

CONNECT

Community Living Options

Edition 45
August 2026

Making Time For Connection

Community, Friendship and
Getting Out and About.

Inside This Edition...



WHAT'S HAPPENING ACROSS CLO

News, updates and
highlights from the CLO
Community.



SECTOR UPDATES FROM CLO

Contributing, connecting
and learning across the
sector.

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Cover: Jamahl and Rodney at Jamahl's Fleurieu 8 Ball group more on page 6.





FROM OUR CEO

There has been plenty happening across CLO over recent months. Across our services, staff continue to support participants to pursue their goals, build connections and create meaningful outcomes in their everyday lives. It's also been great to see the ongoing commitment to learning and development across the organisation, with teams continuing to strengthen their skills and practice.

July provided an opportunity to celebrate NAIDOC Week and recognise the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. It was a valuable reminder of the importance of listening, learning and continuing to strengthen our understanding.

This month also marks an important transition for two valued members of the CLO community. I would like to sincerely thank both Rae and Lucy as they retire from CLO. I first met Rae more than 20 years ago, and it has been a privilege to work alongside the both of them. On behalf of everyone at CLO, thank you both for your dedication and commitment, and I wish you all the very best for the future.

It's also timely to reflect on the launch of Year 3 of our Strategic Plan 2024-2029. Our Strategic Plan is not a document that sits on a shelf. It is our commitment to quality, evidence-based practice, financial sustainability and better outcomes for the people we support.

I'm incredibly proud of what has already been achieved across the first two years of the plan. In a sector facing significant pricing pressures, workforce challenges and ongoing reform, our people continue to deliver safe and values-driven support every day.

This commitment was recently reflected in CLO achieving 9 out of 9 elements of best practice in our mid-term quality audit. While the result was pleasing, what sits behind it is even more important: dedicated people, strong systems and a team that genuinely values quality and continuous improvement.

There has also been significant activity across the disability sector in recent months, particularly in relation to the Securing the Future of the NDIS reforms. While I acknowledge and support the intent behind these reforms, the practical impact on people with disability and their families must be carefully managed. No individual or family should be left without access to necessary services because of system gaps.

As we continue through a period of significant change, we remain focused on what matters most: supporting people with disability to live meaningful lives in their communities. While the environment around us continues to evolve, our commitment to quality, inclusion and better outcomes remains unchanged.

Mel Kubisa - Chief Executive Officer

SALLY'S BIRTHDAY & TRIP TO ILLUMINATE

It's been an exciting couple of months for Sally! This month, she celebrated her birthday surrounded by family and friends, enjoying a wonderful day filled with good company and plenty of happy moments.

Last month, Sally also crossed something off her bucket list with a visit to Illuminate Adelaide's Night Visions at the Adelaide Botanic Garden. She went with Angela and Tiana and loved exploring the spectacular light displays and taking in the vibrant atmosphere. It was an experience Sally had been looking forward to for a long time, and one she thoroughly enjoyed.



KOSTA & SUDESH ON THE COAST

This month, Kosta and Sudesh enjoyed a trip to the beach, taking in the fresh sea air and beautiful coastal views.

It was a great opportunity to get out and about, spend time outdoors, and enjoy everything the local community has to offer. Judging by this photo, it was a fantastic day to be by the water!



JAMAHL'S 8 BALL GROUP



This month, Jamahl started an eight-ball group on the Fleurieu Coast, bringing people together for a relaxed morning of games, good company and a bit of friendly competition.

If you'd like to get involved, get in touch with CLO, and we can pass your details on!





JEFF GETTING OUT & ABOUT

Jeff has been getting out and about and making the most of some of these sunny days we've had recently.

He's been exploring different places and getting involved in activities along the way, including a visit to see the horses.

HAPPY RETIREMENT, RAE AND LUCY

After so many years at CLO, it's hard to imagine the place without Rae and Lucy around. While we're incredibly happy for them as they head into retirement and have more time to do things they enjoy, it's a bittersweet moment for us.

