

Lighthouse

Family News

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Update: COVID-19

Testing for COVID-19 infection

Over the past week or so, we have all had a heightened awareness of the continued need to get a COVID-19 test, even with the mildest of symptoms.

As well, thousands of people who are not symptomatic have had tests.

These are the people who:

- have had close contact with a positive case, or
- have had contact with a close contact of a positive case.

It is important to understand that there are different reasons why COVID-19 testing occurs and different strategies instructed by SA Health, even when negative test results are obtained. These are all critical steps to try to control a cluster of cases and stop the spread of infection.

Above all, it is absolutely critical that the advice and instructions provided by SA Health are followed at all times.

What to do when you've had a COVID-19 test?

After you've had a COVID-19 test you should go straight home and self-isolate while waiting for the test result (which should usually be within 2 days).

While waiting for the test result:

- Do not go out in public – this includes work, school or childcare, the supermarket, or any other place
- Maintain good hand hygiene and cough/sneeze etiquette
- Avoid close contact with others, including members of your household

Please note that any family member/guardian/friend of a client who has had a COVID-19 test and is waiting for the test result should not be visiting the client during this time.

What to do when you get the test result?

People who receive a positive test result for COVID-19 infection will be contacted by the Communicable Diseases Control Branch (CDCB) in SA Health and the GP Risk Assessment Team around steps to take. It is important that their directions are followed.

Negative test results will usually be provided by SMS (text message).

Any medical advice that is provided at this time should be followed, for example if a 14 day quarantine needs to be completed despite the negative test result and when a follow-up test needs to occur.

PPE – Face Masks

Although restrictions across South Australia have been eased, the Parafield cluster has reminded us all that we need to continue to be extremely vigilant about COVID-19 measures at work and in our private lives. Please be aware that we currently require that workers continue to wear face masks at all times when attending work.

Update: Cancellation of Christmas Breakfast

Due to the recent COVID outbreak and the Government restrictions to keep us all safe, it is with regret that we have made the decision to cancel the Christmas Breakfast on the 6th December 2020.

The number of Lighthouse clients and staff alone exceed the limit required for any venue. The alternative is to for celebrations to be held in the individual houses, as long as the number of attendees (including those who live in the house) is capped at 10 people.

Government COVID Restrictions:

How everyone is affected:

*New density requirements are in place. The total number of people at a place must not exceed **1 person per 4 square metres**. Physical distancing, or social distancing principles apply. Every person should attempt to stay at least 1.5 metres from other members of the public. This does not apply to people who live together, who are friends or family members, or people who regularly associate with each other.*

Gatherings

All gatherings must observe the new maximum density requirements. Gatherings at private residences are capped at 10 people, regardless of age (unless more than 10 people permanently live there). Private gatherings other than at a residence are capped at 50. Density requirements must be observed.

Some of you have already made plans to celebrate, however if others require ideas, decorations or assistance, please do not hesitate to contact Diane Ashford on 8256 9800. Please don't forget to take photos to share.

On a brighter note, we will endeavour to hold a gathering for clients and their families in the near future.

Update: Client and Family Engagement

Lighthouse Disability is committed to improving how we engage with clients and families so we can better understand and meet the needs of our clients.

We want to work with clients, families and our staff to co-design a new approach to engaging with clients and families and have established a project which will be led by an external consultant, Dana Shen.

Our next step is to start co-designing with clients in the first instance. Dana will be meeting with clients and staff to understand how clients define what makes them happy and healthy and how they would like communication to work between clients and staff.

We will be seeking groups of 5-6 clients who would like to participate in a workshop in December 2020 and early 2021 to contribute to this exciting initiative. We will use the feedback to improve communication and engagement across the organisation and will continue to keep you updated as this project progresses.

A client and Family Engagement Reference Group has been established, with the first meeting held on the 3rd November, and the next meeting planned for the 18th December.

