

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

WINTER 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!

Welcome to our community. This edition features a message from our CEO, highlights outstanding client and staff achievements, reflects on recent events, and shares the latest LDS updates from the past quarter.



Pictured here we have Carol, Sam, Elizabeth and Christina enjoying a ladies night together!

FROM THE DESK OF THE CEO



Dear LDS Community,

As I come to the end of my first year with Lutheran Disability Services, I reflect back on all that has occurred in the last 12 months. The team have made me feel very welcome and I have loved getting to know them as well as our wonderful clients. There are still a few clients and families I have yet to meet and I very much look forward to meeting those I haven't met yet very soon.

2026 holds special meaning for all of us at LDS as we celebrate 40 years of delivering services and support to those we care for deeply. It's a milestone that gives us a chance to pause, reflect, and recognise the remarkable journey that has brought us to where we are today.

Over four decades, LDS has grown from its early beginnings into the strong, respected organisation we know today. That growth hasn't happened by chance - it's been built on the dedication of our people, the trust of our clients, and a shared commitment to making a positive difference in the communities we serve. When I speak with long-standing team members and clients, I'm always struck by the pride they feel in what LDS stands for - of community, service, faith as well as challenges overcome, relationships built, and lives impacted.

I've been reminded of this history in very real ways over the past few months. During a recent visit with one of our long-term clients, family members spoke warmly about their journey with LDS and how they've seen us evolve, adapt, and grow while staying true to our values. It was a great reminder that it's not the number of years that matters most, but the real difference we've made in people's lives. This does not happen by accident. It happens due to the great staff we have at LDS, the strong connections we have with families and other supporters of LDS and the importance of our values we hold to be true.

At the same time as reflecting on the past, we continue to look to the future. Our future is being shaped by the people who have been with us for years as well as those joining us today. It's been a pleasure to recently welcome several new staff appointments across the organisation. There is a genuine sense of energy and optimism that comes with new team members - fresh thinking, new ideas, and a shared desire to contribute. Just as importantly,

I've seen the way our existing teams have embraced our new staff - offering support, guidance, and a strong sense of belonging from day one. That balance of experience and new perspective is one of our greatest strengths.

In addition to new staff members, we have also welcomed several new Board members over the past 6 months and we are very thankful for their wisdom, guidance and commitment to the mission of LDS.

Visits to our clients' homes continue to be one of the most rewarding parts of my role. Hearing directly from those we serve and their loved ones - about what's working, where we can improve, and the impact we're having - keeps us grounded and focused. Across different locations, I've seen firsthand the care, professionalism, and commitment our teams bring every day. Moments like these reinforce for me that at the heart of everything we do is our people - our clients and our staff, and the impact we have is significant.

We are operating in a sector that is not without its challenges. Across the industry, we are seeing ongoing pressures including workforce shortages, increasing demand for services, funding constraints, and a rapidly changing regulatory and funding environment. These challenges are real, and they require us to be thoughtful, agile, and resilient in how we respond. I also want to acknowledge the uncertainty and the pressure that families and loved ones are facing as a result.

But if our 40-year history tells us anything, it's that we know how to adapt. We have faced change before, and each time we have emerged stronger - by working together, staying true to our purpose, and continuing to put our people at the centre of everything we do.

Looking ahead, I believe the future for LDS is incredibly bright. We are building on a strong foundation, strengthening our client relationships, welcoming new talent, and continuing to evolve in response to the needs of our community. There is a real sense of momentum - and with it, opportunity.

As we celebrate this milestone year, I encourage all of us to reflect on and take pride in our shared history while also looking forward with confidence. Each of you plays a role in shaping the next chapter of LDS. Whether you've been associated with LDS for many years or have just joined us, your contribution matters.

Thank you for everything you do - your dedication, your compassion, and your commitment to our community. I look forward to continuing this journey together.

Warm regards,

Sue Raw

Chief Executive Officer



EMPOWERMENT



Stephen has been a long-term client with LDS, and we were thrilled to see he has received his brand new electric wheelchair.

Even better, Stephen made sure the controls were set up on the right so he can cruise around hands-free on the left... perfect for holding his coffee while getting about!

It's a great example of how the right equipment can empower greater comfort, independence, and everyday enjoyment

Our wonderful Support Worker, Korena, showed incredible courage this quarter by taking part in the World's Greatest Shave, raising funds for blood cancer research and support.

With a little help from Client Services Manager, Marcy, and Sam, a client from one of our SIL Houses, she bravely shaved her head for the cause. Well done, Korena! Such a powerful and inspiring effort!





A Visit From The CEO

Our CEO, Sue, has been visiting many of our homes this quarter, spending time with our wonderful clients and their families. Pictured here are Peter and Stephen from our Seacombe Gardens SIL home, who hosted a lovely afternoon tea for Sue alongside their family.

