

LDS COMMUNITY

Winter 2023



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Welcome to our Winter Edition!

A warm welcome to our community. In this edition hear from our new upcoming CEO, celebrate achievements, and read all about the latest LDS news.

Firstly, a huge congratulations on Michael Kromwyk, Chief Operations Officer, for being appointed the new CEO upon the retirement of John van Ruth this coming July. We are very excited for him and know that he will continue to grow and shape LDS greatly much like the leader before him.

We wish John all the best with his upcoming retirement and thank him for the years of support, growth and unwavering leadership.

In the picture above, Carol made a beautiful floral bookmark for Client Services Manager, Marcy. LDS strives for human connection and being client-centred, and we are glad to see the friendships formed without barriers within all levels of the organisation.

From the desk of the new CEO

Colossians 3:23-24 "Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ."

Greetings to the LDS community and thank you for the many well wishes that we have received since the announcement of my appointment. I feel blessed to work for LDS and to lead our community and I thank you for your support, prayers and many blessings I have received in recent weeks.

I also extend a thank you to John van Ruth, our current CEO who is retiring on July 7. John has been an exemplary leader and I have learned so much from him over the past three years at LDS. I have known John for many years and always said that I would like to work with him and can now proudly say that JvR (as we know him) has had an impact in my life.



Michael Kromwyk

In Colossians it says to serve as for the Lord and not for men. This summarises what I see as our mission here at LDS. Our role is to serve God through supporting some of the most vulnerable people in our community, providing our clients high quality service and respecting their right to choice and control. At LDS we live and breathe this everyday and I want our community to be assured that the LDS you know today will continue to serve our clients and their circle of support through high quality faith-based service.

Over the next few months I am looking forward to visit every house and meeting with clients, staff, families and friends. I want to hear from you about what we are doing well and where we can improve. Our goal remains to create happy homes and to serve through our values of faith, empowerment, excellence and fun.

If you'd like to contact me my email is mkromwyk@ldssa.org.au and my direct line is 0400271985.

I am looking forward to leading LDS and serving you in my new capacity from July 3.

Cheers,
Michael

FAITH

What's your purpose?

Many people are searching for their purpose in life. For some people it's chasing money, for others their careers or the next purchase. God tells us that he has a purpose for our lives and it's not always earthly possessions. Over the past few weeks our clients have showed us some of their purpose in contributing to community, worship and being friends. Take some time this week to think about your purpose and how you can contribute more for God.

Many of our clients enjoy attending church and associated social gatherings:



CSM Marcy & Emily of DOR house relaxing together after setting up the new sensory room, soon to be completed. Stay tuned for more pictures!

daily word

Ephesians 3:14-19 "My response is to get down on my knees before the Father, this magnificent Father who parcels out all heaven and earth. I ask him to strengthen you by his Spirit—not a brute strength but a glorious inner strength—that Christ will live in you as you open the door and invite him in. And I ask him that with both feet planted firmly on love, you'll be able to take in with all followers of Jesus the extravagant dimensions of Christ's love. Reach out and experience the breadth! Test its length! Plumb the depths! Rise to the heights! Live full lives, full in the fullness of God."

God has created us in God's image, has filled us with God's Spirit of love, peace, patience and kindness and has given us unique gifts to use in the service of others. As we launch into the new financial year, remember your purpose, what gives your life meaning, joy and energy, a purpose created and enabled by God.



Finding purpose: Pictured is Therese and her favourite local Coles worker, who has been inspired by Therese to start employment in disability support.

FAITH



Jenni & Natalie enjoying musical church activities



Shimron House at Sunday Service at St. Johns.

Many of our clients and staff enjoy their church connections, whether it be Sunday Service, attending group activities at Church, or others listed below.

Client Christian Connections

Note: acronyms are the shortcut names of the clients' homes.

