Merry Christmas and Happy New Year


This is the final Disability Education and Employment News for 2010. We look forward to bringing it to you again in 2011. Merry Christmas and happy New Year to you all and your families.

In this Disability Education and Employment News, we have information on a number of scholarships for students with a disability, some of next year’s conferences and a information day for those with low vision or blindness between 17 and 25 years. Plus further information on other Resources, Conferences and Workshops, News articles and other information for the Disability Education, Training and Employment Sectors.

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

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

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Education News:
Exclusive school admits discrimination – Australian
22/12/2010
Debbie Guest
AN exclusive Perth girls school has been forced to admit it discriminated against an autistic student who was denied a trained aide.
The lack of the aide meant the child missed nine months of schooling.
In a case believed to be the first of its kind in Australia, Methodist Ladies College in Perth's wealthy western suburbs has had to apologise to parents Andrew and Mandy Mason after they took the school to the Federal Court and secured a settlement in their favour.
"This is a great victory to show that the discrimination act works and it protects the most vulnerable in our society, young children who don't have a voice themselves," Mrs Mason said.
"Hopefully it will inspire other parents to look further into what they're entitled to at school."

**Employment News:**
Labor plans revamp of job services program – Australian
10/12/2010
Patricia Karvelas
THE government is overhauling the job placement program to give mature-age people better access to jobs and help the long-term unemployed.
The Employment Minister, Kate Ellis, has written to job agencies telling them she wants their ideas on how to redesign the system in time for next year's budget, with new contracts to be rolled out in 2012.
But she has told them not to expect more government funding for the program.
"In considering future refinements, the government must be mindful of the broader fiscal environment," she said in a letter sent to job agency bosses yesterday.
"The government is committed to returning the Australian budget to surplus by 2012-13.
"Hence, employment service policy changes will need to be tightly targeted."

Federal government funding review considers major changes – Australian
17/12/2010
Justine Ferrari
SCHOOLS would receive a common funding amount for every student under changes being investigated by the school funding review.
The federal government's review would also consider providing extra money for students from disadvantaged backgrounds or with disabilities.
An issues paper released yesterday by the review, which is headed by businessman David Gonski, who is also chairman of Sydney Grammar School, discusses the need for a complete overhaul of the way schools are funded by governments to make arrangements "fair, simple and clear".
The paper implicitly questions the efficacy of the existing funding arrangements for private schools that allocates money based on the socio-economic status of the school community, noting that about half of all non-government schools receive more than their entitlement.
**Welfare News:**

**A job must pay better than handouts – Australian**

14/12/2010

Peter Saunders

THE British government is taking a gamble with its welfare to work program.

BRITAIN’S Coalition government has embarked on the biggest shake-up of welfare benefits since World War II. Aimed at encouraging some of the five million working-age welfare claimants into jobs, the policy consists of four linked strands.

First, following Australia’s example of the Job Network, employment services are being contracted out to businesses and charities. They will be paid according to how many people they get off benefits and into work.

Second, addressing a problem that no government across the world has yet been able to solve, independent assessors are re-examining everybody on welfare who claims to be disabled. It will take three years to work through the list. Claimants found to be potentially capable of working are being referred to Work Program advisers who will develop a personalised plan to get them into employment. Early indications are that more than half of those on incapacity benefits will end up being reclassified.

For the rest of the article go to


**International News:**

**Rise of the iKids: Schools test iPads in classrooms**

By Bruce Newman

Before, during and even between classes at Hillbrook School this fall, seventh-graders have been spotted on the Los Gatos campus, sometimes burbling Spanish or Mandarin phrases into the glowing screen in their hands, other times staring into it like a looking glass.

iPads -- the Apple of almost every adolescent's eye -- are being provided to students at several Bay Area public and private schools this year, including Hillbrook, which claims to be the only K-8 school in America using tablet computers in class and sending them home. This has led to a lot of 12-year-olds swanning around the wooded hillside campus, talking to their iPads.

Summoning up a virtual keyboard recently, Sophie Greene quickly typed a note to herself in iCal, a calendar program, then played back an audio file in which she was speaking Spanish. "We record a conversation, e-mail it to our teacher, Señorita Kelly," she explained, "then she critiques the lesson in Spanish and sends that back to us."

