In this Disability Education and Employment News, we have information on the ParaQuad NSW and the Deafness Forum Educational Scholarships for 2010, and two Australian Employers’ Network on Disability upcoming workshops. 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:**

Report calls for action on dyslexia

ANNA PATTY EDUCATION EDITOR

January 23, 2010

NATIONAL recognition of dyslexia as a disability, with improved training and professional development for teachers to deal with the problem, are needed to address a source of poor literacy skills, says a report to the Federal Government. The report to the federal parliamentary secretary for disabilities and children's services, Bill Shorten, says up to 10 per cent of people struggle to cope with dyslexia.

It says there are no pathways to diagnosis and support for children and adults with dyslexia. "In the education system there are few qualified to diagnose, and the wait time for school psychologists is up to a year," the report by the Dyslexia Working Party says.
Protesters demand public funding for blind school MIKI PERKINS
January 26, 2010
WHEN blind student Daniel Pritchard made the transition from primary to secondary school he was thrust into a strange and disorienting world.
Gone were the days of staying in one classroom and forming a close bond with a long-term teacher.
Instead the 15-year-old had to find his way to class for each new subject, struggle with unsuitable technology and remind his teachers that he needed worksheets with a much larger font.
Daniel joined other blind students and their parents on the steps of State Parliament yesterday to demand the state and federal governments help fund the establishment of a new independent school for blind and vision-impaired students.
"According to the [Education Department] ad campaign they say they treat every student as an individual and teach them to shine - I don't feel that," Daniel said.

Dyslexia Working Party - Document

Welfare News:
Tax system review focuses on aged, jobs
PETER MARTIN
January 23, 2010
Voluntary simple tax returns, longevity insurance, a Medicare-style disability levy and incentives to keep people in work head the recommendations of the Henry tax review, which is focused on the ageing population.
It also recommends changes for business, including a 40 per cent mining resource rent tax.
Recommendations that will be contentious include pay-as-you-drive road congestion charges, fringe benefits tax for charities, and a uniform alcohol excise that would push up the price of wine relative to beer.
Many of the recommendations in the 10-centimetre thick report delivered to Treasurer Wayne Swan last month will cause the Federal Government trouble.
Some ideas, such as lifting the age of access to superannuation, have already been ruled out.
Many of the reported leaks have not made it into the final report - among them taxes on the family home, axing real estate stamp duty, abolishing payroll tax and reintroducing indexation for taxing capital gains.
For the rest of the article go to http://www.smh.com.au/business/tax-system-review-focuses-on-aged-jobs-20100123-mqzs.html

International News:
New Data Shows More People With Disabilities Out Of Work
By Shaun Heasley
February 5, 2010 The unemployment rate among people with disabilities climbed back up in January after a two month decline, the Labor Department reported Friday.
Last month, unemployment reached 15.2 percent, up from 13.8 percent in December among Americans with disabilities.
In comparison, unemployment also grew among the rest of the population, but not nearly as high. In January, unemployment reached 10.4 percent versus a rate of 9.5 percent in December for the general population. For the rest of the article go to http://www.disabilityscoop.com/2010/02/05/jan-2010-jobs/6912/

Federal Judge to Hear Motion on Whether a Blind Law School Graduate Will Receive Requested Accommodations on the February 2010 California Bar Examination

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 28 /PRNewswire-USNewswire/ -- On Friday, January 29, 2010, United States District Court Judge Charles R. Breyer will hear a motion on whether a blind law school graduate will receive the accommodations she needs on the February 2010 California Bar Examination. This hearing, scheduled for 10:00 a.m. in Courtroom 8, 19th Floor, at the Phillip Burton United States Courthouse, 450 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco, stems from a suit filed on November 3, 2009 alleging that The National Conference of Bar Examiners (NCBE) discriminates against blind and low vision law school graduates. The suit charges that the NCBE is violating Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and California's civil rights law by denying accommodations on the Multistate Bar Exam (MBE) and the Multistate Professional Responsibility Exam (MPRE).

