

# Newsletter

Summer 2018

## National Disability Coordination Officer Program Region 17

---

Autumn is here, the sun is rising a bit later in the morning and setting a bit earlier in the evening every day. Scattered, solitary leaves here and there are dropping. Nights are growing refreshingly cooler. Tomato plants are starting to die in the garden and hot cross buns and chocolate eggs are in the supermarkets so make yourself a hot drink and indulge in bun or an egg and enjoying reading my latest edition of my region 17 NDCO newsletter.

*Yours Sincerely*

*Andrea Evans-McCall*

Andrea Evans-McCall NDCO 0418 208 039

[andrea.evansmccall@skillsplus.com.au](mailto:andrea.evansmccall@skillsplus.com.au)

<http://www.ndcovictoria.net.au/region-17>

<https://www.facebook.com/NDCOregion17>

---



### NDCO News and Events

#### **New for 2018: Empowering Leadership Program**

Last Friday the 23<sup>rd</sup> May was the first session of the Empowering Leadership Program, 26 students from schools across Gippsland attended the day in Traralgon. The aim of the program is to develop leadership capacity in students with a disability in years 10 to 12 in both specialist and main stream schools across Gippsland. Evidence shows that young people who are exposed to leadership development opportunities are likely to have a positive wellbeing and are more likely to reach their full potential. On the day participants were exposed to a number of *Leader Mentors* who provided strategic leadership. The leader mentors were made up of professionals from the program partners and guest speaker Beau Vernon sharing their insights and wisdom, engaging in interactive activities and enjoyed networking opportunities that provided a rich development of leadership skills.

Feedback from the day:

“Today was a great first step at moving the young people towards an understanding of their own leadership and abilities” Lead Mentor

“Fantastic program lots of fun activities and the guest speaker were perfect” Educator

“I want to thank all those that made today happen, what a great day- I want more!” Student

“Inspiring and uplifting” Lead Mentor

#### **NEW Free Career Conversations Workshops**

I have collaborated with my NDCO colleague Pam Anderson (Western Victoria Region 16) to develop a workshop package suitable for anyone who would like to know how to be a competent Career Ally to a young person. Career Conversations workshops are suitable for parents, teachers, service

providers, volunteers and mentors from any background. We reviewed the Department of Education & Training's "Engaging Parents in Career Conversations 2014" coupled with "Parents as Career Transition Support (PACTS)" and "Lasting Gifts" materials developed a new package which is user friendly and fun for anyone wishing to know more about career pathways and development for young people with disability. Workshop run for two and a half hours and each participant will receive their own FREE copy of our Career Conversations card decks. These cards focus on five different career conversation messages as follows:

1. What is your Career?
2. Discovery (based on Customised Employment Discovery Process)
3. Reputation
4. Opportunities and Who you Know
5. Career Allies

There are ten questions on individual cards under each of the five messages above which will enable Career Allies to have a tool they can use when speaking with a young person about their future career goals. If you are interested in hosting a FREE workshop delivered by your region 17 NDCO, please make contact 0418 208 039 or [email](#)

### **NDCO Inclusive Learning Conference**

Keynote Presenter Sarah Barton

Award winning producer of 'Defiant lives' a documentary that explores the history of the Disability Rights Movement [for more information](#)

**Date: Friday 1 June 2018**

Target: Professionals with an interest in inclusive education and employment for people with complex learning needs and disability aged 15 years and over.

