Job Centre ready and willing to help

ARE you a school student or school leaver? Are you unsure which career path is right for you? Do you need help to find and maintain suitable employment? Then Job Centre Australia can help you.

Job Centre can connect students and school leavers with a range of employers who are looking for someone just like you.

The best part of Job Centre's service is that all eligible people with a disability, injury or health condition have immediate access to Job Centre's services.

There are no waiting lists. Contact Job Centre to see if you're eligible, as well as to discuss the positions that would suit you. Job Centre can help you to identify potential apprenticeships, traineeships and work placement/experience opportunities.

Learn how and where to search for that perfect job with Job Centre's advice on resume and cover letter writing, interview techniques, job search websites and more.

If you are interested in Job Centre's services and would like to find out more, visit Job Centre's Wagga office at 55 Peter Street or call 6921 8004.

The friendly and professional Job Centre team will be happy to answer any queries you may have and all matters will remain confidential.

The annual Post School Expo for young people with a disability and their families is an excellent opportunity to explore the many options and supports available to young people when they leave school.

The expo is aimed at high school students with a disability in years nine to 12 and their families or other interested parties.

This event will be held on Tuesday, August 13 from 5pm to 7pm at the Wagga RSL Club in Dobbs Street.

A variety of agencies will be attending the expo, so visitors will have an opportunity to gain valuable information in a number of areas such as post school support programs, financial support, respite, recreational activities, advocacy, employment, further education and training.

Linda, the carer of a young person with a disability, has attended the expo for the past two years and can not speak highly enough of the event.

"It was quite an eye-opener for us," she said.

"The first year we attended it was quite overwhelming, but it gave us the general idea of what the options were and what we were able to offer to us and we then had the full year to explore and discuss these options."

"Attending the expo for the second time gives the young person more confidence in being able to make their own decisions and choices, as well as meet the new providers.

"It is also a huge benefit to be able to meet and speak to the actual people running the programs."

The organisers would encourage any young person with additional support needs and their families who are considering options for the future to attend this evening to gain invaluable help in planning for the future.

For further information or to RSVP contact Cheryl Roberts on 6925 1076 or email cheryl.roberts@det.nsw.edu.au.
**Gain new skills through The Leisure Company**

The Leisure Company is a not-for-profit organisation which provides recreation, work and life-skill opportunities for people with a disability from Wagga and surrounding towns. The Leisure Company, through its Post School program, aims to promote the integration of people with disabilities into the local community.

The Community Participation Program aims to assist people with a disability to develop the skills they need to work towards their goals, increase their independence and participate as valued and active members of the community. The Leisure Company provides three service types which provide flexibility and choice for young people. These service types are:

- Centre-based with community access
- Individual community based options
- Self-managed model

The Leisure Company’s Transition to Work Program is a two-year funded program for school leavers to gain development in the areas of living, recreation, education and pre-employment skills. A variety of work experiences are offered to the participants of this program. In the past, some of the participants have been involved in obtaining their driver’s licence, undertaken their first aid certificate, participated in team building exercises to assist with developing decision making and problem solving skills and encouragement to work in a team. A focal point of the program is to actively search for employment through a variety of ways. These include resume writing, mock interviews and completing job applications. The experiences gained in The Leisure Company’s Transition to Work Program are then filtered into life experiences through work experience and further education.

**Free advocacy for people in need**

The Disability Advocacy Network Inc (DAN) provides free advocacy for people who have disabilities, their families and carers in the Riverina and Murray south West slopes, southern Tablelands, and Central Murrumbidgee region. DAN services major towns including Wagga, Griffith, Leeton, Narrandera, West Wyalong, Temora, Young, Cootamundra and Tumut.

Advocacy is important for people with a disability because people with a disability are often not in the position of knowing their basic human rights, and for one reason or another can’t exercise their choices on their own.

It is DAN’s role to represent the interests of, and provide information to, our service users to ensure that their basic rights are upheld and received the support they deserve.

For more information, please ring 69 219 225 or free call 1800 250 292 or visit the Wagga office at 31 Fitzmaurice Street.