



December 2013

Season's Greetings

On behalf of the Funds Management, Disability SA, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing support and commitment to strive towards the provision of high quality services to people with a disability, their families and carers.

The disability sector is a rewarding but also complex and challenging area in which to work. The partnership between the department and the non-government sector is critical to the change ahead.

Upon reflection, this has been an extremely momentous and exciting year for disability in South Australia.

Highlights

During 2013, some of the achievements and new initiatives in the disability sector include:

- Commenced the transition of services to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) for children in South Australia with disability aged birth to 14 years across the state.
- Improved housing for people with disabilities including the announcement of \$27 million from the National Building Economic Stimulus Plan to build 90 new homes for people with a disability - the first build started in September 2013 and it is expected that all 90 properties will be completed by December 2014.
- Introduction of the Disability Community Visitors Scheme – to help protect the rights and wellbeing of people with a disability who live in disability accommodation.
- Passing of the *Disability Services (Rights, Protection and Inclusion) Amendment Act 2013*.
- Continued roll out of Individualised Funding – Stage 2 involved 37 non-government organisations and 1,764 people with a disability.
- Launch of MySupportAdvisor (www.mysupportadvisor.com.au) – an online tool to enable people with disability access and control over their own funding information as well as search and review disability service providers in South Australia.
- Introduction of across sector safeguarding policies – providing direction for establishing and maintaining safeguarding systems for disability providers.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you, your staff and volunteers a happy and safe Christmas and New Year and we look forward to continuing to work with you during 2014.

Joe Young
Director, Funds Management