Cooking Up A Storm

Building independence and confidence through cooking—whether in the kitchen or on the BBQ, our clients are learning new skills and creating something to be proud of.

Pictured here we have Gen making scones, Sam and Carol making a salad and Rory and Keith cooking the BBQ



We are now seeking new members to join the Client Voice Committee!

If you know someone who 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 Client Voice 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:

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EXCELLENCE

A Special Visit to Immanuel Gawler Primary School

Recently, we had the pleasure of visiting Immanuel Gawler Primary School, who generously selected LDS as the focus of their Term 1 fundraising efforts.

Our clients and team members were warmly welcomed by students and staff, with highlights including a tour of classrooms, time spent in the library, and attending a school assembly where we gratefully received their donation. We are sincerely thankful for the kindness, effort, and generosity shown by the entire school community.

Pictured here with have our clients Alex and Rory, with staff Ashley and Emma, along with Tania from Immanuel Gawler Primary School.



Jack's Delights

Jack has once again been out and about showcasing his enterprise, Jack's Delights, at local pop-up markets. From Christie's Beach to Largs Bay, Jack has been busy setting up his stall, welcoming visitors, and sharing his much-loved treats, including his famous apricot balls. His enthusiasm and dedication have been on full display as he connects with the community and invites everyone to stop by for a treat.

It's fantastic to see Jack building his confidence, growing his business, and getting involved in local events — well done, Jack!

Investing In Our Awesome Team



This quarter has provided some wonderful opportunities to connect, grow, and celebrate the team at LDS.

We invested in strengthening our people and leadership through two impactful training opportunities. Our whole organisation came together for a full-day personal development workshop, providing valuable time to reflect, share ideas, and build practical skills to support both our work and each other. It was a meaningful day of learning and collaboration.

In addition, our Managers and Team Leaders participated in a dedicated full-day leadership training session with Proteus Leadership. The session offered valuable insights into leadership, communication, and fostering a positive culture, with strong engagement and commitment from our leaders throughout the day.

We extend our thanks to the special guests who presented and to our team for their ongoing dedication to growth and development. Together, these experiences highlight our commitment to excellence through continuous learning, and strong leadership.



F U N



It's been a vibrant and activity-filled quarter, with our clients enjoying a fantastic mix of social outings, entertainment, and community experiences.

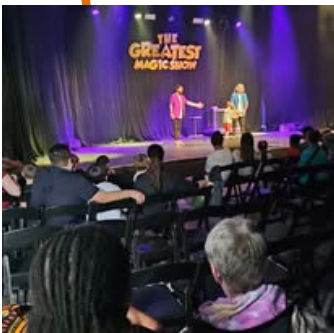


Thanks to the Adelaide Fringe Community Fund, we were fortunate to receive free tickets to a range of shows, including The Great Beach Adventure, The Greatest Magic Show, and The Flying Bubble Show. These performances brought plenty of laughter, excitement, and magical moments. Many of our clients also explored the lively atmosphere of the Garden of Unearthly Delights, enjoying rides, sideshow games, and additional performances. Adding to the excitement, some clients also attended the circus, with special moments captured meeting the performers, creating memories they won't soon forget.



Another highlight this quarter has been Club Cool, a much-loved social event where many of our clients come together with friends, family, and support staff. Held at The Gov, Club Cool offers a welcoming and inclusive space filled with music, dancing, and connection. With a diverse crowd across all ages, the dance floor is always buzzing, and the energy contagious. Whether dancing the night away or enjoying the live music and atmosphere, it's a place where everyone can relax, have fun, and truly feel part of the moment.

It's been fantastic to see our clients out and about, embracing new experiences and making the most of everything on offer.



EASTER WITH LDS



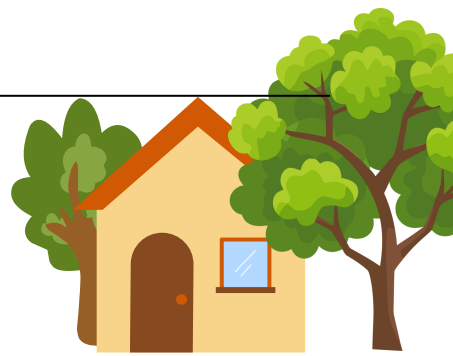
This Easter, our clients enjoyed a fantastic picnic in the park, bringing everyone together for a day of fun and celebration. Thanks to the organisation of our wonderful support worker Marco, the event saw many of our clients and houses come along to share in the festivities and each other's company. The afternoon was made extra special with a visit from the Easter Bunny, who handed out plenty of eggs and smiles.

In addition to the picnic, many of our clients celebrated Easter in a variety of ways – getting creative with arts and crafts, and enjoying visits to community events around the city, including the Glenelg Easter Fair.

