

Lighthouse

Family News

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South Australian COVID-19 Vaccination Program

Last week, the Department of Human Services hosted a Zoom forum for sector CEOs in which they updated their progress with preparations for roll-out of the COVID-19 vaccination program in SA.

Key points from the forum were:

- Vaccinations will NOT be mandatory
- Phase 1a is anticipated to commence from Monday 22 February 2021 – prioritisation within phase 1a will occur with the initial roll-out of vaccines to quarantine and border workers and frontline health care workers, then followed by aged care and disability staff and residents
- A consent form has been developed by SA Health that will be available across sectors soon and will allow for pre-consents to be obtained, particularly where this involves guardianship

Attached with this newsletter are the following information sheets:

- ***COVID-19 easy read fact sheet***
- ***What is it? Is it safe?***
- ***Who will get the vaccine?***
- ***Where can you get the vaccine?***
- ***Getting ready for the vaccination***
- ***What to expect when you have your vaccination***
- ***Giving your consent***
- ***After your vaccination***

We will continue to keep you updated with information as further details about when and where clients will receive their vaccinations (if wanted), as we do not have these details at present.

Independent Assessment Pilot and NDIS Reforms

We have recently received advice from NDIS that they may be directly in contact with some of our clients to seek their involvement in a pilot for independent assessments. The information received from NDIS is below:

Independent assessment pilot

Some of your NDIS participants may be asked to join an independent assessment pilot. This is to make sure we are capturing the right information to help implement independent assessments. We are sending emails and letters to selected participants inviting them to take part in the pilot. The assessment will take about 3 hours and pilot participants will receive \$150 as payment for their time.

The results of assessments done as part of the pilot do not affect a participant's current plan and will not be used at a participant's next plan review, unless they choose to use it.

Why should participants volunteer for the pilot?

We know independent assessments are a big change for participants, their families and carers. That's why we've started to talk about them now, to make sure everyone is prepared for independent assessments to start later this year.

We will ask participants taking part in the pilot questions about their experience with independent assessments that will help us get this important change right for all NDIS participants when we commence rollout this year.

In line with the updated Participant Engagement Payment Policy, participants taking part in the second independent assessment pilot will be eligible for a reimbursement payment. The reimbursement will be made at a one-off flat rate of \$150 per participant after they have completed an independent assessment.

The Participant Engagement Payment Policy allows us to pay NDIS participants, people with disability, their families and carers, who give up their time to provide input to our improvement projects.

We are paying participants for contributing their time attending an assessment. After they have completed their independent assessment, participants are also invited to give feedback about their experience. Participants will be able to tell us what worked well in the pilot and what could have been better.

The involvement of participants is important, as this will help ensure the second pilot provides robust data to inform independent assessments in the future.

Reimbursing participants, their families and carers for contributing their time and feedback to NDIS improvement projects is not new. We continue to be committed to ensuring participants, their families and carers can have their say to shape how independent assessments will work.

Participants who have already participated in the second independent assessment pilot, which commenced in October 2020, will also be eligible for the one-off reimbursement.

Participants who take part in the pilot will receive their independent assessment results. We know from the first pilot that participants found this information useful in subsequent planning and when choosing the supports they need.

Key facts for participants

- We've restarted our second independent assessment pilot.
- We're inviting 4,000 NDIS participants to do an independent assessment in this pilot.

- If you receive a letter or email from us, you can volunteer to do a free independent assessment.
- We'll use the data we collect from assessments in this pilot to help us implement independent assessments later this year.

We're improving how people access and use the NDIS by introducing independent assessments.

This pilot is helping us gather additional feedback from participants, their families and carers, as well as assessors, to ensure independent assessments can be tailored to meet the needs of the Scheme's diverse participants.

To help us prepare for the introduction of independent assessments, we're asking 4,000 NDIS participants to do a free independent assessment.

This is the second time we've done a pilot on independent assessments. We'll use the data and information we collect in this pilot to make sure the way we build NDIS plans is based on evidence, done in an equitable and consistent way, and provides participants with the supports they need.

