

GET READY

GET READY FOR STUDY AND WORK

NDCO E-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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In This Issue

➔ Top Stories

- Western Sydney NDCO Team – Celebrating 3 years
- Education to Employment website launch

➔ Upcoming events

- [Starting the Conversation 22 March 2011](#)
- [Joining the Dots April 6 2011](#)
- [Disability Standards Review April 2011](#)
- [Enhancing the Links Seminar May and June 2011](#)

Top stories

Western Sydney NDCO Team – Celebrating 3 years of better outcomes for people with a disability

As our first funding period comes to a close, the Western Sydney NDCO team, hosted by the University of Western Sydney, are looking back and celebrating the successes in our first three years.

We've had some great achievements during this period which we would like to share. Of course, we could never have achieved so much without the help of the many partnerships the NDCO program has developed.

Our website www.uws.edu.au/ndco was developed to be fully accessible and contains a treasure chest of information for people with a disability, their supporters and service providers about post school education, training and work. All of the resources contained in the site were developed by the WSNDCO team. You can also find copies of our presentations, and details of our upcoming events. We are really pleased with the response to this website, including the number of people referring to this site to access information.

One of the recent highlights for us was celebrating the achievements of people with a disability through our involvement in 'International Day of People With a Disability', 3 December 2010. The WSNDCO team supported exciting events such as a 'Hollywood style film premier' event, a day for students to find out about disability at a school; art exhibitions and several community events led by local councils in Western Sydney. Continuing on the celebration, the team also launched the resource "[Staying the Course](#)", promoting inclusive teaching practices.

Over the past 3 years the WSNDCO has targeted its activities and resources towards developing three strategic areas:

Assisting Transition

- To **assist people with a disability make smooth transitions to further training and into employment** we have organised and



Australian Government

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attended expos and seminars around the Sydney metro region. An example is the Uni Careers forum which runs annually and aims to give uni students with a disability the tools they need to move into employment. We're planning a similar forum for South Western Sydney Institute of TAFE students later this year and have attended post school pathways and employment expos across our three regions. We have developed some great resources like the '[Get Ready Workbook](#)', a national resource with evidence based transition tips and activities and the revamped '[Education to Employment](#)' website for people with a disability moving from study to work. Another great resource is the '[Get Ready for Uni](#)' website which helps prepare people with a disability for the uni experience.

Improving Participation

- We have also worked hard to improve the **participation of people with a disability in all areas of higher education and employment**. Our website dealing with the complex issue of Disclosure has been updated and is receiving many requests for downloads. Some of the events that have been held to improve participation have included:
- Assistive Technology forums which profile a huge range of technology that can be used to enable people with disability to participate
 - Mental Health First Aid Courses
 - Seminars for Managers about Disclosure
 - Disability Confidence workshops
 - Training for service providers in the disability employment sector about employer engagement

Improving Linkages

- The NDCO program has been involved in and organised a range of events and activities with the aim of **improving linkages between schools, higher education, vocational education, training providers and disability service providers in our regions**. We delivered two 'Enhancing the Links' seminars which provided information about post school options for people with a disability and offered great networking opportunities. We have two more planned for this year. We also ran speed networking events such as 'Joining the Dots' which provided attendees information about the range of programs and services they can link with to assist people with a disability. Schools and communities were encouraged to work together in a forum called 'Schools can't do it all' - where parents and service providers workshopped ways to work together to give a rounded education to students.

We have also produced numerous information sheets about the NDCO program and how our program can help which have been distributed to people at expos and events.

The Western Sydney NDCO team has been very active in participating in the networks that support people with a disability - we are involved in nine different networks. We have established several email lists for five networks so people can communicate around common issues. We have been involved on organising committees and been part of some great network days in which speakers have addressed emerging issues

and given service providers the chance to discuss interests and concerns with colleagues.

To support our work we have developed an extensive collection of resources, too many to outline in this article! We have handouts for expos to assist students, brochures and flyers for employers and service providers and a range of FAQs and tool kits. All of these can be found on our website www.uws.edu.au/ndco.

