



## Community Lifestyle Accommodation Ltd

*Living with choice  
For people with disabilities*

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### Chairman and Secretary's Report

Over the last few months, we have been concentrating upon two main activities. The first is supporting our Carer Information Support Advocate in her role of assisting families on the Peninsula to transition to the NDIS, ensuring that their dependant receives the best possible outcome from their NDIS support plans. What started as a two day a week position with initial funding comprising one day from DHHS transition funds, one day contribution from CLA, Toorak Uniting Church, Southern Peninsula Community Fund and a local Philanthropic Trust. Word of mouth has spread to families across the Peninsula

and our worker is now in high demand to satisfy the number of families seeking our assistance. The position is now three days a week due to additional generous donations from a local trust and a community organisation.

The second activity is our endeavours to achieve further supported housing options for both SDA and non SDA funded people. In this regard we have been collaborating with key registered housing providers who are licensed to provide both SDA and non SDA housing. We have also been fortunate in having the support of a highly regarded housing consultant and investors

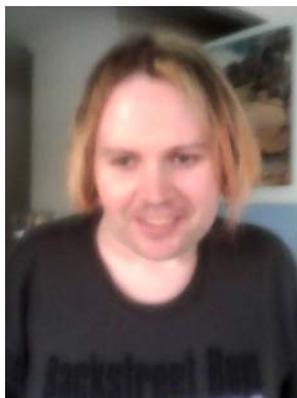
## Choice Lifestyle Community Partnerships



### Our Stars - CLA members



*Adam Svensson has received his NDIS funding and the family are very happy with the outcome.*



*The Star Gazers Theatre Co that Pam Davidson directed for 10 years which her son Luke (emerald green cumberband far left) was in. A recent photo shows Luke's new hairstyle like Nick from Backstreet Boys (his favourite band).*



## Chairman and Secretary's Report - continued

who will support future housing projects for our members. As suitable land availability close to amenities is crucial to any housing project we have sought support from the State Government and the Mornington Peninsula Shire Council and have kept both informed of our planned projects and also the organisations who are

assisting CLA. The local shire principal planner is supporting a local housing developer in the Rosebud area who is building for adults with a disability. Cr Celi and shire staff have been very supportive of proposed housing development options for vulnerable people being planned for various locations on the Peninsula.

### Rosebud Apartments

*The Rosebud apartments are progressing and should be completed by the end of the year. The Uniting Church Synod of Victoria and Tasmania Property Service is undertaking the construction on behalf of the UCA Property Trust and the Southern Mornington Peninsula Uniting Church. Uniting Housing are the SDA developer. We have been informed that in 2-3 months an EOI will be called for a place at Rosebud. The project is now an SDA development and accommodation places will be available to all who have been assessed as eligible SDA recipients. The five members of CLA that were selected in 2016 are on the priority list for securing a place, however they will need to participate in the EOI to receive an accommodation place. The Rosebud project would not have happened if CLA had not lead the SDAI submission to a successful outcome. The learning experience CLA have gone through over the last 12 months has made us stronger as a board to deal with any future housing projects. We will always remember the support and friendship the Rosebud Uniting Church council members extended to our families since 2012.*



### The Sunshine Girls

In October 2013, two mums started a creative program for our girls in the Eco House at the Briars every Tuesday. Now, almost 5 years later, our group is going stronger than ever. We, the Sunshine Girls, are 6 ladies working to the best of their abilities, who sing a lot, with great joy and gusto and make beautiful mosaic works, and sew shopping bags among many other challenging and exciting activities. Our handmade items are for sale at the Visitors Centre at the Briars. We are now looking forward to the Melba Organisation supporting our wonderful program and many more happy Tuesdays!  
*by Pam McDonald - CLA member*



### **Making a Difference speaking up**

Our efforts are ongoing to bring to the forefront the positives and negatives of the NDIS entry procedures for participants and the lengthy confusing process to secure an SDA package. We have tried our best to communicate our concerns on the eligibility of SDA allocations with Federal and State Ministers, the Disability Reform Council and commented on the SDA Pricing & Framework review. It has been a huge learning curve for CLA to understand the myriad of rules and regulations surrounding the NDIS (and especially the rules regarding SDA allocation which have been very fluid and confusing.)

Below we have included a précis of some of our concerns that were sent to the recent round table discussions conducted by KMPG on the SDA Pricing & Framework review.

CLA's comments targeted the cohort of people who have been shut out and made to jump through hoops to receive an SDA allocation. This included older participants who were on the Disability Support Register (DSR DHHS) that have severe/profound intellectual disability and high complex care needs since birth and are still living at home with ageing parents. Many of this cohort of participants need modified housing to enable them to benefit from the individual support required to meet their needs.

