



## DES Training Day

The NDCO in collaboration with ACE WA conducted two DES training workshops on the 11th and 12th March 2011. The training focused on Employment Pathway Plans (EPP) and Employment Services System (ESS) the DEEWR IT system. The demand for this training was beyond expectation with almost 100 registrations. Originally organised as a one day event this had to be expanded to a second day with approximately 50 attendees per day. Almost all WA DES providers, metropolitan and regional, utilised this opportunity.

The EPP training session covered a number of interactive case scenarios informing registrant on how to best complete EEPs. Some attendees were seeking the certainty of a template approach solution to the conducting of EPPs this however is not possible due to the individual and specific context of each plan.

Some participants found that the ESS training was pitched at too low a level however they were highly satisfied with the opportunity to network, problem solve with other organizations and share approached to service provision.

Our thanks are extended to Philippa Henderson from the DEEWR Learning Centre for not only conducting the workshop but also for her efforts to identify registrant's specific training needs in the lead up to the training day. Appreciation is also extended to NDS WA for their coordination of transport assistance for the regional services.



Attendees on Day 2 of the DES Training Workshop.

## Transition from university to employment

During February 2011 a Transition Forum was held to raise awareness among university teaching staff about issues facing students with disability in transitioning to employment. This forum was a result of the coordinated effort of the Region 27 NDCO and The University of Notre Dame Australia. With the forum targeting teaching staff, two recent graduates provided a firsthand account of their journey from study to employment. This was followed by two service providers informing attendees of existing services and programs.



Rebecca Brookes from the Australian Network on Disability presenting at the forum.

The recent graduates outlined the challenges they faced both during their time at university and upon entering employment as well as any helpful assistance they encountered. Also presenting was Sue Robertson the Managing Director of Edge Employment Solutions, an organisation with an established track record in assisting university graduates into their chosen profession. The last presenter was Rebecca Brookes from the Australian Network On Disability, an employer organization with many high profile members. Rebecca discussed the 'Stepping Into' program which provides paid internship opportunities for students with disability studying Human Resources, Commerce, Business, Finance, Accounting and Law.

Twenty people attended the forum including disability support and academic staff from the five West Australian universities.

## NDCO at the Wagin Woolorama

Dale Arthur, NDCO for the Southern region along with the local disability service providers organised a colourful display stand promoting disability services at this year's Wagin Woolorama. The NDCO contribution ensured the promotion of transitioning to further education and employment for people with disability. Attracting visitors from all over the central southern part of the state the Woolorama, held on the 11th & 12th March, is Western Australia's premier sheep and agricultural show.

Attended at all times during the event by various disability services providers, the stand quickly became a hub for people facing barriers in transitioning to further education or employment. The stand also acted to enhance the public profile of the various disability service providers.

The event was supported by the local office of the Disabilities Service Commission, C Y O'Connor Institute, Forrest Personnel, Accessibility, the WA Department of Education and the National Disability Coordination program.

Highlights of this year's Woolorama included the quality of entries in the stock competitions and the comprehensive trade and consumer fair. There was also great participation in the art, photography and home industry competitions. Further highlights included the substantial live entertainment, and last but not least, the thrilling action at the rodeo on Saturday night.



Dale Arthur NDCO, Dale Arthur NDCO, Chris Eales, Forrest Personnel, Audrey Parnell, C Y O'Connor Institute, Heidi Astbury, Participation Manager, Education Department.

## Promoting employment opportunities for disadvantaged job seekers

The newly established Manjimup Transition Group liaised with the local Chamber of Commerce to organise a 'Sundowner' event to promote employment opportunities for disadvantaged job seekers. Conducted as part of the regular Chamber of Commerce meeting, this event was well received with over 40 people in attendance, including members of the Pemberton Chamber of Commerce.

Brett Carter, IKEA Human Resources Co-ordinator was the keynote speaker and he presented an excellent business case for employing disadvantaged jobseekers. Franzine Karamfiles on behalf of Karamfiles Builders spoke of their positive experience of employing a person facing significant employment barriers. This employee, Telisha Beaglehole then spoke on what it meant to her to have the opportunity to work and ultimately engage in further training. A representative from Jobs Southwest outlined the incentives available to employers who assist disadvantaged job seekers into employment and further training.



Dale Arthur NDCO, Dean Bavich Manjimup Chamber of Commerce and Industry Chairman and Brett Carter Human Resources Coordinator IKEA.

## LAUNCH: Broome's new school to work transition program

LAUNCH coordinated by Disability Employment Service provider Kimberley Personnel is a Broome based school-to work transition program, providing students with a disability an opportunity to secure meaningful employment. The aim of the program is to place students in work experience with supportive employers, to promote realistic career pathways with a vision that students may be employed at the completion of the program. The program will provide opportunities to students from St Mary's College and Broome Senior High School.