It was a wonderful celebration of creativity, and community spirit across our organisation.



NEW CLIENTS AND NEW HOMES

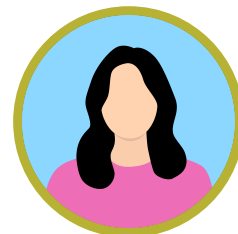


LDS extends a warm welcome to our newest clients

LDS is proud to be expanding south with the opening of our new SIL home in Morphett Vale, where Laura and Lauren are settling in beautifully.

Lauren enjoys a busy and active lifestyle. She loves visiting her family, going for walks, completing jigsaw puzzles, and spending time cooking. Lauren also enjoys social outings and bowling, and is always happy to lend a hand and support others.

Laura is very social and thrives on connection and activity. She enjoys attending EBC Inspire lunches each Tuesday, swimming, visiting Bounce, and spending time colouring. Laura also loves performing with the Tutti Choir, dancing at discos, and catching up with friends and family. She has a special fondness for anything Lilo & Stitch, which always brings a smile to her face.



Lauren



Laura



Andrew

Andrew and Josh are enjoying settling into LDS's beautiful new SIL home in Gawler South, each embracing the space in their own way.

Andrew has a particular love for music and enjoys spending time doing puzzles, working with dominoes, and exploring coloured blocks. He also looks forward to attending his Day Options program, where he continues to engage in activities he enjoys.



Josh

Josh also shares a love of music and has a strong appreciation for the outdoors. He enjoys visiting the beach, swimming, and taking part in outdoor experiences. Josh regularly attends his Day Options program, values time spent with his family, and enjoys being involved in his church community.



Jack helping set up his new home by building outdoor furniture

Cornerstone Housing recently held a housewarming celebration for the three new homes built for our clients in Morphettville. The homes look fantastic, and it was wonderful to see how happy our clients and their families are as they settle in.



NEW STAFF

WELCOME

Please join us in warmly welcoming several new team members to LDS!

We're delighted to welcome Coralee Sheldon, our new General Manager, Service Delivery. Coralee brings extensive experience in leading large, complex services, most recently with Novita. She is passionate about person-centred outcomes and brings a strong, values-driven leadership approach. Coralee is looking forward to getting to know our teams, clients, and community.



Coralee

Kylie Spencer joins us as our Quality & Safeguarding Manager, bringing strong experience across governance, risk, and compliance in the Disability and Employment Services sectors. Most recently at Novita, Kylie is focused on strengthening risk management, safeguarding, and continuous improvement.



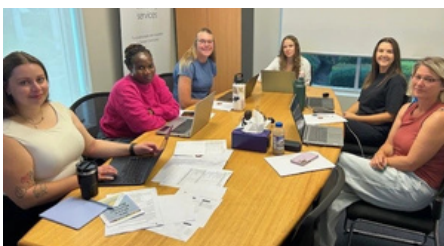
Kylie

We're also pleased to welcome Emily Fraser as our Human Resources Business Partner. With a background in People and Culture at Mount Barker Council, Emily brings valuable experience in organisational development, training, and industrial relations, and is keen to build strong partnerships across LDS.



Emily

We also extend a warm welcome to a number of new support workers who have recently joined our team across the North and South regions.



FAITH

Daily word

Praise be to God, who has not ... withheld his love from me! (Psalm 66:20)



This verse speaks to the assurance of a love that remains constant and unwavering, even through life's challenges. At Lutheran Disability Services, we see this steadfast love reflected every day in moments of encouragement between staff and clients, in the dedication of teams who show up with patience and compassion, and in the supportive community we build together.



As we give thanks for a God who does not withhold love, we are reminded of our calling to extend that same grace, care, and dignity to one another through all that we do.



These photos capture a special part of our community, showing Jenni and Stephen who regularly attend church services together. Their shared commitment reflects our value of faith, not only in personal belief, but in the relationships and encouragement that grow when people walk alongside one another. It shows that faith is not only personal, but something lived out in community, strengthening and enriching each person's journey.

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@ldss.org.au or call 08 8212 7766.



MORPHETT VALE - 1:3 SIL/SDA Female

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.



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



EDWARDSTOWN - 1:3 SIL (female only)

This lovely, spacious Edwardstown home is a 5-bedroom, 3-bathroom single-story house. The home has a large open plan kitchen, dining and living area in addition to the spare bedroom, which is shared flexibly as an activity room or additional lounge room.

Our existing clients are two females in their 60s with a 1:3 support ratio and a passive overnight sleepover. They enjoy watching movies, listening to music, going out into the community and spending time having a chat.



GAWLER - 1:3 SIL & SDA | 1 Vacancy

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.



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.

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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