



Community Lifestyle Accommodation Ltd

*Living with choice
For people with disabilities*

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Chairman and Secretary's Report

The Rosebud apartments are finally underway, the ground floor slab has been poured and is at the moment curing prior to further work.

The Property Trust of the Uniting Church Australia negotiated with the funders of the project (the Federal DHS and the State DHHS) for an extension to the completion date. The project completion date has been agreed to be end December 2018. As the project has now moved into the building stage, the Project Control Group (PCG) has been dissolved. This will be replaced with the new advisory committee that will oversee the

implementation. The terms of reference for this committee are being prepared by the legal Department of the Uniting Church and will be circulated in draft form to CLA Board for comment. The pre-planning for NDIS packages for the potential residents have been prepared and awaiting an appointment with the NDIS planners.

CLA has established positive relationships with a local housing developer who has been granted Specialist Disability Accommodation (SDA) registration for developing housing for people with extreme functional impairment and very

Choice Lifestyle Community Partnerships



Building site at Murray-Anderson Road, Rosebud

high support needs. He is also investigating possible options to build homes for people who are not eligible for an SDA allocation. Parents who attended our recent carers get together and information session 19 February at the Morning Star Estate had the opportunity to meet the developer and heard his current plans for two accommodation properties in Rosebud. Russell Joseph Liberal State candidate for the seat of Nepean is assisting the housing developer in discussions with the NDIA, he and the developer are also working on a financial model to the accommodation that will be sustainable into the future.

CLA was advised to write to the Disability Reform Council- Housing Section re the discrimination on the criteria for our sons and daughters to receive a capital housing allocation. CLA will keep pursuing the need for our older people with a significant cognitive impairment, high support and complex care needs still living at home with ageing carers, it is their right to receive a SDA allocation and have a home of their own. The only solution currently for the 94% of people who will not receive a SDA allocation is joining the social housing register. We informed the NDIS Housing Director in most cases this is not

Quote from an ageing carer

"Are you going to address the lack of justice for people with complex care needs and housing and ageing carers with no hope for a solution for their loved ones before they die?"

The housing crisis is still as bad as or even worse than ever for ageing sick carers well into their seventies and eighties looking after complex care sons and daughters.

And no hope on the horizon. Where is the justice?"

On a broader front we had a meeting with the NDIA housing Director to discuss and clarify the current rules for being allocated an SDA package and the solution for providing suitable housing options for people who do not qualify for an SDA package. The Director gave CLA information to assist our families which we are following. We were also advised that some of the rules for SDA packages, section 36 or section 50 are being revised for consideration - importance of allied health services, behavioural and risk assessment support letters need to accompany a participants plan. Especially if a participant has high support needs and complex care needs. If the participant is requesting a SDA housing allocation, parents need to be prepared to ask for a senior planner from the NDIA & have all your support letters from all professionals who are supporting your person. The planner will start the housing conversation explaining to you options of short term accommodation (respite) home modification, more support for the person in the house. If the planner suggests a support coordinator to assist with finding housing options, please make sure the person is skilled and understands all the aspects of the SDA housing rules.

suitable or an acceptable accommodation option for our cohort of vulnerable people.

National Disability Strategy 2010-2020 – "Finding Suitable Accommodation is important to all Australians – it is a prerequisite for a happy and stable life"

CLA have been voicing our strong concerns re such issues as transport, SDA and non SDA housing with the relevant State and Federal Ministers. We have received responses to our concerns and will keep pressing for a fair solution. CLA have been supported on these matters by experts such as Justin Nix of Equitable Access Solutions (an accessible housing consultant with 28 years working in the public, private & disability sector) whose paper on housing for people with a disability has been widely distributed to all decision makers. His views support ours. Brian Jones coordinator of the Saleability program at Blairgowrie has been very active is writing letters to the Australian & Federal and State Ministers on lack of accommodation for older people with a disability still living with ageing carers, Brian has also

Chairman and Secretary's Report - continued

spoken up on the lack of transport money for people with disabilities to access recreational programs like saleability. CLA thanks both Justin and Brian for their continued support.

