

A Changing of the guard...

The ACE Disability Network team has changed. Project Workers Louise Oswald and Toni Bentley have left their roles and are working elsewhere. Olympia has returned from Maternity leave with her hands full (twin boys)! She is working on re-energizing the Network and assisting the new co-ordinating committee to devise plans for the future direction of the Network and its resources. Among possible tasks for this are updating the website, forging new partnerships to undertake specific projects and organising an expo that showcases new adaptive equipment and resources to assist tutors who have students with various disabilities. If you have any ideas for projects or feel there is an unmet need in relation to people with disabilities in ACE please contact Olympia on: 9916 5826 (thur/fri) or via e-mail at olympiat@ooralla.com.au.

FREE Disability Action Plan guide

This is a reminder that all ACE organisations must submit a Disability Discrimination Act Action Plan as part of complying with the law and funding requirements. The Education Standards of the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) became law in 2005.

A Handbook explaining the Education Standards as they apply to ACE organisations is available by contacting the Disability Discrimination Legal Service on: **(03) 9654 8644**
Key points included in the Education Standards are:

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- **All** organisations providing education programs must aim to offer a person with a disability the same educational opportunities as everyone else.
- The requirements of the DDA include the creation and implementation of a **Disability Action Plan by all educational organisations including all ACE organisations.**
- In 2006 ACFE funded the **Equity Research Centre and the Disability Discrimination Legal Service** to run a series of professional development workshops on the DDA and Education Standards that assisted participants in the process of developing a Disability Discrimination Act Action Plan.

HREOC Resources on developing an action plan

You can download a guide to developing a Disability Discrimination Act Action Plan via the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission (HREOC Victoria) website. See below.

Developing an effective action plan

http://www.hreoc.gov.au/disability_rights/action_plans/Effective_Plan/effective_plan.htm

Disability Discrimination Act action plans: A guide for non-government organisations

http://www.hreoc.gov.au/disability_rights/action_plans/NGO_Guide/ngo_guide.html



Stephen's Story

By Val Holt (Tutor)

Stephen Petesic has participated in Yooralla's AbleLinks program during the past 12 mths. During this time Stephen has gained confidence in numerous skills. He now has a sound knowledge in basic computers, completed online Food Handling Certificates 1 and 2, and has now joined the AbleLinks catering service, "Riff Raff Catering". Stephen has also participated in a pre-employment class where he has worked on communication skills, personality and work skills, job searching exercises, and mock & real phone calls regarding job vacancies. All this has added to his confidence.

As a tutor, I felt that Stephen could be a great candidate for a work trial. The process for this began with a slow and deliberate walk around the city block to check out a café space that wasn't too small with friendly staff. Here I approached the manager of the Café 'Journal' in Flinders Lane and talked to him about the possibility of a work trial. He was interested in the proposal. During November last year, the café was extremely busy with Christmas approaching, so I suggested we begin during a quieter month, so we chose

February 2007. I also composed a written letter explaining Yooralla and the AbleLinks program and my involvement as a Community Development worker. Work cover was something that needed to be sorted out, and I met with a Finance Department staff member who, made some enquiries on our behalf, and then advised that Stephen would not be covered under Yooralla's workcover policy but under the Cafés policy. The manager of Journal also phoned their insurance company and it was confirmed that Stephen would be covered under their policy. A contract was then composed, read, agreed upon and signed by the manager of Journal Café, Stephen and myself on behalf of Yooralla.

Stephen has been excited and is enjoying the experience thus far and next week hopes to take coffee orders for customers. Stephen's trial is six consecutive weeks and he will be given a written reference at the end of his trial. It has been wonderful to see his excitement and enthusiasm, and a hope to see him fulfilled in the world of work.

Val Holt,
AbleLinks program
Yooralla

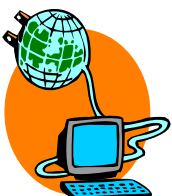
Free Network Disability Resources Kit

Get your free ACE Disability Network Disability resources Information Kit

The information CD includes a listing of resources and contacts that are useful for assisting staff with information and contacts on a range of disability topics and issues specific to ACE as well as generic Disability awareness information.

Two motivational posters are included in the kit that encourage and remind us of the importance of the meaningful inclusion of people with disabilities in ACE.

You can order your kit by emailing Olympia at : olympiat@yooralla.com.au or by calling on: (03) 9916 5826.



Great Web Info

If you're looking for specific information on a range of topics related to assisting the Inclusion of people with Disabilities into your programs or management don't forget to look up our website at www.acedisability.org.au

The website contains useful information for students, families, committee members and the general community on topics related to disability within ACE and includes links to several related websites.

If you have any comments or would like anything added to the website please contact Olympia at: olympiat@yooralla.com.au or by calling on: (03) 9916 5826.

\$\$\$\$ Grants Information.....

Some contact details that may be useful in attracting grants..

Coles group of Companies- Community Grants Fund

\$5,000-\$50,000 is available to successful applicants who can demonstrate a project that is education, health or about the environment with a focus on education for people with disabilities and indigenous youth and refugees.

Round 2 applications close: 31 August 2007

For more Information and application forms go to the Coles Group website.
http://www.colesgroup.com.au/library/AboutUs/Community_grant_Guidelines.pdf

DVC Volunteer Small Grants

Max \$5,000 is available to encourage local community organisations to attract volunteers from diverse backgrounds (this includes people with disabilities) to small community organisations. Funding projects can include recruitment materials, training and development of volunteers as an example.

Applications are ongoing- No closing date

For more Information and application forms go to the DVC website at:
<http://www.grants.dvc.vic.gov.au> or by calling the grants unit on: 1300 366 356

DVC Grants finder Web search option

The Grants Finder is a fast and easy way for you to find grants that you or your organisation may be eligible to apply for. You can browse the grants by your particular area of interest or by the grant program. You can also use the Grants Matrix to view a snapshot of all the grant programs and who is eligible. Once you have found an appropriate grant just follow the links to get grant guidelines, additional information and the application forms.

<http://www.grants.dvc.vic.gov.au/web18/dvcgrants.nsf/HeadingPagesDisplay/Grants+Finder?OpenDocument>

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