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November-December 2014 Volume 8, Issue 48

International Day of Persons with Disabilities

3 December 2014

International Day of People with Disability <http://www.idpwd.com.au/>

The Assistant Minister for Social Services, Mitch Fifield has announced the **2014 International Day of People with Disability Patron — Ms Jacqueline Freney OAM** is Australia's most successful Paralympian at a single Games following her haul of **eight gold medals at the 2012 London Paralympics**. The Ballina local is a member of the Australia Swim Team and one of Australia's most decorated swimmers. In 2014, Jacqueline was named **Young Australian of the Year** in recognition of her colossal achievements both in and out of the pool. ([The Patron](#) for more information.)

The observance of this year's **International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD)** provides an opportunity to further raise awareness of disability as a cross-cutting development issue. The theme of this year's commemoration, **"Sustainable Development: The promise of technology"** is timely, as it marks the conclusion of the period of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGS) in 2015 and the launch of a new development framework of sustainable development goals (SDGs).

The 2014 commemoration of IDPD will work to harness the power of technology to promote inclusion and accessibility to help realize the full and equal participation of persons with disabilities in society and shape the future of sustainable development for all. Three sub-themes chosen will focus on the promise of technology in: Disability-Inclusive Sustainable Development Goals; Disaster Risk Reduction and Emergency Responses; and Creating Enabling Work Environments. (<http://www.un.org/disabilities/default.asp?id=1620>)

Disability News

NDIS success relies on cross-sector collaboration – new report

A new report by the University of Sydney and the Young People In Nursing Homes National Alliance shows that improved collaboration across governments and services is essential to successfully deliver the National Disability Insurance Scheme for people with complex health and disability needs.

Ros Madden from the University of Sydney's Centre for Disability Research and Policy says the report highlights that disability is a whole of government issue and collaboration with mainstream services must be a key focus for the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

"The NDIS will give people funds to purchase services and supports from disability service providers but most will still require access to mainstream services like health, education and housing," Ms Madden said. "The design of the NDIS provides the perfect opportunity to rethink the complexities of how these services work together, in fact the sustainability of the scheme and its ability to improve people's lives depends on it. "Some people require very active support to find their way through these systems and get the right mix of services."

Dr Bronwyn Morkham, Head of the Young People In Nursing Home National Alliance, says many young Australians with a disability require services from several areas of the human services system at the same time but rarely get them as the systems often don't work well together.

"Instead of returning to their lives and their families in the community, too many of our young people end up living in nursing homes or hospitals because services do not collaborate effectively," Dr Morkham said. "As our report indicates, cross sector collaboration will not only deliver the integrated services young Australians with disability need, but will help the NDIS deliver on its social and economic objectives."

The report explores best-practice examples of coordination currently occurring in the disability sector and recommends the NDIS roll-out incorporate and trial potential models.

"The disability and health fields have the knowledge, it just needs to be applied," Ms Madden said.

The report, [Cross sector service coordination for people with high and complex needs: Harnessing existing evidence and knowledge](#), was supported by funding from the National Disability Insurance Agency.

Featured Conference

7 November 2014

Developmental Disabilities, Challenging Behaviour and Mental Health Conference.

Footbridge Theatre, University of Sydney.

Proudly sponsored by **Global Disability & Health Care Services**.

<http://sydney.edu.au/health-sciences/cdrp/events/current-events.shtml>

16 – 17 February 2015

Call for Papers – Closes 4pm Monday 10 November.

National Disability Services NDS NSW 2015 Conference.

Hilton Hotel, Sydney. <http://www.nds.org.au/events/1413497081>

Disability News

National Disability Insurance Agency Annual Report

This report summarises the first year of operation of the Agency and the National Disability Insurance Scheme. "Throughout the past year we focused on improving the lives of people with disability, their families and carers, building the Scheme and developing the Agency's capabilities to ensure that the Scheme is efficient and effective. This would not have been possible without the support of state and federal governments, the disability community, the Australian public and our staff of whom more than 50 per cent have a lived experience of disability. We are committed to a learn-build-learn-build model of operation and actively working together with all of our stakeholders to create a Scheme, which will be there for all Australians who may need it now and in the future." Bruce Bonyhady AM, Chairman, National Disability Insurance Agency.

