

## Disability Education and Employment News: No. 3, Vol 9.

In this Disability Education and Employment News, we have information on the Support Professional Conference, the My Choice, My Control, My Future: DisabilityCare Australia Conference and the 14th International Mental Health Conference. 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.

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### Education News:

#### **Catholic schools demand more government funding for students with a disability after numbers almost double**

by: Tanya Chilcott

May 23, 2013 9:29AM

THE number of students with a disability has almost doubled in Queensland Catholic schools over the past six years with many being disadvantaged because of a funding shortfall, a new report warns.

"The accepted practice of mainstreaming students with a disability has had an impact on the whole classroom and the total school environment, as well as making heavy demands on teachers," the report states.

Almost every teacher at a Queensland Catholic school now has a student with a disability (SWD) or learning difficulty in their class.

The report, released today by the Queensland Catholic Education Commission (QCEC), identifies a need for not just more, but better targeted and more certain resources.

"Current funding arrangements leave students with disability in Catholic schools in Queensland at a significant disadvantage compared with students in government schools, receiving only 59 per cent of the national government school average of \$13, 232," the report, written by Australian Catholic University Public Policy Institute executive director Professor Scott Prasser, says.

For the rest of the article go to

<http://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/catholic-schools-demand-more-government-funding-for-students-with-a-disability-after-numbers-almost-double/story-e6freoof-1226648942099>

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## **Employment News:**

### **Job levels for disabled at three-year low**

By Lisa Martin

AAP

May 24, 2013 12:09AM

EMPLOYMENT participation levels of people with disabilities have hit a three-year low, a new national report finds.

It paints a bleak picture about barriers to securing employment and social participation for people with disabilities.

The Council of Australian Governments (COAG) Reform Council report, to be released on Friday, assesses progress on the national disability agreement using the latest available data from 2009 to 2012.

Council chairman John Brumby told reporters in Canberra there had been no improvement on the poor result of workforce participation from last year's report.

Mr Brumby said carers looking after family members with disabilities were less likely to be employed.

Improved results are expected in the next three to five years as the national disability insurance scheme, DisabilityCare, rolls out

For the rest of the article go to

<http://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/breaking-news/job-levels-for-disabled-at-three-year-low/story-fni0xqi4-1226649581081>

### **NDIS great but more jobs needed: Innes**

May 15, 2013 6:44PM

A NATIONAL insurance scheme will drastically improve life for people with disabilities but they need more jobs, the disability discrimination commissioner says.

After announcing funding for a disability insurance scheme in Tuesday's budget, the government on Wednesday introduced a bill to increase the Medicare levy to fund the commitment.

The scheme has been welcomed by Australia's disability discrimination commissioner Graeme Innes.

"The current disability service system is broken and broke," he told AAP on Tuesday.

"It will make, as it rolls out, a huge difference in the lives of people with a disability."

Mr Innes added that people with disabilities didn't need more employment services.

Instead, they require jobs.

Only 2.9 per cent of the federal government's staff have disabilities, and Mr Innes has called on governments of all levels to "step up" and hire more people with disabilities.

For the rest of the article go to

<http://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/breaking-news/ndis-great-but-more-jobs-needed-innes/story-e6frf7kf-1226643335313>

### **Disabled workers may get superannuation**

THE federal employment minister says he will consider changes to superannuation rules that would result in intellectually disabled workers receiving the payments.

Access all Areas. \$1 for the first 28 days. Only \$2.95 a week thereafter. Learn more.

Many people with intellectual disabilities and others on very low incomes don't receive superannuation because they don't earn the minimum \$450 monthly wage to qualify for it.

Employment Minister Bill Shorten says parents of people with intellectual disabilities have raised the issue with him and he's happy to assess the costs involved in changing the system.

He says traditionally employers haven't paid superannuation to very low paid employees because the paperwork cost more than the actual superannuation contributions.

But technology has changed.

For the rest of the article go to

<http://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/breaking-news/disabled-workers-may-get-superannuation/story-e6frf7kf->

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### **Welfare News:**

#### **Mentally ill at top of list of disabled**

EXCLUSIVE by Gemma Jones

The Daily Telegraph

April 25, 2013 12:00AM

PSYCHOLOGICAL problems have overtaken muscle and bone injuries as the leading reason for the granting of the disability support pension.

