Community Catch-up



NEWSLETTER Q1 2021

The Disability Royal Commission

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A Message from The Chief Executive



Mark Kulinski, Chief Executive

2021 has commenced with a flurry of activity across all regions where Community Living Australia supports people with disability to fulfill their needs and goals and be immersed in their local communities.

2021 presents us with new opportunities for growth and development after what was a challenging 2020. I would like to commend the people we support, our employees and the community for rising above the challenges we have all faced in the past year. While we continue facing challenges related to COVID-19, I encourage everyone to remain hopeful and to continue safeguarding our community by following ongoing "COVID-safe" practices and protocols.

Vaccines are now being rolled out across the country, with people with disability and disability support workers being prioritised and receiving them first within the community. Importantly, the vaccine is not mandatory, and clients and employees will be supported to make an informed decision as to whether to receive the vaccine.

In other news, this year also marks the continuing growth and improvement of Community Living Australia with the launch of our new Renmark Day Options and office site. The new site provides a larger and more accessible venue for our local people with disability to meet and be with friends, build skills and have fun.

In December, the Disability Royal Commission held a hearing which examined the barriers to open employment for people with

disability. We discuss this issue in the newsletter and I encourage everyone to continuously advocate and push for this agenda in our communities and for businesses to give them equal access and fair opportunity to employment.

While we navigate this pandemic, many people continue to show exceptional resilience and optimism in their work and daily lives. With this in mind, I would like to congratulate the winners of our Rewards and Recognition Program for 2020. You can learn more about these inspirational people later on in this newsletter.

If you have any questions about COVID-19, or anything else discussed in this newsletter, please contact us by email at info@claust.com.au or by phone on (08) 8536 5888.

Kind regards,

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Mark Kulinski

Disability Royal Commission Turns Its Attention to the NDIS and **Disability Service Providers**



The Disability Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability is an independent investigation established in April 2019 in response to community concern about widespread reports of violence against, and the neglect, abuse and exploitation of, people with disability.

The Disability Royal Commission's scope of inquiry is broad and includes the lived experience of people with disability in all settings and contexts, such as:

- workplaces
- schools
- iails
- detention centres
- group homes

- boarding houses
- family houses
- hospitals
- secure disability and health facilities
- day programs

This year the Disability Royal Commission will hold two public hearings to inquire into the NDIS and disability service providers. These public hearings are scheduled for the week commencing 24 May 2021 and 7 June 2021.

Sharing your experience of violence, neglect, abuse or exploitation with the Disability Royal Commission will help them to:

understand the extent of a problem

- learn more about the context in which abuse is more likely to occur
- understand the impacts on people with disability, their families, support people and our community
- understand the impacts on people with disability, their families, support people and our community
- recommend how best to prevent violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation from occurring in the future

You can share your experiences by making a submission or applying for a private session with a Commissioner.

You can make a submission by:

- Phone: 1800 517 199 or (07) 3734 1900
- Email: DRCenquiries@royalcommission.gov.au
- Post: GPO Box 1422, Brisbane QLD 4001

You can apply for a private session by booking online at: www.disability.royalcommission.gov.au/ share-your-story/apply-private-session

Coming forward to share your experience is a big step, and the Disability Royal Commission wish to make this as easy as possible by providing a range of supports.

Counselling

Blue Knot foundation offers free specialist counselling support and referral services for anyone affected by the Disability Royal Commission, contact:

- National Counselling 1800 421 468
- National Relay Service 133 677 (quote number 02 6146 1468)
- Translating and Interpreting Services 131 450 (quote number 1800 421 468)

www.blueknot.org.au/Training-Services/ Counselling-and-Referral-Service

Relationships Australia, South Australia provide free, state-based, independent, and confidential counselling services

- South Australia 1800 577 571 or DRCcounsellingSA@rasa.org.au
- National Relay Service 133 677 (quote number 1800 577 571)
- Translating and Interpreting Services 131 450 (quoting 1800 577 571)
- www.rasa.org.au/services/adult-healthwellbeing/drcc/

Advocacy

Advocacy support to help you protect your rights, say what you want to say, provide advice in your best interest, act on your behalf to get the support you need.

