



Update on the NDIS and More



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A Message from The Chief Executive



Mark Kulinski, Chief Executive

Welcome to this edition of our Newsletter. The newsletter is one way we try to keep people updated with what is happening at Community Living Australia as well as other important information.

Recently I celebrated 10 years with Community Living Australia (and previously CLASS). This may seem a long time where someone could start to feel tired, but my enthusiasm and commitment to realise our vision is stronger today than on my first day in the job.

This year our key focusses will continue to be on assisting our clients and families to make a successful transition into the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) and to ensure we continue to provide high quality supports and services that help them to achieve their goals.

We will be working diligently to ensure our services align with the NDIS moving forward whilst keeping our clients and families as our key focus during this process.

The NDIS continues to roll out across SA, with our Southern Metro, Fleurieu and Kangaroo Island regions joining the scheme on 1 January this year. The Adelaide Hills will follow suit in April. With the NDIS now getting close to full implementation we will all be experiencing some change over the coming year. As an organisation will be here beside you, like we have been, supporting and partnering with you through every step of the way. Our team is committed to ensuring that clients successfully transition into the NDIS.

I would like to acknowledge the outstanding work of our team in 2017 who achieved amazing outcomes with our clients and continued to build on the strength of the organisation so that we can continue our work well into the future. I am very excited for what we will achieve together in 2018 supporting our clients to achieve their goals and live their best life possible.

Without our staff Community Living Australia would not be where it is today. I feel incredibly privileged to lead such a wonderful team and thank each of them very much for their hard work, professionalism and dedication to our clients and families.

I also extend my sincerest thanks to our clients and families for the ongoing trust you have placed in us to provide your services and support.

I hope you enjoy this newsletter. Please let us know if there are any particular topics you would like us to include in the next edition.

Best wishes,

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

Mark Kulinski

Care Concerns are all of our Concern

As an organisation and each member of our team have a duty to look out for the safety and wellbeing of others – particularly the people we support.

At Community Living Australia we have a steadfast commitment to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all of our clients and staff.

It is because of this commitment that we have launched an organisation wide campaign to discuss with and educate our staff and community on what a 'Care Concern' is and what their role and responsibility is if they can see that a care concern has arisen.

What are Care Concerns?

Care concerns are defined as acts or situations where there has been a failure by anyone (the staff member, family member, member of the community, volunteer, contractor, or person on placement) to meet an agreed minimum standard of care that may jeopardise the wellbeing of or cause harm to a person with disability. Care concerns can vary in severity.

Our Responsibility

If we are aware of or see any behaviour or a situation that we believe may constitute a concern – that is, that it may put an individual at risk of physical, emotional or mental damage it is imperative that we:

- Take immediate steps to ensure the safety of the person and others involved
- Call for assistance if there is immediate danger/risk
- Make mandatory reports of suspected child abuse to the Child Abuse Report Line 13 14 78 or on-line at www.reportchildabuse.families.sa.gov.au
- Raise any concerns about the care of clients with an appropriate Community Living Australia Team Leader or Manager
- Report serious assaults, sexual abuse and suspected crimes to the police 13 14 44

Our Approach

We have a zero tolerance towards serious care concerns and will take any action necessary to ensure the safety and prosperity of our clients who have trusted us to provide them with support.

If you have any further questions or concerns regarding Care Concerns and your responsibilities, please do not hesitate to contact us on 08 8536 5888 or info@claustr.com.au.



Kaitlyn celebrating her performance at Tri States



Ryan, Emily and Joan at last years biggest morning tea

National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) Update



Donna Adams, Project Manager
NDIS Readiness

Many of our clients have transitioned to the NDIS.

The rest of our clients will transition by mid-2018.

We want to give some tips to help people with the NDIS.

Tips for your NDIS Journey

Preparing to transition to the NDIS

Gain an understanding of what the NDIS is. You can do this by:

- Attending an NDIS information session
- Visiting our website for lots of useful information on the NDIS
- Attending one of our weekly NDIS Drop In Sessions
- Contacting us to chat about the NDIS or to receive one to one support to discuss how you will transition to the NDIS
- Completing our NDIS planning workbook and checklist

To obtain any of this information visit our website claust.com.au/ndis or contact us on 08 8536 5888.

