

Lighthouse

Family News

6th April 2016

Issue No: 28

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News from the Board

At the last Board meeting (4th April) the Board approved recommendations in a Business Case to build and refine our Volunteer Program.

The Leadership Team and Board met for a Planning Day on 27th Feb which resulted in a decision that 5 topics will be addressed in Action Plans which are;

1. Ensuring a Person Centred Approach in all that we do
2. Ensure a Safe Environment in the context of a person centred approach
3. Managing change
4. Improved Communications
5. Redesign approaches to learning

The Board has endorsed these.

In addition, a Framework to shape the delivery of services to Children was endorsed.

In the March Board meeting, funding was approved to continue to improve our Information Technology.

Family Advisory Committee

There are now 9 members of the Family Advisory Committee which meets once/month. Discussions are lively and cover important issues. For example, at the last two meetings (11/2 and 19/3) topics which attracted a lot of discussion were;

1. What services are currently funded by Disability SA. It is clear that many families are not aware of what can be provided, and what is not funded. An information session is being planned for parents on this topic. It is anticipated that this will provide a good lead in to funding under NDIA.
2. How we can make families more welcome at the houses where their family member lives.
3. Discussion about the quality of our housing

We thank Elice Herraman, Karren Kelly, Raelene Luestner and Gill Halliday for talking on video about what they want from staff when supporting their family member. (Chris Andrews is yet to be filmed). It is important that potential staff or staff once appointed hear from family members about what is important. We will use these video clips for training and induction purposes.

Pilot of new Service Delivery Model

Helen Brennan has been appointed as the first Coordinator and she commenced work on 8th March. Her first task is to develop a framework for the operation of the Coordinator roles, and the first service that she will work with is Audley.

In a staged time frame, she will then work with Mercedes and Salmon. When Helen has established relationships with three houses, a decision will be made about whether a second Coordinator will need to be appointed.

Letters have been sent to the families with people we support in the above houses and Helen will make a time to meet with families asap once she commences with a house.

The pilot is being evaluated by a Reference Group and Chris Andrews is the parent rep from the Family Advisory Committee.

Formal Launch of Lighthouse Disability

We are delighted that our Patron, His Excellency the Honourable Hieu Van Le AO launched Lighthouse Disability as a new entity at the National Wine Centre on 5th April. Other guest speakers were Richard Bruggemann who was involved in the development of Leveda, and Barbara and Paul Madden who talked of their experience as parents of a person we support. The event was attended by Board members, committees of the Board, immediate past Chair, senior staff and many stakeholders. It was a lovely event.

Fundraising

Thank you to everyone who supported our Kytos Easter campaign!

Please support our next fundraising initiative by buying the popular Entertainment Book or App for 2016-17. Visit www.entbook.com.au/16374c8 to order your book or App. Books will be available from Reception from Monday 18th April and early birds will enjoy some special offers.

Our next Bunnings Barbeque will be held on **Sunday 1st May** at Bunnings Parafield. We are looking for 2 volunteers for each of the following time slots:

10 am – 12 noon

12 noon – 2 pm

2 pm – 4 pm

If you can help us, please contact Paula Musker paula@lighthousedisability.org.au Thank you!

Donated swing at Lavender

A big thank you to the Kelly family for their generous donation of an amazing swing set for one of our children's respite homes! Also thanks to the volunteers who installed it. The children are certainly enjoying it. Thank you so much! 😊😊



Annual Picnic

Don't forget our annual picnic to be held on **Sunday 17th April** at Thorndon Park. (Flyer attached). The Lions Club of Tea Tree Gully is generously providing a sausage sizzle. Please RSVP by 6th April, for catering purposes. Please bring your own salads and any specific dietary requirements.

Disability Expo at Gawler

On Wednesday 30th March we were part of a Disability Expo and Forum held in Gawler to provide information to people who are living with a disability and those who would like to work in the sector. It was a great opportunity to promote our organisation and the services we provide.



April is Autism Awareness Month

Australia recognises April as Autism Month to raise awareness of **Autism Spectrum Disorder** - a condition that affects the individual across their life span. More than one in 100 Australians are living with ASD and it is more common than Cerebral Palsy, Cystic Fibrosis, Down syndrome, vision impairment and hearing loss combined.

During the month of April, consider holding a Purple Picnic as an easy and colourful way to play a part in raising awareness and support of the Autism Spectrum Disorder community.

Marj Ellis

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