
In this Disability Education and Employment News, we have information on the ‘Successful Inclusion Conference’ held by Family Advocacy with support from NSW DET, the next DEAN PD Day and the other DEAN PD Day Dates for 2009. As well as the ‘Have your say’ project, the new Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder website and the Western Australia Transition Planning website.

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:
Campuses to chase unmet student demand
Andrew Trounson | March 18, 2009
Article from: The Australian
UNIVERSITIES will have access to a growing pool of students on which to base expansion plans in the newly deregulated student market because there will be rising unmet demand as the economy stalls.
And tens of thousands of eligible students are already rejecting university each year, representing a big marketing
opportunity for universities as enrolment caps are progressively eased from 2010. That means universities won't need to declare war on each other and poach students. But they still will need a substantial funding boost, with vice-chancellors warning they won't sacrifice quality to grow. Vice-chancellors also are signalling they will be looking for more opportunities to collaborate, rather than raiding each other.

For the rest of the article go to http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/story/0,25197,25201799-12332,00.html

Keep kids at school longer for core skills
Nicola Berkovic | March 10, 2009
Article from: The Australian

THE OECD has called on Australian education authorities to consider raising the school leaving age to ensure children have core reading and maths skills. A report on Australian education performance also calls for more to be spent on early childhood education, noting the nation "lags far behind" other Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development countries. And echoing recommendations by the Bradley report into higher education, the OECD urges the federal Government to foster greater competition in the tertiary and training sectors. In a radical departure from current school-leaving policies, the report says state and territory governments should consider raising the compulsory school age for students who had not achieved minimum core skills.

For the rest of the article go to http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/story/0,25197,25163892-5013404,00.html

Drive for more poor students in unis
Andrew Trounson | March 09, 2009
THE Rudd Government today set a target of increasing the participation of the poor studying for degrees by 20 per cent by 2020. The move will require universities and other providers to boost enrolments of low socio-economic status students by 55,000. Education Minister Julia Gillard also made clear that she is expecting elite sandstone universities to boost their under performance in enrolling poor students, though she didn’t set targets for individual institutions. There have been concerns that the effort to enrol more students from poor background is being concentrated in certain universities. For example, the number of poor students attending regional universities is 10 per cent above the sector average. Ms Gillard has left the sector guessing on what policy levers she will used to boost numbers of disadvantaged students.

For the rest of the article go to http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/story/0,25197,25160451-601,00.html

Employment News:
Jobs plan to save lost generation as skilled migration slashed
Matthew Franklin, Chief political correspondent | March 16, 2009
Article from: The Australian

JULIA Gillard is planning a massive program of skills training and Year 12 retention, fearing that the global recession could create a lost generation of young people stuck on dole queues for so long that they become unemployable. The Deputy Prime Minister plans in the next two years to target hundreds of thousands of young people unable to find their first job, with incentives to either stay at school and complete Year 12 or to undertake skills training. And she will also aim assistance at people in their 40s who are made redundant to prevent them from spiralling into long-term unemployment and poverty. Ms Gillard outlined her plans to The Australian yesterday as the Rudd Government moved to free up as many as 18,500 jobs for tradesmen by slashing the permanent skilled migrations intake this year by 14 per cent.
It also removed building and manufacturing trades such as bricklaying, plumbing, welding and carpentry from its list of skills in critical shortage in Australia, leaving Australian tradespeople to pursue job vacancies with less competition from migrants.

For the rest of the article go to

**Blow to disabled in employment shutdown**

By Nonee Walsh

Posted Wed Mar 11, 2009 3:04pm AEDT

Updated Thu Mar 12, 2009 8:36am AEDT

Audio: Vision Australia's Michael Simpson discusses the problems with jobs NSW (ABC News) The New South Wales Government, the nation's largest single employer, has admitted that its website advertising Government jobs and taking applications will be permanently offline.

Jobs.NSW was targeted by hackers in December last year, and was taken down in January when job applicants received fake emails.

Since then people looking for NSW Government jobs have been redirected to three commercial employment websites. However, the lack of access for visually impaired people on these sites has been criticised by a major disability support group.

The Department of Commerce, which is responsible for Jobs.NSW, told the ABC that the site will not be reinstated. For the rest of the article go to


**Welfare News:**

**Fairer deal for cancer sufferers**

BY BRETT COX

9/03/2009 4:00:00 AM

Centrelink says it will address how it deals with people who have cancer or terminal illnesses after the Commonwealth Ombudsman reported problems in the way it assesses their claims for financial support.

