010

Joseph Gora

CORPORATE rip-offs mean students get slugged extra even for basics.

A FRIEND of mine who happens to be a single parent, visually disabled and battling serious illness, contacted me recently to vent her spleen. Through a volley of choice expletives she told of a contagious disease that has infected the university body.

This terrifying pathology - let’s call it the corporate rip-off - has resulted in the imposition of a range of fees and charges that are tantamount to a form of medieval torture for cash-strapped student-paupers.

Having received an assignment grade somewhat lower than she anticipated, Jane emailed her unit co-ordinator to inquire about the marking process. Apparently Jane had received guidance from the unit co-ordinator about what was to be included in the assignment, only to find that the casual marker was operating on different criteria. The response she received from the co-ordinator went something like this (and I’ll paraphrase): Hello Jane, sure, I can have a look at your work and give you my judgment.”

For the rest of the article go to http://www.theaustralian.com.au/higher-education/no-gain-without-paying/story-e6frgcjx-1225927559122

**Disorder in the classroom on the rise – Australian**

18/09/2010

Jane Hansen

THE nation is in the grip of an epidemic of autism, with at least one state reporting an incidence as high as one child in 50. But a growing number of medicos, parents and politicians are questioning the validity of the diagnosis, arguing that many children are being labelled for life with a disability they simply don't have in the pursuit of extra education funding.

Mick O'Keeffe is passionate about helping children with learning difficulties and as a developmental pediatrician he knows early intervention can turn around young lives around. But in his home state, Queensland, a diagnosis-based funding arrangement with the state Department of Education and Training means every week parents knock on his Brisbane surgery door begging for their child to be diagnosed with autism, even if he knows they are not autistic.

It is the reason, he says, the rate of autism spectrum disorder in Queensland is officially one in 50 children.

"There’s no reason Queensland should have three times the rate [of] the rest of the world or any other state in Australia," he says. "It is being driven by diagnosis-based funding models within the education system."
International News:
Standards' Impact for Special Ed. is Weighed
For students who are disabled, guidance brings hurdles and opportunity.
By Christina A. Samuels
Special education advocates are greeting the burgeoning common academic standards movement with a mixture of optimism and caution.
Adopted so far by 36 states and the District of Columbia, the common academic standards were developed with the backing of two national groups based in Washington, the Council of Chief State School Officers and the National Governors Association. The intent of the effort, which is also getting support from federal education officials, is to provide clear guideposts for what students at each grade level should know and be able to do. The standards also offer an opportunity for students covered by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, or IDEA, to have access to the same rigorous coursework that is offered to their peers in general education, the standards writers believe.
But the standards—content creators intentionally have not spelled out how the new curricula should be taught to a student population with a range of physical and cognitive needs. They have made clear, however, that all types of accommodations and supports should be considered that maintain the rigor of the standards.
For example, in the English/language arts standards, the writers note that “reading should allow for the use of Braille, screen-reader technology, or other assistive devices, while writing should include the use of a scribe, computer, or speech-to-text technology. In a similar vein, speaking and listening should be interpreted broadly to include sign language.”

Employers discriminate against disabled
By Samantha Collins
Tuesday, September 14, 2010
When Dot Nary sits at a job interview, she knows she will be judged — and not because of what she has on her resume. She sits in a wheelchair, which means her potential employer may think she is incapable for the job.
Investigations made by Jean Hall and Kathy Parker at the University revealed that various federal unemployment programs that were designed to help the unemployed find jobs, such as the Workforce Investment Act, do not equally cater to the needs of the disabled. The major factor that causes this problem is that employers discriminate against people with disabilities.
“These systems are designed as a one-size fits all, regardless of what needs they bring to that system,” Hall, associate research professor for the Division of Adult Studies at the Center for Research on Learning, said.
Nary, a doctoral candidate from Lawrence, said one out of every five Americans is disabled. A disability can be any kind of physical, emotional or mental limitation experienced by a person. About 63 percent of disabled Americans are unemployed, according to Temporary Assistance for Needy Families.
For the rest of the article go to
Working in the West Conference 2010 aims to provide all delegates a strategies and practical support toolbox full of ideas to take away and use in our ever changing environment.
The Conference will motivate, inspire and will offer delegates a wide range of training and information on marketing and selling, mental health and other specific disabilities along with other agencies offering information about their services and how they can to assist you and lots more!