Between them, they have shared more than three decades at CLO, with Rae joining the organisation over 20 years ago and Lucy beginning her CLO journey 12 years ago.

Both have made a lasting difference to the people around them through the relationships they've built with participants, colleagues, families and the wider CLO community. Their kindness, knowledge and the way they have supported and connected with others over the years has made an impact that cannot be measured. There are so many people who will have their own stories and memories of Rae and Lucy, and we know that they'll both be missed.

We're incredibly grateful for the years they've spent with CLO and the impact they have had along the way. Thank you, Rae and Lucy and happy retirement.



CLO ACROSS THE SECTOR

CEO Mel Kubisa, Meeting with Ministers on NDIS Reform

CLO met with the Hon Katrina Hildyard MP and Senator the Hon Jenny McAllister to discuss the implementation of NDIS reforms and their impact on participants, families and providers.

Discussions focused on safeguarding, funding changes, high-risk support models and the importance of quality, person-centred services. The meeting reinforced the value of ongoing collaboration between government and the disability sector to ensure positive outcomes for participants.



COO Wendy Pettifer, NDS Strengthening Safety Outcomes Seminar

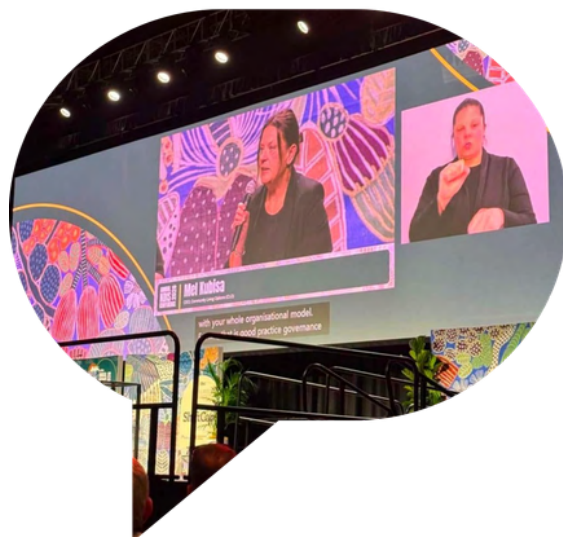
CLO Chief Operating Officer Wendy Pettifer presented at the NDS Strengthening Safety Outcomes Seminar, exploring the connection between quality, safeguarding and organisational accountability.

Drawing on practical sector experience, Wendy highlighted how strong governance, effective oversight and a culture of continuous learning are essential to achieving safe, high-quality services.

CEO Mel Kubisa, DSC Annual NDIS Conference

At the DSC Annual NDIS Conference, Mel Kubisa joined sector leaders to discuss quality, sustainability and change in the disability sector.

Mel spoke about the importance of evidence-based practice, organisational discipline and focusing on outcomes, reminding attendees that quality is built intentionally through strong leadership, risk management and a commitment to helping people live better lives.



Sarah Byrne, Inclusive Governance

CLO's Board welcomed Sarah Byrne from the South Australian Council on Intellectual Disability (SACID), who shared insights on embedding lived experience into governance and decision-making.

Sarah highlighted the important contributions people with intellectual disability can make on boards, committees and advisory groups, and explored practical ways organisations can create more inclusive governance structures.



CLO's Brahma Lodge Officially Open

We were proud to officially open Brahma Lodge alongside Minister for Human Services, Hon Katrine Hildyard, CLO CEO Mel Kubisa, and the many partners, advocates and supporters who helped bring this vision to life.

Created in response to the housing and support challenges often faced by people living with psychosocial disability, Brahma Lodge offers a different approach. Designed as a psychosocial therapeutic support home, it provides 24-hour support in a safe and welcoming environment where people can strengthen wellbeing, build independence, develop everyday skills and pursue the things that matter most to them.

Built on the principles of dignity, choice, autonomy and belonging, Brahma Lodge reflects CLO's commitment to helping people create the life they want for themselves.

