



Australian Government
Department of Education, Employment
and Workplace Relations



CDS

Centre for
Disability
Studies

Disability Education and Employment News: No. 18, Vol 7.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

We would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year.

In this edition of the Disability Education and Employment News, we have under Publication, information regarding 'The attitudes of people with a disability to undertaking VET training' report and under Scholarships, information on the new The 'ParaQuad NSW Scholarships 2012' for people with a spinal cord injury'. Plus further information on other Resources, 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:

Private students most likely to apply for HSC special consideration – Sydney Morning Herald

08/12/2011

Kim Arlington, Andrew Stevenson

DESPITE educating just one in four students with disabilities, private schools accounted for more than half the

applications for HSC exam disability provisions this year.

Eleven per cent of HSC students at independent schools sought special consideration, compared with 6 per cent of students at government schools, NSW Board of Studies figures show. Disability provisions were sought by 8.1 per cent of HSC candidates in the Catholic system.

Private school students at a number of Christian schools, Anglican colleges and other high-fee schools successfully applied for special provisions at more than three times the rate of their public school counterparts.

Sydney Distance Education High School, with 39 per cent, had the state's highest rate of successful applicants. Karabar High School and Distance Education Centre in Queanbeyan had the third-highest, with 32.3 per cent. The schools "cater for students with additional needs, who access education through distance education", an education department spokesman said.

For the rest of the article go to

<http://www.smh.com.au/national/tertiary-education/private-students-most-likely-to-apply-for-hsc-special-consideration-20111207-1ojbs.html>

Disabled have ordinary needs – Canberra Times

05/12/2011

Tom Shakespeare

'Mainstreaming' is the new buzz word in the disability field these days, by which they mean that disability issues should be included in general services, systems and policies, rather than always dealt with separately.

The problem is that folks think the answer for people with disabilities is to provide something "special", which in the disability field usually means "segregated" and sadly often means "worse".

As someone who has a disability and one who has spent the past 25 years researching the area, I think mainstreaming makes perfect sense. Because we are not really so different. Our minds or bodies may not work in the same way as yours, but we are still human beings.

For the rest of the article go to

<http://www.canberratimes.com.au/news/opinion/editorial/general/disabled-have-ordinary-needs/2380744.aspx?storypage=0>

Dealing with dyslexia (again)

Denise Ryan

November 28, 2011

AUSTRALIA is 20 years behind Britain when it comes to diagnosing and treating dyslexia. That's the claim of the head of a UK company that supplies dyslexia screening software to about 25 per cent — or more than 8000 — British schools.

Kevin Thomas, a psychologist and the head of Lucid Research — who was in Melbourne last week — says UK primary school children are routinely screened for dyslexia and he can't understand why the same doesn't occur here.

This could be construed as self-interest, given that his firm stands to gain from such testing becoming widespread. But it's clear his view is shared by a wide number of experts on learning difficulties.

For the rest of the article go to

<http://www.theage.com.au/national/education/blogs/show-and-tell/dealing-with-dyslexia-again-20111125-1nyzs.html>

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Employment News:

Hospital launches disability work experience program – Mt Druitt Standard

20/12/2011

Lawrence Machado

SPECIAL projects will be launched early next year to help people with disability find work placements in the community.

The Blacktown Mt Druitt Hospital management said the new BMDH Disability Workforce committee has developed an official Transition To Employment (TTE) and work experience program.

Announcing the project to mark the International Day of People with a Disability last week, BMDH General Manager Dominic Dawson said:

“We have secured partnerships with several disability employment agencies within the Blacktown local government area who will work with us to expand work experience opportunities within the hospitals for local community members who have a disability.

For the rest of the article go to

<http://mt-druitt-standard.wherelive.com.au/news/story/hospital-launches-disability-work-experience-program/>

Dad helping journos read between lines – Illawarra Mercury

13/12/2011

Angela Thompson

Mac Burns is not a hero and he is not a tragedy. He is something in between - a person.

Knowing this, his journalist father Shawn watches the news closely.

He wants to see stories about boys like his - ones who go to public schools in their wheelchairs and have lots of friends - but says he is frequently disappointed.

Mr Burns graduated from the University of Wollongong yesterday with a Master of Arts for his research into the representation of people with a disability.

The research covered levels of adherence to a set of guidelines by the Disability Council of NSW that are supposed to govern media reporting in the area.

