In this Disability Education and Employment News, we have information on the 2011 Disability and Communication Stream Conference and Asia Pacific Autism Conference and information on a number of scholarships including the ParaQuad NSW Scholarships 2011, Woolworths Scholarship 2011 and The Gregory and Dolores Farrell Scholarships, and under resources we have information on the Use My Ability employability & disability project and A Job Well Done - Teacher Resources. 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.

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Education News:
Skills falling in maths, literacy – Herald Sun
08/12/2010
Jenny Dillon
AUSTRALIAN teenagers’ skills in reading, writing and arithmetic are much worse now than they were 10 years ago, a new report says.
The international report comparing 14,000 15-yaer-olds with students from 65 other countries found that Australia was the only high-performing country to show a significant fall in basic reading and writing ability. "These achievement gaps place an unacceptable proportion of 15-year-old students at serious risk of not achieving literacy levels sufficient for them to effectively participate in the workforce," the Australian Council for Educational Research chief executive Geoff Masters said yesterday.
"Some Australian teenagers may be trying to enter the workforce and forge a future for themselves with reading, mathematics and science literacy skills equivalent to a Year 7 or 8 education or worse."

The triennial OECD program for international student assessment (PISA) report found there was a return to the bad old days of gender inequity, where boys did better than girls at maths, but girls excelled at reading and writing.

For the rest of the article go to

Students struck by high anxiety – Age
29/11/2010
Sarah-Jane Collins

FOR Jacob Thomas, university meant a new start in a new city — a chance to make friends and build a life away from the town he grew up in.

What he didn't count on were the pressure and anxiety that came with the change in lifestyle and the responsibility of studying, working and making friends at the same time.

Within six months the Shepparton teenager was feeling the stress and his grades began to drop.

"I was the only boy from my school to do a bachelor of arts at Monash Clayton, so I'm lucky that I got to know people really early on but there were times when I didn't really feel supported emotionally and I had a few financial problems along the way," he says.

"I guess one of the main issues was to do with my sexuality at the time — that was quite a big one and I was very reluctant to go see the GP or a counsellor about it I guess because of the stigma associated with it."

For the rest of the article go to

Concern at treatment of disabled in schools – Age
26/11/2010
Jewel Topsfield

AUTISTIC children are being physically restrained and placed in solitary confinement in special schools in breach of most human rights legislation, according to a complaint to the Ombudsman.

A coalition of three disability groups and Parents Victoria are calling on Ombudsman George Brouwer to hold an inquiry into the treatment of children with disabilities in the government education system.

It says a lack of funding and the Education Department's failure to implement its own inclusion policy is leading to "systemic discrimination and lack of educational opportunity".

For the rest of the article go to

Mental illness rife in students – Sydney Morning Herald
23/11/2010
Dan Harrison

RATES of serious mental illness are more than five times higher among university students than in the general population, according to research from the University of Queensland.

The study, published in the latest issue of Australian Psychologist, also found that the rate of psychological distress among university students is almost three times higher than in the general population.

The study's author, Helen Stallman, said she was surprised and worried not only by the levels of distress among students, but also that only one-third of those most seriously affected reported consulting a health professional.

The study used an online survey of almost 6500 students from two Australian universities to screen for anxiety and mood disorders.

Almost 84 per cent of students reported psychological distress, compared with 29 per cent of the general population.

More than 19 per cent of students surveyed suffered from a serious mental illness. In the general population, the rate of serious mental illness is about 3 per cent.

For the rest of the article go to
Claims teachers being driven away
04 Nov, 2010 03:20 PM
Education experts claim teachers are being driven out of the workforce because the stress of supporting students with learning disabilities is too much to handle. Discrimination advocate Julie Phillips said Victorian teachers were not trained to assist students with learning disabilities and were applying for stress leave as a last resort. “You have a whole state of people becoming very unwell due to lack of resources provided by Department of Education,” she said.
“There’s the stress of being given a job they can’t do to the best of their abilities and teachers are also on the receiving end of stressed parents who want an explanation.” She said students with learning disabilities often develop behavioural problems because they are unable to engage with classroom content, putting extra stress on teachers.
For the rest of the article go to

