



**lutheran
disability services**

To include people with disabilities in Christian community

Contact us: 08 8212 7766

admin@ldssa.org.au | www.ldssa.org.au

LDS COMMUNITY

WINTER 2025

**CEO's Letter | All about LDS' Newest Clients | New Home Opportunities
Events | Faith in the Community | Fun Photos | Connect with us!**



Welcome to our Quarterly Newsletter to the LDS Community!

A warm welcome to our community. In this edition we hear from our new CEO, celebrate great client and staff achievements, reflect on recent events, and read all about the latest LDS news from the past quarter.

Pictured above we see our TV stars Bruce, Jordan, Laura, and Elizabeth smiling for a photo together at our recent photoshoot - and don't they look great! More info inside.

From the desk of the CEO



Sue Raw

A warm welcome to you all from a fresh face behind the CEO's desk. I have been welcomed into the world of LDS for the past few weeks now and it has absolutely flown by! It has been so lovely that I have had the chance to meet some of the office staff, Board members, clients, and support workers so far.

I am looking forward to continuing to meet those I haven't met with yet - families, networks and wider community that make the Lutheran Disability Services community all that it is. I have heard so many positive comments about our community and the impact we have on each other and those we serve.

For those who don't know a lot about me, here's a few facts... I was CEO and prior that CFO at Baptist Care SA for several years prior to my appointment at LDS. My background is accounting and finance, however for over ten years now I have worked in general management positions. I am also a Graduate of the AICD and have sat on a number of Boards. I have had extensive executive roles in the not-for-profit, disability, community services, and professional services sectors.

I have a wonderful husband, 3 amazing adult sons, 1 and almost 2 beautiful daughters in law. I love music, sport (basketball, football, cricket, netball), Pilates, spending time with my family, and friends. I love a good coffee and Haigh's dark chocolate, My favourite ever TV show is Survivor (both the American and Australian versions). I recently spent 10 days in Vietnam with my sisters and absolutely loved the weather, the sights, the people, the food and spending time with my sisters.

Continued

From the desk of the CEO

I hope you have all had a great winter so far and are keeping warm, dry from the rain, and healthy. This winter has been tough with the cold and the rain (although we really needed that!), and also it is challenging with various sicknesses such as colds and flu... I am very much looking forward to the warmer weather and getting outdoors again soon!

There has been a lot of great news and events at LDS over the past quarter. We held the Annual Family Forum in May where members of the Executive team met with family members and guardians of our clients in person or online. It is really important to hear what we are doing well as an organisation and where we can do better, and to continue to connect with our community. We will continue to explore ways to connect with you, our supporters and clients to ensure we continue to deliver the best possible services for our valued clients and community. Stay tuned for more update on that in the coming months.

We have recently welcomed new clients to our community. For example, Alison has joined one of our female SILs in the west recently and we have heard great things about the trio and look forward to hearing about the great things they get up to together.

FY25 is now complete and we have welcomed in FY26. Our Annual Report will be ready in the coming months, so keep an eye out for when it is published and emailed to you for your reading.

I am very excited about the future of LDS and being able to support the incredible work of LDS. Once again thank you all for the warm welcome to the organisation. I feel blessed to see my personal values align well with LDS' and am passionate about ensuring our clients have opportunity to be connected with community, learn new skills, increase independence, and access accommodation to lead fulfilling lives.

If you have any questions please email me at sraw@ldssa.org.au.

God bless,
Sue

EMPOWERMENT

We recently made a new TV commercial where our clients again rose to the occasion and became TV stars for a day (or two). They danced, painted, cooked, showed us how to clean around the house, and fed the chooks. Check out some photos below and the final videos on our [YouTube here](#).
[@lutherandisabilityservicessa](#)

LDS New Ads



On another day, Shimron house took part in the house fire drill - well done to the team and housemates for taking part in this very important activity!

Greg celebrated 20 years of supported employment at Orana with a certificate and awards ceremony. What a huge achievement, we're very proud of your hard work and dedication.



Annual Family Forum



This past May we saw our annual Family Forum take place at our head office in Payneham, and online via Teams conference call.

We hold this event every year at the end of May for families, guardians and loved ones of our clients to come together, share updates, and engage in meaningful discussions about our community's future.

To start the evening Michael Kromwyk (previous CEO) gave an overview on our values as an organisation.

He spoke about our community, and then LDS' presence in the community such as at the Disability Expo, celebrating big events such as Easter with our clients and community, and LDS' inaugural Australia Day event at Fullarton Community Centre (which was a great success enjoyed by our clients, friends, families, and wider general public). We were able to host such an event with the assistance of government grants, of which we are very grateful as it brought much joy and connection to all.

Then, our Business Development Manager Jarrod Flack gave an overview of LDS' housing and vacancy matches, acknowledging that good referrals and matches can come from within our community.

