



Australian Government

Department of Education, Employment  
and Workplace Relations



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### **Disability Education and Employment News Survey**

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The purpose of the survey is to quantify and qualify the impact of the newsletter; find what works and what doesn't; and how to improve the overall experience of the reader.

Please follow the below link and complete the short Questionnaire which should take you between 5 to 10 minutes.

[http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/DEE\\_Newsletter\\_Survey](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/DEE_Newsletter_Survey)

## **Disability Education and Employment News: No. 9, Vol 7.**

In this Disability Education and Employment News, we have a request to assist with the Evaluation of the Disability Education and Employment News and the Accessing the Future Conference - Expression of Interest and information on the nomination process for the National Disability Awards. 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:

### **Disability education seeks \$3.8m – Canberra Times**

06/07/2011

Bianca Hall

The Education and Training Directorate has been forced to seek \$3.8million in emergency funding to cater for the increased numbers and complex requirements of students with special needs.

Between 2007 and this year, the number of students with disabilities or special needs increased by 219 people, or 10.3 per cent, with growth recorded across the public and non-government sectors.

Chief Minister Katy Gallagher approved last month \$4.5million in urgent funding to the directorate to address its unanticipated budget shortfall.

According to brief explanatory papers detailing the emergency funds, \$3.1million was directed to Disability Education to address an "increase in the number of special needs student enrolments".

For the rest of the article go to

<http://www.canberratimes.com.au/news/local/news/general/disability-education-seeks-38m/2217283.aspx?storypage=0>

### **Parents of disabled children rebel against suspensions – Sydney Morning Herald**

07/07/2011

Andrew Stevenson

PARENTS of disabled students are taking the Education Department to court alleging discrimination, saying their children are being punished for their disability by being suspended from school.

For the rest of the article go to

<http://www.smh.com.au/nsw/parents-of-disabled-children-rebel-against-suspensions-20110706-1h2p0.html>

### **Schools show their disability – Sydney Morning Herald**

08/07/2011

Editorial

A CHILD who attacks a teacher at school commits a serious offence and will be punished by being suspended from classes for a day or more. Some will learn quickly from the experience; others may need to repeat it before the message gets through. But the expectation is that the child will learn, settle down and behave better when back in class.

But what if the child is disabled - suffering a condition in which normal inhibitory processes are missing - so that violence, towards teachers, other pupils and even themselves, is normal behaviour when under pressure?

At present in NSW it is expected that many such children will be accepted into mainstream schools, and any inappropriate behaviour dealt with in the same way as for normal children.

The intended result, though, never eventuates. Punishment only increases the pressure on the child and produces more outbursts. Good behaviour is not learnt, because it cannot be. Suspension follows suspension, lengthening successively to days, then weeks. Parents, already under great pressure, must take time they cannot afford off work to manage their children at home.

For the rest of the article go to

<http://www.smh.com.au/opinion/editorial/stunned-by-live-export-drama-20110707-1h4kn.html>

### **Students with disabilities denied access to quality education**

Carl Thompson Ramp Up 1 Jul 2011

The vast majority of people with a disability want to work, and with all the recent talk of welfare reform in the sector it would appear that the government wants the same.

Australians have been told over and over again that quality education is the key to employment. This is true just as much (if not more so) for those with a disability. Everyone needs a competitive advantage on their side to stand out in the crowded Australian labour market, so what's the problem? Shouldn't young disabled students simply polish off secondary school and promptly head to university for three or four years in order to earn the honour of wearing a mortarboard?

Well, like most things in life, it's not that simple - many barriers exist for young people with disabilities when attempting to access quality education in Australia.

A pilot study surveying 397 young people (8 to 26 years) and their carers was recently conducted by the Australian Youth Affairs Coalition (AYAC) in conjunction with the Youth Disability Advocacy Service (YDAS). Although the survey was relatively small in scale, the problems it uncovered regarding inequality for young people with a disability in the education sector appear large enough to warrant a much larger and more involved study.

The results of the survey found that young people with disabilities face startlingly high levels of both bullying and discrimination when attending a wide variety of education institutions. The manager of YDAS, Dr George Taleporos, believes that there are huge problems with the system.

