

Lighthouse

Family News

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Hot Weather Policy

It is important that you know that we are very aware of the high risks for many of our clients to be exposed to extreme weather conditions as predicted for Monday 14th, Tuesday 15th, Wednesday 16th and Thursday 17th of January. We have clear policies about this and our strong inclination, given the vulnerability of many people, is to have people stay at home under these circumstances. However, it is acknowledged that some clients can manage hot weather, and where this is the case, and families agree, we will support them to continue their usual activity. In short, one rule does not suit all people and we will do our best to ensure the best outcomes for people based on their individual circumstances.

Happy New Year!

This year is shaping up to be a busy time. There are many topics that are important, as listed below.

Information Sessions for Families

The first information session for this year will be on Assistive Technology. This is important because NDIA can fund Assistive Technology if there is an allied health assessment that indicates Assistive Technology will assist a client to realise his/her goals. Different avenues of Assistive Technology need to be explored well before the next NDIA plan is due so that it is possible to make a recommendation for funding, if it is indicated.

Stretchy-Tech is the name of an innovative company that provides Assistive Technology, and **Kristen Kohl has agreed to provide information on Feb 6th from 6.30 to 8.00 p.m. at 101 Park Tce, Salisbury** for interested families.

If you would like to attend, please RSVP (info@lighthousedisability.org.au) by Monday 4th Feb for catering purposes (a light meal will be provided).

Other information sessions are planned about various aspects of NDIA such as Support Coordination. There will also be a session organised in relation to Palliative Care and guardianship options. Dates for these are yet to be confirmed.

Update on NDIA

At the end of last year, nearly all of our clients had received approved NDIA plans. There is now much to be done to implement these effectively which continues to involve learning for us as well as families.

Service Agreement (for Supported Independent Living services)

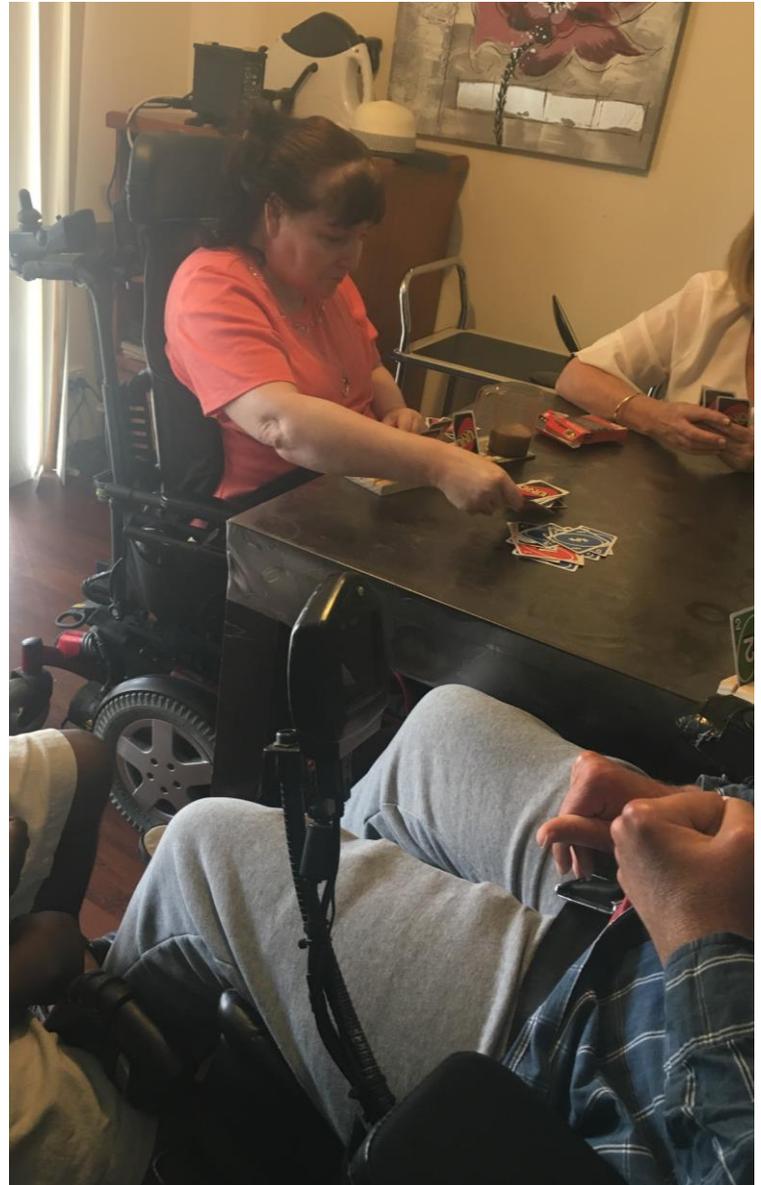
The NDIA recommends that all agencies (e.g. Lighthouse Disability) prepare a Service Agreement with families that outline our mutual roles and responsibilities with regard to the provision of SIL (Supported Independent Living).

