

Newsletter

Winter 2018

National Disability Coordination Officer Program Region 17

SOMETIMES it's easy to feel like there's not enough hours in the day, like its over quicker than usual. YES, the days have been getting shorter and shorter and shorter, but that depressing trend will stop after the winter solstice occurs today. SO enjoy the winter sun and read my latest edition of my region 17 NDCO newsletter.

Yours Sincerely

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NDCO News and Events

Empowering Leadership Program

Last Friday the 15th June was the second session of the Empowering Leadership Program, 26 students from schools across Gippsland attended the day in Traralgon. The aim of the program is to develop leadership capacity in students with a disability in years 10 to 12 in both specialist and main stream schools across Gippsland. Evidence shows that young people who are exposed to leadership development opportunities are likely to have a positive wellbeing and are more likely to reach their full potential. On the day participants were exposed to a number of *Leader Mentors* who provided strategic leadership. We are looking forward to the third and final session on the 17th August.

Free Career Conversations Workshops

I have collaborated with my NDCO colleague Pam Anderson (Western Victoria Region 16) to develop a workshop package suitable for anyone who would like to know how to be a competent Career Ally to a young person. Career Conversations workshops are suitable for parents, teachers, service providers, volunteers and mentors from any background. We reviewed the Department of Education & Training's "Engaging Parents in Career Conversations 2014" coupled with "Parents as Career Transition Support (PACTS)" and "Lasting Gifts" materials developed a new package which is user friendly and fun for anyone wishing to know more about career pathways and development for young people with disability. Workshop run for two and a half hours and each participant will receive their own FREE copy of our Career Conversations card decks. These cards focus on five different career conversation messages as follows:

1. What is your Career?
2. Discovery (based on Customised Employment Discovery Process)
3. Reputation

4. Opportunities and Who you Know

5. Career Allies

There are ten questions on individual cards under each of the five messages above which will enable Career Allies to have a tool they can use when speaking with a young person about their future career goals.

I have been delivering Free Career Conversation Workshops across the Region 17 to ES staff.

Feedback from a recent workshop:

“Very informative, with great skills going forward” ES Staff

“The biggest impact from the session for me was knowing what also interacts with a career” ES Staff

“A great discussion” ES Staff

“I think this is a great opportunity for the ES staff to get involved in careers” Careers Practitioner

“Learning how many jobs roles are involved in creating a pencil made the biggest impact on me” ES Staff

If you are interested in hosting a FREE workshop delivered by your region 17 NDCO, please make contact on 0418 208 039 or [email](#)

Tips, Tools, Clips & Websites

Gippsland East ‘Local Stories’

Gippsland East LLEN has launched the first short videos -the foundation for our Empowering Career Paths project. ‘Local Stories’ feature interviews with young workers and introduce a variety of occupations available in the East Gippsland and Wellington Shires. They are inspiring stories about the different pathways that school leavers take to find local employment. Our interviewees candidly talk about their journeys from school to the workforce; and bring new thinking about career options as they share their passion for why they choose to stay and work in Gippsland East. One story features [Tansy Bradshaw](#) who has been a guest speaker at Inspiring Young People with Disability events across Region 17.

disABILITY AWAREness, An introduction to Disability.

The disability AWAREness eLearning training package is a free on line training program for people to become more informed and discover inclusive practices for the workplace and community. Easy to use and covering range of disability awareness topics I highly recommend this series of modules for all people wishing to understand the world of disability .

[Disability awareness website](#)

[There is also dedicated Facebook page](#)

NDCO region 15 Podcast series for 2018. “NDCO—Perspective Matters”

My colleague Mark Cottee NDCO for Region 15 Northern Victoria has stated to Podcast. For his very first podcast he caught up with Jess Bickham who is currently doing some student placement hours at Wodonga TAFE. Jess was born with Osteogenesis imperfecta, also known as brittlebones disease, and in this conversation we cover the impacts of that condition from early age right through to her current studies and aspirations. [To listen](#)

Policy, Funding and Research

Changes to the Disability Employment Services (DES)

There are 42 new organisations that have been recommended to start providing Disability Employment Services (DES) across Australia from 1 July 2018. There are also 100 existing DES providers that have been recommended to continue providing DES services across Australia. These changes aim to improve the overall performance of the DES program to help more people with disability, injury or a health condition find and maintain employment.

[For more information](#)

[For list of providers](#)

ILC Grants: Round 2 Winners Announced

147 projects will be funded under the most recent round for Jurisdictional and National ILC Grants. For the National grants, a little over \$28 million has been awarded for 43 individual projects. Grants range in size from \$173,000 to just under \$2 million.

[To read more](#)

Evaluation of the NDIS: final report. Department of Social Services (Australia)

Several main findings emerge from the evaluation of the NDIS. The first finding is that the Scheme has been designed and built on sound fundamentals. This is an important confirmation of the policy. The second finding is that the NDIS has been delivering the outcomes that it was designed to deliver. This is probably the most important positive finding of the evaluation and it should be flagged as such. Given the complexity and magnitude of the undertaking, it is not unexpected that these positive findings come with qualifications. For example, some design aspects and implementation outcomes are not necessarily as person-centred as originally desired, and several outcomes are not attained at the speed that was originally expected. The evaluation identifies several such problems and offers its critical assessment. The evaluation team would invite the policy maker to consider carefully these identified problems, as many of them will need to be resolved. Equally, the team would invite the policy maker to consider carefully those aspects of the NDIS that make for its success and seek appropriate policy interventions that will reinforce them.