- **ADD** – 1 client worships weekly at church with family
- **CUL** – 1 client worships on Sundays with family
- **DAY** – All clients worship weekly at Holy Spirit Catholic Church, Seacombe Gardens
- **DERN** – 1 client attended St. Stephens Lutheran Church every week in May
- **DOR** – 2 clients worship at Edwardstown Baptist Church every Sunday, 1 client worships with mother
- **DUN** – 1 client worships at Warradale Lutheran Church weekly
- **DYE** – 2 clients worship at St Margaret's Church at Croydon Park on Sundays, 1 client attends a weekly Italian Christian day option group
- **ERD** – 1 client always worships on Sundays, rotating through multiple Lutheran churches in the hills from Mt Torrens to Stirling
- **FERR** – 1 client attends St Pauls Lutheran Church at Ferryden Park weekly, another client attends occasionally
- **MER** – Most clients attend Warradale Lutheran Church weekly
- **RAF** – 1 client attends Adelaide Revival Fellowship at Kingswood, 1 client attends St Bernadette's Catholic Church, St Marys
- **RIV** – 2 clients worship at St Petri Lutheran Church at Nuriootpa every Sunday (sometimes going to Light Pass). 1 client worships at St Pauls Lutheran Church, Tanunda with her family
- **ROS** – Haven't worshipped in a few months, but wishes to return to worshipping at Warradale Lutheran Church every Sunday
- **SHIM** – Most clients attend Unley Lutheran Church weekly and occasion Catholic church (Wakefield Street) on a Saturday night
- **SNE** - No one attends weekly church services, but 4 clients attend SFJ and EBC regularly

EMPOWERMENT

This is Therese. You may have recognised her on our website; one of our many clients. She is seen playing basketball, throwing the footy, and showing off her brilliant smile.

Therese has been a client of LDS for several years, alongside her siblings - and we have loved watching her thrive. So when she started working with Jigsaw to see out her employment goals, we couldn't have been more prouder.

Recently, Therese has now been promoted at Jigsaw in a paid trainee position where she now earns the adult award wage - something she is incredibly happy about. She has goals to save up her hard earned salary to travel interstate to watch her favourite Football team play: The Adelaide Crows!



Therese, at her new job at Jigsaw

Therese, with her favourite bowling ball. She is an avid ten-pin bowler, winning many prizes across the country!



"I'M GOOD IN AN OFFICE. I KNOW ABOUT COMPUTERS, I KNOW ABOUT PRINTERS, I KNOW ABOUT SCANNING AND PHOTOCOPYING, AND I KNOW HOW TO FIX THINGS. THAT'S WHY I LIKE JIGSAW. I COME IN IN THE MORNING AND WORK ON TURNING OLD PAPER RECORDS INTO DIGITAL RECORDS FOR EPIC ENERGY. I'VE DONE INVENTORY, I'VE DONE FILE MANAGEMENT, SCANNING AND QUALITY CONTROL."

One of the important jobs we have at LDS is making sure we do everything we can to help our clients thrive in their homes. This includes ensuring they are living their best life, and achieving all their personal goals. Our clients are capable of so much, and we want them to feel independent and thrive in life, with the supports of empowerment.

To encourage clients to go out into the community and find themselves a job is a huge goal to achieve, and Therese has smashed it. We couldn't be happier for her - she now has her eyes set on being a receptionist in the future. She is thriving - personally and professionally.

From recruiting good staff, ensuring we have the right training, good communication and finding ways to challenge and grow, we can ensure the best for our staff and clients.

EXCELLENCE

Book your vaccination appointment

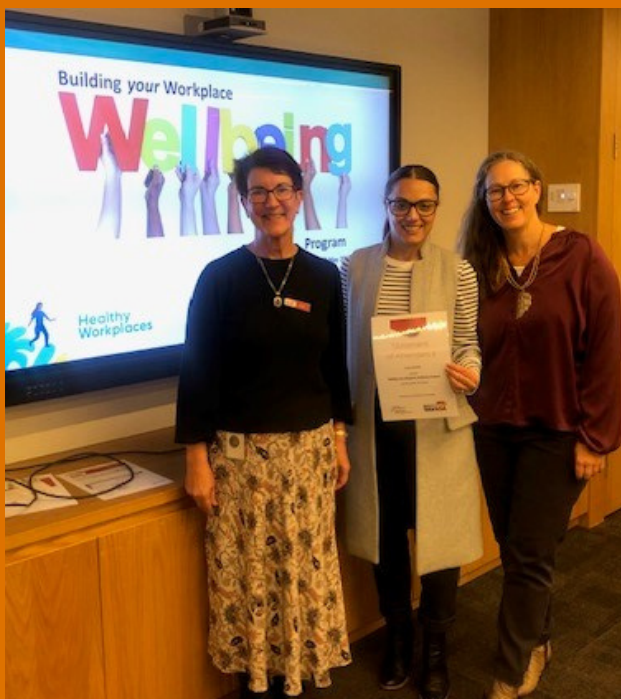


With COVID-19 protection waning across the community, there is an increased risk of infection. The Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) have announced their COVID-19 dose update. Workers and people with a disability should be encouraged to have a 2023 COVID-19 booster vaccination before winter. Eligibility for a COVID-19 booster is not dependent on the number of previous COVID-19 vaccinations.

