

Community Lifestyle Accommodation Ltd



ACN 147 202 800
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Annual Report
2014



Annual Report & Statement of Accounts 2013/2014

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Our Mission

To provide appropriate housing, combined with individual support to meet the changing needs of adults with an intellectual disability.

Chairman & Secretary's report 2013-2014

It is our pleasure to present the annual report for 2013-2014. The ground -breaking NDIS reforms of June 2013 was designed to provide support for the 410,000 people with a significant disability –or who will acquire one in their lifetime-by 2019. There is hope for the future for a lucky few in the trial site, but fear for other families outside the trial site who are 'parked 'on crisis waiting lists for essential support and services.

The critical lack of supported accommodation for older adults living with aging parents/carers has left many families in fear they will be dead before a place is found for their person (2019). The housing research paper promised by the agency in Barwon has still not been released. This paper was to put forward innovative ideas where families, organizations and the Federal/State government could work together to find a solution. More parents are relinquishing their person into State care in a desperate bid to have their person placed in care.

Carer groups and the service sector are stating that families are in crisis, the critical lack of supported accommodation, respite and support for clients, needs immediate attention by the State Government. The disability sector cannot wait till 2019 for these urgent areas of demand to be met. If the State government is unable to meet this crisis, especially for accommodation, then the Federal government through the NDIS needs to take action.

CLA will continue to create awareness for the plight of aging carers, lobby for family advocacy and the right of people with a disability to choose where they live and with whom.

“Rosebud Cloverleaf Open Community Project”

This last year has brought its challenges to the directors of CLA and the Rosebud Church Council who have campaigned to establish the foundation for our accommodation project “Rosebud Cloverleaf Open Community Project”. CLA and the Rosebud Uniting Church council have completed all the formalities required by the Uniting Church in Australia. The project was given the green light by Uniting Church HQ in July this year and a MOU has been signed allowing CLA to source the necessary funds required to build the accommodation.

The Rosebud Cloverleaf project is an open community development to house ten adults with a significant disability living with aging carers. The ground floor will cater for six people with high support needs requiring 24/7 care, the residents will have their own bedrooms and access to a shared living space.

The upper floor with its own entrance will cater for four people with low-medium support needs in studio units, sharing kitchen, dining, lounge and laundry. All residents will have an individual plan which will reflect their interests and choices and which will guide staff in the delivery of support. The principles of person centred planning and best practice standards are embedded in all that we do within our planning work.

Equality, participation and accessing services and activities available to other members of the community is what makes Cloverleaf a living example of community inclusion for its

residents. The site location will facilitate ease of access to all amenities. The community centre on site will provide an opportunity for social interaction, mission, outreach services and a venue for meetings and social events. Office space will accommodate the church's mission work, comfortable private space for counseling and meeting with carers and the local church goes.

The entities involved in this project are the Uniting Church in Australia (UCA) Community Lifestyle Accommodation (CLA) and the Southern Mornington Peninsula Uniting Church at Rosebud (SMPUC). A submission was developed detailing the project, marketing the development as a local community response to address the critical need to build supported accommodation for adults with severe/profound intellectual disability. The submission also highlighted the need to have a support base to assist carers work towards the changes happening in the disability system.

CLA enlisted the support of Hon Bruce Billson MP for Dunkley, Hon Greg Hunt MP for Flinders, Neale Burgess MP for Hastings, Martin Dixon MP for Nepean, and Johan Scheffer MP for Eastern Victoria. All the State and Federal MP's were in favor of the project. The Mornington Peninsula Shire Mayor Cr Antonella Celi signed a letter of support.

CLA and the Rosebud Church council met with Senator the Hon Mitch Fifield in March. On his request we had to re-submit our submission with his suggested amendments. This was sent to his office in July. A meeting was held with Minister Mary Wooldridge on the 15th October at which the Minister showed an interest in the project and asked that the project group meet with DHS South Region. This was done on the 28th October. DHS has evaluated the project and their report is with the Minister and we are waiting on her reply. Once we receive the reply from the Minister we then go back to Senator the Hon Mitch Fifield. CLA will push as hard as we can to receive both State & Federal government support for this project.

