



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

In this Disability Education and Employment News, we have information on the Gregory and Dolores Farrell Scholarships for 2013 and other Equity Scholarships, the Upcoming workshops "5 things you need to know in Community Services" series and the SPELDSA Petition. 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:

Schools dilemma on BYO technology

Date November 20, 2012 Vote

"A key element for BYOD decision making is how much control of content and software the teachers need in the classroom" ... Joseph Sweeney from Intelligent Business Research Services says in the report. Photo: Andrew Meares

AUSTRALIAN schools are faced with the controversial decision about whether to allow students to bring their own smartphones and tablets to school as the computers supplied by the federal government reach the end of their lifespan.

Students in year 9 to year 12 received a computer under the Rudd government's \$2 billion "digital education revolution".

The computers in schools program was a key plank of Labor's 2007 election pitch, with students promised a "21st-century toolbox" by the end of last year.

However, a report to be released on Tuesday says some schools are allowing students to bring their own devices to school given the "uncertainty and unsustainability of funding for one-to-one student laptop programs".

For the rest of the article go to <http://www.smh.com.au/technology/technology-news/schools-dilemma-on-byo-technology-20121119-29m6s.html>

NSW government remains firm on education cuts

Date November 18, 2012 Read later

NSW Education Minister Adrian Piccoli says a protest in Sydney over education cuts will do nothing to change the government's mind.

Premier Barry O'Farrell is slashing the state's education spending by \$1.7 billion, impacting on schools, public and private, as well as TAFEs.

The government has remained firm since it made the announcement in September, despite criticism from teachers and the risk of industrial action.

"Of course we have heard the message," Mr Piccoli told reporters in Sydney on Sunday.

"We are in difficult budget times and I think the responsible thing to do is to take measures in the back office, in the bureaucracy, to make sure we've got those dollars to invest in the front line," he said.

"This year we've got more than 500 more teachers than we had last year."

Mr Piccoli said reports of an extra billion dollars in the NSW budget because of accounting errors were inaccurate and the restructure within the education department was already underway.

"There are lots of elements to it. Most of them have begun, some of them have indeed finished, but it is a big process..."

"We have made no secret that we are deleting positions from the bureaucracy..."

"The government has made it pretty clear what it needs to do, we won't be changing the decision that we have made."

For the rest of the article go to <http://www.smh.com.au/nsw/nsw-government-remains-firm-on-education-cuts-20121118-29jwc.html>

Thousands protest in Sydney over education cuts

Date November 18, 2012 Read later

Anna Patty

Thousands of people gathered in Sydney calling on Premier Barry O'Farrell to reverse \$1.7 billion in cuts to NSW education.

The crowd at Darling Harbour which was estimated at more than 4000 people booed the Premier after hearing how the cuts will disadvantage students in schools and TAFE.

Will you invest in education instead of casinos?

Andie Thorpe, year 6 student

Among the people who addressed the protest rally was Andie Thorpe, a year 6 student and school captain at Manly Village Public School

Ms Thorpe called on Mr O'Farrell "to protect us".

"Will you invest in education instead of casinos?," she said.

NSW Teachers Federation President, Maurie Mulheron, called on Mr O'Farrell to reverse the education cuts and job losses - including those of 800 TAFE teachers.

For the rest of the article go to

<http://www.smh.com.au/nsw/thousands-protest-in-sydney-over-education-cuts-20121118-29jxq.html>

Students with autism and emotional disorders exiled for disorderly conduct

BRUCE MCDUGALL

The Daily Telegraph

November 05, 2012 12:00AM

Katrece Burns with her eight-year-old son Ethen. She has lost count of the times Ethen has been suspended from school. Picture: Cameron Richardson Source: The Daily Telegraph

STUDENTS as young as five are receiving multiple suspensions as schools struggle to contain extreme violence by children with autism and mental and emotional disorders.

Some students prone to dangerous outbursts are attending school for one or two hours a day, while others are regularly sent home after attacks on teachers or other children.

Schools now face a tsunami of kids with autism spectrum and mental disorders but parents claim suspension is not working and have called for teachers to be better trained to handle students with disabilities in the classroom.

At one Sutherland school, students are reported to have had concerns for the mental stability of a classmate who allegedly held scissors to another student's throat and had prepared a "die list".