For the rest of the article go to

<http://www.abc.net.au/rampup/articles/2011/07/01/3258838.htm>

### **Should children with special needs be taught in a mainstream class? – Sydney Morning Herald**

02/07/2011

THE SENATOR: SUE BOYCE

All students, irrespective of their disability, should be educated in mainstream schools. That's what inclusive education, an alleged aspiration and requirement of state and federal governments for 40 years or so, means.

All governments pay lip service to inclusive education but practice is, at best, patchy and, at times, perverted. A few years ago, the Queensland Education Department even managed to include special schools in its examples of "inclusive education", to howls of protest.

But all governments regularly include special education units in their inclusive education figures, irrespective of whether the units offer genuine educational support or function as separate "special school" islands within the mainstream school grounds.

For the rest of the article go to

<http://www.smh.com.au/opinion/society-and-culture/should-children-with-special-needs-be-taught-in-a-mainstream-class-20110701-1gv3a.html#poll>

### **Only US school can help our son**

Evonne Barry

Herald Sun June 18

A MELBOURNE family is moving to the US for "emergency education" because it believes the Victorian school system has failed their 11-year-old son.

The autistic boy is from one of at least nine families suing the Education Department through the Federal Court for discrimination and what they claim is inadequate education.

Some families say they have spent up to \$100,000 on therapy, tutoring and legal fees in their bids to get their "left behind" disabled children up to speed.

While experts warn parents their court battles could come with big financial and psychological costs, the desperate mums and dads say legal action has become a last resort.

The mother moving her family to the US next month said she sent her "severely autistic" son to three Melbourne schools before researching overseas options.

For the rest of the article go to

<http://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/more-news/only-us-school-can-help-our-son/story-fn7x8me2-1226077398320>

### **Push to label kids autistic**

A BLOWOUT in the number of autistic students attending NSW public schools has been triggered by doctors misdiagnosing children to secure extra funding.

Department of Education figures obtained by The Sunday Telegraph show that one in 74 students at state schools is autistic despite the accepted Australian prevalence being one in 160.

The state government spends more than \$1.1 billion each year on students with disabilities.

Doctors say the only way to secure extra funding for children who are borderline cases or who have learning difficulties is to stretch the diagnosis.

"Schools need labels and kids don't get funding until they have a label," said Dr Scott Dunlop from Sydney Paediatrics.

"You try to stretch things up a bit to get them into a label. Anecdotally it goes on a lot because there has been a sudden increase in autism, it is almost encouraged to prescribe the borderline cases."

For the rest of the article go to

<http://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/push-to-label-kids-autistic/story-fn6b3v4f-1226064665592>

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## **Employment News:**

### **Disability groups says jobs scheme falls short – Canberra Times**

02/06/2011

Jenna Hand

A \$1.2billion scheme aimed at helping people with disabilities find jobs is falling short of expectations as some contractors focus more on getting paid than helping their clients find sustainable work, disability groups say.

Executive officer of People with Disabilities ACT Robert Altamore said some Disability Employment Services providers referred their clients to jobs that did not accord with their interests or abilities, simply to meet program targets that generated payments.

Disability Employment Services providers can claim between \$770 and \$2618 for placing a client in work. They receive extra payments depending on how much training and support the client requires, and how long they retain the job.

Mr Altamore said providers needed to focus on building clients' skills and referring them to the most appropriate roles.

For the rest of the article go to

<http://www.canberratimes.com.au/news/local/news/general/disability-groups-says-jobs-scheme-falls-short/2213938.aspx?storypage=0>

### **Long bus wait for disabled pupils – Northern Weekly**

14/06/2011

Meagan Weymes

DISABLED students could be forced to wait 33 years until school buses are required to meet disability compliance standards.

The Review of the Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport report, released on June 3, recommended a transition to disability standards start in 2033 and be fully compliant by 2044.

The government plans to make the wider public transport system disability-compliant by 2022.

Disability advocates and community groups have slammed the recommended 2044 benchmark.

Victorian Council of Social Services CEO Cath Smith said: "I don't know why school buses should be given an extra 22 years to comply. Why add yet another barrier to a young person's physical independence?" she said.