The Plaintiff is represented with the support of the National Federation of the Blind ("NFB") by Labarre Law Offices, P.C., in Denver, CO, and by Brown, Goldstein & Levy, LLP, in Baltimore, MD. The Plaintiff is further represented by Disability Rights Advocates ("DRA"), a non-profit law center that specializes in civil rights cases on behalf of persons with disabilities, based in Berkeley, California. http://www.sys-con.com/node/1264654

Conferences and Workshops:

International

"Mainstreaming Equity, Opportunity and Success in Higher Education"

Bookings are now being taken for the 3rd Annual Widening Participation Research Centre Conference 14th - 15th of April 2010, Holiday Inn, Lime Street, Liverpool. Please see http://www.edgehill.ac.uk/wpresearch/WPConferences.htm for the conference programme. Key note speakers for the 24 hour event are

- Professor John Storan, Director, Continuum, University of East London.
  - How are institutions doing at mainstreaming equity?
- Virtual keynote: Professor Kerri-Lee Krause, Director, Griffith Institute for Education Research, Australia.
  - Being Strategic about the First Year.
- Dr Helen May, Higher Education Academy.
  - Strategies for institutional change to embed equity in HE

On the evening of the 14th of April you are invited to attend a drinks reception, buffet dinner and the Inaugural Professorial Lecture delivered by Dr Liz Thomas at Edge Hill University (Edge Hill University are providing coaches from Liverpool to Ormskirk return).

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 Arts-Activated Conference
A range of national and international speakers from the arts and disability sectors will come together at the Powerhouse Museum in Sydney over 25-26 March 2010 to explore the themes of Arts – Access – Excellence through a series of workshops, panels and performances.
For more information and program, visit www.aarts.net.au
Contact: Jane Pollard, Education and Training Manager jpollard@aarts.net.au 02 9251 6499 ext 106

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:


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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.

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NSW Events:

PUBLIC TRAINING SESSIONS - SYDNEY

* * Sessions in other states to be announced shortly * *

Disability Confidence for HR Professionals
People with disability make up a large percentage of the potential workforce (over 16%), so mastering the skills, tools and techniques to effectively interview and select talented applicants with disability can ensure HR professionals source the best possible candidates for their clients.
This interactive half day session includes:

- The business case for employing people with disability
- Understanding disability types
- Legal obligations
- Reasonable adjustments
- Interviewing skills
- Coaching skills for managers

This session has been specifically developed for HR professionals, recruitment specialists, managers and diversity practitioners.
When: Thursday 25th Feb 2010, 9am - 2pm (including lunch)
Where: Medina Executive Sydney Central, Royal Mail Room, 2 Lee St Sydney
Cost: Members $225 + GST / Non-members $275 + GST
RSVP: by Monday 15th Feb 2010 to events@aend.org.au or phone (02) 9261 3922.

Mental Health & Workforce Wellbeing
Recent research suggests that 1 in 5 people will experience a mental health issue in any one year, and almost half the population (45.5%) will experience a mental illness within their lifetime. With mental illness so prevalent in our society, it is imperative that employers have an understanding of the impact of mental illness in the workplace, and place an emphasis on promoting mental health and wellbeing at work.

This training session is a new module being offered by the Australian Employers' Network on Disability. It has been designed to assist managers and HR strategists to develop the skills required to respond effectively to mental health and wellbeing issues within the workforce.

Topics covered in the session include:
- Mental health in context
- Recruitment
- Talking early
- Keeping in touch
- Returning to work
- Managing ongoing illness at work
- Managing risk.

This session will challenge stereotypes, provide the facts about mental health, and guide the improvement of strategies for employees with mental health conditions.

It is ideally suited to line managers, HR professionals, OH&S officers, team leaders and others in supervisory roles.

When: Thursday 11th March 2010, 9am - 2pm (including lunch)
Where: Medina Executive Sydney Central, Royal Mail Room, 2 Lee St Sydney
Cost: Members $225 + GST / Non-members $275 + GST
RSVP: by Monday 1st March 2010 to events@aend.org.au or phone (02) 9261 3922.

