



lutheran
disability services

08 8212 7766
admin@ldssa.org.au
www.ldssa.org.au

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2026 EDITION

SPECIAL 40TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION

Celebrating 40 years of
community, inclusion and
achievement across LDS.



INSIDE THIS EDITION



CEO MESSAGE



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+ MUCH MORE INSIDE



A message from our CEO

Celebrating 40 Years of Impact, Community and Purpose

This year marks a remarkable milestone for Lutheran Disability Services (LDS). In July 2026, LDS celebrated its 40th birthday – a wonderful achievement. 40 years of supporting people with disability to live meaningful, connected and fulfilling lives.

Our recent 40th Birthday Celebration Dinner brought together current and former Board members, staff, families, supporters, sponsors, community partners and special guests to reflect on the journey that has shaped LDS over the past four decades. It was an evening filled with gratitude, stories, laughter, shared memories and optimism for the future.

Forty years is far more than an organisational milestone. It represents thousands of lives touched, opportunities created, friendships formed and communities strengthened. Since our beginnings, LDS has remained committed to ensuring people with disability have access to the support, dignity, choice and opportunities they deserve within an inclusive and caring community.

As we reflected on our history, we acknowledged the many people who have contributed to the LDS story. From those who helped establish the organisation, to the staff, volunteers, Board members, families and supporters who continue that legacy today, every person has played an important role in building the organisation we are proud to be part of.



At the heart of LDS are the values that have guided us throughout our journey: Empowerment, Excellence, Faith and Fun.

These values continue to shape how we support people, how we work together and how we make decisions. They remind us that our role extends beyond service delivery. It is about creating opportunities, recognising the dignity and worth of every individual, fostering genuine relationships and celebrating life's moments together

While our anniversary has been an opportunity to celebrate the past, it is also a time to look to the future. The disability sector is experiencing significant change, with the introduction of the new NDIS legislation and ongoing reforms designed to strengthen the sustainability and integrity of the Scheme. The National Disability Insurance Scheme Amendment (Securing the NDIS for Future Generations) Bill 2026 was passed by Parliament on 19 August 2026.

These changes bring both opportunities and challenges for participants, families and service providers. Information is still being communicated to us as a provider, and we remain committed to keeping all our clients and their loved ones informed as we receive further communications.



40th Birthday Celebration Dinner - July 2026

“ Our 40-year history has demonstrated our ability to adapt, learn and grow while remaining focused on the people we support. ”

While the environment around us continues to evolve, our commitment remains unchanged: delivering high-quality, person-centred supports that help our people achieve their goals and live the lives they choose.

Like many organisations across the sector, LDS is carefully navigating these reforms while continuing to invest in quality, safety, workforce capability and organisational sustainability. We know that change can create uncertainty, but our 40-year history has demonstrated our ability to adapt, learn and grow while remaining focused on the people we support.

The celebration dinner was also an opportunity to recognise the many individuals and organisations that partner with us in our mission. We are deeply grateful to our families, donors, community supporters and sponsors whose encouragement and generosity help strengthen the impact of our work. Together, we continue to build communities where people with disability are valued, included and empowered.

As we celebrate this significant anniversary throughout 2026, we do so with immense gratitude for the past and confidence in the future. The next chapter of LDS will undoubtedly bring new challenges and opportunities, but the purpose that has guided us for 40 years remains as strong as ever.

To everyone who has been part of the LDS journey, thank you. Here's to 40 years of empowerment, excellence, faith and fun, and to the many lives we will continue to impact together in the years ahead.

Warm regards,

Sue Raw

Chief Executive Officer



Celebrating a Fantastic Five-Year Milestone

“Achievements like these highlight the positive outcomes that can be achieved when people are supported to reach their full potential.”

Congratulations to Mark on receiving a Certificate of Service for completing five years of employment with Orana Supported Employment.

This milestone reflects dedication, perseverance and a strong commitment to the workplace. Throughout his employment journey, Mark has developed valuable skills, and demonstrated remarkable determination.

We congratulate Mark on this well-deserved achievement and look forward to celebrating future successes.

Alex's Remarkable 35th Birthday

LDS recently celebrated a very special milestone with Alex as he turned 35 years old. Believed to be the oldest known person living with CHOPS syndrome, this birthday marks an extraordinary achievement.

Surrounded by family, friends and the LDS community, Alex enjoyed celebrating with birthday cake, gifts and well wishes. An active member of the community, Alex enjoys gardening, cooking, walks and keeping in touch with family.

"My staff is very supportive. They support me with my daily living activities. I feel safe with them."

Congratulations Alex on this remarkable milestone. We look forward to celebrating many more milestones with you in the years ahead.