Going to your NDIS Planning Meeting

- Take a support person (family, carer, friend, or a provider staff member) to your NDIS planning meeting
- Ensure you make a time for your planning meeting that suits you. Allow at least 2 hours for the meeting

I have recieved my first NDIS plan

- Check that the information is correct, including that the plan summarises the supports and goals you discussed at your planning meeting
- Let your current provider(s) know that you have an NDIS plan
- Contact your Support Coordinator or select one if you have funding in your NDIS plan. They will help you understand your funding and help you get your services in place
- Engage a Plan Manager if you have funding in your plan to cover this
- If you don't have a Support Coordinator then you can contact the NDIS planner to run through your NDIS plan to explain what it means
- If you are not happy with your NDIS plan, that is, you believe the supports are not sufficient, then you need to contact the NDIA on 1800 800 110 and request a review as soon as possible
- Contact your preferred service provider(s) to discuss your support needs
- Ensure you have a service agreement with the providers you choose to work with

National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) Update (cont.)

My NDIS plan is coming up for review

- It is worth going through our NDIS planning workbook and checklist to identify any changes, gaps, and new goals you may have
- This can be downloaded from our website - claust.com.au/how-we-can-support-you
- Or you can contact us on 08 8536 5888 if you would like us to post you a copy
- Collect reports from your provider(s) detailing your progress to achieving your goals
- Contact us on 08 8536 5888 to receive one to one support to discuss how your supports are working for you and to discuss options if you would like to change

We are here to help

No matter what stage you are in of your NDIS journey we are more than happy to meet with you to discuss how we can assist you to get the supports you need.

Contact us on 08 8536 5888 and we would be happy to help.

Update on the NDIS

New Participant Pathway

The NDIS is a new scheme and with anything new that is being rolled out in such a short timeframe, there can be issues.

The National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) have acknowledged this and have listened to the feedback from participants and providers which is a really positive step forward.

This will mean that the NDIA is recognising some of the issues in the scheme and are making steps to fix them. One of these steps is testing a new participant pathway that will aim to make the transition to the NDIS easier for people with a disability. This will be trialled this year with the aim to rollout improvements nationally.

Remaining Local Area Coordinators Announced

Early this year the NDIA announced the Local Area Coordinators for the remaining South Australian regions.

Baptcare will provide Local Area Coordination Services to participants aged seven years and over in the Western Adelaide, Eastern Adelaide and Yorke and Mid-North Service areas.



Scott, Kayte, Nicole and Michael and Nathan Picnicing in Warnambool

Mission Australia will support the Limestone Coast, Murray and Mallee, Adelaide Hills, Fleurieu Kangaroo Island, Southern Adelaide, Eyre Western and Far North service regions.

Feros Care will still provide Local Area Coordination in the Northern Adelaide and Barossa Lower Light service areas.

Baptcare and Mission Australia are two experienced and respected organisations that have existing community connections and infrastructure which will allow them to quickly scale up across South Australia.

Baptcare and Mission Australia will join existing supplier Feros Care to support an expected 32,300 people with disability in South Australia by 2020.

It is expected that both Baptcare and Mission Australia will be up and running by March 2018.

NDIS Plan Utilisation Rates

Currently only 54% of all allocated NDIS plan funds are being utilised. This means people are missing out on beneficial supports that could help them achieve their goals, develop their independence and live better lives.

We expect there are a few reasons as to why this is happening such as, people saving for a rainy day, people not being able to find people and providers to provide the services, people don't understand their plans – that is, what the funding is for and what services they can buy and that some plans don't meet people's needs.

If you fall into any of these categories we encourage you to either contact us for support on 08 8536 5888 or by emailing info@claut.com.au. Alternatively you can get in contact with your Local Area Coordinator who can help connect you with services providers or the NDIA who like your Local Area Coordinator can help explain your plan, or if necessary review it. This review will need to be lodged and requested by you.

We would encourage you to avoid falling into this circumstance by planning thoroughly. Use all of the pre-planning resources at your disposal, visit the NDIS website ndis.gov.au which has some great tools or use the tools available on our website at claut.com.au/ndis.