Key achievements

- As of 30 June 2014, the NDIA had approved **7316 plans for people with disability**, providing them with the reasonable and necessary supports required to lead an ordinary life.
- In 2013-14 the Scheme **provided \$130 million of support to participants**, well within the funding envelope of \$148 million.
- Amongst participants 94 per cent were satisfied or very satisfied with their plans.
- As of 30 June 2014, there were **1350 registered service providers**.
- The NDIA invested approximately \$4.5 million from the **Sector Development Fund** to help both individuals and organisations make the transition into the Scheme.
- The Scheme Actuary, in her Financial Sustainability Report, and the Reviewing Actuary, have confirmed the results in the first year are consistent with the Productivity Commission's estimates of total Scheme costs.
- The Annual Report also includes the **Scheme Actuary's first Financial Sustainability Report**, further supporting the Agency's commitment to rollout a sustainable Scheme.

Report link [2013-2014 National Disability Insurance Agency Annual Report](#).

[The state of the community service sector in New South Wales 2014](#)

Natasha Cortis, Megan Blaxland | Social Policy Research Centre. This report provides unprecedented detail about the characteristics of not-for-profit community service organisations in NSW, and their experiences of the funding and operational environment. Based on responses from leaders of 576 organisations, survey findings provide insight into the mix of financial resources that organisations access; leaders' perceptions of the funding environment; and priorities for tackling poverty and disadvantage in the future. **Read more at the Source & access the report: [Australian Policy Online](#)**

Global Disability News – United Nations Enable update

Major milestone as ratification of CRPD reaches 151 states

Disability rights worldwide have reached a major milestone after the CRPD was ratified by the 151st country. Samoa, Guinea-Bissau and Guyana became the latest states to ratify the Convention, which has been in force since 2008 and has seen one of the fastest rates of ratification of any of the international human rights treaties. (<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=15029&LangID=E>)

Updated Enable Map of Signatures/Ratifications

The Enable Map, a graphical representation of the status of CRPD ratifications and signatures, has been recently updated by the UN Cartographic Section. Revision 4 provides updates as of July 2014. The map may be used in publications with prior permission requested through the UN Publications Board: permissions@un.org. (<http://www.un.org/disabilities/documents/maps/enablemap.jpg>)

Indigenous persons with disabilities at the first WCIP

For the first time, a high-level plenary meeting of the UN General Assembly known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples (WCIP) was held at UN Headquarters from 22 to 23 September 2014. The Indigenous Persons with Disabilities Global Network (IPWDGN) represented indigenous persons with disabilities and worked to include references to indigenous persons with disabilities in the outcome document of the Conference. The action-oriented provisions of the Outcome Document are expected to lead to sweeping changes for current and future generations. (<http://www.un.org/en/ga/69/meetings/indigenous/#&panel1-1> and <http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2014/ga11558.doc.htm>)

Featured Organisation

Community Services & Health Industry Skills Council (CS&HISC)

<http://www.cshisc.com.au/about-us/>

CS&HISC provides the direction for workforce development for Australia's Community Services and Health industries.

We drive this development by:

- Providing advice and intelligence
- Developing skills
- Supporting growth
- Working in collaboration

Advice

We ensure that industry information we gather is shared with governments and government agencies, employers, unions, trainers, workers and potential workers so that decisions affecting our industries support the development and growth of our workforce and reflect client needs.

Skills

We have developed 160 qualifications, 1,198 competencies and 80 skill sets that form the national VET standards for community services and health. These standards support 500 job roles carried out by 1,363,500 workers in Australia, and form the Community Services Training Package and the Health Training Package, and are used to ensure consistency and quality in training, and support workforce develop.

Workforce development

We influence workforce development using a four-level strategy:

- **National/industry:** information and workforce predictions on policy and reform implications
- **State/sector/region:** developing models to operate in specific locations that connect agencies working in the same sector to strengthen the service outcomes
- **Enterprise:** showcasing and supporting best-practice models for service delivery through workforce planning and training including growing foundation skills
- **Individual:** helping existing and potential workers access career advice and pathway information.

Collaboration

We maintain a two-way relationship with government advisory bodies, unions, peak bodies, associations, state and territory advisory boards and training providers to bridge the information gap on issues and activities impacting our workforce.

