



Community Lifestyle Accommodation Ltd

*Living with choice
For people with disabilities*

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Choice Lifestyle Community Partnerships



Chairman and Secretary's Report

Welcome all members and supporters to our first newsletter of 2019. The board has been working hard to find solutions to the current problems that participants and families are experiencing with the NDIS.

CLA values all the support we receive from our members and the community, your assistance helps us provide vital support to our caring families, many are doing it tough dealing with the complexities of the NDIS and the critical lack of suitable housing options available on the Peninsula for SDA and non SDA people.

CLA are striving to create equal rights for our families to live, work, enjoy a lifestyle, pursue their dreams like any Australian

citizen and truly feel part of their communities. The lack of money is the barrier that stops CLA expanding our successful carer support service.

Prior to Christmas we submitted 2 responses for grant funding. The first to DHHS for continuation of the funding for our Carer Information Support Advocate post June 2019 under the Transition Support Program (TSP). We have recently received a response from the department stating we were successful with funding to keep our worker employed two days a week. This will now require CLA to make a concentrated effort to find the money to cover the extra day. The work our support worker does in preparing participants and their carers to understand the NDIS process & assist their son



Thank you Patron Judy Barrett for all the hospitality donated to CLA

or daughter meet their goals is vital for the well-being of the participant and their whole family.

The second grant application was to the Federal government - Department of Social Security (DSS) was for a grant under the Information and Linkages and Capacity (ILC) application, we requested funding to employ a housing specialist for 2 days per week to assist Peninsula families find innovative ways to provide financially viable options for their son or daughter needing safe, accessible, affordable supported accommodation. We are still waiting for announcements re the successful applicants for this funding.

The Mornington Peninsula Shire issued its draft Triple A Housing Plan for comment. CLA, accompanied by John Carter from Active Housing met with council staff for discussions on the draft housing plan. Several housing developers working with CLA also attended the Shire's housing workshop the shire held in Nov 2018. CLA submitted our comments on how the draft plan could cater for the provision of housing for people with a severe and profound intellectual disability and how the plan could be strengthened to assist our cohort of people to secure safe, accessible and affordable housing in their home community.

CLA with the support of Active Housing applied to MPSC for either donated / discounted land or financial support for a proposed housing project in the Hastings/Bittern area. We are awaiting the outcome. Representatives from CLA attend the Shire Triple A housing group meetings and the Service Providers meetings. This gives us a chance to get to know the different groups in our local shire working to assist disadvantaged people. It also helps CLA understand what supports to families are provided by the different NFP groups. The need is great both for safe, affordable, accessible housing and assisting disadvantaged families on low incomes survive & provide quality of life for their families.

Tackle Developments

Following an introduction from John Carter NDIS manager of Active Housing, CLA had a meeting with Alan Tackle who is proposing to build

affordable non-SDA housing for people with a disability in Seaford. His plan utilises land that is surplus to existing home-owner's requirements who would be willing to subdivide and turn this land into cash. Thus, he receives the land at a discounted rate. On land at Seaford the proposed project provides accommodation for 7 residents in fully self-contained units with provision for a carer on site. This proposed project is suitable for persons who require low support. Following our meeting with Alan, CLA contacted 7 of our families who have a high functioning sons or daughters for whom this proposed project may be a solution. Alan is keen to work with parents at the start of each project. CLA will stay in touch with Alan and give feedback to our members.

SDA News – Outcomes on Review of SDA Pricing & Payments Framework

The Review has brought some good outcomes to all who advocated strongly to fix the SDA process. Reforms that are being implementing which will assist the participant have choice and control in selecting a housing option to meet their needs.

The Disability Reform Council (DRC) their comments and actions in response to the review. Full transcript can be found here: <https://www.dss.gov.au/disability-and-carers-programs-services-government-international-disability-reform-council/review-of-the-sda-pricing-and-payments-framework>.

