In this Disability Education and Employment News, we have information on the National Disability Coordination Officer position at the Centre for Disability Studies, Establishing Effective Internal Networks of People with Disability seminars, the 2010 Assistive Technology: The tip of the iceberg in Hobart, the Tamworth ‘Enhancing the Links’ and the ‘Crossroads - which path to choose?’ seminars. Information on the Brothers and Sisters: Their role in the life of a person with a disability seminar, and the NSW University “Employment and Careers Forum - Managing Disability at Work: The things you need to know” and the Quantum Technology & Freedom Scientific Scholarship Programs for 2010.

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.

NATIONAL DISABILITY COORDINATION OFFICER POSITION
The Centre for Disability Studies
Temporary Full Time till 30 June 2011, 40 hours per week
Salary range $926.80-1510.40 gross per week plus
9% Superannuation (dependent on experience and skills)
Position No. 2009/82

The objectives of the NDCO Programme are to assist people with a disability to access post-school education and training, and subsequent employment, through the provision of information, coordination and referral services for people with a disability who are interested in, or enrolled in, post-school education and training.

Only Australian citizens or permanent Australian residents are eligible to apply for this position.

Applications must address Essential and Desirable criteria as outlined in the information pack.

Information Pack: Human Resources
Email: jobs@royalrehab.com.au
Phone: 9808 9207
Enquires: Professor Trevor R. Parmenter
Centre for Disabilities Studies

Phone: 02 8878 0500
Email: trevorp@med.usyd.edu.au
Closing date: 2 November 2009

Written applications addressing essential and desirable criteria; resume and the name and contact details of two
referees must be forwarded to Human Resources Department, Royal Rehabilitation Centre Sydney, PO Box 6, Ryde 1680.

Please refer to our website www.royalrehab.com.au for further information about the centre.
We are committed to equal employment opportunity, ethical practices and principles of cultural diversity and promote a smoke free work environment. Appropriate criminal record and child protection checks conducted for all successful candidates. You may be eligible to participate in the Centre's salary packaging program, which will increase your take-home pay.

"To maximise abilities and optimise lifestyles following injury or illness by providing quality rehabilitative care and disability services in a safe and satisfying work environment"

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Education News:
Special needs student funding attacked
VAUGHAN, POLITICAL REPORTER
October 08, 2009 04:15pm
TEACHERS find it impossible to properly educate students with special needs because they lack staff and resources and are not properly trained, the teachers union says.

Hundreds of angry parents today joined the Australian Education Union on the steps of Parliament House, urging the State Government to provide more funding for schools to support special needs children.

They say facilities in South Australia are far inferior to those interstate and they often have no choice but to either keep their children at home or send them to private schools.

Father of five children, including two with autism, Garry Connor, said he was forced to use private education because the public system did not provide adequate support.

"We are close to the poverty line, but we have to send our kids to private school, because the public system just can't support our children," he said.
For the rest of the article go to http://www.news.com.au/adelaidenow/story/0,22606,26182442-2682,00.html?from=public_rss

Technology pushes HSC on to laptops
ANNA PATTY EDUCATION EDITOR
October 3, 2009
HIGHER School Certificate students could be typing their exam essays on computers as early as 2012, according to Board of Studies predictions.

Carol Taylor, the acting chief executive at the Office of the NSW Board of Studies, said it was "inevitable computers will be used in HSC exams", particularly for subjects such as English.

The board has set 2012 as a target and is testing software for use on laptops distributed to year 9 students this year. Ms Taylor said it was unlikely computers would ever be used for mathematics exams or for some sciences because students were required to show the working for their final answer.

However, computers could be used in such subjects as English and history in 2012 if trials of the software proved...
"We set 2012 as a milestone for increasing technology in exams," Ms Taylor said. "This current year 9 getting laptops will be doing their exams in 2012."

School principals have expressed concerns to the board about the HSC remaining a handwritten examination despite the increasing use of computers in the school curriculum.

For the rest of the article go to

Beauty is running dry as children take their eyes off their pens
WILLIAM MCKEITH
October 3, 2009

The crisis in handwriting, says Umberto Eco, began with the ballpoint pen. Handwriting lost its soul, style and personality. We should regret the passing of good handwriting, he says, for at the time of his parents their letters were a minor work of art.

The rise of computers and mobile phones means children are no longer taught the techniques required to write properly. For the Italian author and philosopher, this is a bad thing.

He is right to recognise the beauty of form and structure achieved in good handwriting. A piece of script written with flow, style and order is pleasing to the eye. In ways not dissimilar to the place of the smile, the handshake, the hand gesture and the bow in interpersonal contact, so the form and style of the piece of writing sends messages to the audience.