Gabby and Nicole at an NDIS Community Information Expo in Southern Metro

Strathalbyn Christmas Pageant

Community Living Australia's iconic Drummer Boy float has again captured the attention of many locals at Strathalbyn's annual pageant 'Christmas where the Angas Flows' held on Friday 15th December.

For the first time Community Living Australia was given responsibility of managing this hugely popular community event. The event was again well attended with over 40 floats entering in the pageant this year (a record number) and clients showing their eagerness to be involved as they marshalled the event.

Community Living Australia Chief Executive Mark Kulinski says the pageant enables the organisation to grow its community profile and demonstrates its ongoing support for the local community.

"Our involvement in managing the pageant has given us more opportunity to increase our community profile, yet more importantly, it also demonstrates our ongoing commitment to the wellbeing of Strathalbyn and the wider region ensuring this fantastic community event continues for years to come," he said.

Regional Manager for the Adelaide Hills, Strathalbyn, and Riverland, Sue Stuart says "the pageant is always a great event for clients to be involved in as it encourages them to be more active in their community, meet new people and learn new skills."

"Given the great success of this year's event I think it is safe to say we will see the Drummer Boy in many Christmas pageants to come," added Sue.

Special thanks goes out to all volunteers who supported with the pageant on the day. The event and our Drummer Boy float would not have been possible without your support.



*The parade coming up
Dawson St*



Volunteer Brian pulls the Drummer Boy behind his tractor

Office Launch in Southern Metro

Community Living Australia on Friday 17th November 2017 officially opened our brand new Fleurieu Peninsula, Southern Metro & Kangaroo Island office at 31 Beach Road Christies Beach.

Opened by Mayor Lorraine Rosenberg – Mayor for the City of Onkaparinga, the office will serve as a headquarters for managing our services on Kangaroo Island, the Fleurieu Peninsula and within the Southern Metro area.

It is expected that more than 7,500 people with disability will be eligible for NDIS services within these regions alone. The opportunity to support people to live their life in the way they want is one that we look forward to. Partnering with our clients

to create services and supports that help them achieve their goals is our priority.

Chief Executive Mark Kulinski said “our new office adds to our ever growing support for people to transition to and thrive with the support of the NDIS. Having our local team readily available and well supported by our Regional Manager – Paula Roberts, clients and their families are assured of dedicated local support and responsiveness to their needs”.

Regional Manager Paula Roberts added; “the opening of this office also demonstrates our commitment to be part of and active within our local community”.

Adding, “the work we do cannot be done in isolation. We work with many community partners to bring our services to life so that our clients can connect more, do more and achieve more”.

Having a brand new office space is incredibly exciting for our whole team across the Fleurieu, Southern Metro and Kangaroo Island and we want to thank Mayor Lorraine Rosenberg for opening the venue, her support is greatly appreciated.

It is expected the new office will see many more clients and families join the organisation, particularly as the NDIS has gone live from 1st January 2018 in these regions.

“The work we do cannot be done in isolation. We work with many community partners to bring our services to life so that our clients can connect more, do more and achieve more.”



Mayor Lorraine Rosenberg officially opening the Southern Metro Office

Mount Gambier Christmas Pageant

A significant number of our clients in the South East participated in the Mount Gambier Christmas Pageant. As always the event was well supported by the local community and it was great to see our clients enjoying the pageant.

“Our involvement in the pageant this year has given us more opportunity to increase our community profile, yet more

importantly, it has given our clients another opportunity to get out into the community and participate” said Helen Brennan Acting Regional Manager for the South East.

Adding, “it was great for clients to get involved in making the float, the decorations and in helping to set it all up. They all had a great time and took a lot of pride in their creation. Some are already asking about

next year’s pageant and being involved in that!”

Congratulations must go out to all involved in making the float and decorations – you all did a fantastic job and we must also thank the event organisers for putting on a great pageant and community event.

We look forward to taking part again later this year!



The Community Living Australia Float



Mount Gambier Christmas Pageant

Mount Barker Day Options celebrate 2017 with Christmas Celebration

Community Living Australia’s Mount Barker Day Options team celebrated the end of another successful year for staff, clients, and families.

