



# Community Catch-up



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# A Message from The Chief Executive



Mark Kulinski, Chief Executive

## Hi everyone and welcome to the new decade!

I hope you all had an enjoyable and restful holiday break with friends and family.

For those that were impacted by this season's devastating fires: our thoughts are with you and we are here to support you in any way we can.

We want to assure everyone that we are closely monitoring the situation with the Corona Virus (COVID-19). We are taking all necessary precautions and will inform you of any important developments.

With the NDIS in full swing across the country, there have been challenges that have affected many involved, both participants and service providers.

Last year, the 2019 Review of the National Disability Insurance Scheme Act 2013 was conducted by an independent expert, David Tune AO PSM, to better understand participant concerns and opportunities for improvement.

In January 2020, the review's report was released, substantiating the feelings that many have had about some operational aspects of the scheme (further details provided in the newsletter).

We are awaiting a response from the Government as to how they will address the report's recommendations. We will let you know of any important developments.

We are also closely monitoring Due to Community Living Australia's continued growth, some of our Day Option sites have reached capacity and our operations and business services teams have expanded over three sites in Mount Barker and Strathalbyn.

As a result, we are looking to consolidate these three operations and business sites into one central office. This will increase our opportunity to collaborate, improve communication, reduce travel time between sites and create an opportunity to enhance and grow services to our clients. It will also enable us to increase the size of our Mount Barker Day Options site, enabling us to provide services to more people in the community and increase the opportunity for those already in the service.

If you would like to know more about any of these updates, we would be happy to hear from you on 08 8536 5888 or [info@claut.com.au](mailto:info@claut.com.au).

I am excited by the year ahead. I have no doubt it will be another busy year, but I am energised and enthusiastic to see the outcomes we can achieve for our clients, our communities and people living with disability in general.

Here's to 2020.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Kulinski'.

Mark Kulinski



# NDIS Review Recommends Changes

*The 2019 Review of the National Disability Insurance Scheme Act 2013 report was released on 20 January 2020.*

The report established that many participants, their carers and families expressed dissatisfaction with the scheme. Common concerns include complexity, extensive wait times, lack of transparency in decision-making and a feeling that the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) staff do not understand disability or appreciate the challenges they face.

The report made 29 recommendations aimed at improving the participant experience, including new standards and processes to support the delivery of the Participant Service Guarantee, which is to be rolled out on 1 July 2020.

The Participant Service Guarantee will set out standards the NDIA must meet: reasonable timeframes, transparency with decision-making and improved service delivery.

At the time of writing, we were eagerly awaiting a formal Government response to the report's recommendations, after which the Australian Federal Government will work with state governments and the NDIA to develop legislative and operational changes required to deliver the Participant Service Guarantee and an improved experience for participants and providers.

You can access the report from [claut.com.au/useful-links](http://claut.com.au/useful-links).

Community Living Australia will continue to monitor developments in this space and will keep you informed of any important changes.

## Rolling Over Your NDIS Plan

The National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) has been contacting NDIS participants, giving them the option to rollover their NDIS plans without review.

Rolling over participant plans without a review runs the risk of people missing out on much needed supports.

We recommend that, when offered the chance to rollover their plan, clients first ask us for feedback before agreeing to a rollover.

It is Community Living Australia's desire that our clients get the most out of the NDIS, in order to achieve their goals.



*Danny (right) with team member Emily.*

# Strathalbyn Christmas Pageant

The Strathalbyn Christmas Pageant, hosted for the third time by Community Living Australia, boasted nearly 50 floats at the parade! The most in recent memory, it was an amazing display of community spirit!

As our team and volunteers corralled the horde of floats and parade participants, our clients decorated our own float – the Little Drummer Boy – and prepared themselves for the march through the picturesque town centre.

With the local police patrol car taking point, our Drummer Boy lead the massive parade while our clients greeted the locals or acted as marshals to keep the event safe for all.

It was a truly memorable event. Thank you to everyone who attended, especially those who volunteered.

We hope to see you again at the next pageant.



*Ready to go! Shaun taking a quick selfie with the Little Drummer Boy and our parade crew in the background.*

## Fleurieu Coast Rocked!

To celebrate International Day of People with Disability (IDPwD) in December last year, revellers descended on the Fleurieu and rocked to the tune of live bands and DJ music at the Middleton Pioneer Hall.