CS&HISC is one of 11 nationally recognised industry skills councils funded by the Australian Government. It is a not-for-profit company limited by guarantee and governed by an independent and industry-led Board of Directors.

Our schedule of projects and other activities is always publicly available on our website, and we encourage comment and discussion on our work and industry changes through our [LinkedIn group](#)

The current Training Packages for Community Services are CHC and CHC08 Community Services, for the Health they are HLT and HLT07 Health. These are freely available to download on training.gov.au.

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Disability & Ageing News in the Media

[Vale HACC, 1984-2014](#) (Australian Ageing Agenda news item)

With legislation to repeal the Home and Community Care Act before Parliament, it is worth recalling the impact of the HACC program, and raising some issues concerning the development of the replacement scheme – the Home Support Program, writes Dr Anna Howe.

Read the article at the [Australian Ageing Agenda newsletter and web site](#).

Disability News

Golf Accessibility for Physically Disabled an Australian First

Moore Park Golf, part of Centennial Parklands, is the first public golf course in Australia to enable people with severe physical disability to enjoy a round of golf.

Environment Minister, Rob Stokes, recently launched the Paragolfer, a German-designed cart, which will allow people with hemiplegia and quadriplegia the opportunity to experience this previously inaccessible sport.

“The NSW Government has invested more than \$1 million into refurbishments and accessibility upgrades at the

course and its facilities and the Paragolfer was donated through a \$45,000 grant from the Centennial Parklands Foundation,” Rob Stokes said.

Empower Golf Australia

... is focused on establishing Empower Golf Hubs nationally enabling access to golf for all abilities, organising development days, running state and national tournaments, growing sustainable golfing communities and providing a gateway to the Paralympics.

- For more information visit www.empowergolf.com.au or contact james.gribble@empowergolf.com.au

Scholarships & Fellowships News

Churchill Fellowship

Applications open: 1 November and Applications close: Monday 28 February

A Churchill Fellowship aims to provide an opportunity for Australians to travel overseas to conduct research in their chosen field that is not readily available in Australia.

A Churchill Fellowship is a remarkable opportunity to travel overseas for a minimum of four and a maximum of about eight weeks to conduct research into a topic that you are passionate about. It is for anyone who feels that they have exhausted all research opportunities within Australia and would like to see what overseas currently has to offer. Every application is assessed based on merit, a demonstrated need for the proposed research, the perceived benefit to Australia and a willingness to share the overseas findings and knowledge with the Australian community.

The Trust aims to reward proven achievement of talented and deserving Australians with further opportunity in their pursuit of excellence for the enrichment of Australian society. No prescribed qualifications are required in order to apply for a Churchill Fellowship. The subject of the proposed project is limitless provided a benefit to Australia is evident and a willingness to share the research findings with the Australian community is displayed.

To be eligible to apply for a Churchill Fellowship you must:

- be an Australian Citizen over the age of 18
- not be completing tertiary studies directly related to the topic of your proposed project
- have experience in and commitment to the field of your project
- have a worthy project that requires overseas investigation
- be willing to disseminate the results of your research to the broader Australian community and
- not have been awarded a Churchill Fellowship in the past.

Web site: <http://www.churchilltrust.com.au/>

The Winston Churchill Memorial Trust **Email:** churchilltrust@bigpond.com **Freecall:** 1800 777 231 **Telephone:** (02) 6247 8333

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http://www.globalcarestaff.com/page/work_with_global.html

Disability News

[Prevalence of different types of speech, language and communication disorders and speech pathology services in Australia](#)

This inquiry sought to address a lack of data on the prevalence of speech, language and communication disorders in Australia. Senate Community Affairs References Committee

Disability News

Vocational Education & Training Review and Reform

Australia's Vocational Education and Training (VET) system needs reform. The Australian Government is overhauling the skills and training system, with a package of reforms that elevate trades and vocational education to the centre of Australia's economy and puts the focus squarely on ensuring Australian workers are highly skilled and job-ready.

The **VET Reform Taskforce** has been established to develop and progress agreed reforms. Read the [news](#) to keep across the latest announcements.

The six objectives for VET reform

The Council of Australian Governments' Industry and Skills Council has agreed to six objectives for the VET system. The objectives will shape VET reform to support the current and future skills needs of Australian businesses. [Read more...](#)

Have your say

To contribute to VET reform, email the VET Reform Taskforce at vettaskforce@industry.gov.au.

