
In this Disability Education and Employment News, we have information on the Gregory and Dolores Farrell Scholarships and other Scholarships, the 2009 Australia's Welfare report and next year’s early offerings in National and International Conferences.

Plus further information on other Resources, Conferences and Workshops, News articles and other information for the Disability Education, Training and Employment Sectors.

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Education News:
Enduring bonds
CAROLINE MILBURN
November 2, 2009
School bonding, or how a teen feels about school, is the most important predictor in becoming a successful young adult, according to a landmark study of temperament.

The finding from one of Australia's largest investigations into human development provides new insight into the crucial role schools play in the nation's social fabric.

Teenagers' connection to school — whether they value school, hard work and their teachers — was found to be more
important than their personality or their relationship with parents or peers in predicting whether they would become competent young adults.

Researchers from the Australian Temperament Project surveyed the same group of 1158 Victorians in their late teens (15-18) and again when they were aged 19-20. Those doing well in early adulthood had much higher levels of school bonding in their late teens than the young adults who were not faring well.

For the rest of the article go to http://www.theage.com.au/national/education/enduring-bonds-20091030-hp6d.html

**Employment News:**

**Employers need ‘fresh attitude’ towards disabled**

Posted Mon Sep 7, 2009 2:06pm AEST

The Federal Government says there needs to be a change in attitude amongst employers towards hiring people with a disability.

Last year the Government promised to simplify the welfare system to encourage more people with a mental illness or a disability to join the workforce.

The Parliamentary Secretary for Disabilities and Child's Services, Bill Shorten, says more employers need to give people with a disability a chance to work.

"The first thing Australians have got to do is not shun people who are different, because but for a twist of genetic fate, or a car accident, people with disabilities are us,” he said.

"The first step is to encourage employers to give more people with an impairment a go"

For the rest of the article go to http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/09/07/2678702.htm?section=justin

**Welfare News:**

**Youth allowance legislation in jeopardy**

Andrew Trounson

November 24, 2009 3:15PM

A LAST ditch effort by the Rudd government to salvage its youth allowance legislation appears to have failed with both the opposition and Senator Steve Fielding today opposing amendments tabled late Monday night.

With the legislation apparently headed towards defeat there is a real risk there will be no scholarships available for students next year because parliament has already abolished the previous scholarship system in preparation of bringing in the changes. These old scholarships would have been available to about 21,000 new students.

The government could try to reintroduce the legislation in February but that may be too late for students.

The opposition today said it was prepared to give precedence to considering any new legislation the government could now bring forward this week to provide for scholarships next year.

Last night the government bowed to senate pressure and agreed to exempt most students currently working a gap year from its crack down on those using the work criteria to qualify for benefits.


**Insurance scheme may allow lifetime care for disabled**

MARK DAVIS NATIONAL EDITOR

November 24, 2009

THE Federal Government will consider introducing a Medicare-style national insurance scheme to provide lifetime
medical treatment and care for people with serious disabilities.
The Prime Minister, Kevin Rudd, announced last night that the Government would conduct a feasibility study into ways to fund and deliver long-term care for severely and profoundly disabled people who needed daily help.
The Productivity Commission will be asked to examine a social insurance model, which could be funded by a levy across the whole population, to care for those born with severe disabilities and those who become disabled in accidents.
Mr Rudd said the inquiry would examine the costs and benefits of replacing the existing system of disability services with an approach that would provide long-term essential care and support, no matter how people acquired their disability.
For the rest of the article go to http://www.smh.com.au/national/insurance-scheme-may-allow-lifetime-care-for-disabled-20091123-iz8g.html

Youth package leaves gap for students
Anthony Trouson
November 23, 2009 12:00AM
21,000 students are set to miss out on $65 million of commonwealth scholarships next year as the Rudd government's youth allowance package lurches towards defeat in the Senate as early as today.
The government scrapped the scholarships in a parliament-approved budget measure in August in preparation for introducing new ones, including 150,000 annual start-up scholarships for all students on youth allowance worth $2254 each. But if the laws fail, there will be no scholarships.
Defeat would leave in tatters Education Minister Julia Gillard's attempt to aim youth allowance at needy students by boosting scholarships and raising parental-income thresholds in a package that would eventually benefit 100,000 students.
While supported by universities, the National Union of Students and all state governments, the legislation has been undone by the government's determination to keep it budget-neutral.
For the rest of the article go to http://www.theaustralian.com.au/politics/youth-package-leaves-gap-for-students/story-e6frgczf-1225801849895

