ACE DisAbility Network

We're here to help

News

A newsletter of the statewide ACE DisAbility Network   **September 2012**

**Phone help
(03) 9916 5821**

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Affordable Video Production & Duplication Services

Challenge Multimedia provides low cost professional
  video production and
        editing
 duplication and
        associated services

Give your application, website or function the edge by showing film or digital pictures to tell a story.

Challenge Multimedia gives customers great deals on the production of short films, training videos, and photography & duplication services at very affordable rates, guaranteed. ph: 9916 5834 or email to michael.christofas@yooralla. com.au

Challenge Multimedia is a Yooralla enterprise that supports people with disabilities…

Every Australian really must count-NDIS

You would have to be living under a rock to have not heard about the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), although this major national reform will not be funded by Insurance or rebate ALA Medicare, it is nonetheless going to change the way services and supports are provided to those with a significant and permanent disability.   The reform is needed because the current system is inequitable, inadequate and does not provide individuals and their families with the flexibility and scope   that they need to live full and independent lives.

The scheme will allow more people to use funds (funding is supposed to double) from a NDIS funding package for however long needed. Importantly, the use of the funds will be tailored to the person's individual needs and goals, (person-centred). The person may also choose to self-manage (auditable) or engage a disability planning service to help manage the package.

This means that the person can choose to use funds from the package to meet learning, leisure   or other goals by choosing to spend their package on such things as carers to attend an ACE program or join a group, attend an excursion or for equipment such as a new wheelchair, physiotherapy or respite at home, to name some.

From an ACE perspective, if the scheme rolls out as expected, it should lead to more individuals being able to participate in more courses, programs and activities than now and it is hoped that they would be less reliant on family, volunteers or ACE providers for that support to participate.

If the scheme meets expectations it will mean that ACE providers should be less encumbered in terms of seeking supports for someone that is currently lacking such supports. This should also mean that ACE providers would be more able to comply with the Disability Standards for Education.

Trials of the scheme are set to commence in 2013 and run for 2-3 years.

Remember, Disability is something that can happen to anyone at any time. To learn more about the NDIS or sign the petition to make the scheme real go to: http://everyaustraliancounts.com.au/

Autism Spectrum Disorder and Asperger Syndrome.

Autism Spectrum Disorder (More information Amaze- formally Autism Australia www.amaze.org.au)

Austism (ASD) is a spectrum: that is some people can experience autism very mildly and the community may barely be aware that they have autism, others can be severely affected and others may be at any point along the spectrum. No two people on the spectrum experience the disorder in the same way or are exactly alike.

However we can make some generalizations. Autism is a group of neurological disorders with a similar pattern of behaviour in three key areas - communication, social interaction and imaginative thought.

Autism Spectrum Disorder may also coexist with other conditions or disorders, including intellectual disability, speech and language disorders, anxiety and depression (especially in adolescents and adults), epilepsy, attention disorders, Tourette's syndrome and Down Syndrome.

In Autism the impairments in the social and communication areas are severe and sustained and clearly present before the age of three years. The child is often anxious, has poor attention and motivation, responds unusually to many different stimuli and is observed as being 'different' from other children. Speech is delayed, or largely absent. A strong reliance on routine is apparent, and the child can have a range of ritualistic behaviours such as toe walking, hand flapping and finger gazing. The child/adult with autism may also be intellectually disabled.

In **Asperger Syndrome** there are social impairments, but impairments are not as severe in the language and communication area. Speech usually develops within the normal age range, but the ability to communicate effectively is impaired. The impairments seem more subtle in the very young child, and become more apparent as the child reaches preschool and school age. The person with Asperger's is usually in the normal intelligence range.

Irrespective of the diagnosis or where they fit on the spectrum, each child or adult diagnosed with an Autism Spectrum Disorder has significant difficulties in day-to-day life and requires sensitive understanding and specialist support and intervention.