For the rest of the article go to

<http://www.northernweekly.com.au/news/local/news/general/long-bus-wait-for-disabled-pupils/2194230.aspx>

### **Disabled pay only \$4 hour – Canberra Times**

12/06/2011

Julieaneeee Strachan

SHELTERED workshops and business services should be abolished and special schools phased out, advocates for disabled Canberra residents say.

Chief executive of the ACT Disability, Aged and Carer Advocacy Service Michael Woodhead said the work given to many disabled people kept them segregated from the rest of the community and sometimes paid as little as \$4 an hour.

"We believe that people with a disability should be in open employment or in services where they are paid real wages," he said.

"Otherwise it can be life wasting."

The Australian Bureau of Statistics issued a report this week, showing people with disabilities did not have same employment opportunities as other people.

It found that education was a factor but that people with specific restrictions aged 25-44 years who held certificates experienced markedly lower rates of employment (72 per cent) than people with no disability holding the same qualifications (89 per cent).

For the rest of the article go to

<http://www.canberratimes.com.au/news/local/news/general/disabled-pay-only-4-hour/2192514.aspx>

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## **Welfare News:**

### **Welfare-to-work reforms hit single parents and disabled – Sydney Morning Herald**

07/07/2011

Adele Horin

THERE were more losers than winners among sole parents and people with disabilities from the welfare-to-work reforms implemented by the Howard government in 2006-07.

New findings to be presented to the Australian Social Policy Conference tomorrow show among people with disabilities, there were almost 10 times as many losers as winners, and among sole parents, there were almost twice as many losers.

Peter Davidson, a PhD student at the University of NSW, has used official data to examine for the first time the financial impact of the reforms on 97,000 people with disabilities and 80,000 sole parents who applied for income support in 2006-07.

It shows the vast majority were not affected by the harsher rules because they met the eligibility criteria for the parenting payment or the disability support pension.

For the rest of the article go to

<http://www.smh.com.au/national/welfareto-work-reforms-hit-single-parents-and-disabled-20110706-1h2kw.html>

### **Medical tables to be revamped – Herald Sun**

30/06/2011

AAP

DISABILITY pensioners will be graded on what they can do rather than what they can't under impending changes to medical assessment tables.

The impairment tables used to assess a person's disability haven't been upgraded since 1993, Community Services Minister Jenny Macklin said today.

The federal government is currently undergoing a major overhaul of the tables, which includes removing some "glaring inconsistencies".

"Such as not including the benefit of a hearing aid in assessing the degree of hearing impairment but including the benefit of glasses when assessing visual impairment," Ms Macklin told an economics conference in Melbourne.

"From January next year the impairment tables used to assess the extent of disability will focus more on what a person can do rather than what they can't."

The government will also introduce legislation in parliament next week that will ensure further changes to the tables happen much more freely.

If passed, the draft laws would allow the medical tables to be updated by regulation only.

For the rest of the article go to

<http://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/breaking-news/medical-tables-to-be-revamped/story-e6frf7jx-1226085141879>

### **Helping mentally ill go back to work a win for all – Australian**

28/06/2011

Jessica Brown

WHEN asked to imagine a disability pensioner, most of us would think of someone in a wheelchair or a former tradesman with a bad back. Until now, these stereotypes have been based fairly firmly in truth. In the future, they will be much less so.

While the typical disability pensioner is an older person with a musculoskeletal condition, new data from the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs suggests in the future disability support pension recipients will be likelier to have a mental illness. Consequently, they will be much younger, too.

These changes will have profound implications for how disability pensions are designed.

About one-third of disability pensioners suffer musculoskeletal or connective tissue conditions, a figure that has remained

steady during the past decade or so. This diverse group includes people whose movement is severely restricted and who need constant assistance, as well as people with much less serious complaints including the fabled bad backs.

For the rest of the article go to

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/opinion/helping-mentally-ill-go-back-to-work-a-win-for-all/story-e6fgrg6zo-1226083036310>

### **Prove disability or go to work – Adelaide Now**

15/06/2011

Gemma Jones

A CRACKDOWN on people on the disability support pension has found tens of thousands can work.