Pathways 10, 2010 Conference
1–3 December 2010
Southbank Institute of Technology,
Brisbane, Australia

So make the most of the Early Bird registration fees and register now.

Early Bird Registration fees being at $670 for full delegates and $500 for students.
Early Bird registration closes on Monday, 11 October 2010
To register and view the program go to www.pathways10.org

ATEND has received a grant from the National Disability Funding Program.
This funding will be used to provide the services and support that delegates with disabilities require in order to access and participate in the conference. In addition a limited number of partial subsidies for travel and accommodation will be made available for delegates with disabilities. Our goal will be to assist as many people as possible.
All enquiries should be directed to: pathways10@icms.com.au by Monday 27 September, 2010

NSW Events:
A Person-Centred Approach to Assessing Support Needs: The I-CAN Facilitator Training Workshop
http://www.cds.med.usyd.edu.au/

Another I-CAN http://www.i-can.org.au/ Facilitator Training one day workshop is being held on Wednesday 29th of September, at Seven Hills, Sydney, NSW. Register online here at http://www.cds.med.usyd.edu.au/component/civicrm/?task=civicrm%2Fevent%2Finfo&id=9&reset=1 or contact CDS http://www.cds.med.usyd.edu.au/contactcds if you would like to attend. I-CAN facilitator training workshops are held every few months, with another already planned for Lismore, NSW. Get in touch if you would like to attend.

Australian Network on Disability (AND)
UPCOMING SYDNEY TRAINING SESSIONS
Disability Confidence for HR Professionals
When: 9am - 1pm - Tuesday 12th October 2010
Cost: Members $325 + GST / Non-members $395 + GST
Mental Health & Workforce Wellbeing
When: 9am - 2:30pm - Wednesday 13th October 2010
Cost: Members $325 + GST / Non-members $395 + GST
* 10% discount for attending both sessions *
Both sessions generously hosted by Stockland - Level 2, 133 Castlereagh St Sydney.
DOWNLOAD A REGISTRATION FORM IN PDF http://files.e2ma.net/5180/assets/docs/syd-oct_training_reg_form.pdf
WORD http://files.e2ma.net/5180/assets/docs/syd-oct_training_reg_form.doc
CANBERRA - please register by 22nd Oct
Friday 29th Oct
DEAN Professional Development Day
Thursday 14 October 2010
Mental Health Issues:
The elephant in the room for all disability workers (continued)
The DEAN Council is pleased to provide you with details of the upcoming DEAN PD Day on Thursday 14 October.
The PD Day will be held at UTS City Campus, Tower, Building CB02, Room 03.02 and Video-Conferenced to a UNE Centre, Fitzroy Street, Tamworth
We are delighted to have Nola Birch, Disability Liaison Officer, Disability Liaison Unit, The University of Melbourne (in Sydney) and Annette Stevenson, Senior Counsellor, Student Assist, University of New England (via video link from Tamworth) as our guest speakers.
Register online at www.deaninc.org.au/content/view/12/65/
If you require alternative formats or sign language interpreters, please register as soon as possible, but by Monday, 4th October at the latest in order for these services to be put in place.
Registrations will close at 5pm, Friday 8th October, or earlier if maximum numbers are reached. Places are limited so please register early to avoid disappointment.
Places are limited so please register early to avoid disappointment.
Registration costs $50 for Members of DEAN (and for people participating via video link) or $70 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.
Eligible practitioners are reminded that they can now join DEAN for $30 per year, to receive the discounted registration rate, access to the member’s only area of the DEAN website and many other benefits. For more info, go to: www.deaninc.org.au/content/view/42/86/

