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'Inclusiveness' key for children

CHILDREN who learn to be inclusive in their school years will go on to be more socially inclusive as adults, and help create a more inclusive society, according to industry expert associate professor Bob Jackson.

Associate Professor Jackson, who is an authority on social inclusion, said a recent study showed there was a positive difference between the attitudes of a group of children who had had a child with a disability in their pre-school for just one year, versus a group of other children who had not.

"Learning how to include

children with a disability from a young age has a huge impact on attitudes later in life, from primary school, high school, right into higher education and the workforce," Associate Professor Jackson said.

"The inclusion of people with disability – and the acceptance that they can lead an ordinary life – is a very important decision for society to make, both for the individual and the community," he said.

The Perth-based psychologist will be in Toowoomba from this Saturday to present a dynamic workshop – Engaging in Life: Building belonging in schools and

communities by holding fast to your family vision.

The workshop, hosted by the Cerebral Palsy League, is free to the public and will explore how Toowoomba families can build a full life for their child, as well as what the local community can do to support inclusion.

Engaging in Life will be held at the Toowoomba City Golf Club, 254 South Street on Saturday, from 9.30am to 3pm. Morning/afternoon teas and lunch will be provided.

For information, phone 4688 9400 or email pseymour@cplqld.org.au.



A GROUP of students at Harlaxton State School organised and conducted an Anzac memorial service before a gathering of fellow students, teachers and parents. Harlaxton RSL members were invited to participate and were impressed and moved at the efforts and knowledge of the students of their Australian military history. Harlaxton RSL member Brian O'Leary was also interviewed by the students prior to Anzac Day for a school project featuring his Royal Australian Navy career. At the service are (students, from left) Brodey McNeish, Shamara McCarthy and Kristy Riley and Harlaxton RSL members (from left) Tim McGrorrey, Dawn Wagner, Brian O'Leary and Mike Gowdie.

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