



Disability Education and Employment News: No. 5, Vol 8.

In this edition of the Disability Education and Employment News, we have information on the National Youth Disability Conference; NDS 2012 Employment Forum - Rethinking employment support for people with disability; the Pathways11 Conference; the next DEAN Professional Development Day and the Imbedded Use of Inclusive Technologies Website. Plus further information on other Resources, Conferences and Workshops, News articles and other information for the Disability Education, Training and Employment Sectors.

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NDCO Program Update and Refunding

The Australian Government has provided an additional year of funding for the NDCO Program. The Government has advised that the Program "addresses critical needs that warrant ongoing support" and that it will be reframed to further strengthen the Program and its profile. They plan to retender for "a more substantial" program to commence 1 July 2013.

The NDCO Program has recently been transferred from the DEEWR portfolio to the newly expanded Department of Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education (DIISRTE), along with the Vocational Education and Training, Higher Education and International Education programs.

National Disability Coordination Officer position - Centre for Disability Studies

For Inner Sydney, Eastern Suburbs and St George Sutherland

Fixed Term (Contract to 30 June 2013), Full-time 40 hours per week

Salary range \$44,795.33 - \$73,003.08 plus 9% Superannuation (dependent on experience and skills)

Position No. 2012/43

The objectives of the NDCO Programme are to assist people with a disability to access post-school education and training, and subsequent employment, through the provision of information, coordination and referral services for people with a disability who are interested in, or enrolled in, post-school education and training.

Only Australian citizens or permanent Australian residents are eligible to apply for this position.

Applications must address Essential and Desirable criteria as outlined in the information pack.

Information Pack: Human Resources on 02 9808 9207 or email: jobs@royalrehab.com.au

Enquires: Timothy Hart - Centre for Disability Studies

Phone: 02 9036 3612,

Email: t.hart@sydney.edu.au

Closing date: Monday 30th July 2012

Please refer to our website <http://cde.org.au/> for further information about the centre and

<http://www.deewr.gov.au/ndco/> for the NDCO Programme

For further information regarding this job go to <http://www.seek.com.au/job/22709896>

Education News:

Support cuts a blow for students – Northern Star

18/06/2012

Hamish Broom

LIKE MANY kids with a diagnosed mental disability, Alek Salinger needed extra attention when he was in primary school.

The 18-year-old Biala Special School student attended Ballina Public during his primary years where he received crucial assistance from a school learning support officer.

Without that aid, Alek's experience, which helped him adjust to mainstream school life before he entered Biala in Year 8, would have been unbearable.

Now some NSW students with mental disabilities who don't meet a certain diagnosis threshold have had their individual aid removed.

At least 12 primary schools and one high school on the Northern Rivers will lose a total of \$168,000 in funding for students with "low level" mental disabilities.

The changes are part of a funding reallocation by the State Government which the Department of Education says will give schools more flexibility to assist students with mental disabilities.

For the rest of the article go to

<http://www.northernstar.com.au/story/2012/07/18/support-cuts-a-blow-for-mental-disability-students/>

One in 25 schoolchildren gets extra support

ONE in every 25 Victorian schoolchildren - around one for every classroom - now gets taxpayer-funded support in school for a physical, intellectual or behavioural disability.

An explosion in children diagnosed with autism and severe behaviour disorders, such as ADHD, has seen the cost of in-school support jump 58 per cent in the past six years.

Victoria's Program for Students with Disabilities will cost taxpayers \$530 million this year, plus \$183 million to fund transport for students with disabilities.

The growth in autism and behavioural disorder diagnoses has sparked claims both are over-diagnosed.

There are also claims some parents pressure doctors to diagnose these conditions in children who struggle to get access to in-class support.

"I would argue that they were throwing a lot of kids in that category who really didn't have the problem ... then they get the additional funding and the parents and teachers can do something about it," said Education Standards Institute director Kevin Donnelly.

For the rest of the article go to

<http://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/victoria/one-in-25-schoolchildren-gets-extra-support/story-fn7x8me2-1226411479390>

TAFE cuts hit those in need of help

Benjamin Preiss

June 22, 2012 Read later

WHEN Ben Carbonaro began studying at RMIT's TAFE he was paired with a "buddy" who helped with reading and taking notes.

Mr Carbonaro has Asperger's syndrome, a form of autism, and he relied on support services throughout his TAFE studies that led to a journalism degree.

Before starting his course, RMIT's disability liaison unit took him on an introduction tour so he would be comfortable in his new environment.

But TAFE institutes fear they might have to cut back support services because the state government has reduced funding to the sector.

Victorian TAFE Association executive director David Williams said the government would withdraw \$170 million in "full service provider" funding that institutes used for student services.

Some institutes might have to charge hefty fees for disability services, Mr Williams said.

The TAFE sector is set to lose a total of about \$300 million.

Time management and reading fellow students' body language were among the greatest challenges for Mr Carbonaro.

For the rest of the article go to

<http://www.theage.com.au/national/education/tafe-cuts-hit-those-in-need-of-help-20120621-20qwq.html>

Beware the rise of worthless training

June 16, 2012 Opinion Adele Horin

People who went to university and whose children go, or are destined to go, to university usually have little interest in the plebeian matters of skills training or the fate of TAFE, an institution erroneously associated with blue singlets and tools.

No matter that 600,000 more people go to TAFE than to university and that the nation's productivity will be dependent on the quality of this sector as much as on the quality of our universities, ignorance and indifference about it abound.

But let me warn you: remember the fracas and national shame caused by dodgy English language colleges that mushroomed around the country and ripped off overseas students? Well, we have learnt too little. Under the mantra of choice and competition in vocational education, a mass expansion of private vocational training colleges for domestic students, this time backed by government funds, is apace.

The results are clearest in Victoria, where the free market philosophy has gone the furthest in treating vocational education like clothes or television sets: it is a good to be offered by a variety of private outlets competing on price.

