

Issue 10

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Workability International Oceania



Oceania

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New South Wales
2200

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From the Chair

There is no doubt this year has started with a lot of trepidation about the global financial crisis for our members who operate business or employment services.

Anecdotal feedback indicates that most of our members are coping with this downturn but there remains a high level of uncertainty as to how long it will continue.

There is no doubt that the Oceania region has to date been less affected than the other regions of Workability International and we can hope that our members in Asia, Europe and America are maintaining their services and viability.

This is why the theme of the 2009 WI Conference is "*Shining Through- creating sustainable Employment in a turbulent world*", and I urge you all to attend.

In Australia there have been some positive initiatives that can potentially help our members. As is shown in this newsletter Business Services have been re branded and named Australian Disability Enterprises (ADES). A more practical initiative is a change in the Australian Government procurement guidelines that allow government departments to award contracts to ADE's without going through the tendering process.

These initiatives can help our members build their businesses and it is hoped that the New Zealand Government might consider something similar. It is also hoped that both Governments look at all options for increasing employment opportunities for people with disabilities in the open labour market.

The 2009 WI Conference in Sydney this year will be a focal point for Oceania members, and as I said in the last newsletter, a time to review what we are doing and where we are going as an organisation.

We will be seeking feedback from members prior to the conference to assist us in our discussions.

We are also considering a mid year forum in New Zealand and hope to be in a position to provide details on this soon.

Best regards

Tony Lund
Chairperson

2009 Workability International Conference

The Workability International Annual Conference 2009
will be held in conjunction with
National Disability Services Australia (NDS)
from the 6th to the 9th of September 2009
at the Hilton Hotel, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia



Details inside ...

Gracelands Focuses on Training

Gracelands is a learning organisation and its commitment to developing a culture of learning and assessment ensures our staff are regularly engaged in vocational training and other learning initiatives. From its inception Gracelands has embedded organisational learning principles and tools to support its philosophy of ongoing learning to develop a professional and skilled workforce.

Gracelands acquired the private training establishment **Insight Learning** in 2005 as a strategic diversification initiative to enable us to build on our workforce development strategies.

Insight Learning has been delivering New Zealand Qualifications Authority accredited training in the community support services sector for many years. Gracelands utilises this capability to support the embedded model of training and skills development to deliver training services focussed on the workplace as the centre of learning and assessment.

This ensures quality facilitation, verification and assessment in all of our vocational training initiatives, raising confidence in our quality of service delivery while also improving staff knowledge and performance.

To date Gracelands Insight has supported over 70 support workers through the National Certificate in Community Support Services (level 2) and all of our employed staff celebrated graduations throughout 2008.

Currently we are committed to investing in further education and have fully funded 41 staff in the National Certificate in Community Support Services (level 3) with completion anticipated in August this year. Staff have wholeheartedly engaged in their education. They will progress to gaining specialist qualifications in additional level 3 strands and on to the level 4 qualification when this is released.

Our aspiration is that all training undertaken within, and delivered by Gracelands, is registered on the New Zealand Qualifications framework, providing industry recognised, national qualifications for the sector workforce.



Workability Oceania Member an Award Finalist

Workability Oceania member, Southland Enterprises in New Zealand is a finalist in two categories of the Vero Excellence in Business Support Awards 2009.

According to the evaluation panel, finalists for the 2009 Vero Excellence in Business Support Awards are upbeat about the economy and innovative in services they are providing to support New Zealand companies. There was a record number of entries for the 2009 awards and the quality of finalists was a little higher than previous years.

The Vero Excellence in Business Support Awards are held annually. Sponsored by Vero, BDO Spicers and *National Business Review* and founded by business sector specialist, Sarah Trotman of Bizzzone, the awards are a key event during the annual Bizzzone Business Expo, New Zealand's largest event for business.

Southland Enterprises is a finalist in both the **Not-for-Profit** and **Sustainable Development in Business** categories.