[Access the full NDIA evaluation report](#)

The Centre for Applied Disability Research

The NDS Centre for Applied Disability Research has released a number of Research to Action Guides on various topics including school to employment transitions and more.

[To access a copy of the guides](#)

Opportunities

Free TAFE for priority courses, 2019

The Government will make training at TAFE free for 30 priority courses, commencing 1 January 2019. Eligible students will pay no course tuition fees for the duration of selected courses. Nominated apprenticeship pathway courses in Government priority areas will also be free, to encourage higher participation and opportunities for students to consider undertaking apprenticeships. This initiative will reduce a financial barrier to training, incentivise students to consider careers in priority occupations and respond to industry demand for skilled graduates.

To see list of [initial 20 non-apprenticeship courses and 18 Apprenticeship Pathway courses in 2019](#)

Federation Training Skills for Vocational Pathways Information Sessions

LEONGATHA CAMPUS: Thursday 21st June 2018, 10.30AM & 4.00PM

MORWELL CAMPUS: Wednesday June 27th 2018, 10.30AM & 4.00PM

ABC's Q&A will be focused on disability next Monday June 25

Q&A will be asking some big questions about the NDIS. They want to know what is working and what isn't. They want to know how people with disability think it could be fixed. They will also talk about what else needs to change so that people with disability have the same opportunities in life as everyone else. Don't miss this chance to have our voices heard.

[To submit your question](#)

Pick Your Project: New Fund for Locals, Decided By Locals

The new grassroots democracy program, Pick My Project, will be backed by \$30 million from the Victorian Budget 2018/19 and will be spread across the state, giving every community the chance

to benefit. In a Victorian-first, all residents aged 16 and over will be able to submit their idea for consideration under the program. All they'll need is an idea that helps build a stronger community, and the backing of a local organisation, community group, school, local council, or other eligible group able to help deliver the project. Ideas could include anything from sporting and recreation infrastructure, community arts projects, improvements to community facilities or the local environment. The winning projects will be announced in September 2018.

[Applications](#)

Inclusive Education Scholarships for Teachers

Minister for Education James Merlino has announced 360 government funded scholarships for Victorian teachers to undertake a Master of Education specialising in inclusive and special education or applied behaviour analysis as part of an \$11.5 million scholarship program.

[For more information](#)

Positive Action towards Career Engagement (PACE Mentoring)

PACE connects students and jobseekers with disability with mentors from leading Australian businesses. It gives you an opportunity to develop your skills and confidence in a workplace setting. Previous mentors have come from organisations such as, ANZ Bank, Victoria Police, Bupa, The Attorney Generals Department, and Ashurst.

[For more information](#)

NDIS

The NDIS Pre-planning Toolkits for people with disability entering Higher Education or Vocational Education and Training

The NDCO program is excited to launch eight new resources to support students with disability navigate who is responsible for providing what support while undertaking further education. The resources are designed to be used before students start a tertiary course at university or with a vocational education and training provider. With the introduction of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) there has been a lot of confusion on who is responsible for funding what support within the further education sector. These booklets will help students identify what supports they may need, who is responsible for providing them and how they can access them. There are eight specific resources for the most prevalent disability types accessing further education and training. [Download booklets](#)

Conferences, Workshops, Forums and Training

Pathways 14 Conference

Pathways 14 Conference website was launched this month and are already calling for abstracts. 4-7 December 2018 Novotel Manly Pacific, Sydney Australia. Abstracts are now being sought for oral presentations (20 minute presentation, plus 5 minutes Q&A). Themes include Mental health, Inclusive Design, Inherent Requirements, Employment, Mental Health and Well-being, Interface between NDIS and tertiary education and Community Links. [Submit your abstract](#)

Webinar: Practical strategies for teachers with learners who are deaf or hard of hearing

VDC will be hosting a webinar developed and delivered by deaf ConnectEd to provide practical strategies for teachers with learners who are deaf or hard of hearing.

DATE: Thursday 19 July 2018

TIME 10.30am – 11.30am (AEST)

COST: \$88 (inc GST)

[For more information and bookings](#)

NDIS - Families as Planning Partners Course in Sale

VALID & Wellington Shire Council present NDIS - Families as Planning Partners Course in Sale

The course will be conducted 10:00am – 2:00pm on the dates below:

Wednesday – Day – 25th July, 1st, 8th, 15th, & 22nd August 2018

For more information and bookings email: annette@valid.org.au

Inclusive Education Summit 2018

To be held at Deakin University Waterfront Campus from October 26-28

The Inclusive Education Summit seeks to engage with researchers, students, education professionals and leaders, advocacy organisations, and people experiencing exclusion to consider human rights in relation to inclusive education.

Participation in the Summit is invited through both the Call for Papers and Registration, with all the Summit information available via [website](#). Visit the website today to submit your Abstract for presentation or to take advantage of the early bird discounted registration rates.

Victorian NDCO's

The NDCO Program works strategically to assist people with disability access, and participate in 'Tertiary Education' and subsequent employment, through a national network of regionally based NDCOs. There are 31 NDCO regions in Australia with 7 in Victoria. In Victoria the NDCO program has also established a state network to work on collaborative state priorities. You can access contact to all Victorian NDCO's via the state website: www.ndcovictoria.net.au
