

Lighthouse

Family News

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Inside this Edition

Upcoming Events

- AGM
- Christmas Breakfast
- Disability Expo

NDIS

A picture tells 1000 words

Case Management System

History of Leveda (now
Lighthouse Disability)

Upcoming Events

There are some important events coming up:

Annual General Meeting

This will be held on **Friday 10th November** at Sfera's from 7 – 9 p.m.
Please see attached flyer.

Our guest speaker is Maurice Corcoran, Principal Community Visitor. Maurice and his team of highly trained volunteers regularly visit our houses – and others in the disability, aged and mental health sectors. While there will be some formalities to meet legal requirements, we're hoping that the evening will be a good night out for our clients with entertainment and supper provided.

Please be aware, that there is another public event very nearby the venue of the AGM which means that traffic and parking might be a little 'tricky'. Please allow plenty of time for a 7pm start.

Christmas Breakfast

This will be held on **Sunday November 19th** at Greenwith Community Centre from 10am to 1 pm. Please refer to details on the attached flyer. Linda McCarthy will provide entertainment, and we are very grateful to the Tea Tree Gully Lions Club for once again cooking the breakfast.

Disability Expo

Lighthouse Disability will have a stand at the 2017 Disability Ageing and Lifestyle Expo on **Friday 27th October**. The Expo will be held in the Goyder Pavilion at the Adelaide Showground between 10am – 4.30pm. Entry fee is a gold coin donation. You'll find us at Stand 41 so come and say 'hello'. Please see attached flyer for more information.

NDIS

The introduction of the National Disability Insurance Scheme is the biggest social policy change in Australia for several decades. The scale of the change is huge, and it means big changes to how people with a disability can access services. For most, it is expected to be a big improvement on the current situation.

Staff of Lighthouse Disability are working hard to collect and collate information about each person we support. The aim of collecting the information is to provide 'evidence' to inform decisions concerning the allocation of funding by the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA). In addition to 'evidence', each client will need to have clear goals which will also be taken into account when decisions about funding are made.

Permission from each family is being sought for Lighthouse Disability to take on the responsibility of collecting and collating this information. Families will be asked to review the information that is prepared to see if you believe that it is accurate – and/or if you wish to add to it.

It is very important to ensure that the 'evidence' enables each person to be allocated the funding that is needed. Funding will be provided for services which are considered 'reasonable and necessary' and 'evidence' is required to justify this. If a service is not funded, then it cannot be provided. This is a crucial difference to the current system.

The changes outlined above will be challenging for all us given that historically, services have been provided to clients with no reference to the specific detail of the services provided, or cost. Most families have not been informed of what it costs to provide 24/7 supported accommodation because the SA Govt allocated the funds to provide 24/7 accommodation support.

Block funding has also meant that there has been a capacity to often 'go the extra mile' whereas under a fee for service model, there is an expectation that every service will be paid for. For example, continence products are not currently paid for by families (we purchase them in bulk) and are included in the cost of board and lodging. However, under NDIS, they will need to be paid for out of a client's NDIA funding package.

Please understand that the changes to how we will provide and bill for services is determined by the NDIS. That is, just as you are required to adapt to these changes, so are we.

These changes to service delivery are designed to give people who have a disability funds so that they have 'choice and control' – that is they can choose their service provider and the products that they need.

To 'recap', under NDIS, people with a disability will be allocated funds to pay for the services that they need. This is a very different approach to how the system works now. An example might be that we all choose which dentist or hair dresser that we go to, and we pay for the services that we receive. The same will now apply to people with a disability. That is why it is so important to make sure that the funding package allocated to each person with a disability is adequate to meet the specific needs of that person.

Another big change will be the fact that families will receive regular bills for the services that are provided. The NDIS has created some different ways in which bills can be paid, and while some families will want to manage payment themselves, others may be very relieved that the NDIS provides funding for families to pay someone else to take care of this.

The changes that we are about to experience are very significant, and there will be a time of adjustment in relation to many things before the situation will become familiar to clients, families and service providers alike. Some commentators suggest it will take up to 5 years for the system to start to 'mature'.

We will organise an information session for families soon on the financial implications of the new scheme.

If you have any concerns or queries, please don't hesitate to contact Sharon Williams, Karen Negus, Megan Kane, Steve Denholm or me (phone 8256 9800). We will respond to any questions – and if we don't know the answer, we will try to find out.

A picture tells 1000 words!

We take great pride in engaging our clients in activities that they enjoy.

Frontline staff are encouraged to take photos of our clients and forward them to you regularly so that you have a sense of what your family members are doing. Efforts will be made to talk to you about how often you would like photos and other information. Recent feedback from one house indicates that families are really pleased to receive photos.



A group of clients had a really special outing to the Fairview Lodge Animal Shelter recently. They had loads of fun feeding lambs and horses, patting kittens and ponies, holding ducks and chooks. A huge thank you to our volunteer team who, along with our support workers, made this a memorable day for everyone.

Case Management System

Lighthouse Disability, like many other disability providers is in the process of purchasing new IT systems to enable us to load information about each person in our organisation and improve our capacity to keep good records. This is important for several reasons;

- Up to date information about disability diagnoses and health records need to be accessible
- When a person has a funding package, we will negotiate a service agreement which will outline what services are being purchased from us. We also need to keep records of the provision of these services for accountability and billing purposes.
- Under NDIS, each person will have goals, and we will need to demonstrate what we are doing to help the person attain these goals.
- Each person may have several different plans (e.g. health plan, manual handling plan, nutrition plan, recreation plan, behaviour support plan etc.) and all staff need to be able to access these to ensure that the plans are being followed.

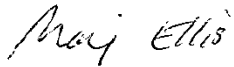
A decision will be made very soon about the type of Case Management System that we will purchase, after a very thorough exploration of the possibilities.

History of Leveda (now Lighthouse Disability)

A small group of staff were delighted to have the opportunity recently to talk with Marj Kite who is the parent of a person who has lived in one of our houses since the organization was formed. She explained that she was one of several people who met for seven years with senior staff of IDSC (Intellectually Disabled Services Council) leading up to the establishment of Leveda in 1989. As a result of a lot of hard work from a few very committed families, Leveda started with three houses, and has grown substantially since this time.

Our history is important because it has shaped what we have become.

We owe much to the people who had the vision to see that things could be better for their family members. Given the substantial changes that we are now experiencing, it is timely to reflect on where we have come from, and to continue the journey of ensuring that, with us, people have safe, healthy and fulfilled lives.



Marj Ellis
CEO