Creating awareness

Guest speakers at Dromana Rotary Club

Guest speakers at the Bendigo Bank branches annual meeting

Guest speakers at the CWA Peninsula branches half yearly meeting at Dromana

Guest Speakers at the Village Glenn inter-denominational church meeting

Guest Speakers at the CWA Rosebud Branch AGM in October.

CLA met with three advisors from the Attorney General Robert Clark's office, the topic was on co-decision making for people with limited capacity to understand consequence.

On behalf of Carers Vic, CLA organized a focus group of carers who spoke on accessing health services on the Peninsula. (Monash University)

CLA organized a focus group for La Trobe University on how to support people with a cognitive disability to make decisions.

CLA was able to make recommendations to two OT students from Monash University on recreational programs that would enhance the lives of older people with high support needs. This is an area that needs to be funded as there are many older people living with a significant disability at home with aging carers

CLA and Rev Steve Terrell met with Simon Mc Keon, chair of the Macquarie Bank.

Highlight of 2014

BALANCING THE SCALES Forum (Carers United in Strength to Advocate)

Statement in the Legislative Council (Tues 5th Aug) Mr. SCHEFFER (Eastern Victoria)

The gathering heard from representatives of political parties, with Jenny Mikakos speaking for Labor, Colleen Hartland for the Greens and David Morris, the member for Mornington in the Assembly, for the government.

The organisers of Balancing the Scales clearly understand that getting a fair deal for people with disabilities is about politics and that political parties, governments, oppositions and legislators must be called to account on these important matters.

The forum heard from Bruce Bonyhady, AM, chair of the National Disability Insurance Agency, who gave a fantastic account of the objectives of the agency and of its progress so far. Participants heard from the disability services commissioner, Laurie Harkin, and the mental health complaints commissioner, Lynne Coulson Barr.

I have had the honour of working with Marie Hell and Community Lifestyle Accommodation for many years, and I support the CLA's key objective: to establish accommodation for people with an intellectual disability to live independently of their parents. Community Lifestyle Accommodation has had some considerable successes, but there is a long way to go, as Marie Hell and the organisation knows. Last Thursday's forum was another step towards realising Community Lifestyle Accommodation's objective, and I commend the organisation.

An Audience of close to 200 people, carers, consumers and service providers packed the Peninsula community Theatre for Balancing the Scales Forum on Thursday the 31st July 2014. The forum was organized by Community Lifestyle Accommodation LTD (CLA) and Peninsula Carer Council (PCC) Family carers and service providers from 54 organization's joined with politicians from all major political parties, Disability and Mental Health Commissioners and community leaders to discuss the urgency of working together to meet the enormous challenges facing people with disability ,mental illness and their carers.The forum was supported by Carers Victoria, Alfred Health South, After-Care & Hill Legal and officially opened by the Mayor of Mornington Peninsula Shire. Max Jackson chaired the forum.

This forum comprised the start of what can be a consistent and united advocacy effort between caring families, consumers and service providers in the disability and mental health sector to ensure key issues such as housing and quality service provision are understood and prioritised by the government.

Carers highlighted the urgent need to address:

- Deficits in long term supported accommodation for older children of ageing carers
- Chronic shortage of good quality accommodation options for individuals with a disability and mental illness. (people are homeless sleeping outdoors)
- Inadequacy of accountability by some service providers.
- More trained staff to support people with mental illness & disability
- More support for carers, who feel abandon by the system.
- Inclusion of caring families by service providers when working with individuals with a disability or mental health challenge)

- Increase options for quality facility & in home respite for people with high support needs.

