

GET READY

GET READY FOR STUDY AND WORK

NDCOE - Newsletter Western Sydney National Disability Coordination Officer Program

Welcome to the *National Disability Coordination Officer Program* quarterly Newsletter.

For more information visit www.uws.edu.au/ndco.

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New WSNDCO Team member – Bernard Sobiesiak

The WSNDCO team would like to welcome Bernard Sobiesiak onboard as NDCO for region 5 - Western Sydney including Blacktown, Penrith, Blue Mountains and the Hawkesbury regions.



Bernard brings to the WSNDCO team a huge range of skills and experience, from both the corporate and equity sectors. He has significant skills in project management and the development and delivery of training, and is very passionate about transition for people with disabilities. We believe he will be a great asset to the team, the region and our program as a whole.

Bernard will be out and about in the region meeting you all over the coming months. In the meantime don't hesitate to contact him (details below) for any enquiries in the Outer Western Sydney/Blacktown region.

Welcome Bernard!

As we welcome Bernard, we would also like to farewell our previous Region 5 NDCOs – Michelle Hayter and Catherine Gasparini and wish them well in their new endeavors. We are lucky enough to still have Michelle around doing some project work with our team.

A New Resource for parents and carers – Getting young people ready for study and work

We have recently received a grant from the Department of Education, Employment & Workplace Relations (DEEWR) to develop a new resource for parents of young people with disability on the move from high school to further education, training and work. This will be a valuable addition to our existing *Get Ready* range of resources, including our websites *Get Ready for Study and Work* (www.uws.edu.au/ndco), *Get Ready for Uni*

(www.uws.edu.au/ndco/getready) and our *Get Ready Workbook* for young people (<http://pubsites.uws.edu.au/ndco/get-ready%20NDCO/index.htm>).

We know that genuine family involvement in transition planning leads to: higher academic performance; increased graduation rates; better likelihood of young people deciding to pursue higher education; and subsequently greater success in employment. It is well recognised that providing families with information, support and connections is crucial to transition success. However, recent research and our own experience shows that parents and carers often feel they do not have access to the information they need, or are not aware of all of the career options and support available to their young person after high school. This resource aims to help fill this gap and assist parents through this challenging transition period.

The first step in development was a consultation with parents and other key stakeholders. Over 150 people have contributed their ideas around the content and priorities for this resource – and we look forward to incorporating all of these ideas as content development progresses. Thank you to everyone who had a say.

We plan to launch the new resource on Monday 20th February, 2012. Please mark the date in your calendar and look out for more information shortly.

For more information about this project please contact strategic project officers Nicole Ison at n.ison@uws.edu.au or Michelle Hayter at m.hayter@uws.edu.au.

Congratulations to two of our stakeholders – Suzanne Colbert and the Deaf Society

- **The Deaf Society of NSW** (located in Parramatta) has been awarded the 2011 Employment & Inclusion of People with a Disability award at this year's Diversity@Work Employment and Inclusion Awards. The Diversity@Work Awards celebrate the achievement of Australian organisations in promoting a diverse and inclusive workplace and the aim of the Employment & Inclusion of People with a Disability award is "to recognise excellence in initiatives or programs related to the employment and inclusion of people with a disability".
www.diversityatwork.com.au/events/awards/2011/awards
- **Suzanne Colbert**, CEO of the Australian Network on Disability and one of the WSNDCO Advisory Committee members, has been appointed by the Australian Government as one of six Australians to champion the cause of people with disability! Suzanne and the other 5 Disability Community Leaders will help promote and raise awareness of the 2011 International Day of People with Disability and National Disability Awards within their communities and will participate in local and regional events in the lead up to these two important annual events. www.idpwd.com.au/disability-community-leaders/idpwd-disability-community-leaders-suzanne-colbert/

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Uni Careers Forums

The 3rd annual careers forum for university students with disability, ***Your Career. Your Future: Navigating the journey to employment for university students with a disability***, was held on the 6th of September at UNSW. Graeme Innes, the Australian Disability Discrimination Commissioner, was the keynote speaker. New initiatives included live captioning, a panel of employers and encouraging students to fill in an action plan as the day went along. As usual the employed graduates with disability were a big hit. Comments included:

"For me the most beneficial sessions were the workshops on transition to employment and the rights and responsibilities around disclosure. I learnt that it is quite within reason and expected to contact employers about clarifications regarding selection criteria and that essential criteria may not necessarily be essential so it pays to do research first before simply dismissing it if you do not meet the criteria on face value. I also learnt about various services available to assist jobseekers with disabilities".

"Morning Tea networking was very helpful/valuable. I now have a few action plans for my career path. If only the wider community was as supportive/accommodating. Graeme was great. Hospitality wonderful!"

This event is an annual joint initiative and collaboration between Sydney metropolitan universities, the NDCO and the Australian Network on Disability (AND) with corporate sponsorship from IBM.

NDCO Resource Kits - Afternoon teas

Debi Toman, NDCO for Inner Western Sydney, Central Western Sydney and Canterbury-Bankstown (Region 2) held 3 afternoon teas over August and September. The afternoon teas, held across the region at Southern Cross Vocational College, Bankstown Senior College and Our Lady of Mercy College, were held to distribute a newly compiled Resource Kit with NDCO resources for students with support needs in both mainstream and support classes. A copy of the kit was available to each of the 100 schools in the region. The afternoon teas also provided a great networking opportunity and the kits were very well received:

"Was very interesting meeting others, especially to find out where we as a public school could improve with support/integration for students."