L'ARCHE SALA EXHIBITION



Lutheran Disability Services is proud to celebrate the creative talents of three of our clients, Jenni, Mark and Laura, who have entered their artwork in the L'Arche SALA Exhibition.

The exhibition forms part of the South Australian Living Artists (SALA) Festival and showcases the art and stories of people with intellectual disabilities, providing an opportunity for artists to share their creativity, experiences and unique perspectives with the wider community.

Having artwork displayed in a public exhibition is a wonderful achievement, and we are delighted to see Jenni, Mark and Laura's hard work and artistic talents recognised in this way. Creating art can be a powerful form of self-expression, allowing people to communicate ideas, emotions and experiences while building confidence and developing new skills.

Members of the LDS team recently visited the exhibition and were impressed by the quality and diversity of the artwork on display. The exhibition offers visitors the chance to appreciate not only the creativity of the artists but also the personal stories behind their work.

We were especially excited to learn that Mark appears to have sold one of his paintings, a fantastic accomplishment and a testament to both his talent and the positive connection his artwork has made with others.

At LDS, we believe everyone should have opportunities to pursue their interests, develop their strengths and share their gifts with the community. We are incredibly proud of Jenni, Mark and Laura for embracing this opportunity and for representing LDS through their artwork.



LDS's Intake & Partnerships Manager and Onboarding & NDIS Manager recently attended the Aged & Disability Expo, connecting with a wide range of service providers, community organisations and industry professionals.

Attending the expo also enabled the team to gain insights into emerging trends across the disability and aged care sectors, helping ensure LDS continues to deliver responsive, person-centred services to the communities we support.

ANIMAL EXPO AT THE SHOWGROUNDS



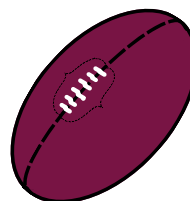
Some of our clients enjoyed a fantastic day at the Animal Expo, meeting a variety of animals, exploring interactive displays and learning about wildlife and animal care.

A NIGHT AT THE FOOTY



For a number of LDS clients, heading to the footy is a regular and much-loved activity. AFL games have offered plenty of excitement, entertainment and opportunities to enjoy a night out supporting their team.

From the atmosphere in the stands to the excitement of game day, attending the footy is a great way for clients to pursue their interests and enjoy memorable experiences within the community.



CLIENT VOICE COMMITTEE

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*Want to help shape
the future of LDS?*

We are looking for
new members to
join the Client Voice
Committee.

.....

-  **Share ideas**
-  **Provide feedback**
-  **Help improve**
-  **Make a difference**

INTERESTED?

*We'd love to hear
from you!*

Contact:

 **Rebecca Hammat**
Onboarding & NDIS
Manager

 **Ph: 0435 807 493**

 **E: rhammat@ldssa.org.au**





CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF SERVICE, PARTNERSHIP & COMMUNITY



On Friday 25 July, Lutheran Disability Services proudly celebrated its 40th Anniversary with a special dinner bringing together many of the people who have been part of the LDS journey.

The event welcomed current and former staff, client families, Board members, supporters, sponsors and community partners for an evening of celebration and recognition. It provided a valuable opportunity to reconnect, share stories and acknowledge the contributions of those who have helped shape LDS over the years.

Guests enjoyed an evening filled with conversation, entertainment and memorable moments as friendships were renewed and experiences shared. The celebration highlighted the strong sense of community that has always been at the heart of Lutheran Disability Services.

Throughout the evening, speakers reflected on significant moments from across the organisation's history, sharing personal stories and memories that demonstrated the impact LDS has had on the lives of individuals, families and communities. These reflections painted a picture of an organisation that has grown and evolved while remaining dedicated to supporting people and building meaningful connections.



“The evening was a celebration of the people, partnerships and community connections that have shaped LDS over the past 40 years.”

The anniversary dinner was also an opportunity to celebrate the relationships that continue to strengthen LDS today.

The support of families, volunteers, donors, sponsors and community partners plays an important role in helping create opportunities for people to participate, connect and thrive.





While the occasion provided an opportunity to celebrate a significant milestone, it was equally a chance to recognise the importance of community and the many connections that have contributed to the organisation's success. The evening demonstrated how much can be achieved when people come together with a shared commitment to inclusion, support and belonging.

As the celebrations concluded, there was a strong sense of appreciation for the journey so far and excitement for what lies ahead. The 40th Anniversary dinner was a fitting celebration of the people, partnerships and communities that continue to make Lutheran Disability Services such a special organisation.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

A special thank you goes to our event sponsors, whose generosity helped make the evening possible.



Beyond Bank
AUSTRALIA

Langmeil
BAROSSA

Their support contributed to a memorable celebration and helped us mark this important milestone in style.