Since our last newsletter we are happy to advise that we have hired a Carer Information Support Advocate, Catherine Trevorrow. In December she settled into her role with enthusiasm and now is actively meeting with carers and families to assist with NDIS preplanning for packages and vital support that families need to sustain their caring role and their own health and well-being. Catherine is a carer herself so she is fully aware of the difficulties that parents can encounter when dealing with authorities re obtaining support and information. Cath's support and personal approach has enabled carers to respond to complex matters such as points in their person's pre-plans for the NDIS. Marsha Sheridan consultant and Sarina Bunnett Support Coordinator Manager for Melba Support Services have both assisted Cath and the CLA board. Sincere thanks to both ladies from the CLA board.

We are generously supported by various entities within the Uniting Church financially for this project. Jan Hall from the Southern Mornington Peninsula Uniting Church (SMPUC) is the contact for the Uniting Church and is given a monthly report & intensive quarterly report on Cath's activities.

CLA's secretary Marie and our support worker Cath are both attending the Transition Support Programs sessions in Melbourne at the Department of Health and Human Services. The issues listed below were discussed in depth at their last meeting in February:

- ▶ *NDIS Participant pathway*
- ▶ *Support for families and carers*
- ▶ *Transition for disability service providers*
- ▶ *NDIS interface with mainstream systems*
- ▶ *Transition for people with psycho-social disability*
- ▶ *Transition for Children and young people*

Please contact CLA if you would like to read the quarterly reports issued by DHHS.

CLOVERLEAF - brand name for our residential accommodation (HOMES) we are campaigning to build for adults with a disability. The four segments of the clover, represent:

- ▶ *Choice*
- ▶ *Lifestyle*
- ▶ *Community*
- ▶ *Partnership*

Choice – the driver for change.

Community Lifestyle Accommodation has adopted **Living with Choice** as our catch cry, because we believe people with disabilities must have made available to them the same range of residential living options as are available to others in the community. CLA believes in housing choices that provide people with different needs, aspirations and goals the opportunity to live the life they want-where they want

Lifestyle – CLA promotes a lifestyle environment where people with a disability can genuinely feel that they belong, and can genuinely feel that where they live belongs to them.

Community – CLA strives for a sharing of knowledge and a building on the insights of others, to support people with disabilities within their local community. Being part of the community and accessing services and activities available to other members of the community will be the hallmarks of all Cloverleaf developments- a living example of community inclusion.

Partnerships - CLA embraces the partnership way of doing business, partnering with like-minded organisations, governments and the NDIA to deliver an innovative residential developments where CLA and its partners imagine the possibilities and then together make it possible

Invite: CLA General Meeting & Guest Speaker March 2018

CLA next information session with relevance to the NDIS will be held on the 26th March at 11.00am following our General Meeting 10am for 10.30 am start. The focus is on legal requirements that parents need to be made aware of in the support of the person with a disability.

GUEST SPEAKER at 11am: John Chesterman (Dr) (Deputy Advocate, Office of the Public Advocate)

- ▶ *Guardianship - Administration - Nominee*
- ▶ *Transiting from SDS setting to employment, adult learning centers, etc.*
- ▶ *Parents options to support a person who lacks capacity to make important decisions?*
- ▶ *Service contracts - person's and parent's rights*
- ▶ *Rules for Service Providers accessing participant portal*
- ▶ *Succession planning*

Safe guards to protect the person with a disability from neglect/abuse /exploitation.

John will take questions from the floor & also address emails questions sent prior to meeting.

Flyers are being distributed in our local area to parents/carers.

New Members

CLA warmly welcomes three new families, Rocco, Linda, Di and their families. The board hopes we will continue to grow our membership, offer caring families support, friendship, information, socials and empower families to have real choice and control to live and enjoy a lifestyle in their community.

"Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success"
by Henry Ford

Chairman Kevin Turner and Secretary Marie Hell

CLA would like to recognise with love and respect the passing in October last year of two of our members.