Things to be aware of:

Individuals with ASD's often feel like they are bombarded with sensations – they seem to have fewer filters. Be aware therefore that:

> Some people cannot stand to be touched
> Some people find extraneous noise such as background music to be irritating
> Crowds (even small groups) can be threatening to some people
> Some people often miss nuances and jokes and take what people say very literally.
> Effective communication is vital to learning and behaviour

For further information:
> Teaching Students with Autism:, British Columbia, Ministry of Education 2000
> www.bced.gov.bc.ca/specialed/docs/**autism**.pdf
>
> http://kendrik2.wordpress.com/2007/10/10/12-tips-to-setting-up-an-autism-classroom/
>
> http://teaching.monster.com/benefits/articles/8761-22-tips-for-teaching-students-with-autism-spectrum-disorders

TIPS FOR TEACHING PEOPLE WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS

1. People with ASD need a structured predictable environment. Create schedules and individualised mini schedules/ timetables and keep to them. Provide "to do" lists and activity check lists.

2. Prepare student for potential change e.g. where there is a change of room or teacher. Where possible use pictures, schedules and social stories.

3. For those with little or no verbal communication consider communication books. They can get this assistance for free from SCOPE- via the Non Electronic Communication Aid Scheme on **1800 888 824** or crc@scopevic.org.au

4. Some people with ASD have difficulty with complex and multiple meaning. Explain metaphors and words with double meanings.

5. Many people with ASD are visual thinkers. Use concrete and visual methods of teaching. Use visual organisers. Use non-verbal cues to get attention. Use picture cues where possible.

6. Avoid long strings of verbal instructions. People with ASD may have problems remembering the sequence. Directions of more than three steps should be written down.

7. Use task analysis: breaking tasks into components and teaching each component until mastered is important for this group.

8. Some people with ASD get fixated on one subject/ interest. Use this to motivate learning.

9. Many people with ASD have poor handwriting. To avoid frustration suggest they use a computer. But also note that some people with ASD will learn more easily if the computer key board is placed close to the screen. This enables them to see the screen and key board simultaneously.

10. Some people with ASD need to be protected from noises which hurt their ears like PA systems, bells, buzzers or scraping chairs. Try and muffle objects that make these noises.

11. Some people with ASD find fluorescent and flickering lights to be a problem. Try to seat the person concerned near natural light.

12. Some people with visual processing problems find it easier to read if black print is on coloured paper to avoid contrast (don't use bright yellow – it may hurt the eyes).

13. Provide space or breakout areas for when it all becomes too much for them to "chill out" – sometimes just a play on the computer can help

14. People with ASD find it easier to concentrate on a computer screen or video than print or real life

15. Teaching generalisations may be a problem for people with ASD e.g. they may consider a rule only applies to one specific occasion, so prepare for this.

Introduction to Auslan – 8 week course X one day a week.

Commencing: Thursday October 11th - 29Th November.
The course will cover: Greetings and Introductions, basic conversation, numbers and manual alphabet.

PRACE
Merrilands Community Centre   35 Sturdee Street, Reservoir
Tel: 9462 6077 Web: http://prace.vic.edu.au
Email: office@prace.vic.edu.au

Cost: $22 plus Service & Amenities fee $10
                                             conc./$25 non-conc.
                                             Fee for Service: (*not eligible for subsidised
                                             training*) $144.00 plus S/A. $25

*Course subject to eligibility requirements and sufficient enrolments
This training is delivered with Victorian and Commonwealth government funding.

The ACE DisAbility Network Do-It-Yourself Training Manual

The Manual comprises 14 modules:

1.   What is disability?
2.   How does the disability/mental health sector work?
3.   Working with the disability/mental health sector
4.   Legislative requirements
5.   Dispelling myths
6.   Understanding inclusion
7.   Communicating with people with disability
8.   Impacts of disability on learning and strategies to meet them
9.   Pre course interviewing
10.   Classroom management
11.   Working with support workers
12.   Disability action planning
13.   Duty of Care
14.   Managing volunteers with disability

 The manual is suitable for teaching <u>all disability types</u> and is available electronically or hard in copy (postage and copy fee to be added)

Each module is $ 50   ACEDN members $35   or 4 modules for
$ 100 (special).   Whole manual cost $ 350   or ACEDN members $ 300.

For more information contact Judy on judy.buckingham@yooralla.com.au

www.acedisability.org.au

Your comprehensive disability education resource.