Vic Events:
Inclusive Assessment
Professor Christine Hockings, University of Wolverhampton
About the Event
Christine Hockings, Professor of Learning and Teaching in Higher Education, University of Wolverhampton, will be presenting a seminar at Storey Hall, RMIT University on Wednesday, October 13. The seminar will be convened by the School of Education Cluster for Research in Education for Sustainability and Social Inclusion (CRESSI), the National Centre for Student Equity in Higher Education (NCSEHE) and the Australian Association for Research in Education (AARE) Tertiary Education and Equity Special Interest Group.
Wednesday, 13 October 2010, 12:00PM-2:00PM
University Function Room, Level 2, RMIT University, Building 8, Swanston St, Melbourne, Victoria
To register your attendance, contact:
Michelle Parente
RMIT University
Michelle.Parente@rmit.edu.au
03 9925 7914

Calls for Expressions of Interest and Input:
We want to hear from YOU! Take Part in the PWD Supporter Survey!
Dear Friend of PWD,

Thank you for the support you have given People with Disability Australia (PWD) in the past, and your continuing interest in our work and activities.

PWD is committed to providing its members and supporters with up to date information, services and programs to empower them to fight for and uphold the rights of people with disability.

In order to do this, we need to know more about you, our supporters!

We now invite you fill out our short online Supporter Survey - a survey that aims to help us to understand and support PWD members, and help us improve communication and better tailor our services and activities to you.

Click here to access the survey: http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/pwd_supporter_survey

It should take only about 10 minutes to complete.

We have endeavored to make this survey accessible to as many people as possible. If you experience any difficulty while completing any aspects of it please contact our Information and Liaison Officer, Craig Andrews for assistance on email pwd@pwd.org.au or telephone (02) 9370 3100 or freecall 1800 422 015.

Thank you very much for participating in this survey. Your support truly makes a difference!

Stepping into....
The Australian Network on Disability (AND) facilitates an internship program specifically for university students with disability, called Stepping into....

This program provides a minimum of four weeks' paid work experience with one of our member organisations, all leading Australian organisations.

The program runs during the Winter and Summer semester breaks, and we are pleased to announce that the Summer program is now open for applications.

During the 2010/11 Summer break (Nov ’10 - Feb ’11) we have the following opportunities available:

**SYDNEY**

**CANBERRA**
- Dept Defence
- Dept Health & Ageing
- Dept Families, Housing, Community Services & Indigenous Affairs

(Students from all disciplines encouraged to apply).

More opportunities will be uploaded onto the website as they are confirmed.

This program is open to students in their final or penultimate year of study. The program will run between Nov 2010 and Feb 2011 - dates are flexible to fit in with your studies and other commitments.

For more information please visit our website [www.and.org.au](http://www.and.org.au). We also encourage you to forward this information to any of your friends with disability who may be interested.

Stepping into... offers a great opportunity to gain some 'real life' work experience, and also develop a network of useful contacts for your future career. Being able to include this on your resume can really boost your employment prospects, and provide a 'step into' your dream career!

For more information please visit our website at [www.and.org.au](http://www.and.org.au) or phone the Australian Network on Disability on 1300 363 645.

Scholarships:

**Vision Australia Further Education Bursary 2011**
The Vision Australia Further Education Bursary 2011 for tertiary students with a vision impairment is now open for applications. The closing date is 29 October 2010. Please consider passing this information onto current and future domestic students who may not be aware of what a great opportunity it is for them to receive adaptive technology.

Visit [www.visionaustralia.org/bursary](http://www.visionaustralia.org/bursary) for the application form and more information.

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 aims to assist clients who would not otherwise be able to afford adaptive technology, thus increasing their ability to participate in further education.

Since 1996, 191 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 specifically for the Bursary 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
Max.Bini@visionaustralia.org

**Publication:**

The impact of wages on the probability of completing an apprenticeship or traineeship

Authors: Tom Karmel, Peter Mlotkowski

Making use of the NCVER Apprentice and Trainee Destination Survey, this paper focuses on wages and the impact they have on the decision not to continue with an apprenticeship or traineeship. The broad conclusion is that increasing training wages would have little effect on completion rates. For apprentices, it is the premium associated with becoming a tradesperson that counts, not training wages. For females in non-trade traineeships, there is no relationship between wages and completion rates. It is only for males in non-trade traineeships for whom increasing training wages would make a difference to completion rates. However, for this group there is, on average, only a modest premium to completion. This finding raises the question of whether traineeships in some occupations—sales for example—are contributing to increased skill levels in any substantive manner.