Download a registration form in PDF http://files.e2ma.net/5180/assets/docs/reg_form_m_h_public_training_syd_11th_march_2010.pdf

Word format http://files.e2ma.net/5180/assets/docs/reg_form_m_h_public_training_syd_11th_march_2010.doc

Places are strictly limited for each session so please register early to reserve your place!

The Australian Employers' Network on Disability
Employers Making a Difference
PO Box 203 QVB Post Office Sydney NSW 1230
Phone: (02) 9261 3922 · Fax: (02) 9261 3966 · Website: www.aend.org.au

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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.html
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

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.

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.

Dyslexia Working Party - Document

GRADUATE OPPORTUNITIES AT DEEWR
The Dept Education, Employment and Workplace Relations is seeking graduates to fill various positions within the Department, and is proactively encouraging people with disability to apply. Opportunities are available in the Canberra National office as well as State and Regional offices.

Opportunities for degree holders exist in the following areas:

- Accounting
- Information Technology
- Economics/Applied Statistics
- Social Policy Analysts
- Legal
- Generalist

The graduate program consists of up to three rotations within the 10 month program, which is aimed at developing and broadening the skill base of graduates to assist with career progression.
This program is not a targeted program for people with disability but applications from graduates with disability are strongly encouraged. For more information visit the DEEWR Graduate Program website. http://www.deewr.gov.au/Department/Graduate2011/Pages/default.aspx

From the Employers Network on Disability newsletter.

Scholarships:

The Deafness Forum 2010 Educational Scholarship
Deafness Forum provides educational scholarships to facilitate the participation of people who are Deaf or people who have a hearing impairment in post secondary education.

Each Year Deafness Forum provides these scholarships to:

- Provide financial assistance to Deaf and hearing impaired people to enhance their participation in further education
- Increase the number of Deaf and hearing impaired students in further education
- And in particular to increase education opportunities for Deaf and hearing impaired students from the indigenous community, regional communities and non-English speaking backgrounds.

In 2010 a scholarship will be available for support such as tuition, text materials or any other support considered necessary and approved by the Selection Panel for the Scholar(s) to successfully undertake an educational program. Typically around $1500 will be provided to any one Scholar. Support services such as interpreting, transcription typing and purchase of assistive listening devices or other services deemed the responsibility of the tertiary institution, under the Disability Discrimination Act 1992, will NOT be considered under this scholarship. Scholarship recipients will receive complimentary membership of the Deafness Forum for 12 months.

APPLICATIONS CLOSE ON FRIDAY 12th FEBRUARY 2010

For the application form goto

The ParaQuad NSW Scholarships
ParaQuad NSW is proud to announce ParaQuad NSW Scholarships for 2010. 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 2010 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 the ParaQuad NSW Scholarships, go to http://www.paraquad.org.au/CommunityServices/Scholarships/ParaQuadNSWScholarships.aspx


Completed scholarship application forms must be received at ParaQuad by Thursday, 25 February 2010.

For more information
scholarships@paraquad.org.au
New Resources:
Find Your Vocation:
Advanced Vocational Coaching Training for Education and Social Care Professionals
- Are you responsible for making sure your students and clients make the right decisions about their next steps?
- Are you wondering how to deliver impartial and effective advice and guidance to your clients?
- Would you like to ensure that all your staff have the skills to consistently deliver useful advice and guidance to your students and clients?
We have just what you need for more information go to http://www.thelifeproject.co.uk/vocationalcoaching/

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Media Releases:
$527 million in unclaimed Education Tax Refund
PORTFOLIO: Education, Employment and Workplace Relations
SNIPPET: The Rudd Government is encouraging Australian families to keep their receipts from education related expenses so they can take advantage of the Education Tax Refund (ETR). The Education Tax Refund provides parents with much-needed help for education expenses, with refunds of up to $375 per primary school student and $750 per secondary school student. For more information about the Education Tax Refund visit: www.educationtaxrefund.gov.au.

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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.
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.

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