Staff News

The second annual Brenton Wright Awards Luncheon was held on Friday 2nd October at and was attended by the nominees, the winners and their respective partners. Awards to the five finalists and three winners were presented by Pam Simmons (Brenton's partner) and Richard Bruggemann, who was responsible for the establishment of Lighthouse Disability. Information on the finalists and winners is listed below:

Finalists:

Kathleen Anderson is a Health and Safety Representative who supports and passes on her knowledge to all team members. Of particular note, during COVID-19 Kathy worked to ensure a client could continue to visit his mother (in residential care), by supporting the client to speak to his mother on a mobile phone while standing at her window.

Pat Netschitowsky has a strong value base and has made many varied contributions to Lighthouse Disability. Pat is 'patience personified' and is a team player with her ability to anticipate outcomes and provide support. She has been a cornerstone in the success achieved by Support Coordination.

Cyril Paul takes pride in his collaboration with other team members and the innovative ideas he brings to the service, such as involving client participation in the weekly grocery shop, which includes preparing a shopping list and visiting supermarkets with staff. Cyril loves to help clients play musical instruments bringing a wonderful, joyful ambience to the house.

Joanne Pratt is the ultimate quiet achiever, who works with dedication to provide quality customer service to Plan Management clients. Joanne has taken an increased workload this in her stride using her great customer service skills to provide information to families, clients and support coordinators.

Virender Singh Virk easily gets along with all team members and has the ability to compromise, show respect to others and listen to the needs of clients and team members. He creates an environment where clients can make decisions, and shows commitment to the Service being a 'home away from home' for clients.

Winners

Karen Munayco strongly believes in an active, client-focused team. She encourages clients to focus on problem solving and to make their own decisions. Karen's communication is exceptional and includes the use of sign language understood by the non-verbal client.

Kylie Swyghuizen has fantastic planning skills and has developed a transportation plan for a client wanting to be independent, and transportation, medical and emergency plans for a client who recently got a job. Kylie has unique engagement skills and encourages choice and control which results in clients demonstrating a sense of excitement and pride.

Inge Van Rens consistently demonstrates a positive attitude in her approach to work and provides a high level of customer service to the broader workforce. She applies herself diligently to all tasks that are designated to her, holds high standards and is responsive to many competing demands.



Support Coordination

There are some staffing changes happening in Support Coordination with Tina Sharkie, Principal Support Coordinator leaving in November and Christina Veprek leaving in December.

Amanda Patterson, General Manager People and Culture, is recruiting to these roles and is meeting individually with Support Coordination team members to support a planned transition for clients and families. If you experience any issues or have concerns regarding your support coordination provided by Lighthouse Disability, please contact Amanda Patterson on 8256 9800.

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting was held on Friday 23rd October 2020. Of particular note, Levi Mitchell and Anna Nolan were each formally appointed as Directors for three year terms. This means that the current Directors of the Board are Sarah Scammell, Lea Stevens, Matthew King, Jani Baker, Wayne Gibbings, Anna Nolan, Levi Mitchell and Tim Jackson. At the Board meeting which followed on 2 November 2020, Tim Jackson was reappointed as Chair of the Board, and Lea Stevens was reappointed as Deputy Chair.

Tim Jackson, as Chair of the Board, reported the 2019–20 year was notable for many service delivery achievements at a particularly daunting time, and the period in which the organisation celebrated its 30th year of operations.

The Chair highlighted the impact of the COVID-19 global pandemic and the incredible way front-line staff, along with Lighthouse Disability, responded to the challenges this presents.

Matthew King, as Chair of the Finance Committee, reported the year ending 30 June 2020 resulted in a surplus of \$4.1 million (compared with \$3.4 million in 2018/19) with operating revenue increasing from \$25 million to \$30 million. This placed Lighthouse Disability in a strong financial position with increased capacity to invest in quality services.

There was a proposal that Directors be remunerated for their service, which requires Members to approve a pool of funds. Under the Constitution, this requires at least 75% of the total votes cast to be in favour. However, this was not reached at the AGM which means this motion did not pass.

Michelle Holian was officially welcomed at the incoming CEO, and Marj Ellis was thanked for her service, and was presented with Life Membership of Lighthouse Disability

Annual Report

The 2019/20 Annual Report has been released. You can find a copy on our website (<https://www.lighthousedisability.org.au/who-we-are/annual-reports>).

Michelle Holian
CEO

