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January-February 2015 Volume 9, Issue 49

New National Network for Disability Practitioners

Introducing [National Disability Practitioners](#), or NDP, - a new professional association for the disability workforce.

Wendy Cohen, NDP Executive Officer said, “Across Australia there are more than 70,000 specialist disability practitioners delivering frontline services to people with disability. We expect the number of frontline disability staff to double by 2020 as the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) rolls out.”

Wendy concluded, “NDP aims to support the disability workforce, creating and maintaining standards of service delivery and enabling more skilled and knowledgeable staff to better meet the needs of people with disability.”

NDP members will benefit from:

- engaging information and news;
- sector specific training and education leading to meaningful and sustainable professional development,
- career pathways leading to accreditation and certification;
- extensive peer and mentor networks; and
- much deserved recognition programs including awards, grants, scholarships and a national employee day.

To find out more about NDP visit the [website](#) and watch this [introductory video](#) via NDPtv.

Based in Sydney but with an Australia-wide presence, **we operate as a division of [National Disability Services](#)**. NDS established NDP initially by merging two professional bodies, Australian Disability Professionals and Disability Professionals Victoria. Since then we have been working hard to create an association that supports members by contributing to stronger careers, a stronger sector and stronger services – all working towards a better life for people with disability.

NDP will welcome members from across the entire disability sector, whether you are a frontline worker, senior manager, clinician or administrator, full time, part time, casual, you can benefit from NDP membership. We are all about recognising the extraordinary contribution you make to the lives of people with disability and the sector as whole. We are committed to providing a holistic approach to your career development.

<http://www.ndp.org.au/about-ndp>

Master of Health Sciences (Developmental Disability)

Study from anywhere in the world – the course is fully online.

Applications for semester 1 NOW close 31 January 2015

Semester 1 commence March 2015

The Master of Health Science (Developmental Disability) is designed for practitioners from diverse backgrounds in disability services, including medical, nursing, dental, allied health therapies, social work, behavioural science and educational professions to develop specialist knowledge in the field of developmental disability.

The Master of Health Science (Developmental Disability) is taught by world-class leaders in the field who are committed to advancing health and social policy and practice solutions to enable affected individuals and their families to participate fully in society.

This program tackles some of the difficult questions in developmental disability, including sexuality, end-of-life issues, and parenting to ensure that people receive the support they need in these crucial aspects of their life that are all too often overlooked.

Duration for domestic students: 1.5 years full time/3 years part time(domestic students)

Study mode: Online, distance

For more information <http://sydney.edu.au/courses/programs/development-disability/Master-of-Health-Science-Developmental-Disability>

State of the disability sector report

National Disability Services | Centre for Applied Disability Research

A business confidence index for the disability sector, the first in-depth measurement of how disability service providers are faring during this period of major reform, an analysis of the challenges of implementing the NDIS around Australia and a broad review of disability policy and trends. This report is designed to assist CEOs and directors of NDS member organisations to further their mission in this changing environment.

http://www.nds.org.au/asset/view_document/979324120

The Economics of Aged Care - Speech to the Committee for Economic Development Australia (CEDA)

Minister outlines next wave of reforms

SPEECH: <http://www.mitchfield.com/Media/Speeches/tabid/71/articleType/ArticleView/articleId/836/Speech--CEDA--11-November-2014.aspx>

Assistant Minister for Social Services Senator Mitch Fifield

Assistant Minister for Social Services Senator Mitch Fifield, Minister responsible for the NDIS, and Minister responsible for ageing, has made his strongest statements to date in support of a consumer-led aged care system – by lifting government rationing of places in residential care, and moving to a cashed out model in home care.

In a [speech](#) to the Committee for Economic Development of Australia (CEDA), Senator Fifield outlined the government's agenda to give consumers greater control over their home care packages, including budget holding. Like the NDIS, Senator Fifield said that aged care's "time has come" for funding to follow the consumer rather than the

provider. “The next logical step is to give the consumer full control of their package and let them direct how and with whom it is spent to meet their assessed needs,” he told the Sydney audience. “Why not let the packages we currently have – and the 80,000 new ones coming on line over the next 10 years – operate this way and move a step closer to the consumer-led market to which we aspire,” he said. Significantly, Senator Fifield flagged the possibility of moving to a consumer-led market ahead of the five year review of the aged care reforms, currently slated for 2017.

