Welcome to another year of the Disability Education and Employment News.

In this Edition, we have information on the National Companion Card launch, the 2010 Round Table Conference in New Zealand, the Australasian Network of Students With Disabilities (ANSWD) Regional lists, information on the Managing Disability at Work forum, 'The things you need to you know' audio files and the Dyslexia Working Party Document. Plus further information on Scholarships and 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:
Pupil sues over access to school
MIKI PERKINS
January 11, 2010
A DISABLED student is taking the State Government to court, claiming it barred him from going to school full-time and made him depressed and suicidal.

Mildura student Christos Wade, 15, through his mother Lamprini Wade, is suing the Department of Education in the Federal Court for allegedly failing to protect him from bullying and failing to modify the curriculum so that he could
A complaint has also been lodged with the Australian Human Rights Commission.
Christos, who has an autism spectrum disorder and language disorder, is now seven years behind his fellow students and has battled anxiety and depression, his complaint alleges.
For the rest of the article go

Paul Rendine: Learning disabilities take many forms
January 3, 2010
Over the past several months, among my weekly disability articles were a number of articles about learning disabilities. While I usually get between three and four e-mails each week inquiring about the disability article of the previous week, apparently my articles on LD touched a number of chords. In fact, as I write this article today, I've received more than 50 different inquiries about various issues pertaining to LD.
To respond to the various questions about LD, I'll spend the next several weeks discussing some ways to cope with, live with, accommodate and overcome various types of LDs. I'll try to write them from the viewpoints of employers working with workers having various types of LDs, teachers working with LD students and parents trying to help their children with LD overcome their difficulties.
For the rest of the article go to
http://www.delmarvanow.com/article/20100103/OPINION01/1030344

Employment News:
Transition - Disability Employment Services 2010
From 1 March 2010, new employment services for people with a disability, injury or health condition will be introduced to better help people prepare for, find and keep, a job. They will be known as Disability Employment Services (DES).
Further information can be found at http://www.deewr.gov.au/Employment/Programs/DES/Transition/Pages/home.aspx

Welfare News:
National Companion Card launch
Ditching suit jacket and tie in favour of sneakers Federal Parliamentary Secretary for Disabilities, Bill Shorten MP and Victorian Parliamentary Secretary for Human Services, Mr Telmo Languiller MP had a hit of tennis with champion wheelchair tennis player, Ms Danni Di Torro at the launch of the National Companion Card.
The National Companion Card enables eligible Australians with disabilities to attend sporting and cultural events without incurring cost of an extra ticket for their carer.
"People with disability have the same right to get out and enjoy a concert or a football game as the rest of the community, and this scheme removes one of the obstacles in their way," Parliamentary Secretary Shorten said.
The Companion Card has received positive feedback from cardholders and their carers. One carer, whose daughter is a Companion Card holder, said "It is such a wonderful scheme, always works well and makes such a difference to us as a family."
More than 2,700 businesses support the Companion Card Scheme with a number of big name businesses recently joining including the AFL, Basketball Australia, Tennis Australia, the Australian Chamber Orchestra, Reading Cinemas, Circus OZ, Fitness First Australia, Circus Royale, Event Cinemas, Greater Union Cinemas, Birch Carrol and Coyle Cinemas, The Australian Ballet, Musica Viva and The Australian Rugby Union.
You can help promote the Companion Card Scheme by creating a website link from your site to the Companion Card website.
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.
Embracing Inclusive Approaches for Children and Youth with Special Education Needs
11-14 July 2010 -- Riga, Latvia
Please join us as practitioners, researchers, policy makers, and NGOs from around the world gather and engage in lively and informed discussions about the current state of the expertise in meeting the needs of children and youth with special educational needs.
For more information go to
http://www.cec.sped.org/Content/NavigationMenu/ProfessionalDevelopment/RIGA2010Conference/default.htm

National
NDS 2010 Annual NSW 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.
The conference program can be downloaded here
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

