

Lighthouse

Family News

14 September 2020

Issue No. 87

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We are continuing to explore how we can protect clients and staff should either become infected. This is considered important as we witness (from afar) the very challenging times experienced by aged care services and some disability providers interstate. We hope that SA will continue to remain relatively unaffected, but we are very aware that it is possible for circumstances to change very quickly, and we need to be prepared for this. One of the high risks at present is that a degree of complacency will diminish our alertness to the issues.

A number of 24/7 providers are working with the Dept of Human Services to explore how teams of emergency staff can be organised should there be staff shortages because of staff either being infected or having to self-isolate. We will volunteer to test the proposed systems so that we can gain some important experience. Information will be provided about further developments.

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Friday 23rd October at Sfera's (191 Reservoir Rd, Modbury). An agenda and associated papers will be forwarded to Members at the end of September.

Client and Family Engagement Framework

The first steps to develop a framework will commence with a meeting with Dana Shen (consultant) and staff on 24th September. This will be an exciting process where staff and families will co-design what a framework might look like and we look forward to exploring different ways in which clients and families might like to be better connected with Lighthouse Disability.

Client Photos



Jenny went to visit her dad Craig on Father's day; Simon had a coffee after doing his grocery shopping; Matt picked some healthy snacks during his weekly shop, and Stephen enjoyed a day out at the Stockade Botanical Gardens.

NDIA changes to SIL quote processes

It has been announced recently that the NDIA has developed a different way to manage SIL (now Roster of Care ROC) quotes. Pat Netschitowsky (who many of you will know) or your Manager will contact you to discuss this with you, and suggest some ways in which we can assist you to seek the best possible funding plan for your family member.

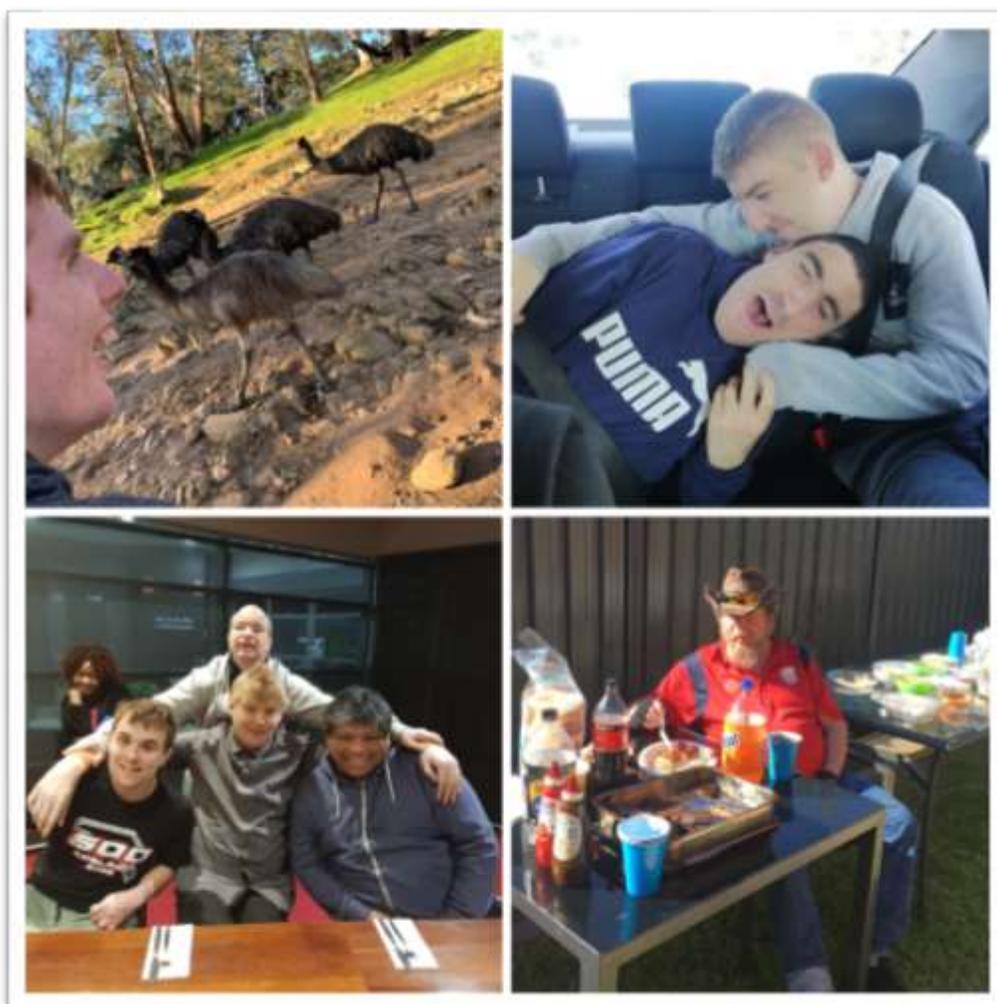
In the meantime, as per my letter sent to you on the 2nd September 2020, please be aware that the NDIA may contact you about whether you want to roll over your existing plan. I strongly urge you to speak to your Manager or Support Coordinator about this before you respond, so that you are aware whether it is in the interests of your family member to make changes to either your funding plan for services or Roster of Care.

New Chief Executive Officer

You will have received information that Michelle Holian has been appointed as the new CEO for Lighthouse Disability. She has lived experience of disability and has worked for Yooralla (Victoria) and Bedford (Adelaide). She has already spent some time with us, and will commence employment with Lighthouse Disability on 6th October. She is looking forward to meeting clients and families – and expects to spend some time listening and learning about what we do and how we do it. Michelle and I will have a detailed handover from 6th October to 23rd October which will be my last day at Lighthouse Disability.

I will leave being very proud of the seven years that I have been CEO of this wonderful organisation, and all that we have achieved together. I believe that Lighthouse Disability is well poised to continue to be recognised as a business committed to good outcomes for our clients, where staff retention is better than industry average and that our efforts to build a great organisational culture is resulting in clients being 'safe, happy and living life well'. This is of course, a work in progress and something that will continue to evolve.

Client Photos



Brett had a fun afternoon at the Humbug Scrub Wildlife Park; Ryan and Nico mucked around while going for a drive in the car; MC celebrated his birthday with Chris, David and Phil; and Greg enjoyed a picnic in the sunshine.

Staff Updates

Today (Monday 14th September), we welcomed Ray Johnston to his appointment with Lighthouse Disability as the 7th Manager Service Delivery. He has significant experience in the field of education and more recently in the human services sector with a variety of agencies such as Anglicare and Life Without Barriers. Most recently Ray worked in Business Support, NDIS where he gained experience and knowledge in the areas of SIL and SDA. Ray will be assigned services in the next day or two as he becomes familiar with his surrounding and systems.

With Ray's appointment, we now need one more Manager to complete the basic implementation of the model – which has been slow because in the context of COVID-19, many people have not wanted to add to an existing level of uncertainty by changing jobs.

Submissions to NDIS

The NDIS has invited responses to two discussion papers (one on Support Coordination and the other the NDIS Price Guide). We have already responded to the paper on Support Coordination, and will comment on the Price Guide by the end of this week. In addition, we will make formal comments on the South Australian Safeguarding Task Force Report which was submitted to the Minister on 31st July with an invitation for comment on the recommendations.

Support Coordination Service

Following the resignations of two staff, we are about to finalise a selection process for new Support Coordinators. Tina Sharkie is now in the role of Principal Support Coordinator. As such, she will provide leadership to the Support Coordinator Team and provide supervision and support to team members.

Marj Ellis
CEO