We welcome the news that the NDCO program will be funded for another year, and look forward to the continuing success of the program. We would like to say a huge thank you to the people we have partnered and worked alongside in the WSNDCO regions.

education → employment Website Launch

The Western Sydney National Disability Coordination Officer (WSNDCO) program is proud to announce the revamp and update of the popular Education to Employment website!



The website can assist:

- Students and graduates with disability from TAFE, private RTOS and university
- Employers
- Disability Employment Services staff
- Careers Services staff from TAFE, RTOs and university

The website provides information, links and resources to assist people with a disability to make a smoother transition from education to employment. You can find out information about common issues such as disability disclosure in the workplace; how to manage disability at work; what employers need to know about disability; how service providers can best support their clients with disability AND MUCH MUCH MORE!

Please bookmark this site and forward the link to your colleagues working in tertiary disability and career services or disability employment services:

www.uws.edu.au/ndco/employment

[Top ↑](#)

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Starting the Conversation

When: Monday 21 March, 9am – 3pm

Where: Northcott Parramatta, 1 Fennel Street, North Parramatta.

Starting the Conversation - Working together to ensure a positive transition for school leavers with disability is a free day which brings together stakeholders (DES, TTW/CP and ADE providers along with school staff, NDCOs and TAFE TCs) to identify and discuss the issues facing schools and service providers in ensuring the most effective transition for students from school to the most appropriate post school service type.

With the issues identified, schools and service providers will begin to develop strategies, procedures and partnerships to address those issues raised.

To register visit: www.surveymonkey.com/s/StaringTheConversation21March

Joining the Dots – Disability Information Expo

On 6 April, the Inner West Disability Network is coordinating “Joining the Dots” a speed networking event (9-12) for disability service providers followed by an expo (1-4) for people with a disability, families, carers, and community members.



Where: Burwood RSL, 96 Shaftsbury Rd, Burwood

Participants include:

Community services, government departments, education and training providers, open and supported employment service providers, accommodation and respite services, post-school and day programs providers, and equipment suppliers.

Translating services will be available for a selection of community languages thanks to the support of Anglicare. Please contact Debi Toman with any questions or special requirements (details across).

Review of the Disability Standards for Education (2005)

The Review materials, including submission forms are available online: www.deewr.gov.au/DSEReview.

The closing date for submission has been extended to **5 pm, 21 April 2011**.

Submissions are welcomed from all members of the community including people with disability, their families and carers, educational institutions, and organisations representing people with disability.

In reviewing the effectiveness of the Standards, the Review will consider whether the Standards:

1. have provided clarity and specificity for education and training providers and for students with disability and their families in relation to their rights and requirements under the Disability Discrimination Act 1992
2. have assisted people with disability to access and participate in education and training opportunities on the same basis as those without disability
3. have assisted in eliminating discrimination (including harassment and victimisation) of people with disability in education and training
4. have promoted recognition and acceptance in the community of the principle that people with disability have the same fundamental rights as the rest of the community
5. are compatible with Australia's current education and training system.



Enhancing the Links 2011 – Advance notice of free seminar

Region 4 and Region 5 are planning to hold an Enhancing the Links Seminar for Education Staff and Service providers:

Wednesday 25 May 2011, Blacktown Workers Club
Wednesday 22 June 2011, Liverpool Catholic Club

Please bookmark the date! This will be an all day event. There is no charge and a great morning tea and lunch is provided.

What is the seminar about?

This seminar will provide essential up-to date information and strategies to support students with a disability or chronic health condition prepare for and transition into post-school education, training and employment pathways including:

- ▶ *Apprenticeships and traineeships* ▶ *University* ▶ *TAFE*
- ▶ *Employment – open and Business Services* ▶ *DADHC Post-School Programs – Transition to Work and Community Participation*

The seminar will also provide information about emerging issues such as transition for people with mental health conditions and aspergers.

Who should come?

Staff from schools who support students transitioning from school (mainstream and support staff), TAFE, University and Government, Community and Agency staff.

How can I find out more information?

Full details of the location and program will be included in our first newsletter next year posted on our website www.uws.edu.au/ndco. We will also promote the event through our networks and listservs. You can also contact **Catherine Gasparini**, Region 5 NDCO or **Gillian Hilt**, Region 4 NDCO (details across).

[Top ↑](#)

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