

Disability Education and Employment News: No. 6, Vol 8.

In this edition of the Disability Education and Employment News, we have information on the National Youth Disability Conference in Melbourne, Using Inclusive Technologies in Education, Training and Employment Conference and the Rethinking Employment Support for people with disability conference in Perth as well as information on scholarships of interest. Plus further information on other Resources, Conferences and Workshops, News articles and other information for the Disability Education, Training and Employment Sectors.

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Education News:

Taskforce to consider dyslexia support

The ACT Government will set up a taskforce to investigate how schools can better support students with learning difficulties.

About 600 Canberra residents have signed a petition calling for better recognition of the learning difficulty dyslexia within schools.

Parent Jennifer Cross, whose son has dyslexia and struggles with reading and spelling, started the petition.

She says the goal is to unlock funding and resources for the classroom, including technology that helps dyslexic students.

"I'm hoping that by doing this petition, it will actually result in the students getting support at an earlier age because early intervention is the key," she said.

Jodi Clements from the Australian Dyslexia Association says Canberra parents with dyslexic students are having a hard time.

"They've been told by their school that dyslexia is not recognised. They've been told that there's no funding to help children identified with dyslexia," she said.

She says there is a need to raise awareness, and boost teacher training to ensure early intervention for dyslexic students.

For the rest of the article go to

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2012-08-12/act-government-taskforce-dyslexia/4193334?section=act>

Disability Standards for Education ignores inclusive education

Ben Whitburn

Members of the Australian public were finally treated last week to not one, but two significant documents that are designed to bring education for people with disabilities triumphantly into the 21st century. Or at least I thought they were.

The Gillard Government released the report by the review team charged with picking apart the Disability Standards for Education that have been in place since August 2005, and their own response document. However, for those of us who were holding out for more than a polite nod at inclusive education in the review, a panacea it is not.

After the Disability Discrimination Act 1992, a decade of consultation with education, training and disability groups along with the commission which would be later entitled the HRIOC led to the implementation of The Disability Standards for Education 2005.

For the rest of the article go to

<http://www.abc.net.au/unleashed/4183204.html>

PSA slams loss of NSW disability services – Daily Telegraph

15/07/2012

AAP

STRIPPING millions of dollars in funding from disability services in NSW schools will seriously disadvantage students with special needs, a union says.

Parents of special needs students rallied with representatives of the Public Service Association (PSA) in Dulwich Hill on Sunday, calling on the O'Farrell government to review its decision to cut funding.

Support workers had vastly improved the school experience for disabled students said Gemma Turner, whose child is a special needs student at Dulwich High School.

"I can't say enough about how wonderful they are," she told AAP.

The proposed cuts would mean less money to pay the wages of support staff who worked with disabled children, NSW PSA general secretary John Cahill said.

"More than \$4 million in funding will be cut out of the system," Mr Cahill told reporters.

"What that means is less services will be able to be provided to disadvantaged pupils in our schools."

Mr Cahill said the decision would affect 272 schools across NSW.

"If anything, we need more people in the system to look after the kids, not less people; and this decision will mean less people," he said.

The director-general of the NSW Department of Education, Michele Bruniges, denied that money was being cut from disability services in the state's schools.

For the rest of the article go to

<http://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/business/breaking-news/psa-slams-loss-of-nsw-disability-services/story-e6freuz0-1226426488846>

<http://www.smh.com.au/national/education/parents-rally-against-funding-cuts-for-special-needs-students-20120715-224cs.html>

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Employment News:

Hiring workers with a disability is good business – Sydney Morning Herald

13/08/2012

Mark Bouris

A FRIEND who is disabled recently asked me why I don't have anyone with disabilities working in my business. I had no answer and thought maybe I should make my business more accessible to people with disabilities looking for work. Is there a process to go through? I am completely in the dark about this and would love any guidance.

THIS is a good question and I thought it would be best to speak to my friends over at Nova Employment in Caringbah, New South Wales, to get some advice.

Chief executive Martin Wren told me that more than 720,000 people receive the disability pension and many are keen, skilled and more than able to deliver on the job.

He says that each day at least five people who started as welfare dependents end up taxpayers, and that most remain effective employees with retention and productivity rates that exceed the general workforce.

