In this Disability Education and Employment News, we have information on the Northcott PhD Scholarship, The Vision Australia Further Education Bursary and the new UNSW scholarship for a student with a severe physical disability. Plus further information on other Resources, Conferences and Workshops, News articles and other information for the Disability Education, Training and Employment Sectors.

Please distribute the Newsletter to those that you think would be interested in it.

For information on subscribing, please go to the end of the newsletter.

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**Education News**

**Education News:**

**Victorian schools fail on disabilities score**

Date September 24, 2012 Read later

STUDENTS with disabilities at Victorian schools are being bullied, refused enrolment, prevented from sitting NAPLAN tests and denied access to excursions and school camps.

The first comprehensive report by an Australian human rights commission to examine the extent of disability discrimination in schools has found there are systemic barriers to Victorian students with a disability accessing education.

Parents spoke of their children only being able to attend school for two hours a day (one of which was over lunchtime) and of their child being regularly suspended or even being physically restrained or kept in isolation while at school.

In a report to be released today, the Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission says it is "deeply concerned" that some students with disabilities are only attending school part time and parents are having to pay for support in schools.

"Under the law and [Education Department] policy, neither situation should be allowed to happen," the report says.

The commission, which interviewed more than 1800 parents, students and teachers, found that the problems were
Almost two-thirds of the students and parents reported bullying at school. For the rest of the article go to

Funding cut ‘blows Gonski out of the water’
by: Justine Ferrari, national education correspondent
September 07, 201212:00AM
THE NSW government has flagged cutting $67 million a year in public funding from Catholic and independent schools from next year, in a provocative move on the eve of the first ministerial talks to overhaul the funding system. The decision threatens to derail the implementation of the Gonski model for school funding, as NSW has been one of the biggest supporters of the reforms, and comes only days after Julia Gillard's education crusade speech. Independent and Catholic school officials first learnt of the plans from NSW Education Minister Adrian Piccoli on Tuesday, the day after the Prime Minister's speech, and were briefed by the state Treasury and Education departments on Wednesday.

Education ministers will this afternoon start negotiations over the introduction of the Gonski model, and how to fund the extra $6.5 billion a year the review says is required to lift educational standards.


Push for dyslexia reform gathers pace
PARENTS of children with dyslexia are hoping to change the way learning disabilities are treated, under sweeping reforms. Dyslexia Support Group West, which represents 62 families across Melbourne's western suburbs, will come together for the first time as Dyslexia Parent Network Victoria at state-wide meeting on September 9. The group is pushing to have dyslexia recognised as a specific disability under the Disability Discrimination Act, which it says would then lead to more child assessments in schools and extra training for teachers.

Group organiser and Maribyrnong resident Rebecca Cleaver said Australia was one of few countries not to recognise dyslexia as a disability.
"If we can get it recognised, as a starting point, is therefore easier to get teachers to be trained to do (dyslexia) assessments in schools.

For the rest of the article go to

Employment News:
Bosses should reveal disability job numbers
Bill Shorten
The Daily Telegraph
September 11, 201212:00AM
TWO weeks ago a remarkable 23-year-old Aussie athlete, Kelly Cartwright, long-jumped 4.38m. Out of every million Australians 999,999 will never accomplish this.

What made Kelly's jump even more remarkable is that her right leg is amputated above the knee. She won a Paralympic gold medal and set a new world record.

Watching Kelly sprint down the run-up track and launch into the air was a genuinely goose-bump moment. Yet her world beating efforts were only one of many remarkable achievements we witnessed over the last fortnight. All Australians are proud of our Paralympians. Instead of looking at their impairment we marvel at elite Australian athletes - and they repaid us with pride.

I have been privileged to work with Australians with disability and I know they want the same things as all other Australians, and that includes the chance to get a good job.

For the rest of the article go to
Welfare News:
**Abbott says NDIS can be funded**  
Date October 17, 2012 - 12:49PM

Opposition Leader Tony Abbott has a "firm intention" to bring the budget back to a strong surplus so a coalition government can fund a national disability insurance scheme (NDIS)

The scheme is expected to cost around $15 billion a year to run when fully implemented in 2018/19. The Gillard Labor government has so far set aside $1 billion for trial sites, but a Senate estimates committee on Tuesday heard that beyond the next four years, no formal assumptions have been made about its funding.