The crackdown will affect everyone under the age of 35 who claims the pension and all new applicants.

The government will interview former employers and investigate compensation claims and work history to test applicants' eligibility for the disability pension.

Communities Minister Jenny Macklin will also reverse the onus of proof for the 40,000 people a year who try to go straight from work to the \$730-a-fortnight pension.

They will now have to prove they cannot work and will undergo a job capacity assessment.

If a person fails the assessment the Government will reject the claim and put them on the Newstart allowance, where they will have to look for a suitable job or rehabilitation program.

For the rest of the article go to

<http://www.adelaidenow.com.au/prove-disability-or-go-to-work/story-e6frea6u-1226075235069>

### **Disabled 'world's largest minority' – Sydney Morning Herald**

11/06/2011

Karen Mcveigh

THE proportion of disabled people is rising and now stands at 1 billion, accounting for 15 per cent of the world's population, according to the first official global report on disability.

An ageing population and an increase in chronic health conditions, such as cardiovascular and respiratory diseases, mean the proportion of people with disabilities has grown from an estimated 10 per cent in the 1970s.

Despite a robust disability rights movement and a shift towards inclusion, disabled people remain second-class citizens, according to a report by the World Health Organisation and the World Bank. One in five experience "significant difficulties".

Disabled people in developed countries are three times more likely to be denied healthcare than other people. Children with disabilities are less likely to start or stay in school than other children, while employment rates are at 44 per cent, compared with 75 per cent for people without disabilities in developed countries, the report found.

For the rest of the article go to

<http://www.smh.com.au/world/disabled-worlds-largest-minority-20110610-1fx19.html>

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### **International News:**

#### **Getting People with Disabilities Back to Work**

Companies and advocacy groups are stepping up efforts to provide jobs for the rising number of unemployed people with disabilities

By Rachael King

AT&T (T), Cisco Systems (CSCO), Microsoft (MSFT), and a host of other big U.S. companies will meet in November with 60 prospective employees at an event in Morristown, N.J.

This is no ordinary networking schmoozefest. These would-be staffers are capable of handling a broad range of information technology jobs—from software programming to hardware engineering. Something else these people have in common: They all have disabilities.

Career Opportunities for Students with Disabilities, affiliated with the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, convened the summit to reverse what it considers a disturbing increase in the rate of unemployment for people who are battling autism,

visual impairments, or other physical or psychological disabilities. "The point of these summits is to encourage students to see that there are employers out there seeking them, and for employers out there to know there are qualified job-seekers," says Alan Muir, executive director of the group.

Even as the disabled workforce shrank by 423,000 to about 4.9 million in the two years through May, the unemployment rate for people with disabilities increased to 15.6 percent from 13.7 percent, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, which began tracking the data in June 2008. The unemployment rate for people with no disabilities dropped to 8.5 percent from 8.9 percent in that same period.

For the rest of the article go to

<http://www.businessweek.com/technology/getting-people-with-disabilities-back-to-work-07062011.html>

### **All textbooks to go digital by 2015**

Ministry seeks to hold nationwide academic tests online

Thick textbooks weighing on students' shoulders may disappear in four years.

The government seeks to convert all paper textbooks into digital versions by 2015, the Education Ministry said Wednesday.

Using smartphones, tablet PCs and smart televisions, school students of all ages will be able to view the content of existing textbooks, ministry officials said.

The ministry also seeks to hold nationwide academic tests online, they said.

The ministry and the President's Council on Informatization Strategies reported this plan on "smart education" to President Lee Myung-bak at the presidential office of Cheong Wa Dae, they said.

For the rest of the article go to

<http://www.koreaherald.com/national/Detail.jsp?newsMLId=20110629000838>

### **More than 1 billion people, worldwide, have disabilities, study says**

A new World Health Organization report finds more than 1 billion people around the world -- or about 15% of the global population -- are living with some form of a disability. "Across the world, people with disabilities have poorer health outcomes, lower education achievements, less economic participation and higher rates of poverty than people without disabilities," WHO researchers wrote. The study is believed to be the first global study of the prevalence of disability in four decades.

