In this Disability Education and Employment News, we have information on the "Stepping into..." internship program, for university students with disability, the next DEAN Professional Development Day and Australian Disability Practitioners Survey.

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:**

**Outrage over Seven Hills West Public School putting autistic children in cage**

By Lisa Martin From: AAP March 11, 2010

A SYDNEY primary school that pens children with autism in a fenced area at lunchtimes should be investigated for human rights violations, the New South Wales Opposition says.
Parents with children at Seven Hills West Public School are angry that pupils with special needs are placed inside a fenced enclosure that has one tree, a bench and a dirt floor.

But the NSW Department of Education has defended the enclosure, saying it is used for new students with disabilities if they require more intense supervision while they adjust to school.

The school has 52 students with special needs.

For the rest of the article go to

More disability support proposed for SA schools
Updated Thu Mar 4, 2010 3:11pm AEDT

Labor has pledged to set up six special units at state schools for students with disabilities.

It says there are 20 units already across South Australia and two of the proposed new ones would focus on autism.

Minister for Disability Jane Lomax-Smith says putting disabled students in the mainstream education system has significant benefits.

"Parents will have a choice as to whether they should be in the mainstream," she said.

For the rest of the article go to

Employment News:
Employment services for disabled job seekers
Wed, 17 March 2010

Disabled Australians may now find employment easier to gain following the Federal Government's new Disability Employment Services.

The service will include two separate arms: the Disability Management Service, which will provide assistance for jobs seekers who do not require regular long-term assistance to maintain their job; and the Employment Support Service, for job seekers who do require assistance to maintain their job.

"People with disability are still under-represented in the workforce," said Minister for Employment Participation Mark Arbib.

"We need to ensure that we remove the barriers facing people with disability who want to work, and recognise their potential rather than their impairments."

The Government has also recently launched a Disability Support Pension Employment Incentive Pilot which is trialling a $3,000 wage subsidy for job seekers after work has been retained for 26 weeks.


Thousands of unemployed win job-hunt exemptions
ADELE HORIN
March 15, 2010

THOUSANDS of unemployed people have gained exemptions from the obligation to look for work under Labor government policies that some believe are too compassionate.

The proportion of Newstart Allowance recipients who were required to look for a job fell to 58 per cent in December compared with 75 per cent six years earlier.

David Thompson, the chief executive officer of Jobs Australia, the peak industry body for non-profit employment services, said the former government was too harsh in its demands on the unemployed. But the pendulum may have swung too far the other way.

"On the basis of [Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations] figures, there's a need for the government to have another look to make sure people who can undertake job search are doing so," he said. "There's a risk to the integrity of the system if [it] swings too far the other way."

For the rest of the article go to
Fresh start for Cafe BEST trainees
BY EMMA BROWN
14 Mar, 2010 11:42 PM
CAFE BEST is encouraging Ballarat businesses to continue to provide employment for people with disabilities.
The cafe, which will close at the end of this month, has provided training and employment for people with disabilities in the Ballarat region for the last three years.
"The innovation and success of Café BEST has been twofold. It has introduced people with a disability into the workforce and has ultimately provided hospitality businesses with trained, talented and committed employees," BEST Community Development general manager HR, marketing and disability services, Jennifer McPherson-Berry, said.
The cafe has worked to debunk myths about employing people with a disability, showing that they are a greatly under-used workforce who can be reliable and committed employees.
For the rest of the article go to

Govt launches disabilities work program March 1, 2010
The Rudd government has launched a $1.2 billion program to help people with disabilities get into the workforce.
The program will boost access to employment services and provide long-term support for people with disabilities already in work.
Parliamentary Secretary for Disabilities Bill Shorten says people with disabilities are under-represented in the workforce. "We need to ensure that we remove the barriers facing people with disability who want to work, and recognise their potential rather than their impairments," he said in a statement.
The employment rate for people with disabilities is about 30 per cent less than rest of the population.
And there are now more than 750,000 Disability Support Pensioners (DSP) in Australia.
The peak disability employment services group, the Association of Competitive Employment, says many DSP recipients want to work.
For the rest of the article go to

Pilot scheme helps fund support pension jobs
MARK DAVIS
March 1, 2010
EMPLOYERS will be offered subsidies of up to $3000 if they employ people with disabilities.
The pilot scheme, to be announced today by the Minister for Employment Participation, Mark Arbib, will be aimed at areas around the country with high numbers of people on the disability support pension.
Employers will be eligible for the subsidies if they give at least eight hours' work a week for at least 26 weeks to a person who has been receiving the pension for people with disabilities
For the rest of the article go to

Welfare News:
Disability access standards lauded
March 15, 2010
All new buildings will be required to have adequate disabled access under new broad standards aimed at evening things up for the disabled community.
The scheme has been lauded as an unprecedented move opening the door to those with a disability, giving them greater access to employment, services and the community as a whole.
For the first time in Australia, the Standards for Access to Premises - as announced by the federal government on Monday - sets minimum access requirements for buildings.

