In this Disability Education and Employment News, we have the last call for registrations for the 'Managing Disability at Work: The things you need to know', information on Vision Australia Texpo and Open Day, 'Working in the West Conference 2010', Victoria's University student event 'Get ready for employment now' and CDS' workshop 'Issues of Individual and Family Quality of Life'.

Plus further information on other Resources, Conferences and Workshops, News articles and other information for the Disability Education, Training and Employment Sectors.

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

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Education News:
State sued for school 'abuse' of autistic boy – Age
04/07/2010
Natalie Craig
A SEVERELY autistic boy is suing the state government over claims he was abused and "chemically restrained" with medication by his ex-school.

The claim comes as disability advocates say autistic children are increasingly sedated with drugs in place of effective behavioural treatments.

Ellen Modra is suing in the Federal Court on behalf of her son Luke, now 21, under the Disability Discrimination Act.
Ms Modra says staff at a school for autism in Melbourne conspired with a medical practitioner to prescribe her son, then about 12, with three times the recommended dose of antipsychotic drug risperidone. As a result Luke developed a neurological condition characterised by jerky, involuntary movements, she alleges. She says he was also physically restrained and abused while in respite care and at school, including being locked for long periods in a courtyard.


Employment News:
Determined to make most of his chance – Parramatta Advertiser
04/07/2010
Di Bartok

JOSHUA Taig dreams of working in multi-media, perhaps in film editing. The 21-year-old has the brains, the talent and the drive but Joshua also a physical disability which would discourage some employers. He has osteogenesis imperfecta, commonly known as "brittle bone disease", and he has broken more than 1000 bones in his life. Now he wants to break down workplace barriers, and with the help of Northcott Disability Services and The Kings School at North Parramatta, is on his way to proving his ability. The confident young man has been working in the media room of the exclusive boys school, under the tutelage of head media teacher Mark Kelly. Joshua is supported by Northcott's Transition to Work program and, after completing his Certificate IV and Diploma in Multimedia, is ready to test his skills. His case worker Luke Robinson said it took six months to find an employer who'd give him practical work experience.


Anxiety rises on long wait for that next job to come – Age
30/06/2010
Ben Schneiders

WHEN Fiona Johnson changed jobs in October 2008, she did not expect to be out of work for much of the next 20 months. Ms Johnson had a work history that included employment for more than a decade, but now, despite numerous interviews, cannot find her way back into the job market. Her story is not unusual. New federal government figures show that the number of people receiving Newstart allowance (unemployment benefit) for more than a year has increased every month since November 2008, or by 35 per cent in that time. That is despite the overall improvement in the economy and job market. Ms Johnson, 33, has the added complication of having a disability. She has about 30 per cent vision and uses a cane.

For the rest of the article go to http://www.theage.com.au/national/anxiety-rises-on-long-wait-for-that-next-job-to-come-20100629-zjab.html

Welfare News:
Liberal MP Robb 'feels better than ever' – Sydney Morning Herald
30/06/2010
Michelle Draper

For the past four months, opposition finance spokesman Andrew Robb has woken up without the cloud of depression that haunted him for decades.
After six months of experimentation with different types of medication, Mr Robb found an effective treatment for the illness he's struggled with since the age of 12.

For years, Mr Robb would stop three or four times on his way to work, get out of his car and look at the sun to make himself sneeze.

He did so to release endorphins, the body's natural happy drug, to stave off the cloud hanging over him every morning.

Mr Robb spoke of his struggle with his mental illness on Wednesday at the launch of the Liberal Party's mental health policy in the lead-up to the federal election.

Opposition Leader Tony Abbott said a coalition government would commit $1.5 billion for 800 additional mental health beds and to expand youth mental health services.


Welfare changes take effect from July – Sydney Morning Herald
30/06/2010
Susanna Dunkerley

Hundreds of thousands of people receiving unemployment benefits will have to do more to find work from Thursday. Labor's plan to get more disability support pensioners back into the workforce will also come into effect under July 1 policy changes.

Jobless people will have to meet regularly with Centrelink staff to ensure they are looking for work and reporting any earnings under the changes.

And if they don't turn up for the fortnightly meeting their welfare payments will be suspended.

The new rules apply to anyone under 25, the long-term and recently unemployed and those with poor compliance histories or deemed "vulnerable" by the agency.

The government will also make changes to the disability support pension, which currently has about 780,000 recipients, costing taxpayers about $8.5 billion a year.


Conferences and Workshops:
Enhancing the Links - Hunter-Central Coast
A Free Hunter-Central Coast Seminar and Service Expo to Assist Students and People with a Disability in the Transition to Training, Education and Employment.

Thursday 22 July 2010
The University of Newcastle - Great Hall
9.00 am – 3.30 pm (Registration from 8.00 am)
Register by 16 July using our simple and fast online link (or download a registration form) at http://www.newcastle.edu.au/service/ndco/staffresources/linksprogram.html

More Information

Kay Dean, NDCO Newcastle-Hunter
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Timothy Hart, NDCO Northern Sydney/Central Coast
E: thart@med.usyd.edu.au | P: (02) 8878 0514

School to Tertiary Forums - Freshwater
What pathways are available once you have finished school?
An information session for those interested in postsecondary pathways for students with additional support needs.
Monday July 26th, 2010 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM
Freshwater School Hall
The session is designed for students who are currently in year 10, 11 and 12 who are interested in finding what is available for them if they wish to study at University or TAFE, find a job or Apprenticeships/Traineeships.

