

Lighthouse News

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER *from* LIGHTHOUSE DISABILITY
Empowering people with disabilities



Welcome to our third edition of Lighthouse News, a quarterly update about us and our work.

Board of Directors

Governance (and the responsibilities associated with this) is very important at this significant time of change. The principles of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (choice and control for people with disabilities about what services they want and from whom) are fundamental and long overdue. While there is strong support for the introduction of the NDIS, there are also many challenges because systems and processes are (by definition) very new. Therefore, we need strong leadership to shift from a welfare headset to that of a business operating in a competitive environment.

At our Annual General Meeting held on 11th November 2016, four Board appointments were confirmed and three people were deemed elected.

This means that the Board for the next 12 months consists of credible people with a wide range of relevant skills and experience – as follows;

Brenton Wright	Dana Shen
Tony Russo	Sarah Lindblom
Antonio Dottore	Corey Martin
Lea Stevens	Tim Jackson
Matthew King	

A Board and Leadership Team Planning Day was held on Saturday 21st January 2017 to set the direction for the year ahead.

Annual Report

As part of accountability process, the Annual Report was available to Members at our Annual General Meeting. It is available on our website via this link <http://www.lighthouse disability.org.au/who-we-are/annual-reports>

ISSUE N^o 3

DATE January 2017

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Board of Directors
- Annual Report
- Ministerial visit
- Recreation
- Christmas Breakfast
- Facebook

We are proud of our work over the last financial year and have profiled some of the achievements of the people we support.

Visit from the Hon Leesa Vlahos, Minister for Disability and Mental Health

Recently, the Minister visited one of our services in Elizabeth where we provide supported accommodation to four people who have acquired brain injuries. They were very excited to meet the Minister.

Each person has a very particular story and our staff support each client to pursue their individual goals.

One client at this service, Cath, has Wilson's disease – a relatively rare genetic disorder which has resulted in Cath not being able to speak and she experiences severe physical limitations. However, her mind is clearly intact and her personality undiminished. On the basis of her disabilities, she has been living at Lighthouse Disability for 6 years.

Before the onset of the disease, Cath had led a full and active life as a wife and mother, and was an equestrian in her spare time.

A couple of years ago, a staff member became aware of the iPad's ability to act as a text-to-speech device with an appropriate program installed. While initially, this was not the solution that enabled Cath to communicate, it was the impetus to find something that worked. Cath now regularly 'surfs the internet' – and she also connects with friends and family via Facebook. Another function the system may offer her is control of her TV set.

There has been a quantum leap in Cath's ability to have a meaningful and satisfying life despite the very debilitating nature of her condition.

Recreation

Many of the people we support have strong involvement in community activities. Recently nine of our clients were involved in a soccer tournament at Bonython Park. We are very appreciative of the generosity of Agri-Bits who sponsored professionally designed soccer uniforms for each of our 'Lighthouse Lions' team members. (Photo shows sponsor on left and coach on the right of our team.)



For a number of years we have run a successful monthly disco called 'BOOM BOX' at the Greenwith Community Centre which is very popular with our clients. Each month there is a different theme so people can dress up and have some fun. Members of the community also attend so it's a great opportunity to make new friendships. Admission is \$5.



Christmas Breakfast

Our annual Christmas breakfast is a much anticipated event at Lighthouse Disability as it enables clients, families, staff and volunteers to get together in an informal setting. This year the event was very well attended and was regarded by many as 'the best yet'. Special thanks to the Tea Tree Gully Lions Club for providing the BBQ. Everyone enjoyed the engaging entertainer, Linda McCarthy, who got everyone singing Christmas Carols and joining the conga line.



Facebook

Please follow us and 'like' us on Facebook to learn more of our day to day highlights.

<https://www.facebook.com/Lighthouse-Disability-1017036594982139/>

Marj Ellis

Marj Ellis
CEO