It covers stairs, ramps, toilets and corridors and will apply to all new office buildings, shops, hotels, B&Bs and even the common areas of apartment blocks.

The new rules apply from May 1, 2011.


**Code opens doors to disabled**

SHOPS, hotels and offices will soon be forced to widen corridors, install ramps and renovate toilets under new rules to improve access for the elderly, disabled and families with prams.

The Rudd government will today announce minimum access requirements for public buildings built or renovated from May 1 next year.


**Australias disability laws need critical review**

NICHOLAS PATRICK

March 12, 2010

People with disabilities in Australia live on a lower socio-economic rung than most. People with a disability have poorer educational qualifications, have a higher rate of unemployment, earn lower wages on average, have a reduced life expectancy of up to 20 years, are three-times more likely to be a victim of violent crime and, are far more likely to be the victim of a sexual assault than the rest of the population.

It reads like life in a third world ghetto, yet it is here, and our laws do little to address these critical issues.

For some four million Australians and their families, a threadbare patchwork of state and federal laws, often ignored international conventions and, an all round lack of understanding make life more challenging than it already is. What's needed is a complete review of the existing legal framework to ensure that people with disability live lives of dignity and can realise their potential to fully participate in Australian society.


**Welfare crackdown misses targets**

ADELE HORIN

March 11, 2010

THE welfare-to-work reform implemented under the Howard government failed to achieve its objectives, leaving three of the four target groups - disability pensioners, the very long-term unemployed and mature-age unemployed - little or no better off, an official report shows.

Sole parents fared better in the job market after the reforms began in July 2006. The numbers on the single parenting payment fell significantly from 433,730 before the reform to 338,756 in December 2009. But it is unclear if sole parents are financially better off.

The report, by the research and evaluation group of the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations, says the results were mixed. Despite being implemented at a time of strong labour market demand: "Welfare to work was only partly successful in achieving its objectives."

For the rest of the article go to http://www.smh.com.au/national/welfare-crackdown-misses-targets-20100310-pzea.html

**Stop giving stick to those on disability, wield baton on bosses**

ADELE HORIN

February 27, 2010

It's time to quit pussyfooting around with the disabled. The nation cannot tolerate this burgeoning roll of disability pensioners. More than 750,000 people are drawing a disability support pension, an amazing 31 per cent increase in a decade. Is it possible the nation has so many sick, mentally ill and worn-out folk who are incapable of holding down a job? The solution to the problem is easy: more stick.
Tony Abbott has plans to introduce a little S&M into welfare policy, finishing the job his former boss started. He plans to further toughen the eligibility rules for the disability pension, which were screwed tighter only four years ago. He wants disability pensioners to attend compulsory annual medical reassessments, and twice-yearly "chats" about getting work. But I fear that in cracking down on disability pensioners, Abbott is picking the wrong whipping boy.

Take the cane instead to the bosses who look askance when a one-legged, 50-year-old former brickie labourer has the temerity to apply for work, or a former factory hand with repetitive strain injury wants a mid-life career change.


Abbott targets welfare payments

LENORE TAYLOR

February 24, 2010

Compulsory work for the dole and tougher tests for disability pensioners are the centrepiece of an $11 billion welfare crackdown developed by Tony Abbott. The changes would be part funded by a rise in tobacco and alcohol excise and a possible increase in the pension age.

Days before he became opposition leader, Mr Abbott proposed that all unemployed people under 50 be forced to work for the dole after three months, a move he estimated would cost $10.5 billion over four years.

His submission in November to the Coalition's expenditure review committee, obtained by the Herald, also advocated that disability pensioners with "less serious medical conditions" - about one-third of the 700,000 receiving the benefit - be forced to take annual medical reassessments and sit two interviews a year "to encourage them into employment".

The change was costed at $683 million, with the new rules applying to disability pensioners "in the less serious areas within the psychological/psychiatric and musculo/skeleton categories". Mr Abbott, then the opposition spokesman on families, calculated that if 24,000 disabled pensioners returned to work, the strategy could pay for itself.

For the rest of the article go to http://www.smh.com.au/national/abbott-targets-welfare-payments-20100223-p0p5.html

McGorry urges mental health overhaul

JULIA MEDEW

February 22, 2010

The Australian of the Year, Patrick McGorry, has called for a massive overhaul of the mental health system to direct funds away from acute hospital services to more community-based care.