Organised by some of our clients in the region, who are part of the Rock n' Blues Krew, "Rock the Coast" featured numerous live bands and remixes performed by DJ Huggy.

Local Community Living Australia clients attended the event and had a great time.

Well done to our Fleurieu clients who organised the event.



*Kym and Paul on the dance floor.*



# Myriad Art Exhibition Registrations Open

Registrations are now open for our Myriad art exhibition in 2020!

Brought to you by Community Living Australia, Myriad is South Australia's largest art exhibition of artists with disability. Now in its fourth year, the event is happening again as part of the South Australian Living Arts Festival (SALA) during August.

Myriad gives people the opportunity to participate in community, gain recognition and express themselves. It communicates the important contribution people with disability make in all facets of our community and culture.

The exhibition will run similarly to last year. Anyone with a disability in South Australia can register. Due to the event's overwhelming

popularity and space limitations, there will be a limit of one artwork per artist but we will also have a limited number of "Featured Artist" places up for grabs. 'Featured Artists' can display up to five artworks in the exhibition. Art will be displayed at a public venue during August. Artists can choose to put their work on sale, with all proceeds going directly back to the artist.

Registrations close on 1 May 2020. Register now!

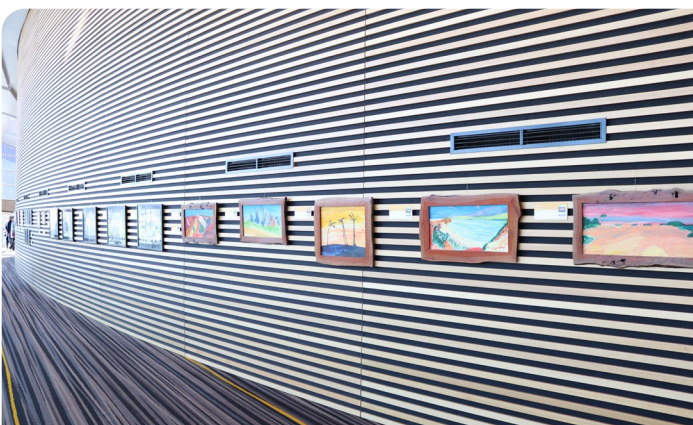
For information, visit [cloust.com.au/events/myriad](http://cloust.com.au/events/myriad).



*Painting by Mia Qua at Myriad 2019.*



*Neisha supporting Susan to create her artwork.*



*The exhibition at the Adelaide Convention Centre in 2019.*



*Myriad received a lot of exposure at the venue.*





*Work by Susan Scales at Myriad in 2018.*



*Luke beside his comic art.*



# KI Crew Feeds the Army and SA Power Networks

Unprecedented fires have devastated Kangaroo Island this summer.

Numerous groups have been tasked with repairing damaged infrastructure. To support these efforts, our KI team came up with the idea to provide nutritious muesli bars, made by our clients, to those out in the field.

Our KI Day Options team and clients distributed boxes of the highly nutritious bars to SA Power Networks and the Army.

Barb acted as representative for our organisation and, conducting the official handing over of the bars, she was met with warm appreciation from both groups.

Well done to our KI crew for exhibiting our organisation's community spirit while also demonstrating how people with disability contribute to our communities.



*Barb distributing muesli bars to the army.*



*Barb with the SA Power Networks crew.*



# Sean's Day of Adventure

Sean enjoyed a wonderful experience recently at Oceanic in Victor Harbor.

Oceanic is an in sea aquarium a short boat ride from iconic Granite Island.

Sean was keen for a bit of an adventure, so — he and Dan (Support Worker) took the boat to the aquarium.

While the facility offers an underwater observatory, Sean and Dan wanted to see the aquatic creatures up close, climbing into their wetsuits and diving in!

In the water, Sean was able to get better acquainted with a variety of beautiful fish and even handle one of the beauties!

A great way to spend a beautiful sunny day.



*Sean and Dan on the boat to the aquarium.*



*Sean handling the fish.*



*Sean and Dan in their wetsuits.*

# Karen's Community Spirit Raises Much Needed Money for Charity

*At Community Living Australia, we are committed to sharing the important contribution people with disability provide to their community.*

Karen, a client with Community Living Australia in Strathalbyn, epitomises this community spirit and devotes much of her time to raise funds for several worthy causes.

Karen regularly raises funds for Ronald McDonald House Charities at her local Woolworths, collecting over \$1000 last year!

