

Media Release

Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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New education resource launched on International Day of People with Disability

The University of Tasmania has today launched an updated one-stop shop resource to improve educational experiences for people with disability to mark International Day of People with Disability.

Focussing on post-secondary education, the Australian Disability Clearinghouse on Education and Training (ADCET) is a national website created to support disability practitioners, academics, teachers and support staff working with students with disability.

ADCET manager Darlene McLennan said the site showcases and promotes inclusive teaching practices within post-secondary education.

“The number of students with disability in post-secondary education has significantly increased over the last 10 years,” Ms McLennan said.

“It’s important we have a central website where information is easy to access and easy to navigate for all those working to support these students in Universities, TAFEs and private training organisations.”

Funded by the Federal Government through the Department of Education, ADCET has been hosted by the University of Tasmania since 2003. The resource, which can be found at www.adcet.edu.au, has been updated in response to changes in the sector and a review of the website.

Ms McLennan and project coordinator Jane Hawkeswood have spent six months overseeing the redevelopment of ADCET and are confident the new-look resource will be warmly accepted by the sector.

“One new feature is a blog page where I hope practitioners, people with disability and those interested in post-secondary education and disability will share their personal experiences.

“It’s important not only to provide information on inclusive teaching and universal design, but also to highlight the latest research and individual’s achievements.”

The resource update has been funded by the Department of Education and is being launched today at the Pathways Conference in Fremantle. This conference, facilitated by the Australian Tertiary Education Network on Disability (ATEND), brings together a range of professionals, academic and teaching staff to identify and remove barriers for people with disability participating in higher education.

With the current roll out of the National Disability Insurance Scheme the participation of people with disability in the community is a key priority for governments throughout Australia.

Improving the post-secondary educational and training outcomes will increase opportunities for people with disability to achieve greater economic and social independence. ADCET therefore provides an invaluable tool to ensure higher education and training providers improve the long term outcomes of people with disability.

Visit the Australian Disability Clearinghouse on Education and Training website at www.adcet.edu.au and the Pathways Conference at <http://www.pathways12.org.au/>

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