Disability Advocacy and Complaints Service of South Australia Inc.

- Phone 08 7122 6030
- Email admin@dacssa.org.au
- www.dacssa.org.au/disability-royalcommission/

Advocacy for Disability Access and Inclusion Inc.

- Phone 08 8340 4450 or 1800 856 464
- www.advocacyfordisability.org.au/disabilityroyal-commission.php

Disability Rights Advocacy Service Inc.

- Phone 08 8351 9500 Adelaide Head Office: 08 8582 2422 Riverland; 08 83519500 South East
- Email admin@dras.com.au

www.dras.com.au/royal-commission-support

Legal

Legal advice to help you if you want to name a person or organisation, if you are worried about the impact of telling your story on your safety, service provision or employment rights, and what confidentiality and non-disclosure provisions apply.

Your Story Disability Legal Support

- Phone 1800 771 800
- www.yourstorydisabilitylegal.org.au/Get-<u>legal-help#toc-getting-legal-advice-2</u>

The Disability Royal Commission, in addition to the public hearings in May and June 2021, have confirmed additional public hearings scheduled for the first half of 2021, as set out below:

- Criminal Justice System, held 16 to 25 February 2021
- Health Care Professionals education and training (additional day from the 2020 hearing), held 2 March 2021
- Pathways to employment (additional day from 2020 hearing), held 24 March
- Barriers to education (additional day from 2020 hearing), scheduled 7 June 2021
- Topic to be announced, scheduled 21 June 2021
- Barriers to employment, scheduled 28 July 2021

To find out more about the Disability Royal Commission, refer to <u>www.claust.com.au/</u> royalcommission.

Renmark Day Options Opening!

We are excited to announce the opening of Community Living Australia's new Day Options and office site located at Shop 1, 15-25 Ral Ral Avenue Renmark!

The property provides a centrally-located, accessible and modern facility to cater to the needs of local people with disability within the region, enabling them to better access and engage with the local community. It features sensory spaces, a lounge area, meeting spaces and an art room.

The new premises provides greater visibility in the local community and provides us with room to grow and meet the growing needs of locals. It is located close to parks, local businesses, gyms, the library, and the McCormick Centre — helping ensure people we support have better access to the community and all it has to offer.

Projects such as joint cooking activities, developing community gardens and supporting school-based traineeships in disability and aged care are also part of the exciting plans in our pipeline.

"I believe that this new purpose-fitted premises will offer a whole new energy, dynamic and focus to our services and programs up in the Riverland. We see this as a wonderful start to 2021 and a new era for Community Living Australia in the region," says Cheryl Willcourt, Riverland Regional Coordinator.

















Our clients and team at the new Day Options in Riverland.

Adam's Bike Repair Business Booming

Adam, entrepreneur, philanthropist and client of Community Living Australia, is the owner/operator of Adam's Bike Repairs in Murray Bridge.

Adam's bike restoration and repair business brings old pushbikes back to life, selling them at affordable prices while also contributing to reducing waste caused by Australia's tendency to throw out old and purchase new bikes.

Adam repairs and sells a range of bikes, including mountain bikes, commuters and kids bikes for all ages.

In the beginning, the local Murray Bridge team assisted Adam with goal-setting, acquiring grant funding, finding a location and getting the business up and running, supporting him in the early stages. These days, Adam's taking things

in his stride and managing all aspects of the business independently.

In 2019, Adam generously donated many of his bikes to Bikes for Humanity - a charity that provides bicycles to people in need worldwide - providing them with greater access to health care, education, and employment.

Adam's journey of personal and professional growth and achievement has been a pleasure to witness.