Special recognition goes to Wendy Pettifer, Muriel Kirkby, Joumana Hudson and Surina Maharjan, whose dedication and expertise helped bring Brahma Lodge to life. We also thank Synergy Housing for their valued partnership in making this project a reality.



TRAINING OF THE MONTH

AUGUST: WORKPLACE CULTURE

"When I first started at CLO, I didn't expect the learning and development program to have such a profound impact. The variety of free training available is incredible, but what stands out even more is how meaningful it is."

-Samantha Moon

August's Training of the Month focused on workplace culture and the important role each of us plays in creating a positive, supportive and safe work environment.

Facilitated by Yana, the session encouraged staff to reflect on their attitudes, communication and professional responsibilities, while exploring how strong workplace culture contributes to better outcomes for both colleagues and participants.

Through open discussion and shared experiences, staff had the opportunity to learn from one another, strengthen team connections and reinforce the values and practices that help make CLO a great place to work.



SEPTEMBER'S TRAINING OF THE MONTH IS...



WORKPLACE HEALTH AND SAFETY



EDWARDSTOWN

- 7th of September - 11.00-16.30
- 17th of September - 09.00-14.30
- 21st of September - 11.00-16.30
- 29th of September - 09.00 -14.30

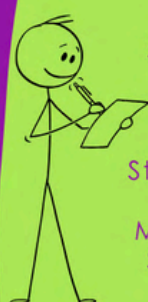
GRENFELL STREET

- 14th of September 11.00- 16.30
- 25th of September 09.00- 14.30
- 28th of September 11.00- 16.30

VICTOR HARBOR

- 11th of September
09.00- 14.30

BOOK VIA WORKDAY



This course covers Emergency Systems, Fatigue Management, Fire and Emergency Response, Emergency & Disaster Management Policy, Home Standards, Infection Control, Safe Food Handling, Stress Management, WHS - Chemicals / Substances, and Work Health & Safety at Work.

CELEBRATING NAIDOC WEEK 2026



This July, CLO proudly joined communities across the country in recognising the theme “50 Years of Deadly”, celebrating the strength, resilience and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples over the past 50 years while looking ahead to the next generation of leaders.

Our Participant Social Club marked the occasion with Aboriginal-inspired art, bracelet-making, shared conversations, and a screening of *Storm Boy*, creating opportunities to learn, reflect, and celebrate together. Participants also enjoyed lunch, thanks to Jenna and Lauren, featuring native Australian ingredients and flavours, along with special NAIDOC Week doughnuts supporting the Tjindu Foundation and its work with Aboriginal children in South Australia.

During the week, CLO also joined more than 5,000 people at the NAIDOC March on Kurna Country, standing in solidarity and celebration with First Nations peoples. Hearing from Elders and community leaders was a powerful reminder of the importance of truth, respect and partnership as we continue to walk together toward a stronger future.

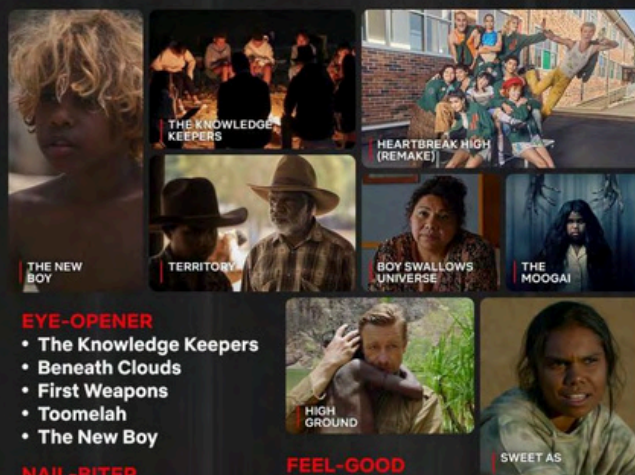
Missed NAIDOC Week? There's still time to get involved.

NAIDOC Week may have passed, but learning, listening and celebrating First Nations stories can happen year-round. Check out this NAIDOC Week Watchlist featuring a range of films and series that highlight Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, voices and experiences.



