Disability Education and Employment News: No. 6, Vol 5.

In this Disability Education and Employment News, we have information on the Accessing the Future: Assistive Technology in Education and Employment 2009 Forums in Sydney and Newcastle, the Sydney NDCO Scoping and Planning Survey, and further information on the Stepping into... Program.

Plus further information on other Resources, Conferences and Workshops 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.

Welfare News
Conferences and Workshops
NSW Events
Calls for Expressions of Interest and Input
Media Releases
To Subscribe

Welfare News:
Disabled people often poor
13 Apr 2009
There is a strong correlation between socioeconomic status and severe disability in capital cities, according to a report released 1 April 2009 by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

But which causes what is unclear – whether disability contributes to economic disadvantage, or whether the reverse applies.
The report, 'The geography of disability and economic disadvantage in Australian capital cities', focused on people aged under 65, thereby excluding much of the disability related to ageing.

For the rest of the article go to http://www.virtualmedicalcentre.com/news.asp?artid=13486&title=Disabled-people-often-poor&odr=&page=

Conferences and Workshops:

2009 NDS National Workforce & OHS Conference
Building Workforce Capacity: Satisfaction, Safety & Skills
4 - 5 May 2009, Hotel Grand Chancellor, Hobart
Register Now!
Registrations close Thursday 30 April
For Online Registration goto http://www.ors.net.au/NDSWorkforce.html

AFDO Conference - Policy About Us, For Us!
A Practical Revolution in the Lives of People with Disabilities
May 28 & 29 2009
Jasper Hotel, Elizabeth Street, Melbourne
The Australian Federation of Disability Organisations is a peak body which represents people with disability at the national level. In May 2009 we will be having our first conference. The program of the conference will focus on the recently ratified United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and how it relates to Australia. The discussion of human rights will have a significant presence at the conference.
Please note the call for speakers will close on February 20, 2009
Registration fees are
* Individual $150
* Community Group $320
* Government $550
To register for the conference go to http://www.hotelnetwork.com.au/conferences/conferences/afdo
Call for Sponsors and Exhibitors
Interested in becoming a sponsor or exhibitor? There is a range of opportunities. For more information go to http://www.hotelnetwork.com.au/conferences/conferences/afdo/sponsorship
For updates on the conference register at www.afdo.org.au or ring 03 9662 3324.

Round Table on Information Access for People with Print Disabilities Inc.
2009 National Conference
Sydney – New South Wales
Starting on the Future Now!
How service delivery organisations are preparing for the consumers of tomorrow while maintaining viable service orientation for the users of today.
Saturday 30th May – Tuesday 2nd June 2009
Conference Program
The aim of Round Table is to facilitate and influence the production and use of quality accessible formats for and by people with print disabilities. As the end of the first decade of the 21st century draws near, service organisations that provide accessibility to information for people with print disabilities are managing the future in a variety of ways. Equally important is continuing to provide a viable service delivery to the people these organisations serve at present. The 2009 Round Table Conference will showcase what service delivery organisations are researching, developing and implementing for the future, while still maintaining the vital perspective of delivering the service needed for today.
Venue: Citigate Central Hotel, 169-179 Thomas Street
Towards A National Disability Studies Agenda

Disability Studies Conference, Australia UNSW Sydney
June 26-27 2009

The Disability Studies and Research Centre (DSRC) invites offers of papers for presentation at a Disability Studies Conference to be held at the University of New South Wales, from 26-27th June 2009.

Established in 2008, the DSRC is a national inter-disciplinary research centre which promotes the critical social perspective of disability in education and research to maximise Australia's capacity to ensure an equitable, participatory and accessible society for people with disability. Its forerunner was the Disability Studies and Research Institute (DSaRI). Recent research by DSRC and DSaRI includes disability and human rights, international development, accessible information, financing of disability services, specialist service design and delivery, housing and supported accommodation, bioethics, employment and income-support. The centre is aligned with the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences and the Faculty of Law at UNSW.

The overarching aim of the conference will be to bring together, for the first time, people from the disability studies academia, students and members of the disability community to discuss in the context of the new United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities developments towards a national disability studies agenda. The possibilities, realities and practical challenges of this will be discussed by two keynote speakers and taken up in contributed papers.