In residential care, Senator Fifield said the government supported a rethink of planning ratios and freeing up supply of aged care places “within the existing taxpayer envelope.” He said: “Governments can continue to try and second guess what older Australians want, ration their beds and hand them out like taxi licences. Or we can get out of the way, let the consumers decide what they want and allow the market to supply what is needed.” Senator Fifield said he supported opening up the supply of places to allow residential care providers to make business decisions about where to build a facility and then allow providers to attract customers through price and service. However, he acknowledged that not all areas of Australia could deliver this form of market-based aged care and some areas would need to be managed differently. But he said where the market could work it should be allowed to. The National Aged Care Alliance has long supported a move to an entitlement system in aged care across both residential and home care as was proposed by the Productivity Commission’s Caring for Older Australians inquiry.

Single community care system

In another noteworthy development, Senator Fifield publicly stated his support for a consolidated home support and home care program, another key item on NACA’s wish list. “It’s time to simplify the funding program structure. People are either supported at home or in residential care – our funding structures should mirror this by consolidating the home care package program and the home support program,” he said.

In a significant change to My Aged Care, Senator Fifield also announced the government would expand My Aged Care to list all aged care services from 1 July 2015, whether or not they are government funded. This will be seen as a win for private providers that have been lobbying government to expand the website’s service finders.

A Trip Advisor for aged care

Senator Fifield said a Trip Advisor-style My Aged Care would also develop quality ratings for providers and their services according to “what matters to consumers rather than what departments and providers think they should be.” While the minister did not commit to a timeframe for this next wave of reform, he wanted the conversation to start before the legislated five-year review of the aged care reforms. “I can’t promise that all of this will be achieved this year or the next. But I can promise that today is the start of a conversation to see that we get there.”

<http://www.australianageingagenda.com.au/2014/11/11/minister-backs-uncapped-aged-care-system/>

Disability News

NSW Government delivers visionary strategic plan for community mental health; \$115m in new funding

The NSW peak body for mental health non-government organisations (NGOs), the Mental Health Coordinating Council (MHCC), applauds today’s announcement by the NSW Government that it refocus the state’s mental health system toward modern, evidence-based community responses to mental illness. MHCC CEO Jenna Bateman commended Commissioner John Feneley and his team.

“The Mental Health Commission of NSW led an outstanding consultation process across the broad mental health community, meeting with NGOs, their clients, families and carers across the state. This is the most comprehensive investigative reform process since the Richmond Report and the Commission ensured that everybody’s voice was heard” Ms Bateman said.

Key Points

- NSW Government has delivered on its promises by:
 - Establishing and supporting the NSW Mental Health Commission
 - Publishing and committing to fund a strong stakeholder-led strategic plan
 - Prioritising help for people with mental illness to get well and stay well in the community

- New funding of \$115m is a good first step toward addressing the vast shortfall in community-based alternatives to hospitalisation.
- New innovative programs will pave the way to a mental health system that people will feel safe and supported by, without coercion.
- Long overdue closure of stand-alone psychiatric hospitals welcome so long as asset sales are re-invested in to the mental health system.
- Targets must be set with detailed public reporting to ensure the change happens.

NGOs to be key in mental health reforms

“The NGO community-managed sector is an effective solution to this problem as it ensures high quality services are delivered in the community. We stand ready to get behind the Ministry of Health as it embarks on its program of recontracting and expanding the services it purchases from NGOs. We have a proud history of delivering people-focused community support, early intervention, rehabilitation and mental illness prevention services. Delivering more services through NGO partnerships will provide better flexibility and accountability in the Government’s mental health service response.”

Read the full media release at <http://medianet.com.au/releases/release-details?id=817820>

Download at <http://journalists.medianet.com.au/DisplayAttachment.aspx?j=817820&s=2&k=630076>

Featured Conference

16 – 17 February 2015

National Disability Services NDS NSW 2015 Conference.



The leading conference for disability service providers.

Hilton Hotel, Sydney.

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REGISTRATION BROCHURE: PDF [\[45KB\]](#) WORD [\[45KB\]](#)

Register direct with NDS the Conference Organisers <http://www.nds.org.au/events/1413497081>

[*CLICK HERE TO REGISTER NOW***](#)**

Disability News

NEW fact sheets about rights under NDIS

The National Disability Insurance Scheme is a new system in Australia which will affect millions of people and the way they access disability services.

