

NDCO “ACROSS THE DESK”

REGION 15 NORTHERN VICTORIA

Volume 2 / December 2018



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LINKS / CONTACTS

Please note the following contact points for NDCO region 15.

- [NDCO Region 15 Facebook page](#). For events, breaking stories, shares and posts from across the region please follow and like me here.
- [NDCO Wordpress, “Across the Desk”](#). For in-depth articles, summaries of reports and special event coverage please follow me here.
- [NDCO region 15 webpage](#). For a link to resources and special updates please add this link to your favourite browser page.

For all direct enquiries please note the following:

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or phone: 0439 207671.

WELCOME TO THE NDCO REGION 15 NEWSLETTER.

Hello to everyone and welcome to the second edition of the ‘Across the Desk’ NDCO region 15 newsletter. I do hope that the new format meets your needs, and so far, the revised version has been positively received. Please note that I do rely heavily on embedding hyperlinks links where applicable to keep the document concise. As such this document is best read electronically rather than in hard copy print.

Feels like forever since my last update in September and as usual there is lots to cover.

Highlights include;

- Two new podcast episodes.
- New interactive service maps.
- Links to recent reports, findings and submissions.

Moving forward;

In 2019 I look forward to exploring some cross sector collaboration in terms of internships and programs designed to place students into meaningful work opportunities. One such program will be the ‘Connect 50’ program supported by the Australian Network on Disability (AND). You can read more about this on their webpage: <https://www.and.org.au/news.php/372/new-project-boosts-disability-confidence-and-participation-in-victoria>. If you would like to be included please contact me directly. This is one of several focus areas for me in 2019 and I look forward to bringing you further updates early next year.

In the interim – a reminder that I am using the various other media platforms mentioned in the links and contacts section featured in the left hand side of this page.

Be well and I hope you enjoy the update...

SPECIFIC REPORTS UPDATE:

Note - the following reports are linked directly and available via their headings listed below

NDIS ANNUAL REPORT 2017-18

This is the fifth annual report prepared (and tabled in October 2018) by the NDIA and it includes an overview of the NDIS, the purpose and aspirations of the NDIA, messages by the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer highlighting key achievements and challenges, and directions for the coming year. The report is further broken in to four clear parts;

Part 1: Focuses on our participants and progress made in 2017–18 in improving the lives of Australians with disability, their families and carers.

Part 2: Details the NDIA’s governance arrangements, the NDIA’s structure and core management processes.

Part 3: Presents reports required by the Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2014 (PGPA) and the NDIS Act including a summary of the NDIS financial sustainability report, 2017–18 annual performance statement and financial statements.

Part 4: Provides additional information about the NDIA’s performance including specific statutory provisions that have not been addressed within the body of the annual report.

*Keep a lookout for further updates regarding the **quality and safety framework** supporting the disability sector under the NDIS. Transition to the national framework for Victoria is due to take place in July 2019. For more information visit the NDIS quality and safeguards commission - <https://www.ndiscommission.gov.au/>*

SKILLSROAD 2018 YOUTH CENSUS REPORT

Recently released – “In September 2018 we conducted the largest Youth Census in Australia with over 30,000 youth, aged 15-24 completing our survey. The research was commissioned by Apprenticeship Support Australia in response to concerns regarding rising youth unemployment and a range of evident changes in today’s workforce.” Additionally, the findings are intended to inform parents, teachers and current or future employers about challenges and concerns youth across Australia are facing and resulting wellbeing levels, as well as what this means for our workforce at a bigger scale.” Some surprising results.

By accessing the link above you can download the comprehensive report directly. I would also urge you to check out the recent webinar recording discussing the findings - <https://youtu.be/ml3aj9VfOVc>. I also note on their website some helpful resources to help support youth health and wellbeing.

Also related...

In October I attended a local forum hosted by Wodonga Council on the topic of improving local youth health and wellbeing. As part of the briefing they provided a comprehensive environmental scan. Whilst I am not in a position to share that full report I suggest looking up their series of fact sheets on the subject (amongst other related topics), on their webpage. [Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing plan](#).