The DRC's report has not listed the older people still living at home as a priority to be fast tracked to be allocated a SDA package. We are hoping this may be resolved for our cohort after they meet with the dedicated planning team established by the NDIA. The senior delegates we hope will consider our cohort to be fast tracked after SDA eligibility decisions.

NDIS SDA Reference Group cross section of people are being encouraged to apply: <https://www.ndis.gov.au/about-us/reference-group-updates/sda-reference-group>

This will be a good way to get stakeholder's feedback directly to NDIA on the SDA.



Fiona, Lynette & late Bob Keogh

Federal Election in May

CLA have compiled a pre-election paper to all parties requesting immediate action to find solutions to the housing crisis facing older people still living in the family home with ageing parents.

We are requesting equal housing opportunities for our cohort & support for their parents/ carers.

Our carer support service is growing daily by word of mouth and we are always looking for money to deliver the optimal supportive/friendly

service we know families need to survive. It would be a tragedy due to lack of funding if CLA had to cut back on the vital service we provide to caring families living on the Peninsula.

Pre-election paper can be downloaded [here](#) please read and take to your local member and let them know you & your family will make your vote count, we have saved the Government billions and we will make our voices heard.

Vale - John Robert Keogh

CLA would like to acknowledge with sadness & love the passing of John Robert Keogh (known to all as Bob), the beloved husband of Lynette Keogh and father of Michael, Sally and Fiona. Although Bob had not been well for some time his passing was sudden on the 24th February. Bob followed in his family footsteps into the building industry wherein he developed a wide circle of friends and colleagues, and of course was a support for Lynne in her activities with CWA and CLA. He was farewelled at a celebration of life ceremony on Monday the fourth of March in the presence of family and friends. RIP Bob.

Sincere thanks to everyone who has assisted CLA.

**Chairman Kevin Turner &
Secretary Marie Hell**

Update Rosebud SDA housing project:

4 Apartments all SDA fully accessible each apartment housing 2 adults plus a room for a carer.

Murray Anderson Place project completion date has been delayed due to complications with the connection of the services. The pathways and landscaping could not be commenced until these services were connected. This has now been resolved. The project is now scheduled to be completed by end of April. The date for the opening will be announced later this month. CLA will provide the Rosebud Church council all the names of Ministers, MP's, shire personal &

councillors, individuals and organisations who were instrumental in assisting CLA to receive the SDAI grant from State and Federal government.

CLA is assisting with the purchase of BBQ, outdoor furniture and donating plants for the garden in memory of our members who have died.

CLA families will be notified when the official opening will take place.



My involvement with CLA started around 6 years ago when Marie Hell approached Martin Dixon, the state MP for Nepean, to investigate possible funding avenues for disability accommodation on the Peninsula. As I was employed in Martin's office at the time I began investigating any possible funding options through government and, to my surprise and shock, found there were none.

While this was extremely disappointing I couldn't bare to see such an urgent community housing need remain unfunded and have since embarked on a mission to try and find the funds needed to ensure that everyone with a disability, particularly the children of our ageing parent carers, can find safe, secure, permanent and affordable housing. This issue was urgent when first brought to my attention, and has become almost at crisis point in the intervening years.

Over that time it has been a great pleasure to get to know many of the parents and partners of the CLA family and I remain in awe of the love and dedication shown to your own children and to others who are struggling under their everyday burdens. As someone who previously had zero life experience with intellectual disability, your experiences have opened my eyes to another world and I am so grateful to you for it. The next few years as the NDIS settles down,

and funding and plans become more predictable and organised, I am confident that the best years of CLA are ahead of you. As an organisation you have blazed a trail with



tenacity and persistence and again, it has been an absolute pleasure to work with you and to watch the growth of your executive team despite innumerable and significant setbacks. Every time, and even though you have been bruised, the organisation and the leadership team have come through stronger and still manage to pick up more supporters along the way!