#### **We suggested the following:**

Social housing, private rental or modifying a family home till the parent dies is not the answer. The current framework requires improving to give all people with extreme Functional Impairment and high support /complex needs real choice to have a home of their own.

- ▶ *Provide clear guidelines & criteria for participants and their families to follow to apply for SDA , and the current delays and process takes too long*
- ▶ *These delays and uncertainty are taking a toll on ageing parents who have provided 24/7 lifetime support & now need to place their person in suitable accommodation before they die*

- ▶ *There needs to be a transparent process to determine SDA eligibility and funding allocation*
- ▶ *Planners and support coordinators to be trained in NDIS rules 3.5 criteria reasonable and necessary , as some have little understanding of SDA*
- ▶ *There needs to be a central point of contact (available to participants/parents /carers at the Agency for SDA queries*
- ▶ *Planners have asked for confirmation of a SDA place before proceeding*
- ▶ *Developers require confirmation from participants on availability of SDA for them to confidently build. They need to be able to fill the vacancy*
- ▶ *Participants with severe/profound intellectual disability that need modified housing are being discriminated against as they are still living at home (not homeless till the parent dies)*
- ▶ *Consideration for an additional category for participants that do not qualify for an SDA allocation but require funding for housing*
- ▶ *This would encourage developers to build innovative housing options as the cost would be less than building for robust or high physical standard*
- ▶ *Encourage innovative models where SDA funding and Non SDA funded people can live*
- ▶ *There has to be certainty for developers to build creative housing to meet the needs of older people with disabilities ASAP who through no fault of their own are still living at home with ageing carers*
- ▶ *The agency needs to convey to developers what participants require in the various location across the State*

*The Disability Reform Council (DRC) and the Agency need to take the lead and deliver SDA housing options to all who meet the criteria, and for those who do not meet the SDA eligibility provide a lesser allocation for people with a severe /profound intellectual disability, so they can move out of the family home. Otherwise we will have ageing carers dying without ever seeing their loved son or daughter in a home of their own.*

## Chairman and Secretary's Report - continued

Our activities in housing have widened our profile and now we are being invited to attend senior level housing workshops which are focusing on addressing housing options for people who cannot qualify for an SDA package. Our input is valued re our ability to provide a description of the housing needs of our cohort of people who basically require a residence compliant to the improved liveability standards. Our next meeting with CEO's of disability service organisations, Investors, housing developers and a housing consultant is scheduled for 3 September.

Suggestions to participants and their carers when seeking a SDA allocation. Speak with your local doctor, specialists and allied health professionals assisting your person. Indicate to them your person needs a report to verify their disability condition and associated medical and health needs. These reports will be included to support the person in their NDIS planning meeting. It is best to give the doctors a brief rundown on the NDIS language to use as this will assist make their reports clear to the planner. The planners may ask for verification to check if the person's need requested is a direct result of the person's disability and is not caused by a health issue.

Be prepared if your person has listed housing as a goal, the plan will be forwarded to the delegate planner at the technical division who will assess the participant against a criteria as specified by the agency. An Occupational Therapist will need to complete a Functional Capacity/Support Needs Assessment for the participant. You will also be allocated a specialist housing coordinator to assist with the paper work required. Write things down, time, dates and the person's name. Ask questions if you do not understand and request things in writing. Your housing coordinator will assist you.

### NDIS Information Session 31May

This session was organised by CLA to inform families on support coordination and plan management, Melba Support Services covered Support Coordination and Tricia Hill from Life Solutions spoke on Plan Management, session was very successful. There was great attendance, constructive information, and all reports received were that attendees found the session helpful.



*Fltr: Jodie MacCloud, Sarina Bunnnett, Catherine Trevorror, Tricia Hill, Kevin Turner*



Many thanks to Morning Star director Judy Barret (CLA patron) and staff person Mark for making our carers welcome. Melba's manager Sarina Bunnnett and Jodie MacCloud stayed for lunch and mixed with the attendees over lunch.

*Another NDIS information session is planned for our next General meeting 27 Aug 2018.*

### NEW MEMBERS

The board welcomes and values our new members who have joined recently, Pam and Pauline who became members and have also indicated they would like to join the board. Joyce and Trevor both carers, Graham, Margaret and Graham have joined as supporters. As our organisation grows this gives CLA a stronger voice to speak on behalf of our people with a disability and their parents/carers.

### Creating awareness in the community

CLA were guest speakers at Rotary Rosebud and we have also been asked to speak at Beleura Retirement Village in Mornington.

Our fundraising efforts at Bunnings in Rosebud and Mornington allow members to mix with the community and promote our activities.

