



# Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

## Disability Education and Employment News: No. 9, Vol 8.

Dear all, I would like to take this opportunity and thank you for your ongoing patronage of the disability education and employment news and wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

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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### Conferences and Workshops:

iPads in Education Workshops coming to a town near you in March/April 2013

When and Where?

- Brisbane - Thursday 7th March 2013
- Cairns - Monday 11th March 2013
- Sydney - Wednesday 13th March 2013
- Melbourne - Friday 15th March 2013
- Adelaide - Monday 17th March 2013
- Perth - Wednesday 20th and Thursday 21st March 2013
- Hobart - Thursday 11th April 2013

What's covered in the program for this fast-paced information-packed day?

- Customising the iPad to accommodate the needs of diverse learners.
- Adding content to your iPads to support students in special ed classrooms.
- Adding content to your iPads to support students with learning support needs in mainstream classrooms.
- Adding content to your iPads to support students with an autism spectrum disorder (ASD).
- Creating customised content on iPads: Students and teachers as authors.
- Don't throw the baby out with the bathwater! The place for other technologies in your classroom toolkit.

- Taking your learning further ... today is just the beginning!

For more information go to <https://www.spectronicsinoz.com/register/form/ipad-tour-2013-australia-and-new-zealand>

### **Conference: Round Table 2013**

Each year the Round Table runs a conference to facilitate and influence the production and use of quality alternative formats for people with print disabilities. Conferences showcase examples of best practice in the provision of accessible information to people with a print disability in the workplace and the community centre, including businesses, agencies, tertiary institutions, libraries, Commonwealth, State and local government.

Digital Literacy: Making the World Accessible

Venue: Sydney, New South Wales, Australia

Date: Saturday 25th to Tuesday 28th May 2013

Planning for the 2013 Round Table Conference in Sydney has begun. If you would like to influence the conference content and format please complete the conference survey (will take about 5 minutes).

Round Table website: <http://www.e-bility.com/roundtable/conference.php>

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### **Calls for Expressions of Interest and Input:**

#### **Discussion Paper: Improving Employment Participation of People with Disability.**

Details from the website:

- The discussion paper canvasses public views on how to best achieve reform, including how to:
- promote and improve equality for people with disability in employment and in the workplace
- support employers to identify and remove barriers to the full and equal participation of people with disability in the workforce, in recognition of the disadvantaged position of people with disability in relation to employment matters
- promote among employers the elimination of discrimination on the basis of a person's disability
- foster workplace consultation between employers and employees on issues concerning people with disability in employment and in the workplace
- improve the productivity and competitiveness of Australian business through the advancement of people with disability in the workplace.

The Government would like to hear from interested parties including:

- people with disability, their families, carers and community representatives
- employers – large and small and employer representatives
- current Employment Service Providers
- state and local governments
- the Australian Council of Trade Unions and unions.

The discussion paper and details for submissions is available here:

<http://deewr.gov.au/Employment/ResearchStatistics/Pages/Changingemployerattitudetowardspeoplewithdisability.aspx>

A media release is available here: <http://ministers.deewr.gov.au/shorten/tackling-bias-towards-people-disability>

Submissions close 15 February 2013.

### **Disability Standards for Education Survey**

We invite you to participate in an online survey. The purpose of the survey is to assess the learning needs of educators in relation to the Disability Standards for Education (DSE). Responses to the survey will help the development of an e-learning resource about the Disability Standards for Education, which will be available to Australian schools in 2013.

The survey will close at midnight on Friday 21 December. Access details are as follows:

If you are parent/carers, please go to: [https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/DSEparents\\_carers](https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/DSEparents_carers)

If you are a principal/ education leader, please go to: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/DSEeducationleaders>

If you are a teacher or allied health professional, please go to:

[https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/DSEteachers\\_alliedhealth\\_EC](https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/DSEteachers_alliedhealth_EC)

The survey is part of research which has the approval of the University of Canberra Committee for Ethics in Human

Research. Your responses to the survey will remain anonymous and no school or system will be identified in any subsequent analyses or reports.