CLA and the families you represent have my continued support and I will do whatever I can to advocate for families caring for those with disabilities, and in particular intellectual disabilities. CLA have become a voice for those who have historically been voiceless and this is a great credit to you all.

So proud of everyone of you and thank you for bringing me into your trust.

Russell Joseph.

All Abilities Sailing at BYS

It was a glorious sunny Boxing day (2017) when Jamie started with Sailability. I was an anxious mother worrying about so many things as Jamie is diagnosed with autism and is non verbal. But all my anxieties were washed away once I met the wonderful Sailability team.



First we were greeted by the beaming smile of Brian, who is the founder. Brian was very warm, welcoming and informative which helped to settle my nerves. Then we met Lindsay, who was the volunteer assigned to take Jamie out on the boat.

And off they went. I followed them by foot to capture the moment on camera and true to Lindsay's words, everything went swimmingly. Fortunately, that wasn't a one-off. Jamie has been sailing on a weekly basis since then and he always has a beaming smile every time he goes sailing (huge bonus point for anxiety-ridden mums).

Thank you Brian and The Team!
Linh Le

CLA Carer Information and Support Advocate Report

Hi Everyone,
Well it's been a big start to the year, since I commenced this role in late November with Catherine deciding to resign to spend time with family.

Our aim for the future is to provide:

- ▶ *Intensive individual support to the person with a disability & their care/parent*
- ▶ *Assistance with NDIS pre-planning and with plan reviews*
- ▶ *Links to services in local area*
- ▶ *Links to housing providers*
- ▶ *Peer support/advocacy*
- ▶ *Socials and friendships*

This role is so important to support our carers and person with a disability, to fulfil their dreams. I have been assisting many families with pre-planning for the NDIS. I have also been assisting families with plan reviews.

There has been great positive feedback from families about the service we provide, and many families passing on our details to other families. Service providers which also have been passing on our details to families which is great.

The Local Area Coordinators also are very pleased that we have been assisting families to prepare the pre-plan, this is great resource for the planner and the first meeting for NDIS. I believe we are making a huge difference to a family's first meeting with the NDIS if they have someone to support them its less stressful, and they feel more in control of the future for their loved one.

The information you share with CLA is so important this will go to help keep this position on going so we can provide the continued support to families, now and in the future.

This is a chance for families to have their say and to help make significant and positive changes to the Mornington Peninsula your feedback and experiences are invaluable.

I have been working with many families that have loved ones of varying ages from 3 years to

40 years plus, and this is such a variance in writing the pre-plan for families.

It has been fantastic meeting many different families, you all have so many individual needs. There have been tears, laughter & many hugs.



We are aiming to have a get together once per month, for carers of all ages, so we don't forget that we also need to look after ourselves.

We will have some fun themes, it will be a casual get together in different places, so if you have any ideas that you would like to share please forward them onto me, on number or email below.

If there is a topic/ guest speaker you would like to hear more about, please let the Secretary know (mob: 0423 356 878).

Our first meeting to be held is on 30th April at the Mornington Hotel. All carers welcome.

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,

Yvonne Alaimo

Carer information Support Advocate

***Becoming a member is only \$10 a year.
Feel free to pass on the Membership form at the back of this Newsletter to Carers you know.***

Marketing Report

Brochure revamp

We have revamped our CLA brochure. You can now download or forward it from communitylifestyleaccommodation.org.au.

Newsletter

We send out important news and updates to our members on a regular basis. These updates give you the opportunity to stay up to date, take action and ask for help. Sign up by emailing: events@communitylifestyleaccommodation.org.au

We would love to share your stories

Please send us your story, experience or tips for other Carers to draw strength from, to help them navigate the system or simply to brighten up their day. Let's share our stories to show we aren't alone in this and support one and other. Please email Gwen Giudici on: events@communitylifestyleaccommodation.org.au. If you have photos to go along with your story that would really bring it to life but not essential.