Martin says that when a person with a disability starts working with a new business, there are plenty of aids to make the integration as smooth as possible - technological support, physical adjustments to the workplace and extensive post-placement support that can continue indefinitely.

These are all "no charge" options that can be utilised to quickly settle a new worker in and there are some significant wage assistance packages available should they be needed to further sweeten the deal.

For the rest of the article go to

<http://www.smh.com.au/business/hiring-workers-with-a-disability-is-good-business-20120812-242pm.html>

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Welfare News:

Employment Environment 'Hostile' for Welfare Recipients - Report

Monday, August 27, 2012 - 10:15

The chances of finding employment are "seriously limited" for those currently living on welfare, according to major Church providers of social services in Australia.

A report from The National Centre for Social and Economic Modelling (NATSEM), commissioned by Anglicare Australia, Catholic Social Services Australia, The Salvation Army and UnitingCare Australia, shows that people receiving Newstart or Youth Allowance face levels of financial hardships that make finding employment opportunities difficult.

National Director of UnitingCare Australia, Lin Hatfield Dodds, said this group of people is looking for work in an environment that is inaccessible and even hostile.

"Work is increasingly part-time and casual and employers are looking for skills and experience these people don't have. Child care and transport are expensive or unavailable," she said.

Executive Director of Catholic Social Services Australia Paul O'Callaghan said there is an urgent need for an increase in the basic allowance and for realistic indexation.

For the rest of the article go to

<http://www.probonoaustralia.com.au/news/2012/08/employment-environment-%E2%80%98hostile%E2%80%98-welfare-recipients-report>

How Will We Pay For It All? – New Matilda

21/08/2012

Ben Eltham

Voters want more services – but aren't so keen on more taxes. To afford big ticket items such as the NDIS and schools funding reform, we can't remain a low-tax nation, writes Ben Eltham

"Disability plan could top \$10 billion". So ran the Australian Financial Review's headline on Saturday. The proposed National Disability Insurance Scheme, the AFR's John Kehoe reported, could well cost \$10.5 billion a year by 2018-19, according to the Australian Government Actuary.

The NDIS is currently the subject of heated debate. Despite tripartisan support for the introduction of the scheme in federal parliament, the states, as ever, are worried about the cost. It was for this reason that Queensland, which is in the midst of a brutal austerity drive, decided to stay out of the trial of the NDIS brokered at the most recent Council of Australian Governments meeting.

The NDIS is not the only expensive social spending program in the news just now. Schools funding is also a hot topic. The Government's response to the Gonski review of schools funding is expected within weeks. The price tag for the full implementation of the reforms is estimated at \$6.5 billion a year.

Community groups, meanwhile, want to raise the rate of Newstart. There's been a long-running campaign by the community sector to do something about the penurious rates of government assistance for job seekers. The Australian Council of Social Service estimates this will cost around \$600 million a year (pdf).

For the rest of the article go to

<http://newmatilda.com/2012/08/21/how-will-we-pay-it-all>

Middle-class welfare must be squeezed to help the disabled – Australian

02/08/2012

Gary Johns

JULIA Gillard was right to resist a National Disability Insurance Scheme levy and Campbell Newman was right to refuse to fund a trial in Queensland.

A tax first and ask questions later approach is not good enough. If the welfare state is to regain some meaning and be something more than a bribe machine, middle-class welfare must be squeezed to make room for the truly needy. It's important to recognise that the Productivity Commission scheme to support the disabled is just that: a scheme. Trials are essential. The key is to hasten slowly. Taxpayers need to know exactly what they are getting for their money. They do not want another pink batts or National Broadband Network blowout.

The commission itself has cautioned that the proposed NDIS would be too large and complex to implement fully at a single starting date. It would need to be rolled out carefully, possibly taking up to five years. Not satisfied with a scheme for disability, the commission also tacked on a favourite that it has touted for decades, national no-fault injury insurance.

The federal government has already appointed an advisory group to work out a no-fault system for people with catastrophic injuries not covered under existing no-fault arrangements -- workers compensation and car insurance.

As for the NDIS, it faces at least five big challenges.

First, what does the money buy? The NDIS Agency's task is to ensure each eligible person would have an individual plan -- hours of support, aids, appliances, choice of service provider -- and perhaps even an individual budget.