Serious incident reports collated by the Department of Education and Communities also show a Year 9 youth stood over his principal and threatened to "put a bullet in his head", while a Year 6 boy, who sliced a Year 5 student across the forearm with scissors causing him to bleed, had a history of "sudden violent outbursts".

For the rest of the article go to

<http://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/news/students-with-autism-and-emotional-disorders-exiled-for-disorderly-conduct/story-e6freuy9-1226510166376>

TAFE shake-up could spell an end to non-vocational courses

October 23, 2012

Anna Patty

State Political Reporter

TAFE courses that do not fill skills shortages and directly lead to jobs will no longer receive state funding, threatening their affordability and future.

Only courses the government approves, according to a skills list it will develop in consultation with industry and labour market research, will continue to receive taxpayer-funded subsidies.

The changes are due to be announced today by the Education Minister, Adrian Piccoli, and are likely to mean that colleges will either increase their fees to keep providing more creative arts courses, or axe them if they are no longer subsidised.

NSW government funding for the TAFE system will no longer be guaranteed.

Institutes will have to compete with private colleges for students because government funding will go to the college in which students enrol, whether it is public or private. Under the present system, TAFE colleges receive block funding from the state government.

Students will no longer be charged an annual fee for vocational training courses but will pay a fixed price for their qualification.

Loans similar to those offered to university students will be available for those in subsidised diploma courses. The changes are to be introduced in 2014.

For the rest of the article go to

www.smh.com.au/national/tertiary-education/tafe-shakeup-could-spell-an-end-to-nonvocational-courses-20121022-281kg.html

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Employment News:

Disabled workers challenge naive employers

Date November 21, 2012

Rachel Browne

We will contact you to talk about the changes before you're affected

Hayley Bellamy working at Anglicare, Penrith. Photo: Anthony Johnson

A fear of the unknown is deterring Australian employers from hiring more people with disabilities, according to the chief executive of one of Australia's largest companies.

Luke Sayers, chief executive of PriceWaterhouseCoopers, has challenged corporate Australia to increase opportunities for people with disabilities.

About 5 per cent of the PwC 5500-strong workforce has a disability, and Mr Sayers would like to increase the proportion to between 15 to 20 per cent. He believes more employers could do the same.

"It's clearly the right thing to do," he said.

For the rest of the article go to <http://www.smh.com.au/national/disabled-workers-challenge-naive-employers-20121121-29oxp.html>

Push to hire people with disabilities

PUBLISHED: 14 Nov 2012 00:05:29 | UPDATED: 15 Nov 2012 09:52:43

Rachel Nickless

Workplace Relations Minister Bill Shorten, Disability Discrimination Commissioner Graeme Innes and human resources professionals are pushing for the introduction of mandatory company reporting obligations, in a bid to boost the number of disabled people employed by corporate Australia.

Shorten told The Australian Financial Review that in the face of continued unconscious bias against people with disabilities, "good old transparency can have a strong positive effect".

"We need to look very closely at requiring companies or organisations with more than 100 staff to report the number of people with a disability in their workforce," he says.

Shorten wrote to the Australian Securities Exchange corporate governance council chairman, Alan Cameron, two

months ago requesting new reporting obligations.

Innes also backs the move. He told the Financial Review that existing efforts to hire people with disabilities are "pathetic".

There are no statistics on disability employment in corporate Australia. But the Australian Bureau of Statistics says labour participation rates are only 54 per cent for people with disabilities, which is nearly 30 per cent lower than for the general population.

Meanwhile, public service figures show things are going backwards – 6.6 per cent of public servants identified themselves as having a disability in 1986. The figure has now declined to just 3 per cent.

For the rest of the article go to

http://www.afr.com/p/national/work_space/push_to_hire_people_with_disabilities_FvSG6BwGi4w7tTgOWJuBDJ

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International News:

Landmark Court Ruling Allows University Libraries to Make Ten Million Accessible Books Available to Blind Readers around the Country

On October 10, 2012, Judge Harold Baer of the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York granted the National Federation of the Blind's Motion for Summary Judgment in The Authors' Guild v. HathiTrust case.

