

A Message from the Board of Management

It hardly seems possible that we are rapidly approaching the end of another financial year. CCLO continues to be in a healthy financial position as we head towards 30 June. At our recent Strategic Planning Meeting, Keiran Turner, our banking consultant from Bendigo Bank, gave us a glowing report and confirmed the bank's view that CCLO was among the top not-for-profit organizations when it comes to financial sustainability.

Construction of the two homes on our property at Gorokan continues to be dogged by delays. The plans for this project which had been approved by Wyong Council will now have to be again amended to comply with the Government's newly released Housing Design Guidelines, sending the forecast cost of the project much higher. We had begun the process of amending the plans in readiness for Council approval and getting a new costing on the project when a further set of guidelines for Specialist Disability Accommodation was released by the Government this week. It is extremely frustrating when the rules keep changing but more on that from the CEO in this Newsletter.

Wednesday 9 June saw the official opening of the awning over the outdoor entertainment space at Lily Lane. Directors, management, staff, residents and some families were in attendance for the event. Also there was David Harris, the member of parliament for the Dobell electorate. We received a grant of \$15,000 towards construction of this facility from the Community Building Partnership Program and congratulations to Director Cathie LaDelle who worked on and lodged the application for funding.

The Community Building Partnership Program is a NSW Government initiative and is designed to improve community infrastructure and encourage the enhancement of local community based activities for NFP organizations. Our grant of \$15,000 was part of a \$300,000 fund for this electorate.

We are very grateful to David Harris for his ongoing support of CCLO and in particular his recommendations which saw us receive this grant.

The Board and Management are planning a gala event to celebrate the 20th anniversary of CCLO this year. You should save the date in your calendar now as it will be an event not to be missed. The date will be Saturday 10 September and the function will be held at the Terrigal Crowne Plaza. More details will be published as soon as they are available but you should start getting a group of friends together now.

Judy Andrews
Chairperson

Keep this date in the diary!

CCLO 20th Anniversary Gala Event
10th September 2016
at Terrigal Crowne Plaza

Ticket details will be available soon!

From the CEO's Desk

NDIS Specialist Housing Policy Finally Released

At five minutes to midnight and in reality with only days until the roll out of the NDIS on the Central Coast, the NDIA has released its final position paper on Specialist Disability Housing. This being presented at this late stage after years of planning, discussions and trial site data input. How can you possibly go from an initial pricing proposition paper in April to a full roll out less than 8 weeks later? We would all agree that housing is a very basic requirement so leaving this till so late in the day is questionable.

The payment system will only be available to around 28,000 participants Australia wide and only made available to participants who meet the criteria set down by the NDIA for Specialist Housing Needs. Final eligibility to participate in the scheme will be determined by the NDIA, with no clear date as to who and when the clients will be paid and will the payments be back dated.

The introduced payments system for Specialist Housing will only be in place for 5 years after which it will be reviewed by the NDIA. It does though provide a degree of certainty about the payment rates, although the calculation methods and the assumptions on which NDIA have based their payment rates, in the writers opinion, are somewhat questionable. This standardised pricing method is referred to as the "Benchmark Price".

The NDIA has desires to entice private builders into the building of Specialist Housing but here again with all of the vacancy risks to be borne by the building owner and a convoluted payment structure for the subsidy based on the clients disability not the level to which the accommodation has been built, in my opinion will not be a great incentive for private builders to add substantially to the availability of Specialist Disability Housing stock.

Additionally rent that can be charged to participants has been capped at 25% of the DSP plus any C.R.A. payment available even on the Central Coast where average rent is lower than in Sydney, with single person accommodation or less than 5 persons in a Supported Group Home, the rental return for a private enterprise builder would not equate in their eyes to an equitable return on investment.

It seems the Commonwealth Government has instituted a scheme based on theoretical outcomes not practical experience, with last minute haste.

It also appears that the Commonwealth Government rhetoric of removing itself from the supply side of the Disability Sector is just smoke and mirrors. None of us involved in the care and support of the disabled would disagree with the ethos of NDIS but whilst ever there is Government control of all the financial inputs into the NDIS Housing Subsidy, it is open to subsequent changes, another Medicare? It is to be hoped that the true cost of Support for our Disabled participants in years to come will not fall squarely on the shoulders of the parents, participants themselves and the established and traditional NFP Sector.

The views expressed in this article are that of the writer, Kevin Johnston.

Kevin Johnston
CEO

Happy 70th Birthday Dave!

The Staff, clients from Wakool and Lily had a lovely lunch celebrating an important mile stone for Dave McArthur's 70th Birthday at the Dam Hotel.

Dave was also joined by his sisters Kathy and Chris.



Grand Opening of Lily Lane Awning



Chairperson Judy Andrews and David Harris MP at the Lily Lane Awning Opening.

Unit 10C, 1 Bounty Cl
Tuggerah, NSW 2259
www.cclo.com.au

E: info@cclo.com.au
P: 43532411
F: 43532266



Disco Fun

The Clients from Lily Lane and Jeanee had a wonderful time at the Life Without Barriers "Football Supporters" themed disco. Even the staff got into the action by showing support for their favorite footy teams.

Everyone looks forward to the special themed Disco's each month and take great delight in planning the outfits. As you can see!



DID YOU KNOW?

In Australia there are over 11,000 registered Disability charities of which over 700 have been established for over 100 years.
(Source Australian Charities & Not-For-Profit Commission)

Birthday Celebrations!

June

Teuila Kelly 21/6, David Meehan 25/6

July

Marika Williams 22/7, Debbie-Lee Sorenson 30/7

August

Dawn McAlister 30/8

"TO PROVIDE THE HIGHEST QUALITY CARE AND SUPPORT RESPONDING TO THE CHANGING NEEDS OF PEOPLE WITH A DISABILITY."