If you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact Dr Sarah Macneil by emailing [theeducationinstitute@canberra.edu.au](mailto:theeducationinstitute@canberra.edu.au) [please include DSE SURVEY in the subject line].

## **THE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY AFFAIRS**

Legislation Committee

Inquiry into the National Disability Insurance Scheme Bill 2012

On 29 November 2012 the Senate referred the above inquiry to the Community Affairs Legislation Committee for inquiry and report by 13 March 2013. The Bill and accompanying documents can be accessed at:

[http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary\\_Business/Bills\\_Legislation/Bills\\_Search\\_Results/Result?bld=r4946](http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Bills_Legislation/Bills_Search_Results/Result?bld=r4946)

The Committee invites you to provide a written submission addressing issues that may be of relevance to you. The Committee would appreciate your submission to be lodged by 25 January 2013. Please contact the secretariat if you wish to make a submission but are unable to do so by this date.

The Committee prefers to receive submissions online as an attached document by accessing the committee website and selecting the Upload Submission Online link at <https://senate.aph.gov.au/submissions/pages/logon.aspx>. Alternatively, submissions may be emailed as an attached document to [community.affairs.sen@aph.gov.au](mailto:community.affairs.sen@aph.gov.au) or by hard copy to the address below.

Submissions become Committee documents and are made public only after a decision by the Committee. Publication of submissions includes loading them onto the internet and making them available to other interested parties including the media. Persons making submissions must not release them without the approval of the Committee. Submissions are covered by parliamentary privilege but the unauthorised release of them is not protected. Information relating to Senate Committee inquiries, including notes to assist in the preparation of submissions can be located on the Internet at [http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/wit\\_sub/index.htm](http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/wit_sub/index.htm)

The Committee will consider all submissions, and may invite individuals and organisations to give evidence at public hearings.

PO Box 6100, Parliament House Canberra ACT 2600 Tel: (02) 6277 3515 Fax: (02) 6277 5829

Email: [community.affairs.sen@aph.gov.au](mailto:community.affairs.sen@aph.gov.au) Internet: [http://www.aph.gov.au/senate\\_ca](http://www.aph.gov.au/senate_ca)

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### **Publication:**

#### **Does part-time work at school impact on going to university?**

Combining school study with part-time or casual work is an increasing trend for Australian high school students. This report looks at the impact working while studying has on students' intentions to go to university and their actual enrolment in university. Using data from LSAY Y98, the authors find that combining some work with study does not affect the intention to enrol in university, or change the likelihood of enrolling, but working intensively does reduce the chances of going to university, especially for girls. They also find that school peers appear to play a role in students' study and work choices, with students more likely to combine study and work if a higher proportion of their school mates do so.

<http://www.ncver.edu.au/publications/2539.html>

#### **Entry to vocations: the efficacy of VET in Schools**

This report explores the relationship between vocational education and training in (VET) in Schools and the labour market. Four models of VET in Schools are used to establish how VET in Schools is conceptualised and how occupational and further VET study outcomes are maximised. Interviews and surveys with stakeholders also consider how VET in Schools can be strengthened. Overall, VET in Schools does not provide a strong link to direct employment as it is generally undertaken at certificate I and II level and does not contain enough workplace learning. Instead, VET in Schools may be better placed as a pathway to further vocational study. This work is part of the three-year research program Vocations: the link between post compulsory education and the labour market.

<http://www.ncver.edu.au/publications/2567.html>

**Young People: Australian vocational education and training statistics: young people in education and training 2011**

This publication provides a summary of statistics relating to young people aged 15 to 19 years who participated in an education and training activity during 2011. Information of participation is presented for school students, VET in Schools students, higher education students, apprentices and trainees, and other VET students. Data tables containing state and territory breakdowns of the report can be accessed from the data tab.

<http://www.ncver.edu.au/publications/2580.html>

### **Student outcomes survey: Student outcomes 2012**

Information about the outcomes for students who completed their vocational education and training (VET) during 2011 is presented in this publication. The figures are derived from the Student Outcomes Survey, which focuses on students' employment outcomes and satisfaction with VET in Australia. Information about the level and type of training students undertake, further study patterns and reasons for not continuing with the training (where applicable) is also collected.

