



COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2026

Welcome to our Quarterly Newsletter to the LDS Community!

CEO's Letter | Client Empowerment | New Home Opportunities
Events | Faith in the Community | Fun Photos | Connect with us!

A warm welcome to our community. In this edition, we hear from our 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 Peter and Jack catching up over a coffee.

FROM THE DESK OF THE CEO



Dear clients, partners, and supporters,

It's hard to believe we are already at the start of March 2026! The past 7 months spent with LDS have flown by.

It has been a time of getting to know clients and staff, listening, reflecting, observing and consolidating the direction for 2026. Everyone has been so generous in spending time with me, sharing stories and experiences and helping me to better understand all that LDS is and does.

I've been reflecting on the stories, achievements, challenges, and conversations that have shaped our work. It has been a season of steady progress, deep listening, and genuine partnership — and I'm grateful for the trust you continue to place in Lutheran Disability Services as a service, partner and employer.

What Stood Out

What continues to move me most is the dedication and compassion our team brings to their work every single day. Whether it's supporting someone to settle into a new home, building daily living skills, or simply being a steady, reassuring presence, these moments — big and small — form the heart of what we do.

Our continual focus is to:

- strengthen the quality and consistency of our client support, with feedback showing our clients feel supported, informed, and more in control

- make behind-the-scenes improvements to support our team members to ensure our services feel smoother and easier to navigate
- welcome new team members whose energy and perspective add real value to our community

These improvements might not always be visible externally, but they matter deeply to the people we support — and to me personally. Our commitment is to continue to work on these areas to provide a better experience and service for all.

Important Updates in the NDIS & SIL Sector

Recently, there has been significant movement across the NDIS landscape, especially in Supported Independent Living (SIL). The reforms announced will shape the way all providers — including us — operate, advocate, and deliver support over the next 12–18 months.

• **Mandatory SIL Provider Registration Coming 1 July 2026**

From 1 July 2026, the Australian Government will require all SIL providers to be formally registered with the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission — a major shift aiming to strengthen safety, quality, and accountability across the sector.



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- These requirements include: independent audits, stricter quality standards, worker screening, and detailed compliance obligations. LDS welcomes these changes and already being a registered provider, are therefore well positioned for this transition, with a strong focus on practice standards and a regular regime of internal audits as well as participation in external accreditation.

- **New SIL Practice Standards in Development**

Alongside mandatory registration, the NDIS Commission is developing a new SIL Practice Standard focused on quality and safety in shared accommodation and in-home supports. These will bring clearer expectations around service delivery, team capability, and the lived-experience outcomes providers need to demonstrate.

We welcome this direction – clearer standards mean better outcomes for the people we support and all those who access SIL across the country.

- **Shift Toward a New NDIS Planning Framework (Mid-2026)**

The NDIA is introducing a new way of planning from mid-2026, grounded in support needs assessments rather than extensive external reports. This aims to make planning more consistent, transparent, and accessible for participants. We'll continue to keep you updated and to help clients and families feel confident navigating these changes.

Governance update

Over the last few months, we have said goodbye to 4 long term serving Board members. Our sincere thanks to Peter, Ben, Tim and Kym for many years of valuable service, governance, leadership and insight. LDS would not be where it is today without them.

A special thanks to Kym Wallent who has been Chair of the Board for the past 9 years and led with grace, wisdom and integrity. We congratulate Lucinda Osborne, who has been voted as the Chair of the Board. We look forward to Lucinda's leadership of the Board in this next chapter.

As a result of the recent retirements, we have now welcomed new members to our Board, each of who bring valuable passion, experience and expertise. Our new members are; Scott Ross, Megan McNaughton, both of whom, joined in November 2025, and Scott Denny, Lee Nettelbeck, Eshani Obadage and Krystal Matthews. In coming months, we will introduce them to the community for you to get to know them a little better. Thankyou to all our Board members for their leadership and valued service.

The Power of Partnership

Our work would not be possible without the relationships we continue to nurture with clients, families, partners, and community organisations. I'm grateful for every conversation, every piece of feedback, every shared idea, and every challenge we've worked through together.

Your collaboration truly shapes the direction we take – and your insight helps us stay grounded in what matters most.

We welcome your feedback as we know that it is an important part of providing a service that is responsive and continually improving.