For the rest of the article go to

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/opinion/middle-class-welfare-must-be-squeezed-to-help-the-disabled/story-fn8v83qk-1226440702411>

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International News:

GAO: Transition for Students With Disabilities Can, Must Improve

By Nirvi Shah on August 6, 2012 11:04 AM

Although a number of federal government programs and services are intended to help students with disabilities after they leave high school, those programs aren't coordinated well, making them difficult for students and their families to navigate, a new report from the Government Accountability Office says.

Services students can apply for include tutoring, vocational training, and assistive technology. These come from the federal departments of Education, Labor, Health and Human Services, and the Social Security Administration. But the different agencies only coordinate their activities to an extent and don't ever reflect on how effectively they work together, the GAO said in the report, released today.

While ideally, students with disabilities get help planning for life after high school—planning for a path that leads to work or additional schooling—once they leave school they are on their own in applying for services and support from various federal government agencies.

Indeed, part of the difficulty for young people, the GAO found, is that because through the end of high school, they are entitled to certain services coordinated by school districts as required by federal disability education laws, once they leave that cocoon, it's easy for these same young people to flounder in a maze of bureaucracy.

For the rest of the article go to

http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/speced/2012/08/gao_transition_for_students_.html

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Conferences and Workshops:

National Conferences

Rethinking employment support for people with disability

2012 NDS Employment Forum

6-7 September 2012, Pan Pacific Hotel, Perth

National Disability Services is hosting a two-day conference in Perth on 6-7 September to equip delegates with knowledge and strategies that ensure a continued focus on the employment of people with disability as well as an ability to meet the challenges ahead.

Contact Information:

Brendan Long, National Manager of Employment and Economic Policy, NDS National, Ph 02 6283 3202,

brendan.long@nds.org.au

<http://www.nds.org.au/events/1332205243>

National Youth Disability Conference

24th & 25th September 2012, Jasper Hotel, Elizabeth St, Melbourne

This highly anticipated event will bring together young people with disabilities from across Australia, peak bodies and representative organisations to:

- Identify priority National issues faced by young Australians with disabilities and develop clear actions in relation to these.
- Strengthen the voice of young Australians with disabilities.
- Provide opportunities for service providers and peak bodies to respond more effectively to the needs of young Australians with disabilities.

Keynote speakers include The Hon. Kelly Vincent MLC, Stella Young, Editor of ABC's Ramp Up, The Hon. Peter Garrett, Minister for School Education, Early Childhood and Youth (TBC), and The Hon. Jan McLucas, Parliamentary Secretary for Disabilities and Carers (TBC).

More information will be available on www.ydas.org.au shortly!

2012 Conference - What You Need To Know!

Date - Friday 26 October 2012 including optional pre-conference professional development activities on Thursday 25 October.

Venue - Dockside, Cockle Bay (Darling Harbour)

helping out with numerous charities.

Program - Draft program attached to this email.

How To Register - Go to our website at www.caa.nsw.edu.au and click on the button to "Register for 2012 Conference". You can pay online or print off an invoice to pay by cheque or EFT.

Desire and Destination – Third Arts Activated Conference

This year's Desire and Destination Conference will explore the experience of inclusive practices across the Arts and Disability sectors around Australia and internationally over two full days of presentations, plenary and break-out sessions, performance, social and cultural programs.

Keynote speakers, Petra Koppers from the USA presents 'International Disability Arts: how to fuel the Revolution' and Professor David Walker from Deakin University in Melbourne with 'Flying Blind: the confessions of a macular Degenerate' join plenary speakers from New Zealand, Australia and the USA.

Date - 30-31 October 2012

Venue - The Concourse, 409 Victoria Avenue Chatswood Sydney NSW

More Information - <http://www.aarts.net.au/arts-activated-2012/>

2012 Mater Dei Special Education Conference "Hear my Voice" - Assessing the Curriculum in Changing Times

Save the Date!

On behalf of the Conference Organising Committee, it is our pleasure to invite you to participate in the 2012 Mater Dei Special Education Conference: "Hear my Voice" - Accessing the Curriculum in Changing Times

A key outcome of education is empowering children and youth to be fully participating members of their community. Empowering children and youth with a disability, on the same basis as their non-disabled peers, is a right that can be overlooked in the hurry to provide quality education programs. Engaging students with a disability, hearing their plans, their aspirations, and that of their families for tomorrow is key to developing education programs, planning transitions and sustaining high expectations.