Only weeks after accepting his award, Professor McGorry has moved to capitalise on his role by asking the federal Health Minister, Nicola Roxon, for at least $200 million in new services this year.

On top of his list is a significant expansion of specialised treatment facilities for young people aged 15 to 24 who are experiencing early psychosis and other serious mental health disorders such as schizophrenia.

He said the only such facility in Australia, Orygen Youth Health, should be used as a model for 10 new centres in other cities this year, with a commitment to another 10 in regional hubs over the next five years.


Conferences and Workshops:

BUILDING RESILIENCE Conference From Surviving to Thriving

Masonic Centre, Corner of Goulburn & Castlereagh Streets, Sydney NSW

15 April 2010

8.30am - 5pm

MC: Julie McCrossin

We can all build and improve on our ability to be resilient when faced with stressful and difficult situations. This one day conference and following half day workshops will provide you with information, tips and examples on how to improve
resilience in yourself and others.
Confirmed Speakers include:

- Prof Tim Sharp, The Happiness Institute
- Tony Cotton, Australian Federal Police
- Lyn Worsley, The Resilience Doughnut

The conference and workshops will be relevant to:

- Mental Health and Allied Health Professionals
- Mental Health Consumers and Carers
- HR and OH&S Managers
- School Counsellors and Teachers
- Mental Health NGOs
- Individuals with an interest in building resilience within the community


Reminder: 2010 Round Table's Print Disability Annual Conference

What? Themed, ‘Think Globally, Act Locally’, the conference aims to influence the production and use of information formats that are accessible to all. Speakers, panel discussions and workshops will explore what is really being achieved in the global context which actually impacts on the lives of people with Print Disabilities locally, and what is being achieved locally which is being modelled globally.

Where? Heritage Auckland, Auckland, New Zealand.
Where? Heritage Auckland, Auckland, New Zealand.
Source: Disability “Did You Know?…” - Warringah Disability Information Service.

Inclusive Learning Technologies Conference 2010


In 2008 we had almost 600 delegates join us at the Surfers Paradise Marriott Resort and Spa for four days of intensive learning technologies workshops and presentations. The Inclusive Learning Technologies Conference 2010 is shaping up to be bigger and better, so be sure to visit [www.spectronicsinoz.com/conference/2010/interested](http://www.spectronicsinoz.com/conference/2010/interested) to register your details for regular updates.

What is the Inclusive Learning Technologies Conference 2010 about?

Hosted by Spectronics, the conference focuses specifically on “inclusive learning technologies” – technologies designed to advance independent achievement for people with disabilities and/or students with learning difficulties. It includes sessions looking at these technologies in the following three interest streams.

- Struggling Students*
- People with Complex Communication Needs
- People with Disabilities

*What do we mean by “struggling students”? Here we are talking about students who are in Regular Ed settings but are struggling to keep up with the reading, writing or organisational tasks required of them. These students may be struggling because of learning difficulties. Alternatively, they could be one of the growing number of ESL (English as a Second Language) students in our schools and post-secondary institutions.

Keynote Speakers include Caroline Musselwhite, Gretchen Hanser, E.A. Draffan, Chris Abbott, and Ian Bean. The preliminary program is now available online at [www.spectronicsinoz.com/conference/timetable](http://www.spectronicsinoz.com/conference/timetable)

When?
25th to 28th May 2010
Where?
Surfers Paradise Marriott Resort & Spa
158 Ferny Avenue
Surfers Paradise
Queensland 4217

How much does it cost?
Prices are listed in Australian dollars:

- Three-day Registration Fee … $595
- Pre-Conference Workshops … $220
- Conference Dinner … $90 per person
- Complete four-day package … $795 (Save $110!)
  (Includes one Pre-Conference Workshop, Full three-day Conference Registration AND Conference Dinner)

For more information contact Eliza Bale, Conference Convenor at conference@spectronicsinoz.com, or visit the Conference website: www.spectronicsinoz.com/conference/

Raising the Bar: expectations, legislation and practice

The Employers’ Network is very excited to announce its first National Conference will be held in Sydney on 27th May 2010.

This conference will be the first of its kind - the first Australian conference focused on disability, run specifically for employers.

A full day conference is scheduled, followed by a Gala Dinner, all at the stunning new Doltone House venue at Darling Island Wharf in Pyrmont.

With recent changes to legislation, and the changing face of the Australian workforce, it has never been more important for employers to become aware of their obligations, and learn what they can do to go ‘beyond compliance’.

More information go to http://www.aend.org.au/content/view/317/24/

ACE Conference 2010!
16 - 18 JUNE
Hotel Grand Chancellor Hobart

As the new Disability Employment Services program kicks off on March 1st, this year’s ACE conference provides an excellent opportunity to assess implementation and to consider ongoing review and refinement of the model over time.