Despite falls in the number of people receiving the DSP for other disabilities, mental illnesses are the fastest growing category, with a jump of more than 1500 people over two years.

The government's latest figures show 26,247 people with psychological problems were granted the DSP in 2010-11, up from 24,707 in 2009-10.

Of the 824,082 people on the DSP, at a cost of almost \$15 billion this financial year, 254,672 are receiving the pension for mental health reasons.

Claims for muscular and skeletal problems - the top category in 2009-10 with 25,965 grants - dropped to second, down 775 grants.

Grants for intellectual impairments and learning problems have also dropped off in the wake of government reforms to tighten the scheme.

For the rest of the article go to

<http://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/national/mentally-ill-at-top-of-list-of-disabled/story-fndo317g-1226628985721>

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### **Opinion:**

#### **Levy to fund NDIS is the right call**

May 1, 2013 - 11:08AM

Craig Wallace

Today's announcement that the government will be introducing a levy to fund the National Disability Insurance Scheme is welcome news to over 400,000 families around Australia who have been waiting for years for an NDIS, which was first seriously mooted by the work of the Disability Investment Group established under the Howard government.

If anything, the hard times ahead make the need for a funded insurance scheme more obvious.

It is ironic to see former treasurer Peter Costello coming out and saying that funding the scheme should wait for fairer days. We've had the fairer days – high employment, high surpluses and high revenue – yet previous governments failed to make the grade.

It is now time for both sides of politics to cut the mustard, step up and say how the scheme will be funded. We are all used to empty rhetoric about funding in disability, but now we need to see the dollars.

For the rest of the article go to <http://www.smh.com.au/opinion/politics/levy-to-fund-ndis-is-the-right-call-20130501-2irzw.html>

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### **Conferences and Workshops:**

#### **My Choice, My Control, My Future: DisabilityCare Australia**

DisabilityCare Australia will fundamentally change the way we support people with disability, their families and carers. This year, it will become a reality for thousands of people with disability, their families and carers in select locations across the country.

In the final lead-up to the launch of DisabilityCare Australia the Government will be hosting a national conference to bring people together to discuss the scheme, how it will work and how we will help people and service providers

transition to this new system of support.

The conference will also provide a forum to showcase various Practical Design Fund projects. The Practical Design Fund was initiated to identify practical solutions and innovative methods to assist people with disability, their families and carers and the disability sector get ready for DisabilityCare Australia.

The conference will be held on 23 and 24 June 2013, at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre.

Register your interest in attending by emailing [conference@conlog.com.au](mailto:conference@conlog.com.au).

To access more information on the various Practical Design Fund projects, please go to

<http://www.ndis.gov.au/towards/projects/the-practical-design-fund/>

### **Direct Support Professional Conference 2013!**

CDS, in conjunction with the National Disability Coordination Officer Program (NDCO), are excited to be hosting the 2013 Direct Support Professional Conference on the 22nd and 23rd July at the University of Sydney New Law Building in Camperdown. Aimed at Direct Support Professionals (DSPs), the conference will include a dedicated workshop stream focusing on practical skills for DSPs working in supported living and supported employment settings.

Online Registration are now open - please see attached. Special rates for group registrations, confirmed speakers, and people with disability. Early bird registration closes 29th June. Visit [www.cds.med.usyd.edu.au](http://www.cds.med.usyd.edu.au) to register.

Confirmed keynotes include

John & Connie O'Brien, known internationally for their ground-breaking work on person-centred approaches

Assoc. Prof. Vivienne Riches, who will be talking on 'Who Supports the Support Workers'

Phil Tuckerman, CEO of JobSupport and recognised in the Disability Employment Australia Hall of Fame

Peter Gibilisco, People with different abilities in the 21st Century

Contact [vera.laptev@sydney.edu.au](mailto:vera.laptev@sydney.edu.au) if you have any questions or would like to be added to a mailing list.

Look forward to seeing you there!