Ben Natt, General Manager Client Services, finished off the evening by discussing in more detail the Net Promoter Score (NPS) data, including showing the results since LDS' conception, and presented the results of the client feedback survey.

Thank you to all attendees who came along and contributed their presence, thoughts and questions.

If you have any queries, comments or feedback, please let us know at admin@ldssa.org.au.

Client Highlight: Grace Went to the Zoo



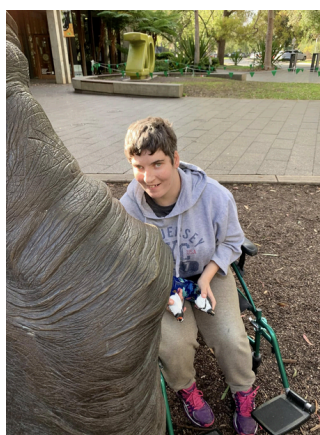
In July, one of our clients Grace achieved a major milestone for her personal goals and development, and conquered her anxiety with the support of her Support Worker Karen and visited the Adelaide Zoo.

Grace absolutely loves animals, often reading about them in books and watching videos about them. She is able to excitedly tell you the names of the animals, while following it up with the sign for each particular animal, however her extreme anxiety has previously paid a large role in her not being ready to venture out and visit them at the zoo.



Karen identified all of these keys things for Grace and supported her to achieve this major goal, through:

- following her Positive Behaviour Support (PBS) strategies of giving her as much time and space as required,*
- giving clear expectations,*
- working through what it would look like and what she might see,*
- while also giving her the time to enable her to be ready to engage.*



Karen reported spending 30 minutes in the car, allowing Grace to engage with her toy animals and become comfortable in her environment before they ventured into the zoo together. Karen stated that Grace heard the birds in the trees and that was the sign she needed for her to begin her adventure.

Grace's favourite activity was visiting the monkeys and seeing the dinosaurs which were on display for 'Illuminate Adelaide'. Karen also stated that Grace really enjoyed engaging with members of the public, saying hello and waving to them!



'Very proud of Grace today, after arriving at the Adelaide Zoo for our adventure Grace refused but after 30 mins of play time in the car Grace was happy to go and see all the animals' Karen said, also stating it was 'a pleasure seeing Grace face light up!'

We are so proud of Grace for what she has achieved and also of Karen for being completely person-centered, in supporting Grace in the way which was conducive of success.

EXCELLENCE

Clients Give Back

Emily really enjoys giving back to the community in her volunteer role at Treasure Box. She was very proud of her shoe display that she created from scratch recently - see below her neat display! Well done Emily! We're very proud of you.



Holiday Time

Carol recently enjoyed a few days away in Tanunda and the surrounding Barossa Valley. What a great holiday she had! Bowling, dinosaur mini golf, a girls' pamper day with manicures and a new hair-do, scones and tea, paper craft, cooking, Maggie Beer farm, lavender farm, the Whispering Wall at Williamstown, and wineries galore! It gives us great joy to be able to assist clients in making their wishes come true and help shape these fantastic memories.



INTRODUCING... ALISON

A big warm welcome to Alison, who has joined one of our SIL homes in West Lakes. LDS Client Services Manager in the North-West, Laura, stated that housemates Clarie and Maria have welcomed Alison very positively and she has settled in really well. They have seen an improvement in her nutrition, sleep, and general health and wellbeing since moving into the home as well as many more social opportunities for Alison with her new friends and community!



New Client & Representative Conduct Policy

We have recently published a new policy in relation to client and guardian conduct. This will be provided to any new clients/guardians that are onboarded onto our services to read and by signing our service agreement, clients/guardians are agreeing to comply with LDS policies. We at LDS are committed to our values which includes Excellence for both client and staff wellbeing. The purpose of this Policy is to outline the expectations of the organisation to ensure all LDS staff work in a safe and respectful workplace. This can include, but is not limited to, areas such as in the client homes, out in the community, any of the LDS offices, or other locations.

A copy will be added to the LDS Client Handbook for clients and families to refer to, and will be attached to any future service agreements.

Please feel free to read it via the link below. If you have any queries, please direct them to your Client Services Manager or call our head office on 08 8212 7766.

<https://lca.box.com/s/j0ogbhpllm18ltpw6tk0oje4przqezu>

POxLDS Client Voice Committee Continue



As part of their ongoing attendance and contribution in the Client Voice Committee workshops hosted by Purple Orange and LDS, clients were presented with a certificate. (Mathew and Bruce pictured above.) After much success, the committee continues beyond its initial trial phase, continuing to educate clients on advocacy and encourage clients to speak up.

We are always open for more volunteers to join - get in touch if you or anyone you know is interested.



