In this Disability Education and Employment News, we have information on the South Australia DESA 2010 SYMPOSIUM, the NSW Enquiry into 'Provision of Education to Students with a Disability or Special Needs', the Victorian Vision Australia Kickstart for 2010 and where the 'Managing Disability at Work' audio files can be downloaded.

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

Please distribute the Newsletter to those that you think would be interested in it.

For information on subscribing, please go to the end of the newsletter.

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Education News:
Plan to link uni funds to targets
Andrew Trounson
December 12, 2009
UNIVERSITY students could be made to sit a generic skills test to assess what value has been added by their tutors as part of Education Minister Julia Gillard's plans to link university funding to performance targets from 2012.
Other performance indicators floated in a discussion paper released yesterday include reducing first-year drop-out rates, improving performance in student-satisfaction surveys, and increasing the number of poor and disadvantaged students at universities.

The paper suggests assessing teaching quality by using the Graduate Skills Assessment test, which is a multiple choice and written test developed in 1999. Students could take the test in the first year of study and again in their final year on attributes such as critical thinking, problem-solving, written communication and interpersonal understanding.

The proposal follows the introduction of national literacy and numeracy tests in primary and secondary schools to measure school performance.


**Employment News:**

**Nearly 20% of university students don’t last full year**

HEATH GILMORE HIGHER EDUCATION

December 6, 2009

CLOSE to one in five students drop out of Australian universities by the end of their first year.

They blame unhappiness with the subjects they chose, financial hardship, failing courses and the opportunity to upgrade to a better institution for the high fallout rate.

Latest figures released by the Federal Government show that international students attending Australian tertiary institutions have a higher retention rate.

At Southern Cross University in Lismore, three out of every 10 first-year students dropped out of their courses. The University of Sydney and the University of NSW each had 11 per cent drop-out rates, according to attrition, retention and progress data for 2008 just released by the Government.

The Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education in the Northern Territory had the highest leaving rate in Australia.

Overall, international students displayed a greater ability or willingness to get through the first year and continue with their chosen studies, the figures show.


**Program finds work for disabled students**

Stepping Into, a national program to place disabled university students in the workforce, is finding favour with interns and employers.

Video


and for the article go to


**Welfare News:**

**Disability levy needs to collect $2.5b**

December 4, 2009

A NATIONAL insurance scheme being considered by the Federal Government to provide lifetime care and support to seriously disabled people would need to raise extra funding of $2.5 billion a year, according to preliminary costings of the ambitious plan.

Estimates suggest that if the scheme were funded by a Medicare-style tax levy it would need to be set at about 0.4 per cent of taxable income, on top of the existing Medicare levy of 1.5 per cent.
A report by the Government's Disability Investment Group has strongly backed the scheme and says that existing arrangements to support people with disabilities are a national disgrace.

"Despite governments spending $20 billion annually on the disability welfare system … there still remains a large, and rapidly growing, unmet need for care and support," its report says. "This is despite an estimated army of 2.5 million family members and other carers providing unpaid care and support."

For the rest of the article go to

Care of disabled a 'national disgrace', report finds
Stephen Lunn, Social affairs
December 03, 2009
A NATIONAL army of more than 2.5 million family members and other carers give their time free for the nation's disabled, yet government services remain a "national disgrace", a government-appointed panel of experts has found.
The Disability Investment Group, commissioned by the Rudd government last year to investigate funding for the sector, calls for structural reform "to move the care and support for people with disabilities out of the dark ages and into the 21st century".
For the rest of the article go to

Henry targets surge in disability pensions
PETER MARTIN ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT
December 1, 2009
THE Secretary to the Treasury, Ken Henry, has declared war on the growing reliance on disability support benefits, saying "it's hard to believe that an ever-increasing number of people dependent on income support is the best we can do".
Addressing a conference on economic governance, Dr Henry said his tax review had been told repeatedly, "including by those who are themselves disabled", that the present system did not adequately motivate people on benefits to return to work because their income was "effectively contingent on them working little or not at all".
Dr Henry presented Treasury calculations that appeared to show about one in every 20 people of working age was on a disability pension.
"For many years now there have been more people receiving disability support pensions than unemployment benefits," he told the conference.
While social security and welfare payments had risen from less than 4 per cent of gross domestic product in the early 1970s to more than 10 per cent today, the proportion of recipients getting the aged pension had "actually fallen". The big drivers were sole-parent and disability pensions.
For the rest of the article go to

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International News:
Disabled students: Report links high absences to poor academic performance in Chicago public high schools
Tribune reporters
December 7, 2009
High absence rates among students with disabilities in Chicago's public high schools are the largest factor explaining the difference in their academic performance when compared with non-disabled peers, according to a new research report.
Specifically, the Consortium on Chicago School Research found that students with mild cognitive disabilities missed five more days per semester than students who hadn't been diagnosed with a disability. Students with emotional
disturbances were absent on average 11 more days than those without, the report found.
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!"

