

# Newsletter

## Winter 2019

### National Disability Coordination Officer Program Region 17

Welcome to the winter 2019 edition of the NDCO Program Newsletter for Region 17. If you would like further information about special projects, networks and professional development opportunities in relation to equitable opportunities for people with disability to access, participate and achieve their goals in tertiary education and subsequent employment please make contact.

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#### **NDCO News and Events**

##### **NDCO National Strategic Plan**

In June 2019, the 31 National Disability Coordination Officers met in Canberra to work together on the new NDCO Program National Strategic Plan to June 2022. The program vision is to 'drive change so that people with disability have equitable opportunity to access, participate and achieve their goals in tertiary education and subsequent employment'. Further details of initiatives will be available in the coming weeks. The four priority areas for the National Strategic Plan are:

Strategic Priority One: **Identify Gaps and Barriers**

Strategic Priority Two: **Practice Informed Policy**

Strategic Priority Three: **Escalate and Advocate**

Strategic Priority Four: **Enable High Performance**

NDCO's are currently busy mapping activities to our new strengthened strategic direction. Further details of initiatives will be available in the coming weeks.

##### **"What our voices say" - Giving young people with disability an opportunity to share real-life stories in their pursuit of further education and employment**

The National Youth Council (NYC) is currently undertaking an *Inquiry into Youth Employment and Transitions*. This enquiry is interested in capturing the views of youth in relation to their career journey so far. The National Disability Coordination Officer (NDCO) program has a working group of NDCO's based across Australia who would like to support youth with disability to contribute to this enquiry.

The NDCO will assist young people with disability to provide evidence to the enquiry via recorded interview transcripts and/or written submissions. This is expected to take approximately 1 hour. A \$20 gift voucher will be provided to participants for their time. If you would like to contribute please contact NDCO directly on 0418 208 039 or [andrea.evansmccall@skillsplus.com.au](mailto:andrea.evansmccall@skillsplus.com.au) to make a time to put together a submission.

NDCOs are looking to hear from individuals with disability (aged 18 - 25) including:

- People who have studied/or currently studying at TAFE and/or University
- People who have sought/or currently seeking employment through Disability Employment Services (DES) or other avenues
- People from culturally and linguistically diverse background
- People who identify as being Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander
- You can read more about the work of the NYC here: <https://nycinquiry.org.au/>

[To Read](#) NYC's Terms of Reference

### **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](#)

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### **Scholarships**

#### **The Walter and Eliza Hall Trust Tertiary Transition Scholarship**

This scholarship is now open and provides financial assistance to students who have a physical disability to enable them to reach their academic potential as they transition to tertiary education. There are a total of three scholarships in 2020, each valued at \$10,000. This scholarship is available to students in public schools in the ACT, NSW, Queensland and Victoria.

For more information and to [apply](#)

Applications close on 27 August 2019.

I would also encourage you to watch this short video of Tara who is one of the 2019 Walter and Eliza Hall Scholars. Tara is hearing impaired, but it did not stop her being school captain of her school in Brisbane, and she is now studying music and the Sydney Conservatorium of Music.

[Watch Video](#)

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### **Policy, Funding, Research, Reports & Resources**

#### **Strengthening Skills - Expert Review of Australia's Vocational Education and Training System**

On 28 November 2018, the Prime Minister announced an independent review of Australia's vocational education and training (VET) sector to examine ways to deliver skilled workers for a stronger economy. The review was led by the Honourable Steven Joyce, a former New Zealand Minister for Tertiary Education, Skills and Employment. Mr Joyce delivered the [final report](#) to the Government in March 2019.

#### **Webinar: Collaboration for improved career development decisions for students with mental health conditions**

In this webinar, Julie Rogan from the Disabilities Service Team at Griffith University discusses the importance of collaboration between Disabilities Services and staff from career services and other support staff in a secondary or tertiary environment. In these days of poor retention rates across the board and certainly, for students with a disability, including mental health and then the difficulty people with a disability have gaining employment improved career decisions are essential.

