CLO

CONNECT

Octob 26 • Edition 46 • October 2026 • Edition 46 • October 2026 • Edi



In this edition...

- Everyone has been busy!
- 10 reflections for 10 years at CLO
- Let's learn AUSLAN
- HALLOWEEN SPOOK-TACULAR

+ So much more!

Community Living Options







3 From our CEO
4 Participant Achievements
5 Out and About
7 Halloween
8 Sector Events
10 My Life My Say
11 PVAC Dates / AUSLAN
12 Training of the Month
13 Amanda's 10 Years at CLO
14 CLO Internal Vacancies / Mental Health Month
15 CLO Teams in Action
16 Rewards & Recognition
17 AGM Invitation
18 Upcoming Dates

CLO Connect is published by Community Living Options Inc.

T: 08 7221 9550
E: hello@clo.org.au

The information contained in CLO Connect has been curated with care, however its contents do not constitute advice. No liability is accepted by CLO for any errors, damages or loss that may occur from the use of the information published.

Cover: Stuart receiving his badge for 5 years volunteering at Meals on Wheels, pictured with Louise Miller-Frost MP.







FROM OUR CEO



Over recent months, CLO has continued to balance day-to-day operational excellence with broader sector leadership and advocacy. It is important to recognise the impact being achieved not only for the people we support, but also through our contribution to shaping the future of disability services at this time of significant reform and challenge.

A significant focus has been our involvement in sector reform discussions. CLO contributed to consultations on Supported Independent Living (SIL) commissioning and broader psychosocial disability policy, advocating for a system that better recognises the complexity of supporting people with high and complex needs. Our message has been consistent: quality outcomes require more than funded support hours. They require skilled workforces, evidence-based practice, strong safeguarding systems and sustainable service models.

We have also continued to share our experience and learn from others through conference presentations and sector forums. At both state and national events, CLO contributed to discussions on the future of disability practice, governance, leadership, human rights and evidence-based supports. A key theme emerging from these conversations is that great practice does not sustain itself. Strong governance, capable leadership and a values-driven culture create the conditions that allow quality support to flourish.

Within CLO, our leadership and governance capability has continued to evolve. Work on our leadership framework, our active support /practice leadership focus and supported decision making roll out, our new projects - Brahma Lodge ensure we remain a contemporary, learning-focused organisation that can respond to both opportunities and challenges in an increasingly complex environment.

Quality and safeguarding have remained central to our efforts. Significant work has been undertaken across compliance, risk management and regulatory engagement to ensure we continue to uphold high standards and learn from every opportunity for improvement. These activities are ultimately about the people we support and our responsibility to provide services that are safe, effective and rights-based.

I was also honoured during this period to continue contributing to the work of National Disability Services in South Australia and nationally. These opportunities allow CLO's experience and voice to be part of important conversations about the future of our sector, while also ensuring we remain connected to emerging issues and opportunities.

As always, none of this work happens without the commitment, professionalism and passion of our employees. Whether supporting people directly, strengthening systems behind the scenes, or representing CLO externally, our teams continue to demonstrate what it means to be a purpose-driven organisation focused on creating better lives and stronger communities.
Thank you for the difference you make every day.

Mel Kubisa - Chief Executive Officer

PARTICIPANT ACHIEVEMENTS



Stuart's 5 years at Meals on Wheels

Congratulations to Stuart on five years of volunteering with Meals on Wheels!

Stuart received a five-year service badge from Meals on Wheels, presented by Louise Miller-Frost MP, recognising his ongoing commitment and contribution to his local community. What a fantastic achievement. Well done, Stuart!



Eugene whisking up new skills

Eugene has been putting his cooking skills to good use, recently making pancakes independently.

After gathering the ingredients and mixing the batter, Eugene cooked the pancakes himself and was proud to show off the finished result. Great work, Eugene!



Ashlee kicking goals at the footy

Ashlee recently achieved a long-term goal of attending an AFL game at Adelaide Oval, where she enjoyed cheering on Port Adelaide and soaking up the atmosphere.

After working towards some personal goals, Ashlee was able to attend the outing and make the most of the experience. A fantastic achievement. Well done, Ashlee!



Andrew gets out and about

Andrew has been making positive steps towards reconnecting with his community and increasing his independence.

Recently, he has enjoyed outings to local shops and the SANFL Grand Final, building confidence and re-engaging in activities he enjoys. Great work, Andrew!