The keynote speaker Mr. Bruce Bonyhady, AM chair of the National Disability Insurance Agency (N.D.I.A)

Mr. Bonyhady stressed The NDIS will provide support to all Australians who have a significant disability or will acquire one in their lifetime The main aim of the NDIS is to provide reasonable and necessary support to people with disabilities -whether they have intellectual, physical or mental disabilities- to enable them and their families to build ordinary lives and be part of their communities.



The Agency is encouraging partnerships with groups to meet the urgent demand for housing, a housing paper will be released by the NDIA shortly the full roll of the scheme anticipated to be 2019-2020.

Feedback from the forum indicated that participants found the event to be productive, informative, permitted the voice of carers, families and consumers to be heard. The forum led to the sharing of information and understanding between all involved in the mental health and disability sectors.



Parent Power at its Best

Parent Pam Mc Donald saw a need for her daughter & friends to be given the opportunity to develop their abilities with a program tailored to their choice. The program that Pam set up is running one day a week from the Briers at Mt Martha, in a beautiful environmental setting connected to the natural bush location. Rhonda, Tess, Lorraine and Holly are pictured in the vegetable garden that they planted; the produce is used in their cooking program. The group entertain guests for lunch on special occasions and health and well being activities are part of their day. All activities are chosen by the group and supported by two paid staff.

[Pam is now researching starting other programs for adults on the Peninsula. Well done Pam.!!!](#)



Celebrating Abilities

Jeffrey Hell (A) pictured with a family friend Robert who has been there for Jeffrey since his dad died. With the support of staff from PAST, the Mornington Peninsula Shire, After Care, and family Jeffrey is able to access the community with confidence without depending on his mother.



Kerry Turner (B), Special Olympics Medal Winner

Fundraising and connecting with the community

Bunnings sausage sizzle, CLA members cooking up a storm.



Red Hill Spring Garden Festival

CLA members and the Rosebud Uniting Church Ladies joined together to do the Devonshire teas. This was a successful day making money and creating awareness for our project.



Celebrating Carers Week Lunch

32 families attended the lunch which was held at the Rye Hotel, the management made the day special for all present, the food and service was excellent. The entertainment was provided by the De'Lovelies. Lorraine Pollard had the families on the floor dancing to her songs. The raffle and door prizes were a hit with those present.

It was with sadness we farewelled the passing of two of our carers, David Rees and Ian Lane. Both will be sorely missed by their family and members of CLA. Ian Lane's family donated the money collected from his service to CLA.

Director Lara Barrett resigned earlier this year, the board wished her well for the future and recognised the work she contributed to our project. Her place was filled by Carole Lowther, to be confirmed at the AGM

Director Sandra Smythe and our chair Paul Lyons will not be continuing as Directors on the CLA Board, Paul has family commitments, Sandra has health issues and needs some time to gain her strength. Both Paul and Sandra will be missed as they have been a vital part of our journey to date. Paul has agreed to do our books and be there for advice with our Cloverleaf project. Sandra will support CLA with functions or advocacy. The board's gratitude is extended to both Paul, Sandra and their families, as it has been a full on year with many meetings.

Member Lynne Keogh has put her name up for nomination as a director, to be confirmed at our AGM.

The CLA board has met on a regular basis, with a few special meetings called to attend to matters on our housing project. There have been three general meetings for members and a few social events for families.

Agendas have been sent to the board & members prior to meetings and information on the disability changes sent to members. The board welcomes three new members, Lynne Keogh, Peter & Natalie Whelan and Hemi-Kanta Mitchell.

It has been a very busy year for a small group of volunteers on our board who have strived to attain our goal to build our first residential development (Cloverleaf)

The board is very grateful to the continued support of the Southern Mornington Peninsula Uniting Church, Rev Steve Terrell, Peter Hunter, Jan Hall, Gaye Story and Helen Gegan all have put in many hours to achieve success for our project. The Uniting Church Australia for the checks and balances done on the project to make sure it is financial sustainable into the future. The Mornington shire –Virginia Richardson Metro Access Officer and Peter Sibly Housing and Community officer, both have supported CLA. Kate Outhred –Carer coordinator for Carers Victoria, Ewa Sadujko support worker for Alfred Health South Region. Warren Hayes GM After Care, Hill Legal Mornington, Max Jackson & Margaret Ryan who have supported CLA since we formed in 2010. Minister Mary Wooldridge, Senator the Hon Mitch Fifield, State & Federal MP's. Johan Scheffer MP for Eastern Victoria who is retiring this year, we wish him well. Chris Allen, Bayside Peninsula South Region-DHS, John Chesterman from the OPA who has provided valuable advice and The Toni Kaye Foundation.