### **14th International Mental Health Conference**

Opening Doors

The 14th International Mental Health Conference will be held at Outrigger, Surfers Paradise on Monday the 5th and Tuesday the 6th of August 2013. Optional workshops will be held on Wednesday the 7th of August. The conference will focus on the complex mental health issues of Depression, Schizophrenia, Bipolar Disorder and Dementia.

- See more at: <http://www.anzmmh.asn.au/conference/>

### **Australia's Disability Employment Conference 2013**

Disability Employment Australia is now accepting expressions of interest for presentations at the premier national conference for disability employment in Australia.

- Date: 7th to 8th of August 2013
- Location: Adelaide
- Venue: Hilton Adelaide Hotel

We look forward to receiving a wide range of abstracts for this year's conference. We ask that you please share this call for papers across your networks.

<http://conference.disabilityemployment.org.au/>

### **'Stepping out, breaking through: choices and challenges in education' Conference**

27-28 August 2013 Simonds Stadium, Kardinia Park, Geelong, Victoria

The conference brings together practitioners, teachers, community workers and students. Over two days, sessions in a variety of formats will build a shared understanding of the personal, social, institutional and community issues that impact on educational engagement by students from diverse backgrounds. Join the conversation and: learn with and from young people, investigate issues, generate solutions and break down the barriers review past learning, current realities and future directions in improving educational outcomes for young people.

Please visit the conference website to register here: <http://www.deakin.edu.au/equity-diversity/conference/index.php>

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**NSW Events:**

## **Hunter (25 July) & Central Coast (1 Aug) School Leaver Expos for Students with Disability**

Exciting news! We've now locked in the date and venue for the Central Coast School Leavers Expo - Thursday 1 August, 9.00 am - 1.00 pm, in the Showroom at Mingara Recreation Club, Tumbi Umbi.

Our Hunter Expo will be held at the Hunter Stadium again on Thursday 25 July, 9.00 am - 1.00 pm. Both expos are organised by representatives from the Hunter and Central Coast School Leaver Committees so will be run identically.

(PROVIDERS, WE'RE JUST CONFIRMING CATERING COSTS FOR THE CC EXPO, SO THE BOOKING LINK WILL BE CIRCULATED ON MONDAY. YOU'LL BE ABLE TO BOOK FOR BOTH EXPOS ON THE ONE LINK).

We're all really looking forward to meeting students, families and staff to discuss what pathways are available post-school for students with disability or ongoing medical conditions.

### **ABOUT THE EXPOS**

You may not think of yourself, your child, or your student/client as having a 'disability' but the definition under the Disability Discrimination Act is broad and includes learning disability, medical conditions, mental illness and much more. Does the student have to put in extra effort at school because of their disability or condition? Do they require a lot of assistance to participate? If so, then these annual Expos are a must attend!

### **WHO SHOULD COME**

Students, families, staff who support students/clients with disability or ongoing medical conditions, and anyone involved in career and transition planning. Please circulate the attached flyers to staff, students, and families.

### **WHO WILL BE THERE**

We have lots of services participating who specialise in disability support, and you won't find them all together in the one place anywhere else!

"Like" our Facebook page to get regular updates [www.facebook.com/HCCExpos](http://www.facebook.com/HCCExpos)

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## **Calls for Expressions of Interest and Input:**

### **STEPPING INTO... PAID INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES THIS WINTER**

New internship opportunities available!

Stepping into... is a paid internship program specifically designed for students with disability, who want to get paid, hands-on work experience in an industry that is relevant to their degree and chosen field of study.

If you've missed out on applying for a paid internship in the Winter Stepping into Program, we are pleased to announce additional opportunities are now available in Canberra, Sydney and Brisbane.

The federal government department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) are offering paid positions in the following areas and disciplines:

CANBERRA: (Communication Branch, Government Division)

- Preferred university degrees: Communications, Journalism, PR, Marketing, Advertising, Arts, Web design or IT with communication focus.

SYDNEY: (People Services Branch, People and Services Delivery Division)

- Preferred university degrees: Business, Human Resources or Industrial Relations.