OUT AND ABOUT

Kieren at the Adelaide Show 🎡🎟️







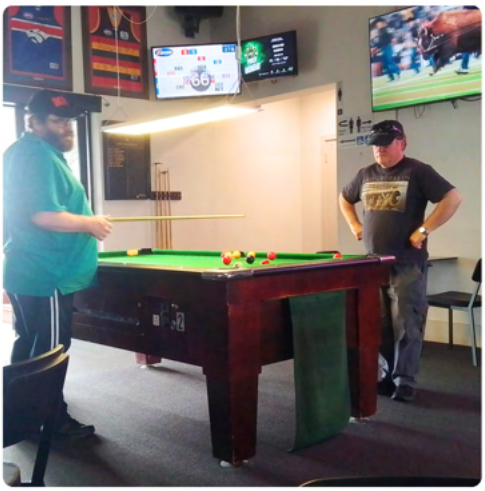
Ashlee, Alecia and Kieren Rock the Coast 🎸🤘







Cue the good times, with Jamahl's 8-Ball group 🎱







Gizmo, the V.I.G (very important goat) visits the Victor Harbor office 🐐



Rodney at Victor's Rock N' Roll Festival 🚗🎸



Arts and Crafts Club - led by Hannah 🎨🧶











HALLOWEEN GATHERINGS























CLO ACROSS THE SECTOR

CEO Mel Kubisa
NDIS Provider Summit



Mel joined sector leaders at the NDIS Provider Summit in Sydney for a panel discussion on what a "good" NDIS could look like in 2031. Mel highlighted the importance of quality and sustainability, and how investing in quality supports leads to better outcomes for participants.



CSSO Muriel Kirkby and CEO Mel Kubisa
Heads of Industry Forum

Mel and Muriel joined sector leaders to explore the Reimagining Residential Care Project. CLO shared its experience supporting children and young people with disability and complex support needs as part of discussions on person-centred care.

COO Wendy Petiffer and General Manager Joumana Hudson
Complex Needs Conference



Wendy and Joumana's presentation highlighted the impact of CLO's evidence-based therapeutic model, showcasing how it helps young people with complex needs build life skills, reduce behaviours of concern and achieve positive outcomes.



CEO Mel Kubisa
NDIS Reform and Implementation Sector Advisory Group

Mel attended the inaugural meeting, which brought together disability sector leaders to help inform NDIS reforms and support positive outcomes for people with disability, families and providers across South Australia.

CEO Mel Kubisa and Board Director Denice Wharldall
ASID 2026 Conference



Mel and Denice explored leadership and governance within the NDIS through the lens of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD), with the session chaired by Muriel as part of the Policy & Governance stream.

CYS Leadership Team
SA Child Protection and Family Support Awards

Team CLO recently attended the SA Child Protection & Family Support Awards, celebrating the people, programs and partnerships making a positive difference for children, young people and families across South Australia.





Team CLO
Disability Events Community (DEC) Expos

Team CLO recently attended the Southern Adelaide Expo in Morphett Vale and the Port Adelaide Enfield Expo in Klemzig, connecting with community members, families and others across the disability sector while sharing information about our services.







General Manager Joumana Hudson
Presentation for I Can Jump Puddles

Joumana recently presented to the team at I Can Jump Puddles, providing an overview of CLO's psychosocial services, supported housing options and approach to delivering high-quality, person-centred supports. The session also highlighted Brahma Lodge, CLO's 24-hour supported housing model for people with psychosocial disability.



CLO Clinical Team
Clinical Team Meet & Greet

CLO's Clinical Team recently hosted Meet & Greet sessions in Victor Harbor and Adelaide, providing an opportunity for sector professionals to connect with our Positive Behaviour Support Practitioners and Community Nursing Team, learn about our services and discuss how we can support participants to achieve their goals.



MY LIFE MY SAY



Our latest My Life, My Say forums brought participants together to share ideas, catch up with friends and enjoy some fun activities along the way.

In Victor Harbor, Malcolm gave a presentation on dog ownership, covering the responsibilities, rewards and important considerations that come with welcoming a furry friend into your life. Through stories about his dog Duke, Malcolm shared the realities of dog ownership, including Duke's love of swimming and his talent for getting Malcolm into the water, whether it was part of the plan or not!



Region 2 participants enjoyed a relaxed paint and sip session, complete with mocktails, a shared platter and plenty of creativity. Meanwhile, Region 4 participants spent time enjoying interactive games before tucking into burgers for lunch and catching up with one another.