The art of handwriting teaches young people to control their hands and encourages eye-hand co-ordination. There is an easy integration of style and substance. It teaches us to slow our thinking, to reflect and order and compose our thoughts before putting pen to paper. There is no cut and paste. The first time is the final time.

For the rest of the article go to

Schools ‘failing’ impaired students
MIKI PERKINS
September 29, 2009

THE court hearing for a teenage boy with a severe speech defect who is suing the Victorian Education Department has heard claims that students with language disabilities are being discriminated against.

Meredith Woodward is suing the Department on behalf of her son, Druian Woodward, 13, a student of Monterey Secondary College in Frankston, who earlier went to Karingal Primary School.

Ms Woodward claims the schools indirectly discriminated against Druian by not providing him with ongoing speech therapy, and did not protect him from bullying.

For the rest of the article go to

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Employment News:
Disability strategy a strong step forward
A National Mental Health and Disability Employment Strategy to encourage more people with disabilities into work has been released.

The strategy includes $1.2 billion in new employment services for people with disabilities and includes the Disability Support Pension (DSP) Employment Incentive Pilot which will trial a new way of encouraging employers to offer work to people with disabilities and allow DSP recipients to demonstrate their skills.

Minister for Employment Participation, Senator Mark Arbib said from 1 March next year, job seekers would receive more personalised services, while employers of people with a disability would get more support.

For the rest of the article go to
Welfare News:

Macklin blitz on disability pensions
David Uren, Economics correspondent | October 22, 2009

The government will crack down on eligibility for disability pensions in the wake of a 30 per cent spike in applications during the global financial crisis.

Families Minister Jenny Macklin has said the government was concerned that a change in work status rather than health was the main reason for the surge in applications for the welfare benefit.

Australia's peak welfare body says the fact that the disability pension is $106 a week higher than the Newstart Allowance could explain the trend.

A Families Department analysis has shown that regions with high numbers of unemployed also have high numbers of people on the disability pension.

Ms Macklin said the rate of people applying for the disability pension was very closely related to the rate applying for unemployment benefits.

"(This) leads us to the view that many new applications for the disability pension are not triggered by the acquisition of an impairment or disability, but by changes in an individual's employment circumstances," she said.

Addressing a forum by the Labor-leaning think tank Per Capita in Canberra yesterday, she spelt out details of a new system for assessing claims for the disability pension that would place much greater weight on previous work history.

For the rest of the article go to http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/story/0,25197,26243601-2702,00.html

Disability insurance scheme needed: AMASUSANNA DUNKERLEY

October 7, 2009

There is growing pressure on the Rudd government to set up a no-fault disability insurance scheme.

The Australian Medical Association (AMA) has joined an alliance of community groups and unions lobbying for the introduction of a Medicare-style safety net.

It would provide financial support, therapy, respite care and home modifications for anyone with a disability who needs long-term care.

AMA president Dr Andrew Pesce says doctors are fed up with the inadequate early intervention and community assistance for people with disabilities.

"And many get frustrated at being unable to get assistance, care coordination and support services for their patients with a disability," he said in a statement.


1 in 4 teens live with mental illness

By Bronwyn Herbert for The World Today

The study found one in four teenagers live with mental illness. Video: Study looks at the trouble with teens (The Midday Report) Audio: Prime Minister tackles youth issues on the net (The World Today) A report into the "state of young people" shows disturbing levels of mental and physical illness among Australian teenagers.

The study was commissioned by the Federal Government and was launched this morning by the Minister for Youth, Kate Ellis.

"I think the overall impression is that whilst the majority of young people are doing very well, that there are certainly some emerging challenges out there that we need to be conscious of which are quite different to the challenges which previous generations experienced," she said.

For the rest of the article go to http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/10/22/2721659.htm?section=australia

End the poverty of disability

STEPHANIE PEATLING POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT
October 4, 2009
A NATIONAL insurance scheme for people with disabilities is on the radar for the Rudd Government after persistent warnings the existing system is in crisis.

An expert panel established by the Government will recommend a feasibility study be commissioned to determine the cost.

"It's both economically rational and socially responsible," said Bruce Bonyhady, a member of the Disability Investment Group. He likened the introduction of such a scheme to the push for Medicare and superannuation. "Despite our intention to minimise risk, stuff happens," Mr Bonyhady said.

"We all pay premiums for health or car insurance because we want to make sure if something happens we are covered."

An insurance scheme would involve a universal, compulsory, no-fault insurance scheme providing essential care and support for those disabled at birth or through an accident or illness.

For the rest of the article go to http://www.smh.com.au/national/end-the-poverty-of-disability-20091003-gh7i.html

Australia: where the poor are poorer
JOSH GORDON
September 20, 2009
AUSTRALIA'S unemployed are experiencing poverty at a far higher rate than the unemployed in other developed nations.