For the rest of the article go to

<http://www.illawarramercury.com.au/news/local/news/general/dad-helping-journos-read-between-lines/2391077.aspx>

Report card damns disabled quality of life – Sydney Morning Herald

30/11/2011

Jessica Wright

AUSTRALIANS living with a disability have the worst quality of life in the developed world and their employment opportunities have hit rock bottom, according to a report issued today.

Almost half of Australians with a disability live in or near a state of poverty. Globally, Australia is at the bottom of the heap, ranked last out of 27 Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development countries. Those with a disability are 2.7 times more likely to be poor. The nation fares little better in employment opportunities, 21st out of 29 OECD countries.

The report, Disability Expectations - Investing In A Better Life, A Stronger Australia, showed there was an employment rate of 39.8 per cent for people with disabilities compared with 79.4 per cent for those without a disability.

The former NSW health minister and national campaign director for the National Disability Insurance Scheme: Every Australian Counts, John Della Bosca, said: "We should aim to leapfrog our way to the top of those rankings. Fairness is part of our national character, and if we adopt the positions in this report, there is no reason why we can't."

The report, produced by PricewaterhouseCoopers, carried a message of support from the Governor-General, Quentin Bryce, who said it highlighted the need for "a cultural shift in attitudes towards Australians living with a disability; from passive sympathy and understanding, to actively encouraging and championing a better quality of life."

For the rest of the article go to

<http://www.smh.com.au/national/report-card-damns-disabled-quality-of-life-20111129-1o562.html>

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Welfare News:

Mental illness main reason to receive pension – Australian

14/12/2011

Sue Dunlevy

MENTAL illness has overtaken musculoskeletal problems as the prime reason for obtaining the disability support pension, as new figures show a third of DSP recipients have been on income support for more than 15 years.

However, government reforms that toughen access to the pension appear to be working, with four out of every 10 people applying for the pension being knocked back, up from 35 per cent three years ago.

Musculoskeletal conditions had been the most common reason people obtained the disability pension for more than two

decades but have been in decline since 2004.

For the first time, psychological and psychiatric illnesses surpassed physical problems this year as the prime reason for receiving the pension, according to the latest Department of Families and Community Services report on the DSP, to be released today.

For the rest of the article go to

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/mental-illness-main-reason-to-receive-pension/story-fn59niix-1226221297799>

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Calls for Expressions of Interest and Input:

Effective Career Development for Young People with Disability

The Careers Industry Council of Australia (CICA) has engaged Miles Morgan to develop guidelines for effective career development services for young people (15-24) with disability.

As part of our research, we are conducting a targeted survey of stakeholders operating in the disability services sector. This survey aims to identify common career challenges and barriers faced by young people with disability and to discover effective practices to support their career development.

It would be greatly appreciated if you could:

- take 10 minutes to complete this survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/XBJ592Q> , and/or
- send this information on to others, who are better placed to complete this survey.

Your feedback will be valuable in assisting us to develop guidelines that provide practical support for others service providers. The survey will be closing on Friday the 6th of January, 2012.

If you would like more information about this survey, or the project in general, please don't hesitate to contact Rob Allen, either by phone on (08) 9228 8089, or by email: robert@milesmorgan.com.au

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Scholarships:

The 'ParaQuad NSW Scholarships 2012' for people with a spinal cord injury

Applications are now invited from people with a spinal cord injury residing in NSW/ACT to apply for the ParaQuad NSW Scholarships for 2012. Two types of scholarships are available:

1. The ParaQuad NSW Scholarships - established to assist people with a spinal cord injury in education costs up to \$5,000
2. The ParaQuad NSW – Golden Stave Foundation Scholarships, established through the generosity of The Golden Stave Foundation to assist young people with a spinal cord injury in education to assist with career aspects.

The intent of the scholarship program is to award potential applicants who live in NSW and the ACT 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.

To apply: Students can download a Scholarship Application Form and the Guidelines from ParaQuad's website

<http://www.paraquad.org.au/CommunityServices/Scholarships/ParaQuadNSWScholarships.aspx>

<http://www.paraquad.org.au/CommunityServices/Scholarships/GoldenStave.aspx>

Completed application forms should be mailed to:

ParaQuad Scholarships

ParaQuad NSW

PO Box 6347

Silverwater DC NSW 1811

Completed scholarship application forms must be received at ParaQuad by Friday, 17 February 2012.