For the 28 seventh-graders entrusted with iPads at Hillbrook, the pictures that flash across the device's screen open a window to a wider world. The iPad allows them to take daily excursions across time and space to such exotic ports as ancient Mesopotamia and modern China.

The only drawback is that with their assignments all composed on iPads, the one excuse that no longer works for Hillbrook's seventh-graders is, "The dog ate my homework."

For the rest of the article go to


**Conferences and Workshops:**

**NDS NSW Annual State Conference: Walk the Talk... Together. Monday 14 and Tuesday 15 February 2011**

Registrations now open!

For more than ten years, the highly regarded annual NDS NSW State Conference has become the policy centrepiece for disability service CEOs, managers and frontline staff in NSW.

The NDS NSW 2011 State Conference, Walk the Talk... Together, focuses on key themes of partnership - partnership with mainstream services, with government, with specialist disability service providers, with families and carers, and most importantly with people with disability.

Keynote speakers include:

- The Hon. Kristina Keneally MP, NSW Premier
- Barry O'Farrell MP, Leader of the Opposition
- Dr Ken Baker, Chief Executive, National Disability Services
As with our past State Conferences, disability service CEOs, managers, staff and board members will find much benefit in attending. Government staff will also find the conference program rewarding. We look forward to meeting with the disability services sector - members, non-members, government and other peak agencies at this special event in February.

Venue: Swissotel Sydney, 68 Market Street, Sydney
Contact Information:
Julie Walton, Conference & Events Manager, NDS National, Ph 02 9256 3115, julie.walton@nds.org.au

**NDS National Disability and Carer Congress 2011**
National Disability and Carer Congress 2011 will be held on 2-3 May 2011 at Etihad Stadium, Melbourne.

National Disability and Carer Congress: Make Every Australian Count represents a not to be missed opportunity to examine, analyse, debate and discuss the proposal for a National Disability Insurance Scheme. The conference will examine the interim report on Disability Care and Support released by the Productivity Commission, hear from international experts regarding developments in disability policy around the world, and, most importantly, feature the hopes for reform of people with a disability, their families and carers. Attendees will also have the chance to hear what our elected representatives believe needs to be done to better support people with a disability, their families and carers in the community. The time has come for transformational change - come along and hear what the future holds for people with a disability their families and carers and the organisations that support them in this country.

Registration is due to open in February 2011.

For sponsorship, exhibition or advertising opportunities, please contact Julie Walton on 02 9256 3115 or julie.walton@nds.org.au.


**National Conference “Raising the Bar”**
AND will be holding a two day National Conference on 10th and 11th May 2011, at Dockside, Cockle Bay Wharf, Sydney.
Stay tuned for more details next year!

**2011 Disability and Communication Stream,**
Australian and New Zealand Communications Association Conference,
University of Waikato, NZ,
July 6-8

ANZCA is a professional association for researchers and teachers in the multiple diverse fields of communication. Research students are encouraged and supported to take advantage of formal and informal mentoring opportunities afforded by participation in the conference and other activities of the association.

This year the stream theme is ‘(Dis)ability, diversity, difference: Shifting boundaries and identities’. We will be running a minimum of two streams and invite submissions that include, but are not restricted to:

- **Empirical research from diverse perspectives including communication, cultural theory, media, journalism, public relations, marketing, disability studies and fields of inquiry that incorporate disability and communication in theorisation, service delivery, policy and practice.**
- **Creative practice and representation through diverse modes including all genres of writing, poetry and poesis, photography, film and documentary, visual, moving and performance art, mobile and multi-media, (auto)biography, storytelling, memory-work, sound and soundscapes.**

‘Disability’ is used in a broad sense and incorporates a diverse range of issues. To open and extend discussion, the stream encourages submissions based on a broad range of interpretations, provocations, critique, reflection, narrative
and conversation that explore the ways that disability and communication intersect with gender, sex and sexualities, 'race' and ethnicity, Indigeneity, 'class', socio-economic status, age, affect, health, space/place and culture.