Thank you to everyone who attended, shared their ideas and helped make the forums so valuable and enjoyable.











UPCOMING PVAC DATES

Be part of change – join CLOs Participant Voice Advisory Committee (PVAC)

The PVAC is a welcoming space where participants can share their experiences, raise ideas, and help guide improvements across CLO. You will be supported to participate, build confidence, and have your voice heard by leaders, the CEO and the Board.

Next meetings:

Dates:
- Tuesday 1 December 2026
- Friday 29 January 2027
- Thursday 25 March 2027
- Monday 17 May 2027
- Wednesday 30 June 2027

Time:
4:00pm - 6:00pm

Locations:
All meetings will be held at two locations:
- Edwardstown Clinical Training Room and,
- Victor Harbor Boardroom

LET'S LEARN AUSLAN!

This month, we kicked off our Let's Learn Auslan journey at Victor Harbor. Over the coming weeks, participants and staff will be learning a range of Auslan signs that can be used in everyday conversations, helping to build communication, inclusion and connection across CLO.

In our first week, we learnt three important signs:
👋 Hello
👋 Goodbye
🤝 Friend

These simple signs are a great place to start, helping us welcome others, start conversations and strengthen connections with the people around us.

We're looking forward to continuing our Auslan learning journey together over the coming weeks.