Families seek disability input – Canberra Times
06/11/2010
Danielle Cronin
The Gillard Government has been urged to rethink the make-up of a working group to recommend ways to help schoolchildren with a disability so their parents have input.
School Education Minister Peter Garrett announced yesterday the group would be formed to provide advice next month.
"Specifically, I have asked this working group to consider needs across sectors, look at what is being done already and identify any short- to medium-term complementary strategies to strengthen learning support and outcomes for students with disabilities and special needs in our schools," Mr Garrett said.
"The number of students with disability as a proportion of all students is increasing, and this Government is serious about improving their educational outcomes."
The commitment was backed by parents and disability groups, which also warned there was a glaring omission in the membership.
For the rest of the article go to

Welfare News:
Inside an isolated world – ABC 7:30 Report
30/11/2010
Natasha Johnson
There are more than 300,000 Australians who are deafblind and an Access Economics report is predicting that with an ageing population that figure will top one million by 2050.
The 7.30 Report's Natasha Johnson spent a day with a woman who is deafblind to witness the many challenges she faces.
Transcript
TRACY BOWDEN, PRESENTER: American activist Helen Keller is known worldwide as an extraordinary woman, who achieved much in spite of her profound disability of being both deaf and blind.
Most of us would probably assume this dual sensory disability is relatively rare, but there are more than 300,000 Australians who are deaf-blind, and an Access Economics report predicts that with an ageing population that figure will top 1 million by 2050.
Support groups say there’s a drastic lack of specialised services that leaves many isolated and depressed, but with more support they can lead fulfilling lives.
For the rest of the article go to
http://www.abc.net.au/7.30/content/2010/s3080894.htm

Job seekers in poverty as dole loses buying power – Age
28/11/2010
Josh Gordon
UNEMPLOYED people are $342 worse off a year on average than they were when federal Labor came to power
because their living costs have been rising faster than the dole. Despite a political focus on working families, cost-of-living pressures have been pushing the unemployed into poverty at an alarming rate, with Australia now facing international pressure to increase the Newstart allowance.

An analysis of Bureau of Statistics figures by Canberra-based think tank the Australia Institute shows living costs of people on government benefits leapt by 12.8 per cent between June 2007 and September 2010. Yet, in that time, the government raised the Newstart allowance by 10 per cent to take into account general price increases. That leaves the unemployed 2.8 per cent - $342 a year - worse off in real terms since 2007.


Disabled more likely to be seriously ill – Sydney Morning Herald
25/11/2010
AAP
People with a severe disability are nine times more likely to be seriously unhealthy compared with Australians who aren't disabled, a new report reveals.
Some 46 per cent of Australians with a severe or profound disability reported poor or fair health to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, compared to just five per cent of those without a disability.
The institute's report Health of Australians with Disability, released on Thursday, found people with a severe disability were more likely to acquire diabetes, arthritis and osteoporosis at an earlier age.
They were also more likely to suffer mental health problems.
"Many of these health conditions are interrelated, and some are caused or exacerbated by lifestyle factors, which themselves can be a result of the disability," the institute's Xing-yun Wen said in a statement.

Govt to tighten disability pension – Sky News
23/11/2010
The federal government has been advised to close a legal loophole that allows people to claim a disability pension, despite not living in Australia.
Under the Social Security Act those receiving the disability support pension are only required to be a citizen at the time of application.
People living permanently overseas then only have to return to Australia every 13 weeks to still qualify for regular payments.
Around one thousand people are taking advantage of the loophole and the government is cracking down on the situation by introducing tightened legislation.
A Senate committee last night gave the proposed changes the thumbs-up.