The board is working towards creating positive futures for people with a disability and supporting their parents/carers understand the changes the NDIS has brought to the sector.

Sincere thanks to everyone who has assisted CLA.

**Chairman Kevin Turner & Secretary Marie Hell**

## Mavrick's Story

**Hi, my name is Mavrick. I am 14 years old and I was born with cerebral palsy. My Mum first met Cath and Marie from CLA when she attended the CLA Mad Hatters Tea Party in February. Mum said it was a great tea party and asked Cath to help her to develop my NDIS pre-plan.**

My cerebral palsy means that I have very limited fine motor skills and gross motor strength and coordination. As a result my legs are very wobbly and I need to walk using two crutches or to use a wheelchair if I need to go distances further than 200 metres. I have difficulty communicating due to my unclear speech and I have extreme difficulty writing due to my very limited fine motor strength and coordination.

I am the third of four children in our family and we all live together in our family home with our Mum Simone. My Mum loves us to pieces but is unable to drive which means that she is unable to take us to many activities outside of school. I have just transferred schools from mainstream schooling to a Specialist College and because of my limited fine motor skills, I find it much easier to communicate my messages and search for information for my schoolwork by typing on a keyboard. As I did not have a computer at home, I was having lots of difficulty researching information on the internet to do my homework and because I am very slow at hand writing, I could not write my assignments easily and I was not achieving my best at school.

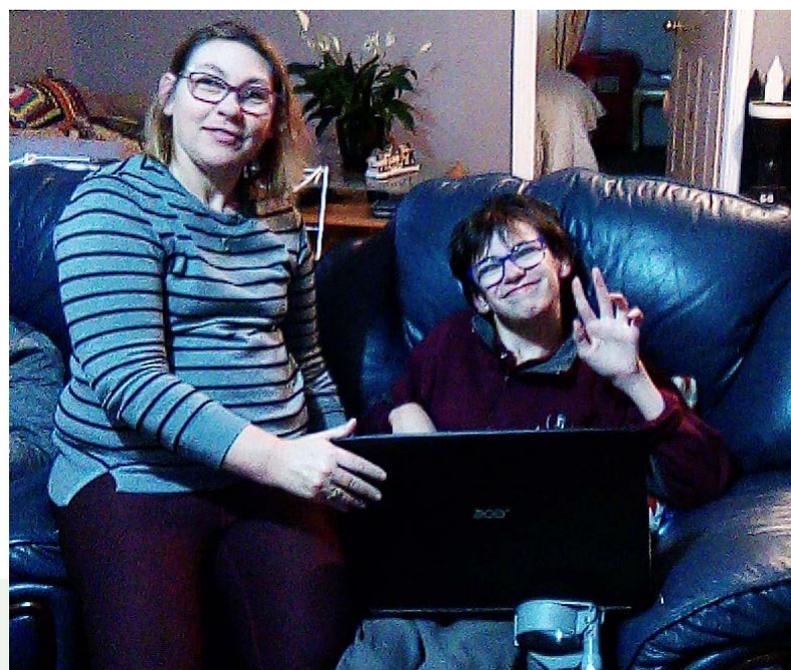
In March, Mum heard of a grant that had become available to assist children with disabilities to purchase equipment they may need to help them with their schooling. Mum secretly contacted Cath and, without me knowing, Cath helped Mum write the grant application. When the first grant application was unsuccessful, Cath spoke with Marie who was able to forward my application to a very generous contact that she had and the funds were granted to CLA to purchase a laptop, printer, software and a laptop backpack so that I could carry my laptop.

Mum had not heard about the outcome of the grant application and so our biggest surprise

happened when I got home from school one day just a couple of weeks ago. Cath had planned to be there to talk to Mum about my NDIS plan and then Marie knocked on the front door. Together they presented me with my brand-new laptop, printer, software and backpack.

As I unwrapped it all, I couldn't believe it! I said that it felt like Christmas and I could not stop smiling and laughing. I felt so lucky to have been selected to receive such an amazing donation that my family would never have been able to purchase. This has made an enormous difference to my life, to my schoolwork and to the possibility of me achieving my dream of getting a great job in the computer industry one day.

I would very much like to thank the generous anonymous foundation that very kindly granted us the funds for these incredible items. I would also like to thank Cath and Marie from CLA for helping Mum with the application and for searching out other opportunities for this grant when the first grant application was unsuccessful. Mostly, though, I would like to thank my Mum from the bottom of my heart for believing in me, for thinking of me when this opportunity came up and for being my strongest supporter. Together I feel like we can achieve anything!



Hello to all!