LDS is able to support clients to vaccination appointments - please see your Team Leader to arrange.

Meet a staff member - JOYCE

"I feel very much blessed to have been able to re-join the LDS family again as a Finance Manager. The team, culture and leadership of LDS drew me back to both a business and an industry that I feel very passionately about. I'm looking forward to working with all of you as we strive to support our community, under the strong leadership of our new CEO/business structure." - Joyce You



'Building your workplace wellbeing' program with ReturntoWorkSA

Human Resources Manager Carla Pantelis, presented with the certificate at the end of the program. Wellbeing and Safety is of huge importance to us at LDS and we continually strive for improvements.

FUN

Lutheran Disability Services have four values that we use across our work everyday.

They are: **Faith, Empowerment, Excellence and Fun.** We believe that fun is an important value because everything we do should incorporate fun - it helps us to work and it should shine through us when we work with our clients.

This past Autumn brought together many events: The Biggest Morning Tea where staff and clients intermingled over some tea and cake; the Special Olympics Bowling Championships held in Port Pirie; Club Cool where the gals and guys danced the day away; and not to mention the epic Gold Coast trip for some of our ladies!



Having a boogie at the footy club!



To the left we have the Gartons; Michael, Therese, and Lauren. They did well at the Bowling Championships, and spent the evening celebrating at the Port Pirie Football Club with their friends.

Fun is in the LDS DNA because we all want to have fun at work, but it's also because our clients radiate fun, and make sure that everyone who attends has the time of their life!



MORE NEWS

Reminder of LDS' Cancellation Policy

Please be advised that shift cancellations are billable when made without sufficient notice. If a shift is cancelled less than 48 hours prior to the commencement of the shift, it is considered a short notice cancellation. If short or no notice of the shift cancellation is provided, 100% of the full fee will be charged against the client's NDIS plan.

This policy is in place because LDS are still obligated to pay the staff member for the hours they were rostered for, regardless if the shift is worked or not.



Tea Tree Gully Build: Under Way!

Earlier in May we gathered on the site of our newest build; three independent homes built near the St John's Lutheran Church in Tea Tree Gully.

We were joined by the clients and their families who wish to move in, their support workers, and members of the church who welcomed us so graciously. Chief Operations Officer, Michael Kromwyk, spoke to the group about how the builds were progressing, and expected timelines.

Afterwards, we gathered in the church for nibbles and coffee, intermingling with those closest to the upcoming builds. It was certainly an exciting time for us, and our clients, to see the new homes coming to life!

MORE NEWS

Family Forum May 2023

On Tuesday 9 May over 30 LDS families, friends, supporters and staff joined us online and in-person to hear from our CEO, John van Ruth and the Client Services team to receive an update on how the organisation is tracking, the implementation of the new Client Services structure and to answer community questions.

In summary the topics included:

John van Ruth, CEO: John spoke about the last 3 years at LDS and how the organisation has not only grown but also continued to develop skills in quality & safeguarding while always keeping the client at the centre of everything we do. John thanked the community for their support over the past 3 years as he prepares for retirement in July.

Matt Stevens and Ben Natt, Senior Client Services Managers: Matt and Ben spoke about their backgrounds and their desire to work with people living with disability. They were pleased to announce that we have a near full complement of Team Leaders and Client Services Managers and that their impact is already being felt across the network. They also spoke about how they will continue to work tirelessly to improve our quality while also communicating regularly to families and the circle of support for each client.

Marcy Jackson, Jo Williams and Laura Duffield (Paul Hodges – apology), Client Services Manager: Each introduced themselves and gave their experience in the disability and social services sector along with their lived experience. They all expressed that they are really enjoying working at LDS and are spending a lot of time helping Team Leaders to understand their role and support both staff and clients. This will be an ongoing focus in the coming months.

The Forum then opened for questions from the floor. Many of these questions were related to individual houses and operations and were answered by the management team. One question was around how does the structure work operationally in Client Services.

The explanation is similar to a football team:

- The staff are the players
- The Team Leader is the captain, directing the players on the field during the game
- The Client Services Manager is the coach, directing the game plan and making changes as required
- The Senior Client Services Manager is the Director of Football, ensuring that the team and coach are performing, but also planning for the future

Thank you to everyone who attended the Forum and we look forward to seeing you all in person and online again next year.



