

Lighthouse

# Family News

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## Message from the CEO

I'm writing to let you know that Rachel Emmott, General Manager, Client Wellbeing and Dan Pak, Manager, People, Culture and Communications are both choosing to leave Lighthouse Disability. Both managers have made significant contributions in their short time with Lighthouse Disability and they have the support of the CEO and the Board.

Rachel's last day will be 17 September 2021 and Dan's last day will be 3 September 2021.

We will move quickly to fill the General Manager, Client Wellbeing role to provide continuity for our clients, family and staff. The role will be advertised very shortly. An interim manager will be sought to support the People and Culture function in the short term.

While Rachel and Dan are choosing to leave for different reasons, we will use their feedback to help understand how we can make leadership more sustainable into the future.

Changes can be difficult, and this is a further change in what has already been a big year for Lighthouse Disability clients, families and staff. If you would like support at this time, you are able to access confidential professional counselling via Access EAP on 1300 667 700.

I would like to thank Rachel and Dan for their contribution to Lighthouse Disability and wish them well in their future careers. We will all work collaboratively to support staff, clients and families with the transition over the coming weeks.

In response to ongoing feedback to Lighthouse Disability about gaps in service delivery since the removal of house supervisors several years ago, the Senior Leadership Team has been exploring how we can build a leadership at a service level.

To progress this, I have asked Rachel will to lead consultation with families, clients and staff over the coming weeks to discuss how we can introduce Practice Lead roles at services. We invite families to participate in a workshop on Practice Leadership at Lighthouse Disability on Wednesday 1 September at 6pm at Park Terrace. For more information or to RSVP (Essential for covid numbers/catering purposes) please contact Rachel on [rachel@lighthousedisability.org.au](mailto:rachel@lighthousedisability.org.au).

I will keep you updated as soon as new organisational leadership arrangements are in place. In the meantime, you are welcome to contact me directly by email on [michelleh@lighthousedisability.org.au](mailto:michelleh@lighthousedisability.org.au) or 0427 676 102.

Yours sincerely,  
Michelle Holian

## Update on COVID-19 response and vaccination roll-out

Lighthouse Disability continues to implement actions as required by Australian and State Government directions in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic response. Most recently this has been the response to the South Australian 7 day lockdown in July 2021 and continued delivery of phase 1a of the vaccination.

During the course of the COVID-19 pandemic, the organisation has continuously monitored and reviewed its systems and processes to maintain compliance with government directions and to implement measures for the safety and well-being of clients, workers and the broader Lighthouse Disability community.

A seven-day lockdown in response to Covid-19 outbreak was implemented from 6pm on Tuesday 20 July to midnight Tuesday 27 July 2021. Lighthouse Disability activated the Incident Management Team to coordinate communication and response to the lockdown. I thank all clients, families and staff members for their co-operation with the restrictions that were required during the lockdown period.

From Wednesday 28 July 2021, Level 3 restrictions have been in place. Consistent with current SA Health advice, mandatory mask wearing is required at all times in disability services as high-risk settings. Masks have also been worn in shared areas in Park Terrace given SA Health's strong recommendation that they be work in shared office environments.

To date there have been no reports of COVID-19 positive clients or staff at Lighthouse Disability.

### Vaccination Program

On 18 January 2021, SA Health conducted a forum about the roll-out of the South Australian COVID-19 vaccination program which is part of the national COVID-19 vaccination program. Commonwealth and State Government roles and responsibilities were discussed in relation to the program, which will use a phased approach to implementation. At that time, it was anticipated that vaccinations would commence with priority populations in mid-late February 2021. In response to this, Lighthouse Disability commenced education regarding consent for clients to the proposed vaccination program and by 12 March 2021 we provided relevant data to Healthdirect Australia about Lighthouse Disability clients, including preference for in-reach or attendance at a vaccination hub (based on the guidelines provided at that time).

