

Lighthouse

# Family News

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## Annual General Meeting

### Friday 26 October 2018

Our next Annual General Meeting will be held on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> October from 7-8 p.m at Sfera's, 191 Reservoir Rd., Modbury. Supper with clients will follow the meeting.

At the most recent Family Advisory Committee, there was discussion about the merits of being a member of Lighthouse Disability.

Information about this was provided in the Family Newsletter dated 8<sup>th</sup> August, and the discussion at the Family Advisory Committee reiterated the points made in the Newsletter, and expanded on some;

- The Board is accountable to the members of Lighthouse Disability (just as Directors in a for profit company are accountable to the Shareholders) for the services provided by the company
- Members appoint Directors to the Board (or not)
- Only members can change the constitution – which means that members are the decision makers with regard to any matters which would require a change to the constitution such as a merger or takeover proposal, (or anything else).

In short, members appoint Directors who are legally responsible to run the organisation. That is members are potentially very powerful, and the Annual General meeting is a forum in which Directors are accountable to members for the activities of the last financial year as presented in the Annual Report. If you would like to become a member, the cost is \$10/year and we will gladly forward a membership form to you to complete. Membership is subject to Board approval. Please contact Bianca on phone 82569800 if you would like a membership form forwarded to you.

## Fun night out for clients

The practice has been that clients have been invited to the AGM. It is acknowledged that this is probably of very little interest to most clients, so a fun night out has been organised in the room next to the AGM. Clients are invited to listen to music presented by Linda McCartney and there will be supper for clients and those who have attended the AGM.

## Christmas Breakfast

This year, the Christmas breakfast for clients and families is on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> November at Greenwith Community Centre, from 10 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. All are welcome!

## Sounds and Vibes

This is a music event for people who live with a disability, and is the equivalent to 'The Big Day Out'. One of the organisers is the mother of one of our clients. It promises to be a great event and will be held on Dec 1<sup>st</sup> at the Adelaide Showground.

Please refer to the attached flyer for details. We are really pleased to be one of the sponsors for this event.

## Accreditation

We have now received formal notice of our successful accreditation which is a credit to all staff. The last two accreditation processes have been conducted by Quality Innovation Performance (QIP) against the Quality Improvement Council (QIC) Health and Community Services Standards. However, the NDIA has established a Quality and Safeguarding Commission. All service providers/businesses need to be registered with this Commission and will be audited against standards set by it.

This will mean some changes in the accreditation process and we are expecting that the benchmarks for our practice will be set at a higher standard. The NIDS Practice Standards state the following as an introduction to details about the standards;

*'The NDIS Practice Standards create an important benchmark for providers to assess their performance, and to demonstrate how they provide high quality and safe supports and services to NDIS participants. Together with the NDIS Code of Conduct, the NDIS Practice Standards will assist NDIS participants to be aware of what quality service provision they should expect from NDIS providers. The NDIS Practice Standards consist of a core module and several supplementary modules that apply according to the types of support and services NDIS providers deliver, and the corporate structure of the organisation. ...'*

## Support Coordination

Recently, we held meetings for all families where SIL quotes have been approved to discuss Support Coordination. Most families have not been able to access the NDIA plan funding because a Support Coordinator has not been allocated. Families have been understandably anxious about this for a range of reasons.

The process for allocating a Support Coordinator is now being simplified so that families can choose who they want as a Support Coordinator – this could be a Support Coordinator external to Lighthouse Disability, or the Lighthouse Disability Service Coordinator.

We are continuing to develop a Support Coordination service for anyone who wants to access it. Our clients and people external to us will be able to access this service.

Di Gursansky is assisting us in the setup of this service and as part of this, she is working with families who have asked Lighthouse Disability to provide this service.

The first houses to do this are Janet Court and Innes. Other families have asked to use our service, and as clients are released from 'in kind' arrangements, we will work with them.

The roles of the Support Coordinator are to help a client/families;

- understand the NDIA plan and help them choose and connect with service providers
- establish a service agreement with those providers
- explore and link with community and mainstream services and help coordinate these as required
- talk about any other options to be considered as the year progresses and will help with developing goals for the next plan
- connect with the NDIA about any questions concerning the plan.

## Resignation from Vanessa Wardle (Manager, Service Delivery)

Vanessa's resignation became effective on 5<sup>th</sup> October. We are sad to see Vanessa move to another position, however completely understand that a range of 'stars aligned' that were very much in the interests of Vanessa's family and career.

Before she left, Vanessa sent the message below to staff;

*Hello,*

*I am writing to let you know that my time at Lighthouse Disability is coming to an end. An opportunity has come up for my family that we have made the decision to take, this will see us relocate to the south of Adelaide.*

*I have very much enjoyed my time getting to know the customers of Lighthouse Disability, thank you to all the clients who welcomed me into their homes and shared a part of themselves with me. Thank you to families who have shared their stories and worked with me through the NDIS Pre-planning process, it was great to have a collaborative approach and I trust we will see good outcomes in the NDIS plans.*

*It has been great to work with Lighthouse Disability staff. I have been able to see people develop their skills and their confidence in a number of areas. Lighthouse Disability has a number of exciting projects rolling out which will provide a better quality service, benefit customers and staff and place everyone in a better position for the future. I look forward to hearing about Lighthouse in the future.*

*Thank you everyone.*

*Thanks,*

*Vanessa*



*Marj Ellis*

**Marj Ellis**  
CEO