**New Resources:**

Getting Connected

With semester in full swing now, we’re certain you have a lot going on... whether it be that assignment to complete, presentation to prepare, or that exam to study for. But, the WSNDSCO team would like to remind you that it’s vital to strike
a balance! The internet is a great way to get connected to more information, get connected with resources to help or even connect with others who have a disability.

Here are some websites which have been recommended to us. Check them out!

**Australasian Network of Students With Disabilities (ANSWD) -** [www.answd.org](http://www.answd.org)

Student organisation advocating, promoting, lobbying and campaigning on disability issues.

**Beyondblue -** [www.beyondblue.org.au](http://www.beyondblue.org.au)

Beyondblue contains information on issues associated with depression, anxiety and related substance misuse disorders.

**e-couch -** [www.ecouch.anu.edu.au](http://www.ecouch.anu.edu.au)

e-couch provides information about emotional problems – their causes and how to prevent them. It also includes exercises to help you understand yourself and others better.

**Headspace -** [www.headspace.org.au](http://www.headspace.org.au)

A fun website where you can get the facts on mental illness, read about others’ experiences, watch videos and get more information about everything mental-health related.

**Livewire -** [www.livewire.org.au](http://www.livewire.org.au)

Livewire is an online peer support community for young people living with a serious illness or disability. The site features social networking tools like chat, blogs and forums.


This website is specifically for mature age people with disabilities and/or medical conditions considering or enrolled in tertiary education.

**MoodGym -** [www.moodgym.anu.edu.au](http://www.moodgym.anu.edu.au)

An innovative, interactive web program designed to prevent depression. It contains exercises and strategies to challenge your thinking.

**Ouch! It's a disability thing -** [www.bbc.co.uk/ouch](http://www.bbc.co.uk/ouch)

Ouch! is a funky website from the BBC UK that reflects the lives and experiences of people with disability. It has articles, blogs, a very busy message board and an award-winning downloadable radio show.

**Stress Less: Where's your head at? -** [www.stressless.uwa.edu.au](http://www.stressless.uwa.edu.au)

Provides useful tips to help you manage the combined pressures of studying and enjoying uni life while meeting your non-uni commitments.

**1000 Voices -** [http://1000voices.edu.au/](http://1000voices.edu.au/)

1000 voices is a website dedicated to sharing the stories of people with disability from around the world and ensuring that these voices become part of ongoing research, service, and policy development. Connect with other people’s stories – or share your own!

To find your local NDCO go to: [www.yourownpathstosuccess.com](http://www.yourownpathstosuccess.com)

Content provided by Catherine Gasparini, NDCO for Blacktown and Outer Western Sydney

**Centrelink Pulse**

A new community newsletter for people who receive Disability Support Pension. You can find out the latest news, views + things to do.

In fact, we want you to experience a community that’s informed, involved and best of all, online.

Share your stories and thoughts on important issues affecting people with disability and take part in online opinion polls.

While you’re here, why not register to receive the Pulse e-newsletter so you can have the latest information on matters important to you.


**In My Shoes**

In My Shoes is a professional development program for all staff working in educational organisations.

In My Shoes is generally utilised as an induction training program and has a main purpose of raising awareness of staff obligations around providing equitable access to education for people with a disability.

In My Shoes is a simple induction program that supports the education provider to ensure that all staff of the organisation are aware of their responsibilities and legal obligations according to the Disability Discrimination Act (1992) and the Disability Standards in Education (2005).

This training program offers three different streams, targetting - Teachers, Administration staff and Disability Support
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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

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The NDCOs for Region 1 and 3 are Hosted at the Centre for Disability Studies