What transpired was that colleges pumped out a huge oversupply of fitness trainers as private providers moved en masse into offering cheap, quick courses, some of dubious quality and usefulness. Backed by government largesse, some colleges even offered iPads and cash inducements to students who enrolled.

For the rest of the article go to

<http://www.smh.com.au/opinion/politics/beware-the-rise-of-worthless-training-20120615-20f5z.html#ixzz1y5jW7rqh>
www.theaustralian.com.au/higher-education/tafes-to-cop-brunt-of-public-sector-job-cuts-opposition/story-e6frgcjx-1226393463556

School funding cut 'terribly cruel' – Penrith Press

09/06/2012

Alexis Carey

BRADDOCK Public School will lose \$95,000 in funding for students with disabilities and special needs under the state government's new Every Student, Every School policy.

It is one of 272 NSW public schools that will have fewer teacher's aides and less access to specialist teachers for students with disabilities, including autism and mental health issues.

The policy follows the previous Labor government's blueprint for special needs funding cuts and will come into effect on July 1.

NSW Greens MP John Kaye and Nepean Greens spokeswoman Peta Holmes visited the Cranebrook school on Wednesday to speak out against the drastic funding cut.

Mr Kaye slammed the policy as "simply wrong" and said the government's plan to base funding on the average prevalence of autism and special needs in the wider community did not reflect the reality of many schools.

"This is a terribly cruel thing to be doing and it boils down to the government not wanting to spend money," he said.

For the rest of the article go to

<http://penrith-press.whereilive.com.au/news/story/school-funding-cut-terribly-cruel/>

Disabled children miss out – Hobart Mercury

03/06/2012

Hannah Martin

PRINCIPALS are picking "winners and losers" in the fight for teacher aide time for children with disability and learning difficulties.

Parents and support groups say it's too much responsibility for principals to have to decide who misses out on support time.

Several families have come forward with concerns about support funding for their children, after the Sunday Tasmanian last week reported that a Kempton mother had been told her son could only attend school three days a week next year because the school could not afford to pay for an aide.

Autism Tasmania spokeswoman Kristen Desmond said schools did not have enough money to support all children. "It's a rock and a hard place, principals don't have enough to go around," she said.

"Then, some principals are really switched on about how best to support kids with special and additional needs, so the level of support [provided for children] differs from school to school."

For the rest of the article go to

http://www.themercury.com.au/article/2012/06/03/333881_tasmania-news.html

Finding light in a dark place on path from loner to multimedia artist

May 26, 2012 Adele Horin

THOMAS KUZMA was determined to escape the fate of many adults with Asperger's syndrome: he would not be lonely. He would not hide out in his lair, immersed in his obsessions. He would not give up on society even if society, it seemed, had often wanted to give up on him.

"I knew it was something I had to fix," said the 21-year-old from Springwood. "I told myself, 'I'm not going to be lonely' and I managed to fix it."

A tsunami of need is upon us, says Anthony Warren, the co-author of the first report on Australian adults with normal or above-average intelligence, who have Asperger's syndrome and high functioning autism.

The children who were diagnosed in their thousands in the 1990s with these puzzling conditions, characterised by a profound lack of social skills, have grown up. They are looking for jobs, friends, and partners. Some have university degrees or, like Mr Kuzma, high-level TAFE qualifications. But society is not yet used to adults with these disorders. Instead there is a lot of misunderstanding and rejection.

"We have this increasing and large group of Australians with abilities and talents who are being overlooked," said Mr Warren, the senior autism spectrum disorder consultant at Autism Spectrum Australia, a not-for profit organisation.

For the rest of the article go to

www.smh.com.au/national/finding-light-in-a-dark-place-on-path-from-loner-to-multimedia-artist-20120525-1za56.html

Government Boosts Funding for Disabled Students

Posted: Wednesday, May 23, 2012 - 11:01

The Gillard Government will inject \$37 million into Victorian government schools to help students with disabilities.

Federal Parliamentary Secretary for School Education, Jacinta Collins said the funding will provide much needed specialised support to students in government schools across Victoria.

"The More Support for Students with Disabilities program is separate to the previously announced increase to independent and catholic schools and will bring the total spent in Victorian schools to support disabled students to \$47.8 million," Collins said.

"Children with disability can face disadvantage in achieving education and employment outcomes, and without this type of support they are less likely to reach their full potential, putting them at greater risk of unemployment and social exclusion," she said.

For the rest of the article go to

<http://www.probonoaustralia.com.au/news/2012/05/government-boosts-funding-disabled-students>

Schools lose disability support in shake-up

Anna Patty

May 23, 2012

The list of resource allocations under the department's Every Student, Every School initiative

MORE than 270 schools across the state will lose thousands of dollars in funding to support children with disabilities and special needs.

The state government has changed the way it funds children with autism, mental health problems and other learning disabilities, which it claims will better serve 740,000 students with a disability enrolled in more than 2200 schools.

The changes mean that many small schools in rural areas that have not had access to specialist teachers and resources will receive extra support, but some larger schools will lose funding.

Children were previously funded individually on the basis of a diagnosis. But under the new system, a diagnosis will not be needed and the performance of children in NAPLAN tests and the community prevalence of autism, which is based on a one-in-100 ratio, will be taken into account.

Among the schools to lose funding is Bonnyrigg Heights Primary. Its funding will be cut from \$140,669 this year to \$128,997 next year.

Grace Fava, whose two sons with autism attend the school, said that with the prevalence of autism increasing, the government should be committing more funding to schools.

"The government should not be cutting funding for special needs, they should be increasing it," she said. "This is cost cutting."