A report from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development has found that, even before the downturn, 55 per cent of jobless households in Australia were living in "relative poverty", on less than half the average income.

By contrast, the average rate of relative poverty for jobless households in OECD countries was just 37 per cent.

The report warned that, unlike those of other countries, the tax and transfer system in Australia was heavily geared towards helping working households, but was less successful at tackling entrenched poverty of jobless households.

"Australia's tax and transfer system - targeted towards low-income earners - reduces the risk of poverty among working households by three-quarters, but is less successful in tackling poverty in jobless households," the report said.


Disability insurance a real reform
Mike Steketee | September 12, 2009
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. More 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.

The concept is developing momentum: last year's 2020 summit adopted it as one of its big ideas and Families Department head Jeff Harmer said in his pension review that it was worth considering. The proposal picks up where the Whitlam government left off: its legislation for a national no-fault compensation scheme covering all those suffering
injury and congenital disability failed to pass through parliament before Whitlam's dismissal in 1975.
For the rest of the article go to

International News:
Special Education: Blessing or Curse?
September 22, 9:39
Special Education: Who’s going to fall on that double edged sword? This is such a touchy subject to write on. On one hand Special Ed is severely needed in our schools, but on the other hand they are expensive and tend to cubby-hole our children for years having to fight against its negative stigma.
I was working in a Foster Group Home in Hercules, and one of the boys, 15 years old, was to start school. His testing put him at 3rd or 4th grade level, and he was labeled “Learning disabled”. What exactly his disability was is even now unclear. He refused to start school. He would not spend one minute in a Special Ed classroom. What could the school do? Mainstream him into the 9th grade? That surely would set him up for failure. Mainstream him into a 4th grade classroom? The ridicule there would be horrendous, and knowing this young man’s temperament perhaps even unsafe. In the long run he did not attend school for a period of time at all. In the long run he received the individual attention he needed, unfortunately it was with the Contra Costa County Juvenile Probation Department – another one bites the dust.
For the rest of the article go to
http://www.examiner.com/x-12479-SF-Parenting-Teens-Examiner-y2009m9d22-Special-Education-Blessing-or-Curse

Opinion:
We are too quick to label children October 6, 2009
Back in the last century when I was teaching there was a favourite staff room story of the student teacher who, on his first day, found an alphabetical class list with a number next to each student's name. At the end of the week the trainee observed that it was amazing how accurate the IQ test rankings were. But (and here the teller smiles wisely), it was simply a list of the students' locker numbers.
This Pygmalion effect has been well documented. The dangers of label/libel are well known. If you believed in IQ scores they became true.
Children worked to what they thought was their level, and teachers taught to what they thought were the child's capabilities. The expectation became the reality. It was a form of intellectual racism.
For the rest of the article go to

Conferences and Workshops:
International
The seventh in the highly successful Supporting Deaf People online conference series will take place between the 3-6th February, 2010
This year’s themes are:
* Interpreting in specialist settings
* Interpreters, fallout and vicarious trauma
* Effective interpreting, politeness, face and culture
There are also workshops on being a deaf interpreter, deaf perspectives on interpreting, etc.
For more info see here: http://www.online-conference.net/sdp2010/programme.htm
Registration is now open and the early bird discount is available until the 31st of October, so sign up today!
If you're not sure how an online conference works, see http://www.online-conference.net/sdp2010/faq.htm or email judithm@directlearn.co.uk for more info.
They're easy to use, you need no special equipment or software and they are really, really convenient - participate from work, home or an internet cafe! Up to 2.0 CEUs are available for the conference.
If you have not attended an SDP conference before, here's what a few previous delegates said:
"This was my first SPD and I wanted to thank you for all the incredible work that you did pre-conference, as well as during. WOW!! What an amazing experience. I hope to return for more of this type of learning."
"This was one of the best conferences I have ever experienced whether in person or online. The caliber of the presentation materials and conference participant posts far exceeded my expectations. I look forward to the next SDP online conference and will definitely recommend this conference to others."
"Clearly, I really enjoy this conference! The flexibility, easy-to-navigate style and non-threatening interaction with fellow delegates keep me coming back year after year. The presentations are thorough and relevant to my work. What an asset SDP is to the learning process of interpreters worldwide!"

National

SEMINARS - CANBERRA & SYDNEY - NOV 2009 Establishing Effective Internal Networks of People with Disability

The Employers’ Network on Disability is delighted to be hosting Ms Kate Nash OBE, world renowned disability consultant, for a week-long visit from the UK in November 2009.

Kate is an effective leader with 20 years experience in working strategically to effect long-term attitudinal and social change in relation to people with disability. Her core product, consultancy in the establishment of internal networks of people with disability, is having great success in the UK, with her first publication, a Practical Guide to establishing employee networks, published in the UK in January 2009.

