

# Lighthouse News

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



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

## Community Benefits Grant

We are very grateful to the Dept of Communities and Social Inclusion for the allocation of a \$50k grant to assist us in the purchase of a CRM system. We know that in the competitive NDIS environment it will be very important to have good information systems to support client service delivery – and our business.

## Dr Ken Baker

In early February 2017, we were delighted to host a lunch with some disability providers to hear firsthand from Dr Ken Baker, CEO of National Disability Services (NDS) about some of the current challenges and achievements of the NDIS. Ken spoke positively about his contact with the new Chair of the NDIS Board, Dr Helen Nugent AO, who is very interested in the data generated by NDS about the state of the sector, which has been seriously ‘underdone’ in relation to funding and training for staff over a very long period of time.

## Governor’s Leadership Foundation (GLF)

As a means of developing the quality of leadership in South Australia, people in business, government and not-for-profit who are identified as having leadership potential are nominated to participate in the Governor’s Leadership Foundation development program. Projects for program participants are invited from various businesses/agencies and we are delighted that one of ours has been selected. The project with us will commence later this month and finish late this year with a presentation of a report to us and the GLF as part of the course work.

ISSUE N<sup>o</sup> 4

DATE April 2017

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Community Benefits Grant

Dr Ken Baker

Governor’s Leadership  
Foundation (GLF)

Tertiary Students

New House

Autism Awareness

NDIS

Specialist Disability  
Accommodation

Facebook

## Tertiary Students

We are committed to providing a placement for a variety of students. Two Occupational Therapy students have been with us for a 9 week placement and a Social Work student undertaking her Masters qualification will be with us for 4 months.

## New House

A family has recently purchased a house to secure the future accommodation needs of their son (J). Lighthouse Disability will continue to provide services to J. The house has been renovated by the family and it is a delightful home and workplace. It has the capacity to accommodate two other young adults who can be placed there, subject to careful matching. This arrangement is an example of a different model of service provision.



## Autism Awareness

Australia recognizes April as Autism Awareness Month to raise awareness of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) – a condition that affects the individual across their life span.

The term ‘spectrum’ is used to indicate that no two people with ASD are the same. The differences depend on the combinations of social ability, communication level, cognitive ability (IQ), age, personality and many other factors.

Lighthouse Disability provides 24/7 support to 20 clients with ASD, which represents approximately 20% of our business. Each person is unique and has both strengths and difficulties. Supporting someone with ASD begins with acceptance, knowledge and understanding of ASD and the individual.

## NDIS

In South Australia, adults will become eligible to become a ‘participant’ as from July this year in the northern suburbs. However, we have had an enquiry for an NDIA service from a person with a package that was allocated in NSW. We are very excited about the opportunity to explore the possibility of providing our first NDIA service to an adult.

## Specialist Disability Accommodation

As part of the NDIS, the Commonwealth Government has allocated \$700m for disability accommodation. Legislation attached to this has been recently published ('The Rule') and there are some interesting ways in which purpose built accommodation can be developed for people with complex disabilities. As we become more conversant with what this means, we will provide more information about it.

## Australia Day Picnic

Our Fundraising Committee organised a picnic for clients and families on Australia Day. The setting was lovely Beefacres Park and entertainer Linda McCarthy was funded to provide great music which engaged clients and their families. In all, it was a lovely day in a beautiful setting, and a good time was had by all.



## 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