Dan Goldstein, Laura Abelson, and Jessie Weber from Brown, Goldstein & Levy represented the National Federation of the Blind and three individual blind students and faculty members at the defendant universities. Judge Baer's decision adopted the NFB's arguments regarding fair use under the Copyright Act and permits university libraries to digitize their entire collections of books and printed media to make them searchable for all members of the university communities and fully accessible and available to the blind and print disabled. The decision not only allows access to members of the university communities, but it allows the university libraries to make ten million accessible books available to blind readers around the country. More: <http://tinyurl.com/nfb-ruling>

For the rest of the article go to

http://accessible-epub-3-reader.org/?p=337&qoback=%2Egde_98469_member_178572689

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Conferences and Workshops:

Pathways11 Conference 28 to 30 November 2012 Adelaide Convention Centre.

Pathways 11 <http://www.plevin.com.au/pathways11/index.html> promises to be an exciting, dynamic conference for all disability practitioners and those who are working towards a more inclusive tertiary education experience. So, registered at <http://www.plevin.com.au/pathways11/registration.html>.

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.

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NSW Events:

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.

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Calls for Expressions of Interest and Input:

The SPELDSA Petition

Thank you all so much for supporting the SPELD SA petition requesting the Federal House of Representatives to recognise dyslexia as a genuine disability and to provide appropriate support to ensure that students with dyslexia are no longer discriminated against by our education systems.

To date, we have received 3,281 signatures thanks to the wonderful support of people in the community like you.

Please pass on our appreciation to those who have signed the petition. The deadline is **November 30th** and I am hoping that with a final push, we might meet my target of 4000 signatures. If there are groups you think you could canvass, please print the attachment document, photocopy as many times as you like and post in time to reach us by November 30th.

You can find the petition at <http://auspeld.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2012/09/petition-2.pdf>

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Scholarships:

Gregory and Dolores Farrell Scholarships for 2013

The Gregory and Dolores Farrell Scholarships, which are administered by Northcott, are offered to assist students with a physical disability and who use a wheelchair for mobility with the costs of undertaking university studies.

Four scholarships, up to the value of \$5,000.00 each, are available for 2013.

For further information and the application form go to http://spinecare.org.au/tertiary_scholarships/index.html

Applications must be lodged by the close of business on 8 February, 2013. Completed applications can be emailed to spinecare@northcott.com.au or elizabethm@northcott.com.au or posted to: The Gregory and Dolores Farrell Scholarships Committee, C/- Northcott, PO Box 4055, Parramatta, NSW 2124.

Equity Scholarships

Just a reminder that the applications for Equity Scholarships close on 30 November 2012 for students going into university in 2013.

For information go here: <http://www.uac.edu.au/documents/equity/booklet.pdf>

What are Equity Scholarships?

Equity Scholarships assist financially disadvantaged students with the costs associated with higher education.

Equity Scholarships through UAC comprise:

- Institution Equity Scholarships (IES) funded by individual institutions – some IES are funded by donations or sponsorship
- Commonwealth Scholarships (CS) for Indigenous applicants funded by the Australian Government.

Institution Equity Scholarships (IES)

IES are funded by participating institutions and are awarded to students experiencing financial disadvantage and/or other educational disadvantages. IES aim to maximise the participation in higher education of students from low socio-economic backgrounds and also target groups statistically underrepresented in higher education. IES are available to applicants who receive means-tested payments such as Disability Support Pensions, Parenting Payment Single and Carer Payment. Some institutions may award IES to applicants receiving student income support payments.

IES provide consideration to students experiencing a wide range of educational disadvantages including:

- carer responsibilities
- English language difficulties
- Indigenous Australian
- financial hardship
- long-term or recurrent medical conditions or illnesses
- refugee status (disrupted schooling)
- regional or remote disadvantage
- sole parent responsibilities.

Educational Access Schemes (EAS).

Online information can be found here: <http://www.uac.edu.au/eas/>

The applications for this close on 4 January 2013.

What is EAS?

Most institutions that participate through the Universities Admissions Centre (UAC) have an Educational Access Scheme for applicants who've experienced long-term educational disadvantage due to circumstances beyond their control or choosing, which has seriously affected their educational performance. A long-term educational disadvantage should normally be experienced for a period of at least six months.

You can also access a factsheet on EAS here: <http://pubsites.uws.edu.au/ndco/getready/faq/FAQ-sheet-12-education-access-scheme.pdf>

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New Resources:

Smart and Skilled - meeting your vocational training needs

Smart and Skilled is a reform of the NSW Vocational Education and Training System. It will give people the chance to gain the skills they need to get a job and advance their careers. It will expand the skills of our workforce to meet future demand for jobs.