Mr Abbott told reporters in Sydney on Wednesday the scheme could be funded under a coalition government pending a strong budget surplus.

"If we can get the budget back into strong surplus, and I believe we can ... we will be much better placed to pay for the national disability insurance scheme," Mr Abbott said

For the rest of the article go to  

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**Fruitless search for jobless who can live on $35 a day**  
It's good that the debate over the Newstart unemployment allowance has moved on from whether it's enough to live on.

On this site last week the Centre for Independent Studies acknowledged that the payment may be too low but argued that not every unemployed person needs an increase.

Australia spends less on social security payments than almost any other wealthy country.

So the search is on for those unemployed people who can live on $35 a day.

Some argue that people can live on the payment as long as they don't have to rely on it for more than a year at a time. This reflects the original idea of unemployment benefits as a short-term support between jobs.

Restricting any increase to long-term recipients would not save much money because about two-thirds of the money spent on Newstart is already going to such people.

Newstart is no longer a short-term payment: the average time spent receiving the allowance is almost three-and-a-half years, an increase of six months over the past decade.

For the rest of the article go to  

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**Opinion:**  
**Reversing the disability disadvantage in education**  
Date September 10, 2012  
Stephanie Gotlib

Cultural change is vital to including children with a disability, STEPHANIE GOTLIB writes

Last week, Prime Minister Julia Gillard announced that the fundamentals of the Gonski Report would be accepted. Schools will receive a base level of funding per student and there will be additional money to support those with higher needs - such as students who have a disability or those who live in remote or low SES areas.

This shift to include funding for higher needs as a core component of a new system, rather than an add-on or temporary program, is what makes the Gonski solution potentially so powerful.

It is designed to minimise the impact of a child's background on their performance - something we have, until now, sadly failed to do

The recognition of disability as an area of disadvantage and specific associated funding is to be commended, but for Australia to really reform education for children with disability, it is essential to recognise the extent of discrimination and exclusion that is a regular part of their education experience. Doing this won't cost a cent.

At Children with Disability Australia, we hear daily of the shameful education experiences of students with disability. It
is common for children to only be "allowed" to attend school part time. Families are told: "No school would tolerate your child," or "Why do you want your child to learn how to read?" There are worse examples, and the experience is often upsetting and traumatic for some young students.

For the rest of the article go to

Conferences and Workshops:

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.

Jobs Australia National Conference 2012
Attention decision makers draft program now available
This year's conference features a uniquely customised program with sessions designed to provide cost and time efficient solutions that meet the professional development needs of your key executive staff.
The 2012 Jobs Australia conference will take place at the Novotel in Manly 31 October - 2 November where we hope the sea-side views will offer us a refreshing vantage from which to reflect on the world around us.

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" - Assessing 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.

Pathways11 Conference 28 to 30 November 2012 Adelaide Convention Centre.
The Adelaide Convention Centre http://www.adelaidecc.com.au/about-us/media-gallery/photo-library/the-centre is an absolutely glorious venue! Meal breaks and social functions will be held in the spectacular foyer, which looks out across parklands leading down to the Torrens River.
We have a great line-up of keynote speakers http://www.plevin.com.au/pathways11/program.html to tantalise and
challenge you, and lots of opportunity for networking with colleagues from around the country and overseas.

**NSW Events:**

**DEAN PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY**
Thursday 18th October 2012
VENUE: University of Technology, Sydney Broadway CB02.05.39
To register click on to: [www.deaninc.org.au](http://www.deaninc.org.au)

**ALTERNATIVE ASSESSMENTS AND “EVERY STUDENT/EVERY SCHOOL”**

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<td>Petria McGoldrick – University of Wollongong</td>
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<td>Every Student/Every School: Learning &amp; Support</td>
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<td>Brian Smyth-King, Director, Disability Programs, Department of Education &amp; Communities</td>
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<td>Questions from audience</td>
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**REGISTRATION**
Registration costs $50 for Members of DEAN or $70 for Non-Members. All payments for PD Days must be made in advance using PayPal or on the day by cash or cheque. DEAN is a volunteer organisation without administrative support - we cannot generate invoices. Payment must be made prior to participation in the PD Day, or advice provided that payment will be made on the day.