For the rest of the article go to

<http://www.disabilityscoop.com/2011/06/10/15-percent-worldwide/13306/>

### **College for All' Campaign Getting a Second Look**

Some say students should also be prepared for postsecondary options that could lead to a bright future—but not necessarily a four-year degree

By Catherine Gewertz

After years of intense focus by American policy leaders and educators on college readiness, a growing chorus is calling for schools to better prepare students for futures that might not include four-year degrees.

A recent Harvard University report synthesized concerns that had long been simmering as the country's dominant education push has been to raise academic standards and make more young people into successful college students. By pressing students onto a college path, some observers wonder, are we shortchanging students whose future plans might not include a baccalaureate degree? Can we create preparation options that truly open all doors for all students?

The "Pathways to Prosperity" study, released in February, argued that job-market realities and college-completion patterns demand that schools pay more attention to the large swath of students who graduate from high school but might not earn four-year college degrees. ("Harvard Report Questions Value of 'College for All'," February 2, 2011.)

For the rest of the article go to

<http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2011/06/09/34overview.h30.html?tkn=XWOFkmhsUTPBKXIFC%2FRpcM3vXlItiM5I7OXd&cmp=clp-sb-cec>

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**Opinion:**

## **Special schools; why aren't we asking those who know? – ABC Ramp Up**

05/06/2011

Craig Wallace

Last weekend the Sydney Morning Herald published a feature article and poll asking whether students with special needs should be taught in a mainstream classrooms. It included views from The Senator, The Teacher, The Advocate, The Academic and The Parent.

Like too many discussions about disability these days it had a hole the size of a planet at its core - where was The Student or The Ex Student with a disability who actually knows first-hand what attending a special school is like?

This is one debate that could do with less heat and ideology, and more evidence and lived experience from those really in the know.

It is easy to forget that only a few years ago most students with any sort of disability had limited educational options and did not attend mainstream primary or secondary schools in Australia. And that this is still the only choice for some students with disabilities.

So it was that I attended three such special schools in the late 1970s and early 1980s before being rescued by a fantastic local Marist - late in the day with much catching up to do.

For the rest of the article go to

<http://www.abc.net.au/rampup/articles/2011/07/05/3261260.htm>

## **Toothless watchdog must be given power to tackle discrimination – Sydney Morning Herald**

22/06/2011

Dominique Allen

VICTORIA'S equal opportunity law was overhauled last year for the first time in 30 years after an extensive public consultation and an independent review. The revamped law, which comes into effect in August, would have put Victoria at the forefront of tackling discrimination in Australia.

However, the Baillieu government has instead passed amendments that will decrease the law's effectiveness.

Ever since it was prohibited in 1977, discrimination has been resolved on a case-by-case basis in Victoria, like the rest of Australia. If a woman is fired by her employer because she's pregnant, she can lodge a complaint at the Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission, resolve the issue informally with her former employer or take her case to the tribunal if settlement cannot be reached.

Whether the case is resolved informally or after expensive litigation, the woman will almost certainly receive a compensation payment. The employer may learn from this experience and not fire the next pregnant employee. But the employer may not learn, so the next woman and the woman after may have to lodge a discrimination complaint.

For the rest of the article go to

<http://www.smh.com.au/opinion/society-and-culture/toothless-watchdog-must-be-given-power-to-tackle-discrimination-20110621-1gddj.html>

## **Don't be quick to judge the 'shirkers'**

Graeme Innes

The Daily Telegraph

June 17,

SEVERAL weeks ago this newspaper noted that there were more people receiving the disability support pension than Australians who had been injured in all wars. They were dubbed workers and shirkers.

So let's unmask three of those "shirkers" - a term I would never use to describe people with disability.

Firstly, Kristen who was born with a condition that makes her bones very small and brittle. She has a degree in journalism and during the past two years has applied for 90 jobs. The first couple of dozen were for journalism-related work. The next 15 or so for other writing jobs. After that, anything.

She has great keyboard and computer skills, but - assuming she can even access the interview venue - when employers see her in her wheelchair she's never "the best applicant".