VACANCY ALERT



Hillcrest

Seeking house-mate to share with a male in their 40s who enjoys community and friendships. This quiet house is situated in a cluster of 4 other LDS houses. 1:2 and passive overnights.



Dernancourt

Seeking house-mate to share with a male in their 40s, who enjoys independence and close friendships. This spacious house is situated on a quiet corner, close by to shops and parks. 1:2 and active overnights.



Ferryden Park

Seeking house-mate to join two other males in their 50s, both with active lifestyles and working most of the week. Large, modern house. Available room has its own ensuite. Seeking an easy going gentleman who enjoys his hobbies and a calm environment. 1:3 and passive overnights.

FUTURE LOADING



Expressions of Interest:

Currently open for future homes at Tea Tree Gully and Tanunda.

FUTURE LOADING



Housemate Matches:

Currently seeking matches for
a 1:3 Female home in the inner-South or West
a 1:3 Male home in the inner-South

Looking for a safe and secure happy home?
If interested in any of these properties, please
contact Celina Groom:
cgroom@ldssa.org.au or 0402 756 492



NDIS Quality
and Safeguards
Commission



The Future of the NDIS:

Our new upcoming CEO Michael Kromwyk recently attended the Annual DSC NDIS Conference, held over June 1-2. (DSC is a training, conference and consulting group specialising in the NDIS.) With the Independent Review just around the corner, Michael picked up some key information over the weekend.

He heard from Hon. Bill Shorten MP on the importance of the NDIS, and how the Government are committed to increase quality and to make the system easier to navigate.

The NDIA CEO, Rebecca Falkingham, expressed that they are wanting longer plans to give surety to participants.

The NDIS Quality & Safeguarding Commissioner, Tracy Mackey, mentioned that her 3 focus areas are:

1. The rights of people,
2. Quality providers,
3. A thriving diverse market.

LDS remains committed to providing a quality service to our clients where they can thrive.

Did you know that LDS has an Internal Audit team?

In 2022 LDS developed a compliance team to assist us in making sure that we are compliant with our registration with the NDIS Quality & Safeguarding Commission. Since the team has commenced they have conducted a number of audits and have found over 100 areas where LDS can improve. With the focus of the Client Services Team we have been able to close out nearly 80% of these non-conformances and are working on the few that remain.

This is important because our community trusts us with their loved ones and as an organisation we want to keep on getting better. If you have any questions on our audit process and program please speak with your Client Services Manager or Team Leader and they will refer you to our Quality & Compliance Team.



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CONNECT & SUPPORT



Connect with us on Social Media:



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Make sure that you follow LDS on our Facebook page! It is wonderful to see clients out-n-about and experiencing life to the fullest.

[Click Here](#) or visit:

www.facebook.com/Lutheran-Disability-Services-SA-227010588122374



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If you are on LinkedIn, we are also active on there too. Give us a follow!

[Click Here](#) or visit:

www.linkedin.com/company/lutheran-disability-services/

Sign up to our monthly Community E-News:



[Click Here](#) or visit:

www.confirmsubscription.com/h/t/17C37FAFAAC857B9

Sign up to receive regular monthly email updates direct to your inbox. Hear about more exciting news and events from LDS!

HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT THE LDS MISSION



PRAY FOR OUR MISSION

Include LDS in your prayers and ask God to bless our mission of delivering Faith, Empowerment and Excellence to people living with disability.



VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME

Do you have a special skill that you'd love to share with a LDS Client? Our Clients love to cook, create, play sport and help in the community. If you'd like to be involved in our mission please contact us on 08 8212 7766 or visit our website.



SERVING COMMUNITIES

Do you have community activities, projects, jobs where people living with a disability can be involved? Reach out to us as our community is looking to serve the wider community and to work with you to build strong, integrated communities.



HELP BUILD OUR NETWORK

LDS wants to positively impact in the lives of people with disability. If your community has a disused building, land or other facility that could be converted to disability housing please talk to us.



DONATE & OFFERINGS

You can donate direct to LDS by calling 08 8212 7766 or visiting our website. You can donate to LDS through leaving a legacy, setting a bequest or investing in housing for people with a disability. If your Church would like to dedicate a special offering to our mission please feel free to get in touch with us.

LEARN MORE AT WWW.LDSSA.ORG.AU OR 08 8212 7766



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Dave meeting Charlie Dixon and the rest of the team from Port Power Footy Team at Alberton Oval!



Happy Birthday Janet!



Peter over the moon to meet the Adelady ladies!



Gen cooking up a storm!

Building purpose for people



living with disabilities

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