

Lighthouse

Family News

Date: 23th July 2018

Issue No. 53

Inside this Edition

Staff Appointments

NDIA

NDIA Information Session

New client referrals

Updates from the Board

High Performing Workplace
Index Survey

Boom Box

Staff Appointments

Congratulations to Virender Singh who has worked at Payneham for about 12 months in a senior role and has now been appointed to a Service Coordinator role. Payneham is a large service with 5 clients and 6 staff in the house at any one time – it is big and therefore complex. With family agreement, one client has already moved to Audley and it is planned that others will move to live in households of two clients and two staff. Virender will continue to work with Payneham staff and clients in smaller households.

Brenton Drogemuller has commenced work with us in a part time capacity as Project Officer, Worker Support and Engagement. We are delighted that we have his expertise to support new workers, and considerable experience of working in disability settings.

Tammarra Harty commenced work with us about 2 weeks ago in the role of Executive Assistant. She comes to us with a range of experience, including most recently, working as an EA to the CEO of Cancer Council SA – another not for profit organisation.

Lara Homburg is working with us in the role of Rostering Officer. We warmly welcome her and very much appreciate her assistance in this role.

Joanne Pratt was appointed to the role of Accounts Receivable several months ago, and her expertise is much valued.

Sharon Williams has a long employment history with us, but, as her work assisting the development of NDIA planning information is now complete, the nature of her role will change.

Her title will still be NDIA Liaison Officer and she will be the person to receive new client referrals. She will also be our key contact for housing Providers. Sharon will also be the key Lighthouse Disability contact for housing providers

Further to the above, Vanessa Wardle is the new Manager responsible for Rowe.

NDIA

Two houses (Cullford and Janet Court) have had SIL quotes approved in recent weeks. It is not possible for families to access their funds for day programs and other services until a Service Coordinator is appointed. It is now some weeks since these quotes have been approved, and it is a concern that it is taking some time for a Support Coordinator to be appointed to each family. Funding for 24/7 support is made available immediately the quote is approved.

A number of staff from Park Tce met with families from Janet Court on 19th July to explore how client NDIA plans will be implemented. It was a productive and positive meeting.

Please refer to the attachments for important information about

- Att 1 - Releasing clients for In-kind arrangements
- Att 2 - NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission
- Att 3 - Resolution of NDIS issues
- Att 4 -Please refer to the attachment for information about NDIS Appeals – Participant/Family Session. This workshop will support participants and their families/carers to have a better understanding of the review process, what options are available to review decisions made and how to write a good review application in the 'NDIS language'. **Thursday 26th July from 5.30-7pm, Playford Civic Centre, 10 Playford Blvd, Elizabeth.** (apologies about the late notice).

New client referrals

We have received a number of people who are seeking supported accommodation. They are being assessed with regard to 'matching' with people living in houses where there are vacancies.

Updates from the Board

- **New Board Committees**
The Board has introduced two new committees of the Board; Client Well Being and Housing.
- **Strategic Planning**
The Board has spent the last two Saturdays from 9a.m to 1.00p.m in planning sessions to set the strategic directions for the next two years. The sessions were very productive and exciting. Once the information has been documented, this will be shared with you.

High Performing Workplace Index Survey

Staff responded well to this survey and we now have the results. The survey canvassed staff views in relation to leadership, employee experiences, innovation, customer orientation, fairness and productivity. The analysis of the data has been undertaken by the University of New South Wales and gives us information about what we need to do to make Lighthouse Disability a better place to work.

Boom Box

The Boom Box is held the first Friday of the month.

- They are themed and held at the Greenwith Community Centre.
- The disco attendance has increased in recent times and the number of clients has grown from approx. 65 to 120.
- At the July disco this year ('The Winter wonderland') we had over 120 in attendance; 85 consumers with 32 from lighthouse and the rest coming from 10 other providers including private homes plus carers and support workers.
- Recently we had a parent bring her daughter (who is not a client of Lighthouse Disability) who turned 20 that day along with 4 of her friends, all of whom lived with a disability. We welcomed them and sang Happy Birthday. A good night was had by all.
- The next Boom Box is on **the 3rd of August from 7pm** – the theme is movie characters.



Marj Ellis

Marj Ellis
CEO