While Kate is here she will be visiting Sydney and Canberra, with seminar events being held in each city.

These seminars will focus on the benefits of establishing effective internal networks of people with disability within organisations. Case studies from around the world will be examined, and participants will have the opportunity to learn from the experiences of other organisations.

CANBERRA SEMINAR

Wed 11th November 2009
10am - 3pm
Brindabella Business Park, ACT
Cost: Members $395 + GST / Non-members $495 + GST
RSVP by Wed 4th Nov 09 to events@aend.org.au or phone (02) 9261 3922.

SYDNEY SEMINAR

Thurs 12th November 2009
10am - 3pm
Sparke Helmore, 321 Kent St Sydney
Cost: Members $395 + GST / Non-members $495 + GST
RSVP by Thurs 5th Nov 09 to events@aend.org.au or phone (02) 9261 3922.

Places are strictly limited for both seminars so please don't delay in registering your attendance.
For more information please email events@aend.org.au or phone the Employers’ Network on (02) 9261 3922.
The Australian Employers’ Network on Disability Employers Making a Difference PO Box 203 QVB Post Office Sydney NSW 1230 Phone: (02) 9261 3922 • Fax: (02) 9261 3966 • Website: www.aend.org.au

AUSTRALIA’S WELFARE 2009 CONFERENCE

17 November 2009
WHERE: Welcome Dinner at the National Press Club, National Circuit, Barton ACT. 16 November 2009 from 7:00pm Welfare Conference at the Queanbeyan Performing Arts Centre (The Q), Crawford Street, Queanbeyan NSW. 17 November 2009. Registration from 8:00am
FEE
EOPHEA Conference 2009: Excellence for All: Social Inclusion in Higher Education
Tuesday 1 – Thursday 3 December 2009, Sydney, Australia

Important Dates
Submission of PowerPoint Presentation: 4 Nov 09
Close of Registration: 13 Nov 09
Standard Registration AUD $695
Standard Student Registration ** AUD $220

Accommodation
Special rates have been negotiated for conference delegates at a range of hotels within walking distance.

Complete your registration, book social function tickets and secure your accommodation online in one easy step. Click on the below link to begin.
CLICK HERE to REGISTER http://www.iceaustralia.com/eophea2009/register.html

PROGRAM UPDATE
EOPHEA 2009 will offer a stimulating 2-day educational program with plenary sessions featuring a number of high calibre keynote speakers, including an opening address from Emeritus Professor Denise Bradley, in-depth workshops, and two exciting social and networking functions.

Our program will explore the following topics:

Plenary Sessions:
What would a socially inclusive university look like?
Perspectives on partnerships - managing and matching expectations: five perspectives
The Equity Opportunist in a time of workplace transformation
The Road from Rhetoric to Reality
Australia and the UK: Models for Widening Participation

Concurrent Sessions:
Social Inclusion and higher education
Building alliances for change: models of practice
Excellence for All: staff and student university-wide equity initiatives

SOCIAL FUNCTIONS
Welcome Reception
Venue: National Institute of Dramatic Arts (NIDA), Nancy Fairfax Foyer
215 Anzac Parade, Kensington
Date: Tuesday 1 December 2009
Time: 6.00pm – 8.00pm
Delegates and partners are invited to the Welcome Reception. This is an opportunity for us to welcome you to the conference and for you to meet and network with other participants.
Keynote speaker: Dr Meredith Burgmann, past Speaker of the New South Wales Upper House of Parliament

Conference Dinner
Venue: Waters Edge, Pier 1, Hickson Rd, Sydney
Date: Wednesday 2 December 2009
Time: 7.00pm – 11.00pm
The conference dinner is included in the conference package. All delegates are invited to enjoy Sydney Harbour views, great food, a thought-provoking and entertaining talk, and an opportunity to show off their Bollywood dance moves.
Dinner speaker: Fay Jackson, Director of Vision In Mind, is a multi award winning national motivational speaker, educator, advocate and voice for mental health.
Entertainment: Melange Dance takes pride in both entertaining and inspiring audiences by showcasing the culture behind the dances whilst ensuring that everyone parties the way the locals do. Get ready to watch and do Bollywood dancing!

NEED MORE INFORMATION
Visit the conference website:
www.iceaustralia.com/eophea2009

ANZSSA CONFERENCE 2009
6 - 9 DECEMBER 2009
B Block, Gardens Point Campus
Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane
Sunday 6 December - Griffith University
Queensland College of Art, South Bank Campus
The Australia and New Zealand Student Services Association (ANZSSA) is a professional association for people with an interest in the provision of support services to students in post secondary education in Australia and New Zealand.
The ANZSSA 2009 Conference will be held at QUT’s Gardens Point Campus, in Brisbane City. Our 2009 biennial conference will examine how Student Services participate in global education, with a focus on student engagement and long term sustainability. It provides an opportunity to share the challenges, initiatives and successes you have experienced in your work in Student Services.
We look forward to meeting you at the Conference in December!
EARLYBIRD DEADLINE HAS BEEN EXTENDED UNTIL 14 OCTOBER - REGISTER NOW!