Accordingly, we have prepared a Service Agreement which Managers will discuss with each family with the aim that we will have a signed agreement about the services we provide and that clients receive. Apart from anything else, the service agreement outlines what we, as the service provider, are accountable for with regard to the provision of services.

Families will be contacted by Managers very soon in relation to this.

Support Coordination role

We welcome Jenny Munro as our first appointment to the Support Coordination role, and we sincerely thank Di Gursansky for her role in helping us to establish this new program and Pat Netschitowsky for her admin support.



Lesley playing UNO at Salmon Court where she was visited by Gerald from Mundon.

Jenny started work with us on Monday 7th January and will work closely with the families who have chosen Lighthouse Disability to provide Support Coordination services.

The Support Coordination role is new and very important; it is the role of the Support Coordinator to assist families to access, and make the most effective use of the funds allocated in a client's NDIA plan or seek a review if there are not enough funds in the plan. In addition, the Support Coordinator will prepare information about client needs in readiness for the second NDIA plan which is due 12 months after the first plan was put into place.

Where 'in kind' support for a Support Coordinator has been released by the NDIA, the NDIA allocates funds to the client's plan to pay for a certain number of Support Coordination hours – which are variable according to the needs of the client as assessed by NDIA.

In order to formalise the work undertaken by the Support Coordinator, each family will be required to have a Service Agreement with the Support Coordinator. Some families already have a signed agreement and this seems to be working well.

Finalising the EBA

Lighthouse Disability and United Voice have negotiated a proposed EBA and we expect that staff will vote about whether they support it or not, very soon.

New Staff Based at Park Tce

Over recent weeks, we have welcomed a number of new staff and anticipate that there will be an additional 3 people soon. The new appointments are:

Jye Sims- Manager, Service Delivery (responsible for Pauls, Riveau, Rome, Rowe, Salmon, Sophia Way and Spruance houses).

Mike Michaud- Service Delivery Coordinator (working with Sophia Way).

Jenny Munro- Support Coordinator (full time)

Kate Carter- Support Coordinator (1.5 days per week)

Jessica Hartwig- Administration Assistant.

Kylie Deane- Accountant (backfilling Alice Scott's position when she takes accouchement leave).

Micheál Coleman- Project Officer/ Personal Assistant to Steve Denholm.

Other appointments 'in process' are Manager, Service Delivery (due to commence on 21st Jan), Business Support Officer and RN3.

Bianca Priasca has also been appointed to Administration Assistant, Service Delivery.

We are sad that **Karen Polkinghorne** (Manager, Finance) has resigned after five and a half years with us. She has made a major contribution to Lighthouse Disability and especially our transition to NDIA. She will leave us in mid-February. A recruitment process is in place for this position.

Strategies to Manage Growth

The Board has made a commitment that Lighthouse Disability will grow so that we can maintain our position in the market place. Much thought and planning is being directed to this so that we can manage it effectively - including what changes to organisational structure might be needed.

Building Community Awareness of Who We Are and What We Do

We often receive positive feedback about our services and about how we run our business. While we have great pleasure in acknowledging good work in our newsletters and reports to the Board, from the perspective of the public, we are 'quiet achievers'.

Given the importance of developing a business profile (brand awareness), we are thinking carefully about how we can involve other key people in some of what we do as a means of promoting awareness of Lighthouse Disability. We will announce some key events in the near future.



Marj Ellis

CEO