2010 Round Table Conference
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.
To register http://www.ors.net.au/NDSAnnual10.html
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: http://www.e-bility.com/arata/conf.php

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

South Australia Events:
DESA 2010 SYMPOSIUM
“Stay In Focus”
An invitation from Disability Employment South Australia (DESA) Training & Professional Development Committee for you to attend our 2010 symposium which will be held at the Education Development Centre, Milner Road, Hindmarsh SA on the 17th May 2010, registration at 8.30am starting at 9.00am finishing at 4.30pm.
It’s time to “Stay in Focus”! DESA 2010 Symposium! Come and hear motivational speakers on topics that affect the whole sector.
For further queries and bookings, please contact Beverley Furlong on 08 8377 0911 or email bfurlong@ms.asn.au bookings close 7th May 2010, limited seating available so book early to avoid disappointment.
Calls for Expressions of Interest and Input:

New Enquiry into Provision of Education to Students with a Disability or Special Needs

The Chair of General Purpose Standing Committee No.2, Ms Robyn Parker MLC, has recognised that interacting with the education system can be frustrating and confusing for parents of a child with a disability or special needs, as they attempt to ensure that their child gets adequate support. Both teachers and parents are concerned about the adequacy of funding. The Committee will investigate best practice approaches in determining the allocation of funding to children with a disability or special needs. Issues to be covered by the terms of reference include: Level and adequacy of current special education places; Adequacy of support services for children with a disability in mainstream school classes; Provision of a suitable curriculum for intellectually disabled and conduct disordered students; Access to professional support services, such as speech therapy, occupational therapy, physiotherapy and school counsellors; Adequacy of pre-service and post-service teacher training.

Public hearings will occur on 22 and 23 March 2010. Closing date for written submissions is Friday 19 February 2010, to: gpscno2@parliament.nsw.gov.au, www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/gpsc2, or mail to The Director, General Purpose Standing Committee No. 2, Parliament House, Macquarie Street, Sydney NSW 2000. To comment, phone Robyn Parker, Committee Chair, on 9230 3332 or 0427 015 049.

Framework for Higher Education Performance Funding Discussion paper

The Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) in consultation with the Indicator Development Group of higher education experts has developed a discussion paper on the framework of indicators that could be used to negotiate targets with universities for the purposes of performance funding for teaching and learning. In the 2009-10 Budget, the Australian Government announced that performance funding will be made available to universities as part of the higher education reform package. The funding is intended to assist institutions in maintaining attention on the quality of teaching and learning and student outcomes at the same time as there will be rapid growth in the sector. Universities will be allocated performance funding on the basis of institutional targets negotiated as part of compacts and set against a framework of indicators. The indicators will be related to the quality of teaching and learning, the student experience, participation and attainment.


Vision Australia Kickstart 2010

The Kickstart program has been developed for current and prospective tertiary students who are blind or have low vision.

- Prepare yourself for further study.
- Find out about on and off-campus services.
- Learn about the Disability Discrimination Act and your rights as a student.
- Improve your writing and study skills for assignments.
- Learn about new audio formats and adaptive technology.
- Meet other students and professionals who are blind or have low vision who can be of assistance to you.
- Learn strategies for completing study with a view to improving employment prospects.

Course Overview
Where: Vision Australia Macaulay, 346 Macaulay Road (Corner of Stubbs Street) Kensington Vic 3031
When: 2 - 4 February 2010
Time: 10.00 am - 4.00 pm
Day 2 Wednesday 3 February – Orientation and Mobility followed by a tour of Melbourne Library and an information session on elearning and audio books.
Day 3 Thursday 4 February – The Disability Discrimination Act and The Education Standards, Self-Advocacy, Online
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](http://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](http://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](http://www.spinecarefoundation.org.au)

**Publications:**

**Australian vocational education and training: Student outcomes 2009**

NCVER

Information about the outcomes for students who completed their vocational education and training (VET) during 2008 is presented in this publication.