"Very useful resource. Thank you for putting it all together in such a user-friendly way."

"Wonderful afternoon, outstanding! Very useful."

Following on from the success of this resource, NDCOs in Region 4 (Gillian Hilt and Nicole Ison) and Region 5 (Bernard Sobiesiak) will be making resource kits for distribution to their schools in Fairfield, Liverpool and Outer South Western Sydney and Blacktown and Outer Western Sydney in 2012.

Although the hard copy kits are limited, most of the resources are available online. (See links below).

We hope you find this information useful, and as always, appreciate your feedback.

FREE Transition resources for school leavers with disability

Western Sydney National Disability Coordinator Officer websites:

[Western Sydney NDCO program](#)

[Choosing Your Path: Disclosure It's a Personal Decision](#)

[Get Ready for Uni](#)

[Get Ready for Study and Work](#) – A workbook containing tips for young people who have a disability or chronic medical condition

[Get Ready for Uni](#) - Resources for Year 12 students with: Vision Impairment, Hearing Impairment, Mental Health Conditions, Asperger's Syndrome, Chronic Medical Conditions

[EduApps](#) – free assistive technology on a USB

For a demonstration: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Aqior5LORFw>

[Transition resource](#) for students with disabilities looking at Uni, TAFE or Work

[Prospective university students with disabilities](#)

[TAFE Step by Step](#) for students with disabilities

[Disability Employment Services](#)

[Get Students Ready for Life after school](#) – a poster resource

[Are you 1 in 5?](#) – a poster resource and companion wallet size resource

[Your Right to an Education](#) - a guide for students with a disability and education providers about the DDA Education Standards 2005

[Finding Help](#) – When problems with Mental Health affect you or your family

[Tips for Tertiary](#) – A DVD resource for young people with disability embarking on tertiary education

[Making it Happen](#) – Work experience for all – A Booklet and DVD resource

[Steps for the Future](#) - An interactive game DVD.

For a demonstration <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F3XdRTe9bSQ>

To request a copy www.ndco.stepscs.net.au/contactus.asp

[WSNDCO Resource Kit PowerPoint presentation](#)

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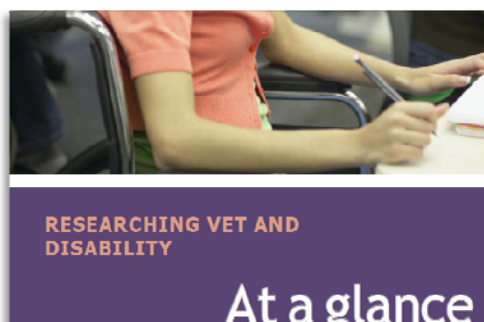


New support group for tertiary students with mental illness in Macarthur

A new support group for TAFE and university students with mental illness has recently been established in the Macarthur area. Please let students in your networks know about this opportunity to connect with other people for informal meetings, activities, guest speakers and to meet new people. It is hoped that this group will play a role in helping students with mental illness feel supported during their studies and reduce rates of non-completion.

For more information about the support group please leave a message for Belinda at Macarthur Disability Services on 4621 8400.

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'At a Glance' - Data about Disability and Vocational Education and Training

The National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER) produces various reports and information sheets that may be of interest to you. See <http://www.ncver.edu.au/> for more information. NCVER has recently released a report which gives a snapshot of participation in, and outcomes of, vocational education and training for people with disability.

The report presents some recent statistics on VET students with a disability, in areas including access and participation levels, completions and employment outcomes. Some key findings include:

- While commencements in apprenticeships and traineeships for people without disability have increased, this is not so for people with disability
- People with disability are more likely to complete lower-level qualifications, which may affect employment outcomes
- Educational performance may be explained by multiple factors in addition to disability, including age, sex, educational background and course studied
- VET brings significant employment outcome benefits although people with disability remain less likely to be employed than those without
- Employers are generally positive about employing people with disability but often lack the confidence to do so

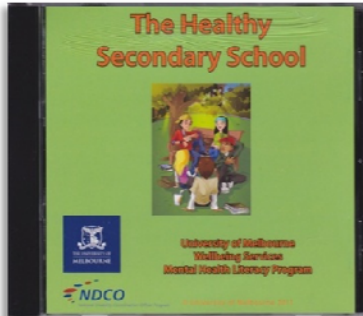
The paper concludes that this research throws light on how education can improve the lives of people with disabilities. Please see <http://www.ncver.edu.au/publications/2443.html> for the full report (*one time free registration required*).

Note: The data on the participation in, and outcomes of, vocational education and training for

people with a disability is collected by the National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER) through the National VET Provider Collection, the National Apprentice and Trainee Collection and the Student Outcomes Survey.

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The Healthy Secondary School – A new resource



A new classroom resource has been produced by the University of Melbourne in conjunction with the Orygen Youth Health Research Centre and the National Disability Coordination Officer Program (Region 15). The material has been developed utilising input from mental health and education experts and focuses on mental health, self care and accessing support. It is designed for students in years 9 - 10, and is intended primarily for teachers of health and physical education.

This free resource has been distributed to all Australian secondary schools by Wellbeing Services at the University of Melbourne as part of its community engagement program. For more information contact: NDCO Officer - Cressida Metcalf at cressida@unimelb.edu.au or (03) 5823 6624.



Wishing all our stakeholders a very safe and happy holiday season and look forward to working with you all in 2012.

Your feedback is important to us. Please click here to return [Feedback](#) about our Newsletter.

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