Venue: Monash University Peninsula, Campus McMahons Rd, Frankston

Workshop Streams

- Educational Inclusion Theory and Practice
- Educational Inclusion Pathways

#### **Important dates**

Call for Presentation Papers Close 29 March 2018

Early Bird Registrations Close 30 April 2018

Registrations Close 7 May 2018

Registration

Participant Registration Early Bird Registrations \$100, full fee \$150

Stallholder Registration (Stalls will be open during lunch break) \$50

[To purchase tickets](#)

[For more information:](#) contact Sally Bailey on (03) 9784 0400 or [email](#)

### **Passport 2 Employment (P2E) Program State Evaluation Project 2018**

The Passport 2 Employment Program Evaluation project aims to develop a comprehensive evaluation of an innovative collaborative program for young people with a disability against the Information Linkages and Capacity outcomes and to develop a robust evaluation framework for future P2E programs. The P2E program aims through collaboration to build mainstream agency and community capacity to better meet the needs of young people with a disability in rural communities, and to provide specific transition support for young people with a disability to build their individual skills and confidence to participate fully in their community, future work and education ensuring optimum, seamless transition into adult life. It is a holistic training program which aims to build students capacity and knowledge around a series of key areas including personal presentation and interview skills, health, hygiene and fitness, accessing supports and services, clarifying their future work pathways, workplace tours, money handling and shopping for interview outfits and an amazing race around town to locate different services that may be of assistance once participants have completed

their secondary schooling. Since the first pilot program in 2013 it has been adopted by other communities using the P2E framework developed in Glenelg and to date over 280 young people with a disability across five areas in Victoria, and remote regions in Western Australia have participated in the program, promoted by the National Disability Coordination Officer program.

Interim results from individual Passport to Employment programs (2014-2017) demonstrated a significant increase in knowledge and confidence demonstrated by the participants. For example, The 2016 Baw Baw Latrobe P2E programs was evaluated by gathering representative feedback from participants, parents, partners and schools using a standardised procedure. Service providers and educators provided information through a standardised survey.

This feedback reported:

- Significant improvement in the participants' confidence in understanding employability skills
- Significant improvement in the participants' understanding of the process of applying for a job
- Significant improvement in the participants' knowledge required to take part in a job interview.

The evaluation identified strengths and achievements gained when participants had the opportunity to develop work readiness skills; to develop confidence; to begin to recognise their own skills and strengths in a supported environment reflecting their specific needs.

As the program has grown organically, there has been no overall independent evaluation of the programs as a whole, nor a comparison of the programs applicability across remoted isolated, rural or regional communities.

We hope that this evaluation will provide a series of recommendations in relation to the model which may support its further roll out in the future, providing opportunities more young people with a disability in rural and regional communities to benefit from the program. SED Advisory has been commissioned to complete a full evaluation with recommendations for future programs and an evaluation framework. SED will be visiting Gippsland at the end of April to conduct session. We hope everyone who has been involved in the program will spare a few moments to participate in the evaluation. Please contact **Haley Remington, Project Manager at SED Advisory on 03 5331 2565 or [email](#)** for further information or to register your interest. This would be greatly appreciated and your help could ensure the P2E program can continue to be delivered across Victoria and quite possibly nationally.

---

## Tips, Tools, Clips & Websites

### **New feature added to the NDCO Victorian Webpage -Disability Acronyms List**

The Education Training and Employment sector has a huge range of acronyms that are at times confusing. You can download [list of common acronyms](#) that you may find helpful, found under the information/resources tab of our Victorian NDCO website.

### **Communicating with deaf and hard of hearing people by ai-media**

There is often a communication barrier between people who are hearing and people who are deaf or hard of hearing. But our differences shouldn't keep us from communicating with each other:

[Here are a few tips on communicating with someone who is deaf or hard of hearing](#)

Three free captioning tools to make your videos more accessible:

[Amara](#)

[YouTube](#)

[Subtitle Edit](#)

---

## Policy, Funding and Research

### **Specialisterne Australia’s Dandelion Program Victoria at its new Melbourne office**

The Andrews Labor Government is helping people on the autism spectrum find sustainable work thanks to \$200,000 from the Jobs Victoria Innovation Fund. The grant will enable Specialisterne, one of the first companies in the world to highlight the benefits of a neuro-diverse workforce, to work with small and medium businesses to employ 20 adults with autism.