Celebrations were held at the Laratinga Wetlands with a delicious barbeque prepared by clients and staff in a relaxed atmosphere.

During the day many clients took the opportunity to try the piñata and see if any surprises were hidden inside.

It was also a great family event and provided plenty of time for families, clients and staff to wind down after another busy year.

Regional Manager for the Adelaide Hills Sue Stuart says, “the Christmas break-up is a fantastic opportunity for our clients, their families and staff to come together and celebrate what has been another fantastic year for our Day Options team in the Adelaide Hills.”

The team are looking forward to another great year in 2018 supporting our Adelaide Hills clients to achieve their goals and live fulfilling lives in their community.

Cricket Fever at the Big Bash

Recently our sports fans from Murray Bridge headed to Adelaide Oval for the Big Bash which saw our home cricket team, the Adelaide Strikers hit it off against the Melbourne Stars and Hobart Hurricanes.



Marty & Luke having a great time

The crew, who consisted of Community Living Australia clients, staff and volunteers, began both evenings with dinner followed by a snack run in anticipation of a couple long, exciting matches. The crew also stocked up on Striker merchandise including tops and caps, exemplifying their sports fan spirit.

With huge crowds of around 45,000, the group soaked up the atmosphere, holding up their placards whenever the Strikers hit a six or sent a visiting batsmen back to the pavilion.

Attending a spectacle of this calibre was a first for a number of clients. For Jess in particular, to travel so far into the city and to be amongst such massive crowds placed her well out of her comfort zone. In hindsight, Jess was extremely glad she went.

"I loved it!" she said.

"Apart from the entertainment value, events such as these are very important for our clients to experience," says Mark Kulinski, Chief Executive of Community Living Australia.

"It helps people meet new friends, learn new independence skills and be part of something that shapes our national identity," he added.

The end of the Big Bash Cricket season has arrived but there are more events on the horizon. Since this clients have attended the Adelaide 500 and Monster Slam with planning for more events underway.

These events are made possible by Community Living Australia volunteers. If you would like to join in on the fun and volunteer to be part of a team that supervises these group activities, visit our website claut.com.au/volunteers or contact Alys Green, Volunteer Coordinator alys.green@claut.com.au.

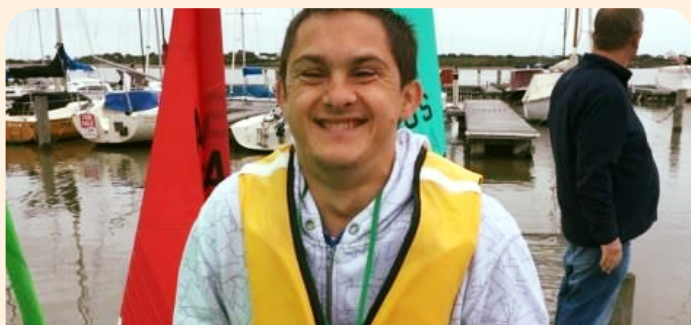


The crew enjoying the Strikers game at Adelaide Oval



The view from the stands

Andy Sets Sail



Andy smiling with excitement as he waits to get into a sailboat for the first time



Andy eagerly learning how to sail from an experienced sailor

Wanting to experience something new, Andy decided to attend Sailability, setting sail for his first time in Goolwa.

The Goolwa Regatta Yacht Club sponsors and promotes sailing for people living with disability through the Sailability program. Sailability is an international not for profit made up of over 4500 associations, many of which are based in locations around Australia.

It is a volunteer-based organisation which “enriches the lives of people of all abilities through the activity of sailing” says Paula Roberts, Regional Manager for the Fleurieu, Southern Metro and Kangaroo Island.

Andy enjoyed relaxing and spending one-on-one time with an experienced sailor out on the water and felt happy and energised once back on dry land. He is looking forward to continuing his new found interest in the new year and thinks it's a great activity for others to try.

The program run by the Goolwa Regatta Yacht Club is run on Saturdays on a monthly basis. Access into and out of boats is easily arranged and lifting equipment is available if needed. If sailing floats your boat, more information can be obtained on the club's website www.gryc.com.au/sailability.