We also want to understand the experiences of different types of participants, like people with complex and psychosocial disabilities, and participants who are of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander or culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

We have split NDIS participants into groups based on age, disability and functional capacity. Then, we randomly selected participants from these groups and sent them an invitation to join the pilot.

We have identified participants in this way to make sure the people involved in the pilot represent our entire NDIS population of 400,000 participants.

If you've received a letter or email from us asking if you'd like to do an independent assessment, you've been randomly selected through this process.

Only participants invited to join the pilot can do an independent assessment.

Joining this pilot and doing an independent assessment is not mandatory. You'll need to tell us if you'd like to be involved and provide your consent.

You can also tell us if you'd like more information.

We've asked APM, Plena Healthcare and HealthStrong to do the independent assessments for this pilot.

For more information about the pilot visit the [NDIS website](#):

- [Key facts for participants](#)
 - [Before the assessment](#)
 - [My independent assessment](#)
 - [The assessors](#)
 - [After the assessment](#)

If you or your participants have more questions or concerns about the pilot please email assessments@ndis.gov.au or phone the NDIS Contact Centre on 1800 800 110.

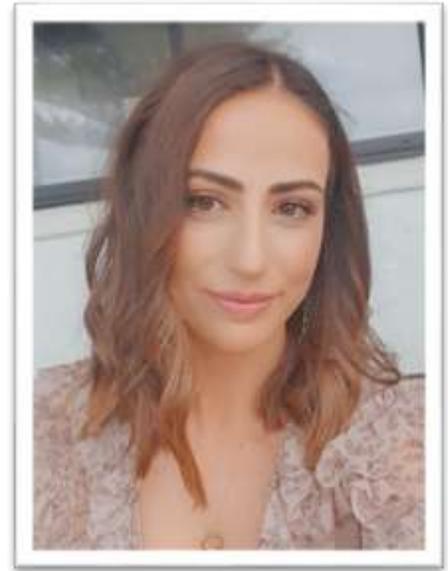
Staff Profile – Jordan Watling

Jordan Watling is Lighthouse Disability's newest Support Coordinator and has been working with us for four weeks.

Jordan has a Bachelor of Psychology and a Masters of Social Work.

In her role, Jordan supports participants and their nominees to understand and implement their NDIS plans. Jordan has been enjoying meeting participants and their networks and appreciates helping people to achieve their goals.

In her spare time, Jordan has two dogs and she enjoys spending her weekends outdoors camping, hiking and exploring new places.



Michelle Holian
CEO



You are invited to the monthly Lighthouse Disability disco for 2021!

Greenwith Community Centre

Corner Golden Way & Golden Grove Road | Greenwith

7pm to 9:30pm | Admission \$6 (support workers/carers free)

*The disco is the first Friday of each month with a door prize and lots of fun.
Drinks and chips are for sale.*

Please note: Lighthouse Clients and their support only

THEME	DATE	THEME	DATE
Summer Fun	5 th February	Movie Heroes	6 th August
Country & Western	5 th March	Football	3 rd September
Easter	9 th April	Pirates & Wenches	1 st October
Animal Fun	7 th May	Halloween	5 th November
Rock & Roll Night	4 th June	Christmas Disco	3 rd December
Winter PJ Party	2 nd July		

Contact: info@lighthousedisability.org.au

Phone: (08) 8256 9800



LIGHTHOUSE DISABILITY



Lighthouse Disability



Annual Picnic

Sunday 14th March 2021

Where: Dunstone Grove Reserve,
Stepney enter from
Nelson road

Time: 11:00am till 2pm

Bring: Picnic, sunglasses, hat,
sunscreen, chair etc.

RSVP: rsvp@lighthouse-disability.org.au
or Phone Reception 8256 9800

*Live Music,
Giant Games &
Fresh Coffee*



The Lions Club of
Tea Tree Gully are
generously, providing a
Sausage Sizzle