EDDitor Newsletter 1, 2010

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**Welcome**
Welcome to the new year for all students, both new and continuing. The EDDitor Newsletter is emailed out 4 times each year and aims to keep students who are registered with the ECU Equity, Diversity and Disability Service informed on events and opportunities that may be of interest.

New students are encouraged to attend the University Welcome Events at Joondalup on Saturday 30 January 2010 or Mt Lawley on Saturday 6 February. Details are available on the website at [http://www.ecu.edu.au/student/orientation/index.php](http://www.ecu.edu.au/student/orientation/index.php)

If we need to contact you at other times, email to your student email address is the standard ECU method of communication so check your student email account regularly.

**Staff update**
Deb Duffy is continuing as Equity Diversity and Disability Officer and can be contacted on 6304 5669. The role of Equity, Diversity and Disability Assistant will be shared by Rachel Ralph (Monday and Tuesday) and Hilary Pluim (Wednesday, Thursday and Friday). Rachel and Hilary can be contacted on 9370 6960. Our email address is [studentequity@ecu.edu.au](mailto:studentequity@ecu.edu.au)

South West students can contact Vera Hughes to discuss their support needs. Vera is available Monday to Wednesday and appointments with Vera can be made on 9370 6706 or via email to [studentequity@ecu.edu.au](mailto:studentequity@ecu.edu.au)

**Important calendar dates**
Students are reminded to check important calendar dates such as semester dates, examinations and withdrawal dates at [http://intranet.ecu.edu.au/student/dates-and-events/home](http://intranet.ecu.edu.au/student/dates-and-events/home) or [http://www.ecu.edu.au/student/admin/dates.php#census](http://www.ecu.edu.au/student/admin/dates.php#census)
Learning and Assessment Plan – arranging your requirements
For those of you who have a Learning and Assessment Plan documenting the adjustments you require to facilitate your studies, assessments and exams, these will have been passed on to your lecturers and tutors prior to the Semester commencing to ensure that they can be prepared to meet your needs from the outset if you have given us your permission to do so. If you have not given us permission, you will need to give your Plan to your lecturers and tutors yourself and discuss your requirements with them at the beginning of the Semester to ensure they have time to make any necessary arrangements. If you wish to revise your Learning and Assessment Plan, please contact the Equity, Diversity and Disability Service on 9370 6960 or email studentequity@ecu.edu.au. Note: you will need supporting medical evidence for any changes you wish to make.

Assistive technology
A wide range of assistive technology software and hardware has been developed to assist students with disabilities with their studies.

The Independent Living Centre can help you identify which would be useful to you. Telephone them on 1300 855 886 to find out more or to make an appointment with them to explore some options.

ECU also has Accessible Technologies Rooms which are located in the Library on each campus and which have a range of assistive software, scanning, reading and printing facilities. Contact the Equity, Diversity and Disability Service on 9370 6960 to find out more and arrange access to these rooms if required.

Stepping Into Program – Law, Business and Accounting Students
Law, Business and Accounting students in either their final or penultimate year of studies may be interested in the Stepping Into Program, a unique opportunity for a paid internship program offered to university students with a disability. For more information, contact Deb Duffy or, from February, go to http://www.aend.org.au/content/category/2/6/23/.

Scholarships
A number of scholarships are offered annually by both ECU and outside agencies that may be of interest to students. Currently ECU is calling for applications for the ECU Equity Scholarship which closes 25 February 2010. Other scholarships on offer are the ECU Indigenous Scholarship and the ECU Vice Chancellor’s Indigenous Australian Scholarship, both of which close on 5 March 2010. Interested applicants for any of these should follow the links at http://intranet.ecu.edu.au/student/money-matters/scholarships/ecu-scholarships

External scholarships or grants currently on offer are:
• Australian Disability and Indigenous People’s Fund for any student with a disability; this closes on 31 March 2010. Details are available at http://www.adipef.org.au/

Support Services
In addition to the Equity, Diversity and Disability Service, ECU offers access to a range of free and confidential services to support you throughout your studies:

- Learning Advisers – provide advice and assistance with general and course-specific study skills and assessments on a one-to-one or group basis. Telephone 9370 6706 to make an appointment.
- Counsellors – a short-term professional and confidential service to address any academic or personal issues that impact on your studies. Telephone 9370 6706 to make an appointment.
- Student Recruitment and Careers – provide career counselling and employment information to current students and for graduates up to 12 months after graduation. Telephone 13 43 28 for more information.
- Student Health Services – provide general practitioner, nursing and allied health services to assist you with your health care needs. Telephone 6304 5618 (Joondalup) or 9370 6814 (Mount Lawley).
- Multifaith Chaplaincy – visiting chaplains are available on campus part-time and come from a variety of religions. Please check their availability on the Multifaith Chaplaincy website http://www.ecu.edu.au/student/chaplaincy/

ECU Student Guild
The Guild employs Education and Welfare Officers from a variety of backgrounds to work with the diverse student population in ensuring their needs are met and work towards providing a more level playing field for those from disadvantaged backgrounds. For those students who live with singular or multiple disabilities this can be a vital service. We collaborate with both ECU and external services to ensure that students with additional challenges have the opportunity to explore their desired goals. In cases where students feel they may have been disadvantaged in their University experience we seek to advocate on their behalf or assist them to navigate their way to some form of resolution.

The Guild also is run by students who are elected annually to a variety of positions including, but not limited to, Equity & Diversity. If you need our assistance or would like to become involved please contact our Communications Officer who will direct you to the relevant staff member or student representative on (08)6304-6609.

Australasian Network of Students With Disabilities
The Australasian Network of Students With Disabilities (ANSWD) is a student organisation advocating, promoting, lobbying and campaigning on disability issues in tertiary education. If you would like to learn more about this network, go to http://www.answd.org/ for more information.