All clients who have sailed, have thoroughly enjoyed the experience

Hands On Project



Sally giving Chuon his new hand

At Community Living Australia, we understand the value people with disability provide to our community and we support them to achieve their goals and be valued members of their community.

Perhaps one of the best examples of this is the recent commitment made by Ben and Andrew to improve the life of someone they've never met living far beyond their own community.

In Southeast Asia, many thousands of people are left with disabilities after falling victim to landmines and unexploded bombs despite a concerted effort by governments to defuse them. Many people lose their hands in such incidents, which can have a significant impact on their daily lives.

The Rotary Hands On Project seeks to improve the lives of people who are victims of these tragedies by providing and fitting them with prosthetic hands donated and assembled by organisations and individuals from all over the world.

After assembly, the hands are delivered to recipients by registered volunteers of Rotary Australia World Community Service to countries such as Cambodia, Laos and Sri Lanka.

One such prosthesis was generously donated by a lady from Brisbane before Ben and Andrew, both

clients of Community Living Australia, decided to take on the challenge of assembling it.

Sally Charlton, a Community Living Australia and Rotary volunteer, facilitated the assembly process.

"Ben and Andrew were emotionally moved by the experience," Sally said. "They were so happy to make a difference in someone's life, it was the most rewarding and emotional experience."

In November last year, Sally delivered the hand to a recipient named Chuon in Cambodia and facilitated the fitting process.

Chuon, aged 53, is a farmer, fisherman and home builder with three children and three grandchildren. He lost his left hand to a land mine in 1986.

Chuon was so happy to receive the prosthesis, photos and letters from Ben and Andrew. He wrote a message back to thank everyone involved and wished everyone 'good health forever'.

Mark Kulinski, Chief Executive of Community Living Australia said, "it's wonderful to see our clients demonstrating the same focus and supporting others to achieve their goals."

You can learn more about the Rotary Hands On Project at www.handsonproject.com.au.



Sally and Andrew working to assemble the hand



Ben assembling parts of the hand

Christmas Donations

During the holiday season, Community Living Australia were the thankful recipients of an abundance of children's gifts generously donated by several local charity and community organisations.

The Tailem Bend Auto Club wrapped an assortment of gifts, sorting them into age groups before delivering them to us in person.

Additionally, AC Care Murray Bridge teamed up with the Salvation Army and Vinnies in Murray Bridge to deliver us a huge bundle of gifts, also sorted into age groups.

Our team happily distributed the gifts to our very appreciative young clients, their siblings and other deserving young people.

"The level of generosity from these groups and the community is heart-warming," said Molly Baulch, Regional Manager – Murraylands. "As a not-for-profit organisation, contributions such as this help us bring joy to the children we support. It's wonderful to see so many working together on this one!"

"As a not-for-profit organisation, contributions such as this help us bring joy to the children we support."



Just a few of the gifts donated by the Tailem Bend Auto Club, AC Care and Salvation Army

Strategic Plan



Chris Picton MP (Member for Kurna), Mark Kulinski (Chief Executive), Mayor Lorraine Rosenberg (Onkaparinga Council), Garry Connor (Dignity Party) and Brad Butler (Board Member) at the Southern Metro Office Opening

"Community Living Australia has a strategic plan which outlines as an organisation what our goals are and purpose is, as well as how we intend to achieve these."

Community Living Australia has a strategic plan which outlines as an organisation what our goals are and purpose is, as well as how we intend to achieve these.

Strategic planning is an organisational management activity that is a disciplined effort that produces fundamental decisions and actions that shape and guide what an organisation is, who it serves, what it does, and why it does it, with a focus on the future.

Effective strategic planning articulates not only where an organisation is going and the actions needed to make progress, but also how it will know if it is successful.

Our Strategic Plan has had some very minor amendments made by the Board. As part of this process we invite feedback from any of our clients, their families and carers and our staff.

You can request a copy of the Strategic Plan from any of our offices, view it on our website at claust.com.au or you can request a copy by sending an email to info@claust.com.au.

If you are wanting to provide some feedback regarding the Strategic Plan please contact us on 08 8536 5888 or at info@claust.com.au.



Community Living Australia

Phone 08 8536 5888

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