**VET participation, achievements and outcomes for people with a disability.**

The National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER) last week released a new statistical compendium presenting data on VET participation, achievements and outcomes for people with a disability.
Other relevant reports published by NCVER include:

Who’s missing out? Access and equity in vocational education and training (2005)
http://www.ncver.edu.au/students/publications/1611.html


Vocational education and training and people with a disability: A review of the research (2008)
http://www.ncver.edu.au/students/publications/2075.html

USA Publications
Creating an Inclusive Environment: A Handbook for the Inclusion of People with Disabilities in National and Community Service Programs
(November 2009) (Handbook)
The Corporation for National and Community Service has published a guide that provides information on how to make national and community service programs more inclusive for persons with disabilities. The “Handbook for the Inclusion of People with Disabilities in National and Community Service Programs” provides information about creating an inclusive environment, a brief historical overview of social perceptions of people with disabilities, disability-related laws, how to write inclusive service descriptions, recruitment and outreach, and accommodations issues and legal requirements.

Publications Emerging From Research Funded through the National Center for Education Research
(September 2009) (Document)
This document, released by the National Center for Education Research, contains a list of publications that demonstrate the breadth of work from more than 400 research grants funded since 2002. Organized by topic areas such as reading, writing, mathematics, science, and education policy, the publications include scientific articles describing the impacts of instructional practices on student achievement, articles describing new curricula written for teacher use, and brief summaries of research aimed at the general public. (Available in pdf, 922 KB, 91 pp.)

State Test Score Trends Through 2007-08: Has Progress Been Made in Raising Achievement for Students with Disabilities?
(November 2009) (Report)
This report by the Center on Education Policy (CEP) examines progress in raising achievement for students with disabilities. It also describes the factors that make it difficult to clearly discern achievement trends for this particular subgroup. The data within this analysis were collected by CEP with technical support from the Human Resources Research Organization, and come from the state reading and mathematics tests used for NCLB accountability in all 50 states.
http://tinyurl.com/yeutzgw

Strategic Use of Individualized Learning Plans: Preparing Students with Workforce Readiness Skills for 21st Century Jobs
(July 2009) (Research Brief)
Individualized Learning Plans (ILPs) are described as strategic planning tools that assist students in course selections and provide opportunities for coordinated learning experiences, including career development and career exploration activities intended to help them identify and achieve post-secondary goals. The National Collaborative on Workforce and disability (NCWD) proposes that electronic ILPs can be an effective means for schools to coordinate workforce development activities, which are led by school counselors, career and technical education coordinators, and special education administrators. Strategies for helping schools identify workforce development activities and increase the

This report focuses on transition programs for youth to postsecondary education, addressing the following questions: (a) What models or programs of transition exist? (b) On what basis can it be said that one transition program is more effective than another (how is successful transition defined)? (c) How are transition models and programs evaluated? and (d) What is the impact of transition programs, specifically those that aim to facilitate transition from one educational system to another, to program completion, or to specific career-related employment for disadvantaged youth? From a public policy perspective, this review points to the need for more investment in rigorous studies that investigate in more depth and detail the specific aspects of programs associated with program success.

Studies are also needed on the interaction between programs and student characteristics to determine what types of programs are most effective for which students.

http://tinyurl.com/yftk7z2

For a list of Publication click here.

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New Resources:

Australians for Disability and Diversity Employment, ADDE Newsletter Summer 2009

The 2009 Summer ADDE Newsletter is available for download as a MS WORD DOC or PDF document.

CONTENTS: Page 1 ADDE Coordinator Report, Page 2 THE DIVERSITY@WORK DISABILITY EMPLOYERS OF THE YEAR, Page 9 THERE IS MORE TO LIFE THAN WORK, Page 10 JOB HUNTING TIPS FROM AROUND THE WORLD.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH: Compromise: The art of dividing a cake in such a way that everybody believes they got the biggest piece.


Managing Disability at Work


Community GrantGuru Website

A new website, Community GrantGuru, has been developed by GrantReady. This easy to use website is an excellent tool, allowing non-profit organisations the opportunity to find grants that will enhance their projects. Non-profit organisations can find all the grants listed in one location and Community GrantGuru is a free service. Community GrantGuru is also able to assist organisations with the application process and provides ongoing support to the organisations after the grant has been secured.

To find more information or to begin browsing for grants visit http://community.grantready.com.au/

AT Magic.