Making it easier to get disabled back into the workforce – Australian
22/11/2010
Jenny Macklin
AUSTRALIANS rightly expect our social security safety net to support people in need.
But we also don't want it to become a crutch for people who could and should be working.
This is sometimes a difficult balance to strike, especially with the Disability Support Pension. This provides essential income support for Australians who are unable to work to fully support themselves.
As of June this year there were almost 800,000 Australians receiving the disability pension, and the average length of time spent on the disability pension is almost 12 years. Very few people end up leaving the disability pension by returning to the workforce; most end up on the age pension, or sadly, passing away. Some people will never be able to work because of their disability.
It is the mark of a compassionate society that these vulnerable people be supported to have an adequate standard of living.
That is why the federal government substantially increased the pension last year.
But some new disability pension claims appear to be triggered by a person's employment situation, rather than acquiring a disability. Disability pension claims grew from about 2300 a week to around 3000 a week during the global financial crisis, before returning to close to previous levels.


Paltry allowance gives jobless no hope of paying the bills – Sydney Morning Herald
18/11/2010
Cassandra Goldie
THERE is an urgent need to reform Australia’s social security payments system. Unless we do this, single unemployed people on the Newstart allowance will, by the middle of the century, receive just one-third of the amount available for those on age or disability pensions.

This calculation by the University of New South Wales's Social Policy Research Centre comes as the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development warns that the Newstart allowance is already so low as to raise "issues about its effectiveness" in providing a basic level of financial security for people who are not able to find paid work.

The OECD’s unprecedented call for an increase in unemployment benefits and the removal of "inactivity traps" through social security and tax reform - aimed at improving work incentives - shows something is seriously wrong.

The OECD findings are similar to the measures recommended in the Henry tax review that would substantially improve fairness and incentives for people to return to paid work


Jobless benefit losing ground – Age
16/11/2010
Peter Martin
THE unemployment benefit is shrinking so fast relative to other benefits that by the middle of the century a single unemployed Australian will receive just one-third of the age pension.

This prediction, by the NSW Social Policy Research Centre, follows a warning by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development that the so-called NewStart allowance is already so low as to raise "issues about its effectiveness" in supporting the unemployed and helping them to find jobs.

Unemployment benefits and pension rates used to be similar, but began diverging in 1997 when the Howard government indexed pensions to moves in male total average weekly earnings but left NewStart indexed to the consumer price index. A one-off $1690 jump in the single pension in 2009 increased the gap further.

The OECD says a single unemployed Australian on NewStart now receives only 68 per cent of the pension.

For the rest of the article go to http://www.theage.com.au/national/jobless-benefit-losing-ground-20101115-17ug8.html

Disability pension use on the rise – Herald Sun
15/11/2010
Ben Packham
THE number of Australians on the Disability Support Pension has surged by 35,000 in 12 months.

The Department of Families annual report shows taxpayers paid more than $11 billion to 792,000 DSP recipients last financial year.

The year before there were 757,000 DSP recipients.

During the financial crisis, Community Services Minister Jenny Macklin admitted many people were going onto DSP not because of disability but because of unemployment.

She has promised tougher assessments of borderline DSP applicants, while the clearly and profoundly disabled would be fast-tracked onto the benefit.

"The Disability Support Pension is an essential element of Australia's safety net but it is vital that it supports the people
Disability payment should not be de facto dole – Australian

09/11/2010

Jessica Brown

OUR welfare system should not assume that disabled people can't be in paid employment.

AUSTRALIA is the second best place in the world to live. That's the conclusion the UN makes in its latest Human Development Index, released last week. With a life expectancy of nearly 82 years, Australians are among the healthiest (and wealthiest) on the planet.

Yet despite scoring an impressive 0.979 out of a possible 1 for health on the index, more Australians are unable to work because of a disability than ever. There are more than 770,000 Australians on a Disability Support Pension.

As we have become healthier, the proportion of working-age people on a disability pension has doubled from about one in 40 in the mid-1980s to one in 20 in the mid-2000s.

In this trend we are not alone. There are more than 26 million Europeans and more than 12 million Americans on disability benefits. And despite the best efforts of policy-makers here and overseas, these numbers stubbornly continue to climb.

According to a new study by Hugo Benitez-Silva, Richard Disney and Sergi Jimenez-Martin published in the British journal Economic Policy, this is because we have failed to adequately differentiate between "health disability" and "work disability".


Conferences and Workshops:

OZeWAI,

Australia’s only web adaptability conference is just around the corner, and you can register now. The conference will be held on 1 – 3 December 2010 at John Scott Meeting House, La Trobe University, Bundoora (near Melbourne), Victoria.

