

Lighthouse

# Family News

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## COVID-19

South Australia has continued to avoid substantial numbers of new infections for many weeks now. Restrictions concerning physical distancing are being relaxed and gradually clients are resuming 'normal' activities such as day programs and supported employment. It is noted that some businesses are taking a little time to build their capacity to cater for full numbers of clients.

Some staff and clients continue to be referred for testing for COVID-19 infections - which to date have all been negative. However, we are developing plans about how we will manage should there be a 'spike' which results in either a client or staff member with a COVID-19 infection.

We are most appreciative of the efforts of our front line staff and Edmen staff to both comply with the prevention strategies, and engage/support clients so that they enjoy different activities while they are unable to follow their normal routines.

## Annual General Meeting

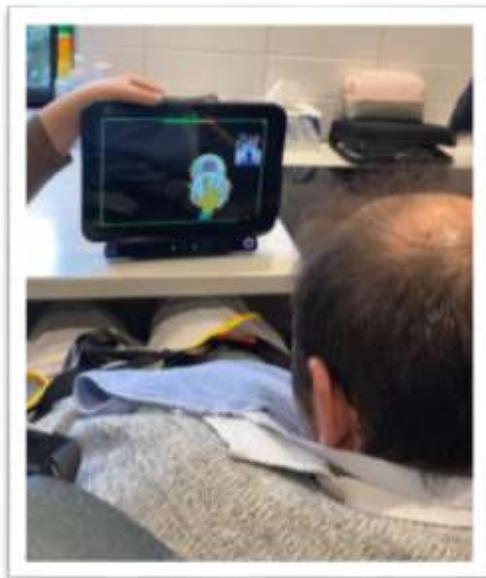
This is forward notice of the next Annual General Meeting which will be held on Friday, 23<sup>rd</sup> October at Sferas (Reservoir Rd., Modbury) commencing at 7.00 p.m.

## 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 in August, and information will be provided as progress is made.

## Client Outcomes

We are very excited about some of the opportunities that our clients now have access to via NDIS funding. For example, one person who has not been able to communicate until recently, is now able to use Assistive Technology and a program called “Eye Gaze” which allows him to control a mouse using his right eye. Other assessments and referrals to allied health services are enabling improvements in health status for many clients.



## Updates

Under block funding, which was our source of funding until NDIS fee for service payments commenced in June 2018, Lighthouse Disability 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 we do. This is another important part of our evolution to operate as a business in a competitive environment.

It also means that it is timely to review the current Park Tce accommodation for support staff. There are several concerns about this building;

- 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.

We are sorry that Kerry Presser (Manager Service Delivery) has tendered her resignation to work closer to home for family reasons.

We welcome Peter Hall who commenced work with us as a new Manager Service Delivery on the 6<sup>th</sup> April 2020. Peter is responsible for the Mayfield, Mundon and Payneham Services.

Kate Carter (Support Coordinator) has resigned and she finished with us at the end of June to return to her substantive employment at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. We thank Kate for her contributions to the clients and families with which she worked.

The recruitment process to appoint to Manager Service Delivery positions to fully implement the new service delivery model is continuing. Unfortunately, the period of COVID-19, slowed our capacity to recruit people to new positions.

## Client Photos



*Danielle helped cook dinner; Jesse and Cyril enjoyed the B Boppa Loo Loos dance party at home; Nico celebrated his 27<sup>th</sup> birthday with a surprise party organised by housemates Ryan, Trisha and Amanda; and Matt tended to his garden.*

## Disability Royal Commission

Having referred to the change of pace concerning many activities above because of COVID-19, the Disability Royal Commission also changed priorities during this period. However, as restrictions are lifting, the Disability Royal Commission is now gearing up for more public contact.

You can register for a private session by clicking on the following link:

<https://disability.royalcommission.gov.au/shre-your-story/apply-private-session>

**Marj Ellis**  
CEO