



**LIGHTHOUSE
DISABILITY**

Lighthouse News - September 2021



From Michelle's Desk

Hello, and welcome to this new format for our newsletter communications. We have recently welcomed Nick van Zanten on board as our Marketing and Communications Officer, so you will be seeing some enhancements to our communications and website into the future.

There is a lot of activity happening in Lighthouse Disability at the moment. With Dan and Rachel leaving their roles, I have been actively engaged in recruiting our new General Manager, Client Wellbeing and Manager, People, Culture and Communications. I hope to have announcements to make quite soon.

We have also been busy with consultation with parents, families and staff and the union on the proposal to introduce a Practice Leader role into our houses. We had a consultation forum for families on 1 September and Rachel has also been meeting with many teams as part of their regular team meetings in August and September to get feedback.

Consultation finished on 15 September and Rachel is now summarising the feedback for us to take forward. Some of the themes include the need to change the name (family feedback was that "practice lead" sounded too clinical), the need to include some administration time in the role and interest in details of the selection process and timeframe. We will share the feedback with you and work out the next steps for implementation soon. We understand this will be a big change and our Managers, Service Delivery (MSDs) and our staff teams in each house will need support when the new roles are introduced. We will work together to make sure we are successful and the new lead role supports improved outcomes for our clients.

I look forward to us working together through the coming months as we invest in improved outcomes for our clients.

Labour Day Public Holiday

Please note the Lighthouse Disability office will be closed on Monday 4 October for a public holiday, reopening at 9am (local time) on Tuesday, 5 October. If you have an enquiry you can still call us on 8256 9800 and leave a message. If there's an emergency, please contact our After Hours Emergency phone number.

Find Us On Instagram and Twitter

We have just launched our new Instagram and Twitter accounts. Give us a follow to make sure you stay up to date with all things Lighthouse Disability.

Family Forum with the Disability Advocate

On 15 September we held a Family Forum for Lighthouse Disability family members to meet with David Caudrey, Disability Advocate, and Sandra Wallis. David is consulting with interested people about the measures that can be put in place to safeguard people with disabilities. Eight family members attended and discussed:

- 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;
- What forms of trust arrangement could be offered by a non-government organisation or by trusted individuals; and
- Possible safeguards against exploitation of a vulnerable person with a disability to promote respect for supported decision-making and individual autonomy.

Some creative ideas were discussed relating to potential use of the vulnerable persons register, review to the SA community visitor arrangements, Medicare provision for GPs to initiate contact for vulnerable clients they have not seen for a period of time. David Caudrey will write up a consultation paper based on all the feedback received by the end of September. There will be another forum held between October and December to discuss the content of the consultation paper. All parents and family members will be welcome to attend.



Brenton Wright Awards - Nominations open

We are very excited to announce that nominations for the 2021 Brenton Wright Awards are now open to families and carers of our clients. Brenton Wright was the Chair of the Lighthouse Disability Board from November 2015 until he tragically passed away in November 2017.

In lieu of flowers at his funeral, donations in Brenton's memory were made to Lighthouse Disability. In 2018 the Board of Lighthouse Disability made the decision that the donations be used in recognition of Brenton's significant contributions to Lighthouse Disability, in the form of staff awards in Brenton's name. This year, we will be presenting three awards for the following categories:

The Brenton Wright Individual Award for Exceptional Practice

The Brenton Wright Team Award for Exceptional Practice

The Brenton Wright Values Award

Individual winners will be recognised at a celebration on Friday 5 November. To find out more information about the awards, including the criteria and how to nominate visit <http://lighthousedisability.org.au>



Boom Box Disco

With restrictions beginning to ease, we were finally able to get together for a small, COVID safe Boom Box disco. The football season might be coming to an end, but that didn't stop us showing off our team's colours. Thanks again to our amazing volunteers and team for making it happen.



Good job getting the jab

As you would be aware, the Delta variant of the COVID-19 virus continues to be of significant concern across many parts of Australia. Getting vaccinated against COVID-19 is the best thing we can do to protect ourselves, our families and the South Australian community as a whole. After significant consultation, we are proud to announce that **100% of clients** who have consented to getting the COVID-19 vaccine are now fully vaccinated. Well done to all involved, together we're keeping South Australia safe.

NDIS Legislative Consultation

The Australian Government is proposing changes to the legislation underpinning the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) to make processes easier and better for NDIS participants. The proposed changes are now open for consultation and will close at midnight 7 October 2021. To find out more about the changes and consultation visit the <http://engage.dss.gov.au>

Who will you ask?

RUOK? Day

On 9 September it was RUOK? Day, where we were all reminded to regularly check in with family, friends and colleagues and meaningfully ask them "R U OK?" If you think something's worrying someone, start a conversation to see if they're ok. If they're not, all you need to do is listen, and then help them think about next steps. For more information visit

<http://ruok.org.au/>

Welcome to some new faces!

We are very excited to welcome some new faces to the team. Please see our new team members from 15 August to 15 September:

- Harpeet Kaur - Community Support Worker, 3 Crane
- Irwin Virk - Community Support Worker, Sophia Way
- Mary Amosa - Community Support Worker, Mundon
- Parminder Mall - Community Support Worker, Rome
- Rupinder Singh - Community Support Worker, Payneham
- Nicholas van Zanten - Marketing and Communications Officer, Park Terrace.