VALE Margery Burston was one of our older carers (90) a gentle, intelligent, caring lady who always made the best of life, never complained, her one wish was her son would be looked after she was gone. Margery was the salt of the earth, role model for all of us and will be fondly remembered & sadly missed.

VALE Kylie Lowther, daughter to Carole and Stan Lowther, Kylie was in her 40's, loved by her family and friends, loved music especially ABBA always smiling and happy. People who met Kylie saw her personality never her disability. She brought joy to all who had the privilege to know her, even her last weeks in palliative care the doctors were touched by her courage, she never complained always smiling. Taken too young, but will be fondly remembered with love, never forgotten.

Frolics & friendship at CLA's Mad Hatters Tea Party

Happy memories were made under the rose arbour of the stunning Morning Star Estate in Mt Eliza. Beautiful food and service delighted our guests.

Outrageously decorated hats were the theme of the day which brought on tears of laughter. Our independent judges for the "Hats in the Field" competition had a difficult task of choosing the 3 best hats. Each prize winner received a potted plant in a large tea cup to remember the day.

We spoiled guests with raffle prizes, door prizes, fun and games.

Several of CLA supporters, Russell Joseph Liberal candidate for Nepean in the upcoming State Election (who brought the house down with his decorated blond curls!), Ray Holt property developer & Brian Jones coordinator of Saleability program for people with disability at Blairgowrie both confirmed their support to CLA (Two men in Blue) – thank you!

Guests were treated to a garden tour of the magnificent garden at Morning Star by Director Judy Barrett.

This concludes yet another successful CLA event bringing families, friends and supporters together and showing that we are here to



support caring families to enjoy a lifestyle in their community.

CLA extends their sincere thanks to Morning Star Estate Director Judy Barrett (CLA's patron), staff Christine, Mark, our generous donors who donated the raffle prizes which allowed CLA the chance to treat our guests.

More exciting events are being planned for caring families so watch this space!

Cath Trevorrow

Carer Information Support Advocate and

Marie Hell

Secretary CLA LTD



CLA Carer Information and Support Advocate Report

Hello to all!

Well, a great deal has been happening since I commenced in the role of Carer Information Support Advocate at CLA in December 2017. This fabulous role has enabled me to offer a variety of support to families right across the Mornington Peninsula and beyond.

For those who don't know very much about the Carer Information Support Advocate project, my role includes;

- ▶ *Providing people with disabilities and their families accurate information regarding the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)*
- ▶ *Helping people with disabilities and their carers with their NDIS pre-planning*
- ▶ *Supporting and advocating for people with disabilities and their families at pre-planning and planning meetings with the Brotherhood of St Laurence and National Disability Insurance Scheme*
- ▶ *Supporting carers to access services and support they need to enable them to continue in their caring role*
- ▶ *Reporting to the Department of Health and Human Services on the progress of the project including the key issues identified by people with disabilities and their carers regarding the transition to the NDIS and issues regarding the delivery of disability services on the Mornington Peninsula*

In the period December 2017 through February 2018, I assisted several people with disabilities and their carers to develop their National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) pre-plans and provided several different types of carer support or advocacy for carers or people with disabilities. This support has included referrals to aged care services, providing information regarding employment services and support during transition of children to specialist school. The age of those people with disabilities I provided assistance for during this period has ranged from 9 years old to 71 years old.

All your personal information is kept confidential at all times, however, as part of our service provision, we often ask if you have identified

any challenges or issues in your experience of transitioning to the NDIS or with regards to disability service provision on the Mornington Peninsula. These challenges and issues you share with CLA throughout the transition to the NDIS are essential to the Department of Health and Human Services as disability services transition across to the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA). The NDIA is the newly created independent Commonwealth Government department that manages the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) and will oversee disability services across Australia into the future.

CLA's involvement in this project gives our members a unique and powerful voice. This is a fabulous chance to have your say and make significant positive change to the opportunities, services and care for people with a disability on the Mornington Peninsula and your feedback about your experiences transitioning to the NDIS is invaluable.