Since commencing in the role of Carer information Support Advocate in December 2018, I have been privileged to have been able to assist 32 families and carers and a total of 37 people with disabilities across the Mornington Peninsula area. The ages of the people with disabilities supported has been from 5 – 71 years.

77% of support given has related to assistance with NDIS applications, NDIS pre-planning, support and advocacy at NDIS meetings and follow up and advocacy relating to plan outcomes. The remaining 23% of support for carers has related to a wide range of challenges including assistance to find respite and transport, emergency support funding applications, assistance with referrals to My Aged Care, assistance with medical matters, assistance with writing a letter of complaint to the Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing, assistance with police matters and support of a family as they transferred their child from a mainstream school to a specialist school.

After all this though, it must be said that the absolute highlight so far of this fabulous role has been to assist in writing a grant application for a young boy called Mavrick (whose story you will also find in this newsletter) and, working in collaboration with Marie the Secretary of CLA, successfully being granted the funds to purchase Mavrick a laptop, printer and computer software so that he can achieve his very best at school. The joy on Mavrick's and his family's faces when Marie and I delivered the items was absolutely priceless and you can imagine his excitement of finally being able to access a whole new world of information on his new laptop which he proudly takes to school each day in his new laptop backpack. It is seeing success and joy such as this that make this role so fulfilling and I am sure you will all join me in wishing Mavrick enormous success with his computer.

As I mentioned in the last newsletter, the issues that arise as people with disabilities transition to the NDIS is reported to the Department of Health and Human Services on a quarterly basis as part

of the requirement of this project. This assists the government to understand the challenges people are facing so they can work towards improving the NDIS as it matures. Thus, your feedback to CLA is very important and highly valued and I would like to thank you for sharing your challenges with us. In the most recent Department of Health and Human Services state-wide (quarter 3) report, the five emerging issues identified and reported across the state by the transition partners involved in the project are;

- 1. Mainstream Interface:** *Concern about the impact on people who require services provided by the NDIA and the mainstream, in particular mental health, health, and justice interfaces.*
- 2. Costs:** *Feedback that current pricing is inadequate for people to receive adequate supports. Service providers have concerns around viability, particularly the risk of providers withdrawing from providing NDIS supports. (Can still provide NDIS supports if not registered).*
- 3. Quality and Safeguards:** *Concern about the safety and quality of services under the NDIS, including workforce. Concerns include skill gaps, knowledge of disability needs and supports and health literacy and retention of the workforce, particularly the mental health workforce.*
- 4. 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. Cohort specific needs include psychosocial disability, cognitive disability and people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.*
- 5. Culture and language:** *Concerns about a need to fund support for participant access for Aboriginal people, ideally located within the Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations. In addition, language barriers; translated materials are still unclear and culturally and linguistically diverse consumers and families need to be supported by bilingual workforce to access and understand the NDIS.*

## CLA Carer Information and Support Advocate Report - *continued*

The Transitional Support Project quarter 4 data is shortly due for submission and transition partners will expect to receive the Quarter 4 state-wide data mid – late August 2018.

If you need 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 if you are a

person with a disability or a carer and require any other assistance at all, please don't hesitate to contact me on;

Mobile: 0417 840 980

carer@communitylifestyleaccommodation.org.au

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

Stay well,

**Catherine Trevorrow,**

Carer Information Support Advocate

**Some Philanthropic Trusts are not giving to disability services or carer support, they are under the impression the NDIS is supporting this area.**

Community support is needed NOW to assist CLA support the person with a disability and their parents/carers. We all need the chance to have the best life in our community.

**Donate to CLA - Volunteer your services to assist the board**

### Fundraiser report



### Bunnings Sausage Sizzles

Two of the Mornington sizzles raised \$550 each and the Rosebud sizzle raised \$1,200 with the generous support of the Rye Lions Club.

### Another fundraising delight

On Sunday 8th April, 2018, our fundraising team member Carole organised the very successful High Tea & Silent Auction at the Beleura Village Chorus to Blue Hills Rise Village in Cranbourne raising a whopping \$1,965 in one afternoon.

Guests were delighted with beautiful treats and a wonderful performance by the Beleura Village Choir.



### Upcoming Events

#### Bunnings Sausage Sizzles

**Friday 27 July - Mornington**

**Friday 28 September - Mornington**

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

#### General Meeting

**Monday 27 August, 10am for 10.30am start**

Morning Star, Mt Eliza. Light lunch provided.

Guest speakers from Monash University, Libby Callaway speaking on the SDA OT assessment and Ashley Whitelaw delivering findings from research paper on exploring caregivers' experience & expectations of their family member's transition to new models of supportive housing.

#### Carer's Lunch

**Monday 15th October**

Morning Star Mt Eliza. Details TBC.





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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