

# Lighthouse News

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER *from* LIGHTHOUSE DISABILITY  
Empowering people with disabilities



## Welcome

Welcome to the first edition of a quarterly newsletter about Lighthouse Disability Ltd. We are proud to be involved with the people we support and to enable them to live life to the full.

## Our Business

We provide 24/7 supported accommodation to approximately 100 people with complex and diverse disabilities who live in 27 suburban homes in the north and north eastern suburbs of metropolitan Adelaide. In addition, we provide a community support service to a small number of people living in their own homes, respite programs for a limited number of adults and children, and 24/7 supported accommodation for two children. In broad terms, we work with people who have physical and intellectual disabilities, acquired brain injury, autistic conditions and degenerative diseases.

Our workforce consists of over 200 people and, of these, most are permanent part-time, with about 40 who work full-time. Most of our staff work in frontline service delivery and are supported by about 20 administrative staff who cover Payroll, HR, IT, Quality, Management, Reception and Finance.

Families are involved with our business in a range of different ways and we value the contributions of volunteers.

## New Name and Brand

In preparation for the new business environment of the NDIS, on the 1<sup>st</sup> January this year we formally became Lighthouse Disability Ltd. Prior to this we were known as Leveda Inc which was established in 1989.

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## Official Launch

On Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> April, our Patron, His Excellency the Honourable Hieu Van Le AO officially launched Lighthouse Disability Ltd at a cocktail event at the National Wine Centre attended by over 70 guests. Thanks to everyone who came to support us – politicians, key stakeholders, partners in the disability sector, Board Members, committees of the Board, people we support and their families. It was a moving celebration and marked an important milestone in our journey.



*Brenton Wright (Chair), Marj Ellis (CEO), His Excellency, Dana Shen (Deputy Chair)*



*Hon. Tony Piccolo, Prof. Richard Bruggemann*

## Board Membership

We have a skills based Board. In the future, advertisements will be placed for the required skills, applicants will be assessed by a Nomination and Appraisal Committee (of the Board) and Members of Lighthouse Disability will vote for people recommended by the Committee.

Current Board members are;

- |                          |                |
|--------------------------|----------------|
| Brenton Wright (Chair)   | Sarah Lindblom |
| Dana Shen (Deputy Chair) | Richard Dobek  |
| Tony Russo (Treasurer)   |                |
| Jane Hyde                |                |

## Innovation

The introduction of the NDIS is a long overdue recognition of the rights and needs of people who have a disability. Already, people who have become part of the NDIA scheme have reported significant improvements in their wellbeing.

While the introduction of the NDIS means significant change to the disability sector, which in turn will create lots of challenges, it also creates lots of opportunities. We are excited about these and are exploring some new service delivery options, which are being evaluated.

## Student Placements

We are committed to contributing to the education of students who are engaged in a wide range of university courses, and currently have Occupational Therapy Students from Uni SA and a student undertaking her Masters in Social Work from Flinders University. In addition, negotiations are in process

to work with students from the Disability and Community Inclusion course run by Flinders University. Students bring new ideas, commitment and enthusiasm – and hopefully a good experience with us will encourage them to consider working in the disability sector.

## Employment opportunities

It is estimated that with the introduction of the NDIS there will be an additional 6,500 jobs in the disability sector across South Australia. A significant proportion of these will be in the north. With the closure of Holden and the 'knock on effect' of the loss of associated businesses, the growth of jobs in disability create important alternative employment options. We already have two people who have transitioned to Lighthouse Disability from Holden and we encourage others who might be interested to contact us.

## Disability Expo at Gawler

On Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> April, Lighthouse Disability participated in a Disability Expo at 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 to people who live in the Barossa and northern Adelaide areas, particularly with the proposed roll out of the NDIS commencing in the north.

## Annual Picnic

On Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> April, in glorious autumn weather, many of the people we support, along with some families and staff enjoyed a picnic at Thorndon Park Reserve. These pictures are worth more than 1,000 words!



*Marj Ellis*

Marj Ellis  
CEO