For the rest of the article go to

<http://www.smh.com.au/national/education/schools-lose-disability-support-in-shakeup-20120522-1z3bg.html>

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2012-05-23/fears-over-nsw-schools-disability-funding/4027888?section=nsw>

Schools lose disability support in shake-up

Anna Patty - May 23, 2012

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For the rest of the article go to

<http://www.smh.com.au/national/education/schools-lose-disability-support-in-shakeup-20120522-1z3bg.html>

Calls for education support for special needs units – St George & Sutherland Shire Leader

21/05/2012

Eva Tejszerski

PARENTS and teachers hope that children with learning disabilities will get a healthy boost in special needs education support this year.

Work is under way to develop a national disability insurance scheme, which aims to ensure Australians with disabilities have better access to services in the community.

The federal government committed \$1 billion in the budget to support the first stage of the scheme.

Teachers and parents said special needs units in schools were in particularly desperate need of more funding.

Almost 80 per cent of students who have a disability are enrolled in mainstream schools.

During the past 24 years, the number of students in NSW public schools who had some form of disability increased from 1.9 per cent to 4.7 per cent, or 35,000 students.

Earlier this year, the state government promised to give schools an extra \$47.9 million under the national "More Support for Students with Disabilities" initiative.

Money will go towards additional resources including new technology in classrooms and staff training.

For the rest of the article go to

<http://www.theleader.com.au/news/local/news/education/calls-for-education-support-for-special-needs-units/2559891.aspx>

Ending the education lottery: why the government must extend the NDIS to schools – Conversation

15/05/2012

Christopher Boyle

On being asked the question, "what do you think of disability support in Australia?", I would have to quote Gandhi's fabled response when he was asked what he thought of Western civilisation: "I think it would be a very good idea."

While funding a National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) seems a laudable attempt by the Labor Government to redress chronic inequality for a vulnerable group, an opportunity to link it to disability support in schools has been missed.

For the rest of the article go to

<http://theconversation.edu.au/ending-the-education-lottery-why-the-government-must-extend-the-ndis-to-schools-6517>

No support for struggling parents – Daily Telegraph

09/05/2012

KAREN Hickmott knows about the funding gaps in special education.

Her oldest Ben, 9, has dyslexia and his seven-year-old sister Claudia has autism. Both children suffer from a moderate intellectual disability and attend St Lucy's School in Wahroonga, a Catholic Dominican special school for primary-aged children with disabilities.

Like thousands of other parents, Ms Hickmott wants the government to commit to the recommendations in the Gonski review, which found students with disabilities at non-government schools receive substantially less than at public schools.

St Lucy's School is funded by the federal and state governments, but parents must raise funds and seek donations to cover the school's annual deficit of about \$600,000.

For the rest of the article go to

<http://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/news/no-support-for-struggling-parents/story-e6freuy9-1226350346195>

More support for WA disabled students – Perth Now

07/05/2012

STUDENTS with disabilities will benefit from four new support centres to be established in WA, designed to enable public schools to provide the best possible opportunities for them.

The \$15.4million program, funded through the Federal Government's More Support for Students with Disabilities initiative, is part of a national partnership agreement with State and Territory education authorities.

Education Minister Liz Constable said the first centres would be established in the North Metropolitan and Kimberley Education Regions, with the remaining two locations to be confirmed later in the year.

Dr Constable said the Education Support Coordination Centres, to be developed in four regions in WA, would bring together the expertise of special education staff within public schools to identify innovative ideas and resources to support students, parents and carers.

"Public schools already do an excellent job in catering for the needs of students with disabilities, and there is a wealth of expertise and ideas that can be developed and shared across schools to help teachers and education assistants enhance opportunities for these students," she said.

For the rest of the article go to

<http://www.perthnow.com.au/news/western-australia/more-support-for-wa-disabled-students/story-e6frg13u-1226348425851>

Student challenges ruling on her HSC – Tenterfield Star

28/04/2012

Anna Patty

A FORMER Abbotsleigh student who is now studying medicine at the University of Sydney is claiming the NSW Board of Studies wrongly refused to grant her special examination provisions in the form of a computer and extra exam time for the 2008 Higher School Certificate.

The 21-year-old woman, who does not wish to be named, was placed fifth in the state in her HSC chemistry exam with a mark in the high 90s in 2007, when she was in year 11. A year later she scored a university entry rank of 99.95, with marks of about 94 per cent in her English and modern history exams.

She was granted rest breaks during the exams in response to her application to the Board of Studies for special examination provisions. She has a disability described as a malfunctioning of the wrist. But she believes she should have been granted a computer or extra time to compensate for cramping in her hand after prolonged periods of writing.

Had she been granted a computer or extra time, the student believes she would have achieved much higher marks.

"The point isn't that I was doing badly. I did do well, what a normal person would consider well," she said.

"But you want your disability to be sufficiently addressed with special examination provisions so that everyone has a capability to communicate what they know in the HSC examinations, otherwise it is not a fair test of your knowledge.

For the rest of the article go to

<http://www.tenterfieldstar.com.au/news/national/national/education/student-challenges-ruling-on-her-hsc/2537485.aspx?storypage=0>

Special needs education resources stretched – Newcastle Herald

25/04/2012

Alison Branley

HUNTER special needs students are missing out on places in classes and schools despite an increase in resources to cater for spiralling demand.

Figures obtained by the Newcastle Herald under the Government Information Public Access laws show that 15 per

cent of primary students who applied for a spot in a support class in mainstream schools for this year missed out. Among high school students, 11 per cent who applied for a support class place missed out. Among those who applied for a place in a special needs school, 13 per cent were unsuccessful. This is despite the Hunter Central Coast education precinct opening its new three-campus Newcastle School for students with special needs this year.

The school amalgamated Cameron Park, Hunter Orthopaedic, Glendon and Newcastle schools.

The precinct added another 12 support classes to its ranks last year and another 11 this year but despite this, has failed to keep up with demand.

For the rest of the article go to

<http://www.theherald.com.au/news/local/news/education/special-needs-education-resources-stretched/2533426.aspx?storypage=0>

Disability groups aim for high-tech help – Age

23/04/2012

Denise Ryan

WHEN, at 23, Joanne Webber was told she had a rare eye condition, she received lots of support.

