

Lighthouse

Family News

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Statement of Intent

The Board has asked us to develop a 'Statement of Intent' which will be a few words that captures the answer to 'Why we are here'. We want staff to assist us in the development of this, and the expectations of families will also be canvassed. The Board has requested that some draft Statements of Intent be prepared for its consideration by 1st July 2017.

Contacts with Agencies who might refer people to Lighthouse Disability

The Board has endorsed a plan to make contact with a number of organisations which may know of people who have a disability and want 24/7 supported accommodation. Up to now, all of our referrals have come from Disability SA, and with the introduction of the NDIS, Disability SA will no longer be responsible for making them. This is one of many ways in which we will need to work differently in a competitive environment which promotes people with a disability having choice and control.

Specialist Disability Accommodation

The Board is continuing to explore all options concerning the management/redevelopment of the five houses that we own. The NDIS has \$700m set aside to develop purpose built accommodation. However, there are many complexities attached to how this funding will work. Therefore it is very important that an assessment is made of the pros and cons of all options.

Progress Report

In Dec 2015, the Board approved a pilot Service Delivery Model for houses where we have not been able to successfully recruit Service Managers. The pilot is being evaluated, and as part of the process of the pilot, we want to provide an update on progress to staff and families. Please refer to the attachment for a report on where we are up to.

Exciting News

As part of adapting to new service delivery requirements in NDIS, we have a new house (Rita) that has been purchased by a family for their son. The family have renovated the house, making it a really nice place to live and work.

Lighthouse Disability is leasing this house and will provide support to the people living there. There is space for two other compatible people. We are really excited about this opportunity to be part of another service delivery model.



IDAA

IDAA have offered us access to another house. It is 'disability friendly' and located in a good area, so it is very likely that we will take up this option.

Community Benefits Grant

We were successful in an application to Community Benefits SA in an application for \$50k to contribute to the costs of purchasing a Client Records Management system.

We have identified a number of possible providers and hope to make a selection in the next few weeks. The aim is to have the new system operational by November 2017 so that data for clients who have a NDIA package is easily accessible and can be just as easily added to on a daily basis. This will make it easy to provide information to families and to keep an accurate record of the activities and achievements of our clients.

We acknowledge the Dept of Communities and Social Inclusion for providing the funds through the Community Benefits Grant.

BOOM BOX

Thanks to Karen Polkinghorne (Manager Finance and Admin) who, with other staff and volunteers, have been running very successful BOOM BOX events on the first Friday of each month at the Greenwith Community Centre. Each month there is a different theme so people can dress up and have some fun.

We've been getting some fantastic feedback – "music is great", people are fantastic", overall it's excellent".

Numbers continue to increase with 56 people attending the Easter themed event last Friday. Some of the people who participate in BOOM BOX come from other disability support providers.

On Friday 2nd June, for the first time, a band will be playing live music so we're hoping to get as many people as possible attending.



NDIA Assessments

Information has been provided to us that NDIA will arrange for Lighthouse Disability clients who live in the northern suburbs to be assessed for funding packages in November. Further, the NDIA person undertaking the assessments will visit each house, and assess each person at the house at the same time. As more information becomes available, we will let you know.

In the meantime, we are accessing good information about how to prepare for the assessment from two different businesses which have experience of NDIA assessment of children.

Planning is now in place to ensure that each client has a current assessment of all needs – and for some people, this will require updated allied health assessments.

We will organise some information sessions soon to provide you with current information about how the NDIS is being rolled out for adults in the northern suburbs.

NDIA referrals

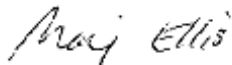
We have received our first NDIA referral from a person who was allocated a package in NSW and who has recently shifted to Adelaide. It is a great opportunity for us to learn how to read a NDIA plan, to operate with client choice and control, and negotiate a contract outlining the services that we will provide.

Social Work Student

We have recently welcomed a student from Flinders University who is in her second year of a Masters of Social Work. She will be completing her final placement with us over the next four months.

Quality

We are continually striving to provide high quality services. Comments from families about what is working well and if there are any concerns, are welcome. We value any such information because it helps us understand what we need to follow up on.



Marj Ellis
CEO