Secondly, there's Norm who lives with his wife and two grown-up kids in King's Langley. He trained as a mechanic in the army before he went to Vietnam. He came back with post-traumatic stress disorder and has chronic back pain from lifting heavy equipment.

For the rest of the article go to

<http://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/news/opinion/dont-be-quick-to-judge-the-shirkers/story-e6frezz0-1226076610519>

## **When it comes to disability reform, cut out the middle men – Sydney Morning Herald**

15/06/2011

Vern Hughes

Twenty years ago it was widely believed that indigenous disadvantage in Australia could be overcome by throwing money at the problem and trusting the country's bureaucrats to get on and fix it.

Today a similar fantasy surrounds reform in disability: if only more money could be given to services and a single national bureaucracy could replace the states and the Commonwealth, everything would be fine.

The reality is very different. No one in Australia believes any more that indigenous demoralisation can be solved with simply more money or more services. But the disability services industry and the Productivity Commission still seem to think these measures will do the job for the 20 per cent of Australians with a disability and their families.

The Productivity Commission's draft report on disability care and support, released in February, recommended a pooling of existing Commonwealth and state disability funding (a total of \$6.2 billion a year) to be administered by a new Canberra quango, a national disability insurance agency. This money would then be reallocated by the Commonwealth to people with disabilities. It also recommended doubling funding for disability support - that is, increased by an additional \$6.3 billion each year.

<http://www.smh.com.au/opinion/politics/when-it-comes-to-disability-reform-cut-out-the-middle-men-20110614-1g1pr.html>

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## **Conferences and Workshops:**

### **AND UPCOMING PUBLIC TRAINING SESSIONS**

The AND training calendar can be found <http://www.and.org.au/content/view/420/44/>

Upcoming DISABILITY CONFIDENCE sessions:

- Melbourne 26 July 2011
- Sydney 24 August 2011

Upcoming MENTAL HEALTH sessions:

- Canberra 16 August 2011
- Sydney 23 August 2011

Upcoming Managing Disability in the Workplace sessions:

- Canberra 17 August 2011
- Perth 22 September 2011

The next Mental Health & Workplace Wellbeing will be in Canberra on 16 August, with another session in Sydney on 23 August.

## **Accessing the Future... Assistive Technology in Education and Employment Conference**

7 - 9 December 2011

Hunter Valley Crowne Plaza

It will be a 3 day Conference with pre-conference workshops, a full day of assistive technology workshops similar to our usual offerings, and a day focussing on learning disability - theory, practice, and technology.

Day 1: Pre-Conference Workshops

Day 2: Assistive Technology Conference

Day 3: Learning Disability in Education and Employment - Practice, Theory & Technology

Registration opens soon

For more information go to <http://www.newcastle.edu.au/service/ndco/technology-forums/>

You can find the Facebook page with the latest information at

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Accessing-the-Future-Conference/101884203233307>

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## NSW Events:

### Post School Transition Planning Forums

Date: Wednesday 10th August

Times: Session One 3.30pm - 5.30pm or Session Two 6pm - 8pm

Venue: Dougherty Community Centre Auditorium, 7 Victor Street, Chatswood

Parents, carers and school staff are invited to attend an information session on preparing and planning for life after school for students with a disability.

The focus of the forum includes the following:

- Planning the process of transition from school to adult life
- How to make informed choices about the future
- Education and training options available
- Employment services and other programs available
- Financial assistance and government guidelines
- How funding works and the levels allocated

The forum will feature guest speakers from Ageing, Disability and Home Care (ADHC), Centrelink and TAFE.

The forum will be run twice, with the first session been 3.30pm - 5.30pm followed by a half-hour break and then the second repeated session 6pm - 8pm.

For further information and registration details please go to: <http://ndco.cds.org.au/index.php/post-school-transition-planning-forums> You need to register to attend this event.

Supported by Willoughby City Council, Hills Schools Industry Partnership and National Disability Coordination Officer, North Sydney and Central Coast.