NDS 2010 Annual State Conference
National Disability Services NSW invites you to participate in our 2010 Annual State Conference which will be held at The Menzies Hotel, Sydney on 15-16 February 2010.
Promote your company within the industry by taking advantage of the exhibiting and marketing opportunities on offer at this conference – full details are attached!
For further queries, please contact Julie Walton on 02 9256 3115 or email julie.walton@nds.org.au

Assistive Technology: The tip of the iceberg
Australian Rehabilitation & Assistive Technology Association National Conference
Tuesday 10 – Friday 13 August 2010, Hobart, TAS
Expression of Interest Form
On behalf of the conference organising committee, it is our pleasure to invite you to the 2010 ARATA National Conference, AT: The tip of the iceberg, to be held in Hobart, Tasmania, from Tuesday 10- Friday 13 August 2010. With the conference being held in Hobart, Tasmania, the home of the ice breakers heading to the Antarctic, papers will similarly crack through the surface to look more deeply at what lies beneath, explore new frontiers and meet the challenges of the pitfalls and crevasses. There will be an emphasis on thinking beyond the prescription of equipment to look more deeply at the issues of funding, training and support for users and their support personnel, and helping consumers to have the endurance to persevere with their equipment, despite the obstacles. Like the Antarctic explorers, there will be a focus on research and discovery - showcasing new products and ensuring ease in the use of equipment by capitalising on universal design and mainstream products. ‘ARATAS 2010’ will be full of new territory to explore, with the promise of many adventures to come in the field of Assistive Technology.
It is with pleasure we invite you to ARATAS 2010
Karen Frost & Christopher Bryg
Convenors, ARATAS 2010
For information about ARATA, and the 2010 conference, visit the website at:
NSW Events:
'Enhancing the Links'
Thursday 5th November, 2009 from 9.30am - 2pm
Tamworth Community Centre, Tamworth
This seminar is funded by the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (NDCO Program)
Notice of a Seminar for Parents of students with a disability, Education Staff and Disability Service Providers from Northern Slopes Region NSW including (but not limited to) - Tamworth, Armidale, Gunnedah and regions
What will this seminar provide?
- Strategies to support students with a disability or chronic medical condition prepare for transition from school
  - Up-to-date information about post-school pathways, including: •Apprenticeships and Traineeships •TAFE •University •Employment – open and Business Services •DADHC Post-School Programs – Transition to Work and Community Participation
- Case studies, resources and networking opportunities
Target Audience — Parents of students with a disability, Staff and providers from: Schools: Counsellors, Careers Advisers, District Guidance Officers, Disability Programs Consultants, STTs, AP (Learning Support), AP(V), AP(H), Principals, Head Teachers (Support), Head Teachers (Welfare), Support Teachers, ISTIs, Learning support teams, STLAs, SLSOs, Year Advisers 10-12.
- TAFE: Equity Managers, Teacher/Consultants, Counsellors, Consultants (TVET)
- Universities: Disability Advisors, Counsellors, Careers Advisors
- Government, Community and other Agencies: Local Community Partnerships, Careers Advice Australia, Australian Apprenticeships Centres, DEEWR funded Employment Service Providers, Transition to Work and Community Participation Program Providers, DADHC staff.
This event is free. Morning tea and lunch will be provided.
Detailed program to follow. Registrations required — please contact
Julia Strang National Disability Coordination Officer 1800 051 769 ndco@cwcc.nsw.edu.au
Dyspraxia Workshops - The Teaching / Learning Process
What? Dyspraxia is a complicated and hidden specific learning disability which does not respond to normal methods of teaching. This intensive workshop is designed to develop teaching skills of teachers/parents and to provide a solid understanding of Dyspraxia and its implications in children aged 2 to 18 yrs. This includes the ability to identify the child’s learning barriers and the skills to instruct, accommodate and scaffold appropriately. Activities include group discussions, role plays, games and other practical exercises which are designed to strengthen teaching skills, increase understanding of Dyspraxia and enrich your learning experience. Presenter Christine Meredith OAM is a qualified trainer and assessor, a TAFE Disability Support Teacher and the mother of a 21 year old son who has global Dyspraxia.
Where? 10am-3pm on Fri 6 November in Ryde (also Campbelltown Mon 26 October, Bathurst Mon 9 November, Newcastle Mon 16 November (Nov - Port Macquarie & Coffs Harbour to be confirmed)
Cost? $110 (ADA members), $140 (Non members). Morning tea and a light lunch are provided.
RSVP? For an information pack or to register, phone Australian Dyspraxia Association on 02 4577 6220 or email information@dyspraxia.com.au  See www.dyspraxia.com.au
Source: Warringah Disability Newsletter