This website and Facts Sheets were prepared by the Fitzroy Legal Service, Hobart Community Legal Services and Redfern Legal Centre (<http://ndisrights.org.au/about-us/>) provides fact sheets about your legal rights when accessing the Scheme and includes:-

- Your Rights Under The NDIS

- Advocacy
- Making Complaints
- Contacts
- Dealing With Service Providers
- Decision Making
- Discrimination
- Eligibility
- Access to Information
- Needs Assessment
- When The Supports You Need Are Not Available
- Negotiating Who Provides Services

<http://ndisrights.org.au/>

Disability Carers News

[Carers NSW 2014 carer survey: main report](#)

Timothy R. Broady | Carers NSW http://apo.org.au/research/carers-nsw-2014-carer-survey-main-report?utm_source=Australian+Policy+Online+Weekly+Briefing&utm_campaign=8a5df7610d-Policy+Online+Briefing+13+November+2014&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_1452ee3b6b-8a5df7610d-84318957

Report

http://apo.org.au/sites/all/modules/pubdlnet/pubdlnet.php?nid=42102&file=http://apo.org.au/files/Resource/carers_nsw_2014_carer_survey_main_report.pdf

This survey was completed by approximately 1,700 carers across NSW and has collected more detailed data than any previous Carers NSW Carer Survey and highlights the major emerging findings, with further in-depth analysis and reporting to continue. The survey was completed by 1,684 carers - 84% of whom were female, and over half were aged between 45 and 64 years. A significant majority were the main provider of care for those they supported. Approximately one in three had experienced a long-term illness or disability themselves within the previous year. While the demographic profile of survey respondents indicated a wide range of caring relationships and experiences, comparisons with population-based statistics highlight that this sample is not representative of the broader NSW carer population. Carers generally framed their reasons for caring in a positive way, with more than twice as many wanting to take on their caring roles than felt they had no choice. Nevertheless, a significant proportion indicated that no one else assisted them or that they would not be able to find help if they needed a break. Significantly, over one quarter of respondents reported providing more than 70 hours of care per week. This finding is particularly important, since associations were found between the hours of care provided per week, the length of caring roles, and the prevalence of carers' long-term illness or disability.

Amongst carers who were not in paid employment, more than one in two had stopped working because of their caring responsibilities. Notably, these carers reported poorer wellbeing than those who had stopped working for other reasons.

[The NDIS one year in: experiences of carers in the Hunter trial site](#)

Carers NSW

Drawing on research, consultation and policy analysis, this paper summarises key issues arising for carers from the first year of the NSW trial of the NDIS in order to contribute to the ongoing refinement of NDIS design and implementation.

Disability News

80% of Australia's community services unable to meet demand: ACOSS report

The largest survey of Australia's community services sector to be released today, reveals that 80% of frontline agencies are unable to meet current levels of demand with the resources they have. The biggest gaps in meeting demand are in the areas of greatest community need. The survey of almost 1,000 community service workers from around the country shows that 43% of services are simply unable to meet the needs of people coming to them for help. A further 37% can 'almost' meet demand. Only 20% reported being able to meet demand fully. "Already 2.5 million people are living below the poverty line in Australia, including 603,000 children. Now is the time for us to work together as a community to turn this picture around. Australia's community welfare sector, which contributes 5% to our nation's GDP and employs nearly one million people, is working hard to meet this challenge.

The Facts - Across the community sector, services are struggling to meet demand.

- Overall, 80% of sector services reported being unable to fully meet demand.
 - 43% of sector services reported being unable to meet demand.
 - 37% of sector services reported being able to almost fully meet demand.
 - Only 20% of sector services reported being fully able to meet demand.
- Services that prioritise people on low incomes or with specific needs are least able to meet demand.
- 49% reported being unable to meet demand.
 - Only 12% reported being fully able to meet demand.

Australia's Community Sector

Australia's community welfare sector makes an enormous contribution to Australian society, contributing 5% to GDP and 8% to employment annually. It employs 919,000 people and a further two million volunteers.

Media Release at

http://acoss.org.au/media/release/80_of_australias_community_services_unable_to_meet_demand_acoss_report

Download full report at http://www.acoss.org.au/images/uploads/ACSS2014_final.pdf

Disability Issues In The Media

[Seniors stuck in hospital awaiting aged care, inquiry hears](#)

State and territory governments have voiced their concerns over unnecessary hospital stays by older people who are ready to move into residential aged care, suggesting a shortfall of places.

(Australian Ageing Agenda news item)

Featured Organisation



– National Disability Services

<http://www.nds.org.au/>

National Disability Services (NDS) is Australia's peak body for non-government disability service organisations. Collectively, our 840 NDS members operate several thousand services for Australians with all types of disability. Members range in size from small support groups to large multi-service organisations.