Please contact myself or Gerard Goggin if you would like to discuss any aspect of the stream:

Gerard Goggin (g.goggin@unsw.edu.au)
Cassandra Loeser (cassandra.loeser@unisa.edu.au)

Asia Pacific Autism Conference
Perth Australia
8-10 September 2011
www.apac11.org
"Creating and Inspiring the Future"
Register before 1 February 2011 to take advantage of the large discounts offered with this pre-Early Bird Registration.
(Full Registration) only $950.00
(Family Members, Pension Cardholders, Full-time Students) only $550.00
The Web Hot Special is available to online registrations only. Please visit our website today at www.apac11.org and click on the ‘Register’ tab to book your place for the Asia Pacific Autism Conference 2011.

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NSW Events:
SELF ADVOCACY SPEAKING OUT FOR YOUR NEEDS AND GETTING RESULTS
Are you blind or have low vision and aged between 17 and 25 years? Would you like to learn the skills of self advocacy or improve on your self advocacy skills you have now?
Vision Australia is holding a 1 day workshop to introduce you to the skills of self advocacy for study, or work, or even to benefit your broader life in the community as a person who is blind or has low vision.
In conjunction with other peers who, like you, are blind or have low vision, this workshop offers you the chance in an easygoing environment to:
• Learn how to identify your needs and effectively express them;
• Know what you have a right to expect both legally and by common practice;
• Feel more comfortable with disclosing your blindness or low vision when necessary or to your advantage;
• Experience the benefit of communication with peers who are blind or have low vision;
• Learn what tools are available for you in study, work and life, which will help with written and oral communication; and
• Identify the kinds of skills that will stand you in good stead for future life.
The workshop will combine speakers with group and panel discussions together with practice in life scenarios, as well as the chance to socialise and make new friends or contacts.
The details of the workshop are as follows:
Location: Vision Australia, 4 Mitchell Street Enfield
Date: Friday 11 February 2011
Starting: 8:30AM for 9:00 start
Finishing: 4:30PM
RSVP date: Friday 28 January 2011
If you or a friend are interested in joining us for this workshop, or if you have a child, student or client you think may be interested, please RSVP to:
Susan Thompson, on telephone: (02) 9334 3425 or Sue Crane on telephone: (02) 9334-3135
Bus transport is available from Strathfield railway station leaving at 8:20AM sharp. The bus will leave from Everton Street (on the Parramatta Road side) nearest platform 1.
**Scholarships:**

**The ‘ParaQuad NSW Scholarships 2011’ for people with a spinal cord injury**

ParaQuad is proud to announce ParaQuad NSW Scholarships for 2011. The available Scholarships are:

1) The ParaQuad NSW Scholarships, established through a gift from a generous ParaQuad donor,
2) The ParaQuad NSW – Golden Stave Foundation Scholarships, established through the generosity of The Golden Stave Foundation

ParaQuad is now accepting applications for the 2011 Scholarships for people with a spinal cord injury residing in NSW/ACT.

The intent of the scholarship program is to award potential applicants attending school, college or pursuing post-secondary trade, technical, or vocational training, an amount of up to $5,000 each as scholarships.

The scholarships are aimed at easing the financial burden of obtaining the necessary education to secure future employment and independence. This program is an opportunity to make a positive difference for young Australians living with a spinal cord injury as well as their families.

If you're interested in applying for this scholarship, or would like to help ParaQuad provide this outstanding opportunity to as many people with a spinal cord injury as possible, please log on to www.paraquad.org.au. All the details are available under Community Services/Scholarships. You could also help by distributing this announcement to prospective scholarship candidates.

To apply:

Students can download a Scholarship Application Form and the Guidelines from ParaQuad’s website www.paraquad.org.au/CommunityServices/Scholarships.aspx. A mailed copy of these documents can also be obtained by making a request on scholarships@paraquad.org.au.

**Woolworths Scholarship 2011**

Woolworths Limited and MGSM making a difference!

As part of Woolworths Limited's ongoing commitment to diversity, the company has partnered with Macquarie Graduate School of Management (MGSM) to offer the Woolworths Scholarship.