Accessing the Future: Assistive Technology in Education and Employment 2009 Forums
Sydney Wednesday 19th August  |  Newcastle Friday 21 August

The Forum website is under development with more details to be added shortly, but up-to-date information can be found at

Hearing Awareness Week 2009
Theme: At home At work At play – One in Six.
One in six Australians suffer from some form of hearing loss.
When: Sunday 23 August – Saturday 29 August 2009
Where: Events such as hearing screening and information days held around the country. Check website for calendar of events in your area www.hearingawarenessweek.org.au
Free posters for the week will be available from the national secretariat in late May.
To place your order for posters please contact Deafness Forum at info@deafnessforum.org.au
Deafness Forum is the National coordinating body for Hearing Awareness Week

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

Back to Top
NSW Events:

INVITATION: Access to Premises

NEW DISABILITY ACCESS STANDARDS

6th May 2009

Navigating the changes and understanding your obligations

Access to premises for customers and employees with disability is critical for business. As the new Disability (Access to Premises - Buildings) Standards progress towards implementation in 2010, the Employers’ Network is holding a working lunch for interested professionals to gain further insight into the proposed changes and understand their obligations.

Murray Mountain, Principal of Access Design Solutions, and Michael Small, Senior Policy Officer at the Australian Human Rights Commission, will outline the amendments and address the possible consequences for your business.

This event would be most suited to architects, designers, surveyors, building owners, property developers, service providers and building / facilities managers.

Wednesday 6th May 2009
12:00pm - 2:30pm
Menzies Hotel
14 Carrington Street, Sydney (opposite Wynyard Park)
Cost: Members $325 + GST / Non-members $395 + GST
RSVP: By Wednesday 29th April 2009 to events@aend.org.au or by phoning (02) 9261 3922.

DOWNLOAD REGISTRATION FORM IN PDF / WORD

Please advise of any dietary or accessibility requirements when registering.

A World of Possibilities

Technology, Mobility and Independent Living for Vision Impaired People

Kingscliff TAFE – Caldera Restaurant
Friday 15th May 2009
10:00am – 2:00pm

I am pleased to invite you to Kingscliff TAFE on May 15th 2009 to explore the exciting “world of possibilities” available to people who have a vision impairment.

This event will provide information relevant to individuals who have a vision impairment, including, high school and tertiary students who have a vision impairment, parents and caregivers of children who have a vision impairment, teachers, teacher’s aides, support workers employment and support agencies.

There will be four concurrent workshops rotating through the day that participants can choose to attend including:

- Alternative Print Format – software for students with learning difficulties, Dyslexia, ESL, DAISY, MP3, Large Print and more
- Low vision software and magnification devices
- Speech output software & devices
- Technology for blind students – including braille devices and speech output for mobile phone technology
- GPS & Mobile phone technologies for Vision Impaired
- The latest in Mobility aids for vision impaired and the Miniguide
- Independent Living Aids - tips and tricks
- Centrelink support

Please contact Anita Raftery if you’d like more information. Feel free to pass this information on to clients, families, and any other interested people.

Anita Raftery Anita.Raftery@det.nsw.edu.au
Disability Consultant - Vision
North Coast Institute TAFE
Kingscliff Campus
Cudgen Road, Kingscliff 2487
SYMPOSIUM
Constructing intellectual disability: a symposium on the history of a concept and public workshop on The history of intellectual disability
International Presenters include:
Christopher Goodey Centre for Studies in Inclusive Education, UK; Patrick McDonagh, Concordia University, Can; Tim Stainton, University of British Columbia, Can.
Venue: Charles Blunt Conference Room, Royal Rehabilitation Centre Sydney, 59 Charles Street, Ryde, NSW, 2112
Monday & Tuesday 18/19 May 2009
Further Information: Margaret on (02) 8878 0500 E-mail: cdds@med.usyd.edu.au

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 .

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.

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 ***
Calls for Expressions of Interest and Input:

METROPOLITAN SYDNEY
NDCO Scoping and Planning Survey

Dear Colleagues,

You are invited to play a role in the future planning and activities of the National Disability Coordination Officer (NDCO) Program in Metropolitan Sydney.

The NDCO Program aims to improve the transition to and participation in post-secondary education and employment by people with a disability, and to strengthen linkages between services that support post-secondary transition and participation. The NDCO Program is funded by the Australian Government Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations and commenced in January 2008.

The NDCOs in Metropolitan Sydney have worked together on this scoping and planning survey. There are five NDCOs based in this area, covering regions which extend from Wyong in the north to Sutherland in the South, Wollondilly in the South West and Katoomba in the West. This survey aims to:

1. Increase NDCO awareness of services/organisations in the region which support post-secondary transition and participation of people with a disability or chronic medical condition
2. Gain your views on existing issues, barriers and gaps influencing post-secondary transition and participation of people with a disability or chronic medical condition
3. Explore existing networking activities in the region and potential for new activities
4. Provide an opportunity for you to contribute ideas for potential future priorities and activities of the NDCO program.