The National Centre for Student Equity in Higher Education (NCSEHE)
The National Centre for Student Equity in Higher Education (NCSEHE) is proud to co-host the 13th Pacific Rim First Year in Higher Education Conference in Adelaide from June 27th to June 30th, 2010. With the theme Aspiration - Access - Achievement, the 2010 conference will explore a range of topics including: equity issues for first year students, pedagogies for social inclusion and widening participation for under-represented social groups. The Centre will be also hosting a panel to open the program on the evening of Monday 28th and all those involved in widening the participation of equity groups are encouraged to attend the conference.
http://www.fyhe.qut.edu.au/conference/
The call for submissions is now open and details are available on the FYHE website http://www.fyhe.qut.edu.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.
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:
Australasian Network of Students With Disabilities (ANSWD)
ANSWD is a student organisation, advocating, promoting, lobbying and campaigning on disability issues. Seeking to achieve equality, access, and representation of students with disabilities in the tertiary education sector.
If you are a student with a disability whom is either studying at TAFE or University, or you are a potential tertiary student with a disability, who plans to commence tertiary studies in the following year you are strongly encourage to join the ANSWD discussion list.
To subscribe to the ANSWD discussion list
Send an e-mail to majordomo@postoffice.utas.edu.au
•leaving the subject line blank
•In the body of the message type the command: subscribe answd-list
To unsubscribe from the ANSWD discussion list
Send a message to majordomo@postoffice.utas.edu.au
•leaving the subject line blank
•In the body of the message type the command: unsubscribe answd-list For more information go to http://www.answd.org/discussion.htm

Regional ANSWD email lists
For students with disabilities in Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand who wish to be regional members. When a regional member graduates from a tertiary educational institution they become an alumni member; for more information go to http://www.answd.org/about/regional.html

National Disability Insurance Scheme.
For more information and to be involved in the campaign go to http://www.ndis.org.au

NSW CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
Non-Government Organisation (NGO) Grant Funding
Northern Sydney Central Coast Area Health Service (NSCCAHS) is inviting applications from not for profit Non Government Organisations to provide vocational training and employment opportunities to people with mental health problems and disorders, in the North Shore Ryde and Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Mental Health Service, which is part of NSCCAHS.
The funding available for this service is an amount of $310,000 per annum that would be administered under the NSW Health NGO Grant Program.
The aim of the program is to provide opportunities for mental health consumers to acquire training and employment experiences that will enable them to transition into the available competitive market at the end of the period. The
successful NGO will be required to operate two businesses at two locations, one within the North Shore Ryde area and one in the Hornsby Ku-ring-gai area.

Please contact Simone on 9926 5470 or email sigraham@nsccahs.health.nsw.gov.au to obtain an application package. Packages will be available from 18 January 2010.

Applications are to be submitted no later than 5.00pm Monday 15 February 2010.

Vacant NZ Positions in ANSWD
The Australasian Network of Students With Disabilities (ANSWD) is a student organisation, advocating, promoting, lobbying and campaigning on disability
issues. We seek to achieve equality, access, and representation of students with disabilities in the tertiary education sector throughout Australia and
With the establishment of charter as of Monday 30 November, 2009, the following positions have been left vacant:
For ordinary members
Co-convener – New Zealand
New Zealand Campaign assistant - Access to Campus Facilities
New Zealand Campaign assistant - Access to Employment
New Zealand Campaign assistant - Access to Information and Adaptive technology
New Zealand Campaign Assistant - Legal and Financial issues relating to students with disabilities
New Zealand Campaign Assistant - National Disability Insurance Scheme
New Zealand Campaign assistant - Student Representation
For Regional members
Regional organiser for North Island New Zealand
Regional organiser for South Island New Zealand
Information about the above roles are stated in the charter at
http://answd.org/publications/charter.html
Since this is outside the time period of the Annual General Meeting held inside the Pathways Conference once every two years, the process is done through appointment by Managing Committee.
Current students with disabilities from New Zealand tertiary educational institutions who are an ANSWD ordinary member are welcome to apply for positions above for ordinary members. Current students with disabilities from New Zealand tertiary educational institutions who are ANSWD regional members are welcome to apply for positions above for regional members. Please email full name, name of tertiary educational institution, position applying for and optional additional information about yourself to
convenor@answd.org
by February 6, 2010, date extends if there are no applications for a position. If there are multiple applicants for a position an formal election would be held.
convenor@answd.org
http://www.answd.org

