

Lighthouse

Family News

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Family Advisory Committee (FAC)

Last week the FAC met for the first time for this year. The Committee has nearly doubled in size with new members participating for the first time. The FAC provides a great opportunity for information sharing and robust discussion on issues of concern. Some family members have offered to prepare a video presentation for prospective and new staff about what they want from staff who are supporting their family member. This will be a very useful part of information and induction sessions.

The FAC has written to the Minister (Hon Leesa Vlahos) about the proposed closure of the Centre for Disability Health (mainstream health providers are not always experienced in working with people with complex disabilities) and to the Regional Director of DSA (Veronica Stanley) concerning DSA funding to make it possible for Lighthouse Disability staff to accompany people we support who are admitted to hospital – even if only for a short time.

A topic for discussion on the next agenda for the next meeting (March 10th) is how we can engage families in the lives of their family members who we support. It is increasingly clear that the involvement of families and friends contributes significantly to the wellbeing of the people we support.

Review of Volunteer Program

We are proud of our volunteer program and want to explore how we can sustain it effectively. It will be an important 'value add' when we move into NDIS – which is scheduled for 1st July next year for many of the people we support. To this end, we are undertaking a review to clarify what we need to do to sustain and build the program.

Pilot Service Delivery Model

A series of meetings have been held for families and staff who have wanted more information about how this might work. An announcement about an appointment is expected soon.

Board and Leadership Team Planning Day

On Saturday 27th Feb., Board members will meet with the Leadership Team to explore the next steps we need to take to be ready for NDIS.

NDIS

Information from colleagues together with our own research points to significant changes about how we will work when the NDIS is introduced. The NDIS funding is focused on 'face time' (direct time spent with people we support) and the implication of this is that we will need to be very clear about the services that each person needs so that appropriate funding is included in the funding package. We are still in the process of identifying specifically what this means, and will provide you with information as it becomes available.

The NDIS means that we will need to operate as a business – people with funding will purchase a service from the provider of their choice. In this way, people with a disability will have choice and control in way that has not been possible until now. This also means that we will be in competition with other service providers to retain and/or gain business. The Board is in the process of establishing a Commercialisation Committee with the aim of focusing on marketing the products we have for purchase, new products, costing, communication etc.

We are heading into interesting and challenging times!

Consumer Reference Group

The People First Committee has voted for a change of name and will now be called the Consumer Reference Group. At the last meeting some important information was shared by people we support about their experience as consumers. We are glad to have this information and will use it to inform how we continue to build a person centred approach.

Annual Picnic

People we support and their families are invited to a picnic on Sunday April 17th at Thorndon Park – which is a lovely area that is access friendly. Attached find a flyer with full details. Please RSVP by 6th April.

Fundraising Committee

This group consists of family members, staff (in a volunteer capacity) and a person we support who have initiated a range of activities to raise money to improve outcomes for the people we support. If there are other family members who would like to participate in this committee, please let Paula Musker know (8256 9800). The committee meets once/month at the Park Tce office to plan various events.

A big thank you to our Fundraising Committee for hosting a fabulous Australia Day Picnic, with live music, attended by over 100 people. Even a koala dropped in!! Holiday vouchers were won by Tarakan, Salmon Court and Clairville.



With the Easter weekend at the end of March, the Fundraising Committee invites staff and families to place their orders now for Easter items from Kyton's Bakery. See the attached flyer and order form.

Marj Ellis

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