

Lighthouse

Family News

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NDIS

The 1st July 2017 was an important milestone for Lighthouse Disability with regard to the NDIS. Adults living in the northern suburbs are now eligible for assessment by NDIA for funding packages. We have been advised that NDIA planners will start assessments of our clients in November, and that they will come to each of our houses for this purpose. Please find attached a list of houses and the date that each house is eligible for the NDIS assessment. The date of eligibility is not necessarily when the assessments will take place.

Thank you for to those of you who were able to participate in information sessions with Joanne Cregan (23rd May and 19th June) and to the follow up session on 26th June.

The many questions that were asked provided opportunities to clarify some issues – and in some instances, the questions highlighted that there is much that we don't yet know.

Getting ready for the NDIA

The information required for the NDIA plan for each person is based on:

- The experience and knowledge of Lighthouse Disability staff about current and anticipated needs of clients
- The current services that are provided
- Current assessments about the disability (these can be medical assessments or allied health assessments such as speech therapy, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, psychology etc.)
- Assessments to demonstrate how assistive technology will make a difference to client wellbeing, and
- Client goals.

This means that there is a lot of information that needs to be collected and/or collated in the next 3 months. For some clients, the information is up to date and the effort will be directed to collating it. For other clients, there will be a need to update assessments and then collate the information. The NDIA Planner will assess this information and, on the basis of what is 'reasonable and necessary', make a decision about what the plan will be and how much funding will be allocated to this. The quality of the information provided to the NDIA Planner is very important as this will inform decisions about the NDIS plan and the associated funding.

We have appointed Sharon Williams to the role of 'NDIS Liaison Officer'. She will take responsibility for coordinating the collection of the information referred to above and work with other service providers and families to collate the best possible information to inform the NDIA assessment process. This will include a quote for the cost of the identified services for the consideration of the NDIA.



During her career which spans many years, Sharon has developed considerable experience in developing systems and processes similar to those that are needed in this context. If you have any queries about how we will prepare for the funding process, please don't hesitate to contact Sharon on phone 8256 9800. If she is not available, please leave a message for her and she will return your call.

Please also understand that no one has experience of transitioning adults to the NDIS in South Australia as this is the first rollout for adults, so there will continue to be many questions for which we may not have answers at this stage.

Update on Staff

As part of our preparation to transition to the NDIS over the last 2 - 3 years, we have identified the need for different skill sets which have resulted in changes to our organisational structure. We are committed to our values, and are conscious that we also need to operate as a business in a competitive environment.

In this context, we are in the process of recruiting new staff for the following positions:

- Accountant (new position)
- Accounts Receivable Officer (new position)
- Service Delivery Coordinator (new position)
- Manager, Service Delivery (filling a vacancy)
- Volunteer Coordinator (filling a vacancy)
- Executive Assistant (filling a vacancy)

We recently farewellled Terella Rosen (Volunteer Coordinator) who has moved to a position with the Heart Foundation and Caroline Simpson will leave us at the end of next week after serving 8 years with us. Pat Netschitowsky (Executive Assistant) will retire when a new appointment is made.

Membership of Lighthouse Disability

As a Company Limited by Guarantee, we are required to have members. The advantages of being a member of the company is that members have voting rights in relation to the appointment of Directors (if there are more candidates than vacant positions). In addition, members have the right to access Minutes of member meetings and information that is published in Annual Reports. Please find attached an application form for annual membership.

We look forward to your interest and support via your membership of our company. If you have any questions about this, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Support for Clients in Hospital

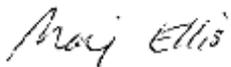
At times our clients need to be hospitalized, and for most, it is a distressing time and therefore important that they are accompanied by a Lighthouse Disability staff member who they know. In order for a Lighthouse Disability staff member to be paid to stay with a client in hospital, we need to seek approval from the relevant hospital (and the hospital will make contact with DSA).

In most instances, it is expected that a Manager will be aware of a pending hospitalization, and she/he will negotiate approval before the client is admitted. However there may be occasions when a client is admitted in an emergency and a Manager will need to negotiate this at the time. If the issue occurs after hours, the Emergency After Hours contact can contact a Manager who will then undertake the negotiation with the hospital.

If families are aware that a family member is going to be hospitalized, and if it is considered important that a staff member accompany the person, please let Karen Negus or Megan Kane know (phone 8256 9800) and they will seek approval. There have been some good outcomes in relation to these negotiations.

Vacancies

From time to time, a client vacancy may arise in one of our houses. If you know of families who are looking for 24/7 accommodation for a family member, please let us know, or encourage them to contact us. If we have a vacancy, we will be glad to explore whether we have a place which is compatible to the person's needs and those of other residents.



Marj Ellis
CEO