### 2011 Careers Forum: Your career. Your future.

Navigating the journey to employment for students with disability

When: Tuesday 6th September 2011

9.30 am -5pm (registrations from 9am)

Where: The Law Building, University of New South Wales

What: A forum for all currently enrolled University students in NSW/ACT with a disability who are considering their career pathways.

The event will be free and promises to be inspiring and informative.

For further information and registration details please go to: <http://ndco.cds.org.au/index.php/uni> You need to register to attend this event.

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## Calls for Expressions of Interest and Input:

### Nominate now for the National Disability Awards – closing 29 July 2011

The National Disability Awards recognise and highlight the progress towards and benefits of breaking down the barriers faced by people with disability.

The Awards recognise people with disability who have achieved something remarkable or made a significant contribution to their community, and people or groups within the community who have contributed to the disability sector or improved access and inclusion.

The 2011 National Disability Award categories are aligned with the National Disability Strategy policy areas, a 10 year strategy to improve the lives of people with disability, families and carers.

You will feel terrific if the individual or organisation that you nominate receives a National Award.

The nomination form and process has been made simpler this year and it should only take 10 minutes of your time.

Just being nominated is a way of recognising the work that people and organisations are doing for access and inclusion.

There are seven Award categories:

1. Minister's Lifelong Achievement Award
2. Young Disability Challenge Award
3. Business Award
4. Local Government Award
5. Social Inclusion Award
6. Inclusive and Accessible Communities Award
7. Health and Wellbeing Award

The National Disability Awards are part of the Australian Government's celebration of International Day of People with Disability and Nican are taking a leadership role in the Day for the community during 2011.

Nominations close 5.00pm AEST Friday 29 July 2011.

To nominate yourself or someone you know, visit [www.idpwd.com.au](http://www.idpwd.com.au) or call 1800 440 385.

### **Disability Education and Employment News Survey**

Help us to improve the quality of the news.

The purpose of the survey is to quantify and qualify the impact of the newsletter; find what works and what doesn't; and how to improve the overall experience of the reader.

Please follow the below link and complete the short Questionnaire which should take you between 5 to 10 minutes.

[http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/DEE\\_Newsletter\\_Survey](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/DEE_Newsletter_Survey)

### **Accessing the Future Conference - Expression of Interest to Attend - 7-9 December 2011**

To organise the best possible program and experience for delegates, could you please complete this short EOI so we can keep you in the loop during the planning of this Inclusive Technology and Learning Disability 3-day Conference.

We intend to offer stand-alone days (but a full experience will be had by attending all 3 days)... day 1 pre-conference workshops, day 2 full program on inclusive technology, day 3 focussing on learning disability - theory, practice and technology. Day 2 will also offer a large inclusive technology expo which will be open to the public.

The expression of interest can be found at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ATFeoj>

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### **Scholarships:**

#### **2011 Print Disability Scholarship Program and Seniors Grant!**

We are now open for applications to the 2011 Print Disability Scholarship Program and Seniors Grant!

The inability to read affects people from all walks of life. From young children in school to older people at home, having a print disability impacts on the daily lives of individuals in unique and fundamental ways.

Accessibility is critical for people with a print disability and to build awareness of the ways in which alternative information needs can be met, Quantum introduces the new Print Disability Scholarship Program and Seniors Grant.

This Program will feature a range of new prizes, including electronic magnifiers, text-to-speech devices and portable DAISY players. We invite applicants to tell us how having a print disability has impacted your life.

Applications close **Friday 25th November 2011.**

[Click here to read more about the Program and to download an application form](#)

<http://www.quantumrlv.com.au/2011-Scholarship-Program-and-Seniors-Grant>

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### **Studies and Research:**

#### **Education and training and the avoidance of financial disadvantage**

Experiencing financial hardship is detrimental to both individuals and the community. For some, trying to break out of this situation can be extremely difficult as they may not have access to, or be lacking, the skills or resources that could help. However, education can help with research showing increasing the level of education and training is an effective means of reducing the likelihood of experiencing financial disadvantage. Using data from the Household, Income and Labour

Dynamics in Australia survey this study looks at how having post-school qualifications may protect someone from falling into, and help get out of, financial disadvantage. Using four measures of financial disadvantage, the study finds that post-school qualifications to reduce the risk of experiencing financial disadvantage but to varying degrees.