'Crossroads - which path to choose?'
For Students with Disabilities, Parents & Education
Come along to get facts, tips and advice on disability supports possible when studying or training after school.
Students, Parents, School Career Advisors, Counsellors, Disability Support Staff; and others are invited, from:
- Blue Mountains
Central West
The Hawkesbury
Crossroads will bring to life support options available in:
- TAFE
- University
- Apprenticeships/Traineeships
Katoomba: Wed 18th November 09, At Katoomba Golf Club
The Hawkesbury: Wed 25th November 09, At Windsor Function Centre
9.30 Start & 2:00pm Close
Morning Tea & Lunch provided
FREE Information Seminars
For more information and the registration form contact:
Michelle Hayter on 0404 493 965 or m.hayter@uws.edu.au OR
Julia Strang on 1800 051 769 or Julia.Strang@cwcc.nsw.edu.au
To register please return completed form by
Friday 13 November 2009, to:
Fax: 9673 7373
E-mail: katie.hayes@uws.edu.au

Brothers and Sisters: Their role in the life of a person with a disability
Tuesday 17th November, 2009, 9.30 am – 4.30 pm
Charles Blunt Conference Room, Royal Rehabilitation Centre Sydney, 59 Charles Street, Ryde, 2112
[Closing date for registration Thursday 12th November 2009]
This workshop will be of interest to: Families, Siblings, Persons with disability, Support Staff, and Policy Planners among others.
Keynote speakers:
John Kramer, Ph.D.
The Sibling Leadership Network Institute for Community Inclusion University of Massachusetts, Boston.
Assoc. Prof. Monica Cuskelly
Graduate School of Education, University of Queensland
Dr Michelle Donelly & Dr Anne Hillman
Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Sydney
Angela Dew PhD candidate
Australian Family & Disability Studies Research Collaboration, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Sydney
Elisabeth Ellis – sister of Mathew Ellis
Ruth, Sarah and Victoria Atkinson
Further Information: Margaret on (02) 8878 0500
E-mail: cdds@med.usyd.edu.au

Employment and Careers Forum - Managing Disability at Work: The things you need to know
For Current University Students.
Monday 23rd November 2009
11am to 2pm (includes lunch)
Eastern Avenue Lecture Theatre
The University of Sydney
A joint initiative being run by the University of Sydney, University of Technology Sydney and the National Disability Coordination Officer Program (NDCO Regions 2 & 3, hosted by University of Western Sydney & Centre for Disability Studies)
Who should come?
All currently enrolled University students in NSW with a disability thinking about career pathways.

Does that mean you?
Perhaps you don’t think of yourself as having a disability but the definition is broad and includes dyslexia, mental illness and ongoing medical conditions.

Why come?
To find out more about practical career strategies and programs to give you an edge in a tough job market.
The presenters for the event include the following:
Benjamin Harvey – Founder and Principal of Skimming Stone Marketing and Communications, University of Sydney Graduate
Dawson Ko - Stepping Into and Willing and Able Mentoring Program, UTS Graduate
Samantha French – Senior Consultant, Australian Employer’s Network on Disability
Rosemary Kayess – NSW Disability Discrimination Legal Centre.

University Careers Advisors will be available and the event promises to be inspiring and informative. A light lunch will be provided and a chance to meet people from other Universities. For full program and registration, please go to http://www.usyd.edu.au/stuserv/careers_forum.php

For a list of all NSW Events click here.

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Calls for Expressions of Interest and Input:
The Minister for Youth - The Hon Kate Ellis - has announced a new Federal funding program for youth aged 12-25.
The Youth Development and Support Program aims to:
- inspire young people in Australia to recognise and achieve their full potential;
- support the development of young people and their transitions to independence and adulthood;
- encourage young people to be active citizens and participate in initiatives such as the Australian Youth Forum;
- develop the promotion of positive perceptions of young people and assist with their active participation in the community as respected young citizens.

$500 000 funding is available to non-government, not-for-profit organisations. Applications are now open and will close on 4 November.
For more information see:
http://www.deewr.gov.au/Ministers/Ellis/Media/Releases/Pages/Article_091007_133632.aspx

PDF accessibility review http://webpublishing.agimo.gov.au/PDF_Accessibility_Review
The Australian Government is seeking input to inform its policy about the use of the Portable Document Format (PDF) for the provision of government information online. The Australian Government is seeking feedback about the accessibility and ease of use of PDF files on the internet, especially via assistive technologies. Submissions close on 19 October 2009.

