

Newsletter

Autumn 2016

National Disability Coordination Officer Program Region 17

I hope you are enjoying the Indian summer. We are almost at the end of term one, it has been a very busy term. You will see in this newsletter that there is some good professional development opportunities coming up in term two.

NDCO program regularly runs free workshops for services in the region. If you or your network would like the NDCO to source expertise to meet your professional development needs in relation to inclusion of people with disability please make contact.

Could you please share this newsletter with your networks.

Yours Sincerely

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<http://www.ndcovictoria.net.au/region-17>

<https://www.facebook.com/NDCOregion17>



NETWORKS UPDATE

Latrobe and Baw Baw Disability Transition Network

Latrobe Passport 2 Employment Seven Week Program one day a week in Morwell from 26th April 2016

Baw Baw Passport 2 Employment Seven Week Program one day a week in Warragul From 28th April 2016

East Gippsland Disability Transition Network

What Next Expo post school options for Student with a Disability 2nd May- 5:00pm to 7:00pm at the Community & Educational Hub Dalmahoy Street, Bairnsdale

South Gippsland Bass Coast Youth In Transition Network

'Let's have a Chat about the Future'- an event for young people with learning barriers, their families and educator 18th May- 11am to 6.45pm a range of workshops throughout the day at Federation Training Leongatha Campus

For more information at any of the above network events: andrea.evansmccall@skillsplus.com.au

Resources

Supporting tertiary students with a disability or mental illness: good practice guide

Through the implementation of the principles outlined in this good practice guide, teaching staff and disability services staff in tertiary institutions will be better positioned to provide additional supports for students with a disability or mental illness. Based on two research reports, which consider the perspectives of students, disability services workers and teaching staff, this guide offers a wide range of individual and institution-level learning supports with the aim of improving the educational experience and rate of course completions for students with a disability or mental illness.

[Supporting tertiary students with a disability or mental illness: good practice guide](#)

'Head for Health' Mental Health Promotion Booklet

'Head for Health' is a mental health promotion booklet developed by people who live in supported accommodation. Many project participants live with disabilities and mental health issues. They wanted to share the things that help them improve their mental health and to feel good. The low-literacy booklet features several project participants who demonstrate key messages.

https://metrosouth.health.qld.gov.au/sites/default/files/head_for_health.pdf

Clips Worth Watching

Sharing Our Story

Sharing Our Story is a highly engaging adult learning tool aimed at tertiary students and service providers who regularly work with children with a disability. Sharing Our Story is designed to stimulate discussion and encourage a greater understanding of disability from a family perspective enabling professionals to work in partnership with children with a disability and their families.

Sample on you tube (<https://youtu.be/Fj7icLvHLeE>)

The Sharing Our Story kit includes two DVDs plus a training manual with suggested learning objectives, activities and prompts to generate discussion. The full Sharing Our Story kit is available for purchase for AUD 199.00 inc.

GST on 03 9818 2000, 1800 654 013 or mail@acd.org.au

I am blind and this is a day in my life

Meet Graeme Innes, one of the 2015 Don't DIS my ABILITY ambassadors.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cQubRDJIGJg>

Assistive Technology

Document Accessibility Toolbar (DAT) beta an exciting new resource from Vision Australia!

An innovation that revolutionises the ease and speed of creating accessible documents in Microsoft Word, the Document Accessibility Toolbar (DAT) supports individuals and organisations to embrace accessibility as 'business as usual' at no cost.

The DAT puts the power of accessible functionality into the hands of content authors, for the ultimate benefit of consumers with disability or age-related impairment.

<https://www.visionaustralia.org/business-and-professionals/digital-access-consulting/resources/document-accessibility-toolbar#what>

Professional Development

Inclusive Learning Conference 2016 - Friday 10 June 2016

Supporting Successful Engagement in Education and Vocational Preparation

Venue: Monash University Peninsula, Campus McMahons Rd, Frankston

Target: Professionals with an interest in learning and education for people aged 14 years and over with complex learning needs.

Stream One: Inclusive practice in education

Stream Two: Vocational preparation and mentoring

Important dates:

Early Bird Registrations Close 25 April 2016

Registrations Close 30 May 2016

For further information about the Inclusive Learning Conference 2016 go to:

[http://www.ndcovictoria.net.au/region-14#events or contact](http://www.ndcovictoria.net.au/region-14#events%20or%20contact) To register for this event go to:

<http://www.eventbrite.com.au/o/ndco-program-6834195823>

FREE Professional Learning on the subject of “Trauma Informed Practice”, a crucial practice for people working in the flexible learning space

Who should attend? Flexible Learning Teachers, Tutors, Trainers, Program Coordinators, Centre Managers and School Principals working in Flexible Learning Programs, Schools.