Disability rates rise as population ages
MICHELLE DRAPER
November 17, 2009
Australians are living longer but at a cost.
Greater life expectancy is contributing to higher rates of disability, a report has found.
The number of people with a severe disability is predicted to increase from about 1.2 million people to 1.5 million by 2010, rising to 2.3 million by 2030, the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare's biennial welfare report found.
Population growth and ageing would contribute to the increase, the report said.
"Some of the increase in the number of people with disability can be attributed to population growth, particularly the growth in the proportion of the population aged 65 years or over," the report said.
Meanwhile, improved diagnosis and heightened awareness of conditions such as attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and autism-related disorders had increased the reported rates of disability among children, the report said.

Unis side with Government on youth allowance changes
Posted Mon Nov 16, 2009 1:05am AEDT
University vice-chancellors are lobbying the Senate to vote for the Government's changes to its youth allowance scheme.
The Opposition says the changes retrospectively hit students on a gap year this year and disadvantage rural and regional students.
It is threatening to block the bill if the Government refuses to make amendments, but the Federal Government says the Coalition's plans would leave students worse off.
Australian National University vice-chancellor Ian Chubb will today urge the Senate not to oppose the bill.
"I think it would be a disgrace personally," he said.

"Australia is about providing people with opportunity and when you have before you a proposition that provides extra opportunity for upwards of 150,000 young people who access Australian higher education, then not to pass that for whatever reason would be a disgrace."

Mr Chubb will appear with Education Minister Julia Gillard today to urge the Senate to support its bill.

"I think those of us who are up close with the sector every day - and see the pluses and minuses of various proposals from governments and opposition - seem to me to be pretty much of one mind and that is pass it," he said.

For the rest of the article go to http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/11/16/2743382.htm?section=justin

International News:

Obama: Federal Government Must Take Lead On Disability Employment

By Michelle Diament

October 6, 2009 Efforts to boost disability employment must start with the federal government, President Barack Obama said Monday in announcing a series of new employment initiatives.

Obama is asking a task force to identify best practices among government agencies for recruiting, hiring, retaining and advancing employees with disabilities. A government job fair this spring specifically for people with disabilities will showcase opportunities, Obama said.

The Department of Justice will also produce a video educating the public about common myths related to employing individuals with disabilities.

The announcement coincides with National Disability Employment Awareness Month.

"Across this country, millions of people with disabilities are working or want to work, and they should have access to the support and services they need to succeed," Obama said. "As the nation's largest employer, the federal government and its contractors can lead the way by implementing effective employment policies and practices that increase opportunities and help workers achieve their full potential."

For the rest of the article go to http://www.disabilityscoop.com/2009/10/06/obama-disability-employment/5656/
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!”

2010 Round Table Conference - Information and Call for Papers

For the first time in 2010, the Round Table Annual Conference will be held in Auckland, New Zealand.

When: 23-25 May 2010
Where: Heritage Auckland, Auckland, New Zealand

Call for Papers

The full Call for Papers is now available on the conference blog at: http://roundtable2010.wordpress.com/call-for-papers/

The theme for Round Table’s Annual Conference in 2010 is Think Globally, Act Locally. The conference will consider:

- What are we achieving in the global context through international groups like the International Council on English Braille, the DAISY Consortium, the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions and the Global Library initiative?
- What local initiatives have been successful in our communities? How can these be expanded to other regions?
- What are the issues and opportunities for the print disability community in a world where publishing is moving beyond print?
- How are service organisations meeting the changing information access needs of individuals and diverse communities?
- How does access to information empower individuals to participate in society? Where are the biggest gaps in information access?
- The theme will be explored through a mix of speakers, panel discussions and workshops.

