

Lighthouse

Family News

17th November 2015

Issue No: 24

Inside this Edition

Christmas Breakfast

NDIS

News from the Board

AGM

Facebook

Positive feedback

Thank you

Assisted technologies

Legal Guardianship of
People we Support

Volunteers

Christmas Breakfast

Please join us for our Christmas breakfast on **Sunday 22nd November** from 10.30 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. at the Greenwith Community Centre, corner Golden Way and Golden Grove Road, Greenwith. This is an opportunity to join with the people we support and other families to celebrate the festive season. Please RSVP as soon as possible to 8256 9800.

National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)

As the NDIS rollout comes closer, it is increasingly obvious that the disability sector is in an enormous period of change. As part of the disability sector, we too are in a period of enormous change. Although changes thus far in our business have been mostly directed at the structure at Park Tce., change will touch everyone in Lighthouse Disability.

Bruce Bonyhardy, Chairman of the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) opened a conference 27th Oct in Brisbane and in his opening address, made the following comments;

“The National Disability Scheme is revolutionary.

It is revolutionary ...

not because it is replacing the old system,

not because it is doubling funding,

not because it has created a new Federal body – The National Disability Insurance Agency – making its benefits portable right across Australia.

The NDIS is revolutionary because it is taking an entirely new approach to disability services...

an approach that is built around the needs and the potential of the individual,

an approach that sees the individual as a life-long investment, rather than a year-to-year unit of cost, an approach that replaces the welfare model of disability services ...”

These words are very applicable to us. If we don't adapt to the new NDIS environment, we will be left behind. People with disabilities who are funded to purchase services from their provider of choice will choose businesses that understand their right to choice and control, and to quality services at an efficient cost. **So the message is loud and clear: we need to change to meet new expectations!**

It is important that families understand the opportunities (and challenges) that come with the NDIS. It is in this context that there are a number of initiatives being developed – for example;

1. Changes to the management of the roster. There are potentially significant savings to be made if we manage the roster more effectively, and these will be put back into the development of the business as they become available.
2. Developing a pilot service delivery model. There are 6 Service Manager vacancies that have typically been hard to fill. It is clear that businesses similar to ours are exploring different ways of providing services, and we need to strive to continue to build our quality and efficiency so that we are competitive.
3. The introduction of contemporary IT systems such as 365 and moving to the cloud.
4. Undertaking an analysis of the unit cost of providing each service.
5. A new program for Children's Services

A draft proposal for the pilot Service Delivery model is to be presented at the next Board meeting which is 3rd December, so we need to work quickly to meet the timeframe. More information will be provided as it becomes available. The Family Advisory Committee and staff (via the NDIS Readiness Group) are involved in discussions about this. Questions are welcome. Please direct them to your Manager, Service Delivery (see below for details).

News from the Board

At the Board meeting following the AGM (held on 23rd Oct) office bearers were appointed as follows;

Brenton Wright is Chair
Dana Shen is Deputy Chair
Tony Russo is Treasurer

Other Directors of the Board are Sarah Lindblom, Jane Hyde, Richard Dobek, and Sue Andrews (seconded until the end of this year). Advertisements have been placed for two new Directors (with expertise in finance and marketing) in the expectation that they will take up their appointments early in the new year when Lighthouse Disability will be operating as a company limited by guarantee.

The Subcommittees of the Board are Finance, Risk Management, Nomination and Appraisal, People First and Family Advisory Committee. A new Commercialisation committee is being established to assist Lighthouse Disability move into a business mode in a competitive environment.

The Family Advisory Committee is the 'voice' for families and we are seeking additional members. We welcome enquiries and will actively seek the involvement of people who may be interested in being part of this group.

Annual General Meeting

This was a great night! Sue Andrews was acknowledged for her contributions of 14 years on the Board, and 12 of those as Chair. Jim Young stood down after 12 years on the Board and he too was acknowledged for his contributions to our organisation. Four staff were presented with a gift and certificate for working for us for more than 10 years and Richard Bruggemann was made a Life Member. A great rock band had many people dancing and having fun, and a tasty supper was provided.

Facebook

We have a great Facebook which is attracting a lot of positive comments. We regularly post photos of the people we support participating in a wide range of activities. We invite you to like us and follow us on Facebook so that it increases our reach within the community.

For those of you who are not on Facebook, here are some photos from our recent Halloween Disco, horse riding in the Clare Valley, as well as trips to Wallaroo and Flinders Ranges.



Positive Feedback

We have received some very positive feedback from families about the services we provide. This is a great acknowledgement of our staff and all that they do. At the same time, if anyone has concerns about our services, we are keen to know as it is from these comments we can learn and improve.

Please contact your Service Manager or Manager Service Delivery with any concerns.

Karen Negus and Jay Nasser (Managers, Service Delivery - Adults) joined us in January of this year. They have both worked very hard to get to know people we support, families and the staff in the houses that they manage. Together with their staff, they have achieved some great outcomes for the people we support such as increased funding to ensure adequate support.

Paula Roberts joined us on 1st October as the Manager, Service Delivery - Children. She is reviewing our children's

services. Please refer to the chart below to see the services that each Manager, Service Delivery is responsible for;

Paula Roberts	Karen Negus	Jay Nasser
19 Audley - 24/7 care for a child	Albion/Mundon & Mundon Respite	Alawa
21 Audley -24/7 care for an adult	Clairville	Clearview
3 Crane - Children's Respite	Cullford	Grantham/Thomson
5 Crane - 24/7 care for a child	Janet	Innes
Community Support	Log	Mahood
Lavender – Children's Respite	Matilda	Mayfield
Wattle - adults	Mercedes	Pauls
	Riveau	Payneham
	Rome	Rowe
	Salmon	Spruance/Spruance Unit
	Sophia Way	Tarakan

Thank you

A big thank you to one of our parents, Karren Kelly, who has generously donated a swing for Lavender, one of our children's respite homes. The swing will be very popular with the children and the gesture is most appreciated.

Assisted Technologies

Caroline Simpson (Finance Officer) recently attended a conference about IT where she had the opportunity to see lots of different programs that can improve the lives of people we support. The range of Assisted Technologies that are available is huge, and they can make a big difference to the quality of life of the people we support. We will actively explore how we can access more information about these and keep you informed.

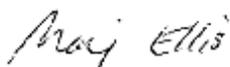
Legal Guardianship of people we support

It is our understanding that each person will need to present a plan which outlines service requirements to the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) in order to access funding for these services. The NDIA will assess the plan and allocate funds on the basis of what is 'reasonable and necessary'. We also understand that the funding plan will need to be signed by the legal guardian of the person.

It is for this reason that we are now undertaking a review of who has a legal guardian, and other legal papers (e.g. Enduring Power of Attorney, Advanced Directives etc) which provide some information about the wishes of the person and his/her family about care requirements.

Volunteers

Phil Bunyon (Volunteer Coordinator) has built our volunteer program from about 8 people two years ago to over 100 people currently. Volunteers give their time and expertise in a wide range of activities including assistance with administration, maintenance, gardening and spending time with people we support. As such, volunteers contribute enormously to our organisation, and we thank them most sincerely.



Marj Ellis