The program will deliver job opportunities across Melbourne and regional Victoria. Specialisterne will work with La Trobe and Autism CRC, to deliver the program, ensuring high retention rates and job satisfaction.

Established in Australia in 2015, the company has set a goal of enabling 12,000 career pathways for people on the autism spectrum by 2025. As an innovative social enterprise Specialisterne provides assessment, training, education and IT consultancy services for those with autism.

Victoria is home to an estimated 3,500 social enterprises – about 25 per cent of Australia’s social enterprises – which contribute \$5.2 billion in gross output to the Victorian economy.

A report from the Centre for Social Impact shows that there are at least 60,000 jobs created by social enterprises in Victoria, with more than 25 per cent of their employees coming from groups that face barriers to employment. [For more information](#)

### **Giving Victorians with a Disability “Every Opportunity**

Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing Martin Foley launched every opportunity: Victorian economic participation plan for people with disability 2018-20 to mark the start of the National Open Employment Forum 2018. The plan includes 21 actions to improve work, study and business opportunities for Victorians with a disability, and maximise the benefits of the National Disability Insurance Scheme. Employers will be empowered to support people into jobs that reflect their skills, experience and goals – using best-practice employment models. [For this article](#)

By the time the NDIS is fully operational, Victoria’s investment will be \$2.5 billion a year – supporting more than 105,000 Victorians with a disability. [To access the plan visit](#)

### **Inclusion of People with Disability in VET cross sector project**

PwC’s Skills for Australia has released an Environmental Scan as part of the Inclusion of People with Disability in VET cross sector project. The Environmental Scan outlines the current state of inclusion for people with disability in Australia, focusing on the challenges faced in education and training, employment, and customer service contexts. Data and insights have been gathered from multiple sources, including desktop research, preliminary stakeholder consultations, and review of existing data on workforce trends, Industry Skills Forecasts and existing training package components across multiple industries. [To access the scan](#)

### **Equity Student Participation in Australian Higher Education: 2011 to 2016**

A Briefing Note written by Paul Koshy, National Centre for Student Equity in Higher Education (NCSEHE). Equity Student Participation in Australian Higher Education examines trends in higher education undergraduate enrolments in Australia between 2011 and 2016. This six-year period has been a time of marked change in Australian higher education, with the demand-driven system (DDS) increasing overall student numbers, while programs such as the Higher Education Participation and Partnerships Program (HEPPP) encouraged equity group participation, with their numbers increasing at a rate either proximate or greater than that seen overall. [To access the briefing note](#)

## Opportunities

### I CAN Network Online Mentoring - Term 2- 2018

Online mentoring groups, which help students build confidence and social connections, draw upon our very successful and highly acclaimed school-based mentoring programs and adapt them to a home setting. We ran a well-received pilot in Term 4 of 2017 and are finishing up three very successful groups in Term 1 for Year 6 and 7 students. In term 2, I CAN will be offering six online mentoring groups (8-9 students each) that will run for 8 weeks, commencing the week of 16th April. These include:

- **Three** (3) groups for current **Year 7 students** (mixed gender)
- **Two** (2) groups for current **Year 6 students** (mixed gender)
- **One** (1) group for **girls in Years 7 or 8** (pilot program)

Each group will be led by one of our two most experienced mentors, **Chris Varney** or **Carla Burn**, both of whom have shaped the online mentoring program since its inception. Each of them will be assisted by another outstanding, seasoned mentor. All of our online mentors are on the Autism Spectrum themselves. We have found that the online mentoring delivery model can be a very effective way to bring the positive messages and powerful mentorship model of the I CAN Network to students facing significant change as they prepare for and settle into high school. Our engaging group mentoring sessions, which take place for one hour each week via live video conference, allow participants to explore common interests, celebrate their passions and connect with others who understand and accept them. We anticipate continued growth in our online mentoring offerings during the course of 2018, including follow-on mentoring groups from I CAN Network camps and offerings for other year groups/milestones. **To be considered for any of the three small group programs above, students should be:**