Above we have an image of LDS client Peter at the animal barn at the Disability Expo. Peter loves cuddly creatures!

To the left is an image of LDS client Terry playing for Goodwood Saints Football Team - what a superstar!

NEW STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS

We are pleased to introduce some new faces
to our support team:



STEFAN NESIC
TEAM LEADER

*Sunny Ezeh
Jai Philip
Liam Roberts
Paul Grennan
Peter Mullan
Victor Obikaonu*

*Sabrina Naheka
Gautam Girdhar
Roseland Gichuki
Eliud Kalialaha
Karen Boyle
Julie Grubb
Karen Redman
Bianca McCalop*



Welcome to the LDS Team!

FAITH

Not Alone

by Pastor Jim Strelan

About three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, 'Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?' which means 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?' (Matthew 27:46).

Read Matthew 27:45-54

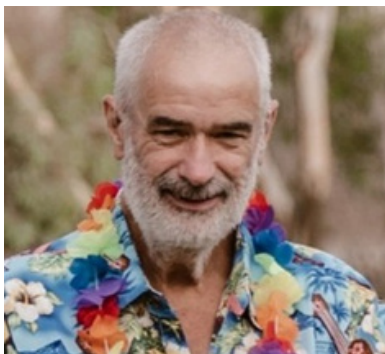
Who hasn't felt abandoned at times? The most terrifying time of abandonment for me was when I went to hospital to have my tonsils removed when I was a child. Back then, parents were not allowed to stay with their children in the ward outside of visiting hours. When I was in my hospital gown and laughing with my mum, the operation and the environment didn't matter. But when my mum was forced to leave me, I was distressed. I was powerless and alone, and I had no idea when it would end. Being powerless and alone is traumatic for everyone.

Jesus knows complete abandonment. On the cross, when the burden of all sin fell on him, Jesus was separated from the Father, and he had literally no-one in heaven or on Earth with him. He understands our loneliness more deeply than even we could, and he enters it willingly for us. In Jesus' abandonment, he brought together all things that had been separated. He is the cure for loneliness.

Jesus' cry on the cross guarantees that we don't ever have to be separated from God. His work means that God's presence is always available. Jesus' cry is also an example to us in dealing with loneliness. It's okay to cry out. It's okay to tell those who are close to us that we feel alone. It's okay to ask those we love for help. It's okay to ask God directly to help. We can be confident that he will respond directly and through others.

Lord, be with us when we are lonely. Help us speak honestly with those around us when we feel we are being left out. Please send us your Spirit and be at work in our lives and relationships. Amen.

*Repurposed with permission
Lutheran Church of Australia*



Remembering Graeme Heinrich

With great sorrow we share the news of the passing of a dearly beloved member of our community and client, Graeme Heinrich. Graeme joined our community 18 months ago, moving from his hometown of Tanunda to join our Ferryden Park SIL house.

Graeme and housemate Greg soon became best buddies – bonding over their love of cars, mechanics, and movies. Greg taught Graeme how to fish, they cooked and dined together and adopted healthier eating habits with the help of their support team, and went out for various adventures around town when they weren't busy with their day programs. The 'cool kids' often sat together at the back of Club Cool enjoying the live music, and they even look like twins in their choice of clothing wear!

In the last couple of years Graeme had chosen to retire from his work at Barossa Enterprises, and chose to spend his time with activities and programs he enjoys.



Graeme had integrated very well into the Adelaide community – picking up days at Day Options, being involved in EBC Tuesdays Friendship group where many of the LDS clients attend, whilst still keeping close connection to his Tanunda friends and family with frequent visits and weekend trips.



Graeme will be remembered by his quiet peaceful demeanour, love for cars, his extensive movie collection, and his many friendships had over the years in Tanunda. His bond with his housemate Greg will also be one to remember.

The family of Graeme have passed on their very grateful thanks to all his staff at LDS, as they have said that Graeme had lived the best part of his life in the last 18 months. We are grateful to have been a part of his life, and he was a true pleasure to support.



He will be sorely missed by his team at LDS and his housemate Greg, as well as the wider LDS community who have had the pleasure of getting to know him over the past couple of years. We extend our condolences to Graeme's family, friends, support network and the greater community that knew him.



Rest in Peace, Graeme.

FUN

L'Arche International's 61st Birthday Celebration was held at one of our SIL homes, DIN House. The L'Arche community as well as some LDS clients including Jenni, Laura, and Mark from DIN house, Nathan and James from CHI, and Jack, came together to celebrate in worship. L'Arche is an international federation of non-profit organisations working to create networks of community where people with and without intellectual disabilities live and work together, now running for its' 61st year!



"What a fun night for James and Nathan... they celebrated L'Arche International's 61st birthday with cake, laughter, and a cozy movie night.

So much joy in one room!"