Key themes we intend to explore in 2010 include implementation – stories from the coal face, evaluation strategies for new DES, better practice in supporting jobseekers, workers and employers and good practice in ‘pathways’ to employment.

Whilst there will be a strong practical focus at this year’s event, we will also dedicate time to more strategic matters, in particular, sector leadership and where DES fits within the broader labour market agenda.

Call for Papers - Now Open!

This year we welcome papers on any topic that may be considered of interest to conference delegates.

Areas of specific interest however are:
- Impact of new DES on service models – what’s new? What’s different?
- Ongoing Assessments (assessor or DES perspectives)
- DES organisations with internal leadership programs / strategies
- Governing organisations during times of change
- Innovative job search and job creation strategies
- Person Centered Planning
- Good practice in employer servicing
- Good practice in supporting people with high support needs
- Good practice in local partnership development

Closing date for receipt of abstracts is Thursday 4 March 2010. Submit your abstract now!

Sponsorship & Exhibition Opportunities

The Annual Disability Employment Network Conference presents many opportunities for recognition and valuable exposure to a targeted audience through the capacity to sponsor various segments of the event.

There are a range of flexible sponsorship packages available which can be tailored to suit your objectives. We invite all enquiries into sponsorship packages.
Please call the Conference Office for further information or check out the packages online.
With enquiries already being taken... these will sell fast!

Enquiries
Should you have any questions about Australia's Disability Employment Network 2010 please contact the Conference Secretariat.
Conference Works
Ph. (03) 9870 2611
Em. events@conferenceworks.net.au
Web. www.conferenceworks.net.au/ace

Pathways 10
The conference will be in Brisbane from Wednesday 1 December to Friday 3 December. There are likely to be some pre-conference activities but all of this will be confirmed.
The Venue will be Southbank Institute of Technology.
The Institute has some fantastic facilities and this in conjunction with its proximity to transport, accommodation and an array of fantastic attractions/services should create a wonderful experience for conference participants.
The Theme of the conference will be Creating Space for People with Disabilities in Tertiary Education. The concept of Creating Space will be developed through a number of topics such as Creating Space in the widening participation agenda and national priorities; curriculum development; teaching and learning including assessment; in the workplace and professions. Within these areas we'd like to create space for people to share not only their good practice but also their ideas and concerns. We'd like to ensure that there is not only space on the program for discussion around the big picture but also more specific concerns. We are currently exploring the possibility of conducting some pre-conference online discussion for a so that papers, workshops and discussion can build from a shared understanding of key issues/approaches etc.
The conference will bring together a broad cross-section of stakeholders including people from the school, VET and higher education and state and federal government sectors; students; as well as employers, and professional registration bodies.
A conference organiser has been engaged to assist with the overall planning and coordination of the conference.
Promotional material for the conference is being developed along with a website.
Create a space in your calendar for Pathways 10: 1 - 3 December 2010.
More information later

NSW Events:
Mental Health & Workforce Wellbeing
http://www.aend.org.au/content/view/304/1/
Generously hosted by the Department of Education, Employment & Workplace Relations
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 or advisory roles.

When: Wednesday 21st April 2010, 9am - 2pm (including lunch)
Where: DEEWR, Training Rm 1, Training Centre/Trace Building, 72 Northbourne Ave, Canberra
Cost: Members $325 + GST / Non-members $395 + GST
RSVP: by Wednesday 14th April 2010 to events@aend.org.au or phone (02) 9261 3922.

Download a registration form in PDF http://files.e2ma.net/5180/assets/docs/mh_reg_form_pub_training-_mar-apr-may_2010.pdf
Word http://files.e2ma.net/5180/assets/docs/mh_reg_form_pub_training-_mar-apr-may_2010.doc format

DEAN Professional Development Day
Tuesday 27 April 2010
Bringing About Systemic Change: Where have we been and where are we going?
The PD Day will be held at UTS City Campus, Tower, Building CB02, Room 4.29.
Ken Lofts and Sue Pardey, Teacher Consultants, TAFE NSW Western Institute, and Matthew Brett, General Manager Disability and Equity Programs at the University of Melbourne are the guest speakers. Jenny Green, Program Director, UTS Postgraduate Community Management Program, will be the guest facilitator. The theme of the day will be “Bringing about systemic change”.

Ken and Sue will present an example of how cultural and organisational change can be achieved through persistence and strategic thinking.

Matthew will introduce a discussion around the use of the word “disability” through presentation of the new ATEND paper “Is disability a concept to be avoided?”