Training Packages Discussion Papers

The Minister for Industry, the Hon Ian Macfarlane MP has today released two discussion papers for consultation.

The **Industry Engagement in Training Package Development – Towards a Contestable Model Discussion Paper** seeks views and suggestions about contestable approaches to the development of training packages which guide industry-directed vocational education and training in Australia.

Visit the [Industry Engagement in Training Package Development – Towards a Contestable Model discussion paper](#) publication page to download the discussion paper and for further information about providing feedback.

The **Review of Training Packages and Accredited Courses Discussion Paper** is designed to start the conversation with industry, employers, training providers and students about whether training packages and accredited courses are meeting their needs and the needs of the economy more broadly.

Visit the [Review of Training Packages and Accredited Courses discussion paper](#) publication page to download the discussion paper and for further information about providing feedback.

Books & Publications

Personalisation in Practice: Supporting Young People with Disabilities through the Transition to Adulthood

Suzie Franklin With Helen Sanderson. This book demonstrates very clearly how the personalisation of support and services works in practice. The authors describe how Jennie, a young person with autism and learning difficulties, was supported through the transition from school to living independently using simple, evidence-based person-centred planning tools. Jennie's story illustrates the importance of quality person-centred.. 2013, Paperback:. ISBN: 978-1-84905-443-0, [more »](#)

Health expenditure Australia 2012-13

Expenditure on health in Australia was estimated to be \$147.4 billion in 2012-13, 2.4% higher than in 2011-12 and the lowest growth since 1990-91. In 2012-13, governments provided \$100.8 billion (or 68.3%) of total health expenditure. Government funding of health expenditure fell in real terms for the first time in the decade by 0.6%, largely a result of a decline in Australian Government funding of 1.9%. State and territory government funding was also relatively low, growing just 1.4% in real terms in 2012-13. In contrast, growth in non-government funding was relatively strong at 9.7%. AIHW catalogue number (HWE 61). View the [media release](#) and download the [full report](#) for free online.

Sleep Difficulties and Autism Spectrum Disorders: A Guide for Parents and Professionals

Kenneth J. Aitken. This comprehensive guide to the management of sleep difficulties focuses on the problems that are commonly found in Autism Spectrum Disorders and related conditions. The author explains sleep and everything that affects it and gives detailed outlines of all the proven medications and western and eastern non-pharmacological remedies available. 2012, Paperback. ISBN: 978-1-84905-259-7, [more »](#)

Attachment and Interaction: From Bowlby to Current Clinical Theory and Practice. 2nd edition

Mario Marrone. Attachment and Interaction is an accessible introduction to the history and evolution of attachment theory, which traces the early roots of attachment theory from the work of its creator John Bowlby through to the most recent theoretical developments and their clinical applications. 2014, Paperback: ISBN: 978-1-84905-209-2, [more »](#)

Attachment, Trauma, and Healing: Understanding and Treating Attachment Disorder in Children, Families and Adults. 2nd edition

Terry M. Levy and Michael Orlans. Now in a fully updated and expanded edition, Levy and Orlans' classic text provides a comprehensive overview of attachment theory, how attachment issues manifest, and how they can be treated. The book covers attachment-focused assessment and diagnosis, specialised training and education. ISBN: 978-1-84905-888-9, 2014, Paperback.: [more »](#)

Policies & Guidelines

Falls Prevention Guidelines

Falls are one of the largest causes of harm in health care and are a national safety and quality priority. The Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care (the Commission) assists health services to reduce the number of falls, and the resulting patient harm, through a number of national initiatives.

Preventing Falls and Harm From Falls in Older People: Best Practice Guidelines for Australian Hospitals, Residential Aged Care Facilities and Community Care 2009 was developed to reduce the number of falls experienced by older people in care and the harm endured from them. The guidelines provide a consistent national basis for falls prevention. The guidelines are designed to inform clinical practice and assist hospitals, residential aged care facilities and community care providers develop and implement practices that reduce the falls experienced by those receiving care and the harm sustained from falls.

The guidelines are in three documents, each one separately addressing a care setting; hospital, residential aged and community. Each guideline has a smaller version called a guidebook which is designed for front line health professionals. The guidebooks provide the essential information needed when providing care for older people at risk of falling.