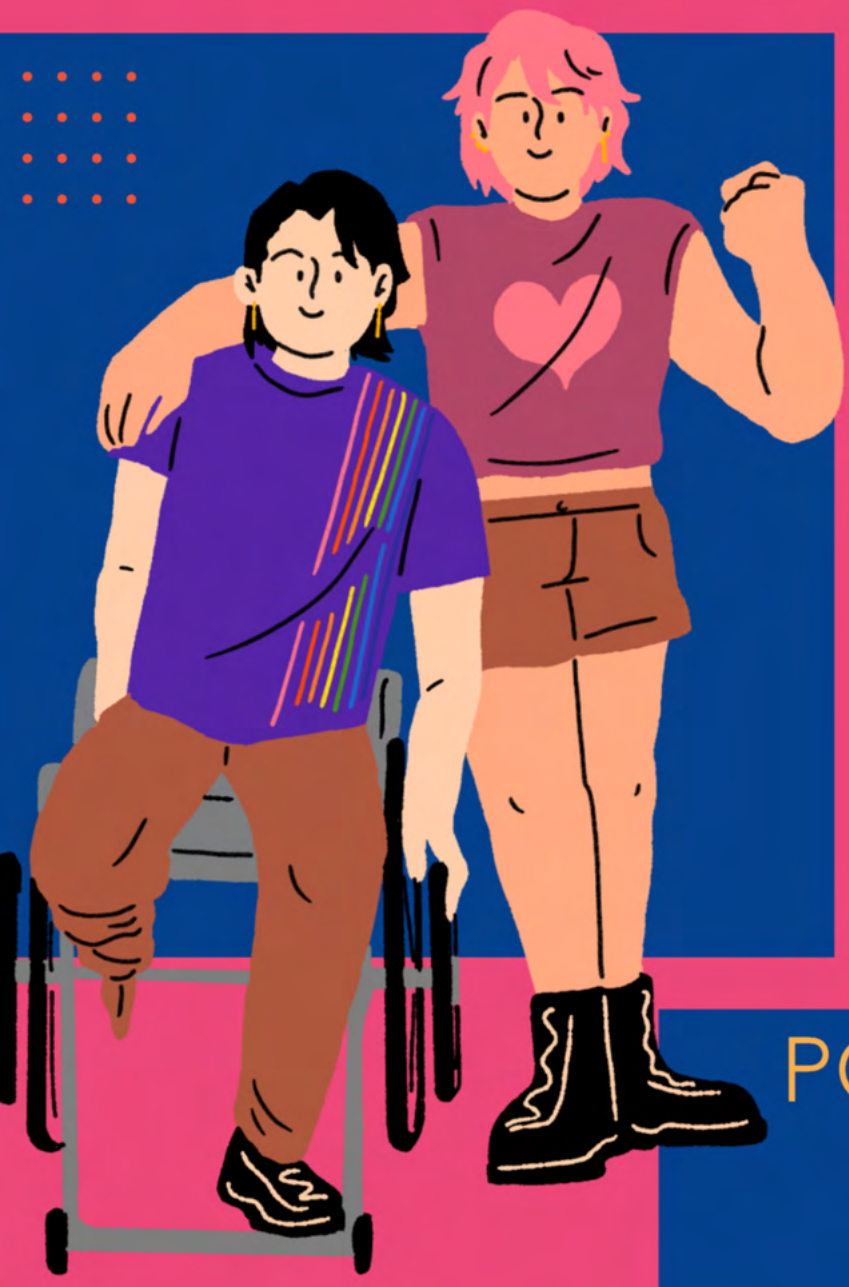






PCAS

Person centred Active Support



Edwardstown

October 22nd and 29th
November 5th , 19th and 26th
December 3rd and 17th

Grenfell

November 12th
December 10th

Victor Harbor

December 7th

PCAS Refresher

Edwardstown

December 7th

Grenfell

November 4th
December 2nd

Victor Harbor

October 28th

Book VIA Workday

10 REFLECTIONS FOR 10 YEARS AT CLO

This month, Amanda celebrates 10 years at CLO. As she marks this milestone, she reflects on 10 highlights from a decade of building connections, supporting others, and creating lasting memories.





1. Starting the Journey at CLO
Beginning a career that would grow and evolve over the next decade.

2. Driving Innovation
Helping transition from paper-based recording to CLO's CMS, being part of the testing group and providing feedback to help shape the system we use today.

3. Supporting Rehabilitation
Assisting a person on their rehabilitation journey and seeing them achieve greater independence and reach their goals.

4. Providing End-of-Life Support
Being entrusted to support someone and their family through one of life's most significant moments with dignity, compassion, and respect.

5. Growing My Family
Welcoming two more children while building my career at CLO, with the organisation supporting me through the many joys and challenges of growing my family.

6. Acting SC & Rostering Officer
Progressing from frontline support into leadership and rostering roles, building skills in team coordination, workforce planning, and service delivery.

7. Setting Up New Sites
Helping establish and grow new services from the ground up, creating opportunities for both participants and staff.

8. Moving to Child & Youth Services
Taking on a new challenge by transitioning to CYS and continuing to develop professionally into my current role as Rostering, building expertise in workforce planning and coordination.

9. Being a CLO Ambassador
Featuring on a CLO flyer and recruitment video, helping showcase who we are and what we do.

10. Employee of the Year
A proud recognition of nine years of hard work, growth, dedication, and commitment to CLO and the people we support.

While these highlights capture some special moments, the people I've met and the connections I've built have been the most rewarding part of my journey.

Thank you to everyone who has been part of it!

YOUR NEXT OPPORTUNITY AT CLO

Looking for a new challenge, a different role, or your next career step at CLO?

The Jobs Hub in Workday is the best place to stay up to date with opportunities across the organisation.

Whether you're interested in developing your skills, exploring a different area of the business, or progressing your career, current vacancies are regularly advertised through the Jobs Hub, giving employees access to a range of opportunities across teams and services.

We encourage all employees to regularly check the Jobs Hub and apply for roles that align with their interests, skills, and career goals.

To explore current opportunities, simply search "Jobs Hub" in Workday. If you require assistance, please speak with your manager or reach out to the Recruitment Team.

Your next opportunity could be just a click away!







OCTOBER IS MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

Mental health looks different for everyone, and the ways we support our wellbeing can be just as varied. To mark Mental Health Month, we asked people across CLO to share the simple activities, habits and moments that help them look after their mental health. Here's what they had to say:

Hang out with my friends • Go for a walk • Cuddle my dog • Play basketball • Cook
Watch a movie • Meditate • Go out for dinner • Do some gardening • Go swimming
Quiet time • Paint • Go camping • Knitting • Do some photography • Yoga • Dance
Go see the horses • Read a book • Colouring in • Coffee in the sun • Go to the beach
Go fishing • Get some fresh air • Dance around the house • Time with my grandkids
Listen to a podcast • Play with my rabbit • Exercise • Baking • Scrapbooking • Music

Mental health isn't one-size-fits-all. This month and every month, make time for something that helps you recharge, connect or simply makes you happy.

THE GREEN TEAM IN ACTION!

