



# EQUALIS NEWS



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## UPGRADE OF COMMUNITY SERVICES TRAINING PACKAGE: CHC08

By February 2010, all new trainees completing a community services qualification will need to be enrolled into the new CHC08 training package. A number of changes have taken place to upgrade the CHC02 package

Examples of some of the changes that have been made include:

- Changes to competency names and numbers
- Merging of current competencies within a qualification
- New competencies being added into qualifications
- Removal of old qualifications (e.g. Certificate III in Youth Work will no longer be offered as a qualification, but will now be offered as an elective component within Certificate III in Community Services)
- The introduction of Skill Set training packages. Skill Sets are a bundle of endorsed competencies that have been recognised & nationally accredited as a 'mini-qualification' in order to allow workers holding qualifications to become more 'specialised' without having to complete a whole new qualification

Equalis has been working hard to transition our current package to the new CHC08 package.

Current trainees already registered for a qualification won't be affected by the changes as there is a 2-year 'teach-out' period for trainees already enrolled in courses. This means students already enrolled in the old package will have two years to complete the qualification.

If you have any questions relating to this, or would like further information on these changes please don't hesitate to contact our National Office on 1300 653 340 or email [mail@equalis.com.au](mailto:mail@equalis.com.au)

## GOING GREEN!

Environmental sustainability and management is and always has been important to Equalis – so we have decided to get serious about going green. Stay tuned for the next issue of Equalis newsletter to hear about what 'green' initiatives Equalis has in store.

## A NOTE FROM NARELLE

On Thursday 3 April this year ground-breaking child protection legislation was passed in NSW Parliament. This legislation is hopefully the start of a new era in child protection.

Equalis supports and embraces the important changes being made highlighting that the responsibility for child protection is something that should be shared among government agencies and the non-government sector.

Minister for Community Services Linda Burney said that the Children Legislation Bill 2009 is the blueprint for a new way of caring for the most vulnerable children and families in NSW.

The new legislation includes:

- Increasing the reporting threshold for matters reported to the Department of Community Services to 'risk of significant harm':
  - Facilitating the sharing of information between agencies where it may assist the safety and wellbeing of children;
  - Clarifying that parents who withhold children from school may be putting these children at significant risk of harm;
  - Appointing a District Court judge as President of the Children's Court and requiring that Children's Registrars be legally qualified;
  - Giving young people the right to apply to the Court to rescind or vary care orders as a matter of equity; and
  - Extending background checks to new groups including volunteers in high risk roles with children and family day care providers.

Equalis will ensure that all our training material reflects these changes and we look forward to contributing to the community services sector's goal of keeping our children safe.

## EQUALIS IN THE INFORMATION AGE

With everyone becoming time poor and more technologically savvy – Equalis has decided to move deeper into the information age.

- Equalis is now on Twitter and Facebook! Keep up to date with news and happenings by visiting our website Equalis and following the links to our Facebook and Twitter pages.
- Online student services are being gradually improved to include areas where students can listen to trainers providing academic support and assessment tips online! This will provide a more personal approach to distance learning and much needed help for students at assessment time.

We are excited about becoming more I.T savvy and can't wait to share more I.T news with you in the next newsletter! Stay tuned for updates...



## TRAINEESHIP AND PRODUCT PLACEMENT PROGRAM (PPP) – 20 GOVERNMENT FUNDED PLACES IN MENTAL HEALTH

On the 18th September, the Minister for Education and Training, Verity Firth announced that over 200 top training providers had been selected to deliver vital job skills to approximately 175, 000 NSW job seekers and Existing workers under the Productivity Places Tender.

Equalis is pleased to inform you we have been chosen as one of these top organisations and will rollout training to the Community Service Sector over the next two years.

90 traineeships are currently available for enrolment by the end of 2009 including training in Certificate III and Diploma in Children's Services, Certificate III in Health and Community Care, Certificate IV in Frontline Management and Certificate III and IV in Youth Services, Disability and Aged Care.

2010 will see 200 traineeships available for completion in the Community Service Sector including 20 fully government funded places in the growing area of Mental Health. This government initiative is said to benefit over 90,000 people in the next two years.

Traineeships are a cost neutral, efficient and effective way of qualifying staff and increasing skills, knowledge and credentials of employees in organisations within the Community Service Sector. Equalis provides customised, flexible training that is designed to suit both the organisation and the trainee.

Limited places are available for this opportunity and enrolments must be secured by the end of 2009. If you are interested in receiving any further information on these traineeships please contact the national office on 1300 653 340 or email [mail@equalis.com.au](mailto:mail@equalis.com.au)

## CERTIFICATE III CHILDREN SERVICES – A GRADUATE’S VIEW!

This month we asked Kathie McKenna of Nambucca Family Day Care to give us an insight into what completing a Certificate III Children Services has meant to her and how she found her experience completing her training through Equalis.

*My training in Certificate III Children Services, supported by Equalis has been a thought provoking experience. Completing training in Cert III Children Service’s has allowed me think on a deeper level not just as a carer but as a person about the responsibility of working in child care and the lives that have been entrusted to me.*

*While studying I found Equalis to be extremely flexible in their delivery and you are able to work at your own pace with the support of an Equalis team member. Without the knowledge of Certificate III Children Services I believe we just skim the surface in actions when working in day to day child care. I think when situations arise with children in our care it is important for carers to connect with the children and have the ability to apply theories we have been taught to deal with the situation.*

*We as carers should be constantly thinking of ourselves as more than just someone who children in care spend some time with, we are leaving children with permanent impressions of life, learning, love, a nurturing environment and last but not least play.*

*We encourage growth in children in a positive healthy, mature way. As carers we have the opportunity to plant the seeds that will guide children to grow up and be responsible, loving, happy caring people with healthy minds.*

*I call on all carers; “Family Day Care” has the harvest and the heart to nurture children and help them grow into great people. You will be changed by the experience of obtaining your Certificate III supported by Equalis and we and the children in our care will be rewarded for our investment both time and financial in seeking this qualification.*

By Kathie McKenna

Nambucca Family Day Carer

## NEWEST MEMBER OF EQUALIS!

We would like to welcome the newest member of the Equalis family, Camilla Burgmann has joined Equalis as the PR & Marketing Manager. With a background in consumer PR and a Bachelor of Communication Camilla will be working to promote Equalis as a brand and take us into the new year with a fresh vision for PR and Marketing.

## AFFIRMATION

“Every job is a self portrait of the person who did it – autograph your work with excellence”

Unknown.



WE WISH YOU A HAPPY AND HEALTHY HOLIDAY  
SESON AND WILL SEE YOU AGAIN IN 2010!

FROM THE TEAM AT EQUALIS

**EQUALIS**  
ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