Facebook

To keep all our members and followers updated with the latest news we posted regular updates via our website and Facebook page. If you haven't Liked us yet - head on over to www.facebook.com/CommunityLifestyleAccommodationLtd/ and share with your family and friends. To make donating to CLA even easier we have now added a Donation button to Facebook.



CLA website revamp - visit now at communitylifestyleaccommodation.org.au

Sometimes people come into your life for a reason, Alex Evens has come on board, volunteering his skills as a web designer to lift our image, CLA looks forward to assisting more families and reaching generous people who may donate to our cause. On behalf of our board and members Sincere thanks Alex.

About Alex:

I am a 74 years "Young" Web designer. Born in Romania, immigrated to Israel at the age of 6 with my mom, lived there for 34 years. In 1981 I managed to find my lost father - he was living in Melbourne. In 1985 I immigrated with my wife and two boys to Australia and worked in the Computer industry for all those years.

In 2007 my wife and I retired. Retirement forces one into some challenges.... what do you do with your time from the moment you wake up? Well, I have several hobbies. I design, build, fly and crash - Radio Controlled model airplanes, I am involved with a Photography group in the Beleura retirement village where I live today.

But since 2007, I found out that a hobby is not enough... I wanted to give something to the community around me. I got engaged back into what I was doing for customers during my business days - building Websites.

One day, I heard from a friend in our village about CLA. Then, sometime later the village ran a Fund raising auction and collected over \$4,000 as a donation to CLA. I know, it is just a drop in the sea, but I believe everything counts towards an endless uphill battle, against all odds... I thought, this is a good cause, a human cause to try & help.

I am happy I engaged into this project, I hope it can contribute and add to the intended target.

Thank you Marie & Gwen for your effort and contribution so far. **Alex Evans**



Membership Report - Linh

I've taken on this role as a way to participate in and assist CLA; specifically the secretary, Marie. New members have signed up in the past year and as always, we are on the look out for new members. Most of us at CLA are carers so we know how it's like; if you feel you'd like a sympathetic set of ears: We Are Here!

Along side to this Yvonne and I (and Marie) are working together to develop regular social gatherings for our carers. As carers, we feel that it's important for caring families to learn to look after themselves: to find the time and space to relax and unwind, to enjoy laughter, music, arts, sharing a meal/cuppa, making friends; just



like any other 'normal' Australian family taken for granted. We are aiming to have these gatherings on a monthly basis; any ideas, suggestions are all welcome.

Fundraiser report

Upcoming Events

Bunnings Sausage Sizzles

29 Mar'19 - Rosebud

Can you spare an hour and help?

Please contact Yvonne on 0417 840 980 (M'ton) or Pauline on 0409 047 720 (R'bud).

General Meeting

Monday 25 March, 10am for 10.15am start

Information session starting at 11am

Venue: Mornington Community Information & Support Centre, 320 Main St, Mornington

SPEAKERS from Hill Legal WILL COVER:

What parents/carers need to know:

- ▶ Options to pay accommodation fees
- ▶ Deal with Financial & Medical issues
- Understand Tenancy agreement and Residential agreement
- ▶ Options available if family cannot takeover when the parent dies

Carer's Social Lunch

30 April - Mornington Hotel. All carers welcome. Contact Yvonne on 0417 840 980.

Carers Lunch 2018

Our annual event held in carers week to recognise our carers – the unsung heroes in our community - an event to relax, make friends & enjoy the entertainment. The Morning Star Estate ballroom was buzzing with chatter and song. Chris McConechy even got the crowd marching around the room playing his washboard - what a great atmosphere! The icing on the cake on the day was a very generous cheque of \$5,500 for our housing projects received from Paul Nitas CEO of Hillview Quarry.



Bunnings sausage sizzles

In October last year we raised \$1,547.50 and in February this year we raised \$483.15.



ACN 147 202 800/ABN 41 147 202 800

Community Lifestyle Accommodation Ltd

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marie.hell@bigpond.com

www.communitylifestyleaccommodation.org.au

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