<http://www.ncver.edu.au/publications/2375.html>

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## **Publication:**

### **From education to employment: how long does it take?**

As Australia's population ages and much of the current workforce heads to retirement, making a smooth transition to the workforce becomes imperative for young people. Using the 1995 cohort of the Longitudinal Surveys of Australian Youth, this project examines how long it takes for young people to move from education to work, and identifies factors that distinguish people who are able to move quickly into employment from those who take many months to find work. The report finds that, compared to their better educated peers, young people who do not finish Year 12 take significantly longer to get a job.

<http://www.lsay.edu.au/publications/2373.html>

### **Tertiary education and training in Australia 2009**

Sourcing data from the National VET Provider Collection and the Higher Education Statistics Collection, this publication provides a summary of participation in tertiary education and training in Australia. It covers participation in Australian Qualifications Framework certificate I qualifications through to doctorates by research, as well as enrolments in a single vocational subject. Information is presented on students and on equivalent full-time students.

<http://www.ncver.edu.au/publications/2385.html>

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## **New Resources:**

### **Apps for Literacy Support**

Greg O'Connor from Spectronics has created a list of Apps for iPad and iPod Touch/iPhone that support the literacy needs of people who struggle with reading and writing. Included in the list are Apps to support reading text, writing, note taking, organisation and study.

<http://www.spectronicsinoz.com/article/apps-for-literacy-support>

### **Schools Event calendar.**

The NSW schools event calendar can be found at <http://www.mhscareers.com/Calendar.html>

For information on events and activities for high school careers advisers, students and parents around Australia.

### **Next round of Quantum Webinar sessions**

We will be begin hosting our next series of webinars next week. We will be showcasing our newest and most popular assistive technology devices as well as demonstrating how such devices can be integrated with the latest devices from Apple.

The advantage of our webinars, or web-based seminars, is that you can participate in a live training session with our presenter from the comfort of your office or home.

These webinars are aimed at students, educators and parents who would like to know more about how assistive technology can help people who have a print disability (Low Vision, Blindness, and Learning Disability) in the classroom or workplace.

Products featured in the series will include: JAWS Screen-Reading software for Windows, the PLEXTALK Pocket (DAISY player and recorder), the Focus 40 Blue braille display, and NEW sessions on using Apple devices with assistive technology.

The sessions will run for 30-40 minutes with an opportunity for Q&A from participants.

Presentations will be made by our Software Specialists, Scott Erichsen and Danny Keogh.

Please take a look at the upcoming Program on our website by visiting this link:

<http://www.quantumrlv.com.au/QUANTUM-WEBINARS>

Since many educators experienced difficulty in logging in to the service during the last round of webinars, we are now also offering one-on-one sessions for individuals via Skype.

To express your interest in attending these sessions and to book your space, please email us at [info@quantumrlv.com.au](mailto:info@quantumrlv.com.au) or call us on 02 9479 3100

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## Media Releases:

### **TITLE: University graduate employment outcomes remain strong**

PORTFOLIO: Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

URL: [http://www.deewr.gov.au/ministers/evans/media/releases/pages/article\\_110705\\_155138.aspx](http://www.deewr.gov.au/ministers/evans/media/releases/pages/article_110705_155138.aspx)

SNIPPET: A report released today by Graduate Careers Australia shows that Australian university graduate outcomes remain strong, with more than 91percent of bachelor degree graduates finding employment within four months of finishing their degree, according to Minister for Tertiary Education, SenatorChrisEvans. The Graduate Destinations 2010 report states that 76.2percent of 2009 bachelor degree graduates had found full-time employment and a further 15.1percent secured part-time work within four months.. As a direct result we have seen close to 100,000 additional students grasp the opportunity of a university education since 2007.

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## To Subscribe:

We hope that this edition of Disability Education and Employment News has been of interest.

If you wish to have the Disability Education and Employment News e-mail to you send an e-mail to [t.hart@sydney.edu.au](mailto:t.hart@sydney.edu.au) with "Subscribe Disability Education and Employment News" in the subject line.

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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](mailto: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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