Free Dragon NaturallySpeaking offer for education staff
In the last 10 years, Dragon® NaturallySpeaking® (Dragon) has evolved to become the world’s leading speech recognition technology. Teachers around the world are discovering the value of its software for classroom applications and personal productivity.
Complete the 'Dragon in Education' training module and purchase Dragon NaturallySpeaking Preferred 10 for just $39.95! Visit www.nuance.com/au/education

Nuance is running a program to encourage educational professionals to explore the many uses of Dragon.
Step 1 >> The program consists of the following steps: Log-on to http://www.nuance.com/au/education
Step 2 >> Complete the online training module and take the exam
Step 3 >> Once you pass the exam, you qualify for special Dragon pricing. For just $39.95 (including shipping and handling), you can order online and receive Dragon NaturallySpeaking Preferred 10 software and a noise cancelling headset.
To find out more about Nuance’s Dragon in Education program please call 1300 550 716
* Eligibility and Timing:
Only registered teachers employed by a kindergarten, preschool, primary school, secondary school or approved tertiary institution are eligible for this offer. Claimants will provide information to Nuance to confirm their eligibility and give permission for Nuance to contact them or their employer to confirm personal details.

Scholarships:
Quantum Technology Braille Literacy Scholarship Program
Every parent wants the best for their child and Braille Literacy is fundamental to a blind child’s success. Starting blind children on the road to Literacy as early as they are able and choosing the right tools is key to their success.
By using modern and appropriate tools:
Very young children can start scribbling with dots, having fun and beginning to learn through experimentation and play. Parents can become actively involved in their child’s literacy development.
Appropriate expectations for children can result from giving them independence to learn and explore.
The Gillian Gale Award for Braille Literacy
This award honours the remarkable contribution Gillian Gale has made to the education of blind students in Australia and internationally.
A Mountbatten Learning System and all associated software and accessories will be awarded to one child in both Australia and New Zealand.
The award is open to applications on behalf of children between the ages of 3 and 10 years, who are learning Braille or are assessed as a future Braille learner.
How to Enter
In one thousand words or less, tell us why you feel Braille literacy will be key to your child’s success and describe the role you envisage the Mountbatten Learning System will play in their future.
The winners will receive a Mountbatten Learning System Educational pack containing: MB Learning System, Mimic display, a mini keyboard, Monty Braille Translator, Jot a Dot Pocket Brailler, MBComm PC to MB communication software.
Applications must be submitted with the signature of an Early Childhood or early intervention professional and/or a parent. Parents/professionals are welcome to provide any supporting material/documentation to their application. The winner must be willing to participate in promotional events and to attend a public award ceremony.
Applications can be submitted by mail or online via the email, lchallis@quantumtechnology.com.au
Applications close 29 January 2010
Full details on the Braille Literacy Scholarship Program and copies of the application form are available from www.quantumtechnology.com.au or contact any of the Quantum Technology offices listed below. Quantum Technology also provides other scholarships for students who are blind or who have a Learning Disability. Call us for further information.
Quantum Technology Pty. Ltd
PO Box 390, Rydalmere NSW 2116 Australia
Tel: +61 2 8844 9888 Fax: +61 2 9684 4717
info@quantumtechnology.com.au

Quantum Technology & Freedom Scientific present the JAWS Scholarship Program 2010
Freedom Scientific and Quantum Technology has pledged to make life a little easier for Australians!!!
If you are a vision impaired Australian who would find benefit in having Jaws software in your working or educational
environment you are eligible to apply. The prize is a copy of JAWS for Windows Professional. JAWS for Windows, screen reading software grabs information from the computer screen and sends it out in synthesised speech feedback. Documents, email and the internet can all be spoken back to vision impaired users.

Applications close Friday 29 January 2010

In 500 words or less, tell us why you need a Freedom Scholarship and how it will assist you in your life

Applications must be attached to an application form

Application forms can be obtained by contacting Quantum Technology or downloaded from our website at www.quantumtechnology.com.au

Full details on the Jaws Scholarship Program and for copies of the application forms please see our website; www.quantumtechnology.com.au or contact any of the Quantum Technology offices listed below. Quantum Technology also provides other scholarships for students who are blind or who have a Learning Disability. Call us for further information.

Quantum Technology Pty. Ltd
PO Box 390, Rydalmere NSW 2116 Australia
Tel: +61 2 8844 9888 Fax: +61 2 9684 4717
info@quantumtechnology.com.au

New Resources:

Community GrantGuru website

Community GrantGuru is a free searchable listing of grants and funding programs for community based and not-for-profit organisations. It allows you to search by sector, location, age group etc and you can set it up to receive email notifications when new grants open that match your search criteria.