There are many key emerging issues that were identified by the 22 NDIS transition partners (including CLA) across Victoria in the period of October to December 2017 to the Department of Health and Human Services. The top five issues reported during this period were;

1. *Planning (including access) – Lack of adequate support for participants to assist with pre-planning.*
2. *Costs – Feedback that current pricing is inadequate for people to receive adequate supports. Service providers have concerns around viability.*
3. *Information – Difficulty finding information that is easily accessible in different formats, up to date, consistent, translated into community languages and nuanced for cohort specific needs.*
4. *Interface – Concern about the impact on people who require services provided by the NDIA and the mainstream, health, mental health and justice interfaces.*
5. *Accommodation – Inadequate planning and support for people with accommodation and high support needs.*

CLA Carer Information and Support Advocate Report - continued

The CLA Carer Information and Support Advocate project offers support that seeks to address many of these issues for people on the Mornington Peninsula. Our goals over the next three months are to;

- ▶ *Continue to offer support to families for NDIS pre-planning including educating and empowering people with disabilities and their carers to develop and own their individual plans*
- ▶ *Continue to foster relationships with education and service providers and look for opportunities to collaborate and provide continuity of care and support for families of all ages across the Peninsula transitioning into the NDIS*
- ▶ *Continue to develop close positive relationships with the Brotherhood of St Laurence, the NDIS transition partner in the Bayside/Peninsula area, to ensure NDIS plans*

accurately reflect the needs of people with disabilities and their families

If you would like any assistance in NDIS pre-planning, would like some support when you attend your NDIS planning meetings, would like to share your NDIS transition experiences and any opportunities for improvement or require any other assistance at all to help you if you are a person with a disability or are a carer, please don't hesitate to contact me on;

Mobile: 0417 840 980

Email:

carer@communitylifestyleaccommodation.org.au

By post: P.O. Box 66 Bittern, Vic, 3918

Stay well,

Catherine Trevorrow,

Carer Information Support Advocate

Fundraiser report



Carers Week Celebration

Our annual carers lunch saw professional opera singer & carer Lucy Nicolson & local pianist Vaughan Wilson entertain carers free of charge thanks to many generous sponsors.

Excellent food, great entertainment, stunning venue, raffle & door prizes, time to relax, make new friends, time out to have a taste of a normal life. Over \$700.00 was raised from the raffle.

Upcoming Events

High Tea & Silent Auction

Saturday 8th April - 2-5pm

Entertainment by Beleura Village Choir. Door prizes and Silent Auction at the Blue Hills Rise Retirement Village.

Bunnings Sausage Sizzles

Friday 23th March - Mornington

Friday 25th May - Mornington

Sun 17 June - Rosebud

Friday 27 July - Mornington

Friday 28 September

Can you spare an hour and help? Please contact Carole on 0409 253 651.



Over \$1,600 raised at Family Fun Day

Special thanks to all volunteers, Uniting Church for donating the space, Rosebud Toy Library for donating the Ball Pitt and Rosebud Boomerang Bags offering bags to our shoppers.



ACN 147 202 800/ABN 41 147 202 800

Community Lifestyle Accommodation Ltd

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NEW MEMBERSHIP FORM

I,
(Full Name of Applicant)

Of
(Address)

Phone: (BH) (AH)
(Mobile)

E-mail:

Wish to become a member of CLA Ltd. In the event of my admission as a member, I agree to be bound by the rules of the Constitution of the Company, for the time being in force and I agree to receive notices from CLA Ltd by e-mail or post.

Members are encouraged to contribute any life skills, hobbies and experience in the disability area that they have to advance the goals of CLA LTD.

.....
(Signature of Applicant)

.....
(Date)

I,
(Name of Proposer)

As a member of CLA Ltd, I nominate the applicant, who is personally known to me, for membership to CLA Ltd

The membership fee of \$10.00 per person/family is enclosed

.....
(Signature of Proposer)

.....
(Date)

Please return this form, your payment and any donation to:
Marie Hell, Secretary
CLA LTD PO Box 66 Bittern Vic. 3919

All donations over \$2.00 are tax deductible and gratefully accepted
ABN 41 147 202 800