Please note that to register for the event you will need to register at: [www.deaninc.org.au](http://www.deaninc.org.au)

Registrations will close at 12pm, Tuesday 16th October or earlier if maximum numbers are reached. Places are limited so please register early to avoid disappointment.

If you require alternative formats or sign language interpreters, please register as soon as possible in order for these services to be put in place (by close of registration).

If you have any questions or require further information please do not hesitate to contact Kay Dean on (02) 49218844 | 0438218848 | email kay.dean@newcastle.edu.au

**Upcoming workshops "5 things you need to know in Community Services"**
The ‘5 Things You Need To Know.....In Community Services’ workshop series is tailored to the needs of services and agencies in the community sector, based on 20 years experience in the industry. We have had requests to deliver the events again and so will be holding them this time in Merrylands and one in Parramatta.

We have extended the workshops to full days and added a brand new workshop on PROJECT PLANNING in community services! Morning Tea included.

**5 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW TO RESOLVE CONFLICT....In Community Services**
Looks at positive approaches and practical tips for effectively resolving contentious issues within community services situations, covering conflict with colleagues, service users and other stakeholders.

**DATE:** 9.30am - 4.30 Tues 20 Nov 2012 **VENUE:** Merrylands Bowling Club, Merrylands
5 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW TO BE A HIGH LEVEL COMMUNICATOR.... In Community Services
Takes the next step with developing professional communication skills by learning ways to successfully deal with those extra tricky and sensitive situations in community services. We cover communication when supervising staff, working with colleagues and supporting service users.
DATE: 9.30 am – 4.30 Tues 27 Nov 2012 VENUE: Merrylands Bowling Club, Merrylands

5 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW TO PLAN & MANAGE PROJECTS.....In Community Services
Considers how to apply good project planning and management fundamentals to community services projects. Looks at how to design an effective community project and what to do when things go wrong.
DATE: 9.30 – 4.30 Tues 4 Dec 2012 VENUE: Merrylands Bowling Club, Merrylands

5 THINGS EVERY SUPERVISOR NEEDS TO KNOW....In Community Services
Explores concepts and practical strategies associated with 5 supervisory essentials in the context of community services: including: prevention of workplace bullying, harassment & discrimination in community services; motivating community workers; managing staff performance; building strong community teams; and stress management when supervising in community services.
DATE: 9.30 am – 4.30 Tues 11 Dec 2012 VENUE: Parramatta Heritage Visitor Centre
The full rate is $125 per participant for each workshop but until the end of October we are offering an Early Bird Rate of only $100 per participant for each workshop. Including morning tea.
To register simply email Michelle Hayter-Falconer at The Information Generation Group falcorp@optusnet.com.au with your name, organisation and contact details and the workshop/s you would like to attend. In reply we will send an invoice ready for your payment of the registration fee.

THE ‘MOVING FORWARD’ WORKSHOP
WHEN: 5.30 – 8.30 PM Thurs 15 NOVEMBER 2012
WHERE: Dougherty Community
For parents of students with educational support needs
Educators and service providers welcome!
Looking at how to make a successful move from high school to university, TAFE or work.
Did you know?
Young people with chronic medical conditions, Specific Learning Difficulties, Anxiety, Depression, Asperger’s, ADHD and other special needs can get extra support & adjustments at uni.
The Information Generation Group
TO REGISTER:
1. Send your name and contact details to Michelle at The Info Gen Group falcorp@optusnet.com.au
2. Pay registration fee to
The Information Generation Group Westpac
Banking Corp
BSB: 032273 Account: 341050
ABN: 29425483516
ANY QUESTIONS? Call Michelle on 0409 227 897
Centre, Chatswood
COST: $52 per person
Check out more on our new Facebook page!
Comments from earlier participants:
“Very good and informative, good resource & explanations. Some good practical ideas and contacts.”
“Good, useful information in a format easy understand and use”