She was diagnosed for free at the Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital and was helped by the Royal Victorian Institute for the Blind.

"I met with mentors of similar age to me and met people with the same eye condition," she says. "At university I got access to a computer with a screen reader and audio books. I had a complete introduction on how to live with a vision impairment."

Ms Webber thought this response must be normal for young people with disabilities. So when she started working with young people with learning disabilities such as dyslexia, she was shocked to realise their needs were not recognised and there was almost no support.

"It really disturbed me," she says. "Only 3.5 per cent of people are blind but more than 10 per cent of the population have learning disabilities."

For six years, Ms Webber worked as the disability co-ordination officer for eastern Melbourne in a federal government role hosted by RMIT University. "I realised there was a massive gap in policy, with students with learning disabilities facing a tough time in education," she says.

For the rest of the article go to

<http://www.theage.com.au/national/education/disability-groups-aim-for-hightech-help-20120420-1xc8y.html>

Uni graduate meets adversity head on – Newcastle Herald

20/04/2012

Alison Branley

WHEN Heidi Forrest was midway through her law degree, a religious man on campus offered to pray to cure her disabilities.

She declined but asked him to pray that she passed her exams.

Ms Forrest, of Kurri Kurri, did pass and will graduate today from the University of Newcastle.

It is the end of a decade-long journey for Heidi, who got an undergraduate degree in social science before graduating in law.

Ms Forrest suffered a brain aneurism at 13 that left her with lifelong disabilities including a limp, slurred speech and difficulty using one hand.

She was initially completely paralysed but refused to listen when doctors told her she would not walk, talk or have children.

The mother of two faced hurdles to education as she grew, including a principal who wanted to send her to special school and rejection from vocational training "because it was a waste of taxpayers' money".

She fought at each turn, got involved with disability advocacy and went on to be invited to help the United Nations draft its disability convention.

"I don't dwell on what I can't do. It's a waste of time. I don't see anything as limiting me. I just think of a different way of doing it," she said.

For the rest of the article go to

<http://www.theherald.com.au/news/local/news/education/uni-graduate-meets-adversity-head-on/2527909.aspx>

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Employment News:

Ignorance becomes its own disability in hiring

There are plenty of reasons to be wary of advocating mandatory reporting on employment targets that favour minority groups.

For one, mandatory reporting spawns yet another regulatory regime. Another is that, as a form of affirmative action, it can often lead to real or perceived cases of unfairness and injustice. And a third: it tends to create waves of public cynicism, backlash and sometimes envy.

Turn your mind for a moment to the acrimony caused by affirmative action campaigns of recent years in gender equity and indigenous affairs. Light-skinned Aboriginal people were alleged to have used their ethnicity to gain supposedly lucrative jobs, and talented women have been subject to continual innuendo and name-calling as token appointees after winning a rare executive promotion or a board position.

Merit should prevail, so the argument goes, forgetting that for years merit was not a factor in the persistent exclusion of those from society's out-groups.

I dare say that many long-standing board directors might get a little nervous if the merit meter was passed over their appointments in years past.

For the rest of the article go to

http://www.afr.com/p/national/work_space/ignorance_becomes_its_own_disability_6FGsa8vs8N0F8GgWn5uW1J

Council stands up for disability agreement

People with disability are still facing barriers to employment according to the third annual report on the National Disability Agreement.

The report, released by the Council of Australian Government's (COAG) Reform Council, shows Australia still has a long way to go before it breaks down barriers for people with disability.

Chairman of the Reform Council, Paul McClintock said the report showed Australians with disability faced major challenges to participating fully in employment and society.

"It would have been good to report some solid gains between 2003 and 2009, but in the area of workforce participation, there was very little improvement for people with disability and that was despite an improving labour market," Mr McClintock said.

The report shows that in 2009, Australians with disability had employment to population rates of 50 per cent compared to around 79 per cent for people without disability.

"The labour force participation rate was also significantly lower at 54 per cent compared to 83 per cent."

He said the Western Australia, the ACT and the Northern Territory all performed better than the nation as a whole with higher labour force participation and employment rates for people with disability.

He said however people with profound and severe disability were finding it even tougher with one in four reporting that their disability was the main reason they did not leave their home as often as they would like.

For the rest of the article go to

http://nsw.psnews.com.au/Page_NSWpsn27510.html

No disability employment change – COAG – Sky News Online

14/06/2012

Employment participation levels of people with disabilities are not showing significant improvement, a new national report finds.

The Council of Australian Governments (COAG) Reform Council, in a report released on Thursday, paints a bleak picture about barriers to securing employment and social participation.

The report assesses progress on the national disability agreement using the latest available data covering the six-year period between 2003-2009.

There was no statistically significant overall change in labour force participation for people with disabilities during that period.

Western Australia bucked the national trend and the ACT and Northern Territory also had disabled labour force participation rates higher than the national rate.

COAG reform council spokesman Michael Frost said not much had changed.

'Despite an otherwise strong labour market there was very little improvement in workforce participation for people with a disability,' he told reporters in Canberra on Wednesday.

For the rest of the article go to

<http://www.skynews.com.au/national/article.aspx?id=760868&vld=>

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2012-06-14/high-ranking-in-disability-report/4071334?section=act>

One in three disabled need more support to secure jobs – Australian

14/06/2012

Sue Dunlevy

ONE in three people with a disability needs more support and their employment rates are languishing at 2003 levels, a new report has found as the government's National Disability Insurance Scheme remains mired in a wrangle with the states.

The COAG Reform Council reported yesterday that disability employment rates were just 50 per cent compared to 78.6 per cent for those without a disability and "this had not changed significantly since 2003".

Only around one in three people with a severe disability were in the labour force.