If you would like to purchase a restored bike or have one serviced, visit Adam's Bike Repairs, located at the rear of our Community Living Australia office on 6 third Street, Murray Bridge. Open Wednesdays 10am-2pm.



Adam in his workshop.

Engage in Mount Gambier

(ommunity Living Australia's Engage program in Mount Gambier is just getting bigger and better!

Engage gives people with disability the opportunity to participate in a range of activities while engaging with friends and the community.

There's an abundance of activities from Monday to Friday that help people develop friendships and learn new skills, including eight-ball, karaoke, arts and crafts and eating out.

Participants must be aged 18 and over.

Learn more about Engage by calling us on 08 8725 9057 or by sending an email to info@claust.com.au.



Some of the activities available in the Engage program.

Recycling Program in the Southern Metro

Our clients and team in the Southern Metro are collecting bread tags and bottle lids to support two great organisations' humanitarian and environmental missions.

This program is a great way for clients to engage with their community. It's also very rewarding for them to give back to their community and to help people in need around the world.

See the information below for details.



To donate:

Phone: **08 8536 5888**

or Email: info@claust.com.au

and we'll come to you!



Mount Barker Day Options' Christmas Fundraiser

Mt. Barker Day Options organised a raffle draw to raise funds to support their upcoming programs and projects in 2021. It was a great way for the guys to learn new skills and meet new people.

For the raffle, the Hills Day Options team assembled a number of Christmas hampers filled with fantastic treats and goodies that they received from generous donations.

The team sold raffle tickets at our various office locations and Mount Barker Central Shopping Centre, where passers-by were encouraged to participate for a chance to win in the lucky draw.

Allan and Kimmy excitedly participated in the

activity, having been involved in the Hills Day Options Christmas fundraising team since it was initiated.

For both Allan and Kymmy, selling the raffle tickets was an amazing opportunity to meet people, practice their communication and interpersonal skills, and also wish shoppers a wonderful Christmas. Together with their friends, they are now planning what they will buy with the proceeds.

The team managed to raise over \$1,000.

On behalf of the Mt. Barker Day Options team, we would like to thank everyone who participated and donated.



Allan, Kymmy and the team, fundraising at the local shopping centre.

Kangaroo Island's **Breakfast Club**

As part of our ongoing Breakfast Club program, our Kangaroo Island region continues its promise of helping students in nearby schools.

Their goal has always been to provide healthy meals for kids who might otherwise start their school day without a proper breakfast.

Throughout 2020, the KI team made over 1,200 individual muesli bars that were distributed across three schools. The breakfast bars were a big hit among kids who then have access to a snack any time during the day, whenever they are hungry.

With the aim of making a practical and easy-toeat breakfast, these muesli bars provide energy and nutrition to kids while helping them stay focused on their studies and activities throughout the day.

It also addresses the issue of some children going to school without breakfast or lunch, whether it be due to habit, time management or lack of access.

Kangaroo Island clients have enjoyed both the food preparations and distributing the breakfast bars. This great initiative helps them develop their cooking skills and understand the importance of nutrition to start anyone's day; it has also provided an excellent avenue for our clients to contribute to their local community.

And feeding school kids isn't the only thing the team has been up to. After the fires that devastated Kangaroo Island last summer, our team and clients distributed boxes of breakfast bars to the workers who were repairing damaged infrastructure.

Our Breakfast Club program is available in many of our regions in South Australia. If you know a school in any of these regions that would like to benefit from this initiative, email us at info@claust.com.au or call 08 8536 5888. We'd love to hear from you.



Barb supplying breakfast bars to the SA Power Networks crew when they were busy repairing infrastructure damaged by fires last year.

Take a Virtual Tour of Myranth House

Myranth House continues to deliver its promise of offering a "home away from home" for adults living with disability and for those who are in search of respite services in the historic town of Strathalbyn and the beautiful Adelaide Hills.

The property boasts stylish and spacious bedrooms (each with a TV and ensuite), large social spaces and a backyard and outdoor dining area which are all perfect for those who are in need of an amazing holiday getaway in the Adelaide Hills.