NAIDOC WEEK WATCHLIST

5-12 JULY



EYE-OPENER

- The Knowledge Keepers
- Beneath Clouds
- First Weapons
- Toomelah
- The New Boy

NAIL-BITER

- The Moogai
- Total Control
- The Stranger
- Boy Swallows Universe
- The Dry
- Inside

ADRENALINE HIT

- Territory
- High Ground

FEEL-GOOD

- Hardball
- Sweet As
- Heartbreak High (Remake)

NOSTALGIA

- Great Australian Stuff

LAUGH

- Upper Middle Bogan
- Les Norton

DOGS IN THE OFFICE

Don't forget to check and update the Dog Calendar whenever you're planning to bring your furry friend into the office. The calendar helps everyone stay informed and ensures we don't exceed the maximum number of dogs allowed each day:

- Edwardstown: 4 dogs
- Victor Harbor: 2 dogs
- Grenfell Street: 2 dogs

If you're planning to bring your dog in, please also post in the relevant Teams chat at the start of each week with the days they'll be joining you.

And as a bit of fun, we'd love to feature your pups on the calendar! Send Admin a photo of your dog along with a few details, such as their name, breed, favourite treat or a fun fact, and we'll create a personalised dog sticker for the calendar.



WELLNESS ROOM AT ET

The Wellness Room at Edwardstown is available for staff, participants and families to use in a range of ways.

It can be used for meetings with participants and families, private conversations with colleagues or staff, wellbeing activities, or as a quiet space to take a break, recharge, or rest when needed.

The room provides a calm, welcoming and supportive environment for everyone.



CHANGE TO CLO'S EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM



Our Employee Assistance Program (EAP) provider, MindFit EAP, has recently rebranded and is now known as Spectrum.Life.

As part of this change, Spectrum.Life has launched a new wellbeing portal that provides access to:

- Mental health support
- Fitness classes
- Mindfulness resources
- Cara, your 24/7 AI wellbeing companion

How to register

1. Visit: <https://app.spectrum-life.com.au/login>
2. Create an account using your work email address
3. Enter the organisation code: **7b0xOsLj**

Please note that the service is completely confidential, ensuring you can access support with confidence.

We hope you find these resources valuable and encourage you to explore the portal. This service is available to support your wellbeing because your health and wellbeing matter to us.

SUPERANNUATION UPDATES

There have been a few changes to superannuation and insurance from 1 July 2026. HESTA has put together a range of helpful articles covering what's changed, beneficiary nominations, investment updates, and insurance changes.

Whether you're with HESTA or another super fund, these articles may be useful for understanding what the changes could mean for you. For personalised advice or to make changes to your super, contact your own super fund.

1 1 July super changes are here

<https://www.hesta.com.au/stories/1-july-changes-2026>



2 Is your super going to the person you want it to if something happens to you?

<https://www.hesta.com.au/stories/who-gets-your-super-when-you-die>



3 Strong 2025-26 investment returns for your super

<https://www.hesta.com.au/stories/strong-2025-26-investment-returns-for-your-super>



4 An overview of insurance changes and new non-lapsing binding nominations from 1 July 2026

<https://www.hesta.com.au/campaigns/insurance-changes>



SAVE THE DATE AND CELEBRATE

September 2026

4	Coastrek Fleurieu Peninsula - Hiking for Mental Health
5 - 13	Royal Adelaide Show
12	Octane Underground - Neon Lit Car Show (Bowden)
18 - 20	Victor Harbor Rock 'n' Roll Festival
26	AFL Grand Final

October 2026

2 - 5	Semaphore Grassroots Festival
10 - 11	Port Elliot Show
16 - 18	Shannons Adelaide Rally (Supercars) CBD, Adelaide Hills & Fleurieu
17 - 18	Grand Fleurieu Rail Fest
17 - 18	Cheese Fest - Adelaide CBD
18	Symphony for Sight: Australian Doctors Orchestra - Norwood
29 - 5 Dec	The Greatest Showman Circus Spectacular - Morphettville Racecourse
31	Halloween