



Armadale Transition Group

Recently the NDCO office in Perth commenced the set up of a transition group targeting students in the Armadale region of Perth's southern suburbs. The project aims to bring all the relevant stakeholders in the area together in a more coordinated fashion to support students with a disability completing high school.

Stakeholders involved are NDCO's, three major DES providers based in Armadale, the Disability Services Commission WA, the Armadale Senior High School – Education Support Centre and eventually the parents of students involved.

One of the primary objectives of this group will be to deliver a better flow of information to the parents and families of the student school leavers. This is crucial as it will provide choice and options for life after school in a more measured and timely fashion. It will also provide an opportunity to develop a better transition model for students with disability in year 10 through to year 12. This will then better prepare students for the move into further education or employment.

It is important that parents, students and providers work closely together over a period of time to make the transition for students as seamless as possible. The Armadale transition group will have a pivotal role in helping this to occur.

The group has met twice and discussed problems they felt were common across the sector and the region. From these meetings it was agreed that the group should hold a parent information session at Armadale Education Support Centre.

This project is in its infancy but progressing well. We look forward to providing updates on the program as it matures and strengthens.

Kimberley Transition Project

The NDCO program is partnering with the Department of Education's Kimberley Disability Coordination Unit (KDCU) based in Broome to deliver transition training, resources and practical assistance to schools and Aboriginal Corporations based in Halls Creek, Fitzroy Crossing and Derby.

In February the NDCO and staff from KDCU travelled to these 3 towns and were fortunate to witness the many moods of the wet season in the Kimberley region.

The KDCU is funding an Education Assistant part time in each of the schools to implement a transition program while the NDCO program will provide coordination and training regarding working with people with disability to the Aboriginal Corporations delivering the Community Development Program (CDP).



Aspect Autism in Education Conference

In the first week of May this year two of the three NDCOs in Western Australia attended an informative and inspiring autism conference in Melbourne. It was very interesting to become acquainted with some of the specialist learning options that are available for students on the autism spectrum.

One of the inspiring speakers was Chris Varney of the I CAN Network. This organisation is driving a rethink of Autism, from 'I Can't' to 'I CAN'. They mentor young people on the Autism Spectrum to live life with an 'I CAN' attitude. They bring out the 'awe' in AWETism through education, advocacy and providing opportunities. They also build networks across schools, universities, TAFEs, communities, businesses and governments. WA NDCOs were inspired to encourage the implementation of this concept into WA schools.

Darlene McLennan, NDCO from Tasmania, gave a presentation of the helpful hints for those students with autism transitioning from school to university. A special education school principal found this especially helpful.

The most enthusiastic presenter from overseas was Patrick Schwarz from the National-Louis University in the USA.

Patrick spoke on the perspective of possibility thinking that can lead to success and also on the preparation and process needed to transition students from school to life.



NDCOs attending the conference left to right: Sally Bailey (VIC), Laynie Dunne-Heynis (SA), Darlene McLennan (TAS), Mark Bateman (WA), Julie Forrest-Davis (NT) and Dale Arthur (WA).



Coming up!

The Abilities EXPO 2016 – Perth



To be held at the Crown Burswood on Thursday the 8th of September.

This year's Expo will be bigger and better than ever before as we welcome Disabilities Services Commission on board as a major partner in this year's event. Current partners Public, Catholic and Independent schools will remain strong contributors to the Abilities Expo.

This year promises to have more active displays, more information booths and an evening session for those unable to make it to the morning/afternoon session.

Further enquiries regarding the EXPO can be made by contacting Promaco:

Ph: 9332 2900 Email: Promaco@promaco.com.au

Future Possibilities Youth Conference – Bunbury

The Bunbury Future Possibilities Youth Conference will occur on Wednesday September 7, 2016. The Conference targets students with learning difficulties, physical, sensory, intellectual and/or psychiatric disability, as well as those students who are at risk of not making a successful transition from school into further education/training and employment.

The aim of the Conference is to:

- Inform students about employment, further education and post school pathways to better prepare them for life after school;
- Promote the excellence and use of Vocational Education and Training in Schools (VETIS) to potential employment and training agencies and higher education organisations; and
- Create partnerships between students, schools and post school destinations. For further information contact:

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