

Lighthouse

Family News

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Happy New Year to all!

NDIS

We start this year with much excitement about preparing for the roll out of NDIS. On 11th December, the Commonwealth and State governments signed a bi-lateral agreement which means that the implementation of NDIS in South Australia can now proceed.

While implementation details are being developed, it is clear that we will be involved sooner rather than later with the rollout details as follows:

Children: 0-14 years from **1st Feb 2016** across SA (will involve our respite children)

Young people: 15-17 years from **1st Jan 2017** (will involve our respite young people)

Adults in local government areas of:

- Playford, Salisbury, City of Port Adelaide Enfield (East) **1st July 2017**

- Tea Tree Gully **1st October 2017**

- Campbelltown, Norwood, Payneham and St Peters **1st April 2018**

This means that the children we support in respite will be allocated funds via NDIS in the coming months, and adults will be eligible for funding on 1st July 2017. Now that we have a definite time frame, we aim to ensure that the people we support (and their families) are well equipped to advocate for the services that they need. We are also seeking advice on a number of administrative issues associated with the rollout for the people we support, and when we have some information, we will share it with you.

In relation to people who may seek a service from us under NDIS, we are developing systems and processes to ensure that we can provide good information about the services that we provide.

Family Advisory Committee (FAC)

We thank Julie Kalms for her generous contributions to the FAC. She has stepped off the committee and Barb Davis (former Board member) commences in March 2016. We welcome interest from other family members to join the FAC, which is a committee of the Board.

The FAC has been very active in picking up issues of concern;

- Proposed closure of the Centre for Disability Health
- Composition of the Board of NDIS, and
- Concern about the inability for a staff member of Lighthouse Disability to be funded to attend hospital when people we support are admitted.

In addition, it has been agreed that a member of the FAC will be invited to be part of a Reference Group for Children' Services and the Evaluation of the Pilot Service Delivery model. These are time limited commitments and will result in important contributions to the operation of Lighthouse Disability. If you would like to contribute to these processes, please consider joining the FAC which now meets on the second Thursday of the month between 1.00 - 2.30 p.m.

New Board members

The Nomination and Appraisal Committee (a committee of the Board) recommended to the Board two new appointments which were endorsed. Antonio Dottore brings an impressive array of experience in relation to marketing and strategic finance. Unfortunately, the second person was unable to proceed with the appointment so recruitment is continuing.

We also welcome Helen Thorne to the Finance Committee. She has qualifications in finance, has taught at senior levels in Universities on the topic, has written texts on the topic and has Board experience.

New Service Delivery Model

As reported in the last Family Newsletter (22nd December), we have a number of houses where there is no Service Manager. The Board has given approval for us to pilot a new Service Delivery model. There is an information session about this for families who have a family member in a house where there is no Service Manager. Two information sessions will be held at our Park Tce office on:

Wednesday 3rd February from 1.00 – 2.30 pm *RSVP by 1st February*

Wednesday 10th February from 6.30 – 8.00 pm *RSVP by 8th February*

For catering purposes, please RSVP to Pat Netschitowsky. pat@lighthousedisability.org.au

Electronic communication

With the latest increase in postage, it would be useful if we could email Newsletters and other information direct to you. You would receive communications instantly and there would be time and cost savings to the organisation. Please let us know your email address so we can add it to our database.

Australia Day Picnic

This is a reminder about the Australia Day Picnic which has been organised for next Tuesday from 10:30 am – 3:00 pm. Please RSVP urgently by phoning 8256 9800. Attached is the flyer.

Facebook

Judi Prosser (Manager, Marketing and Communications) has set up a Facebook page which provides lots of information and photos about the people we support. Please follow us on Facebook, like us and share these stories as it increases our reach within the community.

Birthday Celebrations

Some of the people we support have celebrated significant milestones in the last couple of months.

Tracey and Phil from Riveau celebrated their 40th and 60th birthdays respectively. The Riveau staff organised fabulous celebrations for both these people who have been with us for over 26 years.

Matthew from Mahood, with assistance from staff, hosted his 50th party. Matthew has been with us for 18 months and his father and sisters expressed their appreciation for the support and home environment that we are providing for him.



Lighthouse Disability Achievements during 2015

In a recent Newsletter for staff, the following points were listed as significant achievements. Many of these are operational, but it may be of interest to you to be aware of our initiatives.

- Many written comments of appreciation from families about the quality of support provided to their loved ones
- Fabulous examples of staff initiative resulting in great outcomes for people we support
- Welcoming new people to Lighthouse Disability
- Many events for people we support such as the Easter picnic, Karaoke and Disco evenings
- The appointment of Subnet as the Help Desk Service Provider of IT services. Long standing frustration and complaints about the state of our IT have largely ceased
- Board approval to further develop IT services so that early next year we will operate with Microsoft 365 in readiness to move to the cloud
- Two OT students who worked closely with staff at Lavender to develop some tools to assist the skill development of children in a fun way
- In June, member of Leveda Inc approved the proposal to change our legal framework to a company limited by guarantee and endorsed the new Constitution
- The launch of our new name 'Lighthouse Disability' and rebranding on 4th July
- The development of a new website which is likely to be submitted for an excellence award
- The revitalisation of Facebook as a way of communicating with our stakeholders
- Morley moved to new premises at Rowe
- NDIS information session with NDIA for staff and families
- Participation in the Disability, Ageing and Lifestyle Expo
- Visit from the Governor and his wife to Clairville and Mundon/Albion

- Introduced the idea of Ambassadors for Lighthouse Disability and the first of these will be a 'Thought Leader'
- Increased the number of active volunteers to over 100
- 81% of our houses are connected with volunteers
- Another successful Annual General Meeting on 23rd October at which Richard Bruggemann was made a Life Member and Kelly Vincent delivered an inspiring speech on 'From Little Things, Big Things Grow'
- Appointment of a new Chair to our Board
- Board approval to build our Children's Services program, and the appointment of a Manager, Children's Services commencing on 1st Oct
- Introduced the idea of a pilot Service Delivery model

We thank all staff who made it possible to achieve much over the last 12 months. We look forward to another exciting year as we approach 2016.

Volunteer Program

We have up to 100 volunteers attached to Lighthouse Disability who contribute in many different ways – including gardening, admin., painting houses, and spending time with people we support. We are very proud of our capacity to engage community members with the people we support (directly or indirectly). For this, we are indebted to Phil Bunyon, who, as Volunteer Coordinator (3 days per week) for the last 3.5 years, has been responsible for building the program. It is therefore with sadness that we farewell Phil who has completed his studies and taken an option to pursue his career.

Given the growth of the program, and Phil's departure, it is an opportune time to review the program to assess what support we need to direct to it into the future. We believe that volunteers will continue to play an important role when NDIS is operational.



Marj Ellis