NDS's purpose is to promote quality service provision and life opportunities for Australians with disability. This is achieved by influencing governments at all levels and providing members with information and advice, networking opportunities and business support.

NDS has a National Secretariat in Canberra and offices in every state and territory. The National Secretariat allows for co-ordination of the respective state and territory bodies at a federal level, while the latter focus on state issues surrounding disability. The organisation as a whole is governed by a national Board which includes the elected Chair from each state/territory, as well as representatives elected directly by members.

Membership Categories

National Disability Services has two categories of membership: Organisational and Life.

- Organisational Membership is for not-for-profit organisations in the disability field.
- Life members are individuals elected by a general meeting of NDS.

[Benefits and Entitlements of NDS membership](#)

Subscriber Categories

National Disability Services has two categories of subscribers: Organisational Associate and Individual Associate

- Organisational Associate is for for-profit and government organisations with an interest in disability issues.

- Individual Associate is for individuals with an interest in disability issues. However, it is not available to members or staff of organisations eligible to be Organisational members of NDS, but who have not taken up such membership.

[Benefits and Entitlements of Associates and Individuals](#)

Don't forget to register NOW for the NDS NSW Conference – places are filling up fast.

16– 17 February 2014

NDS NSW State Conference.
National Disability Services NSW
Hilton, Sydney.

Registrations OPEN

[*CLICK HERE TO REGISTER NOW***](#)**

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Disability News

Equality, Capacity and Disability in Commonwealth Laws

The Inquiry examined laws and legal frameworks within the Commonwealth jurisdiction that deny or diminish the equal recognition of people with disability as persons before the law and their ability to exercise legal capacity, and considered what changes could be made to Commonwealth laws and legal frameworks to address these matters.

This report makes 55 recommendations for reforms intended to better provide people with disability equal recognition before the law, particularly in relation to the right to make decisions that affect their lives and to have those decisions respected.

A [Summary Report](#) provides an accessible overview of the policy framework and recommendations in the final Report, [Equality, Capacity and Disability in Commonwealth Laws \(ALRC Report 124\)](#)

We have also produced an [EASY ENGLISH](#) summary

PDF version http://www.alrc.gov.au/sites/default/files/pdfs/publications/alrc_124_whole_pdf_file.pdf

Scholarships & Fellowships News

PhD Scholarships: Developmental Disabilities & Mental Health

For more details: <http://3dn.unsw.edu.au/content/scholarships#.VG5ZOMIdCT0>

Applications are sought for 3 or more scholarships we are offering in the following areas:

1. Intellectual Disability data linkage (linked health/disability/mortality/education and other agencies data across NSW- endless potential)
2. Intellectual Disability mental health policy and services
3. Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder: Health, Mental Health, Wellbeing, Participation

PhD Scholarship: NHMRC Partnerships for Better Health Project

The Department of Developmental Disability Neuropsychiatry (3DN) within the School of Psychiatry, UNSW Australia, is offering a three-year full-time PhD stipend to one or more highly motivated student/s to work with Associate

Professor Julian Trollor on a project that will improve access to, and quality of mental health services for people with ID. The PhD is to be undertaken as part of a broad program of research under the [‘Improving Mental Health Outcomes for People with an Intellectual Disability’ National Health and Medical Research Council Partnerships for Better Health Project](#).

- [Data Linkage, Improving Mental Health Outcomes for People with an Intellectual Disability](#)
- [Policy & Service Development](#)

PhD Scholarship: Adults Living with Autism Spectrum Disorders

The Department of Developmental Disability Neuropsychiatry (3DN) within the School of Psychiatry, UNSW Australia, is offering a three-year full-time PhD stipend to a highly motivated student to work with Associate Professor Julian Trollor on a longitudinal study of participation, productivity, and health and well-being of adults living with autism spectrum disorders. The research is funded by the Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) for Living with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) [Autism CRC](#) under the [Australian Government CRC Program](#).

Please [click here](#) for more information.

Payment Information

The value of this scholarship is AUD \$30,000.00 per annum. Recipients of an APA can apply for an AUD \$5,000.00 p.a top up scholarship. This award is to be used for research and living expenses. This scholarship is paid fortnightly for the period of 3 years.

Eligibility

This scholarship requires you to have achieved outstanding academic results. Only citizens of Australia or New Zealand or Australian permanent residents can apply.

