

Summer 2020



lutheran  
disability services

# Community

Contact us | 08 8212 7766 | [admin@ldssa.org.au](mailto:admin@ldssa.org.au) | [www.ldssa.org.au](http://www.ldssa.org.au)



## From the desk of the CEO

Dear friends and families,

LDS is very excited about celebrating the International day of people with disability. The 2020 theme 'Not all Disabilities are Visible' focuses on spreading awareness and understanding of disabilities that are not immediately apparent, such as mental illness, chronic pain or fatigue, sight or hearing impairments, diabetes, brain injuries, neurological disorders, learning differences and cognitive dysfunctions, among others. LDS core values of Faith is focussed on being unconditionally loving and accepting of all people. We value and recognise that all people are individually gifted by God and we express grace by serving in any capacity. As LDS celebrates the International day of people with disability, we want to provide a reminder of the importance of removing barriers for all people living with disability, both visible and invisible, and to respect and celebrate the unique value add that everyone brings to communities. At LDS we want to empower persons with a disability by listening, respecting and encouraging individuals to be the best they can be and live the lives they want to live. During this celebration time, we will reach out to congregations to encourage them to join our mission of creating the opportunities for persons with a disability to be included in serving in our communities.

Blessings,  
JvR



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# International Day of People with Disability 2020

On December 3 this year, during the annual celebration of people with disabilities, LDS is celebrating our clients and their abilities with the wider community. Our celebration will include recognising our clients by sending out cupcakes and a short video on what this day means to our client as well as publicising this important event across the Church community in South Australia.

According to the WHO World Report on Disability, 15 per cent of the world's population, or more than 1 billion people, are living with disability. Of this number, it's estimated 450 million are living with a mental or neurological condition— and two-thirds of these people will not seek professional medical help, largely due to stigma, discrimination and neglect.



During the COVID-19 pandemic, isolation, disconnect, disrupted routines and diminished services have greatly impacted the lives and mental well-being of people with disabilities right around the world. Spreading awareness of invisible disabilities, as well as these potentially detrimental— and not always immediately apparent— impacts to mental health, is crucial as the world continues to fight against the virus.

At LDS we help build communities and support our clients to thrive within their communities. During COVID restrictions our support workers found new and interesting ways to safely provide socially distanced community interactions such as visiting local parks, going on walks and playing board games to help clients well being and mental health. The International Day of Disability is important to our clients, families and staff and we hope that you will join us to celebrate this important day.

# Around LDS

## LDS is growing!

Welcome to all of our new Support Workers helping to provide excellent service to our growing community of clients.



Sean enjoying cooking at EBC



## Did you know?

LDS has been providing disability support services to the South Australian community since 1986.

From serving three clients the service has grown to 75 clients.

Over the years LDS has delivered client centred services that has enabled our clients to be active in the community and to achieve their life goals. If you know someone who could benefit from LDS services, refer them today.



lutheran  
disability services

**Supported Independent Living (SIL)  
Specialist Disability Accommodation (SDA)  
Community Participation  
In-Home Supports**

Our mission is to include adults living with a disability in the Christian community.

We provide supported accommodation, community participation and lifestyle support services.

We enable you to live independent, active and fulfilled lives through a range of person-centred supports.

**FAITH  
EMPOWERMENT  
EXCELLENCE**

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# Connecting Families



Can you remember communicating with your child in a meaningful way for the very first time? For Mark Obst this first time happened only a few weeks ago, when his daughter Chelsea spoke to him through an eye gaze device – for the very first time.

“Chelsea will let me know if she doesn’t want to do something or doesn’t want to eat a certain food through her actions,” said Mark, “but, the eye gaze allowed her to communicate in a real way for the very first time.”

Mark was visiting Chelsea at RIV180 House in Nuriootpa when the LDS team and the speech therapist were testing this new device with Chelsea. Mark said that when he arrived Chelsea wasn’t really interested in using the eye gaze, “she wasn’t focussing and the team thought that maybe the device wasn’t right for her.” Mark starting to talking to her and all of a sudden, she started to connect with him.



“  
I asked Chelsea if she'd like to come home...she said yes!  
”

“I asked Chelsea if she’d like to come home with me this coming weekend and suddenly, she moved her eyes and the machine responded with a ‘yes’. You can’t imagine how I felt, to have my adult daughter respond to me for the very first time.” The whole LDS team and the speech therapist were amazed as Chelsea became engaged with the device, was focussed and kept chatting with Mark. Mark was blown away to have been there with his daughter for this special moment.

“This was the tipping point for Chelsea as she is non-verbal,” says Kimberley Clarke, the CSA for RIV180 House, “we were able to see that the trial of the eye gaze worked for her.” The eye gaze was then deployed for a trial that included options for Chelsea’s favourite foods – Cheezels and Chocolate and then progress to yes/no answers all powered through eye movement.

Working together the LDS team in Nuriootpa has been able to secure a NDIS plan review with extended funds for Chelsea to rent her very own eye gaze unit so that she can continue to develop her communication skills and connect with her family, friends, housemates and support workers.

Chelsea found her happy home at LDS in January 2019 and Mark tell us that, “Chelsea is happy, happy to visit him at his house and happy to return to her home. She loves her housemates and it’s great the level of support and care she gets from the LDS team.”

