

Lighthouse

Family News

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Transition to NDIA

Thank you to the many families who have made positive comments about the work that we have done to prepare information/evidence for the meeting with Feros Care - which is the first step to NDIA preparing a plan. By early March, we will have had 40 planning meetings, but as yet, no plans have been forwarded by NDIA. We expect that, by the end of May, all of our people will have had planning meetings – that is, we are slightly under half way through the transition process. At this stage, we have no indication as to when families can expect to receive plans.

Family Information Sessions

On 14th and 15th February, information sessions were held for families about planning meetings with Feros Care. Staff who have attended planning meetings, shared their experiences, and the families who were present asked lots of searching questions.

Funding from Disability SA

While we await plans from the NDIA, DSA continues to fund our services. We are very appreciative that DSA has allocated some additional funding for some clients as their needs have changed. This is positive as it means we can provide additional support – but the down side is that it means that there is additional pressure on recruitment. As the NDIA funding allocated to families in the wider community has increased, their capacity to purchase services has increased, which in turn increases the demand for staff in a 'tight' employment market. We are continuing to recruit new staff to limit our reliance on the use of casual staff, but we expect this to be increasingly challenging.

Activities

Our customers get 'out and about' to do things that they enjoy. Here are some photos that illustrate some of the activities that they are involved in.



Mercedes and Rowe combined for an Australia Day celebration. Mark and Betty had fun with karaoke, and everyone enjoyed the delicious BBQ cooked by Simon and Satnam.



Grantham have recently returned from a summer holiday in the South East visiting Naracoorte, Penola, Mount Gambier, Robe and Coonalpyn.

We are very appreciative of the efforts of volunteers who engage with some of our people. They are involved in a range of activities which include taking people to events that they enjoy, reading to/with them, massaging hands/feet, going for a walk with them etc. Volunteers also assist in the running of Boom Box, a disco that is held on the first Friday of each month.

Annual Picnic

On Sunday 15th April we will be holding our Annual Picnic at Beefacres Community Hall, Pittwater Drive, Windsor Gardens SA 5087 from 11am to 2pm. Families and friends are very welcome. The Tea Tree Gully Lions Club are

providing a sausage sizzle. Linda McCarthy and Lolly Jar Circus will provide entertainment, generously funded by the Fundraising Committee. Please refer to the attached flyer.

Consumer Reference Group

After over a year in abeyance, the CRG has commenced meeting again. Diane Ashford (Volunteer Coordinator) is leading this group, and has some volunteers assisting her with this.

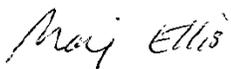
The CRG is a committee of the Board and the aim of this committee is to create an opportunity for our customers to talk about their experiences of our services. Customer feedback is very important – and we want to learn from what they say. In addition to providing feedback, it is important that the CRG is an opportunity for people to enjoy each other's company.

Fundraising Committee

Having raised a net revenue of \$11,798.53 over the last three years, the Fundraising Committee has decided to wind up its activities. We are indebted to the time and expertise of those who ran this committee, and in particular, Sue and Chris Andrews. Funds that have been generated have been used to fund a range of items/activities for individual clients as well as events that many people are involved in. It has been agreed that the remaining unspent funds will be directed to Boom Box, the Annual Picnic and other activities that our customers enjoy.

Client Management System

Late last year, Lighthouse Disability purchased an IT system called Enrite Care so that we can record information about each person in a central location so that it is up to date and accurate. Confidentiality clauses will exist. Front line staff will record information on the system and will be able to provide families with good information about activities, medical information etc. A training program for staff will be rolled out and it will take some months before it will be fully operational. This is another important step to improve our customer service.



Marj Ellis
CEO