

Lighthouse

# Family News

20<sup>th</sup> October 2015

Issue No: 23

## Inside this Edition

AGM

Visit by Governor

Family Information Session

Disability Expo

Family Advisory Committee

Donation

Welcome to Manager,  
Children's Services

Welcome to OT Students

NDIS

## Annual General Meeting

The AGM will be on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October at 7 p.m. at Sferas, 191 Reservoir Rd., Modbury. The Hon. Kelly Vincent, as a Vice Patron will be our guest speaker. [rsvp@lighthousedisability.org.au](mailto:rsvp@lighthousedisability.org.au)

Sue Andrews will be formally acknowledged for her extensive service to Leveda trading as Lighthouse Disability, as she will be stepping down from the Board at the end of December, after a two month secondment. Sue has been associated with this organisation for at least 14 years, and of those, she has been Chair of the Board for 10 years. Jim Young will be acknowledged for his service of 12 years as his term is also coming to an end. There are other important items of the agenda – including some fun. We hope to see you there!

## Visit by the Governor

His Excellency, the Honourable Hieu Van Le visited two of our houses on 22<sup>nd</sup> September. He and his wife were very interested in meeting people we support, who in turn were very excited by the opportunity to meet His Excellency and Mrs Le. They spent some time talking to staff and people we support at Clairville and Mundon/Albion.



## Family Information Session

On Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September, two staff members who are also parents of children eligible for NDIS services very generously shared their experiences with 28 parents and about 8 other staff. There were lots of questions – some of which were hard to answer because there is not much information available about the implications of NDIS for adults. The general feeling of the meeting was that it is important to create opportunities for families to meet to gain information and share questions with others who maybe in similar situations. There was a sense that families valued hearing the questions of others as this was also a way of learning more about the NDIS.



## Disability, Ageing and Lifestyle Expo

On 25<sup>th</sup> September we had a presence at this Expo. The auspice and format had changed from previous years. While there were some enquiries during the day, it tended to be quiet in late afternoon. It was also the commencement of school holidays which may have an impact on the attendance at the Expo.



## Family Advisory Committee

This group of committed parents is keen to encourage others who would like to be part of a catchup each month to hear about what is happening in the business, and to respond to ideas and suggestions about new proposed developments. The meetings are informal and take about 1.5 hours. There are often very interesting discussions about different aspects of service delivery, and parents value the opportunity to toss around ideas between themselves as well as Lighthouse Disability staff. The FAC also discuss issues of concern and are keen to let politicians know what they are worried about – and to offer to be part of the solution.

If you are interested in participating, but would like more information, please don't hesitate to contact myself on 8256 9800 or any of the committee members:

Elice Herramann	0414 910 612
Raelene and Dennis Luestner	8379 8872
Chris Andrews	0438 113 014
Julie Kalms	0438 812 877
Karren Kelly	0401 366 742

## Donation

A family has forwarded a letter of appreciation for the work undertaken by Lighthouse Disability in relation to their son along with a donation. We are very pleased to have the acknowledgement of the work of our staff, and the donation is also very welcome. Many thanks to the family concerned.

## Welcome to Manager, Children's Services

Paula Roberts commenced work with us on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2015. She brings extensive experience of working in the disability sector both here and in the U.K. She is also well versed in working with children.



Paula Roberts – Manager, Children's Services

Tom – OT student

Laura – OT student

## Welcome to OT students

We welcome Tom and Laura (3rd year Occupational Therapy students) who will be undertaking their initial scoping process for placement with us over the next month. They will return to complete their 9 week Participatory Community Practice placement with us in February 2016. We look forward to your innovation and energy as, in the past, OT students have done some wonderful work with the people we support and the impact has been enduring.

## NDIS

There continues to be considerable conjecture about when the NDIS will roll-out in South Australia. At this stage, the Bi-lateral agreement has not been signed (that is, the agreement between the Commonwealth and State governments concerning funding) and the NDIA does not intend to assess many children in the older age range for the remainder of this financial year. These facts all point to a strong possibility that the NDIS rollout will be staged or managed differently – with one possibility being that the rollout will take place over a longer timeframe than was originally suggested. As more information comes to hand, we will let you know.

In the meantime, we are building our understanding of the service delivery requirements of NDIS and reviewing how we operate so that we are well equipped to operate in the new era.

As part of this, we are working hard to complete workbooks for each person we support with the aim of outlining in detail what services each person is currently provided. This will provide a stepping stone to identify whether there are additional services for which funding is required. Parents are strongly encouraged to be part of this process so that you have the opportunity to contribute and comment. It is our understanding that parents will be required to negotiate the funding package with the NDIA and the workbooks will form the basis for these negotiations.

**Marj Ellis**