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Studies and Research:

Student outcomes survey 2011

Information about the outcomes for students who completed their vocational education and training (VET) during 2010 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 2011. 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.

<http://www.ncver.edu.au/statistic/publications/2442.html>

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Publication:

The attitudes of people with a disability to undertaking VET training

Lisa Nechvoglod, Tabatha Griffin

This research used a survey to investigate the attitudes of people with a disability towards undertaking training. The findings show very positive attitudes towards training by participants and, although the ability to generalise to the wider population is limited, one thing is clear: generally, people with a disability are willing to undertake VET and consider it a good option in helping them find employment.

<http://www.ncver.edu.au/publications/2449.html>

Future directions for Tertiary Education

The Government is committed to making Australia one of the most educated and highly skilled workforces in the world in order to secure national long term economic prosperity.

In March 2008, the Government initiated a Review of Higher Education to examine the future direction of the higher education sector, its fitness for purpose in meeting the needs of the Australian community and economy, and the options for ongoing reform. The Review was conducted by an independent expert panel, led by Emeritus Professor Denise Bradley AC. A copy of the [Review of Australian Higher Education Final Report](#) is now available.

The Government considered the report's recommendations and findings and provided an [initial response](#) in March 2009. As part of the 2009 Budget, the Government announced it will provide an additional \$5.4 billion to support higher education and research over the next 4 years in a comprehensive response to the Bradley Review, [Transforming Australia's Higher Education System](#). The quantum leap in resourcing is designed to support high quality teaching and learning, improve access and outcomes for students from low socio economic backgrounds, build new links between universities and disadvantaged schools, reward institutions for meeting agreed quality and equity outcomes, improve resourcing for research and invest in world class tertiary education infrastructure.

<http://www.deewr.gov.au/HigherEducation/Review/Pages/default.aspxcv>

Converted Word copy at <http://db.tt/tj0IPqFo>

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New Resources:

Access in the Future Wiki.

The Wiki which can be found at <http://learningwiki.net/groups/accessingthefuture/> you should not need to log in to access it. The wiki is still being populated so come back again and again over the next couple of months.

Improving the lives of people with disability worldwide - Senator the Hon Jan McLucas

PORTFOLIO: Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

URL: http://www.janmclucas.fahcsia.gov.au/mediareleases/2011/pages/jmc_m_pwd_5december2011.aspx

SNIPPET: , Minister for Foreign Affairs. The Australian Government today announced support to improve the lives of people with disability worldwide at a symposium on the World Health Organisation and World Bank's World Report on

Disability in Sydney. Today's symposium has brought together a diverse mix of people from the disability sector, including policy makers, researchers, leaders from Disabled Persons Organisations, representatives from the World Health Organization and members of the World Report on Disability's editorial committee to discuss how we can improve the lives of people with disability, Senator McLucas said.

New Resources to Support Students with Reading Difficulties and Dyslexia

New online resources for teachers and parents are now available on the Department's website to help support students with reading difficulties and dyslexia.

The resources include practical ways to identify the nature of a student's reading difficulty and focused teaching strategies that can be used to support the development of a student's reading skills. The strategies will help to support and monitoring a student's learning and progress in reading.

The teacher resource, developed for primary and secondary school teachers with the expertise of Associate Professor of Exceptional Learning at the University of Melbourne John Munro, aims to build, strengthen and reinforce teachers' knowledge and understanding of reading difficulties and dyslexia.

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/news/newsalerts/2011/dyslexia.htm>

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Media Releases:

TITLE: Government delivering disability reform - Senator the Hon Jan McLucas

PORTFOLIO: Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

URL: http://www.janmclucas.fahcsia.gov.au/mediareleases/2011/pages/gov_deliver_disability_reform_061211.aspx

SNIPPET: The Parliamentary Secretary for Disabilities and Carers, Senator Jan McLucas today met with representatives from the disability sector at the National Disability Services CEO meeting in Canberra to discuss progress on the Government's national disability reform agenda. We know that the current system of disability services in Australia is not delivering the kind of support Australians with a disability and their carers need, which is why we have acted as quickly as possible. Senator McLucas also highlighted that more needs to be done to boost participation of people with disability in the workforce.

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The NDCOs for Region 1 and 3 are Hosted at [the Centre for Disability Studies](#)

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