

Lighthouse

Family News

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COVID-19

You will have received a letter from me recently about our concern about the next wave of COVID-19 and how we are managing it. Further to the information in my letter, we now understand that there is an agreement with SA Health that any client with an infection will be hospitalized.

Disability Royal Commission (DRC)

The Disability Royal Commission has modified its program because of the limitations re public contact arising from COVID-19. However, it is working hard behind the scenes. Some effort has been directed to preparing discussion papers which are intended to invite comments from people who live with disability.

If you are interested in accessing more information about the Disability Royal Commission, please do not hesitate to refer to our [website](#).

Annual General Meeting

This is forward notice of the next Annual General Meeting which will be held on Friday, 23rd October at Sferas (Reservoir Rd., Modbury) commencing at 7.00 pm.

Client and Family Engagement Framework

We have engaged Dana Shen (Consultant) to assist us develop a framework which will create a range of different ways in which clients and families can engage with us. It is anticipated that work on this will start this month. Information will be provided about this as progress is made.

Client Photos



NDIA

The NDIA has flagged that the process for scheduled plan reviews for our clients will be changing (if they haven't already). What will happen now is that the NDIA will make a 'check in' phone call to nominees to see if you are happy with the current plan or whether changes need to be made to any part of it. It is intended that the NDIA will make a phone call about one month before the expiry date of the plan.

You have the right to ask the NDIA person who phones you, to refer to your Support Coordinator if you are not sure of what changes to the plan are needed.

We urge you to talk to your Support Coordinator or Manager about this, because many of our clients do need changes to the plan for a wide range of reasons which may include:

- Changes to disability needs
- Change in care or support including a change in the roster
- Changes to living arrangements
- Changes to day options, or
- Changes to needs for allied health services.

If you indicate to the NDIA that the current plan is O.K, the only way in which additional funds can be sought is to seek a 'change of circumstances', and this can take months. If there are not adequate funds in the plan, then it will not be possible to provide the services that are needed.

Staff Updates

Under block funding, which was our source of funding until NDIS fee for service payments commenced in June 2018, Lighthouse Disability has had limited funding (as did all disability providers) to appoint much needed staff. We are now in a financial position to recruit additional staff who will assist us to build the quality of what do. Staff changes are as follows:

- Kerrie O'Dwyer commenced with us as a Manager, Service Delivery on 20th July (selection processes continue for this role)
- Kerry Presser resigned to work closer to home
- Kate Carter (Support Coordinator) has resigned to return to her substantive employment
- Lauren Hunter (Support Coordinator) resigned to take up an exciting new appointment.

Recruitment processes are in place for the following positions:

- An Assistant General Manager position has been advertised for a tenure of 12 months
- A position for the General Manager Finance has been advertised
- Support Coordinator
- Principal Support Coordinator

The addition of these staff also means that it is timely to review the current Park Terrace accommodation for support staff. There are several concerns about our current office accommodation:

- It is not designed to take account of the needs of people living with disability
- Much of the building does not have access to natural light, and
- With the addition of new staff, there is not adequate space.

Therefore, we are in the process of assessing what our future needs are likely to be with the intention of finding more suitable accommodation.

Safeguarding Task Force

This Task Force was established by the SA Government following the discovery of the circumstances in which Anne-Marie Smith died. The purpose of the Task Force is to ‘... examine the current gaps in oversight and safeguarding for people living with disability in South Australia’. The Task Force has encouraged submissions and at the last Family Advisory Committee meeting, a number of gaps concerning safeguarding were identified along with some other problems concerning the administration of the NDIA. The safeguarding gaps have been forwarded to the Task Force for consideration while the other issues will be forwarded to the NDIA for consideration.

Marj Ellis
CEO