On 18 May 2021, Lighthouse received notification from Aspen Medical, the Federal Government's contracted provider, about the intention to commence phase 1a in-reach vaccination from week beginning 25 May 2021. Staff quickly responded to the requirements for the in-reach vaccinations to occur, including cross checking client data and consent, staff communication, communication with families and rostering of support staff.

Many clients who have consented to vaccination have already received 2 doses of vaccine either through in-reach services provided by Aspen or through their own GP. Others have received one dose with a second dose scheduled. Progress with vaccination is actively monitored and reported to Board.

While vaccination is not mandated for disability support workers in the same way as for aged care workers, Lighthouse Disability is actively promoting benefits of vaccination and vaccination hub locations to Lighthouse Disability staff. Letters evidencing staff members' eligibility for vaccination as a disability services worker have been distributed to staff on two occasions to facilitate evidence of their eligibility for vaccination regardless of age.

We will continue to actively monitor SA Health advice and respond quickly to available health information to keep our clients, families and staff safe.

## Forum: "Measures to safeguard people with disabilities through Family Trust arrangements"

David Caudrey from the Office of the Public Advocate has contacted Lighthouse Disability with the aim of convening a forum with families and representatives to discuss the new study he has been asked to undertake by Minister Lensink about '**Measures to safeguard people with disabilities through Family Trust arrangements**'.

In summary this study will:

1. Explore how parents can best make provision so that, when they are no longer able to offer support, their son or daughter with a disability will continue to have someone to look out for them and care that they are OK.
2. Explore forms of trust arrangement which could be offered by a non-government organisation or by trusted individuals.
3. Consider safeguards against exploitation of a vulnerable person with a disability to promote respect for supported decision-making and individual autonomy.
4. Produce a discussion paper for the Minister by 30 September 2021, based on analysis of past research and initiatives, and using advice from individuals with knowledge in this area.
5. Circulate the discussion paper and consult the wider community.
6. Prepare a final report for the Minister by 15 December 2021.

The Family Trust Terms of Reference are attached along with this newsletter.

We are hoping to convene a forum in September at a date to be set. To register your interest, please contact Jess Hargreaves ([jess@lighthousedisability.org.au](mailto:jess@lighthousedisability.org.au) / 8256 9825) by **COB Friday 20 August 2021**.

## Opportunity for Lighthouse Disability clients to connect with NDIA as part of Home and Living Consultation

The NDIA is developing a new Home and Living policy that will inform the way they support NDIS participants to pursue their home and living goals.

NDIA wants to hear from participants living in a variety of living situations to find out more about their goals and preferences around:

- Where they live - a housing option tailored to my goals, preferences and needs
- Who they live with - alone or with my friends, partner, family, or chosen others
- Who helps them - informal supports, funded NDIS supports and other supports
- The things they use - the use of disability-related technology, assistive technology and modifications
- How they want to live their lives - day-to-day routine, socialising, work.

To inform these conversations, they have developed a Home and Living consultation paper and animation in close collaboration with a broad range of participants and stakeholders:

You can find a copy of the *Home and Living Consultation – An ordinary life at home* paper [here](#).

NDIA has contacted Lighthouse Disability on 11 August seeking to connect with 4 or 5 interested participants with their parents, guardians or carers to consult on the Home and Living consultation paper.

They are hoping to make a time in the next couple of weeks with interested people so they can collect feedback as part of the consultation process which ends on 27 August 2021. The discussion can be face to face or online via MS Teams.

If you and your family member are interested, please contact Jess Hargreaves ([jess@lighthousedisability.org.au](mailto:jess@lighthousedisability.org.au) / 8256 9825) by **COB Wednesday 18 August 2021** and we will liaise with NDIA to set up a mutually suitable time for the consultation discussion.

If you are not interested in participating in the consultation forum but do want to have a say, there is an opportunity to complete an online survey which you can find following the link to the NDIA website provided above.

**Michelle Holian**  
CEO