Visit the OZeWAI 2010 (http://www.ozewai.org/2010) website and view the draft program, along with other information about the conference.

NDS 2011 Annual State Conference

Sydney on 14-15 February 2011.

For further queries, please contact Julie Walton on 02 9256 3115 or email julie.walton@nds.org.au

2011 Disability and Communication Stream,

Australian and New Zealand Communications Association Conference,

University of Waikato, NZ,

July 6-8

ANZCA is a professional association for researchers and teachers in the multiple diverse fields of communication. Research students are encouraged and supported to take advantage of formal and informal mentoring opportunities afforded by participation in the conference and other activities of the association.

This year the stream theme is ‘(Dis)ability, diversity, difference: Shifting boundaries and identities’. We will be running a minimum of two streams and invite submissions that include, but are not restricted to:

• Empirical research from diverse perspectives including communication, cultural theory, media, journalism, public relations, marketing, disability studies and fields of inquiry that incorporate disability and communication in theorisation, service delivery, policy and practice.

• Creative practice and representation through diverse modes including all genres of writing, poetry and poesis, photography, film and documentary, visual, moving and performance art, mobile and multi-media, (auto)biography, story-telling, memory-work, sound and soundscapes.

‘Disability’ is used in a broad sense and incorporates a diverse range of issues. To open and extend discussion, the stream encourages submissions based on a broad range of interpretations, provocations, critique, reflection, narrative and conversation that explore the ways that disability and communication intersect with gender, sex and sexualities, ‘race’ and ethnicity, Indigeneity, ‘class’, socio-economic status, age, affect, health, space/place and culture.
Please contact myself or Gerard Goggin if you would like to discuss any aspect of the stream:
Gerard Goggin (g.goggin@unsw.edu.au)
Cassandra Loeser (cassandra.loeser@unisa.edu.au)

Asia Pacific Autism Conference
Perth Australia
8-10 September 2011
www.apac11.org
"Creating and Inspiring the Future"
Register before 1 February 2011 to take advantage of the large discounts offered with this pre-Early Bird Registration.
(Full Registration) only $950.00
(Family Members, Pension Cardholders, Full-time Students) only $550.00
The Web Hot Special is available to online registrations only. Please visit our website today at www.apac11.org and click on the ‘Register’ tab to book your place for the Asia Pacific Autism Conference 2011.
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E: eecw@eecw.com.au
W: www.apac11.org

Scholarships:
The ‘ParaQuad NSW Scholarships 2011’ for people with a spinal cord injury
ParaQuad NSW is proud to announce ParaQuad NSW Scholarships for 2011. The available Scholarships are:
1) The ParaQuad NSW Scholarships, established through a gift from a generous ParaQuad donor,
2) The ParaQuad NSW – Golden Stave Foundation Scholarships, established through the generosity of The Golden Stave Foundation
ParaQuad is now accepting applications for the 2011 Scholarships for people with a spinal cord injury residing in NSW/ACT.
The intent of the scholarship program is to award potential applicants attending school, college or pursuing post-secondary trade, technical, or vocational training, an amount of up to $5,000 each as scholarships.
The scholarships are aimed at easing the financial burden of obtaining the necessary education to secure future employment and independence. This program is an opportunity to make a positive difference for young Australians living with a spinal cord injury as well as their families.
If you’re interested in applying for this scholarship, or would like to help ParaQuad provide this outstanding opportunity to as many people with a spinal cord injury as possible, please log on to www.paraquad.org.au. All the details are available under Community Services/Scholarships. You could also help by distributing this announcement to prospective scholarship candidates.
To apply:
Students can download a Scholarship Application Form and the Guidelines from ParaQuad’s website www.paraquad.org.au/CommunityServices/Scholarships.aspx. A mailed copy of these documents can also be obtained by making a request on scholarships@paraquad.org.au.

