

# Workability International

## *Oceania*



### **From the Chair**

This year has started where 2006 finished—extremely busy with many challenges ahead for Oceania members.

One key issue for members of both Australia and New Zealand is a tight labour market with very low unemployment rates. This represents an opportunity to provide more employment to people with a disability, but a challenge to recruit and retain staff.

These same opportunities and challenges have been faced by Workability members in other regions, particularly in Europe and North America. During the coming year we will be looking at what strategies were successful and how Oceania members can benefit from international experiences.

We intend to hold two forums this year, linked to National Disability Services (NDS—formerly ACROD) and VASS events. The Oceania forums will include site visits and the chance to enjoy the local attractions: Sydney in July and New Zealand's South Island in October. This is also a great way to develop strong networks that in turn can lead to business and service opportunities.

One of our greatest challenges is the huge unmet need for services for people with a disability in developing countries. No one organisation or country can hope to meet this challenge in a substantial way, but every initiative helps. For this reason it was great to see a new consortium established in Australia to focus on disability issues in developing countries. Read about it on the next page and support it in any way you can. We will keep you informed of progress and also look at ways New Zealand members could contribute.

I look forward to catching up with as many members as possible this year and wish you all well in the challenges ahead.

#### **Inside this issue:**

From the Chair	1
ADDC launch	2
Training initiatives	3
Upcoming events	4
Office-bearers	4

---

### **Useful links**

We had a great reaction to our last issue where we included a link to Peter Brinckerhoff's website, so thought we would share more useful links with you.

National Disability Services (formerly ACROD) - [www.nds.org.au](http://www.nds.org.au)

If you have any of your own, please let us know and we will include them in the next issue.

---

*“... building a national platform for disability advocacy...”*

## The Australian Disability & Development Consortium (ADDC)

The Australian Disability and Development Consortium (ADDC) is a national network focusing attention, expertise and action on disability issues in developing countries and building a national platform for disability advocacy.

### Mission Statement

To promote the rights and inclusion of persons with disabilities in development activities, advocating that disability be fully integrated into all Australian development programs and policies.

### Objectives

- To be a collective voice in our region for awareness raising and lobbying on disability inclusive programs in developing countries
- To ensure disability is integrated and mainstreamed into Australian development activities
- To promote partnerships between Australian and international programs working on disability issues.
- To gather, develop and share expertise, resources and information on best practice in disability inclusion in developing countries.

### ADDC Membership

ADDC membership is open to individuals and agencies working on disability issues in developing countries.

### ADDC Core Group

To guide the ADDC, the following Core Group has been formed representing key Australian disability and development agencies who were involved in the formation of this consortium:

Kate Burrell	International Women’s Development Agency
Heather Dawson	Australian International Health Institute
Paul Deany	Christian Blind Mission International, Australia
Anna Devine	World Vision Australia
Mathew Fagan	Vision 2020
Melville Fernandez	Caritas Australia
Heidi Forrest	Independent
Margaret Gadd	ACROD, the National Industry Association for Disability Services
Damian Griffis	Beyond Blue
Therese Sands	People with Disability Australia
Pam Thomas	Australian National University
Kirsty Thompson	Christian Blind Mission International, Australia
Neva Wendt	Australian Council for International Development

### To join ADDC and for further information please contact:

Paul Deany

ADDC Coordinator

pdeany@cbmi.org.au

Ph 1800 678 069 or 0407 909897

## Australian Accredited Training for People With A Disability Takes Off

Australia's first state-wide programme to provide accredited workplace training for people with a disability has been launched in South Australia.

The new \$1 million programme, 'Abilities for All', has the backing of the South Australian Government's Department of Further Education, Employment, Science and Technology (DFEEST).

Bedford, South Australia's largest provider of employment and training services for people with a disability, is to lead the vocational education initiative in collaboration with DFEEST. The programme, which aims to deliver accredited training to 214 participants, will be delivered through TAFE SA, the State's vocational tertiary education organisation.