This conference addresses these key issues through keynote presentations from internationally recognised speakers, workshops delivered by skilled teachers and practitioners - and thought provoking contributions from the children and youth we work with.

The Conference will be held at The Cube, Campbelltown, New South Wales on the 22nd and 23rd November 2012.

The Conference will provide participants the opportunity to hear outstanding Keynote speakers and presenters as well as the chance to share information, exchange ideas, debate and reflect.

For further information about the 2012 Mater Dei Special Education Conference, please contact GEMS Event Management on (02) 9744 5252.

www.gemsevents.com.au/materdei2012

Pathways11 Conference 28 to 30 November 2012 Adelaide Convention Centre.

Call for Abstracts and Posters – Closing 1 May!

The full Conference program with links to abstracts is now available at <http://www.plevin.com.au/pathways11/program.html>

Online registration now open!

Register soon to take advantage of the early bird prices!"

If you share our vision for more inclusive tertiary education experiences, why not join us for three days of thought-provoking discussion, information-sharing, strategising and problem solving as well as some great social events and networking.

Pathways11 will deliver a stimulating conference program as well as an engaging space for you to network, reconnect with colleagues and meet new people.

Please refer to the web site at <http://www.pathways11.com.au> for further details regarding registration and the submission of abstracts.

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State Events:

NSW Using Inclusive Technologies in Education, Training and Employment Conference

Friday 31st August 2012

TAFE Illawarra, Wollongong Campus, Foleys Lane North Wollongong, Building P

Registration Fee \$75 (inc morning tea and lunch)

For more information go to <http://www.itsa.org.au/935>

NSW Board of Studies Disability Provisions: Release of Guidelines for Occupational Therapists

14 Sep 2012

Event Location: Northcott Function Centre Parramatta

The guidelines provide practical guidance for occupational therapists working with children and adolescents with disabilities, who are providing reports and supporting documentation for Applications for Technology and Non-technology Disability Provisions. These guidelines have been developed in collaboration with Occupational Therapy Australia NSW by Senior Occupational Therapists Sharon Duff and Margaret Wallen with assistance of OT's working in this area.

The forum will include presentations by

- the authors of the guidelines
- the BOS Student Support and Appeals Branch who will provide an overview of the structure and function of the BOS, the processes for applying for Disability Provisions and assessing applications and an overview of the possible future use of technology/computers in HSC examinations

There will be time allocated for questions for each session.

Participants will be provided with a copy of the Guidelines and tea/coffee/pastries on arrival.

Registration Ends: 12 September

<http://www.otaus.com.au/professionaldevelopment/event/nsw-board-of-studies-disability-provisions-release-of-guidelines-for-occupational-therapists>

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Calls for Expressions of Interest and Input:

Stepping into.... Winter 2012 program

Thank you to all our members who have offered internship placements for Winter 2012 Stepping into... program. We have had a great response from students keen to gain a work placement with our members:

- NSW Department of Ageing Disability and Homecare
- NSW Department of Attorney General and Justice
- Federal Court of Australia
- Fair Work Ombudsman

- Henry Davis York Lawyers
- Sparke Helmore Lawyers
- Sydney Opera House
- AGL
- NSW Roads and Maritime Service
- NSW Transport Railcorp
- Commonwealth Department of Infrastructure and Transport
- Commonwealth Department of Human Services

If you are interested in taking part in Stepping into... please contact Rebecca Brooks rebecca.brooks@and.org.au .

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Scholarships:

New scholarship at UNSW for a student with a severe physical disability, sponsored by Swiss Re.

The scholarship is valued at \$28,000 over 4 years (maximum) and includes an exceptional opportunity to gain valuable work experience through a paid internship of 12 weeks and an opportunity to be invited to enter Swiss Re's graduate program at the completion of the degree.

Further information is available here:

http://scholarships.online.unsw.edu.au/scholarship/sc_al_search_detail.display_scholarship_details?p_schedule_id=1744&p_scholarship_specific_id=849

The Vision Australia Further Education Bursary 2013 is now open for applications.

Please inform students with a vision impairment seeking to study (or already studying) an accredited course at or above Certificate 4 level, including undergraduate and postgraduate degrees, in 2013 of this opportunity to receive adaptive technology to assist them with their studies.