Woolworths Scholarship 2011
Woolworths Limited and MGSM making a difference!
As part of Woolworths Limited’s ongoing commitment to diversity, the company has partnered with Macquarie Graduate School of Management (MGSM) to offer the Woolworths Scholarship.
Applications are now open for eligible applicants within the retail industry to complete the MGSM Postgraduate Certificate in Management or contribute significantly to the Postgraduate Diploma, Master of Management or MBA programs.
The Scholarship will be awarded to the best qualified applicant taking into consideration a demonstrated commitment to a
career in the retail industry and the selection criteria.
To be eligible you must meet the following essential criteria:
- Must have either an undergraduate degree or 3-5 years relevant work experience and commitment to a career in the Retail Industry
Woolworths is committed to providing a work environment that is inclusive and respects diversity and as such applicants will be viewed favourably if they meet the following desirable criteria:
- Indigenous background
- Disability
- A demonstrated capacity to triumph over hardship.
Submissions are now open for the 2011 application round.
To find out more about these award programs and for full details on the Woolworth’s Scholarship, including application forms, go to www.mgsm.edu.au/wows.
Contact info@mgsm.edu.au or call +61 2 9850 9017
MGSM application closing dates:
26 November 2010 for Term 1 2011 Start;
25 February 2011 for Term 2 Start.
For more information go to

The Gregory and Dolores Farrell Scholarships
For Students Who Use a Wheelchair for Mobility
Undertaking Tertiary Education
In New South Wales in 2011
The Gregory and Dolores Farrell Scholarships are supported by the family of the late Gregory and Dolores Farrell. Gregory Patrick Farrell OAM was a founding Director of SpineCare Foundation.
The aim of the scholarship is to support integration into tertiary education for students who use a wheelchair for mobility. 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.
Four scholarships up to the value of $5,000 each are available for 2011.
For further information and the application form go to http://www.northcott.com.au/1-the_spinecare_foundation.php

Studies and Research:
Australian vocational education and training: VET in Schools 2009
Information is presented in this report about senior secondary school students undertaking vocational education and training (VET) during 2009 through the program known as VET in Schools.

Who works beyond the 'standard' retirement age and why?
Chris Ryan, Mathias Sinning
With life expectancy increasing, and changes to public policy aimed at encouraging older workers to stay in the workforce, the conditions under which people decide to retire have changed in recent years. This report describes the characteristics of those who continue to work beyond the age of 65.

Australian vocational education and training statistics: apprentice and trainee destinations 2010
This survey collects information about the destinations of apprentices and trainees approximately nine months after leaving their training. Information was collected on employment outcomes, reasons for non-completion, satisfaction with the apprenticeship or traineeship, and further study destinations.
Publication:
Student outcomes 2010
Information about the outcomes for students who completed their vocational education and training (VET) during 2009 is presented in this publication. The figures are derived from the Student Outcomes Survey, which focuses on students’ employment outcomes and satisfaction with VET in Australia in 2010. Information about the level and type of training students undertake, further study patterns and reasons for not continuing with the training (where applicable) is also collected

The impact of VET in Schools on the intentions and achievements of young people
This briefing paper assesses the effect VET in Schools programs have on school retention, post-school vocational education and training (VET) and employment, and on young people’s school and post-school aspirations. VET in Schools programs are seen as a way to increase Year 12 retention through broadening subject choices in the school curriculum. Research based on the Longitudinal Surveys of Australian Youth suggest that, while participation in these programs has positive effects on attitudes to and satisfaction with school, it does not necessarily lead to increased Year 12 retention. However, participation in VET in Schools can influence a small group of students, who are intent on getting a job straight after school, to change their post-school plans to include further VET study or an apprenticeship or traineeship.

New Resources:
Health transition info for young people with chronic medical conditions/serious illness
Given information to each young person who is transitioning from paediatric health services to adult health services via the NSW Health Transition team. Info on their program is here: www.health.nsw.gov.au/gmct/transition/

Mental Health and Intellectual Disability
Check out www.schoollink.chw.edu.au. This website developed by ADHC and the Children’s Hospital Westmead (CHW) is aimed at improving the mental health of children and young people with an intellectual disability. They also produce a newsletter. It has information and resources and you can subscribe to the newsletter as well by clicking on the subscribe button or sending an email to schoollink@chw.edu.au.