When? 9:45 Registration, for a 10am start, finishing 2:30pm on **Thursday 14th April, 2016**

Where? Walter Tuck Reserve, Strzelecki Highway, Mirboo North, 3871 Mirboo North. Map Attached

Registrations: wendy@sgbcllen.org.au

Pathways 13 Conference Website - Celebrating 25 years of Pathways

30 November - 2 December 2016 Canberra

The ATEND Pathways Conference is a bi-annual event organised by the Australian Tertiary Education Network on Disability (ATEND). The conference brings together disability practitioners, NDCOs and a range of other professional, academic staff and students with disability to identify and remove barriers for people with disability participating in higher education and training.

Pathways provides a unique opportunity to improve our knowledge and plays a pivotal role in supporting practitioners and the sector in general with an opportunity for professional development. It encourages discussion and debate which informs the sector and ensures that we are all working towards an improved practice model. Pathways 13 centres around the theme; Changes, Challenges and Choice – embracing the future. The Pathways 13 conference will celebrate the 25th Anniversary of Pathways in Australia.

Register your interest here <http://www.pathways.consec.com.au/register.html>

Teaching and Supporting Students with Special Needs 6th National Conference

28 -29 July 2016 Richmond

Rethinking, Redefining & Redesigning the Strategies to Teach and Develop Students with Special Needs

Focus of the Conference

1. Showcase the Attributes of Special Needs Children through the Key-Note /Workshop Presentations.
2. Understand more fully the Nuances of Students with Special Needs in order to Develop New Units/Programs that can better Support and Progress these Students through their Schooling Experience.
3. Collective Minds sharing Brilliant Ideas and Strategies to Understand, Inform and Support our Young People.
4. Embrace through the Two Day Immersion Experiences, the New Ideas/Strategies that can be implemented into the Classroom to Better Support Students with Special Needs.
5. Allow the opportunity for Participants to Network through the Sessions/Morning Teas/ Lunches.

<http://www.criticalagendas.com.au/National/teaching-and-supporting-students-with-special-needs-jul-28-29-2016>

Funding / Scholarships

The Australian Disability and Indigenous Peoples' Education Fund

For many, a small financial grant will enable them to undertake a course. This education fund is about helping people complete or undertake courses and programs through providing small grants.

Our fund is looking to distribute small six monthly grants of up to \$2,500 to assist people with disabilities to continue their learning. Deadlines for Applications March 31st, 2016 and every 6 months.

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

Policy and Research

Access to real learning: the impact of policy, funding and culture on students with disability

An inquiry into current levels of access and attainment for students with disability in the school system, and the impact on students and families associated with inadequate levels of support. Australia, as a nation, has allowed educational outcomes for students with disability to be poor as a consequence of failing to consider what outcomes we want for children with disability. Without defined goals or outcomes for students with disability, there has been long-term policy confusion around expectations of the school system in general and individual students in particular. What is needed, therefore, is greater consideration given to what would be the optimal educational outcomes for students with disability, and then an effort made by governments at both commonwealth and state/territory level to put into place the policies, practices and funding that would lead to these outcomes.

http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Education_and_Employment/students_with_disability/Report

Building teacher capability for inclusive education

As a part of the Victorian Governments Department of Education and Training strategic direction, building teacher capability for inclusive education requires all Victorian teachers to undertake some professional development in the area of disabilities and special needs. For further information go to

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/department/Pages/snpskilledteachers.aspx>

For learning diversity resources go to

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/teachers/teachingresources/diversity/Pages/default.aspx>

Final Report on the 2015 Review of the Disability Standards for Education 2005

The Standards are required to be reviewed every five years in consultation with the Attorney-General's Department. Urbis were engaged by the department to undertake the 2015 review of the Standards. The 2015 review recognised progress has been made since the 2010 review in raising awareness of the Standards with educators through various initiatives and resources. The Final Report on the 2015 Review and the Australian Government initial response are now available. The Australian Government initial response outlines how the Australian Government intends to address each recommendation. <https://docs.education.gov.au/node/38936>

<http://www.speldvic.org.au/component/dtregister/?Itemid=99999>

Post School Transition, the Experiences of Students with Disability

This report by CDA is based on the direct experience of young people with disability. It highlights key issues from current research, legislation and consultation with key stakeholders. It concludes with recommendations for improving outcomes and options for post school transition of students with disability.

<http://apo.org.au/resource/post-school-transition-experiences-students-disability>

Supporting tertiary students with disabilities: individualised and institution-level approaches in practice

Experiencing disability or ongoing ill-health can be very disruptive to an individuals' education and training outcomes. These students may need additional support to help them successfully complete their studies. This research explores the complex factors affecting the implementation of learning supports to assist students with disabilities or ongoing health conditions. It focuses on two types of learning support: individualised reasonable adjustments; and institution-level learning supports, the latter being available to all students. The report provides examples of best practice for the provision of both types of learning supports and notes that often a combination of these may be appropriate.

[Supporting tertiary students with disabilities: individualised and institution-level approaches in practice](#)

Recognising Ability: Business and the Employment of People with Disability

Business Council of Australia launched Recognising Ability: Business and the Employment of People with Disability, a report which looks at the role business can play in driving greater workforce participation and inclusion for people with disability.

<http://www.bca.com.au/media/recognising-ability-business-and-the-employment-of-people-with-disability>