The figures show 29 per cent of people with a disability claim it is the main reason they do not leave home as often as they would like.

And 34 per cent reported the need for more assistance than they were receiving.

The labour force participation of those caring for someone with a disability at 68.9 per cent is lower than for non-carers 79.4 per cent.

For the rest of the article go to

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/health/one-in-three-disabled-need-more-support-to-secure-jobs/story-fn59nokw-1226394879755>

Job insecurity could spark health crisis, experts warn – ABC News Online

02/06/2012

Thea Manning

Mental health advocates say that stress and anxiety caused by job insecurity is threatening to become a major public health problem in Australia.

Beyond Blue, one of the nation's most prominent mental health organisations, says job insecurity is one of the leading risk factors for depression and even heart disease.

Beyond Blue CEO Kate Carnell says research indicates that the casualisation of the Australian workforce has resulted in an increase in mental health disorders and heart disease amongst workers.

With 40 per cent of the Australian workforce in insecure work arrangements, Ms Carnell says it has become a serious public health problem.

"Heart health is affected by exercise levels, stress levels, dietary approaches and so on, so bad lifestyle outcomes can cause definite heart problems and mental health is very much part of that whole mix," she said.

"There is no doubt that job insecurity is a major major cause of job strain and job strain is a major risk factor for depression.

For the rest of the article go to

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2012-06-02/job-insecurity-to-become-major-health-problem/4048518>

Increased Disability Employment Would Pay for NDIS –Report – Pro Bono News Australia

16/05/2012

A report to the Australian Network on Disability (AND) National Conference shows that increased employment participation by Australians with disability would more than cover the costs for the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

The AND report says that Australia's GDP could be increased by \$43 billion over the next decade if more Australians with disability were included in the nation's workforce.

The study, commissioned by AND and undertaken by Deloitte Access Economics, finds that GDP would increase by \$43 billion over the next decade in real dollar terms just by governments and employers increasing the current employment rate for Australians with disabilities by one-third over the next decade (from 54% to 64%).

AND says that at present, only half of the 2.2 million Australians of working age with a disability are employed, compared to nearly 80% of Australians of working age without disability.

"Closing this gap by one-third is an achievable – even a conservative – target. Many nations, including New Zealand, have already achieved or surpassed these benchmarks and are already reaping the economic rewards," the report says.

Chief Executive of the Australian Network on Disability, (an employer-led organisation on disability), Suzanne Colbert said that a recent Federal Government consultation process involving people with disabilities around the nation found that the vast majority of Australians with disability were able to work and very much wanted to do so.

For the rest of the article go to

<http://www.probonoaustralia.com.au/news/2012/05/increased-disability-employment-would-pay-ndis-report>

Greater numbers kicked off dole – Australian

20/04/2012

Patricia Karvelas

NEW figures reveal that more people were having their dole payments cut off at the end of last year, under the Gillard government's tough new welfare rules.

In the last quarter of 2011, 108,154 people had their dole payments suspended, up from 92,803 in the previous quarter.

Last year, the government introduced tough rules that suspend income-support payments for the unemployed if they fail to attend appointments or activities designed to help them find work.

While the results will alarm welfare groups, the government argues that the results show their tough approach is working, given there was also an increase in the percentage of people turning up to their interviews. In the last quarter of last year, the attendance rate reached 57 per cent, higher than the quarterly average for the year of 55 per cent.

And the number attending appointments with job agencies has also improved, with the 2010-11 quarterly average at 55 per cent attendance, and an increase to 57 per cent attendance during October to December last year.

Rec Coverage 28 Day pass

For the rest of the article go to

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/greater-numbers-kicked-off-dole/story-fn59niix-1226333759714>

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International News:

Boys twice as likely to be diagnosed with special needs

Almost one-in-four boys has special educational needs, according to the Department for Education.

By Graeme Paton, Education Editor

3:21PM BST 12 Jul 2012

Young boys are almost twice as likely to be diagnosed with learning impairments, behaviour problems or communication difficulties as girls, it emerged.

The disclosure – in data published by the Department for Education – will reignite concerns that schools are wrongly branding pupils with special needs as a cover for indiscipline or poor exam results.

It follows the release of data showing that boys are much less likely to pass primary school tests in the three-Rs or go on to gain good GCSE grades.

For the rest of the article go to

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/educationnews/9395373/Boys-twice-as-likely-to-be-diagnosed-with-special-needs.html>

Experts can't explain drop in state's special education numbers Special education students seem to be disappearing in Texas.

The Lone Star State diagnosed just 8.8 percent of its public school students as having special needs in 2011, down from 12 percent in 2000. Texas now has the lowest percentage of special education students in the nation - a full 4 percentage points below the U.S. average. Urban giants like the Houston and Dallas school districts identify even fewer children at 7.9 percent and 7.7 percent, respectively.

While some educators take the declines as a positive sign, advocates fear the state might be under-diagnosing to reduce costs or to circumvent accountability measures. Others worry that the growing immigrant population may be underserved by a system that's difficult for even the most knowledgeable parents to navigate.

For the rest of the article go to

<http://www.chron.com/news/houston-texas/article/Experts-can-t-explain-drop-in-state-s-special-3684502.php>

People With Disabilities Landing Jobs

By Shaun Heasley

The unemployment rate for Americans with disabilities inched higher again in June as the economy continued to lag. Some 13.3 percent of those with disabilities were jobless in June, according to a monthly employment report from the U.S. Department of Labor released late last week.

That's an increase from 12.9 percent unemployment the previous month.

Meanwhile, the jobless rate for the general population remained flat at 8.2 percent as the economy added 80,000 new jobs, a figure seen by many as disappointing.

For the rest of the article go to

<http://www.disabilitycoop.com/2012/07/09/june-12-jobs/15972/>

Feds: Sheltered Workshops May Violate Disabilities Act By Michelle Diament

May 1, 2012

The Obama administration is coming out in support of a group of adults with developmental disabilities who say they're being relegated to sheltered workshops even though they're capable of working in the community.