OTHER GUIDES, REPORTS OR SURVEYS WORTH NOTING:

[Future Skills Survey Released.](#)

'SkillsIQ' recently released their 2019 Future Skills Survey. The survey aims to understand workforce issues and skills needs across industries. Share your experience to help inform training of Australia's future workforce by completing the survey here - <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/futureskillssurvey>.

[Vocational Education & Training Review.](#)

The Australian Government has commissioned an independent review of the vocational education and training (VET) sector to ensure Australians have the right skills to succeed in a changing labour market, and businesses have access to the skills they need to grow the business. **Public submissions to the Review are now open, and will close on Friday 25 January 2019 at 11.59 pm AEST.**

The NDCO program is pleased to announce that we have enhanced both the content and accessibility of our [Introduction to Disability Awareness training](#). New features include: Ability to provide organisations with details about their staff completing the training and certificates of completion are automatically generated.

NDCO – UPDATES / TIPS / NEWS

In this section of the newsletter I highlight the latest additions to the updates tips and news page of the region 15 webpage...

[NDCO Perspective Matters Podcast series...](#)

[Podcast # 6 African community work expo.](#)

I managed to catch up with a range of attendees at a recent forum specially targeting the African community who have settled in the border region of Albury Wodonga. Number three in a series of workshops run by the locally support agency 'Gateway health', this particular event focused on introducing the local African community to a range of employment and transport support services.

[Podcast # 7 Pathways 14 2018 Conference.](#)

Every two years the Pathways conference comes and goes. This year it was held at Manly in northern Sydney. The three day 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 post-secondary education and training.

Normally I would provide notes on those sessions attended and post as a blog but this year I thought I would go with the audio version as part of the podcast series. Given the large amount of audio collected I actually think that this episode is more like a part one, noting that the theme of this year's event; "Progressive Partnerships - Inclusive, Innovative, Ingenuity".

[Local Aboriginal Network Regional Meeting – Shepparton November 2018](#)

Big thanks to the organisers of the recent Local Aboriginal Network meeting for the Ovens Murray and Goulburn Valley regions of the state. Held over two days it is a great opportunity for members from Wodonga, Wangaratta, Mansfield, Seymour, Shepparton and Kyabram districts to get together and discuss their activities as a collective.

The link in the above title provides highlights of my attendance at this event and also features a series of links to additional resources and reports. Note that one report that I have only recently discovered and not included in my original post is the [National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth report: Youth survey 2017](#). This report, recently released by Mission Australia, provides insights into the aspirations, experiences and concerns of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people.

NDCO – NETWORKS & DIRECTORIES

NDCO REGION 15, SERVICE DIRECTORY RESOURCE.

As promised I have recently been working on a series of service agency directories for the main centres across Northern Victoria. The one page interactive map(s) (using Thinglink) are part of the ‘transition options for student with disability’ suite of resources, however can be used by any career adviser, teacher, service provider, parent, carer or student to help with career transition or disability support.

At this stage I have released versions to cover ‘Albury/Wodonga’, ‘Wangaratta/Benalla/Mansfield’, Shepparton and Swan Hill. I am hoping to release versions covering Bendigo and Seymour in the very near future.

To access the maps just go the NDCO region 15 directories webpage and click on the name for your area.

<http://www.ndcovictoria.net.au/region-15#directories>

NOTE: I have created a short video explaining the resource available here – <https://youtu.be/f6oMqq98Xfw>

LAST WORD

My last word for this edition of the newsletter is a big thank you to the NDCO team as a collective. It was great to catch up with most of them at the recent Pathways conference although I note that not everyone was able to attend. With over 31 positions held across the country it is a wonderful thing to have such a dedicated network of individuals helping and supporting the work we do individually. From creating and sharing resources right through to collaborative submissions that guide government policies I extend a very big thanks. I also extend that thanks to every one of my stakeholders across the state. In particular the support people working across the Northern Victorian region who reflect that collaborative effort when connecting with the program. All the best for a very productive 2019 and wishing everyone a safe and merry festive period.

Don't forget that I am always available to come and speak to your support group, organisation or community network for all things disability in the education and employment space.