Application Details

To apply for this scholarship you must apply directly to the A/Prof Julian Trollor. Terms and conditions are subject to change. Always confirm details with scholarship provider before applying.

Main Contact: A/Prof Julian Trollor; Email: j.trollor@unsw.edu.au

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Disability News

Patterns in use of aged care: 2002-03 to 2010-11

While permanent care in a residential care facility remains a key service for many older Australians, in recent years greater emphasis has been placed on the provision of home-based support. This report examines how this shift has affected the way that people use aged care programs, and investigates the initial take-up of care. The analysis shows that use of aged care programs before entering permanent residential care is increasing, as is the use of any aged care services in a person's last year of life. AIHW catalogue number (CSI 20). View the [media release](#) and download the [full report](#) for free online.

Featured Book

Transition to retirement: a guide to inclusive practice

A transition program for retiring older workers who have a disability.

Roger J. Stancliffe, Nathan J. Wilson, Nicolette Gambin, Christine Bigby & Susan Balandin, Sydney University Press
ISBN: 9781743323274.

The Transition to Retirement (TTR) program has been developed in response to a genuine problem: the need for an effective approach to supporting older employees to build an active, socially inclusive lifestyle after retirement. The approach mapped out in this manual may not be the solution for all workers with disability, but it will certainly assist quite a few.

The TTR program emphasises social inclusion. It is consistent with the focus of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) on building community participation and independence. It is also consistent with the National

Disability Strategy's emphasis on promoting social inclusion in mainstream community settings and service systems. The TTR program supports ageing people with disability to develop new interests, skills and social networks, and facilitates their participation in mainstream community groups.

With the manual comes a DVD, which makes the idea of inclusive activities in retirement easily understandable to people with disability, their families and community organisations.

Author royalties from sales of this manual to the Australian Foundation for Disability (AFFORD) to support AFFORD's Transition to Retirement program. The *Transition to Retirement* manual and DVD is available online at Sydney University Press for only \$25 - <http://purl.library.usyd.edu.au/sup/9781743323274>

Online preview of the TTR manual available at

http://books.google.com.au/books?id=rC9ZAgAAQBAJ&pg=PA6&source=gbs_selected_pages&cad=2#v=onepage&q&f=false

Books & Publications

Creating Culturally Appropriate Outside Spaces and Experiences for People with Dementia: Using Nature and the Outdoors in Person-Centred Care

Mary Marshall and Jane Gilliard. Demonstrating that it is essential to be sensitive to the cultural backgrounds of people with dementia in order to provide truly person-centred care, this book shows that it is possible to create culturally appropriate outdoor spaces and experiences that resonate with people with dementia. 2014, Paperback: ISBN: 978-1-84905-514-7, [more »](#)

[Mindful Living with Asperger's Syndrome](#) Chris Mitchell. A reflection on how mindfulness practice can help people with ASD face daily challenges, relieve stress and live a healthier and happier life.

Changing Offending Behaviour

A Handbook of Practical Exercises and Photocopiable Resources for Promoting Positive Change.

Clark Baim and Lydia Guthrie. Foreword by Fergus McNeill. A one-stop resource of practical exercises for professionals to use in direct work with offenders aged 16+.

Changing Offending Behaviour is a guide to the essentials of rehabilitation theory which also equips the reader with ready-to-use photocopiable exercises and activities to help. 2014, Paperback: ISBN: 978-1-84905-511-6, 297mm x 210mm / 11in x 8.5in, 224pp.

Child protection Australia 2012-13

This is the seventeenth annual comprehensive report on child protection, and for the first time includes: unique counts of children receiving child protection services in each jurisdiction; the number of substantiations per child; co-occurring types of abuse and neglect; socioeconomic status; and 'average day' measures. Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

Traumatic brain injury: support for injured people and their carers

Jagnoor Jagnoor, Ian Cameron | Australian Family Physician

Provides a summary of the available evidence for assessing traumatic brain injury (TBI) and managing the common mental health, physical and cognitive/behavioural issues associated with TBI. Source - Australian Policy Online.

Policies & Guidelines

Guides by the Australian Human Rights Commission

- [Know your rights: Disability Discrimination](#) (2012)
- [A brief guide to the Disability Discrimination Act](#)
- [Guidelines on application of the Premises Standards](#) (2011)
- [Accessible bus stops guidelines](#) (2010)
- [Guidelines for Providers of Insurance and Superannuation](#) (2005)
- [Standards and Guidelines](#)
- [Disability Action Plans](#)
- [Disability issues](#)
- [Current Disability Rights projects](#)

Core Standards For practitioners who support people with a disability

http://www.adhc.nsw.gov.au/sp/delivering_disability_services/core_standards

The core standards have been designed by ADHC's Clinical Innovation and Governance Unit to help practitioners* in their everyday person centred work with individuals with a disability. A core standard is the demonstration of the recommended knowledge practitioners need to support people with a disability.