- Rupinder, Support Worker



Happy Birthday Alex! He was so excited that he even helped set up the decorations with his housemates and support staff!



Christina, Sam and Carol enjoyed cat cuddles and coffee at MeowMe cafe - Carol counted about 6 or 7 cats this time!





Tracey made a beautiful vase at Art and Craft! She chose to decorate it with colourful beads, then added fresh native flowers – what a lovely creation.



Jenni loves catching up with friends, and on this day she enjoyed meeting up with Genevieve for a coffee date along the beachfront.

Christmas in July Party

Christmas in July always brings in a happy crowd each year and this July was no different. Check out some happy snaps at DOR house for the party! Thank you to the clients and support team for the big effort getting ready - inviting guests, putting up decorations, preparing food, and hosting. The house and backyard were full of clients, friends, family members spanning generations, and our



VACANCY ALERT



Ferryden Park

Join a male in their 50s-60s who likes to chat, cook, and see car shows. He is supported at a 1:3 ratio and passive overnight support. The home is close to public transport routes and only a short walk from the Parks Community Centre with facilities such as medical and dental practices, library, sports facilities and allied health supports.



Nuriootpa

Join two males in their 40s-50s who like to socialise, go out on day trips, play board games and ping pong, dance, and have fun. They are supported at a 1:3 ratio and passive overnight support in this lovely family-like community in the Barossa Valley.



Seaton

Join a male in his 20s who likes to play games, such as Dungeons and Dragons. The home is a new SDA accessible SIL with 1:3 passive overnight support. The property is a four-bedroom home, up to three clients living together with an ensuite each, and an overnight passive sleepover room for support staff.



St Marys

Join a female in her 20s who enjoys dancing to music, going out in the community, and fun outdoor experiences. She goes to day options, enjoys sensory play, having a giggle, and loves the wiggles! The home is a new SDA accessible SIL with 1:2 passive overnight support. Get in touch to learn more to see if it could be a good fit!



Tea Tree Gully

LDS has two vacancies available at our new SDA build in Tea Tree Gully. This three-bedroom brand new home is suited for people with SDA Improved Livability in their plan, with 1:2 support ratio. Clients will be fully supported with a 24/7 passive overnight support team. Bedrooms include ensuites, for convenience, comfort, and accessibility.

COMING SOON

Seaton #2



LDS currently has on offer a new SDA accessible home in the western suburbs with 1:2 passive overnight support. The property is a three-bedroom home, for two clients to live together with an ensuite each, and an overnight passive sleepover room for support staff. Get in touch to enquire further at intake@ldssa.org.au or call 08 8212 7766.

Morphett Vale



Expressions of interest open for an all female SIL home with 1:3 passive overnight support, in Adelaide's Southern suburbs. Join a female in her 40s who enjoys doing puzzles, bowling, going out to events, for a walk and coffee, or a nice drive. She is seeking friendly housemates to reside with and hang out with when she's not working. She loves to be around people and socialise!

Mt Barker



Expressions of interest open for a shared SIL home at a 1:2 ratio in the Adelaide Hills. Join a man in his 30s who would like to share a home & overnight supports but maintain his independence and own space at times! He enjoys listening to music, going for walks, and op shopping.

Morphettville



Expressions of interest open for a shared SIL home at a 1:2 ratio close by to Glenelg. Join a man in his 30s who would like to share a home & overnight supports and maintain his independence and own space at times! He enjoys keeping busy with his work and hobbies, playing basketball, and maintaining his veggie garden.

Do you know of someone looking for a safe and secure happy home? If interested in any of the properties or future opportunities, please contact our BDM Jarrod Flack at intake@ldssa.org.au or 0422 478 677

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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.

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

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

How can you support our mission?



PRAY FOR OUR MISSION

Include Lutheran Disability Services (LDS) in your prayers, and ask God to bless our mission of delivering faith, empowerment and excellence to people living with disability.

SERVE COMMUNITIES

You might have a community activity or project in which people living with a disability can be involved. Reach out to us. LDS wants to serve the wider community and work with you to build strong integrated communities.

VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME

Our clients love to cook, create, play sport and help in the community. Do you have a skill that you could share with a client?

BUILD OUR NETWORK

You, your church or community group might have a vacant building, unused land or other facility that could be converted to disability housing. Please talk to us.

MAKE A DONATION OR OFFERING

You can donate directly to LDS by calling 08 8212 7766 or via our secure online donation portal. You might consider leaving a legacy, setting a bequest or investing in housing for people living with a disability. Perhaps your church might take up a special offering, or your community group might host a fundraising event to support our mission.



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We do **more** because you deserve **more.**

Our incredible support team helps hundreds of people living with disability and their families make friends, learn new skills and increase their independence.

Speak to us about finding the right plan for you.



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