Calls for Expressions of Interest and Input:
A NATIONAL PLAN FOR SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT FORUM
Minister for School Education, Peter Garrett, and Parliamentary Secretary for School Education, Jacinta Collins, invites you and the members of your organisation to participate in a forum to discuss the National Plan for School Improvement. The forum will take place on Thursday 1 November 2012 from 7.30pm to 8.30pm (AEST) in the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations Theatre, 50 Marcus Clarke St, Canberra.

This event offers participants a unique opportunity to discuss the Australian Government’s National Plan for School Improvement with Minister Garrett and Senator Collins.

Limited places are available in the theatre. If you would like to attend this event in person, attendance should be registered here. Please note that registrations will close at 1.00pm (AEST) on Thursday 1 November 2012. Anyone who is not able to attend in person can participate online. To participate online simply visit the event webpage.

Prior to the event, you can submit your questions via email to au enquiries@betterschools.gov.au or by using the ‘Have your Say’ button at www.betterschools.gov.au.

People participating online can also submit questions via our live web chat facility, which will be open from 7.00pm (AEST) on Thursday 1 November 2012, or via twitter by using the #betterschools hashtag.

Further information
For more information about this event, please email events@deewr.gov.au.

Calling all future leaders
28 September 2012
Parliamentary Secretary for Disabilities and Carers, Senator Jan McLucas is encouraging people with disability from across the country to apply for a leadership program.

“Applications to participate in the Australian Government supported Leaders for Tomorrow program close on October 12,” Senator McLucas said.

“Leaders for Tomorrow is an innovative program that supports people with disability to develop their leadership skills, overcome barriers into work and education and reach their full potential.”

By linking participants with appropriate training, support and mentoring, Leaders for Tomorrow will develop participants' skills and confidence to become leaders in business, the community and government.

People with a broad range of skill levels and leadership interests are encouraged to apply.

The program is tailored according to each participant’s leadership aspirations and needs, ensuring they receive appropriate support such as training, coaching and workplace mentoring to help them achieve their leadership goals.

“We have seen some wonderful success stories from the first intake of participants," Senator McLucas said.

This includes Hayley Bellamy from Sydney who has been working towards her goal of completing a Lifeline Telephone Counselling Course to develop practical skills to enhance her formal qualifications – a Psychological Degree. She is also completing her Duke of Edinburgh Award.

The program has also supported Linda McGarvey from South Australia to achieve a Sir Charles Bright Scholarship and has also started a Master of Social Work. She has also had a number of public speaking engagements.

Tony Tierney from New South Wales has joined the State Emergency Service, gained his car licence and is working on getting his truck licence. He has also completed a TAFE course in communication and working with diverse groups.

“It is important that every Australian has the confidence to participate in work, community and social activities and are provided with the right support to reach their full potential,” Senator McLucas said.

“The program helps them to develop the skills and confidence to become leaders in business, the community and government.”

“The Leaders for Tomorrow program is an excellent opportunity for people with disability to help achieve their long-term goals. I really encourage people with disability right across Australia to apply for this leadership program.”

Leaders for Tomorrow is a Gillard Government election commitment and is being delivered by TAFE NSW Hunter Institute, leading a consortium with E-QUAL (Enhancing Quality).

Applications for the next intake of the Leaders for Tomorrow program close on Friday 12 October 2012.

For more information and application forms, go to: www.leadersfortomorrow.com.au.

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
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).

Studies and Research:
Lower-level qualifications as a stepping stone for young people
This report compares the outcomes for young people who complete certificate I or certificate II qualifications with the outcomes for similar individuals who are not participating in post-school education and training, using data from the Longitudinal Surveys of Australian Youth. After two years, males who have completed lower-level qualifications are more likely to be undertaking an apprenticeship or traineeship and females who have completed a lower-level qualification are more likely to be employed. At age 26, the differences for males are still apparent but have disappeared for females.