The core standards are intended to form part of a practitioner's learning plan in discussion with their professional supervisor. The introduction of core standards aims to maintain a consistency across practitioners' work. The core standards do not replace traditional professional training and are not meant to imply the boundaries of professional knowledge, nor intended to limit professional development areas.

The core standards will benefit people who use our services through guiding practitioners to maintain standards of good, evidence based and contemporary practice.

Common Core standards

There are four Common Core Standards for practitioners working with people with a disability and their family and supports. These are:

1. Professional Supervision
2. The Working Alliance
3. Philosophies, Values and Beliefs
4. Service Delivery Approaches

Discipline specific core standards

1. Physiotherapy
 2. Psychology
 3. Nursing and Health Care
 4. Occupational therapy
 5. Speech pathology
 6. Behaviour support (via the Practice Improvement Framework)
- See more at: http://www.adhc.nsw.gov.au/sp/delivering_disability_services/core_standards

Directories Online

Mental health services directory - Way Ahead

The Mental Health Association NSW (MHA) has launched the free Way Ahead Directory of mental health support services online at www.wayahead.org.au

For the past 20 years, MHA has run two mental health information phone lines. These telephone services have been supported by a database of service providers that callers were requesting information on. This information has now become the Way Ahead Online Directory. "Some mentally ill people require a lot more than just a GP or a psychiatrist. Sometimes they need legal help, financial support and a range of other services. Running the telephone information lines has enabled MHA to tailor the information we provide to their specific requests. The Way Ahead is a truly unique directory of mental health related services and it is hoped to expand the directory to a National level in the future" says Elizabeth Priestley, CEO of MHA. Way Ahead provides other information such as factsheets about mental illness, explanations of common jargon, legislation, Medicare rebates and the structure of NSW Mental Health. Entries are constantly checked and verified."

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

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

Tuesday night 9 to 12 pm for all Australian blues, roots, jazz, folk and contemporary music. Weekly studio guests. Blues, Folk and Jazz Gig Guide and music.

Internet Radio Streaming worldwide online at www.alive905.com.au [follow the Listen Live links]

Over 150 Australian artistes have been featured studio guests on the Alive 90.5 fm Australian Spectrum Show.

The studio guests coming up include: = Frank Saltana, Blues Preachers, Johnny Cass Sweet Lil Rider, Wheeze & Suck Band, Jasmin Jones, Stormcellar, Blues Explosion, Ever Women's Festival, The Rockwells, Toongabbie Music Club, Cameron Henderson, Rosie McDonald RAPT, Marilyn Steale, Chich, Finn, Blues Circus and many more in 2015. **Join our 5,000+ Facebook friends** or follow our studio guest announcements at AustralianSpectrum Alive90.5

Employment Assistance Fund

The Employment Assistance Fund helps people with disability and mental health condition by providing financial assistance to purchase a range of work related modifications and services. Assistance is available for people who are about to start a job or who are currently working, as well as those who require assistance to find and prepare for work.

The Fund may reimburse the cost of work related modifications and services including, but not limited to:

- the cost of modifications to the physical work environment
- modifications to work vehicles
- adaptive equipment for the workplace
- information and communication devices
- Auslan interpreting
- specialist services for employees with specific learning disorders and mental health conditions
- disability awareness training
- Deafness awareness training, and
- mental health awareness training.

Recruitment agencies may also apply for reimbursement of Auslan interpreting that they provide for a job interview.

- [How to apply for the Employment Assistance Fund](#)

<http://www.fundingcentre.com.au/grant/G01861/info>

Research & Demographic Reports

Manage your own attendant care after a vehicle accident

Purcal, C., Fisher, K. R., & Zmudzki, F. (2014). *Direct funding trial for attendant care support: Evaluation plan (SPRC Report 6/2014)*. Sydney: Social Policy Research Centre, UNSW Australia. People with a major injury from a motor vehicle accident can now manage direct funding for their attendant care in a new trial in NSW. The NSW Lifetime Care and Support Authority is responsible for their service support and is evaluating the trial in anticipation of the opportunities from policy change that emphasises individual choice and control for reasons of rights and effectiveness. In the long term, the National Injury Insurance Scheme and the National Disability Insurance Scheme offer the possibility that all disability related support has a direct funding option.

https://www.sprc.unsw.edu.au/media/SPRCFile/1_Direct_funding_trial_for_attendant_care_support_evaluation_plan.pdf

Youth mental health report 2014

One in five young Australians are likely to be experiencing mental illness, and less than 40% are comfortable seeking professional help, according to this report.