Click on the care setting of interest to you for access to the guidelines, guidebooks and other support materials:

- [Hospitals](#)
- [Residential Aged Care Facilities](#)
- [Community Care](#)

Latest Falls Prevention Research and Practice

The Falls Prevention Guidelines are due to be reviewed in 2013-2014. Keeping the Falls Prevention Guidelines up to date is important. The Commission provides:

- [A register of Falls Prevention Guidelines issues and errata](#); and
- [Links to latest falls prevention research and practice organisations](#).

New Zealand spinal cord impairment action plan 2014–2019

Outlines a vision, purpose, priorities and eight overarching objectives to help ensure the best possible health and wellbeing outcomes for people with spinal cord impairment, enhancing their quality of life and ability to participate in society.

Criminal liability of carers in cases of non-accidental death or serious injury of children

This paper discusses new legislation being considered in New South Wales, aimed at enabling prosecutions in cases where an injury to a child could only have been inflicted by one of two or more persons who were at home with the child, but where there is not enough evidence to prove which specific person was responsible. (Source: Australian Policy Online)

New Guardianship and Administration Laws in Victoria

A number of the reforms in the Bill arise from recommendations made by the Victorian Law Reform Commission in its Final Report on Guardianship. Currently the law is unclear about when a person has capacity to make their own decisions. The Bill provides a definition of decision making capacity, and clarifies that a person is presumed to have capacity unless there is evidence to the contrary. "The new legislation will make it easier for individuals and their families to provide for their current and future decision making needs through guardianship and administration arrangements, building on the reforms already before the Parliament in the Powers of Attorney Bill 2014," Attorney-General Robert Clark said.

Current laws also provide only a limited range of guardianship orders – plenary (unlimited) guardianship orders, limited guardianship orders and administration orders. The Bill provides for a wider range of guardianship orders to give VCAT greater flexibility to make an order that suits the particular circumstances of the individual.

The changes will also allow VCAT to appoint a supportive guardian to assist a person to make their own decisions. "The introduction of a supportive guardian role will allow greater autonomy for many people with disabilities by enabling them to take care of their own needs once they have practicable and appropriate support," Mr Clark said.

The Bill also introduces a new simplified process for parents of people with impaired decision-making capacity to be appointed as their child's guardian. Under the process, parents who have been the main carers of a child with a serious and ongoing decision-making incapacity will be able to apply to VCAT to be appointed as a guardian 'on the papers', without the need for a formal hearing after their child turns 18 years of age. On the basis of the application and submissions from any interested parties, VCAT will grant the application unless there is a significant risk that the order would be harmful to the personal or social wellbeing of the person or VCAT considers the proposed represented person has views on the appointment that should be considered at a hearing.

Media Release [http://www.premier.vic.gov.au/images/stories/documents/mediareleases/2014/August/140820_Clark -
_Clearer_and_simpler_guardianship_and_administration_laws.pdf](http://www.premier.vic.gov.au/images/stories/documents/mediareleases/2014/August/140820_Clark_-_Clearer_and_simpler_guardianship_and_administration_laws.pdf)

Legislation

http://www.legislation.vic.gov.au/domino/Web_Notes/LDMS/PubPDocs.nsf/ee665e366dcb6cb0ca256da400837f6b/94c8a690eafc7794ca257d3a007b5315!OpenDocument

Directories Online

Many Minds Link: Community Directory

A community directory for people with a disability and their carers that is also researched and compiled by people who have a disability for mobile devices (mobile phones and tablets).

Project auspiced by the Differently Abled People Association Inc. (DAPA)

Search online <http://www.mmlink.com.au/Search.aspx>

Available as a mobile phone/ tablet application

IPhones App Store <https://itunes.apple.com/au/app/manymindslink/id556813006?mt=8>

Android <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.mmlink.android>

Alive 90.5 fm Australian Spectrum Show with Ross Fear (Your Editor of the Global Gazette)

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Over 200 Australian artistes have been featured studio guests on the Alive 90.5 fm Australian Spectrum Show.