The LAUNCH program is based on EDGE Employment Solutions successful SWEAT (Supported Work Experience and Traineeships) program. Region 28 NDCO partnered with Edge Employment Solutions staff to provide intense training and coordination of the program's launch. SWEAT program manager, Rebecca Pileggi, recently spent a week in Broome, conducting Professional Development sessions for school staff and information session for the parents carers and other stakeholders and training for Kimberley Personnel.

Kimberly Personnel CEO, Steve Cook, said "school to work transition of your people with disability is a key focus for Kimberley Personnel. The LAUNCH Program is a very exciting initiative which will provide many students with an opportunity to move smoothly from school to open employment".

LAUNCH was successfully introduced to Broome on Thursday 5th May 2011 with a Sun-downer at the picturesque Broome Golf Club. Many enthusiastic employers in attendance committed to participate in the program by offering work experience placements for students.

If you have any questions or are interested in participating in the program please contact Steve Cook of Kimberley Personnel at [steve@kimberlypersonnel.org.au](mailto:steve@kimberlypersonnel.org.au)



Steve Cook, CEO Kimberley Personnel Phil Flint, Life Without Barriers, Nicole Cox Region 28 NDCO, Rebecca Pileggi Team Leader, Edge Employment Solution's SWEAT Program.

**LAUNCH**

From School to Work

## NAIDOC Disability Festivities

Region 28 shall be celebrating the achievements of indigenous Australians with disability during NAIDOC week, July 3rd to July 10th, 2011. NAIDOC (National Aboriginal Islander Day Observance Committee) aims to highlight the rich cultural heritage of Indigenous people in Australia and their positive contribution to the nation's identity.

This will be the third consecutive year the Disability Festivity has partnered with NAIDOC, and this year the events shall expand beyond Broome into various Kimberley towns and communities. In 2011 the NAIDOC disability events will run as follows:

Monday 4th July; Broome,  
Tuesday 5th July; Derby,  
Wednesday 6th July; Fitzroy Crossing,  
Thursday 7th July; Halls Creek  
Friday 8th July; Kununurra

The festivities shall incorporate storytelling, exploring self identity and self the worth, and most importantly celebrating self and the contributions made to the community by each individual. All people with disability, carers, stakeholders and the general public are encouraged to come along and help us celebrate the significant contributions Indigenous Australians with disability make to society.

For specific event locations and times or other relevant information on any of the NAIDOC disability events please contact Nicole Cox; 0400 243 125 or [nicole.cox@edge.org.au](mailto:nicole.cox@edge.org.au)

## NDCO Contract extended

The NDCO contract which was due to expire at the end of June 2011 has now been extended until the 30 June 2012. In the mean time a comprehensive evaluation of the NDCO program is to be conducted with the findings informing the future development of the program. The evaluation will look into and report on the appropriateness, effectiveness, efficiency and governance of the program. Phillippena, will undertake the evaluation with Geoff Noblett leading the project assisted by his team members Craig McInnis, Mark Bagshaw, Lenore Cooper, Zahra Aziz and Michael Noonan.

## New resource for tertiary graduates with lived experience of mental illness transitioning to employment

'Mountain Climbing: A resource for tertiary graduates with lived experience of mental illness making the transition to employment' is a resource produced by the NDCO Tasmania. Interspersed with personal experiences and available resources, this book outlines a pathway designed to assist graduates look for work, get through the first week on the job and stay employed. A copy or a request for a free booklet is available at [www.ndcotas.com.au](http://www.ndcotas.com.au)

## NDCO appointed to NVEAC

Jennifer Kitchin the NDCO for the Perth Metropolitan Region 27 has been appointed to the National VET Equity Advisory Council (NVEAC) effective from March 2011 until March 2012. NVEAC was established in 2009 to provide the Minister's Council for Tertiary Education and Employment (MCTEE) with policy advice on how the VET sector can support current and potential learners who experience disadvantage to achieve better outcomes.

The key objective of the NVEAC is to drive reform for all disadvantaged groups across the following areas:

- Sustainable employment outcomes including increased levels of participation in training and completions;
- Higher level qualification attainments;
- Effective transitions from school or community to training; and training to further education or employment; and
- The capacity of the VET system to address barriers to training and employment outcomes for disadvantaged groups.

The membership of the Council reflects the diverse range of stakeholders within the sector, including people with a disability, Indigenous Australians, refugees, homeless youth, and people from a non-English speaking background. Practitioners whose role is to work in the education and training sectors with, or on behalf of, disadvantaged learners are also represented on the Council.

## Visit our website

Visit our new NDCO website at [www.ndcowa.net.au](http://www.ndcowa.net.au)