

Lighthouse

Family News

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Inside this Edition

Christmas Breakfast

Lighthouse Disability Annual
General Meeting

Local Heroes award

Acknowledgement of staff

NDIA Update

Georgina Katis (Masters in
Social Work Student)

Faysal Hafiz (Masters in Social
Work Student)

Brenton Wright Awards

New opportunities

Accreditation

Christmas Breakfast

The Lighthouse Disability Christmas Breakfast will be held on Sunday 25th November from 10.00am to 1.00 pm at Greenwith Community Centre.

Each year we have a Christmas breakfast to which families are warmly welcomed. There will be music, food and other fun activities which we hope our clients will enjoy – including a visit from Father Christmas. Please refer to the attached flyer. It will also be an opportunity to meet senior staff and Board members who are very interested to know from you, what you think we are doing well, and areas of our services that could be improved.

Lighthouse Disability Annual General Meeting

This was held on Friday 26th October and was attended by members (families, directors and staff). Tim Jackson (Chair) gave provided an update about the last year together with some projections about what is ahead. This information will be provided in the next newsletter.

As part of the meeting agenda, the following Board members were appointed:

- Antonio Dottore
- Wayne Gibbings
- Corey Martin
- Sarah Scammell
- Lea Stevens

Directors whose terms are continuing are:

- Tim Jackson
- Matthew King
- Tony Russo

The format of the AGM was changed this year so that clients were not required to attend the meeting. While the meeting was in process, clients were in an adjacent room having fun with a musician (Linda McCartney). Supper was served and families, Board members and senior staff mingled with clients and their support workers.

The feedback about this change so far has been very positive. Please let us know what you think!



Local Heroes award

We congratulate Sashah Stewart (Alawa) who was a joint prize winner at the Playford Alive 'Local Heroes Awards' at the Stretton Centre on Wednesday 17th October. Sashah's profile in the award brochure was written as follows:

'Sashah is a young mum who is dedicated to providing a strong home environment for her son. At age 24, she was motivated to improve her skills to gain employment. She was successful in gaining a place on the Lighthouse Disability Support Worker Pre Employment Training Program and participated in 20 weeks of training and work placements whilst juggling being a single parent. Sashah is now employed as a Community Support worker with Lighthouse Disability.'

This has enabled her to be financially independent and provide a strong role model for her son. During her time at Lighthouse, Sashah has demonstrated a commitment to continuous learning, perseverance and dedication. The article finishes with the following quote:

'Sashah is a quiet achiever who now presents as a confident young woman with a bright future ahead of her'. Sarah De La Perelle.

Acknowledgement of staff

Staff are our most important resource and asset and we thank them for the work that they do on 'the front line'.

In this newsletter, we want to thank staff of **Riveau** who have been diligent in their care of a client with high risk of skin rupture, **Spruance** staff who are working with a person with continuing and escalating health issues, and **Mahood** staff who have worked with a unique situation which has been challenging and important learning for all of us.

NDIA Update

The following houses have now had NIDA plans approved (Cullford, Janet, Salmon, Alawa, Grantham, Clairville, Mayfield and Innes) which means that we now have 30 people with a NDIA plan.

Our Support Coordination service is being established by Di Gursansky, and many of our families are opting to use this. Di is currently working with 6 people, with 2 pending, and with more indicating that they will, once their plans are approved.

Families should have received a letter from me a week or two ago outlining options concerning the allocation of a Support Coordinator. Families who have not yet had a plan approved can request to be released from an 'in kind' Support Coordinator – and this means that funds will be allocated in the plan to pay for this service. Once released from the obligation to have an 'in kind' Support Coordinator, you can choose who you would like. We are offering this service, and if you wish to choose us, it must be clear that it is your choice, and we can give you names of other options.

Georgina Katis (Masters in Social Work Student)

Undertaking her Social Work placement with us, Georgina is identifying what activities our clients would like to be able to access. She has provided an update on how things are going.

I have communicated with both verbal and non-verbal clients. By using my Questionnaires, I have spoken to 10 clients and 5 support workers who have provided me with information regarding the activities that occur in [several] houses, and what would like to be seen more of.

During the 22nd October to the 12th November, I will be working a way to interpret my information and provide a summary of what I found and concluded. The following weeks after that, I will be organising to present this information in an accessible format.

Faysal Hafiz (Masters in Social Work Student)

Faysal is also undertaking a Social work placement and he is exploring how to improve communication options for clients who cannot communicate verbally.

So far I have visited 15 clients. I found that staff are very empathetic to their clients and understand clearly what they are doing. Some staff have worked with the same clients for over 10-15 years which creates a very positive bond between the client and staff. I see that staff have a full understanding of the routine of their clients and what client ask for. Every time I saw smiles in client's face when staff made conversation with their client or do fun activities. Staff also have regular communication with the client's family members and update them about everything.

Part of my work is to find assistive technologies for non-verbal clients which will give them more freedom regarding communication with their surroundings. It will also generate more quality of life for the people who live with a disability.

For me, the ethical dilemma is there. Are we providing the care and support in the way that they want? Are we taking for granted that we are proving the best possible support for them? The world has progressed a lot since the evolution of technologies. It would be my accomplishment, if I can come up with some assistive technologies which would allow the clients to enjoy more independence and can express their opinion in a more clear way, thus people who are disabled would get a new meaning of their life.

Brenton Wright Awards

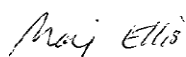
Brenton died tragically about a year ago. At the time, he was the much respected Chair of the Board and in his memory, there will be two awards (\$500 each) presented to two staff each year. The first presentation will be in March next year at an event for staff to celebrate our 30th birthday. The birthday celebration will be an opportunity to honour those before us who set up Leveda, and built the organisation so that it is robust and looking forward to an optimistic future. We think that Brenton would be really 'chuffed' that the inaugural presentation of these awards in his name will be part of the celebration of an important organisational milestone.

New opportunities

- In the New Year, we will have several new initiatives which we hope will be welcomed by staff. They are:
 - The establishment of a Diversity Council.
 - The aim is to 'build an organisational culture that embraces diversity and is welcoming, inclusive and safe for all within our workforce'.
 - There will be a process for people to nominate for positions on the Council. Information about this will be provided before the end of this year.
 - Some focus groups with staff will be established as a way of engaging in discussion about how we can continue to improve Lighthouse Disability as a great place to work. There will be more information about this before the end of the year and we aim to commence these at the beginning of next year.

Accreditation

- We have 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 NDIS 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'.*



Marj Ellis
CEO