I am thankful for all your support, for all that has happened over the past 7 months and am even more excited about what comes next.

Kind regards,

Sue Raw

Chief Executive Officer



EMPOWERMENT



It has been a season full of achievements, milestones and moments of genuine joy across our LDS community.

Andrew had the chance to meet the Premier of South Australia, Peter Malinauskas, as he delivered the fantastic news about Bedford. It was a memorable moment for Andrew and a wonderful recognition of the strong partnerships and opportunities that continue to support our clients to thrive.

There was more excitement at RUS House, where Stephen and Peter celebrated the arrival of a brand-new car. This upgrade will support greater independence, more community access, and plenty of adventures ahead for everyone involved.

David has also been out kicking goals. He spent a full week in the Barossa, working, participating in community life, and making meaningful progress toward his personal goals. His dedication and enthusiasm shine through in everything he takes on, and his achievements continue to inspire those around him.

Many of our clients also enjoy attending the Broughton arts sessions, where creativity, connection and self-expression come together. These sessions are always a highlight, and the photos captured show just how much joy and confidence these experiences bring.



CLIENT VOICE COMMITTEE



Our LDS Client Voice Committee came together on 16 December 2025 for a Christmas lunch at The Marion Hotel, where members reflected on the year and the positive impact of their work. We are grateful to Purple Orange and our facilitator, Tristan, for hosting the lunch and supporting the committee's ongoing development.

The committee plays an important role in strengthening client voice across LDS, and we are excited about the work planned for the year ahead. Key priorities include confirming the committee's official name and logo, meeting with LDS clients to gather feedback, connecting with the LDS Board, and helping to facilitate a community workshop.

We are now seeking new members to join the committee!

If you or someone you support would like to contribute ideas, share experiences, and help shape the future of LDS, we would love to hear from you. Being part of the committee is a great opportunity to be involved, build confidence, and make a meaningful difference in our community.



To express interest or find out more, please get in touch!

Rebecca Hammat:

Ph: 0435 807 493 | E: rhammat@ldssa.org.au



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EXCELLENCE

We are proud to celebrate some remarkable achievements and milestones across our LDS community this quarter.

Christina marked an incredible milestone as she retired from Orana after an extraordinary 48 years of dedicated service. Kristin also celebrated her retirement after an impressive 27 years. Their commitment, hard work and unwavering contributions over the decades are truly inspiring, and we congratulate them both on a well-earned new chapter.



Jack's small business, Jack's Delights, had a very special moment recently — he received a custom order for his sister's wedding! Creating something meaningful for such an important occasion was a proud achievement for Jack and a wonderful celebration of his talents.



BOARD PLANNING DAY

This January, our Board came together for a Strategic Planning Day, bringing together our leadership team for a highly collaborative and forward-focused session.

It was a valuable opportunity to reflect, plan and strengthen our strategic direction as LDS continues to grow, enhance our services, and empower the people we support to live the lives they choose.

A heartfelt thank-you to everyone who contributed their time, insights and energy.

SafeTEA Moring Tea



Payneham Head Office participated in a SafeTEA event as part of National Safe Work Month. The team held a lunch, challenged themselves to think of the best workplace memes and participated in a desk safety competition. These photos show the team trying to identify the ways in which our mannequin is not in a safe work environment – so many hazards!

After winning 1st prize in the large business category for our “organise your own workplace” activity competition in 2024, LDS have once again won an award!

A Farewell, For Now!

We recently said goodbye to Elyse, our Positive Behaviour Support Manager, as she heads off on her parental leave. We marked the occasion with an afternoon tea, and thanks to the heatwave, it felt a bit like we were enjoying cake in a sauna! But it didn't stop everyone from coming together to wish her well.

We're so excited for Elyse as she gets ready to welcome her little one. May these next few weeks be calm and restful, before life gets a whole lot more adorable and a little bit nappier! :)

We can't wait to meet the newest addition to the LDS family soon.



F U N



A day at the cricket!

The crew from SHIMRON House enjoyed an exciting day out at the Strikers game. From the atmosphere in the stands to meeting the team mascot, it was a fantastic outing filled with laughs and lots of team spirit. Pictured here we have Mark with the Strikers mascot.



Exploring the Upside Down!