Trained, qualified and experienced support workers are also readily available to help guests who are checked in at the property and we are happy to work with people to ensure the supports and services are tailored to their individual needs.

Guests have plenty of exciting venues to explore within the neighbourhood as the site is in close proximity to various town attractions such as the Railway Station (built in 1884). Strathalbyn & District Heritage Centre (built in

1858), the Strathalbyn Motor Museum and the Social Memorial Garden. This is not to mention the local restaurants and cafes and there are plenty of day trips to wineries and the beach on offer as well - all within 30 minutes drive.

Aside from Myranth House, Community Living Australia's respite services offer short-term or long-term accommodations in other locations including the Murraylands, Kangaroo Island, and Fleurieu Peninsula. Support provided for quests can include access to leisure activities and transport. With the ultimate aim of providing clients with disability, their families, and their carers with a much-deserved holiday break

Curious how this stunning property looks like from the inside? Take a virtual tour of the Myranth House.

If you would like to learn more about this property or if would like to arrange a stay for yourself or a loved one, contact us on 08 8536 5888 or via email at info@claust.com.au.



Front on view of the historic Myranth House



Accessible ramp leading up to the entry.



Multiple comfortable sitting areas to enjoy an array of activities.



Large, comfy lounge room.



Enjoy a movie night with the other guests.



Spacious and accessible bedrooms.

Take a Virtual Tour of Myranth **House (cont.)**



Private sitting rooms for every bedroom.



All bedrooms include accessible bathrooms.



One of the bedroom spaces.



Enjoy a home cooked meal or takeaway from the many quality local eateries.



Undercover outdoor area to enjoy with either guests or on your own.



Secure yard, ready for a host of activities.

Health Awareness News

Your Health and Making the Right Choice

You have a right to be included in your care decisions and to be informed about your services and treatments. Before making a decision about your health, it is important to understand the risks and benefits of any medical test, treatment and procedures recommended by your doctor or healthcare provider. The best way to be well informed is to ask your doctor questions and to discuss your concerns.

Finding Reliable Health Information

The information you find online is not always reliable. However, government endorsed health websites such as Healthdirect Australia, the Better Health Channel, industry bodies such as the Australian Medical Association, and other organisations like Beyond Blue and Cancer Council Australia have reliable information. If in doubt, ask your doctor or health care professional. If any Community Living Australia clients need support to be informed, contact Community Living Australia.



Talk to your GP or health care professional.

Hiring People with Disability & the PEER2PEER Program

Australia is falling short when it comes to the employment of people with disability. Ranking 21 out of 29 OECD countries for labour force participation among those with a disability. People with disability in Australia are several times more likely to be unemployed when compared with workers without a disability.

Many people with disability are not given fair consideration for employment, leaving them long-term unemployed, feeling undervalued and less able to participate in the community economically.

The Disability Royal Commission's key findings in their recent Brisbane public hearing summarised that the barriers to employment for people with disability generally include varying factors such as physical inaccessibility of premises and organisational challenges that do not allow proper training and smooth transition to employment.

Ronald Sackville AO QC, Chair of the Royal Commission, said that "Gainful employment is an important pathway towards achieving a secure future and autonomy" for people with disability.

Negative attitudes, bias, and lack of awareness lead to barriers that pile up within our society and prevent us from developing a more inclusive, progressive, and diverse workplace that enables people with disability to contribute and participate.

While many people with disability are capable of work, it is a constant challenge for us to create an environment conducive to allowing performance. People with disability should be evaluated and hired based on their potentials and capabilities and the environment reasonably adjusted to allow for mutually beneficial participation.

Here are three main reasons why we all should advocate for companies to employ people with disability:

Here are three main reasons why we should all advocate for companies to hire people with disability:

Promote A Workplace Culture of Diversity and Integration

In today's modern world, there's nothing more crucial than highlighting the importance of "Diversity" and "Integration" in creating a collaborative and progressive workplace. A sense of belonging and inclusion ultimately help employees feel that the organisation genuinely cares for them and their authentic selves.