We would really appreciate your taking the time to complete the survey and have your say on NDCO activities. This survey will help us ensure that our stakeholders play an active role in the planning of our activities, and that we are contributing to addressing identified regional needs and priorities. Should you receive this invitation from more than one source we apologise for the duplication. Please remember you only need to complete the survey once as this is a joint NDCO project.

Click here to access the survey or http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=Sec9eEPFkbxA5_2fyim0BHIA 3d_3d

We expect that the survey will take 20-40 minutes to complete. All data collected will be treated confidentially. You can choose whether you want to provide your contact details or remain anonymous.

If you require any assistance, would prefer to complete a paper-based version of this survey, or have any questions please contact the project leader:

Nicole Ison
NDCO, Equity and Diversity Unit, University of Western Sydney
Email: n.ison@uws.edu.au
Phone: (02) 4620 3246
Mobile: 0414 210 901

Thank you again for taking the time to have your say on NDCO activities. If you could complete the survey by Friday 29 May 2009 it would be greatly appreciated.

The NDCO Program looks forward to working with you in 2009.

Stepping into...

The Australian Employers’ Network on Disability facilitates an internship program, Stepping into..., specifically designed for university students with disability.

Stepping into... offers students with disability the opportunity to complete 4 weeks’ paid work experience within a leading organisation. Disciplines catered for in 2009 include Law, Human Resources, Marketing, IT, Accounting, and Public Policy and Research.
To be eligible students must have a disability and be enrolled in their last or penultimate year of a relevant degree at a recognised university.

Applications for the program are now open and will close on 22nd May 09.

Stepping into... available programs
http://www.aend.org.au/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=244&Itemid=1
Stepping into Law
Stepping into Accounting
Stepping into IT
Stepping into Marketing
Stepping into HR
Stepping into Public Policy & Research
Stepping into... Application Form PDF
Stepping into... Application Form in Word
http://www.aend.org.au/images/Stepping%20into/2009/Stepping%20into%20...Application%20Form%202009.doc

For further information.
Rachel Butler
rachel.butler@aend.org.au
Ph: (02) 9261 3922 / Fax: (02) 9261 3966
www.aend.org.au
www.disabilityconfidence.org.au

Media Releases:
National Press Club - The right to an ordinary life - Apr 1
Thank you Ken Baker from National Disability Services for that introduction.
I'd like to acknowledge the traditional owners of the land where we meet, the Ngunnawal people, and pay respect to elders past and present.
I also acknowledge the Minister Annastacia Palaszczuk, the new Queensland Minister for Disability Services and Multicultural Affairs, who has been in the job for less than a week.
I also acknowledge Dr Jeff Harmer, the head of the Department of Families, Housing, community Services and Indigenous Affairs, other FaHCSIA representatives and the National Disability Services.
For the rest of the speech go to

National Mental Health and Disability Employment Strategy –
Minister O'Connor's media release on 7 April
http://www.deewr.gov.au/Ministers/OConnor/Media/Releases/Pages/Article_090408_153830.aspx

The National Mental Health and Disability Employment Strategy Update - Setting the Direction was released in December 2008 and is at

The Hon Julia Gillard MP
Minister for Education. Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations
Minister for Social Inclusion
Deputy Prime Minister
Higher Education Student Data Collection statistics released

The Minister for Education, Julia Gillard has today welcomed new figures released which show that the number of students in higher education in Australia is growing.

Figures released today by the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations show student numbers exceeded 925,000 in the first half of 2008. This represents an increase of 2.8 per cent from the same period in 2007 (increasing from 900,442 to 925,511).

The number of Indigenous students in higher education in the first half of 2008 increased by 3.7 per cent, with new enrolments growing by 7.7 per cent.

For the rest of this media release go to http://www.deewr.gov.au/Ministers/Gillard/Media/Releases/Pages/Article_090403_081602.aspx

To Subscribe:
We hope that this edition of Disability Education and Employment News has been of interest.
If you wish to have the Disability Education and Employment News e-mail to you send an e-mail to thart@med.usyd.edu.au with “Subscribe Disability Education and Employment News” in the subject line.
If you wish to unsubscribe send an e-mail to thart@med.usyd.edu.au with “Unsubscribe Disability Education and Employment News” in the subject line.
To read the Disability Education and Employment News Disclaimer click here.

To Contribute:
If you have any comments, suggestions or articles, resources, scholarships, workshops, conferences, Events or any other information that is Disability Education, Training or Employment related and you wish to promote it send an e-mail to thart@med.usyd.edu.au

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

Funded by the Australian Government Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) under the National Disability Coordination Officer Programme.