Disability support services: services provided under the National Disability Agreement 2012-13.

The report, released by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW), presents information on the use of community support service, employment services, community access services, accommodation support services and respite services. [Media release and full report.](#)

My Choice Matters Evaluation

Griffiths, A., Bates, S., Smedley, C., Fisher, K. R., & Kayess, R. (2014). [My Choice Matters evaluation \[Interim report\] \(SPRC Report 19/2014\) \(PDF\)](#) [176 Kb]. Sydney: Social Policy Research Centre, UNSW Australia.

Community Sector in NSW

Cortis, N., & Blaxland, M. (2014). [The state of the community service sector in New South Wales 2014 \[Final report\] \(PDF\)](#) [806 Kb][\(SPRC Report 4/2014\) \(PDF\)](#) [806 Kb]. Sydney: Social Policy Research Centre, UNSW Australia.

[Research summary: Private funding and community service organisations in New South Wales \(PDF\)](#) [2 Mb]

[Research summary: Small community service organisations in New South Wales: characteristics and challenges \(PDF\)](#) [2 Mb]

[Research summary: Disability organisations in the New South Wales community service sector \(PDF\)](#) [1 Mb]

Improving dementia data in Australia: supplement to Dementia in Australia 2012

Rich and robust data are needed for policy makers and practitioners to facilitate the prevention, early detection, diagnosis and treatment of dementia, as well as improving support for people with dementia and those who care for them. This paper provides an overview of the status of dementia data at the time of preparing the report *Dementia in Australia* (AIHW 2012a), and suggests ways in which the availability, consistency and quality of these data could be improved. AIHW catalogue number (AGE 76). Download the [full report](#) for free online.

Outcome of UN expert group meeting on disability data and statistics

An expert group meeting (EGM) on “Disability data and statistics, monitoring and evaluation: the way forward, a disability inclusive development agenda towards 2015 and beyond” was jointly convened by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in Paris, France from 8-10 July 2014. Over 25 global experts working on disability research, data and information participated in the meeting. During the first day, the meeting focused on discussions to improve international comparability of disability data and statistics, which resulted in specific recommendations for the United Nations system. The second day of discussions involved a review of the goals and targets in the zero draft of the sustainable development goals produced by the Open Working Group (OWG), with a view to assess ways the emerging development framework could ensure the inclusion of persons with disabilities. Detailed technical papers are available at: <http://www.un.org/disabilities/default.asp?id=1617>.

National community services data dictionary, version 8, 2014

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. Provides national data standards for the community services sector.

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

Multimedia Tools and Resources - Available Now (CS&HISC Update)

The Aged Care Workforce Innovation Network Program contributed funding to support regional project activities that fostered collaborative partnerships across the Aged Care sector and developed strategic responses to address key workforce challenges at a regional level.

A suite of multimedia tools and resources developed through these regional projects are now available online. Over the next six months a number of additional resources will become available as the projects are finalised.

[More](#)

Making Sense Online Resource Helping parents with intellectual disability make sense of the child protection system in NSW

Disability advocates and workers section.

This section provides important information to disability advocates and workers, or those supporting a parent with intellectual disability who:

- is likely to come to the notice of Community Services (for example, through antenatal screening)
- has been reported to Community Services
- is a party in care proceedings before the NSW Children's Court
- has children that are subject to care orders

Each state in Australia has different laws about child protection, so this information applies only to NSW.