The studio guests coming up include: = 8 Ball Aitken, Cyril B Bunter Band, Wolf Mail, Stormcellar, Turner & Simmons, Chris Turner, Chich, Blues Cruises, Cass Eager, Frank Saltana, Rosie McDonald, Rapt, Johnny Cass Lone Riders, Wheeze & Suck Band, Jasmin Jones, Frank Dengate's Blues Circus, Blues Explosion, International Women's Day Concert, Toongabbie Music Club, The Ancients, Rob Grosser, The Hot Shots, Elephant In The Room, Hoochie Coochie Men, Sydney Blues & Roots Festival and many more in 2014 & 2015. **Join our 5,000+ Facebook friends** or follow our studio guest announcements at AustralianSpectrum Alive90.5

Grants & Tenders News

Privatisation of Home Care Service NSW – expressions of interest

The NSW Government has announced the commencement of the process to transfer the Home Care Service of NSW to the non-government sector.

On 22 September 2014, the Minister for Ageing and Minister for Disability Services, John Ajaka, [announced the start of the process](#) of transferring the Home Care Service of NSW (Home Care) to the non-government sector.

For more information about this unique opportunity to acquire the largest home and community care service provider in NSW, please read the [marketing flyer \(PDF\)](#).

To request a meeting with the NSW Government to discuss this opportunity further, please download and fill out the Home Care [meeting request form \(PDF\)](#) and email it to homecare@treasury.nsw.gov.au.

The NSW Government reserves its right to meet with any number of interested parties.

- See more at: http://www.adhc.nsw.gov.au/sp/tenders_and_contracts/transfer-of-the-home-care-service-of-nsw#sthash.FwtJbAUX.dpuf

Participate in research

Tomorrow Study

Mild cognitive impairment (MCI) due to Alzheimer's disease (AD) refers to the early phase of AD in which an otherwise healthy-minded person experiences a gradual, progressive decline in thinking ability. This decline is significant enough to be noticed, but not severe enough to interfere with daily life or the ability to function independently.

The TOMMORROW study seeks to learn more about the genetic risk for developing MCI due to AD and whether an investigational medication might prove effective in delaying the first symptoms of this condition.

You may be eligible to participate in this important study if you are:

- 65 to 83 years of age
- In good physical and mental health

To learn more, visit: www.TOMMORROWStudy.com

Research & Demographic Reports

Self-directed disability support

Purcal, C., Bevan, N., Cooper, S., Fisher, K. R., Meltzer, A., Wong, M., & Meyer, P. (2014). *Self-directed disability support: building people's capacity through peer support and action research [Final report] (SPRC Report 7/2014)*. Sydney: Social Policy Research Centre, UNSW Australia. How are people with disability experiencing and managing the transition towards self-directed support and preparing for the NDIS? In this project, small groups of people with disability around Australia met over 6 months to talk about their disability support. The peer support groups enabled action research about how they are deciding the practical details about support, such as how, when and by whom it is

provided.

https://www.sprc.unsw.edu.au/media/SPRCFile/Selfdirected_disability_support_building_peoples_capacity.pdf

Residential aged care and aged care packages in the community 2012-13

The Residential aged care and aged care packages in the community 2012-13 web pages and supplementary tables provide detailed statistical information on residential aged care facilities and community aged care services, as well as the recipients of care, during 2012-13. For this period, community aged care included Community Aged Care Packages (CACPs), Extended Aged Care at Home (EACH), and Extended Aged Care at Home Dementia (EACHD). View the [media release](#) and [web pages](#) for free online.

Ageing Parent Research reveals unmet need.

Parents over 60 years old who have a child with disability report unmet needs and at times little support. [Access the Report from NSW Council for Intellectual Disability here.](#)

Multicenter Pilot Treatment Trial for Psychogenic Nonepileptic Seizures: A Randomized Clinical Trial

W. Curt LaFrance Jr, MD, MPH, Grayson L. Baird, MS, John J. Barry, MD, et al.

JAMA Psychiatry. Published online July 02, 2014. doi:10.1001/jamapsychiatry.2014.817

Social Policy Research Centre - New Publication (NSW CID)

Evaluation of Participatory and Inclusive Approaches to Disability Program

Co authored by Robert Strike, NSW Council for Intellectual Disability Board Member .