Commonwealth Ombudsman John McMillan said the criteria for the disability support pension was being applied "in a rigid manner that is causing vulnerable members of the community to be unable to access the support they need at a traumatic time in their lives".

In one case, Centrelink refused to pay sickness allowance to a man dying from cancer because he had set aside money to pay for his funeral and other debts.

In another, it denied the disability pension to a woman with leukaemia because there was a chance she might recover.

Mr McMillan has recommended a raft of changes to ensure people are treated better in the future.

For the rest of the article go to


**International News:**

**Charting a Course After High School**

The Individuals With Disabilities Education Act calls for schools to help students develop a plan that will carry them to college or the workplace, but the requirement remains a challenge for families and educators alike.

By Christina A. Samuels

Kathy Eckert-Mason doesn't think she's an unrealistic mom.

Yet as she worked with school officials on a plan that would provide a smooth path from high school to college for her
son, Rick, she wondered if teachers saw her that way.

Rick Mason, now 20, has autism. He had always been included in regular classes, but with an aide providing support to him and other classmates with special needs. His mother wanted his high school to help him attain the self-sufficiency to handle classes at an out-of-state university.

His teachers, she believes, saw his prospects as less expansive. They suggested he could attend community college in their hometown of Corvallis, Ore., while living at home.

For the rest of the article go to
http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2009/03/18/25transitions.h28.html?tkn=MTTC8TvCmWdaWRteAO%2FA9SUht1e5V8WrXZf

Opinion:


By Teresa J. Foden | Interactive Autism Network Community

Much of what the public knows about adults with autism-related disorders is based on portrayals of autistic-savants in movies such as Rain Man, or in books by and about adults with ASDs who are able to communicate. But autism spectrum disorders encompass a vast array of strengths and deficits. Adults with ASDs may be nonverbal, or they may talk incessantly about obscure topics. Some may have severe intellectual disabilities, while others may be gifted but suffer profound social disabilities, the likes of which may exclude them from the well-paying jobs for which they are qualified. Some may need intensive supervision in a residential program, while some may be better suited to live in a group home, while still others may remain in their childhood home. Many of today's adults are undiagnosed, as they came of age when autism was a rare oddity, warranting little more than a sidebar in the typical college textbook. But with a growing number of people diagnosed with ASDs, researchers have begun to focus on the service needs of this diverse population, and on whether the adults are receiving the support they need from agencies designed to serve a very different population of adults with special needs.

For the rest of the article go to
http://www.opposingviews.com/articles/opinion-adults-with-autism-where-are-they-now

Conferences and Workshops:

Successful inclusion conference – 22 and 23 May 2009

Family Advocacy, with support from NSW DET, will host the “Successful Inclusion….building allies, practical strategies” conference on 22 and 23 May 2009. The conference will explore inclusive schooling in the context of the New South Wales education system.

Location: Ryde-Eastwood Leagues Club, 117 Ryedale Road, West Ryde 2114

Would you like to hear practical steps to facilitate inclusive classrooms and schools? Are you interested in building partnerships between families and education professionals?

Successful Inclusion….building allies, practical strategies will be a unique opportunity bringing together families of students with developmental disability, education professionals and allies who are keen to explore what is possible for students with developmental disability in mainstream learning environments at both primary and high school.

On Friday 22 May, the conference content will be of relevance and interest to both families and education professionals with topics including practical tips to enhance school inclusion.

On Saturday 23 May, the conference will have a family focus with an exploration of the planning and thinking families can do to work with schools around successful inclusion. The content on 23 May will be aimed at families.

A limited amount of sponsorship will be available for family members of students with disability. Please contact Family Advocacy directly for more information on telephone (02) 9869 0866, freecall 1800 620 588 (NSW only), email: conference@family-advocacy.com, or see www.family-advocacy.com.
NDS 2009 National Employment Forum and the Workability International Conference - Call for Papers
6 - 9 September 2009 - Hilton Hotel, Sydney
CALL FOR PAPERS - CLOSES 31 MARCH 2009

National Disability Services and Workability International have joined to host a 3-day conference to equip delegates with knowledge and strategies to help ensure that the employment of people with disability is not adversely affected by the economic challenges ahead.

This conference is calling for the submission of abstracts of papers that will assist organisations which support people with disability to be employed.


Call for Papers Enquiries: Philippa Angley National Policy Adviser Ph 03 8341 4302 philippa.angley@nds.org.au

For a list of all current national and international conferences and workshops click here.