Attorneys for the U.S. Department of Justice filed a statement of interest in late April in a class action lawsuit pitting some 2,300 people with developmental disabilities against the state of Oregon.

In the suit filed in federal court in January, residents with disabilities alleged that the state is violating the Americans with Disabilities Act by failing to provide supported employment services, which allow people with disabilities to work in the community.

Now, the Justice Department is weighing in saying that limiting people with disabilities to sheltered workshops is no different than segregating them in institutions.

"The unwarranted placement of persons with disabilities in sheltered workshops similarly perpetuates 'unwarranted assumptions' that such persons are 'incapable or unworthy' of working in competitive employment or interacting with non-disabled co-workers or customers," wrote Justice Department attorneys in the statement of interest.

For the rest of the article go to

<http://www.disabilitycoop.com/2012/05/01/feds-sheltered-violate/15511/>

Technology bridges the employment gap for feds with disabilities

◦By Camille Tuutti

◦Apr 24, 2012

An interactive online portal has spawned new hope for people with disabilities exploring a career in the federal government -- and for managers looking to recruit them.

Launched in September 2011 in response to a directive that requires agencies to boost their efforts to hire employees with disabilities, [eFedLink.org](http://www.efedlink.org) connects more than 400 federal human resource professionals, disability program managers and selective placement program coordinators to share policies and best practices around hiring, retention and advancement of people with disabilities in federal government.

Now that it's been in operation for more than six months, its creators -- Cornell University and the Labor Department -- are taking stock of its performance and planning the next phase.

For the rest of the article go to

<http://fcw.com/articles/2012/04/24/efedlink-resource-people-with-disabilities.aspx>

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Conferences and Workshops:

National Conferences

National Summit on the Mental Health of Tertiary Students

4 - 5 August Melbourne

www.cshe.unimelb.edu.au/nationalsummit/

The ARATA (Australian Rehabilitation & Assistive Technology Association) National Conference

Wed 22nd – Fri 24th August 2012

Sydney Masonic Function Centre, 66 Goulburn Street, Sydney

www.arata.org.au

On Friday, 24th August from 11am until 3pm there is a free entry to the Exhibition area of the conference where clients or therapists can look at products and speak to suppliers.

FREE ENTRY to the exhibition

For more information contact:

conference@arata.org.au

Join us at the ARATA Conference 'Free Exhibitors Open Day'

Rethinking employment support for people with disability

2012 NDS Employment Forum

6-7 September 2012, Pan Pacific Hotel, Perth

National Disability Services is hosting a two-day conference in Perth on 6-7 September to equip delegates with knowledge and strategies that ensure a continued focus on the employment of people with disability as well as an ability to meet the challenges ahead.

Contact Information:

Brendan Long, National Manager of Employment and Economic Policy, NDS National, Ph 02 6283 3202,

brendan.long@nds.org.au

<http://www.nds.org.au/events/1332205243>

National Youth Disability Conference

24th & 25th September 2012, Jasper Hotel, Elizabeth St, Melbourne

This highly anticipated event will bring together young people with disabilities from across Australia, peak bodies and representative organisations to:

- Identify priority National issues faced by young Australians with disabilities and develop clear actions in relation to these.
- Strengthen the voice of young Australians with disabilities.
- Provide opportunities for service providers and peak bodies to respond more effectively to the needs of young Australians with disabilities.

Keynote speakers include The Hon. Kelly Vincent MLC, Stella Young, Editor of ABC's Ramp Up, The Hon. Peter Garrett, Minister for School Education, Early Childhood and Youth (TBC), and The Hon. Jan McLucas, Parliamentary Secretary for Disabilities and Carers (TBC).

More information will be available on www.ydas.org.au shortly!

2012 Conference - What You Need To Know!

Date - Friday 26 October 2012 including optional pre-conference professional development activities on Thursday 25 October.

Venue - Dockside, Cockle Bay (Darling Harbour)

helping out with numerous charities.

Program - Draft program attached to this email.

How To Register - Go to our website at www.caa.nsw.edu.au and click on the button to "Register for 2012 Conference". You can pay online or print off an invoice to pay by cheque or EFT.

2012 Mater Dei Special Education Conference "Hear my Voice" - Assessing the Curriculum in Changing Times

Save the Date!

On behalf of the Conference Organising Committee, it is our pleasure to invite you to participate in the 2012 Mater Dei Special Education Conference: "Hear my Voice" - Accessing the Curriculum in Changing Times

A key outcome of education is empowering children and youth to be fully participating members of their community. Empowering children and youth with a disability, on the same basis as their non-disabled peers, is a right that can be overlooked in the hurry to provide quality education programs. Engaging students with a disability, hearing their plans, their aspirations, and that of their families for tomorrow is key to developing education programs, planning transitions and sustaining high expectations.

This conference addresses these key issues through keynote presentations from internationally recognised speakers, workshops delivered by skilled teachers and practitioners - and thought provoking contributions from the children and youth we work with.

The Conference will be held at The Cube, Campbelltown, New South Wales on the 22nd and 23rd November 2012.

The Conference will provide participants the opportunity to hear outstanding Keynote speakers and presenters as well as the chance to share information, exchange ideas, debate and reflect.

For further information about the 2012 Mater Dei Special Education Conference, please contact GEMS Event Management on (02) 9744 5252.

Pathways11 Conference 28 to 30 November 2012 Adelaide Convention Centre.

Call for Abstracts and Posters – Closing 1 May!

The full Conference program with links to abstracts is now available at <http://www.plevin.com.au/pathways11/program.html>

Online registration now open!

Register soon to take advantage of the early bird prices!"

If you share our vision for more inclusive tertiary education experiences, why not join us for three days of thought-provoking discussion, information-sharing, strategising and problem solving as well as some great social events and networking.