The board extends our sincere thanks to our members and all the community organisations that have supported our endeavours over this last year.

The CLA board will campaign for the full rollout of the NDIS to meet the urgent support needs of people with a significant disability, Innovative Housing, Respite and Adequate Support must be address now. If the State government cannot meet the needs of the disability system this includes support for providers, then the Federal government needs to support the rollout of the NDIS across Victoria.

Paul Lyons Chairman Marie Hell Secretary

Our Board

Chairman and Treasurer Paul Lyons

Paul has a Diploma in Accounting, Certificate IV in Disability Services, Information Technology, OH&S, Workplace Training and Assessment and a Certificate in Recycling. He has had occupational experience as Manager in a number of industrial and finance settings including 10 years working to develop accommodation, day service and business services with people with a disability.

Director & Secretary Marie Hell

Married for 44 years, recently widowed. 3 sons, 3 grandchildren.

Following the birth of her second son (Jeffrey) who has Tuberous Scleroses, Marie and her husband Karl became involved in 1974, with other dedicated parents in organizations assisting to provide services and supports for children and adults with an intellectual disability. Hard work and lobbying resulted in establishing The Melba Centre ATSS, The Mt Evelyn SDS, & associated annex at the Rosine Nursing Home.

Marie has a background in Aged Care (15 years) Ran her own ceramic business (10 years) Teaching and producing finished items. (Retired to the Peninsula 2003)

Her commitment and passion now is to work with CLA LTD towards building much needed appropriate, suitable long term accommodation (homes) for adults with an intellectual disability. A whole of life approach to improving outcomes for the person and their carer.

Directors:

Sandra Smythe is married to Graeme, two married daughters, two sons with Down Syndrome. Interests: Intellectual Disability. Advocacy with a Passion. I have been involved with intellectual disability since we arrived in Australia from New Zealand in 1980 and found that suitable services were not available for my son Richard. The solution is go out and get them, and have been fighting ever since. I was President of Woorinyan C.O.M. for 3 years throughout the first years of the latest changes to services and how they are delivered. I have been on and off many committees over the years.

Kevin Turner is 72 years old and is married with 3 Children (one with Down syndrome), retired, having worked in the Telecommunications for 46 years and is a resident of Mt Eliza since 1978 thus well aware of situation re disabled in Southern region

Lara Barrett has a Bachelor of Social Welfare from Monash University, a Diploma of Applied Science, Community & Human Services, a Certificate IV in Workplace Training and Assessment and a Certificate in Training & Development. She has been employed as a Cert IV trainer, a Co-ordinator at Konnections Community Living Inc. and a Project Worker under contract to Dandenong Community Advisory Bureau. Lara has also worked as Case Manager, Department of Human Services, DisAbility Client Services and the Endeavour Foundation (Qld).

Director's Attendances at Board Meetings	Meetings	Attended
Lara Barrett	5	4
Marie Hell	10	10
Paul Lyons	10	9
Sandra Smythe	10	9
Kevin Turner	10	10

MEDIA REPORT

The Website has been continually updated, additional pages added and improved including a list to thank all people who have supported CLA. Newsletters were produced during the year to keep our members informed of our progress to our goals.

FUNDRAISING REPORT

Between July 2013 and June 2014 the fundraising committee and friends have raised the sum of \$9,994 as well as donations received at the events. Well done everyone and thank you all.

Thanks to the directors, members and supporters who helped this great effort.

Sandra Smythe.