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NSW Events:

DEAN PD Day – Asperger’s and Transition, 2 April 2009

Our first DEAN PD Day for 2009 will be held on Thursday 2nd April, from 9:30-3:30 at UTS Haymarket Campus, Quay St, Haymarket Building CM05C Room C.01.05

Building on survey feedback, the day will include plenty of opportunities for question time, group discussion and problem solving.

The topic of the day is "Asperger's and Transition". It will build on the success of our last PD Day in 2008 where we introduced some of the key issues around access to and participation in post-school education and training for people with Asperger’s. This PD Day will explore in depth best practice in supporting people with Asperger’s to transition into post-school education and training. An overview of the program is as follows:

9:30 – 12:00 (including discussion time and morning tea) - Innovative practices in Asperger’s
  - Transition to TAFE program for students with Asperger’s - Berinda Karp – TAFE Teacher Consultant
  - Educating academics about Asperger’s - Laurie Alsop – Equity Officer (Disability), University of New South Wales
  - Transition experiences at university - Liz Penny – Disability Services Officer, University of Technology Sydney
  - What’s happening in the schools? - Presenter TBA

12:00 -1:00 (followed by lunch) - Best practice in transition for students with Asperger’s
  - Guest presenter - TBA

1:45 – 2:30 (Discussion and question time facilitated by guest speaker) - Where to from here?
  - What's new?

2:30 – 3:00

This session makes a return after its successful trial in 2008. It will allow the exchange of information about new resources, activities, processes and innovative programs. If you would like to share an item in “what’s new” please get in touch with

Nicole Ison n.ison@uws.edu.au or 4620 3246!

3:00 - 3:30 - What would you do about…?

This session is making a first appearance following feedback received through the DEAN Survey. It will use the expertise of all PD Day participants to facilitate discussion and problem solving around tricky situations, complex case studies and emerging trends. If you have a tricky situation you would like the group to discuss, please contact Nicole Ison n.ison@uws.edu.au or 4620 3246.

You can now register for this and future PD Days on our brand new website - www.deaninc.org.au. This website has been designed to make registration fast and simple - you will now be able to pay and register online using secure PayPal.

Please see the website section below for further details on our new website and all of your registration options.

Registration remains as reasonable as ever – only $25 for DEAN members and $35 for non-members.
We look forward to seeing you there!

DEAN PD Day Dates for 2009
Please take the time to mark the 2nd April in your diary as well as the rest of the DEAN PD Day dates for 2009:
- Wednesday 17th June (PD Day) - Mental Health
- Tuesday 29th September (PD Day and DEAN AGM)
- Wednesday 9th December (University Nuts and Bolts Day) ***Please note change of date ***
- Thursday 10th December (PD Day) - ***Please note change of date ***

Enhancing the Links Seminar – 24 June 2009
The NDCO program will host a seminar for education staff and disability service providers in Southern and South-Western Sydney. To be held at Campbelltown Catholic Club on Wednesday 24 June 2009, this seminar will provide:
- Presentations from expert practitioners in disability areas
- Strategies to support students with a disability or chronic medical condition prepare for transition from school
- Essential up-to-date information about post-school pathways, including apprenticeships and traineeships, TAFE, university, employment – open and business services, and DADHC post-school programs – transition to work and community participation
- Details of how students can access support in post-school education and employment
- Panel discussions, case studies, resources and networking opportunities

This event is free for participants and funded by the National Disability Coordination Officer Program. Morning tea and lunch will be provided. Please find attached an invitation and registration form. Places are limited so register early. For more information see www.uws.edu.au/ndco or contact Nicole Ison n.ison@uws.edu.au or (02) 4620 3246 or Gillian Hilt g.hilt@uws.edu.au or (02) 4620 3175.

For a list of all NSW Events click here.

NSW Items:
Getting students ready for life after school – NDCO poster resource
The Western Sydney National Disability Coordination Officer Program is proud to launch our newest resource – a poster for education staff and other professionals who support students with disabilities or chronic medical conditions. The poster – Getting students ready for life after school: Transition resources for students with disabilities or chronic medical conditions provides important information on the range of disabilities or conditions which may impact on a student’s study and learning. The poster also provides information on the range of services and resources that are available to assist students in their post-school pathways – be it TAFE, university, an Australian Apprenticeship or DADHC post-school program. Please find attached a PDF version of this poster. If you would like to receive a hard-copy, or would like further information, please contact (02) 9678 7378 or ndco@uws.edu.au.