### Employment Opportunities

Training areas include furniture construction, horticulture, warehousing and logistics, business studies, hospitality and community services. Participants will develop literacy, numeracy and life skills alongside access to employment opportunities in the general workforce and supported employment.

Developed from Bedford's accredited training pilot, which saw almost 350 of its employees achieving TAFE qualifications, the forthcoming roll out will include seven other South Australian disability services.

### Australian First

"The programme will ensure that accredited vocational education will now be more accessible for South Australians with a disability – an Australian first at this level," Bedford Chief Executive Max Dyason said.

"Students will attend a TAFE SA session one day a week in their workplace, delivered by an industry trainer experienced in the disability sector. In addition, a designated Workplace Coach will provide the additional support necessary to ensure that learning goals are met," Mr Dyason continued.

### Empowering

"It is tremendously empowering for a person with a disability to be able to learn relevant workplace skills in an environment specifically tailored to her or his needs.

The programme promises to play a critical role in transforming employment opportunities for people with a disability."

**Interviews: Max Dyason, Chief Executive, Bedford, tel: +61 8 8275 0276, [mdyason@bedfordgroup.com.au](mailto:mdyason@bedfordgroup.com.au)**

Media Contact: Sam Abbott, Bedford, tel: +61 8 8275 0230, [sabbott@bedfordgroup.com.au](mailto:sabbott@bedfordgroup.com.au)

*"...tremendously empowering to learn relevant workplace skills..."*



## GLADNET Infobase in support of the UN Convention

GLADNET is launching a new initiative, with funding from the International Labour Organization, to support the implementation of the new United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The initiative will involve the development of a repository, on the GLADNET InfoBase of practical, user-friendly materials on different aspects of disability, training and work/employment which have been developed in different countries around the world for use by organizations and agencies dealing with disability issues.

The aim is to gather this material in collaboration with the entire GLADNET community. In the first stage of the initiative, we will focus on materials in English language, for example practical guides, existing checklists, tools, information sheets, brochures and fact sheets.

If you need any further information, please contact Susanne Bruyère, GLADNET Chair at e-mail [smb23@cornell.edu](mailto:smb23@cornell.edu).

PLEASE SEND ALL INFORMATION TO: Sara Van Looy at e-mail [sav22@cornell.edu](mailto:sav22@cornell.edu).



### Office bearers:

- Chair: Tony Lund
- Vice Chair: John Groves
- Treasurer: Joy Ottaway
- Secretary: Tony Lund

### Oceania

Penny Rogers at DSA will be key contact for the Secretary.

76 Harley Crescent  
Condell Park NSW 2200  
P: 02 9791 6599  
F: 02 9796 3101  
W: [www.dsa.org.au](http://www.dsa.org.au)

**Creating the opportunities for people  
with a disability to work**

## Upcoming events

### Local

NDS National Ageing and Disability Conference	2-3 April 2007—Adelaide
NDS Employment Forum	30-31 July 2007—Sydney
WI Oceania Forum	1 August 2007—Sydney
VASS meeting	16 October 2007—Dunedin
WI Oceania Forum	17 October—Dunedin

### International

WI Annual Conference	11 September 2007—Sweden
World Mental Health Conference	19-23 August 2007

Oceania members can view the NDS conference information (for both Australia and international) on the NDS website:

[www.nds.org.au/national](http://www.nds.org.au/national)



## An article about Anne Sherry

The Sydney Morning Herald's Good Weekend magazine on 3 March featured an extensive article on Anne Sherry, who has just returned to Australia after spending some time in New Zealand as Group Executive, Westpac New Zealand and the Pacific and Chief Executive Westpac New Zealand - the first female CEO of a bank in New Zealand. Prior to this Ann was the Group Executive People & Performance and also the CEO of the Bank of Melbourne. Anne is also the mother of a child with a disability.