A few of our clients, Laura and Elizabeth had a great time visiting House Down Under, the famous upside-down house. There were plenty of fun photo moments and lots of smiles as everyone explored the quirky rooms and surprising angles.



Bumbles the Clown visits EBC

Bumbles the Clown dropped by EBC and brought the fun with a colourful and lively show. There were magic tricks, jokes, and even some cuddly animal guests. The room was full of excitement, and everyone had an absolute ball! Pictured above we have Peter, Greg and Paul with Bumbles the Clown!

AUSTRALIA DAY At DOR House

DOR House fired up the grill for a fantastic Australia Day BBQ recently, inviting a few houses to join the fun. The afternoon was filled with great food, plenty of laughter, and lots of catching up as clients, families, and staff came together to celebrate. It was a wonderful chance for everyone to socialise, reconnect, and enjoy the sunshine in true Aussie style.

Pictured here is Peter, Christina, Erin, Grace, Stephen.



BIRTHDAY Celebrations

We've had some wonderful milestones across our homes recently. Greg celebrated his 70th birthday surrounded by his family and housemates, enjoying a day filled with laughter, good company, and a very well-deserved slice (or two) of cake.

Stephen also celebrated his 69th birthday recently! It's been lovely seeing both celebrations bring smiles, stories, and plenty of joy to our community.



CHRISTMAS PARTY

On Saturday December 6, our clients had an absolute ball at the LDS Christmas Party, celebrating the festive season alongside their families, support workers, and friends. The afternoon was filled with music, laughter, and plenty of Christmas cheer as everyone came together to share in the joy of the holidays.

It was heartwarming to see so many of our clients embracing the festivities—catching up with friends, making new memories, and proudly showing off their Christmas outfits. Events like this truly reflect what makes our community so special: connection, fun, and a sense of belonging.

A big thank you to everyone who helped bring this event to life—from staff and volunteers to families who joined in the celebration. Your support and enthusiasm helped make the day memorable for all who attended, and we're already excited for next year's celebration!

Pictured here we have David, Carol and Stephen all getting into the Christmas spirit!



NEW STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please join us in welcoming some new faces
to the Head Office and support teams.

*Emma O'Donnell
Mia Boswell
Dikchhya Gautam
Roslyn Rapson*

*Andrew Reed
Vivian Muigai
Monique Forrest
Karen Drew-Bear*

*Teresia Mburu
Carolyn Grubb
Selina Lucas
Angela Flynn
Michelle Stacey*



FAITH

Daily word

In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven (Matthew 5:16).

At Lutheran Disability Services, we see this verse lived out every day through the compassion, dedication, and quiet acts of service shown across our community.

Whether it's support workers empowering clients to pursue their goals, teams collaborating to create joyful experiences, or staff going the extra mile to uphold our values, each moment reflects a light that makes a real difference.

When we show kindness, dignity, and excellence in the way we serve, we allow others to witness the heart behind our work—and together, we shine a light that not only strengthens our community but brings honour to the purpose that guides us.

Many of our clients also choose to let their light shine by attending church services together, sharing in worship, community, and moments of connection. Our staff are committed to mentoring, supporting, and encouraging everyone in their individual faith journeys, recognising that faith looks different for each person and each path is worth celebrating.

Pictured here we have Jenni, Stephen and David attending services across the summer.



VACANCY ALERT

Do you know someone looking for a safe, secure, and welcoming place to call home? We're currently seeking new clients to join some of our existing and upcoming SIL homes. This is more than just finding a place to live, it is about creating happy homes to ensure our existing and new clients have housemates to share their daily lives with and creating meaningful connections and memories. If you or someone you know is interested in learning more about available properties or future opportunities, please contact our Intake team at intake@ldssa.org.au or call 08 8212 7766.



NURIOOTPA - Male | 1:3 SIL | 1 Vacancy

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.



RIDGEHAVEN - 1:3 or 1:2 SIL/SDA | 3 or 2 Vacancies

Join our SDA cluster site in Tea Tree Gully. This three-bedroom, brand-new home is right next door to another LDS SIL house, and is suited for people with SDA Improved Livability in their plan, with a 1:3 or 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.