# Around LDS

## LDS Head Office has moved!

The LDS Head Office has moved from Sefton Park to new offices in Payneham.

Our new location is Wellington Centre, 2 Portrush Road Payneham SA 5070 (right across the road from the Marden Shopping Centre). Make sure you pop in to say hello and see our new offices soon.



## COVID-19 Update

LDS continues to monitor SA Government updates on COVID-19 and informing our community, clients and staff through facebook and newsletters. All of our staff have undergone infection and PPE refresher training to ensure that our clients, families & staff remain safe during the Pandemic.

LDS remains committed to being prepared for COVID so that we can continue to serve our clients.

## Stay Connected

facebook

Make sure that you follow LDS on our facebook page. It is wonderful to see clients out-n-about and experiencing life to the full.

[Click Here](https://www.facebook.com/Lutheran-Disability-Services-SA-227010588122374) or  
<https://www.facebook.com/Lutheran-Disability-Services-SA-227010588122374>



A chance conversation between Katrina Raw, Client Services Assistant at Lutheran Disability Services Hillcrest Houses, and Gary Stewart, Manager at Haymes Paint Shop Glynde led to a day of fun and activity at LDS Hillcrest.

"I was wandering through the Haymes Paint Shop at Glynde with a friend when I got into a conversation with Gary about where I work and that we wanted to paint our office. Gary was so wonderful and said that he was keen to work with not-for-profits and would like to donate his time. One thing led to another and we planned that October 17 would be the day!"

At the Hillcrest site a carport had been converted into an office and hub for residents to hang out with Support Workers outside of their homes. It hadn't been painted in several years and was looking drab. Katrina wanted a warm room where residents felt happy to just sit and relax.



“  
Thank you for coming to  
paint and for letting me  
help - Bruce

”

Haymes Paint Shop Glynde manager Gary Stewart said that Haymes has a vision to assist community organisations and to integrate people living with disability into the community. "We love doing this type of work to support local charities and not-for-profits. We initiated this project with LDS because we saw a need in the community and we have the expertise to provide a solution." In fact this initiative has now gone global at Haymes with a project being done by each Haymes Paint Shop based on this initiative.

Haymes is a proudly Australian company, employing Australians with their roots in regional Victoria and is a truly family and community business. Tony Gorgone, Regional Business Manager said, "Being involved with community projects is what we think sets Haymes apart. We also are about team work and being able to pull a team together from the local Haymes Paint Shop along with a local trade person and the State team is an example of how Haymes works with clients to ensure your paint project is perfect."

Joining the painting team on the day was professional painter Nathan from Sureline Painting Services. "I love working with people and having the clients, especially Bruce, getting so involved was wonderful. You need to give people a chance, get them involved and provide support. Giving back is what my business is all about and the chance to be involved in this project has been absolutely amazing."

# Haymes PAINT SHOP



LDS CEO, John van Ruth thanked Haymes Paint Shop Glynde and Sureline Painting Services for their support to create even happier homes where LDS clients can thrive in their own environment. "Without the support of community minded companies its really difficult for not-for-profit organisations to create spaces that help clients thrive. Our new office is spectacular and our clients can't wait to pop in and enjoy this space with our staff."

The space is now really beautiful and the clients are proud of the new look and that they got to be involved. LDS appreciates the support from Gary and Jason from Haymes Paint Shop Glynde, Nathan from Sureline Painting Services and Tony from Haymes for your generosity and support on our many projects.

Check out below for a special offer from Haymes Paint Shop to **save up to 20%** on everything instore with trade pricing by quoting code **IAMALUT** - visit Haymes Paint Shop 65 Glynburn Road, Glynde, phone 08 8462 9100. Support the brands that support LDS.



Haymes Paint Shop have a vision to help in the community - Gary Stewart

“



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\*Terms & Conditions Apply



## Want to contribute to LDS?

You can help LDS to support the community through donating, volunteering or partnering. Contact Michael Kromwyk at [admin@ldssa.org.au](mailto:admin@ldssa.org.au) or mobile 0400271985 to discuss how you too can help serve communities.



SHIM House at Monarto



Day of Disability cupcakes



Rocco having fun with friends at EBC

# HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT THE LDS MISSION



## PRAY FOR OUR MISSION

Include LDS in your prayers and ask God to bless our mission of delivering Faith, Empowerment and Excellence to people living with disability.



## VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME

Do you have a special skill that you'd love to share with a LDS Client? Our Clients love to cook, create, play sport and help in the community. If you'd like to be involved in our mission please contact us on 08 8212 7766 or visit our website.



## SERVING COMMUNITIES

Do you have community activities, projects, jobs where people living with a disability can be involved? Reach out to us as our community is looking to serve the wider community and to work with you to build strong, integrated communities.



## HELP BUILD OUR NETWORK

LDS wants to positively impact in the lives of people with disability. If your community has a disused building, land or other facility that could be converted to disability housing please talk to us.



## DONATE & OFFERINGS

You can donate direct to LDS by calling 08 8212 7766 or visiting our website. You can donate to LDS through leaving a legacy, setting a bequest or investing in housing for people with a disability. If your Church would like to dedicate a special offering to our mission please feel free to get in touch with us.

LEARN MORE AT [WWW.LDSSA.ORG.AU](http://WWW.LDSSA.ORG.AU) OR 08 8212 7766