Pathways11 will deliver a stimulating conference program as well as an engaging space for you to network, reconnect with colleagues and meet new people.

Please refer to the web site at <http://www.pathways11.com.au> for further details regarding registration and the submission of abstracts.

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State Events:

DEAN Professional Development Day

Wednesday, 8 August VENUE: TBC

Program flyer for the next DEAN PD Day 8 August, 2012 will be distributed later this week.

The August DEAN PD Day will be focussing on DOCUMENTATION AND EXAM PROVISIONS: SHARING IDEAS & PRACTICES ACROSS THE SECTOR

We have confirmed a number of speakers from all sectors who have experience in documentation and exam provisions at their various educational settings to present and participate in a panel discussion. We look forward to questions as well as ideas from participants regarding practices at your institutions.

<http://www.deaninc.org.au/>

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Calls for Expressions of Interest and Input:

Stepping into.... Winter 2012 program

Thank you to all our members who have offered internship placements for Winter 2012 Stepping into... program. We have had a great response from students keen to gain a work placement with our members:

- NSW Department of Ageing Disability and Homecare
- NSW Department of Attorney General and Justice
- Federal Court of Australia
- Fair Work Ombudsman
- Henry Davis York Lawyers
- Sparke Helmore Lawyers
- Sydney Opera House
- AGL
- NSW Roads and Maritime Service
- NSW Transport Railcorp
- Commonwealth Department of Infrastructure and Transport
- Commonwealth Department of Human Services

If you are interested in taking part in Stepping into... please contact Rebecca Brooks rebecca.brooks@and.org.au .

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Studies and Research:

Tertiary education and training in Australia 2010

<http://www.ncver.edu.au/publications/2489.html>

This publication provides information on tertiary education and training in Australia, including statistics on

participation, pathways and outcomes. The data in this publication are sourced from the National VET Provider Collection and the Higher Education Statistics Collection. The publication covers participation in Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) certificate I qualifications through to doctorates by research, as well as enrolments in a single vocational subject. Information is presented on students and equivalent full-time students.

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Publication:

Disability 2010–11: Comparing performance across Australia

This is our third report assessing progress under COAG's National Disability Agreement.

The council found that people with disability still faced barriers to realising their potential to participate in employment or social activities. In the national labour force, for example, participation rates for people with disability remained significantly lower than for people without disability.

This report was submitted to COAG on 30 April 2012, and publicly released on 14 June 2012.

<http://www.coagreformcouncil.gov.au/reports/disability.cfm>

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New Resources:

Imbedded Use of Inclusive Technologies Website - Tools for Accessing Education and Employment

For Information and Resources to assist with the selection of Inclusive Technology for students, employees and other people with a disability.

<http://ndco.cds.org.au/index.php/it>

What inclusive technologies should be selected for long term use? Not just for school but beyond into postsecondary education and onto employment.

- What criteria should you use in choosing inclusive technology?
- How should you go about it?
- Where can you get information and resources?

Imbedded Use of Inclusive Technologies Website aims to answer these questions

A Resource for Students, Parents, Carers, Teachers, Employers and Trainers.

Funded by the Australian Government under the National Disability Coordination Officer Program

Towards Success in Tertiary Study Series

<http://services.unimelb.edu.au/disability/success/>

Strategies for students with disabilities

Students who have disabilities or ongoing medical conditions may face additional issues in applying for jobs. For this reason the Special Needs Service offers opportunities for students to participate in mentoring and internships.

There are resources for students with disabilities thinking about their careers on equity@work

<http://scmapp.itd.uts.edu.au/scm/eatweb>

Universities in metropolitan Sydney hold a careers forum

(<http://pubsites.uws.edu.au/ndco/news/accessyourabilityatwork.html>) each year for students with disabilities. You can access a video featuring talks by an IBM Manager and graduates with disabilities at the forum held at UTS in 2010.

<http://ssu.uts.edu.au/careers/jobsearch/managing-disability.html>

Welcome to the ACPET website for resources for Registered Training Organisations.

This website assists private Registered Training Organisations that deliver courses in Vocational Education and Training and Higher Education to assist learners with disability.

ACPETs on-line disability resource can assist you to find information on the following:

- Legislation and standards covering education and training
- Policies and Procedures (Templates and best practice)

- Money Matters
- Training Supports for Teaching Professionals
- Resources for Learners
- Employment & Careers
- Disability Information

<http://www.adcet.edu.au/acpet/>

Supporting Interpreters

“Sign Language Interpreting in Educational Settings”

<http://www.scoop.int/supporting-interpreters>

Webinar - 'Resilient and Resourceful' by Clive Leach

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YErPFCPXXtU>

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Media Releases:

TITLE: Allow people with print disability worldwide to read: Australian government should take the lead (2012 Media Release)

PORTFOLIO: Attorney-General's

URL: http://www.humanrights.gov.au/about/media/media_releases/2012/45_12.html

SNIPPET: Disability Discrimination Commissioner, Graeme Innes, said today that people with a print disability throughout the world are currently experiencing a `book famine', yet the Australian government has failed to take action that could change the situation. 'Australia could lead the change to international law in this area and, at little cost to us, provide the opportunity to read to millions more people with print disability throughout the world.

TITLE: Australian Government employment services helping more Australians find work

PORTFOLIO: Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

URL: <http://www.ministers.deewr.gov.au/ellis/australian-government-employment-services-helping-more-australians-find-work>

SNIPPET: Australia Government Employment Services continue to help more job seekers into jobs, training and education, according to a report released today.. Since this Government established Job Services Australia (JSA) in July 2009, Australians looking for work have been more successful in finding work, and this latest report is further proof of that continuing trend.. Helping people find and keep fulfilling employment is the best assistance we can provide, and this report shows that Australian Government employment services are doing just that..