Some evaluations of disability programs now apply participatory methods to include people with cognitive disability in the collection of data. However, more inclusive approaches that engage people with cognitive disability more fully in the decisions about the evaluation remain rare. We examined why this may be the case in an evaluation that we did that included people with cognitive disability. Resources and commitment to build the capacity of people with cognitive disability as team members, mentors, advisers, and direct participants is required to make inclusion feasible and an expectation in disability program evaluations. [Read the article here.](#)

Your Input Matters

NDIS Evaluation Study

We write to ask for your support in an important phase of the evaluation of the trial of the NDIS conducted by the National Institute of Labour Studies at Flinders University.

Letters inviting people with disability to register for the NDIS Survey are being sent out to several thousands of people who are already in the NDIS and to others who may join the NDIS in the future asking them about their experiences. We need information about the NDIS Survey to be as widely available and taking part in the survey to be as accessible as possible, so that as many people with disability as possible can make their views known.

You can help us achieve a high response rate by encouraging and helping your members or those using your services to register for the NDIS Survey if they have received a registration pack. The voice of every single person with disability that your help could encourage to respond to the survey matters!

We wonder if you could circulate through your networks or members a short message about the survey and the registration to help raise awareness about the NDIS Survey and encourage people to take part in it.

You can find more information about participating in the survey from this link: www.ndisevaluation.net.au/ndissurveyinformation.

Participate in research

Quality of Life: People with Intellectual Disability and Terminal Illness

We are interested in finding out the experiences of people with intellectual disabilities who have died whether suddenly, after a short illness, or after a long illness.

We want to find out about the care and services received by the person, you and other staff and residents, his/her family and friends in the last months of the person's life. The information you give will help us improve care for people with intellectual disabilities who are dying, and for staff, other residents and his/her family and friends. We will be able

to use this information to make comparisons with the general population and so the information here is important.

We are very interested in what you have to say about the last months and weeks of a person's life. Your answers to these questions will be treated as strictly confidential. We would appreciate your input.

<http://www.une.edu.au/about-une/academic-schools/school-of-rural-medicine/research/qualityoflife>

Featured Course

Graduate Certificate of Health Science (Developmental Disability) 2015

The Graduate Certificate of Health Science (Developmental Disability) is designed to provide the opportunity for practitioners from a range of medical, nursing, dental, allied health, therapy, social work, behavioural science, educational and other professions to develop specialist skills underpinned by theory, scholarship and research in the field of developmental disabilities. The course equips students to contribute to multidisciplinary practice in a manner that is characterised by respect for individuals with a developmental disability, their families, advocates and communities.

Semester 1 commences March 2015.

Closing date for application for Semester 1 2015 is 31 January 2015.

<http://sydney.edu.au/courses/programs/development-disability/Graduate-Certificate-of-Health-Science-Developmental-Disability>

ONLINE EDUCATION DIRECTORY

Online professional development is an easy way to access further education – especially valuable for shift workers – so we have researched some options and put them on our web site at

http://www.globalcarestaff.com/page/online_education.html

Education Resources

First Aid Review (CS&HISC Update)

CS&HISC received 420 written pieces of feedback. This feedback was analysed and collated and a report has been circulated to the subject matter experts to inform their recommendations.

The next release is expected to be a CS&HISC upgrade, resulting in no change to code or title of the units as they will be deemed equivalent.

CS&HISC aims to have this new release available on Training.gov.au by 6 October 2014. Under the recent changes to ASQA regulations, RTO's who have the currently endorsed HLTAID units on scope of registration may immediately use the new release version in their assessment tools and strategies.

Disability Workforce Innovation Network (DWIN)

The Disability Workforce Innovation Network project has been established to support the implementation of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), a new approach to support for people with disabilities agreed by all Australian Governments. NDIS is being rolled out between July 2013 and 2020, beginning in Victoria, NSW, SA, and Tasmania and progressing to the ACT, NT and WA in July 2014. This new system gives purchasing power to people with disabilities themselves and presents to the sector the challenge of how to respond to the new environment.

The Disability Workforce Innovation Network will make a major contribution to development of the workforce to meet these challenges. The Disability WIN will have the advantage of national coordination through a Project Advisory Committee which will link the project with the National Strategy and other national initiatives. The focus of the work of the Disability WIN is at the regional level. Regional planning based on the collection of consistent workforce data at the regional and enterprise level will facilitate development of regional and enterprise solutions, including collaborative models that better enable the local supply chain to respond to steadily increasing demand for disability support. Workforce planning skills will build capacity at both enterprise and regional level and will be tailored to enterprise requirements in the context of the NDIS.

