

Lighthouse

# Family News

25 May 2021

Issue No. 98

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## Update about COVID-19 vaccinations for Lighthouse Disability clients

Here at Lighthouse Disability we have been carefully monitoring COVID-19 disability provider alerts from both the Australian Department of Health and SA Health, and responding to any relevant directions.

Last week we received our initial contact from Aspen Medical who are vaccinating people with disability eligible under phase 1a and living in residential accommodation housing with two or more people.

Since then, the rollout of COVID-19 vaccines has continued to ramp up, with Aspen Medical teams delivering the first doses of vaccine to a number of clients at several Lighthouse Disability services today (25 May 2021).

We have agreed to further vaccination dates coordinated by Aspen Medical for first and second doses of COVID-19 vaccine, for clients receiving their two doses of vaccine at home.

We are communicating this with families as we go.

Any clients who wish to can also seek a COVID-19 vaccine through:

- Their GP
- \*\*Through SA Health COVID-19 vaccination clinics available to the public

\*\*We note that this option may not be appropriate for some of the clients we support. Any decisions about this option will first be discussed with clients/families/guardians and MSDs.

We will keep you updated with new information as soon as it becomes available.

If you have any questions, please talk with your MSD.

## COVID-19 vaccinations for the Lighthouse Disability workforce, including volunteers

Over the past weeks we have been monitoring changes in relation to eligibility to receive a COVID-19 vaccine.

We now know that ALL of our workforce and volunteers are eligible to get vaccinated against COVID-19.

We are strongly encouraging staff to get vaccinated, however COVID-19 vaccination is not mandatory.

Our correspondence to staff has included options about where vaccines are available and how to book an appointment.

Information about eligibility is available via the Department of Health's COVID-19 Vaccine Eligibility Checker on their website.

Here is the link:

<https://www.health.gov.au/resources/apps-and-tools/covid-19-vaccine-eligibility-checker>

## Influenza (flu) vaccinations for clients and staff

As with previous years, we are also strongly encouraging clients and staff to have the flu vaccine.

Where consent has been provided, MSDs are making arrangements with clients to receive the flu vaccine.

At Park Tce we have conducted two free flu vaccination clinics for staff.

We are also offering up to \$20 reimbursement for any staff that have a flu vaccine elsewhere, as well as free vaccines through Corporate Health Group medical centres, to encourage staff uptake of the vaccine.

## Disability Royal Commission

The Royal Commission turns its attention to preventing and responding to violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation in disability services with a public hearing in Sydney commencing on Monday 24 May 2021 and a public hearing in Adelaide commencing on Monday 7 June 2021.

The public hearing in Sydney will consider a case study - the experiences of 3 people residing at 1 house over a four year period and receiving services from the 1 service provider (Sunnyfield in Western Sydney) including:

- how their NDIS-funded services and supports were provided
- how their agreements for accommodation and support services from their service provider operated
- how their service provider communicated with and provided information to their families
- how their service provider responded when incidents occurred or complaints were made

The Royal Commission will be examining:

- Sunnyfield's policies, systems and operations
- the external oversight of disability services, from the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission and others, to prevent violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation and to respond when complaints or allegations are made

We are yet to hear the details about how the Royal Commission will approach the public hearing in Adelaide commencing on Monday 7 June.

### Employee Assistance Program

Regardless of the evidence presented at these public hearings, we know they will place a focus on violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation of people with disability in services and supports.

Sometimes this can be distressing to hear about. Remember that Lighthouse Disability's Employee Assistance Program is available at any time if you need emotional support, see [here](#).

### Assistance for Clients and Families

The Royal Commission provide a lot of information and resources in easy read and info-graphic format, in multiple languages, and Auslan videos; plus translation, interpretation and national relay services for people with disability. Free counselling, legal and advocacy services are available independent of the Royal Commission and independent of Community Living Australia. See resources for our clients and their families: Advocacy ([DACSSA](#), [DRAS](#), or [DDAI](#)), [Counselling](#), and [Legal](#).

### Important things for you to remember

Lighthouse Disability:

- fully support the Royal Commission - people with disability , like everyone else in our community, have a right to live free from violence, abuse, neglect, and exploitation.
- maintain a zero tolerance approach to violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation of people with disability
- are supportive of people with disability, their families and our staff who wish to be, or who are, engaged with the Royal Commission

### What do I do?

If a client or their family member wish to engage with the Royal Commission, please:

- support them to connect with one of the three Royal Commission Advocacy groups based in SA, see [DACSSA](#), [DRAS](#), or [DDAI](#). The Advocacy group will ensure the person with disability and/or their family members receive emotional and legal support as needed.
- manage any real or perceived conflicts of interest you might have by referring clients and families to your Manager, Director, Michelle Holian or Trish Kirkland
- report any issues, concerns or matters about the Royal commission to your Manager, Director, Michelle Holian or Trish Kirkland
- remember it is a crime to prevent anyone from engaging with the Royal Commission

If you are approached by any media, reporters or press, please:

- Do not comment about anything, even if it seems innocent or bland and even if you feel strongly about something - remember the phrase "no comment" is your friend
- If it feels appropriate, take their contact name, number and what they are seeking information about and report it to Michelle Holian and/or Dan Pak who will make contact and provide the necessary comments and information.

If in doubt or if you need to talk through something, contact our Project Manager, Royal Commission Trish Kirkland on 0409 934 913.

## Welcome to Rachel Emmott and Dan Pak

On Monday the 3 May, Lighthouse Disability welcomed two new members to the Senior Leadership Team.

Rachel Emmott is the new General Manager, Client Wellbeing. Rachel brings to Lighthouse Disability a broad experience in community and stakeholder engagement, NDIS service delivery, oversight of community facilities and community capacity building projects. She also brings expertise in change management and service improvement from her experience in a range of service delivery areas within local government over the last 17 years and her early career experience in the arts industry.

Rachel's experience also extends to corporate services such as ICT, resident satisfaction analysis, service standards and reporting and corporate planning. Most recently, Rachel has been the Senior Manager of Community Services at the City of Playford and was responsible for some of Adelaide's premiere community sites including the new \$8M Grenville Hub for Aged care services, the Northern Sound System creative industries centre, the inaugural Wellbeing Hub in the Peachey Belt - the heart of Playford's NDIS Social Inclusion day programs.

As an authentic and adaptive leader, Rachel has built a reputation for being focussed on leading a team to build inclusive, client focussed strategies so that they can achieve their full potential. Within our new organisational structure, Rachel will be responsible for leadership of Client Wellbeing including residential accommodation services, rostering and quality. Key deliverables for Rachel will include the implementation of the Client and Family Engagement Project recommendations and improvement of our quality and safeguarding systems including clinical governance reporting.

Dan Pak is the new Manager, People, Culture and Communications. Dan is an experienced Senior Business Partner, Workforce Strategist, and Systems Specialist, having occupied roles in various industries across private, public, and not-for-profit sectors including Minda. He brings a wealth of experience in Employee Relations, Business Analysis, Organisational Development, Leadership Capability Development, and the full spectrum of People and Culture functions.

Dan's key deliverables will include driving workforce recruitment to increase our Community Support Worker workforce and reducing our use of agency staff.

Dan is an extensively travelled citizen of the world with a passion for making a difference to people's lives one interaction at a time. He has an ardent focus on empowering vulnerable and disadvantaged people and championing positive change to build stronger communities and engender greater social responsibility.

I look forward to Dan and Rachel joining the Lighthouse Disability Senior Leadership Team and our working together to drive improved outcomes for our clients.

**Michelle Holian**  
CEO