Publication:
Research into experiences of students with disability in Victorian schools
Access to education is a critical factor in eliminating disadvantage and protecting vulnerable children, and is essential to lifelong economic and social wellbeing.

For these reasons, the Commission undertook research examining the experiences of students with disabilities in Victorian Schools to learn how schools are meeting students’ needs, as well as understanding where practice might be improved.

The research was initiated following concerns raised by the Commission’s Disability Reference Group, parents, advocates and students about discrimination in the provision of education services to students with disabilities. Thank you to the more than 1,800 students, parents and educators who had their say through our survey, phone-in and ‘have a say’ days.

Thank you also to interviewees from the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, Independent Schools Victoria, the Catholic Education Office, the Disability Service Commissioner and the Office of the Senior Practitioner, who participated as key informants for the research, along with critical friends groups from the Victorian
Aboriginal Disability Network and representatives of culturally and linguistically diverse communities and organisations.

The report

The report of the research, Held back: The experiences of students with disabilities in Victorian schools, was launched by Paralympian and VCE student Ahmed Kelly on 24 September 2012.


New Resources:

My Career, My APS

My Career, My APS is an online tool for people from diverse backgrounds, particularly those with disability, who are looking to start or enhance a career in the Australian Public Service (APS).

Simply go to the disability employment page on the Australian Public Service Commission website:

My Career, My APS will give you:

- practical advice on career management
- useful career development tools, including a self-Zessment and career selector
- Information on the breadth and range of career opportunities available in the APS
- Real life stories from APS employees.

My Career, My APS is a key initiative of the As One • APS Disability Employment Strategy.


Guidelines for Facilitating the Career Development of Young People with Disability

A Research Paper for the Career Industry Council of Australia (CICA)

These Guidelines for Facilitating the Career Development of Young People with Disability have been developed to support those who provide career information, advice and guidance to young people with disability.


Media Releases:

Launch of the National Foundation Skills Strategy for Adults

Australian governments have worked in partnership to develop the National Strategy, a 10-year framework built around a shared vision for a productive and inclusive Australia. It was developed as a joint initiative by the Commonwealth and state and territory governments, in consultation with key stakeholders, through the COAG Standing Council on Tertiary Education, Skills and Employment (SCOTese).

Australian governments have agreed the following overall performance measure for the National Strategy: By 2022, two thirds of working age Australians will have literacy and numeracy skills at Level 3 or above.*

* Refers to the levels in the Adult Literacy and Life Skills Survey (ALLS), undertaken in 2006 by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. Skill Level 3 on the ALLS scale is considered by COAG to be the minimum level required by individuals to meet the complex demands of work and life in modern economies.

The Strategy brings a national focus to improving education and employment outcomes for working age Australians with low levels of foundation skills (language, literacy, numeracy and employability skills). The Strategy is centred on the needs of the adult learner and includes four key priority areas for action, with agreed actions for each at the national, jurisdictional and systemic level.

The Strategy can be viewed and downloaded from the SCOTese website.


Gordon TAFE students and staff speak out about savage TAFE cuts

PORTFOLIO: Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education

URL:
SNIPPET: Students and staff at Gordon TAFE have today spoken out about the impact of the Baillieu Government's severe cuts to the Victorian training system. Gordon TAFE has delivered the VET in Schools program for almost 20 years, with more than 1000 students from 28 secondary schools taking part this year alone, Mr Cheeseman said. Senator Evans and Mr Cheeseman today launched a petition against course closures and job losses at Gordon TAFE as a result of Premier Baillieu's cuts.

First programs start under new Disability Employment Broker program

SNIPPET: Minister for Employment Participation Kate Ellis today announced the organisations to receive funding under the Australian Government's Disability Employment Broker fund to match jobseekers with employers. Ms Ellis announced three organisations to receive funding in an address to the National Disability Services Employment Forum in Perth today, including: "Since introducing the Disability Employment Services in 2010, the Australian Government has worked with the industry to help place more than 126,000 jobseekers into employment."