- Currently in Year 6 or 7 (or, if interested in the girls' group, in Year 7 or 8)
- Located in Australia
- Aware that they are on the Autism Spectrum
- Keen to see themselves through a strengths-based lens
- Comfortable with taking part in online activities
- Willing to take part in a group activity in the evening (this can be difficult for some students who need significant "down time" in the evening, so please consider your child's preferences and needs)

[Key Program Details/ Further Information](#)

[Expressions of Interest](#)

---

## NDIS

### Reimagine website - Supporting people living with mental health conditions to navigate the NDIS

To get an application for the NDIS ready you may need to prepare a lot of information. Some people may find it very confusing and complicated. Reimagine will take you through some of the things you will need to know and think about while preparing your application. To support you this website has two main types of resources; a downloadable workbook and interactive online activities.

[Reimagine website](#)

---

## Resources

### ADCET and NDCO resources

If you are looking for a one stop shop of NDCO resources I highly recommend checking out the ADCET NDCO dedicated webpage featuring over a dozen NDCO specific resources covering a wide range of topics and needs. To access the ADCET NDCO resources [follow this link](#) and add it to you favourites tab.

---

## Conferences, Workshops, Forums and Training

### 2018 Australasian Mental Health and Higher Education Conference

Our second Australasian Mental Health and Higher Education Conference is open to researchers, educators, students, HDR candidates, mental health professionals, consumers, carers, providers, community groups and key organisations in higher education and the broader community. The main focus is working with students, candidates and staff in higher education to improve their experiences and outcomes in higher education.

**Time:** 9.00 am to 3.00 pm

**Date:** 6 & 7 July 2018

**Venue:** James Cook University

[Event website](#)

### Access Easy English

Learn Easy English 2 day writing course

Suitable for anyone who writes information for the public, eg: communications and marketing staff; support workers, planners, therapists, disability advocates, teachers, ethics teams, survey developers, report writers, lawyers, NDIS staff

**Time:** 9:15 am – 4:15 pm

**Date:** Monday 14 and Tuesday 15 May, 2018

**Venue:** Kingston Arts Centre, Nepean Hwy. Moorabbin

**Cost:** \$550 + gst Morning tea and light lunch provided Parking available under the venue: enter via South Rd. Wheelchair Accessible.

[Registration](#)

### Pathways 14 Conference

Pathways 14 Conference website was launched this month and are already calling for abstracts. 4-7 December 2018 Novotel Manly Pacific, Sydney Australia. Abstracts are now being sought for oral presentations (20 minute presentation, plus 5 minutes Q&A). Themes include Mental health, Inclusive Design, Inherent Requirements, Employment, Mental Health and Well-being, Interface between NDIS and tertiary education and Community Links. [Submit your abstract](#)

### Kick Start Your Career in Disability Support

**Course Dates:** April 23<sup>rd</sup> – 1<sup>st</sup> June, 2018

**Duration:** 6 weeks, 4 days per week

**Locations:** Two separate courses will be delivered in Morwell and Sale

The training will also include CPR, Basic First Aid and Working with Children Checks.

DHHS has made a commitment to interview all participants who undertake this pre-accredited course for roles as Disability Support Workers in their June intake across Gippsland.

For more information please contact: Marcia Thomas -Department of Education and Training

Phone: 03 41137431 or [email](#)

---

### **Victorian NDCO's**

The NDCO Program works strategically to assist people with disability access, and participate in 'Tertiary Education' and subsequent employment, through a national network of regionally based NDCOs. There are 31 NDCO regions in Australia with 7 in Victoria. Each NDCO region has an Advisory Committee with representation from key regional stakeholders. In Victoria the NDCO program has also established a state network to work on collaborative state priorities. You can access contact to all Victorian NDCO's via the state website: [www.ndcovictoria.net.au](http://www.ndcovictoria.net.au)

---