

Lighthouse

# Family News

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## Picnic held on 15<sup>th</sup> April at Beefacres Community Hall

Thanks to the families who joined us on a damp day at Beefacres Community Hall. It was disappointing that it was not an outside day, but the hall was very comfortable and clients, families and staff enjoyed a sausage sizzle prepared by the Tea Tree Gully Lion Club. Linda McCartney entertained and a good time was had by all!





## Family Advisory Committee Meeting

One of the people who has been a regular member of the Family Advisory Committee has shifted to a country location, and at the last meeting, it was agreed that it is timely to invite others who might be interested, to join the committee.

The Family Advisory Committee is a Committee of the Board, and it is an important link to the Board regarding the views of families about the services that we provide. The Chair of the Board is now attending every other meeting, and other Directors will attend as it is possible for them to do so. This means that there are very direct opportunities for families to inform Board members of their views about the services provided by Lighthouse Disability. There is usually information about Board and Leadership team deliberations, and the views of families are often sought about service delivery issues.

Meetings are held at 101 Park Tce., Salisbury on the second Thursday of every month from 1-2.30 p.m. They are chaired by me, and draft minutes of the previous meeting and an agenda are circulated prior to each meeting. Families are invited to add topics to the agenda, although it is usually not appropriate to discuss specific client concerns in this setting. We want to know of concerns, and will organise a time to meet to understand them outside this meeting. Many general issues are raised and discussed. It is important for us to know what you think is working well, and what you are worried about.

There is a mix of family members who have been associated with Lighthouse Disability for many years, and some who have not had family members with us for very long.

Participants of the Family Advisory Committee are not required to take on any responsibilities associated with the meeting; reading minutes, and any attached papers – and contributing to discussion in the meetings is all that is required.

If anyone is interested to know more about it, please don't hesitate to contact me. Current members of the Family Advisory Committee will also be willing to share their experiences if you would like to hear from a Family member.

## Resignation of Manager, Service Delivery and Service Manager

Families of houses which were the responsibility of Karen Negus have been notified of Karen's resignation – effective from last Thursday. Karen has contributed much to Lighthouse Disability since her appointment in January 2015. She will be missed, and we wish her well in her new endeavours.

Ashleigh Trinne, Service Manager of Riveau and formally Innes will leave us at the end of this month to work for Feros Care. We thank Ashleigh for her work with us and congratulate her on the opportunity to extend her experience in the disability sector.

## Update on Transition to NDIA

Since the 8th January, we have completed 60+ planning sessions with Feros Care to commence the transition of these clients to NDIA. We expect that nearly all of our clients (90+) will have had their planning sessions by the end of this month, and all will be completed by the middle of June.

We continue to receive positive feedback about the quality of the 'evidence' prepared for the planning meetings, and the SIL quotes. However, there are not yet any plans that have been approved. While there is a lot of information about the NDIS system being overwhelmed by its workload, we have been assured that work is continuing on our plans, and we hope that we will have some resolved soon.

Once plans have been approved, we will work closely with each family to develop a service agreement which will outline very clearly what services the funding will cover. We expect this to be a challenging time for families and for us because this will be the first time that the implications of the new system (NDIA) will be clear in practical terms – as compared with the block funding system that has underpinned service delivery until now. The main difference is that each service that is provided to each client is specifically funded. This means that activities/services that were provided under block funding will be managed differently according to the available funding.

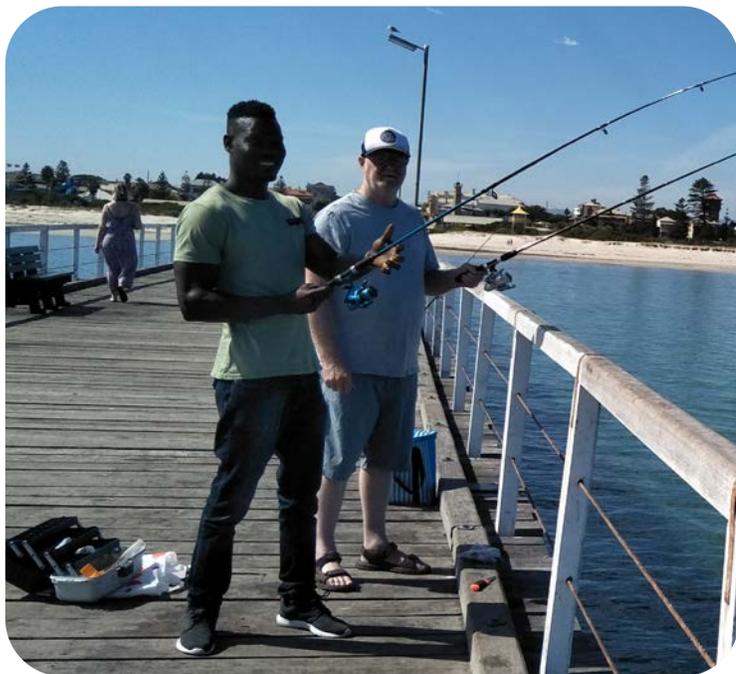
It will be important to remember that this is a very new system for families and providers – and that we will all be learning as the system evolves. It will also be important that families understand that Lighthouse Disability (and no other service provider) has any decision making responsibility in what gets funded. This is a NDIA decision. We have done our best to ensure that good information has been provided to NDIA to provide a clear rationale/justification for the funding that has been sought.

If you have any questions, please let us know. If we know the answer, we will be glad to share it with you – and if we don't know the answer, we will be glad to try and find out.

We are drafting a Model of Care which describes the principles that shape how we provide services, and what they 'look like' when in operation for clients, families and staff. The Family Advisory Committee have contributed to a first draft, and will refine the next draft.

## Volunteers

We value the work that is undertaken by volunteers. They add another dimension to the day to day lives of people who have a disability. The photo below is a great illustration of the impact that volunteers can have on the lives of our customers (a picture tells a thousand words).



## New Directors for the Board of Lighthouse Disability

We are very pleased to announce the appointment of Wayne Gibbings who brings enormous knowledge and experience of the housing sector having worked in for profit, not for profit and government. As the Board is exploring how we can improve access to quality housing, Wayne will bring very important perspectives to Board deliberations. In addition, Kym Shreeve is a very welcome addition to the Board. She has worked as a senior executive in a range of government and non-government including Endeavour (one of the largest Disability Service Providers in Australia). Kym also has experience of governance having served on the Board of Wodonga TAFE.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marj Ellis".

**Marj Ellis**  
CEO