We are recruiting mentors - who can be people with or without disability - to support people with disability to achieve their goals.

People With Disability Provide A Different Perspective

Having a different background and perspective may bring different skill sets and ideas to the table which can prove beneficial for any organization. As they say, business solutions tend to be limited when perspectives are limited.

Untapped and Overlooked Talent Pool and Segment

As an under-represented segment, employing people with disability provides an opportunity for businesses to understand and support this overlooked segment who are also considered one of their end consumers.

Like any other person, people with disability have skills and potential which bring value to any organisation. They should not be evaluated based on their physical appearance or how they present themselves. It should never be an "act of charity" for businesses too, but a genuine interest in promoting inclusion and integration.

Community Living Australia acknowledges the value that people with disability bring, and with this, we launch our PEER2PEER mentoring program this year. Our mentors - who can be people with or without disability - are employed to support people aged 16+ with disability to engage in the community and achieve their goals.

Mentors will support their mentees in engaging in events and activities, building confidence, independent living skills, or gaining employment.

Mentoring programs do not just benefit the mentees. Mentors will develop a variety of skills including interpersonal and leadership plus they gain the satisfaction of making a difference to someone else.

We will provide mentors with paid training prior to taking part in the program and will continue support them throughout.

Currently a pilot program, PEER2PEER is available to people living in and around Southern Metro Adelaide this includes both current clients and other community members.

For further information about PEER2PEER, visit claust.com.au/events/peer2peer or contact Sue O'Brien - Program Development Coordinator at sue.obrien@claust.com.au or (08) 8536 5888.

Rewards and Recognition **Program Award Recipients 2020**

We all have someone we know, whether it be a colleague, client or member of the community who inspires us or deserves recognition for doing something exceptional in the lives of people with disability.

At Community Living Australia, we are committed to recognising the many wonderful achievements of our clients, employees, volunteers and those in our communities. This is why we launched our annual Rewards and Recognition program in 2019.

We were immensely proud to announce the following winners of our Rewards and Recognition Program Awards categories in 2020 at the awards event held at our new Mount Baker head office in March this year.

Staff Awards

Dedication Award: Meagan Canny (Team Leader)

Criteria: Awarded to staff who have shown a commitment to quality service provision and continual improvement over their term of service, dedicating themselves to improving the lives of people with disability over an extended period of time.

Awarded to Meagan for her 15 years of exceptional commitment to quality service provision and dedication to improving the lives of people with disability.

Jill Coombe (Deputy Chair) and Meagan, winner of the Dedication Award.

Impact Award: Hayley Stuart (Team Leader)

Nominated by peers, staff receive this award for delivering significant improvements in our services, the lives of our clients and people with disability.

Awarded to Hayley for her leadership and dedication having a significant impact on her team and the lives of our clients.



Hayley, winner of the Impact Award, and Jill.

Client Award: Sue Aubert (Support Worker)

Criteria: Nominations for this award are received for staff who provide exceptional services and demonstrate a willingness to extend themselves to help others and improve the quality of life for our clients.

Awarded to Sue for her development of innovative learning programs which have been incredibly popular with clients.

Volunteer Award: Vince Tucker (Support Worker)

Criteria: Nominated by staff, volunteers, clients or families/caregivers, recipients are Community Living Australia volunteers who demonstrate Community Living Australia's values and whose commitment has a positive impact in Community Living Australia achieving its aims.

For to Vince his volunteerism, running a regular gaming group, popular with young adults and demonstrating Community Living Australia's values.

Client Awards

Community Participation Award: Kerry Warner

Criteria: This Award is presented to clients who are actively engaging in their community through valued roles.

Awarded to Kerry for her active engagement in the Riverland community, in particular her copious volunteer work with local businesses, organisations and schools.