The Independent Living Centre has just launched its new website called ‘AT Magic’.

Subscriptions are available at no cost until 29 January 2010.

The new website is designed to enable you to search for equipment in a much more sensitive way and to compare features of equipment so you can work out which items have the required features. Training video clips and information about resources are also provided.

You can check this out at www.ilcnsw.asn.au
School Industry Partnership Broker Program Announcement
The list of preferred providers for Partnership Brokers and Youth Connections are now available at http://www.deewr.gov.au/Youth/YouthAttainmentandTransitions/Pages/RequestForTenderOutcomes.aspx

For a list of New Resources click here

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Media Releases:
Government unveils new $1.2 billion Disability Employment Service
Senator the Hon Mark Arbib
Minister for Employment Participation
9 December, 2009
Minister for Employment Participation Mark Arbib today announced the successful organisations for the Australian Government's new $1.2 billion Disability Employment Services.
The new service, to begin operation on March 1, 2010, is a significant improvement in services for people with disability, their families and carers, and employers.
"The introduction of the new arrangements is expected to increase the participation of people with disability in employment," Senator Arbib said.
For the rest of this media release go to http://www.deewr.gov.au/Ministers/Arbib/Media/Releases/Pages/Article_091209_135821.aspx

Discussion paper on higher education performance funding released
PORTFOLIO: Education, Employment and Workplace Relations
SNIPPET: The Minister for Education, Julia Gillard, has today released the discussion paper which invites Universities to comment on the Government's plans to link higher education funding to University performance. The performance funding will be allocated to universities on the basis of targets for each University negotiated as part of compacts and set against a framework of indicators. Universities that agree to targets will receive funding in 2011, with funding related directly to performance against those targets to start in 2012.

Government unveils new $1.2 billion Disability Employment Service
PORTFOLIO: Education, Employment and Workplace Relations
SNIPPET: Minister for Employment Participation Mark Arbib today announced the successful organisations for the Australian Government's new $1.2 billion Disability Employment Services. There will be 66 organisations from more than 1100 sites delivering Disability Employment Services Program A. Another 209 organisations which currently deliver Disability Employment Network services will deliver Disability Employment Services Program B from about 1150 sites.

Regulating and Improving Australia's Vocational Education and Training Sector
PORTFOLIO: Education, Employment and Workplace Relations
SNIPPET: The Council of Australian Governments today agreed to create a new, independent national regulator for the vocational education and training (VET) sector. Pathways into an apprenticeship will be enhanced through a significant reform of pre-apprenticeships. These reforms will help cement Australia's international reputation as a high quality provider of Vocational Education and Training - with a strong, national regulatory regime.

Innovation Fund delivers $6 million to create jobs
PORTFOLIO: Education, Employment and Workplace Relations
SNIPPET: The Rudd Government today announced more than $6 million for 14 innovative job-generating projects which focus on helping up to 3,500 disadvantaged jobseekers. The $41 million Innovation Fund is part of the
Government's $4.9 billion employment services, Job Services Australia. Wilcannia The project aims to provide work experience and jobs in the establishment of a radio station in response to the community desire for a radio station with local content.

Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs | New education requirements for Family Tax Benefit Part A
PORTFOLIO: Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs
SNIPPET: New education requirements for Family Tax Benefit Part A. From January 2010, a child aged 16 to 20 will have to be studying towards Year 12 or equivalent qualification, or have completed such a course, to be eligible for Family Tax Benefit Part A. Family tax benefit Part A for young people aged over 21, and family tax benefit part B for young people aged 16 to 18, already have a full-time study requirement.

Almost one quarter of a million people used disability services in 2007-08 (media release, Thursday 3 December) (AIHW)
PORTFOLIO: Health and Ageing
SNIPPET: The number of people using disability support services increased from 188,000 to 245,700, between 2003-04 and 2007-08, according to a report released today by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW). According to the report, Disability support services 2007-08, about 31,500 people used respite services in 2007-08. Over 112,000 people who used specialist disability services in 2007-08 also had a personal carer, with nearly 60% of these carers being the mothers of the service user.

Draft ADHD Guidelines Released
PORTFOLIO: Health and Ageing
SNIPPET: The Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP) and National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) today made available updated draft Australian Guidelines on Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and other useful information to assist parents and medical professionals to recognise and appropriately treat ADHD. The draft Guidelines have been released along with supplementary information prepared by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC). The draft Guidelines and supplementary information can be found at .

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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.