

# Lighthouse News

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



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

## National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)

The beginning of the new financial year has heralded a new era for Lighthouse Disability and all other disability service providers in South Australia. The idea of giving people who have a disability choice and control about the services that they want and from whom they want to purchase them is very exciting and overdue.

On the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2017, the NDIS commenced determining the eligibility of adults for NDIS funding. Given the enormity of the task, the roll out is being staged on a geographical basis. As it relates to Lighthouse Disability, adults living in the local government areas of Playford, Salisbury and Port Adelaide – Enfield (East) are amongst the first to be assessed. We have been advised that assessments in relation to funding for client packages will be managed on a house by house basis commencing in November.

The introduction of the NDIS is arguably the biggest ever change in the sector. There is much to be done to ensure that families understand the implications, and that we have prepared the information required by NDIA to assess what is 'reasonable and necessary' with regard to funding for our clients.

One of the strategies to inform families of the assessment process was to organise Joanne Cregan (Lifelong Pathways) to present her experience and knowledge of the NDIA assessment process in two different sessions for our families on 23<sup>rd</sup> May and 19<sup>th</sup> June. Joanne has been through the assessment process as a parent, and has now worked with many families as a consultant to assist them through the process.

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A second strategy is that we have reassigned Sharon Williams to the role of NDIS Liaison Officer.



Sharon has taken on responsibility for coordinating the collation of information that is required for each person to be assessed for eligibility for NDIS funding.

A third strategy is to form a partnership with Pearson Allied Health Services (PAHS). This business has worked with families seeking NDIS funding for children in the trial phase of NDIS in South Australia and is very familiar with the requirements of the NDIS assessment process. PAHS will assist Lighthouse Disability to prepare information about current client services, medical and allied health assessments and family perspectives about client goals in the required format.

There are a range of finance and other IT systems required to support the introduction and management of NDIS processes. One of these is the requirement of a client management system. We are delighted that we were successful in our application to Grants SA for \$50k to assist the purchase of a Client Management System. We are currently evaluating which system will best suit our requirements.

## Workforce Developments

The success of our transition to NDIS is partly contingent on our ability to build our organisational culture. We have several strategies in place;

### *Workforce Wellbeing and Resilience Project*

We have participated in a scoping project in relation to workforce wellbeing and resilience. The data generated by our staff and that of 5 other participating disability service providers will contribute to some recommendations for the sector.

### *Governor's Leadership Foundation*

About 36 aspiring leaders from for profit, not for profit and government sectors have been offered leadership development opportunities for 12 months as part of the Governor's Leadership Foundation. We were invited to offer some leadership learning opportunities for course participants. Six course participants have chosen our project which is to assist us to continue to build our organisational culture using a co-design approach.

### *Recognizing and valuing diversity*

Over the last two years, we have met with a small group of staff for whom English is a second language with the aim of understanding what we need to do to make Lighthouse Disability a better place for them to work. About 36% of our workforce consists of people for whom English is a second language. The initiative of meeting with them has been both humbling and rewarding. This is a work 'in progress' and we are excited by the ideas that are being generated.

### Training

NDIS funding will double the number of people required in the disability workforce. This means that many more staff need to be trained to fill the jobs that will be created. We have a partnership with Enhance Training and Recruitment with regard to the training of people in Cert III for Disability. Our contribution to the learning of the students is to provide some work placements.

### Volunteers

Lighthouse Disability has a strong commitment to working with volunteers who add value to the quality of our services. Volunteers contribute to Lighthouse Disability by assisting with gardening at many houses, house maintenance such as painting, some 'one off' administration tasks and regular contact with clients. Volunteers add an important dimension of connecting our clients to the community and enabling them to engage in every-day activities such as going to the football, enjoying outings to the Botanic Gardens and the Central Market.



### Client profile

The month of May was designated to raise awareness around the world of people living with Prader-Willi Syndrome (PWS). Lighthouse Disability supports several people living with PWS which is a rare and very complex, non-inherited genetic disorder. For a person with PWS there is a constant pre-occupation with food accompanied by an unrelenting, overwhelming, overriding physiological drive to eat. Other challenging symptoms are heightened anxiety, erratic emotions and behaviour. These can vary in severity from person to person. We are proud of our ability to enable people with Prader-Willi Syndrome to live fulfilling lives in spite of the challenges that their disability implies.

### 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/>

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