Sue, winner of the Client Award and Molly (Regional Manager - Murraylands).



This year's award recipients who attended the awards event.

Rewards and Recognition Program Recipients 2020 (cont.)

Education Achievement Award: Jasmine Hobbs

Criteria: The Educational Achievement Award recognises clients' commitment and achievement of educational outcomes to support them achieving their potential.

Awarded to Jasmine for her continuing commitment to her studies at the University of Adelaide and her completion of a sewing and design course at TAFE.

Encouragement Award: Allan Hoppe

Criteria: This Award is presented to clients who demonstrate the willingness and motivation to achieve their personal goals and who are putting in significant and sustained effort to achieve them, although they may only be part way there.

Awarded to Allan for his motivation and ingenuity, running and growing his café microbusiness.



Mark Kulinski (CE) presenting at the awards night.



Jill and Allan, winner of the Encouragement Award.

Chairman's Achievement Awards:

Presented to clients demonstrating significant and notable achievements in line with their individual support plans.

Chairman's Achievement Award - Adelaide Hills: Jackie Walker

Awarded for her improvement in communication, community engagement and daily routines.



Some of the attendees from Murray Bridge.

Chairman's Achievement Award - South East: Warren Palmer

Awarded for pursuing his passion in mechanics, volunteering with a couple workshops.

Chairman's Achievement Award - Murraylands: **Ken Scott and Amanda Laube**

Awarded for pursuing their goal of marriage and successfully moving in together.



Awarded for achieving his goal of moving out of the family home and living independently.

Community Award - Chairman's Inclusion Award

Criteria: Awarded at the discretion of the Chairman, the award recognises the positive enduring impact a group or individual makes to the lives of people with disability in the regions that Community Living Australia serves.

Rock the Coast Crew (Darcy, Sean, Nat, Josh and Rory)

Awarded for organising the inclusive Rock the Coast concert with funds raised donated to the CFS.



Some of the attendees from the Murraylands.



Jill with Ken and Amanda, winners of the Chairman's Achievement Award - Murraylands.



Jill with the Rock the Coast Crew, awarded the Community Award - Chairman's Inclusion Award.

Mark Your Calendars (April-June)

Celebrate with the international community as we shine a spotlight on these special dates while raising awareness for people with disability and educating the public about these specific causes. Let's also continue giving everyone with a disability, including their family members and friends, our support, love, and care.

Date	Event	Details
April 11	World Parkinson's Day	Raise awareness and show your support for people with this neurological condition. Parkinson's mainly affects people aged over 65. Its symptoms vary but may include motor issues such as slowed movement and tremors, and non-motor issues such
		as cognitive impairment and speech problems. Learn more about it on the Health Direct website www.healthdirect.gov.au/parkinsons-disease.
Aprill 28	International Guide Dog Day	Celebrate the important role of guide dogs in assisting people with visual impairment to live independent lives. It's also a day to remember that guide dogs are legally allowed access to most public spaces, including restaurants, public transport and taxis.
May 5	World Asthma Day	Managing your asthma means taking control of your health. It means working with a doctor to determine an <u>Asthma Action Plan</u> , and using it every day. Find out more about Asthma Action Plans at <u>www.asthma.org.au/about-asthma/live-with-asthma/asthma-action-plan/</u>

Date	Event	Details
May 20	Global Accessibility Awareness Day	This day highlights the importance of making digital and online media accessible to people with disability.
		This includes designing accessible software and assistive technologies.
May 27	Australia's Biggest Morning Tea	Catch up and have a cuppa with a couple of close friends and family. Every dollar you raise will help fund the Cancer Council's life-saving research, prevention, support programs and information.
May 30	World MS Day	Bringing awareness to Multiple Sclerosis - a common chronic neurological illness that affects over 25,000 Australians and over 2.5 million people globally.



Celebrate International Guide Dog Day on April 28.

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Community Living Australia

Phone 08 8536 5888

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