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:gpscn2@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.
Scholarships:
Quantum Technology & Freedom Scientific present the WYNN Scholarship Program 2010
Quantum Technology is excited to announce the WYNN (What You Need Now) Scholarship Program, which is intended to assist students and those who have been assessed as having a learning disability.
The Scholarship prize is for a full copy of WYNN software, a program which provides enhanced access to all manner of texts – printed or electronic. WYNN is a highly sophisticated and effective program, developed by internationally renowned educators.
The Scholarship is open to any person within Australia or New Zealand who has been assessed as having a learning disability.
Applications close on Friday 29 January 2010
In 500 words or less, tell us why you need a WYNN Scholarship and how it will assist you in your place of employment or education
Applications can be submitted in writing or by audio or electronic format
Applications must be attached to an application form
Joanne Harrison, Penna, TAS
“I am really happy about receiving the prize. The WYNN Software motivates me more to study. I will enjoy studying more with this software. It will also help me work faster and more efficiently.”
Full details of the WYNN Scholarship Program and copies of the application form are available on our website: www.quantumtechnology.com.au.
Please contact any of the Quantum Technology offices listed below for further information or for a free demo CD.
Sydney Office: +61 2 8844 9888
Melbourne office: +61 3 9545 4100
Brisbane Office: +61 7 3831 4894
Email info@quantumtechnology.com.au

The Quantum Technology Braille Literacy Scholarship Is Now Open
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 Victoria: 03 9545 4100
Quantum Technology New South Wales: 02 8844 9888
Quantum Technology Queensland: 07 3831 4894

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
For 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 Victoria: 03 9545 4100
Quantum Technology New South Wales: 02 8844 9888
Quantum Technology Queensland: 07 3831 4894

Quantum Technology & Freedom Scientific Present the inaugural Low Vision Scholarship Program
Quantum Technology is excited to announce the inaugural Low Vision Scholarship. This program is being brought to you by Quantum Technology for the first time and is proudly supported by Freedom Scientific.
The Scholarship prize is for a full copy of the MAGic magnification software for a computer, the final prize awarded will be based on the application submitted and the apparent need of the applicant.
The Scholarship is open to any person within Australia who has been assessed as having Low Vision.

- Applications close on Friday 29th January 2010
- In 500 words or less, tell us why you need the Low Vision Scholarship and how it will assist you
- Applications can be submitted in writing or by audio or electronic formats
- Applications must be attached to an application form and it is advised to include supporting documentation
Full details of the Low Vision Scholarship Program and copies of the application form are available on our website: www.quantumtechnology.com.au
Please contact any of the Quantum Technology offices listed below for further information.
Quantum Technology also provides other scholarships for students who are blind or who have a Learning Disability. Call us for further information.
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Tel QLD: +61 7 3831 4894
Tel VIC: +61 3 9545 4100
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Publication:
Dyslexia Working Party - Document

It shows that once again the percentage of people with a disability employed by the Australian public service has declined.

Outcomes of HEFCE review of its policy as it relates to disabled students
The document presents HEFCE’s future policy and strategy for the sector in meeting the entitlements of disabled students, and sets out good practice for institutions.

For a list of Publication click here.

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New Resources:
National Companion Card
More than 2,700 businesses support the Companion Card Scheme with a number of big name businesses recently joining including the AFL, Basketball Australia, Tennis Australia, the Australian Chamber Orchestra, Reading Cinemas, Circus OZ, Fitness First Australia, Circus Royale, Event Cinemas, Greater Union Cinemas, Birch Carrol and Coyle Cinemas, The Australian Ballet, Musica Viva and The Australian Rugby Union.
For more information go to http://www.companioncard.gov.au/

Managing Disability at Work, The things you need you to know
the audio from the day can be found at
Audio only part one
Audio only part two

For a list of New Resources click here.

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To Subscribe:
We hope that this edition of Disability Education and Employment News has been of interest.
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