Register online at www.deaninc.org.au Registrations will close at 5pm, Tuesday 20 April, or earlier if maximum numbers are reached. Places are limited so please register early to avoid disappointment.

Registration costs $50 for Members of DEAN or $70 for Non-Members.

Membership of DEAN is open to anyone employed in a NSW/ACT TAFE or University, whose role is wholly or partly concerned with the provision of disability support and services. Non-DEAN members and other interested professionals outside the tertiary education sector are however very welcome to attend PD Days. All payments for PD Days must be made in advance using PayPal or on the day by cash or cheque.

Eligible practitioners are reminded that they can now renew their DEAN membership online, or join DEAN to receive the discounted registration rate, access to the member’s only area of the DEAN website and many other benefits.

Future DEAN PD dates
The Disability Education Association of NSW/ACT (DEAN) is pleased to announce its ninth year of Professional Development activities for disability practitioners in the education sector. After record attendances at our PD Days in 2009, we expect that this year’s events may be sold out, so we advise you to book early!

Details confirmed so far:
Wednesday 28th July:
Evidence Based Practice and Outcome Measurement
An introduction to research skills for practitioners: Make sure your practice is not just “the way we’ve always done it”, but is based on:
- The best available research evidence, and
- Your own evaluation of students’ outcomes.
Thursday 14th October:
Skills to Support Students with Mental Illness:
Disclosed or Undisclosed; Secondary or Primary disability; Diagnosed or Undiagnosed:
Following our successful PD day on mental health in 2009, this day will focus on the interpersonal skills of the disability
practitioner: establishing trust, eliciting information, dealing with conflict and encouraging students to seek treatment and use appropriate services and supports.

Further details and online registration will be available soon at our website: www.deaninc.org.au

We want your feedback. Please give us your comments on past and current programs, and your ideas and suggestions (including suggested presenters) for the future.

PD Day Fees:
Our fees to date have not covered the full costs of running our PD Days. This is no longer sustainable, and our 2009 Annual General Meeting approved the following fees for 2010:

Members: $50
Non Members: $70

NSW Items:

2010 DEAN Membership

Membership fees now cover a calendar year, rather than a 12 month period from payment.

You can now complete the new membership/ membership renewal form and payment online at http://deaninc.org.au/content/view/42/86/ using secure PayPal. This is the preferred method for new memberships and membership renewals. Alternatively you can download the membership form from the same website and mail it to DEAN along with your payment.

Who can join DEAN?

You are eligible to join DEAN if:

- your position focuses in part or in full on the provision of educational access services for people with a disability AND
- you are employed in the University or TAFE education sectors, or are a National Disability Coordination Officer AND
- you are based in NSW or ACT

Why would I want to join DEAN?

Disability Education Association of NSW/ACT (DEAN) is a professional association established to represent the interests of staff and students in the post-secondary sector. DEAN provides members with opportunities for cross-sectoral collaboration, a forum for professional development and networking, collection & dissemination of information, one voice to promote political and social aspects of the unique and collective interests of all the constituents, and promoting the enhancement of access to education for people with disabilities. Members receive:

- voting rights and the right to stand for office;
- access to an email list server for practitioners;
- information gathering and dissemination;
- discounts on PD Days and forums ($50 instead of $70 in 2010);
- access to the Members only area section on the website (login required) containing PD Day presentations, handouts, resources, and much more.

If you have any questions about DEAN membership, please don't hesitate to contact Nicole Ison, DEAN Secretary (details below).

Nicole Ison
Email: n.ison@uws.edu.au
Phone: 02 4620 3246

For the rest of the article go to
Calls for Expressions of Interest and Input:

Australian Disability Practitioners Survey
The Australian Tertiary Education Network on Disability (ATEND) is coordinating a survey of Australian disability practitioners in the tertiary education sphere. ATEND is considering the language that we use around supporting students with disability. The background paper and short questionnaire are available at the ADCET site: http://www.adcet.edu.au/View.aspx?id=7108

It would be appreciated if you could spend 15-20 minutes to undertake the survey and forward your comments to Helen Makeham H.Makeham@murdoch.edu.au by Friday 02 April 2010.

Many thanks for your assistance
Helen Makeham
Disability Liaison Officer
Murdoch University
On behalf of ATEND

“Stepping into...” internship program, for university students with disability.
The program has been developed specifically to give uni students with disability a ‘step into’ the workforce, providing four weeks paid work experience within participating organisations. It is a competitive program, but the application and interview process takes students’ disabilities into account and assists with things like reasonable adjustments and coaching for interviews. We’ve had great success in the past with this program, and students have found it very rewarding. The work placements are generally either in the Winter (June/July) or Summer (Dec/Jan) semester breaks. This year we have opportunities for students studying Law, Marketing, HR, Business, Engineering, Public Policy and Research, IT and Accounting/Finance.