BRISBANE: (Business Administration)

- Preferred university degrees: Business, Administration, Government

APPLICATIONS OPEN NOW and CLOSES on Friday, May 17, by 5pm (AEST time)

To find out more about each of these positions and whether you will be suitable, visit our website:

<http://www.and.org.au/pages/apply-for-stepping-into...-winter-2013.html>

- Look under "Apply for Stepping into... Winter 2013"
- You can find out more about "Stepping into..." under "Information for Students"
- You can download application form under "Apply for Stepping into... Winter 2013"

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## **New Resources:**

### **Link Disability Magazine**

Thanks to a new partnership with Telstra, Link Disability Magazine will now be available for free online for a year.

<http://linkonline.com.au/home/>

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## Media Releases:

### **TITLE: Medicare Levy increase to fund DisabilityCare Australia passes the Parliament**

PORTFOLIO: Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

URL: <http://jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/node/2367>

SNIPPET: Prime Minister of Australia. DisabilityCare Australia now has a strong and stable funding stream, after legislation that provides for a half a percentage point increase in the Medicare levy passed the Parliament. The legislation also establishes the DisabilityCare Australia Fund in which the additional Medicare levy proceeds will be invested.

### **TITLE: Support extended for students with disability in Tasmania**

PORTFOLIO: Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

URL: <http://www.ministers.deewr.gov.au/collins/support-extended-students-disability-tasmania>

SNIPPET: Parliamentary Secretary for School Education Senator Jacinta Collins and Senator for Tasmania Carol Brown today visited Tasmania's Austins Ferry Primary School to meet with students and teachers and discuss the Gillard Government's extension of the More Support for Students with Disabilities initiative. 'For Austins Ferry Primary School, this extra investment in students with disability has delivered assistive technology such as iPads, and training to support teaching students with disability and learning difficulties, Senator Brown said. Senator Collins said under the National Plan for School Improvement there will be a loading for students with disability in every school.

### **TITLE: Budget 2013-14: Extra \$114 million for students with disability**

PORTFOLIO: Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

URL: <http://www.ministers.deewr.gov.au/collins/budget-2013-14-extra-114-million-students-disability>

SNIPPET: Thousands of school students with disability across Australia will benefit from an extra \$100 million under the Gillard Government's More Support for Students with Disabilities program. Senator Collins said the Government would also provide \$14 million for the phased implementation of a nationally consistent collection of data and for other support to school students with disability. It is anticipated that the loading for students with a disability will be implemented from 2015.

### **TITLE: Ministers agree to nationwide data collection to support students with disability**

PORTFOLIO: Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

URL: <http://www.ministers.deewr.gov.au/garrett/ministers-agree-nationwide-data-collection-support-students-disability>

SNIPPET: The first nationally consistent collection of data on school students with disability has been endorsed by all education ministers today and will start in October 2013. 'The Gillard Government welcomes the decision by education ministers today to fully endorse the model for a nationally consistent collection of data based on the outcomes and findings contained in the Final Report on the 2012 Trial of a model for the nationally consistent collection of data on school students with disability. Parliamentary Secretary for School Education Senator Jacinta Collins said a consistent approach to the collection of data on students with disability is vital to ensuring all students are given equal opportunities in schools across Australia.

## **Sound good and money worthwhile spent**

PWDA welcomes NDIS funding levy announcement

People with Disability Australia (PWDA) welcomes the announcement by the federal government of an increase to the Medicare levy to fund DisabilityCare Australia, the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

"Although only providing for \$3 billion of the estimated \$8 billion a year required, this is a step in the right direction to safeguard NDIS funding for all Australians," said Craig Wallace, President of People with Disability Australia.

PWDA also welcomes the announcement there will be no further changes to the disability support pension in the coming Budget.

"The government is wise not to link changes to DSP to the NDIS," said Mr Wallace, "many people with disability are mired in long term unemployment because they lack precisely the kinds of supports that are now going to be funded under the NDIS. There isn't one solution and the sequencing is important."

With more than 800,000 people with disability mired on DSP and more than 600,000 people with disability on the poverty line, the NDIS is an investment to shift some of that disadvantage. With NDIS supports,

PricewaterhouseCoopers point to an increase in the employment participation by over 370,000 people with disability by 2050.

<http://ymlp.com/zpONKq>

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

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No , Vol - 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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