Be part of the 2010 Round Table Conference

- Sponsor part of the conference - email the Conference Convenor at mclunie@rnzfb.org.nz for more information
- Be part of the Trade Exhibit - email the Conference Convenor at mclunie@rnzfb.org.nz for more information
- Attend conference as a delegate - join the Round Table mailing list or keep an eye on the conference blog for more information as it becomes available.

National

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:

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

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
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

The Gregory and Dolores Farrell Scholarships

The Gregory and Dolores Farrell Scholarships were first offered in 2005. They are supported by the family of the late Gregory and Dolores Farrell. Gregory Patrick Farrell OAM was a founding Director of the Foundation. The scholarships are available to students who use a wheelchair for mobility, who are undertaking an undergraduate or higher degree and for those who will be pursuing post-graduate study overseas.

The aim of the scholarship is to support integration into tertiary education. It is acknowledged that the student with a disability may have additional obstacles to overcome in accessing a tertiary education. One of these obstacles can be the additional costs involved to enable participation in tertiary education. The costs involved can be considerable and variable according to the degree of disability.

In 2010, four scholarships of up to $5,000 each will be offered to students in New South Wales who use a wheelchair for mobility and are attending university.

Four scholarships are offered for tertiary students in NSW in 2010. Students must be Australian citizens, must use a wheelchair for mobility and have been accepted into a university course. Year 12 students (2009) may apply, if applications have been lodged for entrance to a University in 2010. Students who are proceeding to a higher degree are also eligible, as are students who have been accepted for post-graduate study in Australia or overseas.

Scholarship funds cannot be used to pay HECS.

Students who plan to undertake a TAFE course are not eligible.

Application forms are available on request by phone, mail or e-mail. Applications must be lodged by the close of business on Friday 12 February 2010.

For more information

PHONE: (02) 9890 0100
E-MAIL: spinecare@northcott.com.au
WEB: www.spinecarefoundation.org.au

Studies and Research:

2009 Australia's Welfare report

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare has just released its 2009 Australia's Welfare report. It includes a large section on disability and disability services, as well as other topics including children, youth and families, aging and aged care, carers, housing and homelessness.


For a list of Studies and Research article click here.
New Resources:
CATS - Creating Accessible Teaching and Support www.adcet.edu.au/CATS
The Journey of Joe at University
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1FZjwLpoens

For a list of New Resources click here

Media Releases:

24 November 2009
Entitlement to assistance and support, not handouts
People with Disability Australia (PWD) congratulates Prime Minister Rudd for commissioning the Productivity Commission to undertake a feasibility study into long term care and support for people with disability in Australia.
PWD President, Mr Robert Manga said that, “people with disability are struggling to obtain the assistance and services they need to live independently and productively in the community. We are often on long waiting lists, feel obliged to accept services from a crisis driven system or are already at crisis point”. “Rather than a hand-out, people with disability are entitled to life-long essential assistance and services. We need to shift from a welfare system to one based on human rights. A shift from being isolated in our communities, from being unable to get out of bed or obtain essential equipment, from being unable to go to school or get to work, to a system where we are entitled to the assistance and support necessary to live fully in our communities”.
PWD looks forward to working with the Rudd Government on the development of scheme that will ensure people with disability can live meaningful lives on an equal basis with others in the Australian community.

Ends
For more information, contact:
Therese Sands, Executive Director, Leadership Team
Phone: 02 9370 3100 Mobile: 0412 935 128
Email: thereses@pwd.org.au

TITLE: Meeting the needs of Australia's most vulnerable - how do we measure up? (media release, Tuesday 17 November 2009) (AIHW)
PORTFOLIO: Health and Ageing
SNIPPET: While most Australians enjoy a good standard of living, many are struggling to care for people with a disability, or with issues related to ageing, homelessness, children and families, according to the latest information on the nation's welfare-related services released today by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. The number of Australians with a disability doubled between 1981 and 2003 to around 4 million people. Despite decreases in the proportion of children and young people in the population, the actual number of children and young people in Australia is projected to increase, from 4.1 million to 5.2 million children and from 3.0 million to 3.7 million young people between 2008 and 2038.
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The Disability News Archive can be found at http://www.cdds.med.usyd.edu.au/ndco/DisabilityNews/
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The NDCOs for Region 1 and 3 are Hosted at the Centre for Disability Studies