From 2014 Smart and Skilled will deliver:

- an entitlement for entry level training up to and including Certificate III
- support for higher level qualifications
- informed choice with improved quality measures
- recognition of the role and function of TAFE NSW as the public provider
- greater support for regions and equity groups
- better information for consumers.

For further information go to https://www.training.nsw.gov.au/vet/skills_reform/index.html

DES - full list of providers for 2013-18 and transition information

DEEWR has now released a full list of DES-ESS providers for 2013-18. This includes those successful at tender and those who did not have to tender. Please find complete list attached – this is available at http://www.deewr.gov.au/Employment/EmploymentServicesProcurement/Documents/OrganisationsprovidingDES_ES S.pdf

DEEWR also has a new transition page up in relation to the DES changes – you can find it here: http://www.deewr.gov.au/Employment/EmploymentServicesProcurement/DES_ES S/Pages/Overview.aspx

There are fact sheets and other information for participants, employers and providers, as well as some presentations and a video about the transition arrangements.

Get Ready for. . . Resoures

Get Ready for Study and Work: www.uws.edu.au/ndco
Education to Employment: www.uws.edu.au/ndco/employment
Disclosure: www.uws.edu.au/ndco/disclosure
Get Ready for Uni: www.uws.edu.au/ndco/getready
Get Ready Resources: www.uws.edu.au/ndco/getreadytips

A new resource for jobseekers with ASD's: "The Hidden Curriculum for Getting and Keeping a Job"

AAPC have announced the release of a new book called the "The hidden curriculum for getting and keeping a job" . This is a valuable resource which offers insight into our social world. It aims to help adults with Autism and Asperger's Syndrome navigate the social landscape of employment. It's also a helpful tool for anyone working with or supporting adults on the spectrum to gain insight into the way that they view our confusing social world.

This is an international resource penned by two American authors; Brenda Smith Myles and Judy Endow, and Australia author, Malcolm Mayfield. Judy and Malcolm are both on the autism spectrum.

Do you know someone who might benefit from a detailed breakdown of the social landscape of employment? Then order a copy for your colleague, client, family member or friend today!

Read about the book here: <http://www.aapcpublishing.net/book/view/740/the-hidden-curriculum-of-getting-and-keeping-a-job-navigating-the-social-landscape-of-employment-a-guide-for-individuals-with-autism-spectrum-and-other-social-cognitive-challengescoming-in-novemberpre-order-20-off-available-through-oct-31-2012>

DES-ESS Transition 2012-13 - Overview

There is a new DEEWR website relating to the transition period around the DES – ESS tender results: www.deewr.gov.au/Employment/EmploymentServicesProcurement/DES_ES S/Pages/Overview.aspx

“Transition is the specific servicing arrangements that will assist with implementing the Disability Employment Services – Employment Support Services (DES-ESS) tender results. The DEEWR has a website which contains information about the Transition Period which starts on 1 November 2012, ending on 3 March 2013. There will be a post-transition support period after the commencement of the Deed, from 4 March to the end of May 2013.

The objective of transition is a smooth transfer to the future contracting arrangements with minimal disruption to Participants, Employers and Providers, while maintaining the continuity of services.”

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Media Releases:

TITLE: Action to deliver better employment support services for Australians with a disability

PORTFOLIO: Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

URL: <http://www.ministers.deewr.gov.au/ellis/action-deliver-better-employment-support-services-australians-disability>

SNIPPET: Australians with a disability will now have access to a higher standard of employment support services in more locations across Australia, following the Australian Government's tender for Disability Employment Services. As well as introducing Australia's first National Disability Insurance Scheme we're also making reforms to deliver better employment support services for Australians with a disability. We want to make sure our disability services offer the best possible results for people with a disability and that providers are getting Australians good jobs, and helping them keep them.

TITLE: Most Aussie kids doing well, room for further gains (AIHW)

PORTFOLIO: Health and Ageing

URL: <http://www.aihw.gov.au/media-release-detail/?id=10737423407>

SNIPPET: Most Australian children are doing well in terms of their health and wellbeing, but there is room for improvement for some, according to a report released today by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW). Smoking in households with children has also dropped. The most common disability types among children were intellectual, affecting 161,600 children (3.9%), and sensory/speech (119,100 children or 2.9%).

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

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