TITLE: \$200 million package for students with disability roll-out complete

PORTFOLIO: Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

URL: <http://www.ministers.deewr.gov.au/collins/200-million-package-students-disability-roll-out-complete>

SNIPPET: Thousands of students with disability across Australia will now benefit from an additional \$200 million in funding, thanks to the Australian Government's More Support for Students with Disabilities (MSSD) initiative. We know students with disability face extra challenges when it comes to getting a good education, so we are working hard and investing heavily to give them more effective support. Local Member for Kingston, Amanda Rishworth MP, joined Senator Collins at the forum to talk with parents, teachers and students about the long-term future of funding for students with disability, and welcomed this significant funding boost.

TITLE: Extra \$11.9 million for SA students with disability

PORTFOLIO: Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

URL: <http://www.ministers.deewr.gov.au/collins/extra-119-million-sa-students-disability>

SNIPPET: More than 15,000 students with disability in South Australian government schools may have greater access to classroom support and specialised equipment, thanks to \$11.9million from the Australian Government's More Support for Students with Disabilities initiative. Parliamentary Secretary for School Education, Senator Jacinta Collins, said this funding is in addition to the previously-announced funding to SA Independent and Catholic Schools, bringing a total of \$14.5 million to help better support South Australian students with disability. This funding, part of our \$200 million national initiative, will provide much-needed specialised support and assistance to thousands of

students in government schools across South Australia.

TITLE: Extra \$1.9 Million to help NT students with disability

PORTFOLIO: Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

URL: <http://www.ministers.deewr.gov.au/collins/extra-19-million-help-nt-students-disability>

SNIPPET: Government students with disability in the Northern Territory will have greater access to classroom support and specialised equipment, thanks to an extra \$1.9 million from the Australian Government's More Support for Students with Disabilities initiative. Parliamentary Secretary for School Education, Senator Jacinta Collins, said the funding is in addition to the previously-announced funding to Independent and Catholic Schools, bringing a total of \$2.2 million to help better support NT students with disability. This important initiative will allow government schools in the NT to further help their students to improve learning and engage with their classmates, teachers and support staff in the 2012 and 2013 school years.

TITLE: Extra \$37 million for VIC government students with disability

PORTFOLIO: Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

URL: <http://www.ministers.deewr.gov.au/collins/extra-37-million-vic-government-students-disability>

SNIPPET: More than 33,000 students with disability in Victorian government schools will have greater access to classroom support and specialised equipment thanks to \$37 million in funding from the Gillard Government's More Support for Students with Disabilities initiative.. This funding, part of our overall \$200 million national initiative, will provide much-needed specialised support and assistance to thousands of students in government schools across Victoria, Senator Collins said.. Under the More Support for Students with Disabilities initiative, Victorian government schools will receive:.

TITLE: More support for people with disability to work - Senator the Hon Jan McLucas

PORTFOLIO: Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

URL:

http://www.janmclucas.fahcsia.gov.au/mediareleases/2012/pages/support_people_disability_work_090512.aspx

SNIPPET: Minister for Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs. Australians with disability will receive greater support to help them into work where possible, as a result of legislation passed by the Parliament today.. This important change will give people with disability the security they need to test their ability to work more hours, without worrying about losing qualification for the disability pension.

TITLE: Extra \$15.4 Million to Help WA Students with Disability in Government Schools

PORTFOLIO: Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

URL: <http://www.ministers.deewr.gov.au/collins/extra-154-million-help-wa-students-disability-government-schools>

SNIPPET: More than 7500 students with disability in West Australian government schools will have greater access to classroom support and specialised equipment thanks to \$15.4million in funding from the Gillard Government's More Support for Students with Disabilities initiative. Parliamentary Secretary for School Education, Senator Jacinta Collins, said this funding is in addition to the previously announced funding to Independent and Catholic Schools, bringing a total of \$20.1 million to help better support WA students with disability. Under the More Support for Students with Disabilities initiative, WA government schools will receive:.

Allow people with print disability worldwide to read: Australian government should take the lead

Disability Discrimination Commissioner, Graeme Innes, said today that people with a print disability throughout the world are currently experiencing a 'book famine', yet the Australian government has failed to take action that could change the situation.

"Only 5% of all books produced in Australia are published in accessible formats such as large print, audio or braille, while in developing countries it is just 1%," said Commissioner Innes. "Australia should change its position and take the lead in ending this 'book famine'."

Commissioner Innes urged the Australian government not to fund the Trusted Intermediary Global Accessible Resources project, or TIGAR. TIGAR is set up to facilitate cross-border exchange of copyright protected electronic files for books in accessible formats. This exchange takes place between trusted intermediaries, such as national libraries and charitable institutions, serving the blind, visually impaired and others with print disabilities.

"In three years, TIGAR has only produced 300 books in alternate formats that can be shared worldwide, when there are hundreds of thousands of these books available in first world countries," Mr Innes said. "Despite this, the Australian government intends to provide \$200,000 funding for this failed initiative, which has barely made a dent in the 'book famine'."

Instead, Commissioner Innes urged the Australian government, at the World Intellectual Property Organisation meeting in Geneva in two weeks' time, to publicly support, and actively pursue a treaty which would make an

exception to copyright law.

Commissioner Innes said the World Blind Union withdrew its support for the TIGAR project, which is voluntary, in 2011, due to its lack of success.

"I support the call on the Australian government by Maryanne Diamond, President of the World Blind Union, to publicly support and actively pursue a treaty in this area," he said.

Commissioner Innes said that publishers have had the chance for more than 20 years to voluntarily end the book famine, but have chosen not to do so.

"Australia could lead the change to international law in this area and, at little cost to us, provide the opportunity to read to millions more people with print disability throughout the world." Commissioner Innes said. "An international treaty would allow hundreds of thousands of books already produced in formats like braille, audio and large print, to be shared from one country to another."

Statement of Maryanne Diamond in Vision Australia media release:

<http://www.visionaustralia.org.au/info.aspx?page=823&news=2605>

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

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