Published by the Intellectual Disability Rights Service. <http://idrs.org.au/makingsense/workers/>

Positions Vacant

Residential Support Workers - Disability & /or Mental Health Care (Agency Casual Work)

Email: Employment@GlobalCareStaff.com **Free phone: 1800 009 292**

We are a leading casual staff agency offering a variety of shifts to care workers throughout the greater Sydney region, Hunter, Central Coast, Illawarra, Southern Highlands and Blue Mountains. Currently we are seeking experienced care workers to work with people who have a disability. Plenty of shifts available. Weekly pay. Choose your own days & shift availability. Must have previous experience in a similar role. Police Check Certificate, Working With Children Clearance, Drivers License and First Aid Certificate required. Ability to communicate effectively with people who have a disability is essential. Must be able to work as part of a team. For more information call 1800 009 292 or forward your resume along with contact details of two referees to: Employment@GlobalCareStaff.com

Registered Nurses & Endorsed Enrolled Nurses specialised in disability, mental health and general (casual agency work)

Email: Employment@GlobalCareStaff.com **Free phone: 1800 009 292**

One of the market leaders in the public, private mental health, disability, and general health fields. Global can offer you plenty of shifts in private and public hospitals, disability, mental health services, dual diagnosis and disability special care areas. An agency founded and run by Registered Nurses, we can assist you in finding work in a variety of locations. Choose the hours and shifts to suit your lifestyle. Must be registered to practice in Australia. Police Check Certificate, Working With Children Clearance, Drivers License and First Aid Certificate required. **Excellent pay rates. Weekly pays.** Why not forward your resume to Employment@GlobalCareStaff.com or phone to speak to one of our friendly consultants who can help you make that great career move. Free phone: 1800 009 292.

See Current Positions Vacant at <http://www.globalcarestaff.com/plugins/job.cgi>

Conference Calendar

See a more comprehensive listing of conferences at our web site

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

7 January 2015

DYUTI 2015 International Symposium on Evidences in Global Mental Health. Kakkanad, Ernakulam, India.

<http://www.dyuti.in/>

17 – 18 January 2015

13th Annual MCI Symposium and Early Alzheimer's Disease Diagnostic & Treatment Workshop. Florida, USA.

www.mcisymposium.org

20 – 23 January 2015

4th International Conference on Pediatric Chronic Diseases, Disability and Human Development. Jerusalem, Israel.

<http://www.pedchron.com/>

23 – 24 January 2015

3rd Child Mental & Behavioural Health Conference. Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.

<http://www.mco.ae/3rdCMBHC/>

26 – 30 January 2015

World Congress on Juvenile Justice. Geneva, Switzerland. <http://www.crin.org/en/library/events/world-congress-juvenile-justice>

9 February 2015

Understanding and Implementing the Aged Care Funding Instrument Parramatta RSL, Parramatta NSW. Frontline Care Solutions. http://www.frontlinecaresolutions.com/understanding_ACFI

10 -12 February 2015

Ageing Summit 2015. London, UK. www.regonline.co.uk/Ageing2015

16 – 17 February 2015

National Disability Services NDS NSW 2015 Conference.

Hilton Hotel, Sydney.

Proudly sponsored by Global Disability & Health Care Services.

<http://www.nds.org.au/events/1413497081>

18 February 2015

Effective Care Plans & Case Conferencing for Long Term Care. The Matthew Flinders Hotel, Chadstone VIC. Frontline Care Solutions. http://www.frontlinecaresolutions.com/effective_care_plans_and_case_conferencing

18 February 2015

International Asperger's Day

19 – 20 February 2015

The MHS Summer Forum: Men's Mental Health. Crow's Nest, NSW, Australia. <http://www.themhs.org/pages/2015-summerforum.html>

19 – 20 February 2015

6th Annual National Dementia Congress. Sheraton Hotel Melbourne.

<http://www.informa.com.au/conferences/health-care-conference/national-dementia-congress>

22 – 23 February 2015

24th Tri-State Conference. Albury Entertainment Centre, NSW. LASA Leading Aged Services Association.

<http://lasavictoria.asn.au/events/tri-state-conference-2015/>

24 February 2015

Leading Change in Dementia Diagnosis and Support. The King's Fund, London, UK.

www.kingsfund.org.uk/events/leading-change-dementia-diagnosis-and-support

24 – 25 February 2015

Getting Workforce Ready for the NDIS. Sydney Boulevard Hotel. [Web site](#)

25 – 27 February 2015

Consumer Directed Aged Care Regulatory & Compliance Readiness Summit 2015. Marriott Hotel, Melbourne.

[Click here to download the full brochure](#)

25 – 28 February 2015

Learning Disabilities Association 52nd Annual International Conference. Chicago, IL, USA.

<http://www.ldanatl.org/conference/index.asp>

1 -31 March 2015

National Epilepsy Awareness Month - Nationwide - [Epilepsy Australia](#)

To list your conferences on our Global Conference Calendar

http://www.globalcaresstaff.com/page/conference_calendar.html

– email details to GlobalGazetteDisability@gmail.com

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