Applications will close on 31 October 2012.

For more information and the application process please visit the Vision Australia website:

www.visionaustralia.org/bursary

Northcott PhD Scholarship 2013

Northcott Disability Services is an innovative and dynamic not-for-profit organisation that provides support to 10,000 people with a broad range of disabilities and their families and carers across NSW and the ACT by offering a variety of services to promote a genuinely inclusive society. To further strengthen this commitment Northcott is supportive of continued learning and is pleased to offer the Northcott PhD Scholarship for 2013.

This is an exciting opportunity available to a scholar who wishes to complete research in the disability sector. The scholarship is available for three years at a rate of \$29,000 per year tax free, approximately equivalent to that offered by the related National Health and Medical Research Council postgraduate scholarships scheme.

The scholarship is open to those with a demonstrable commitment to the sector; being a client or employee of Northcott is not a pre-requisite . To find out more about the scholarship follow this link to the Northcott Website

<http://www.northcott.com.au/news.php?id=312>

For further information please contact Michele Wiese, Planning & Development Unit, Northcott Disability Services (email: michele.wiese@northcott.com.au; phone: 9890 0100).

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Studies and Research:

Students and courses 2011

This publication provides a snapshot of Australia's publicly funded vocational education and training (VET) sector for 2011. It presents national information about students and participation, courses and qualifications, module/unit of competency enrolments, hours of delivery and full-year training equivalents.

<http://www.ncver.edu.au/publications/2509.html>

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Publication:

Release of the Report on the Review of the Disability Standards for Education

The Review of Disability Standards for Education 2005 was undertaken to determine whether the Standards remain an efficient mechanism for Government to achieve the objectives of the Disability Discrimination Act 1992 in the education sector.

<http://www.deewr.gov.au/Schooling/Programs/Pages/disabilitystandardsforeducation.aspx>

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New Resources:

ReachOut.com

Australia's leading online youth mental health service, has gone mobile to provide critical services to a new generation of young people. The service has been optimised for smart-phones and tablets so young people can access information and support where they need it, when they need it, in a space that suits them.

<http://au.reachout.com/>

The Employers Guide to Partnering with Disability Employment Services

The Employers Guide to Partnering with Disability Employment Services was developed in response to requests by Australian employers for a better alignment of Disability Employment Services (DES) with the employer recruitment processes of organisations.

For more information go to <http://guide.disabilityemployment.org.au/>

The Way Ahead Directory

This directory lists more than 2000 mental health services in NSW, and has just been launched online for the first time. It makes it easy to find a mental health service in your local area, understand mental health terminology and jargon through fact sheets on mental illness, information about mental health legislation, and government programs and rebates.

online at www.wayahead.org.au

Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry's Employ Outside the Box - The Business Case for Employing People with Disability booklet - a 2012 project.

more information at <http://acci.asn.au/Research-and-Publications/Publications/Employ-Outside-the-Box>

Imbedded Use of Inclusive Technologies Website - Tools for Accessing Education and Employment

For Information and Resources to assist with the selection of Inclusive Technology for students, employees and other people with a disability.

<http://ndco.cds.org.au/index.php/it>

What inclusive technologies should be selected for long term use? Not just for school but beyond into postsecondary education and onto employment.

- What criteria should you use in choosing inclusive technology?
- How should you go about it?
- Where can you get information and resources?

Imbedded Use of Inclusive Technologies Website aims to answer these questions

A Resource for Students, Parents, Carers, Teachers, Employers and Trainers.

Funded by the Australian Government under the National Disability Coordination Officer Program

Website to help Aussies manage anxiety

Monday July 23, 2012

As more Australians turn to the internet for medical help, a new federally-funded website is offering tools and tips to those battling anxiety and depression.

The interactive self-help website – www.mycompass.org.au - was launched by the Black Dog Institute and the federal government on Monday.

The developer, Professor Judy Proudfoot, says it's designed to help people suffering anxiety, stress or depression who may not seek help because of a lack of time, lack of access to face-to-face services or a fear of stigma.

UN Factsheet on Disability - online PDF

<http://www.un.org/disabilities/default.asp?id=18>

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To Contribute:

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

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The NDCOs for Region 1 and 3 are Hosted at [the Centre for Disability Studies](#)

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