She prepared gift baskets for mothers and their babies that were born premature at the Women's and Children's Hospital.

Karen also collected money for the Biggest Morning Tea to raise funds for cancer research, and during the holiday period, raised funds for a raffle to support Hills Day Options projects.

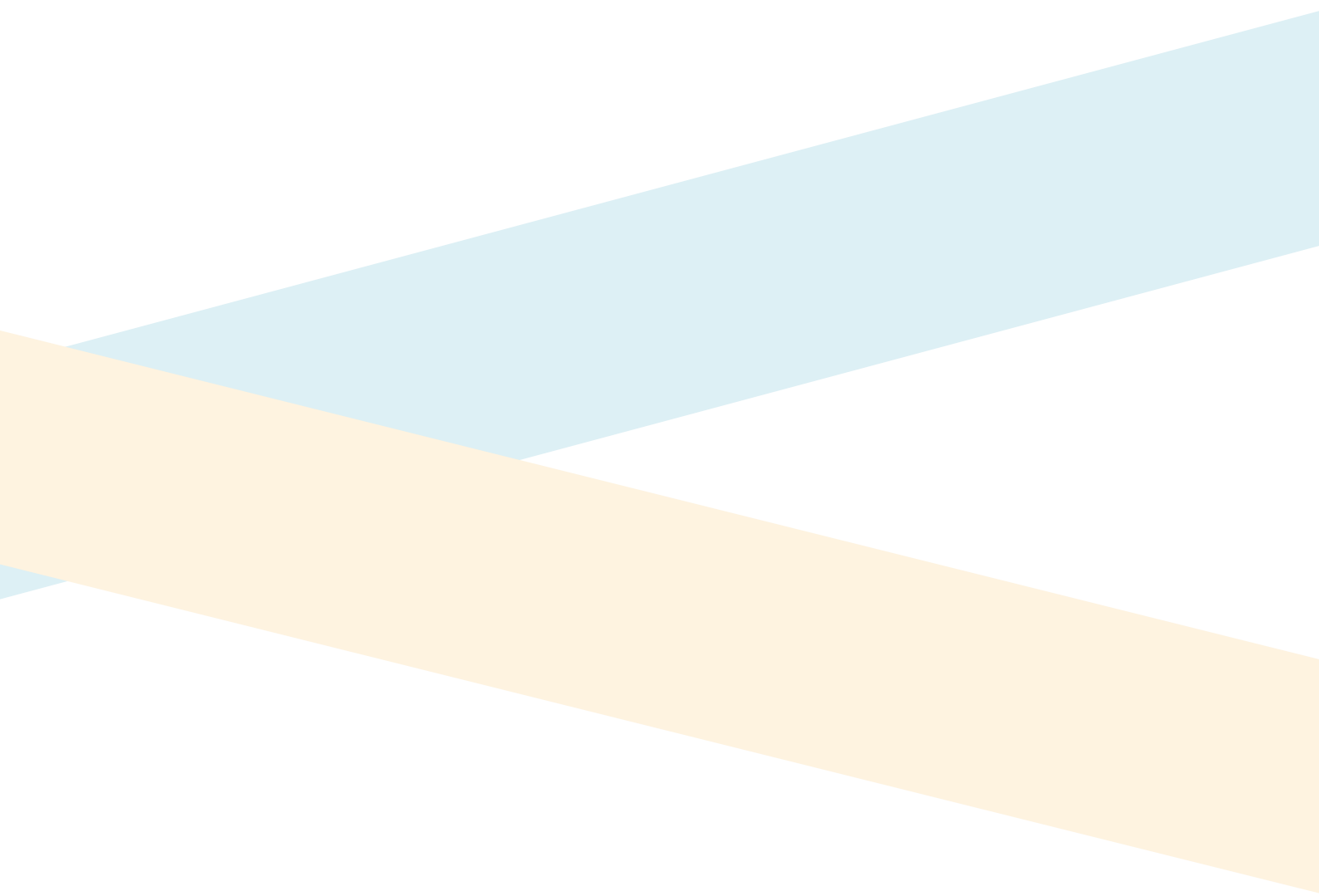
"I've always loved it — it makes me feel really good." Karen said, talking about raising money for charity.

Karen is currently raising funds for the CFS as well as Ronald McDonald House Charities. If you see her, please show your support.



*Karen with her gift baskets.*





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Community Living Australia

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