Applications are now open for eligible applicants within the retail industry to complete the MGSM Postgraduate Certificate in Management or contribute significantly to the Postgraduate Diploma, Master of Management or MBA programs.

The Scholarship will be awarded to the best qualified applicant taking into consideration a demonstrated commitment to a career in the retail industry and the selection criteria.

To be eligible you must meet the following essential criteria:

- Must have either an undergraduate degree or 3-5 years relevant work experience and commitment to a career in the Retail Industry

Woolworths is committed to providing a work environment that is inclusive and respects diversity and as such applicants will be viewed favourably if they meet the following desirable criteria:

- Indigenous background
- Disability
- A demonstrated capacity to triumph over hardship.

Submissions are now open for the 2011 application round.

To find out more about these award programs and for full details on the Woolworth's Scholarship, including application forms, go to www.mgsm.edu.au/wows

Contact info@mgsm.edu.au or call +61 2 9850 9017

MGSM application closing dates:
26 November 2010 for Term 1 2011 Start;
25 February 2011 for Term 2 Start.

For more information go to http://www.mgsm.edu.au/wps/wcm/connect/Internet/Root/alumni/awards/scholarships/woolworths-scholarship

**The Gregory and Dolores Farrell Scholarships**

For Students Who Use a Wheelchair for Mobility

Undertaking Tertiary Education

In New South Wales in 2011
The Gregory and Dolores Farrell Scholarships are supported by the family of the late Gregory and Dolores Farrell. Gregory Patrick Farrell OAM was a founding Director of SpineCare Foundation. The aim of the scholarship is to support integration into tertiary education for students who use a wheelchair for mobility. It is acknowledged that the student with a disability may have additional obstacles to overcome in accessing a tertiary education. One of these obstacles can be the additional costs involved to enable participation in tertiary education. The costs involved can be considerable and variable according to the degree of disability.

Four scholarships up to the value of $5,000 each are available for 2011. For further information and the application form go to http://www.northcott.com.au/1-the_spinecare_foundation.php

Studies and Research:

Measures of student success: can we predict module completion rates?
There are many factors which might cause a student to drop out of a course of study; some of these are preventable. This paper describes the piloting of a survey tool designed to identify students at risk of not completing. Attendance was found to be the strongest predictor of module completion; low or declining scores on the survey were also predictive of students dropping out. The research for this paper was undertaken by a novice researcher in the Community of Practice Scholarship Program, which is funded through NCVER's Building Researcher Capacity initiative.

Publication:

The 2009 equity data is now available:
From http://www.deewr.gov.au/HigherEducation/Publications/HEStatistics/Publications/Pages/2009FullYear.aspx and

Measures of student success: can we predict module completion rates?
This paper describes the piloting of a survey tool designed to identify students at risk of not completing.

Australian vocational education and training statistics: Student outcomes 2010
Information about the outcomes for students who completed their vocational education and training (VET) during 2009 is presented in this publication.

Returns from education: an occupational status approach
Jung-Sook Lee
Using the 1995 cohort of the Longitudinal Surveys of Australian Youth, this study looks at how the growth in occupational prestige is related to the level of an individual's education.

Media Releases:

TITLE: 4430.0 - Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia: Summary of Findings, 2009
PORTFOLIO: Treasury
URL:
OpenDocument
SNIPPET: Percentage of Australians disabled due to physical health conditions decreased (Media Release) MEDIA RELEASE 16 December 2010 Embargoed: 11.30 am (Canberra time) 163/2010. Four million Australians (18.5%) had a disability in 2009, according to findings from the 2009 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers released today by the
Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). The percentage of Australians involved in caring for a person with a disability or an older person also declined since 2003, in line with the decrease in disability prevalence.

**Commencement of consultations to improve employment services**

PORTFOLIO: Education, Employment and Workplace Relations


SNIPPET: The Australian Government is committed to strengthening employment services so that all Australians with the capacity to work have the opportunity to get a job. Ms Ellis said the consultations will help the Government improve current employment services in order to achieve better social inclusion and increased employment participation. As our population ages, the needs of job seekers will also change and these consultations will help to further develop Australia’s employment services system so that Australia is prepared to meet the challenges of the job market into the future.

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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 thart@med.usyd.edu.au

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