Applications for the program will open at the end of this month (March) and close at the end of April 2010. In the meantime please visit our website for further information www.aend.org.au

If you are unsure if you are eligible for the program please email the program manager Melody at melody.green@aend.org.au

Volunteer Grants 2010
Volunteer Grants 2010 – a federal funding round for non-profit community organisations to assist their volunteers and encourage volunteering.

Volunteer Grants 2010 provides funding of between $1,000 and $5,000 to help non-profit organisations to:

- contribute towards the costs of training courses for volunteers and/or undertaking background screening checks for volunteers;
- and/or purchase portable, tangible, small equipment items to help volunteers;
- and/or contribute towards fuel reimbursement for their volunteers, including those who use their cars to transport others to activities, deliver food and assist people in need.

The closing date for nominations is 16 April, 2010.


For the rest of the article go to

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Scholarships:

Youth Off The Streets $5000 Scholarships for education and training available to young people.
Nominations are now open for 2010 Youth Off The Streets Scholarships.

Scholarships are awarded to young people, 14-21 years, who face barriers to accessing education and training and require financial and personal assistance to achieve their education and training goals.

Nominations close 7 May 2010.

For nomination criteria and information on how to apply go to:
Studies and Research:

Edge Research Reports and links

Increasing the participation of people with disability in apprenticeships.

- Key success factors in placing and supporting new apprentices with disability through group training: Findings of a National Study – Full report.
- Key success factors in placing and supporting new apprentices with disability through group training: A Best Practice Guide.
- Transition from Vocational Education and Training to Employment for Graduates with Disability.
- Athletes at work: Program for Paralympians.

For copies of these reports go to http://www.edge.org.au/research.php

Retention Convention: What works? Student Retention and Success

Resources from the 3 Mar 2010 - 4 Mar 2010 Convention, City Inn, Leeds, England,

The Convention aimed to identify research to help answer the question ‘what works’ in relation to student retention and success. It further aimed to promote theory and research evidence in this area.

The convention was jointly organised by the Higher Education Academy and Action on Access, and will draw on the Student Retention and Success Programme funded by the Paul Hamlyn Foundation and the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE).

This event was successfully held, with over 145 delegates attended. Please find details and resources from the event at http://www.heacademy.ac.uk/events/detail/2010/Retention_Conference_2010

Statistics and Research on People with a Disability and VET

The National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER) has developed an online resource which brings together all of its statistics and research on people with a disability and VET.

Disability and vocational education and training features information on topics such as diversity, participation, accessing support and employment outcomes.

This resource also contains data from NCVER’s three major statistical collections; the National VET Provider Collection, the National Apprentice and Trainee Collection and the Student Outcomes Survey.

To access this resource visit www.disabilityandvet.edu.au

Publication:

VET: Increasing advantages for people with a disability

The National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER) released the report ‘The role of vocational education and training in the labour market outcomes of people’. The report was produced from results gathered between 2001-
A key finding of the report was that completing VET increases the likelihood of getting a job from 9% to 29% in their first year after completion for a person who is unemployed and has a disability. The report can be downloaded here.

Ms Francesca Beddie, General Manager, Research, NCVER said the benefits of VET for people with a disability are two-fold. 'Not only does VET prepare people with a disability for work, it also equips them with the skills to maintain employment as well,' Ms Beddie said.

'The accessibility of VET makes it an attractive pathway for people with a disability and being able to prove competencies or skills sends a positive signal to employers. 'VET plays an important role in skilling people with a disability for the workforce and those who do complete a qualification have a better chance of finding a job.'

http://www.ncver.edu.au/newsevents/mediareleases/mr_34.html

The role of vocational education and training in the labour market outcomes of people with disabilities

Low levels of education generally among people with a disability is one of the factors contributing to their lower rate of labour market participation. What role vocational education and training (VET) plays in ameliorating this is the focus of this report. Using data from the Household, Income and Labour Dynamics of Australia surveys, the report finds that for people who are not working, completing a VET qualification does increase the chance of employment and more so for people with a disability.


What would it take? Employer perspectives on employing people with a disability

One focus of the Australian Government's social inclusion agenda is to help people with a disability into work. For this to succeed, employers must be willing and able to productively employ people with a disability. The purpose of this study was to answer the question 'what would it take' to enable employers to employ people with a disability. Based on focus groups with select employers from small-to-medium enterprises, the research found that, while employers were quite positive about employing a person with a disability, they lacked confidence in dealing with disability employment issues.


Vocational education and training workforce data 2008: A compendium

This is a compendium of three reports. The first examines the size and attributes of the vocational education and training (VET) workforce using a variety of data sources. The second looks more specifically at TAFE's workforce. The final report considers the feasibility of a national VET workforce collection.