The objectives of the Disability Workforce Innovation Network are to:

- build the skill of disability enterprises to commence evidence-based workforce planning through customised training in the relevant skills set;
- support disability enterprises to build, implement and monitor workforce planning as a continual process through routine data collection and analysis against a core indicator set;
- coach disability enterprises to undertake their own workforce development projects and use common elements to create localised workforce action plans;
- develop communities of practice that identify, describe and disseminate good practice from within the disability and adjacent sectors; and
- encourage enterprises to increase their investment in quality training that is targeted to critical skills needs.

Networks will be established in each jurisdiction (Australian Capital Territory, Hunter region New South Wales, Barkly region Northern Territory, Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania, Barwon region Victoria and Western Australia). The Networks will focus on building workforce development knowledge in relation to various aspects of the workforce supply chain through the following interrelated activities:

- (a) training in a workforce planning skill set;
- (b) development of localised workforce action plans;
- (c) dissemination of good practice; and
- (d) collection and analysis of workforce related data.

Read more at

http://www.cshisc.com.au/develop/disability-workforce-innovation-network-%28dwin%29/?cm_mid=3785520&cm_crmid=16dd9a98-976a-e211-bb93-005056920608&cm_medium=email

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7 November 2014

Developmental Disabilities, Challenging Behaviour and Mental Health Conference. University of Sydney.

<http://sydney.edu.au/health-sciences/cdrp/events/current-events.shtml>

6 – 7 November 2014

Life Skills and Employment Conference. Rydges Hotel Mount Panorama, Bathurst. admin@flintwood.org.au

7 November 2014

Adelaide Disability & Lifestyle Expo. Adelaide Showgrounds - Jubilee Hall, Wayville, SA. [More info.](#)

10 - 11 November 2014

National Acquired Brain Injury Conference. Sydney Harbour Marriott.

<http://www.informa.com.au/conferences/health-care-conference/national-acquired-brain-injury-conference>

12 - 14 November 2014

6th Australian Rural & Remote Mental Health Symposium. Albury, NSW. www.anzmf.asn.au/rrmh/

14 – 15 November 2014

PossABLE IDEAS Expo Hunter Region. Maitland Show Ground. Free entry. <http://www.ideas.org.au/>

17 – 19 November 2014

International Forum on Disability Management. Melbourne. <http://ifdm2014.com.au/>

19 – 20 November 2014

ACS Northern Region Conference. Quality Hotel Powerhouse, Tamworth. Aged & Community Services NSW & ACT.

<https://www.eiseverywhere.com/ehome/96590>

20 – 21 November 2014

Better Practice Conference: Aged Care. Old Woolstore, Hobart. <http://www.accreditation.org.au/education/better-practice-2013/>

25 – 26 November 2014

Transitioning to the NDIS. Sydney. <http://transitioningndis.com/>

26 – 28 November 2014

47th Australian Association of Gerontology National Conference. Adelaide Oval, South Australia.

<http://www.aag.asn.au/national-conference/2014-conference>

27 - 28 November 2014

2nd Annual Integrating Mental Health into the National Disability Insurance Scheme Conference. Radisson Blu Plaza Hotel, Sydney. <http://www.informa.com.au/conferences/health-care-conference/integrating-mental-health-into-the-national-disability-insurance-scheme>

3 December 2014

International Day of People with Disability <http://www.idpwd.com.au/>

3 - 5 December 2014

Pathways Conference. Espanade Hotel, Fremantle, Western Australia. Australian Tertiary Education Network on Disability. <http://www.pathways12.org.au/index.php>

5 - 9 December 2014

68th Annual Meeting American Epilepsy Society. Seattle, Washington, USA. <http://www.aesnet.org/meetings-and-events>

8 - 9 December 2014

National Disability Services CEO Meeting. Hilton on the Park, Melbourne. <http://www.nds.org.au/events/1394588029>

16 – 17 February 2015

National Disability Services NDS NSW 2015 Conference. Hilton Hotel, Sydney. <http://www.nds.org.au/events/1413497081>

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