<http://www.ncver.edu.au/statistic/publications/2572.html>

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### **New Resources:**

#### **Headspace School Support**

Headspace School Support is a new initiative funded by the Federal Government, Department of Health and Ageing, that provides support to secondary schools affected by a suicide.

The service is flexible and is designed to respond to the individual needs of schools. Support is provided by working with relevant education bodies, local headspace Centres and other service providers.

How can headspace School Support help?

- Schools can access a variety of services including:
- National 1800 number and email support for all Australian secondary schools affected by suicide
- Response co-ordination following a suicide or suicide attempt
- Staff and parent information sessions
- Evidence based resources, including a range of fact sheets <http://www.headspace.org.au/what-works/school-support/resources>
- Comprehensive postvention toolkit - A practical guide to assist schools in their response following a suicide
- Secondary and tertiary consultation
- Assistance with critical incident review
- Education and training related to suicide
- Media liaison and advice

headspace School Support recognises the long-term impact associated with suicide and can offer support to schools communities both the immediate and long term if required.

- Call us on 1800 688 248
  - Or email [schoolsupport@headspace.org.au](mailto:schoolsupport@headspace.org.au)
- <http://www.headspace.org.au/what-works/school-support>

#### **New website to help ease the return-to-work process after mental health-related absence**

A new website has been launched that is designed to help anyone in the process of returning to work after absence due to depression, an anxiety disorder or a related mental health problem. It focuses on actions that employers, employees, colleagues, family and friends can take to ensure that returning to work is successful and that the risk of relapse is lower.

The website provides advice on how to help people who experience depression or an anxiety disorder to recover and have productive working lives. For many people, staying at work plays a critical role in recovery. For those who do take time off, the website can provide guidance on how to best handle the return-to-work process.

<http://www.returntowork.net.au> has been developed by a group of researchers in the Population Mental Health Group <http://pmhg.unimelb.edu.au/> at The University of Melbourne with support from an expert Advisory Panel <http://www.returntowork.net.au/returntoworknetau-advisory-panel>. The content is based on the PDF Guidelines for helping employees successfully return to work following depression, anxiety or a related mental health problem <http://www.returntowork.net.au/sites/default/files/Return%20to%20work%20after%20mental%20illness%20guidelines.pdf>. The development of the site was funded by beyondblue <http://www.beyondblue.org.au> under the Victorian Centre of

Excellence in Depression and Related Disorders research grant scheme.

### **Plain English explanation of NDIS**

[http://www.pc.gov.au/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0007/111400/disability-support-easy-english.pdf](http://www.pc.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0007/111400/disability-support-easy-english.pdf)

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### **Media Releases:**

#### **Media Release: Tackling Bias Towards People with Disability**

Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations Bill Shorten today launched public consultation on proposals to boost employment participation for people with disability. Policy reform that examines ways to increase employment participation and eliminate workplace discrimination for people with disability is part of a major discussion paper titled: Improving Employment Participation of People with Disability.

The discussion paper seeks public views on how to best achieve reform, including:

- Improving equality for people with disability in employment and in the workplace;
- Promoting among employers the elimination of discrimination on the basis of a person's disability; and
- Improving the productivity and competitiveness of Australian business through the advancement of people with disability in the workplace.

Further information on the discussion paper findings can also be found at the following link.

<http://ndoch.govspace.gov.au/archives/2313>

#### **TITLE: Tackling bias towards people with disability | Ministers**

PORTFOLIO: Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

URL: <http://www.ministers.deewr.gov.au/shorten/tackling-bias-towards-people-disability>

SNIPPET: Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations Bill Shorten today launched public consultation on proposals to boost employment participation for people with disability. However, the labour force participation rate of people without disability is 82 per cent and only 54 per cent for people with disability. Improving equality for people with disability in employment and in the workplace.

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### **To Subscribe:**

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

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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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