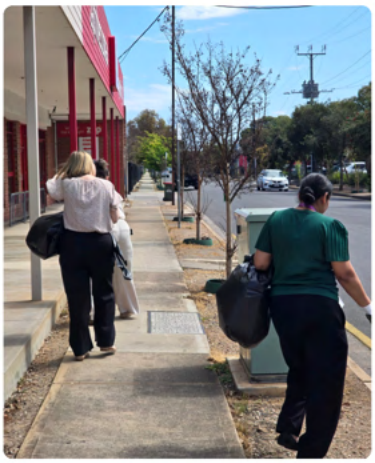
Did you know that small changes, like reducing paper use, recycling correctly and being mindful of water consumption, can make a significant difference over time?

These are just some of the ways CLO's Green Team has been encouraging sustainability across our workplaces, helping teams learn more about the environmental impact of our everyday choices.

This month, those conversations turned into action through Clean Up CLO Day, with staff rolling up their sleeves to help tidy local community areas and outdoor spaces. It was a great opportunity to come together, spend some time outdoors and make a positive contribution to the environment around us.

A big thank you to everyone who participated, and to the Green Team for helping drive sustainability initiatives across CLO. Every action counts, and together we're helping create a greener future!







CYS TEAM TRAINING



Our Child and Youth Services leaders recently came together for their quarterly forum, focusing on strengthening practice, building capability, and improving outcomes for the children and young people we support.

Through reflection, collaboration, and shared learning, the team explored ways to enhance trauma-informed practice, create greater opportunities for belonging and connection, and continue delivering high-quality support across our services.

The forum also provided an opportunity to share experiences, celebrate successes, and strengthen practice across the team.

REWARDS & RECOGNITION

Ernest, Training Champion!



Congratulations to Ernest Onen Aliardo Ogwaro on being named our Q1 Training Champion!

Ernest consistently demonstrates a strong commitment to learning and professional development, maintaining all required training and embracing new learning opportunities. His active participation in Learning & Development sessions and positive contribution to discussions help create an inclusive and supportive learning environment.

Congratulations, Ernest, on this well-deserved recognition and thank you for the positive example you set for others. 👏

Yel, CYS Champion!



Congratulations to Yel Dut for their outstanding commitment to person-centred support and building meaningful connections.

Through patience, consistency, and a genuine focus on individual needs, Yel has helped create positive outcomes for a young person at Sheoak. By encouraging participation and adapting support to meet individual needs, Yel has helped build confidence, engagement, and wellbeing. Their calm, respectful approach and dedication to CLO's values have made a lasting impadct.

Thank you, Yel, for the meaningful difference you make every day. 👏

Joanna, Rural and Regional Champion!

Congratulations to Joanna Backhouse for her outstanding dedication to supporting participant growth and independence.

Through her calm, patient, and person-centred approach, Joanna has helped Simon build confidence, develop new skills, and discover a passion for gardening. Her consistent support and commitment to Active Support principles continue to make a meaningful difference, empowering Simon to embrace new opportunities and greater independence.

Thank you, Joanna, for the positive impact you make every day. 👏

A DAY IN THE MOVIES

★ YOU'RE INVITED ★

THE 2026 CLO ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Get lights, camera, action, ready to come dressed as your favourite movie character!

DATE

Wednesday,
18 November 2026

LOCATION

Capri Theatre
141 Goodwood Rd,
Goodwood, 5034

TIMES

11:00am	AGM
12:00pm	CLO Awards
12:30pm	Movie Time! (for a 1pm start)

RSVP

To confirm your attendance, please call **(08) 7221 9550** or email **admin@clo.org.au**

★ **Lunch Provided** ★

Please let us know of any dietary requirements when you RSVP

Participants - CLO will fund your kilometres to attend

SAVE THE DATE AND CELEBRATE

November 2026

All Nov	Adelaide Italian Festival - Across SA
1 - 22	Feast Festival - LGBTQIA+ Arts and Cultural Festival
3	Melbourne Cup
7- 8	Outback Sparkle Gem and Mineral Show - Port Adelaide
7	Pride March - Adelaide CBD
11	Remembrance Day
14	Womma Mukurta Music Festival - First Nations-led Fesitval - Mt Barker
14	National Pharmacies Adelaide Christmas Pageant
18	CLO Annual General Meeting
28 - 29	Oddities and Curiosities Expo - Adelaide Showgrounds

December 2026

5	Mt Barker Christmas Pageant
5	Vegan Festival - Adelaide CBD
6	Victor Harbor Half Marathon
6	Goolwa Christmas Pageant
12	Victor Harbor Christmas Pageant and Carols
15	Touch a Truck - Mitchell Park
24	Christmas Eve
25	Christmas
26	Boxing Day
31	New Year's Eve