A Job Well Done - Teacher Resources
These resources will prepare students for work experience by exposing them to activities and issues relating to the ‘world of work’.
The resources have been developed to be used in conjunction with the Work Experience video for secondary school students with disabilities – A Job Well Done.

Use My Ability employability & disability project
practical advice to help students develop their employability skills.
advice on:
• developing employability skills?
• abilities that underpin employability skills?
• impairments that impact on the abilities?
• inclusive strategies?
For more information go to http://www.usemyability.org/

Australian Apprenticeships and Traineeships Information Service
The Australian Apprenticeships and Traineeships Information Service consists of two websites that are excellent resources for referring job seekers to Australian Apprenticeships and Traineeships or if you have job seekers interested in doing an Australian Apprenticeship or Traineeship.
These resources provide a range of information suitable for case workers and clients in developing a career path into an Australian Apprenticeship or Traineeship. This includes the Australian Apprenticeships and Traineeships Information site
Media Releases:

School Impaired - inclusive education failing blind children

26 November 2010

Blind Citizens Australia today backed discussions in Parliament on the educational needs of children who are blind, whilst calling for a critical increase in funding to improve outcomes for children across Australia falling through the educational cracks.

This call follows a Senate motion by Shadow Minister for Disabilities, Carers and the Voluntary Sector, Mitch Fifield calling for $2.2 million to fund the development of a specialist school for children who are blind, the Insight Education Centre for the Blind and Vision Impaired in Victoria.

Blind Citizens Australia Executive Officer, Robyn Gaile, says that the funding of a blind specialist school in Victoria alone only goes a small way to addressing the root problem of the resourcing of education for children who are blind or vision impaired around Australia.

'The core issue for our children is access to specialist resources full stop, irrespective of whether the child is in a mainstream or specialist setting. These are resources like adaptive technology and training in how to use the technology, timely access to the curriculum and materials in accessible formats and increased access to qualified Braille professionals, visiting teachers and aides specialising in vision impairment.

'We are heartened that these needs are being discussed in Parliament after so many years of neglect. The reality though is that whilst $2.2 million dollars is a start, this amount is nowhere near enough to meet the specialist education needs of all Australian students with a vision impairment'.

Key problem areas reported to Blind Citizens Australia include inconsistent delivery of expanded core curriculum such as the teaching of daily living skills and mobility; poor, and in some cases, no access to class work and materials in accessible formats including Braille; overwhelmed teachers leaving students alone in classrooms due to poorly communicated integration strategies and a child being taught Braille maths by a teacher concurrently learning Braille maths.

Ms Gaile maintains that whilst integration has had positive outcomes for many individuals who are blind, more needs to be done, including increased funding by State and Federal Governments, to ensure that students are included and can meaningfully participate.

'We can’t just continue along the same broken path. Parents are tired of having to lobby for the same access to materials that they lobbied for two weeks ago. Parents who are blind with sighted children are tired of having to continually ask for home readers and homework to be accessible so that they can support their child’s learning. And teachers are tired and under resourced to meet the needs of their students. The system is failing the students it claims it includes', says Ms Gaile.

These calls are reflected in the recently released Blind Citizens Australia Education Policy, which calls for an accessible curriculum and education system which supports the needs of all students with a vision impairment.

Media contact: Robyn Gaile, Executive Officer - Mobile: 0417 549 535
Blind Citizens Australia, Ross House, Level 3, 247-251 Flinders Lane, Melbourne
Email: robyn.gaile@bca.org.au Website: www.bca.org.au

Postgraduate Disability Network: 'Submission to the Senate Inquiry into New Student Fees under the Senate Select Committee on the Scrutiny of New Taxes',

Submission 'Submission to the Senate Inquiry into New Student Fees under the Senate Select Committee on the Scrutiny of New Taxes' by Nigel Palmer
On 30 September 2010 the Senate referred the following matter to the Select Committee on New Taxes for inquiry and report.