The presentations will include:
- Disclosing a disability
- University
- TAFE
- Employment services


As numbers are limited you must register online at [http://ndco.cds.org.au/index.php/freshwater](http://ndco.cds.org.au/index.php/freshwater)

Registration Closes Wednesday 21st July
A light morning tea will be provided

This information session are open to all Students from year 10, 11 and 12 in the public, private and catholic school systems with additional learning needs in the North Sydney Region and their Parents, Carers, Teachers, Support Teachers Learning Assistance, School Welfare, Counsellors and Career Advisers.

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**Managing Disability at Work: The things you need to know**

Friday 30 July, 2010
9 am – 3:30 pm (includes lunch)
University of Technology Sydney

A joint initiative being run by the UTS, the University of Sydney, UNSW, the Australian Employers Network on Disability and the NDCO Program (CDS, UWS).

Who should come?
All currently enrolled University students in NSW/ACT with a disability thinking about career pathways.

Does that mean you?
Perhaps you don’t think of yourself as having a disability but the definition is broad and includes dyslexia, mental illness and ongoing medical conditions.

The focus is on assisting you to maximise all opportunities whilst still at university, find the best career pathway, and how to access it after graduation. The forum will provide practical strategies and information, the opportunity to network and meet with other students and experts in the field.

Why come?
To find out more about practical career strategies and programs to give you an edge in a tough job market.

To participate in workshops:

What do I want to do?
- Designed as an introductory session for the beginner job seeker, it includes information on career exploration and researching jobs.
- Finding the job you want! Covers information on services such as: Stepping Into, WAM, DES Services, career counselling and networking.
- The Application - selling your skills and dealing with disclosure. Contains information on disclosure, selling your strengths, resume tips.
- The Interview – making a good impression and addressing workplace adjustments. Contains information on options for raising workplace adjustments, interview expectations.

University Careers Advisors will be available and the event promises to be inspiring and informative. A light lunch will be provided and a chance to meet people from other Universities.

The Event is free and lunch will be provided.

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**Managing Social Inclusion in Higher Education Conference**

10 & 11 August 2010
Citigate Central Hotel, Sydney
Vision Australia Texpo and Open Day

Each year, Vision Australia holds Texpo, an event to showcase the latest technology and services for people who are blind or have low vision.

In 2010, the event be held across three major centres - Vision Australia's Kooyong (Melbourne), Brisbane and Enfield (Sydney) centres.

The event will feature displays from a diverse range of technology suppliers, service providers and the host of Vision Australia services with specialist staff who will be on hand to answer your questions.

More detailed information will be available in the lead up to Texpo, but dates are now available for your calendar.

Texpo 2010 displays will "hop" from the following venues over an eight day period:

- **Melbourne (Kooyong):** Friday 27 August and Saturday 28 August 2010
- **Brisbane (Coorparoo):** Tuesday 31 August and Wednesday 1 September 2010
- **Sydney (Enfield):** Friday 3 September and Saturday 4 September 2010


Working in the West Conference 2010

21st - 22nd October 2010

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Working in the West Conference 2010 aims to provide all delegates a strategies and practical support toolbox full of ideas to take away and use in our ever changing environment.

The Conference will motivate, inspire and will offer delegates a wide range of training and information on marketing and selling, VET, mental health and other specific disabilities along with other agencies offering information about their services and how they can to assist you and lots more!

The DES and ADE awards will be presented at the Sundowner.

Nominations for DES and ADE Employee of the Year awards will open soon.

Regional Travel & Accommodation subsidies will again be available upon application.

Watch this Space!


Pathways 10 2010 Conference

Tuesday 30 November - Friday 3 December

Southbank Institute of Technology.

Creating space for people with disabilities in tertiary education

Invitation to Host a Space

The aim of every conference organising committee is to deliver the best possible conference experience for delegates and part of this depends on the quality of the Conference Program. This is certainly the aim of the Pathways 10 2010 Conference Organising Committee. We want to create a program that will not only provide you with the latest information but which will also provide you with new and different perspectives on key developments and strategic issues related to the Government's agenda;

1. challenge you to
2. reflect on your practice;
3. inspire you to achieve excellence in your role and
4. galvanise you to be an agent for change in your organisations and/or communities.

Sounds simple doesn’t it!

We’ve explored some exciting ideas and in keeping with the Conference theme, Creating space for people with disabilities in tertiary education, we’re taking the opportunity to create a very different program format that will
1. create space for some different types of activities;
2. facilitate greater involvement by conference delegates; and include stakeholders from other sectors including schools, employers and professional and industry organisations.