Daily word

Then Jesus came to them and said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations' (Matthew 28:18,19a).



In Matthew 28:18-19, Jesus calls His followers to go out and share His love with all people. At Lutheran Disability Services, we live out this calling by creating communities where people are valued, included and empowered to thrive.

Through our services, relationships and daily interactions, we seek to reflect Christ's love in practical ways, walking alongside people living with disability and supporting them to live with dignity, purpose and connection. As we serve others, we are reminded that every act of care, inclusion and encouragement is an opportunity to share God's love with the world.

Pictured here is Stephen dressed and ready for church.

Faith in Action

On 3 July 2026, Team Leader Tamara and Onboarding & NDIS Manager Rebecca, attended the Faith & Unity Lutheran Schools Spiritual Staff Professional Development Day at Faith Lutheran Junior Campus in Tanunda.

The day included presentations from Jodie Hoff, Executive Director of Lutheran Education Australia, along with messages from Michael Nokes and Adam Yeager, and opportunities for worship and communion.

Tamara and Rebecca facilitated four workshops for educators, highlighting LDS services, community connection opportunities, the Communication Bill of Rights, and strategies for promoting inclusion within schools and the wider community.

The event provided a valuable opportunity for LDS to connect with Lutheran education and other Lutheran organisations across South Australia, celebrating our shared commitment to faith, inclusion and service.



NEW STAFF & STAFF SHOUT-OUTS

LDS continues to grow, and we are delighted to welcome new team members who have recently joined our organisation.

Across two induction programs, more than 25 new Support Workers commenced their journey with LDS, strengthening our ability to deliver highquality support to clients across South Australia.



25+

New Support
Workers



2

Recent
Induction
Programs



1

New Intake &
Partnerships
Manager



North & South

Casual Pools
Expended

Welcome to LDS!

INTAKE & PARTNERSHIPS MANAGER



We are pleased to welcome Sanya Sood, our new Intake & Partnerships Manager to LDS.

Bringing extensive experience in the disability sector, this role focuses on connecting people with the right services and supporting sustainable growth across our organisation.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Carrie, one of our dedicated team members on recently completing a Certificate III in Individual Support (Disability and Ageing).

This achievement reflects a commitment to continuous learning and delivering high-quality support to the people we serve. We are incredibly proud!





VACANCY ALERT



Looking for a place to call home? LDS currently has Supported Independent Living (SIL) and Specialist Disability Accommodation (SDA) vacancies available across Adelaide. Our homes offer safe, welcoming environments that support independence, connection and choice. For more information about any of the vacancies below, contact our Intake Team at intake@ldssa.org.au or **08 8212 7766**.



MORPHETT VALE - 1:3 SIL / SDA Female

Purpose-built SDA home for participants with Improved Liveability SDA funding.

You'll be joining two friendly female housemates in their 20s and 40s who enjoy puzzles, bowling, community events, walks, coffee outings, and scenic drives. They are looking for a social and like-minded housemate to share their home.

- 3 Bedrooms
- 2 Living Areas
- Double Carport
- Passive O/N



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

Shared by two male residents in their 60s looking to welcome a compatible male housemate.

One resident works during the week and enjoys both socialising and his own hobbies especially weekends and shared activities. The other enjoys time in the community and community-based activities.

Seeking an easy-going who values downtime and enjoys coming together for social interaction.

- 2 Male Residents
- 1 Vacancy
- Active Lifestyle
- 1:3 Support



EDWARDSTOWN - 1:3 SIL (female only)

Lovely single-storey home with five bedrooms and three bathrooms.

Shared by two female residents in their 60s who enjoy movies, music, time in the community, and a good chat.

Supported with a 1:3 staffing ratio and passive povernight support.

- 5 Bedrooms
- Open Plan Living
- 2 Females
- 1:3 Support



GAWLER - 1:3 SIL & SDA | 1 Vacancy

Brand-new four-bedroom SDA home for three housemates.

Each bedroom has an ensuite. Dedicated passive overnight support room with 24/7 support available. Perfectly located backing onto a park with walking trails and a river, and close to shops, restaurants, sporting facilities, and health services.

Seeking a third male participant to join two males in their 20s and 40s.

- 4 Bedrooms
- Great Location
- 24/7 Support
- 1 Vacancy



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

New three-bedroom home in our SDA cluster site, alongside another LDS SIL home.

Suitable for participants with Improved Liveability SDA funding. Offers a 1:3 or 1:2 support ratio with 24/7 passive overnight support. Each bedroom includes a private ensuite in a modern, purpose-built environment.

- 3 Bedrooms
- SDA Cluster Site
- 1:3 or 1:2 Support
- 3 or 2 Vacancies

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

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[Click Here](#) or visit:

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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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