The role of vocational education and training in the labour market outcomes of people with disabilities

Low levels of education generally among people with a disability is one of the factors contributing to their lower rate of labour market participation. The role vocational education and training (VET) plays in ameliorating this is the focus of this report.


What would it take? Employer perspectives on employing people with a disability

The purpose of this study was to answer the question 'what would it take' to enable employers to employ people with a disability.


Building capability in vocational education and training providers: The TAFE cut

This paper focuses on issues which affect the capability of TAFE providers to meet their clients' and stakeholders’ needs and draws extensively on the reports of the consortium research program which examined ways to help build vocational education and training (VET) provider and workforce capability.


Back to Top
New Resources:

Employment Support Services
For information on the changes to the Commonwealth employment support services please visit the DEEWR website at: http://www.deewr.gov.au/Employment/Pages/default.aspx

Fair Work Information Statement
From 1 January 2010, all employers covered by the national workplace relations system have an obligation to give each new employee a Fair Work Information Statement (the Statement) before, or as soon as possible after, the employee starts employment.

The right for new employees to receive the Statement is one of 10 minimum standards in the National Employment Standards (NES) that apply to employment of employees. Together with modern awards, the NES provides a new safety net for employees covered by the national workplace relations system from 1 January 2010.


TAFE SA: Guide for Staff on Disability Discrimination and Supporting Students with a Disability or Medical Condition
A booklet for lecturing staff at TAFE SA to assist with appropriate methodology and support for students who have disabilities, leaning difficulties or chronic medical conditions. This booklet is also available in Microsoft Word.
Please contact Monica Leahy at monica.leahy@tafesa.edu.au or on 08 8207 8652 Other formats, such as Braille or audio file are available upon application.

The Reach Out Teachers Network website
Are you a teacher that wants ideas on engaging ways to promote resilience? Do you want to know what students are doing online? Well check out the new Reach Out Teachers Network site.

The Reach Out Teachers Network website has had a face-lift and is open for business just in time for the start of the new school year. The new website has evolved through the recognition of the importance of promoting youth mental health and understanding the significant role technology plays in the lives of young people. Come and check it out now at http://teachers.reachoutpro.com.au

New features on the Teachers Network site
- Evidence-based mental health information and quality teaching and learning resources
- Practical strategies and advice on how to incorporate technology into your teaching practice
- Reach Out Teachers Network blog: Join the discussion

So why not check it out now and register to join the network at http://teachers.reachoutpro.com.au/newsletter-registration.aspx

Reach Out Central
Reach Out Central (www.reachoutcentral.com.au ) is an online role-playing game designed to help students to learn and improve skills for life such as communication, problem solving and optimistic thinking in a virtual setting using real life scenarios. Students take on the role of a character that is new in town. It is up to them to work out how to settle in, make new friends and find their way around the place.

The purpose of the storylines is to present real life scenarios that allow students to make choices online, see the consequences of their choices and learn from those choices. Students are also able to monitor the impact those choices have on their in-game mood and relationships with other characters in the game.

Some of the issues explored in ROC include making friends, family and friendship hassles, bullying and coping with grief and loss - just to name a few!

To make it easy for teachers to start using ROC with their classes the Reach Out Teachers Network have developed a ROC Teacher Resource that includes a detailed overview of the game, how its played and hints and tips on how to get around the virtual world as well as three learning modules with comprehensive lesson activities for each of the game
chapters. There is also a Student Self Tracker Journal that students can work through and record the choices they make in the game and the impact that these have on their in-game mood and relationships with other characters so that they can be discussed in class. It's a great alternative to those paper-based scenario activities that you have probably been using previously. So why not try it out and let us know how it goes.

'Digital Storytelling in the Classroom'
It offers a free 'Digital Storytelling in the Classroom' PDF resource that provides valuable information and insights in using Movie Maker and Photo Story 3 software in the classroom.

This e-book was created in close collaboration with Mary Lane Potter who writes, teaches, and edits in Seattle, Washington. Visit her web site at http://members.authorsguild.net/marylapotter.

Link to: http://www.microsoft.com/education/teachers/guides/digital_storytelling.aspx to open and read, or download this wonderful resource.

From Gerry Kennedy

The New Reach Out Teachers Network site
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Australian list of Uni Disability Services

Universities provide support services to students with disability including chronic medical conditions. This may include planning for assessment adjustments, exam provisions, equipment and assistive technology provision, liaison, advice and advocacy, among other services.