[View Webinar](#)

## **Webinar: The Inclusive Classroom**

In this webinar Troy Waller from Microsoft will show how:

Windows 10 and Office 365 can transform the educational experience and personalise learning;

Experience Learning Tools watch it improve reading comprehension and writing;

Learn how students can demonstrate their understanding using inputs other than keyboarding and text and be equipped with productivity and collaborative tools, and skills they will use throughout their lives; navigate these tools and tailor them to their students' individual learning needs.

Microsoft's mission is to empower all people and all organisations to achieve more. The classroom is no different. Microsoft Windows and Windows-based applications like Office, together with other assistive technologies, offer features that make computers easier to use for everyone – giving teachers the opportunity to provide personalised learning, and students an improved experience and equal opportunity in the classroom.

[View Webinar](#)

## **Psychosocial Recovery Supports – Mental Health and the NDIS-Article by Mark Cottee NDCO**

On 7<sup>th</sup> June 2019, I attended a 'Partners in Recovery' celebration event in Wodonga thanks to Murray PHN. As an advocate of this model I attended very much interested in where mental health servicing is heading in the context of the NDIS with that particular program coming to an end.

In short, there are three things worth considering:

(1) The introduction of the 'Partners in Recovery' project was a game changer for a lot of service providers and their clients, working under a 'multiple supports' model with services designed around three key principles; strengths based, person centred, with a focus on building capacity. Whatever happens moving forward these key principles of support will continue to be delivered through a collaborative and responsive local network of providers.

(2) For those individuals eligible for NDIS and engaged as a participant, they will be serviced via the NDIS regime. In a lot of instances there will be a focus on continuing services and minimising disruption for clients and the services they receive. For an in-depth overview of this process please refer to the NDIS web information: <https://www.ndis.gov.au/understanding/how-ndis-works/mental-health-and-ndis>

(3) For those individuals not eligible for NDIS the main support option being offered is called - National Psychosocial Supports or NPS. "The NPS will support a range of non-clinical approaches to the build functional capacity of people with severe mental illness at the individual level to help enable personal recovery. The services are designed to help people for whom clinical care is insufficient to help them build capacity for daily living and who would benefit from specialised psychosocial support at certain times."

Further - my understanding is that the rollout of the NPS will be managed via the state governments. Refer to the Department of Health's 'The National Psychosocial Support Measure' web page for more information.

From a more local point of view and considering the state involvement with the rollout there will be local service options being offered for non NDIS eligible clients funded via the state government funds. These programs will be administered by local Mental Health services in your district.

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## **Conferences, Workshops, Forums and Training**

### **Access Easy English Learn Easy English 2 day writing course**

Time: 9.15am – 4.30pm

Date: Thursday 28 and Friday 29 November 2019

Venue: Centre for Excellence in Child and Family Welfare Level 5, 50 Market St Melbourne

Cost: \$650 + gst Morning tea and light lunch provided

[To registration](#)

## **Introduction to Customised Employment Webinar**

Date: 6 August 2019

Time: 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm

Through the NDIS people with disability are increasingly seeking transition to work supports. Join us in this webinar to gain knowledge and an overview of tools and resources to support people who want to work and achieve suitable, sustainable and meaningful employment using a Customised Employment approach.

This webinar will:

- Provide an overview of the Customised Employment approach and its process
- Acquiring the necessary NDIS funding for Customised Employment
- Broaden thinking around meaningful employment for people with disabilities
- Question and Answer session

[To registration](#)

## **2019 Inclusive Education Summit**

The 2019 Inclusive Education Summit invites us to meet, work and think together: People from marginalised groups, their families, allies and accomplices, researchers, students, educators and educational leaders, advocacy organisations. Our aim is to consider how education systems can be part of a much wider agenda - the building of inclusive societies. "It's about all of us" is a call to action.

Date: Friday 25 October to Sunday 27 October 2019

Venue: Venue: Kohia Centre, Faculty of Education and Social Work, University of Auckland. The Kohia Centre is located on the Epsom Campus (Gate 1, 78 Epsom Ave), Auckland.

[To registration](#)

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