Postgraduate Disability Network: 'Submission in response to Inquiry into the Higher Education Legislation Amendment (Student Services and Amenities) Bill 2010',

Submission 'Submission in response to Inquiry into the Higher Education Legislation Amendment (Student Services and Amenities) Bill 2010' by Nigel Palmer
On Tuesday 21 October 2010 the Selection Committee asked the Committee to inquire into and report on the Higher Education Legislation Amendment (Student Services and Amenities) Bill 2010.

The Committee invites interested persons and organisations to make submissions addressing the terms of reference by Thursday 4 November 2010.


**Strong support for student services and amenities fees**

**PORTFOLIO**: Education, Employment and Workplace Relations


**SNIPPET**: Minister for Tertiary Education, Senator Chris Evans, today welcomed the House of Representatives Employment and Education Committee report into the Higher Education Legislation Amendment (Student Services and Amenities) Bill 2010. The Committee report also documents the devastating impact on student services following the previous Coalition Government's decision to abolish student services and amenities fees. The Gillard Government wants to restore important student services while maintaining our commitment not to return to compulsory student unionism, Senator Evans said.

**Career Information Flyers for people with disability**

The career information flyers outline a range of career information, resources and support available for young people and adults. The flyers provide relevant information on DEEWR funded career development programs and resources, and also include a range of useful internet links for further information and support.


**NUS survey supports focus on quality**

**PORTFOLIO**: Education, Employment and Workplace Relations


**SNIPPET**: The Minister for Tertiary Education, Senator Chris Evans, today welcomed the release by the National Union of Students of a national survey of students’ perceptions of higher education quality. Students place a strong emphasis on the quality of their educational experience, Senator Evans said. The Australian Government has a longstanding commitment to ensuring the quality of higher education with its 10-year reform agenda placing a clear focus on quality, supported by record investments.

**Government Commissions Early Advice on Assistance for Students with Disability**

The Hon Peter Garrett AM, MP
Minister for School Education
Minister for Early Childhood and Youth
5 November, 2010 Media release

Minister for School Education Peter Garrett has commissioned advice on strategies that could assist school students with disability and special needs in the classroom and at school.

The Gillard Government has listened to concerns and tasked a small group of education authorities, teacher unions and educators to provide advice on immediate priorities and strategies to support school students with disability and special needs.

Minister for School Education Peter Garrett said the working group will identify effective, priority approaches to improve the educational experience of students with disability in the classroom and at school.

“Specifically, I have asked this working group to consider needs across sectors, look at what is being done already and identify any short to medium term complementary strategies to strengthen learning support and outcomes for students with disabilities and special needs in our schools.

“My aim is to hear from the working group by early December 2010 to enable me to consider their advice during 2011.

“The number of students with disability as a proportion of all students is increasing, and this Government is serious about improving their educational outcomes.

For the rest of this media release go to

http://www.deewr.gov.au/Ministers/Garrett/Media/Releases/Pages/Article_101105_112212.aspx

**58 New Trade Training Centres - to boost vocational education**
Minister for School Education, Peter Garrett today announced $219.6 million for 58 new Trade Training Centres that will create vocational education pathways for students at 195 secondary schools around Australia. The funding announced today is part of the $2.5 billion investment in vocational education and opportunities for students delivered through the Trade Training Centres in Schools program to build or upgrade vocational training facilities in secondary schools. The Trade Training Centres in Schools program has already delivered 35 completed Trade Training Centre projects, 130 projects have also commenced construction and a further 64 are in either the planning or procurement stage.

Training innovation for the Deaf up for national award
Following on from their resounding success at this year’s Victorian Training Awards, the staff from NMIT’s Centre of Excellence for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing are now in contention for a national award. Centre of Excellence Coordinator, Cathy Clark, and Interpreter/Administration Officer, Teresa Cumpston Bird, will attend the Australian Training Awards Ceremony at Sydney’s Olympic Park Sports Centre on November 19. They will represent the Centre of Excellence which has been nominated in the category of Australian Training Initiative.

For the rest of this media release go to

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 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
Funded by the Australian Government Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) under the National Disability Coordination Officer Programme.

No 16, Vol 6- Compiled by Timothy Hart the NDCO for North Sydney and Central Coast

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