Call for Abstracts and Expressions of Interest to Host a Space

Abstract submission is now open for the following categories. Please go to the Conference website www.pathways10.org for more information about the Conference theme and to submit your abstract or expression of interest.

We’re inviting you to Host a space on the conference program. Why are we doing this? Hosting a space will allow greater flexibility to structure your presentation to stimulate discussion about significant topics. Be creative! Consider the following options:

If you’re passionate about what you’re doing, have ideas or experiences that you’d like to share then hosting a space will be an exciting opportunity for you.

Watch this space for regular updates. – www.pathways10.org

Contact Judy Hartley, Pathways 10 Organising Committee Chair
07 3735 7280
j.hartley@griffith.edu.au

Inclusive Learning Technologies Conference 2012

Hosted by Spectronics, the conference focuses specifically on “inclusive learning technologies” – technologies designed to advance independent achievement for people with disabilities and/or students with learning difficulties. It includes sessions looking at these technologies in the following three interest streams.

- Struggling Students*
- People with Complex Communication Needs
- People with Disabilities

*What do we mean by “struggling students”? Here we are talking about students who are in Regular Ed settings but are struggling to keep up with the reading, writing or organisational tasks required of them. These students may be struggling because of learning difficulties. Alternatively, they could be one of the growing number of ESL (English as a Second Language) students in our schools and post-secondary institutions.

We have booked the Pavilion Convention Centre at Jupiters Gold Coast Hotel for the event and have confirmed two excellent International Keynote Presenters – Linda Burkhart and Joy Zabala. More information about their extensive experience in the world of applying inclusive learning technologies can be found on the conference website at www.spectronicsinoz.com/conference/2012

When: 22nd - 25th May 2012
Where: Jupiters Gold Coast Hotel, Queensland, Australia
Further info: www.spectronicsinoz.com/conference/2012

NSW Events:

An Invitation to Breakfast with Ron McCallum AO on 10 August

For those who may be interested, the Edmund Rice Centre is hosting a breakfast with Professor Ron McCallum on the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and on enhancing workplace inclusion for employees with disabilities.

Gilbert + Tobin, 2 Park Street Sydney on Tuesday 10th of August, 2010.

Professor McCallum AO is the foundation Blake Dawson Waldron Professor in Industrial Law in the Faculty of Law of the University of Sydney. Ron is the first totally blind person to be appointed to the Deanship of a Law School in Australia or New Zealand. Ron is also the inaugural president of the Australian Labour Law Association. In 1982, Professor McCallum was appointed as one of a number of foreign correspondents to the National Academy of Arbitrators.

The Academy is the professional body for private labour arbitrators in the United States and Canada. In this role, he has participated in five world-wide comparative labour law studies which have been published in what is now titled the Comparative Labour Law and Policy Journal.

There are many Equal Opportunity Employers: it's about giving everyone a "fair go". Getting a fair go is a reasonable
hope and expectation for most people, but all too often that hope fails to translate into extending fairness to others. And then people get into lots of disputes about what is and isn't fair. The UN Human Rights Conventions are the most widely agreed set of principles with concrete details that establish what is everyone's due simply by being human: what a "fair go" means in practice. People with a disability also have these same rights but they are too often not well respected in fact. This is not more true than in the workplace: applying for a job, or for a promotion, or dealing with conflict at work are vital areas where "getting a fair go" is important, where rights matter.

Come to breakfast with Professor Ron McCallum, hear his reflections on the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and how fair work places are diverse work places. For bookings contact Gary Wellsmore by phone on (02) 8762-4200 or email: reception@erc.org.au
Studies and Research:
Supporting Individuals with Disabilities in Postsecondary Education
This paper is composed of two strands: The first strand provides an overview of issues and the latest research related to postsecondary education and students with disabilities. Each overview is followed by a related personal perspective from the paper’s co-author, Megan Conway, who is deaf-blind and who recently graduated with her Ph.D. It is hoped that this personal perspective will add to the reader’s understanding of the relationship between the issues and research presented, and the real-life experiences of postsecondary students with disabilities and Vocational Rehabilitation clients.

New Resources:
"Raising the Bar: expectations, legislation & practice", Conference Transcripts
The text transcripts of all presentations from the conference are available to download in Word format at http://www.and.org.au/content/view/358/47/

Options and services for Disability Support Pension customers
Centrelink has released a new factsheet ‘Options and services for Disability Support Pension customers’ that details support available for DSP recipients who wish to work.

‘Get Ready for Study and Work: Top ten tips for young people who have a disability or chronic medical condition’.
This workbook contains lots of practical advice, activities and useful resources to assist young people to make a successful transition from school to post-secondary education and employment. The workbook covers our top ten tips for transition planning:
1. Get ready early
2. Get the big picture
3. Get connected
4. Get to know your options
5. Get the skills
6. Get organised
7. Get support
8. Get involved
9. Get to know your rights and responsibilities
10. Get confident
You can download the workbook from the "Key Messages" page of our website www.uws.edu.au/ndco or contact your local NDCO for a copy.

‘School to Tertiary’ Presentations and Handouts
The Normanhurst ‘School to Tertiary’ Presentation and Handouts can be now found

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