Calls for Expressions of Interest and Input:
Have your say as part of an exciting new project:
Let us know what’s important for young people who are carers or who live with a disability, learning difficulty or chronic illness.
What’s it all about?
A group of 20 organisations and individuals, led by the Inspire Foundation, have established a collaboration to look at how information communication technology can be used to provide support to young people from a broad range of backgrounds and experiences. The focus for the project is young people aged between 12 and 25 who
- care for or live with a family member or friend with a disability, chronic or mental illness or drug or alcohol
problem
• have a learning difficulty
• live with a disability
• experience a chronic or serious illness

Between now and June 30 2009 the collaboration will work together to explore the possibilities for using technology to meet the needs of young people with these life experiences. Our end goal is to develop ideas for future research that we can then apply for funding $$ for.

Ensuring that the collaboration hears directly from young people with these life experiences about what’s important to them is a priority. You can have your say by participating in an online discussion starting in March 2009.

Read on to find out more!

How does it work?
From 1st March 2009 to 30th June 2009 we will be hosting an online forum via ActNow (www.actnow.com.au) to find out from young people what their needs are, what role technology might play in meeting these needs and what ideas they have for new technology based research or projects that might help them lead happier lives.

Step by step guide to being involved
1. Go to www.actnow.com.au and sign up as a member
2. Email michelle@inspire.org.au and let her know what your username is
3. Michelle will give you access to the online forum and email you back when this has been granted. She’ll also send you a quick guide to using the forums
4. Go to www.actnow.com.au and join the discussion under ‘ARACY Collaboration’

Questions or comments
Please contact
Michelle Blanchard (Research Project Manager)
Inspire Foundation
Email: michelle@inspire.org.au Phone: 03 9825 5170 Mobile: 0403 171 989

New Resources:
Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder
A NEW website for Autism and Associated disorders.
www.raisingchildren.net.au/autism

New Training Resources Change Lives for People Living with a Mental Illness
The Changing Lives project has resulted in the establishment of a Resources Kit for job seekers living with mental illness, and training materials for Employment Consultants to develop the key skills needed to assist job seekers throughout the job search process. The skills are linked to competency standards within the national Community Services Training Package.

The changing lives resources provide:
• useful and practical information for job seekers living with mental illness
• training material for employment consultants to develop the key skills needed to motivate and assist job seekers throughout the job search process – these skills are linked to competency standards within the national Community Services Training Package
• information for employers on the benefits of employing people with mental illness

The resource package consists of:
• “Changing Lives” DVD with job seeker case studies and employer stories
• Workshop Trainer Guide
• Workshop Learner Guide
• Pre-reading materials for Employment Consultants
Resource booklet for jobseekers
The Changing Lives resource package is an initiative of CARE Employment, a specialist employment service for people managing their mental health. The project has been funded by the NSW Department of Education and Training’s (DET) Skills Enhancement Program and the resources kit and trainer/learner materials were developed by Essentra Learning.
For more information or to order the Changing Lives – Provide Job Support (Mental Health) Resource Kit contact SkillsOnline www.skillsonline.net.au (02) 9244 5073

Transition Planning website
The WA Transition Planning website is now live through the Department of Education and Training’s Inclusive Education website.
The site has extensive information about transition planning within the WA education and disability sectors.
http://det.wa.edu.au/inclusiveeducation/transition/

For a list of New Resources click here

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Media Releases:
The Hon Julia Gillard MP
4 March, 2009
Speech
Universities Australia Conference - 4 March 2009 - speech
WEDNESDAY 4 MARCH 2009
With the Bradley Review of Australian Higher Education now released, read and thoroughly debated we can begin the process of change.
This is an important moment, not only for our students, academics and higher education institutions, but for the entire nation because our future prosperity depends in large part upon our success.
This isn’t the first time in our modern history that Australia has had to radically improve its performance in higher education.
The Menzies, Whitlam and Dawkins eras transformed a tiny, boutique higher education system into first an elite, then a popular, and finally a mass system.
These were big changes – even revolutionary at times – that spoke well of the resilience and capacity for innovation of our higher education sector. But as necessary as those changes were, the task today is far greater and more urgent.
Events are forcing us to make new calls on our higher education system. We must have new and greater expectations.
For the rest of the Media Release go to http://www.deewr.gov.au/Ministers/Gillard/Media/Speeches/Pages/Article_090304_155721.aspx

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to thart@med.usyd.edu.au

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

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