FERRYDEN PARK - Male | 1:3 SIL | 1 Vacancy

LDS has a new vacancy available at our home in Ferryden Park. Currently, there are two males aged in their 60s, seeking a male housemate. One of the existing housemates works during the week, enjoys socialisation and his own hobbies, and looks forward to spending time on the weekends doing shared social activities. The other housemate enjoys spending time in the community. The ideal housemate would be someone who is easy-going and enjoys their own downtime but will get together for socialising.

VACANCY ALERT



MORPHETT VALE - 1:3 SIL/SDA Female - Apr 2026

Expressions of interest open for an all-female SIL home with 1:3 passive overnight support, in Adelaide's Southern suburbs. Join two females in their 20s and 40s who enjoy doing puzzles, bowling, going out to events, for a walk and coffee, or a nice drive. They are seeking a friendly and social housemate to reside with and hang out with when they're not attending Day Options programs.



This home is an SDA build, and the participant requires Improved Liveability SDA funding. The home includes 3 spacious bedrooms, each with its own ensuite and a passive sleepover room for staff. The features also include 2 large separate living areas, a lovely outside patio area, and a large double carport for easy access into the house.



MORPHETTVILLE - 1:2 SIL/SDA Female

Join our brand-new SDA cluster site in Morphettville. Some of our long-term SIL clients will be moving into a brand-new SDA 3 house cluster site. 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. We are seeking a female participant who has a 1:2 ratio and passive overnight support.



The home is built to SDA Robust standards and features 2 spacious bedrooms, both with ensuites, and a sleepover room for staff. Located behind are 2 other LDS homes, with a lovely communal courtyard perfect for entertaining and socialising with other participants living there.

VACANCY ALERT



SEATON - 1:3 SIL/SDA | 2 Vacancies

Join a male in his 20s who likes to play games, such as Dungeons and Dragons. The home is a new SDA built to High Physical Supports with loads of extra features that put this home in a league of its own. To live here, you'll need SIL with 1:3 passive overnight support. Up to three clients living together with an ensuite, each with plenty of space to break out into your own area when needed.



GAWLER - 1:3 SIL & SDA | 1 Vacancy - Apr 2026

This brand new four-bedroom home, purposed for three housemates, and an overnight passive sleepover room for support staff. This vacancy is suited for people with SDA Improved Liveability in their NDIS plans. Clients will be fully supported with 24/7 passive overnight support. The bedrooms include ensuites for convenience, comfort and accessibility.

This brand-new SDA home backs right onto the local park, which features a lovely walking trail and river, and is conveniently located close to shopping, restaurants, sports facilities, and allied health and medical facilities.

We are looking for a third male participant to join two males aged in their 20s and 40s moving into this new home. They both enjoy attending their Day Options programs during the week and listening to music at home. Both men are non-verbal and use a range of non-verbal ways to communicate with others. Both men can also experience sensory overload and enjoy being able to have their own quiet time when needed.



MORPHETTVILLE - 1:3 SIL/SDA | 1 Vacancy

Join our brand-new SIL and SDA cluster site in Morphettville. Some of our long-term SIL clients will be moving into a brand-new SDA cluster site. Join two brothers in their early 40s who attend day options and employment during the week. They both enjoy going bowling (and are involved in Special Olympics Bowling), watching movies, and getting out into the community.

The house is built to Fully Accessible SDA standards, and features 3 spacious bedrooms, all with spacious en-suites for convenience and extra privacy. Located nearby are local parks, Oaklands Wetlands Reserve, the Sturt River Linear Park Trail, and amenities such as medical centres and shops.

POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR SUPPORT

At Lutheran Disability Services, our Positive Behaviour Support service is about empowering clients to live their best lives. We work with you to create proactive, person-centred strategies that improve quality of life.

We work together to build your strengths, reduce challenges, and celebrate every success along the way.

Our team work with clients 18 years and above. We service metro Adelaide, Adelaide Hills, Mount Barker, and Murray Bridge areas.

You don't have to have other services with Lutheran Disability Services to access Positive Behaviour Support. We welcome external clients.

We are excited to be expanding our Positive Behaviour Support services. If you or anyone you know are looking for proactive, person-centred support that aims at improving the participant's quality of life, please reach out to the PBS team via the details below.

T: 0435 804 320 E: pbs@ldssa.org.au

CONNECT WITH US



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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?



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.



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.

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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