Disability staff are available to meet with prospective students with disabilities and ongoing medical conditions to help plan their university studies. Call or email well in advance of when you would like to see someone. For example, if you would like to meet on your term break, ring to make the appointment at least two weeks before. If you live far away, or can't make it in, ask for a phone appointment.

http://www.adcet.edu.au/Uni_Disability_Advisers.chpx

Media Releases:
Apprentice Kickstart project to exceed 21,000 target
PORTFOLIO: Education, Employment and Workplace Relations
SNIPPET: Deputy Prime Minister Julia Gillard today praised Australian businesses for taking advantage of the Government's Apprentice Kickstart bonus, with the program likely to exceed its target of signing up 21,000 apprentices in three months. Apprentice Kickstart was a practical measure to generate jobs for school leavers. It has helped to tackle youth unemployment and has laid a positive foundation for the vital skills Australia needs for the future, Ms Gillard said. Apprentice Kickstart was designed to boost apprenticeship commencements after a drop off during the global recession,
Senator Arbib said.

**Government to introduce My University' website**

PORTFOLIO: Education, Employment and Workplace Relations


SNIPPET: Speaking at the Universities Australia Higher Education Conference this morning, Ms Gillard said that following on from the success of the My School website, which publishes rich achievement information about each of Australia's schools, it is now time for the Government to implement a similar tool at the university level. My University will provide a robust, consolidated and transparent source of information about all of Australia's 39 universities. This is a Government that believes every able student should be given an opportunity to go to university because we know that this is the path to a stronger and fairer nation. That's why in 2012 we are uncapping university places so that the Government will fund a place for every student universities accept.

**TITLE:** Parliamentary Secretary for Disabilities and Children's Services, Government launches new Disability Employment Services

PORTFOLIO: Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs


SNIPPET: with Minister for Employment Participation Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for Government Service Delivery. In addition to the new Disability Employment Services, Senator Arbib also announced a Disability Employment Services Reference Group would be established to provide strategic advice on the future of Disability Employment Services. The new Disability Employment Services will help the Government to meet this commitment. The Australian Government is committed to supporting people with disability into employment. The new Disability Employment Services will help the Government to meet this commitment.


This also includes details of the regions covered by the new DSP Employment Incentive Pilot.


**Government delivers on Youth Allowance**

PORTFOLIO: Education, Employment and Workplace Relations


SNIPPET: The Minister for Education, Julia Gillard, today welcomed the agreement of the Opposition to secure the passage of the Youth Allowance bill in the Senate which will see more than 150,000 students across Australia start to receive new scholarships from April 1. More than 100,000 students will be better off under the changes by receiving more Youth Allowance or Youth Allowance for the first time. This will keep the changes cost neutral.

**TITLE: 15 March 2010 - Disability Standards for Access to Premises**

PORTFOLIO: Attorney-General's


**TITLE: 2010 Media Release: Building access standards an investment in the future**

PORTFOLIO: Attorney-General's


SNIPPET: Disability Discrimination Commissioner, Graeme Innes, said today's launch by the federal government of proposed new standards for access to public buildings for people with a disability was a significant step towards making our buildings safer and more accessible for everyone. Rather than develop Premises Standards as a separate and additional code to be followed by the building industry the intention is, once the Premises Standards are complete, to change the BCA access provisions to reflect the requirements within the Premises Standards.
Peak Disability Body Slams Abbott’s Proposal for DSP Recipients

The Australian Federation of Disability Organisations (AFDO) today slammed Tony Abbott's idea to pressure people on Disability Support Pension to work, calling it outdated and offensive.

"Targeting people with musco-skeletal and psychosocial disabilities would send us back to the Dark Ages where people with disability were seen as slackers with bad backs and just a little bit of stress who should get off government payments and work," said Lesley Hall, AFDO CEO. "It completely ignores the fact that many people with disability want a job but are not supported to find and keep one. Because of their disability, many others are unlikely to ever be in the paid workforce."

AFDO argued that there are complex reasons for people with disability remaining unemployed. Employers are simply not hiring people with disability; even within the Australian Public Service the rate of employment of people with disability sits at 3 per cent of the total workforce, falling from 3.8 per cent in 2005. Many workplaces are still physically inaccessible, and people with changing mental or physical health find it difficult to get flexibility from their bosses.

"To say that if you tell people with disability they should look for work you will solve this problem is incredibly naïve," said Ms Hall. "To get 24,000 people with disability into work the costs wouldn't just be about their decision to go out and look for a job. Getting people with disability into work means getting employers on board and offering appropriate support to the person as they look for work and then when they have a job."

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

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The Disability News Archive can be found at http://www.cdds.med.usyd.edu.au/ndco/DisabilityNews/

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No 3, Vol 6 - Compiled by Timothy Hart the NDCO for North Sydney and Central Coast

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

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