The winners will be announced on the 28th of May in Auckland at a gala black-tie dinner attended by 600 people.

2009 Workability International Conference — Sydney, Australia

**The Workability International Annual Conference 2009
will be held in conjunction with
National Disability Services Australia (NDS)
from the 6th to the 9th of September 2009
at the Hilton Hotel, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia**

- The conference programme, direct accommodation and conference booking details will be distributed in the next few months.
- Early conference booking is being encouraged and an “early bird” delegates’ rate will be announced with the Conference details.
- The Conference Hotel will be the Hilton Hotel at 488 George Street, Sydney NSW 2000, Australia. For information on the Hotel see www.hiltonsydney.com.au. Other hotels near the conference venue will also be available.
- Information on the “Call for Papers” for the Conference can be found at www.nds.org.au/conferences/EF2009/CallForPapers.pdf
- NDS have indicated that individual and group study visits to member organisations can be arranged before and after the conference.
- The Workability International Annual General Meeting will be held on the afternoon of **Tuesday 8th September 2008**. Further information will be distributed in due course.

SPECIAL OFFER Pre-registration Package AUD\$1200

www.workability-international.org/documents/Pre-Registration_Conference_2009.pdf

NDS and Workability International are offering a special pre-registration payment package. This comprehensive conference package will provide you with a one-off cost inclusive of the following:

- Attendance at conference sessions on all three days
- Conference satchel, handbook and materials
- Morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea on all three days
- One Welcome Cocktail Party ticket
- One Conference Dinner ticket
- One International Dinner ticket
- One Closing Cocktail Party ticket

To take advantage of this offer, please complete the pre-registration application form available at the above website address and forward it to julie.walton@nds.org.au or fax +612 9256 3123.

Please note that you will still be required to complete the registration process which provides more detailed information (including personal details, session selections, special requirements, additional social function tickets etc). NDS will contact you to advise you when full registration is required.

The pre-registration payment package will be available until 30 April 2009. If the confirmed conference registration package is less than this amount, NDS we will refund you the difference at the conference.



Australian Disability Enterprises — A New Name

Australian Disability Enterprises are commercial businesses that provide employment for people with disability. Previously called Business Services, the Australian Disability Enterprises name, logo and an Australian Disability Enterprise Business Directory were launched on 28 November 2008 at an Australian Disability Enterprise in Melbourne. The new name brings together all Australian Disability Enterprises under a unified national brand.



More than just good business

There are approximately 362 Australian Disability Enterprise outlets across Australia, providing supported employment assistance to approximately 20,000 people with moderate to severe disability who need substantial ongoing support to maintain their employment. Australian Disability Enterprises are funded by the Australian Government Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs.

Australian Appointed Inaugural Rapporteur to the United Nations Disabilities Convention

Attorney-General Robert McClelland and Foreign Minister Stephen Smith today welcomed the appointment of Professor Ron McCallum AO as Rapporteur to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

As Rapporteur, Professor McCallum will be responsible for reporting to the UN General Assembly on the recommendations and activities of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

“I congratulate Professor McCallum on being elected by his fellow committee members to this significant position to which I am sure he will make an important and effective contribution,” Mr McClelland said.

Mr McClelland said that Professor McCallum’s election complements the Government’s commitment to upholding and safeguarding the rights of people with disabilities and to ensuring that they are treated equitably.

Foreign Minister Smith said that “our strong support for Professor McCallum is another demonstration of Australia’s regional and international leadership on advancing the rights of people with disabilities and their families.”

Australia was among the first Western countries to ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol in July 2008.

“Australia’s first explicitly disability-inclusive development strategy, ‘Development for All’, will play a key role in reducing poverty and hastening progress towards the Millennium Development Goals, including for persons with disabilities” Mr Smith said.

Professor McCallum is a leading Australian law academic and was elected as Australia’s representative to the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in November last year.