Community GrantGuru is part of GrantReady - http://www.grantready.com.au/ which also includes GrantGuru Business.

Accessing the Future Forums - resources
We've had great feedback from those who participated in our Accessing the Future - Assistive Technology for Education and Employment Forums.

If you couldn't attend on the day, you may be interested in the following:

Free assistive technology. Each registrant was provided with a free flash drive with AccessApps loaded on. To read more about the free technology, I've attached the AccessApps manual (pdf) or go to www.eduapps.org.

"Dragon in Education" voucher - provided by Nuance to enable teachers to buy Dragon NaturallySpeaking and a noise-cancelling headset for just $39.95. Details on the attached flyer - but offer is only open till the end of November.

Enquiries to Nuance on 1300 550 716.

PowerPoint presentations for many of the sessions are also available on the Forum website at www.newcastle.edu.au/ndco/atforums/downloads.htm

If for some reason your server has blocked these attachments, I've put them on the Forum Download page as well at www.newcastle.edu.au/ndco/atforums/downloads.html

ANSWD is on facebook!
http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=184215559061&ref=nf
( need to be signed into facebook)

Australasian Network of Students With Disabilities (ANSWD)

AUTISM AT SCHOOL

Now available in Australia

A video resource for teachers and parents

For children on the autism spectrum, school can be a frightening, even sickening, place. A child’s ability to learn can be
greatly affected by anxiety and difficulty understanding teachers and other students.

As more children are diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder (ASD), the pressure increases on schools and teachers trying to cope.

In this DVD, split into sections for easy access, New Zealand teachers show how they are creating environments where children with ASD are able to learn and thrive, parents tell us about their experiences with school and students talk about how it is for them.

The School Experience features classroom action in mainstream primary and secondary schools, satellite classes and a special school (80 minutes)

Advice and Tips includes the impact of autism on learning, strategies for managing behaviour, creating a suitable classroom environment and tips for teachers and parents (50 minutes)

Talking About School (20 minutes) includes the blame free bullying approach being put in action to support an ASD student.

Produced initially for use in New Zealand schools, Autism at School is also proving relevant to teachers and parents in Australia. What viewers say:

―True to life‖, “Full of useful ideas, a high quality resource”, “Great examples of best practice”, “Really helpful for our teachers”, “A valuable insight into the world of children with ASD.”

For a summary of contents, reviews, and video trailer: www.southernmoon.weebly.com

Also available: Living with Autism, a resource for parents of newly-diagnosed children. In this 48-minute documentary, five families tell their own stories about dealing with the diagnosis and treatment of autism. They talk about how they've coped, the impact on the family, and what they've learnt from their experiences.

Jude Smith
Director, Southern Moon Productions
Tel: 09-3789312 or 027-2411423
www.southernmoon.weebly.com

Autism Spectrum Disorder on-line training program

Autism Spectrum Disorder on-line training program was developed in 2008 by TAFE NSW. The resource may be used for awareness raising and as an interactive training tool for staff within your organisation. While the context of the resource is a TAFE NSW college the information provided can be customised to assist staff working in any educational setting.

www.equity.moodle.com.au

When you click on the site you will be asked to follow the instructions to create a new account.

Put in your: Username: _____________________ Password: ________________

You will then be asked to complete the details to create your account and allow you to log on and begin the program. A feedback facility is built into the resource.

Background: In June 2008 TAFE NSW formed a partnership with Autism Spectrum Australia (Aspect). This partnership resulted in enhanced information and skill sharing. One component of the partnership was the development of this online training program for TAFE NSW staff on Autism Spectrum Disorder. The resource was developed and piloted in TAFE NSW North Coast Institute and has received positive feedback from the TAFE NSW staff members who have completed the program.

What is ASD? Autism Spectrum Disorder or ASD as it is more commonly known, is a lifelong neuro-developmental disorder that affects approximately 1 in 160 people in Australia. ASD is often misunderstood and it is hoped that this online training program will provide information for a range of staff in a user-friendly way.

Who should use this training tool? The program includes a number of downloadable resources such as teaching tips and also provides information at a variety of levels. Choose the level that best suits you:

Level 1: A general overview for all staff, enrolment staff, administration staff, class room support staff plus anyone else who wishes to gain a general understanding of ASD.

Level 2: More in depth information for teaching and support staff

Level 3: An even more detailed section for specialist staff such as Teacher/Consultants for Students with a Disability, Disability Careers Advisers and Counselling staff.

For a list of New Resources click here
To Subscribe:
We hope that this edition of Disability Education and Employment News has been of interest. If you wish to have the Disability Education and Employment News e-mail to you send an e-mail to thart@med.usyd.edu.au with “Subscribe Disability Education and Employment News” in the subject line. 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.

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