

Dear Members, Clients and Volunteers

Re: September update on Huntington's Australia

We are now only a matter of weeks away from commencing business as Huntington's Australia (HA). It has been an enormous effort from so many people to get us to this stage, where we are standing on the precipice of a new, interconnected, national approach to providing supports and services to the Australian HD community.

I am pleased to announce that all State Association staff eligible for transfer have accepted their employment offer and will move across to HA. This will enable us to hit the ground running, seamlessly continuing to provide the existing services. Recruitment to provide additional services in Queensland, SA and Tasmania is already underway. Volunteers too, are continuing in their roles, assisting us with their invaluable work supporting the HD community. We are blessed to have them.

Our new business model, which includes introducing NDIS support services into every State, requires a company structure which supports that model. Our Business Development, Fundraising and Partnerships team (lead by Alison Weir) and our Finance and Corporate Services team (lead by Leah Atkinson) will provide support to enable the delivery of our services, which will come from our Community Programs & Services team (lead by Basil Mabuza). This latter group comprises of two main teams: NDIS services and HD Specialist services. These are the people that deliver our services. They are the people our HD community will primarily deal with. In many ways, they are our most important people, because they directly service our community. And that is what we are here to do – provide support for people with and impacted by HD all the way along their journey. It is a life-long partnership.

Whilst there is still much work to do to get to 1 October, and beyond of course, I do want to thank everyone who has worked and contributed to the merger effort, from systems implementation, to setting up finances, to organising the transfer of staff, to dealing with the myriad legal issues, talking with community and stakeholders, gaining NDIS endorsement, through to preparing for deregistration of the state Associations. It has been a fantastic effort from everyone involved.

All States are now clear on how they will proceed with winding up and deregistering their respective Associations. Members will soon be hearing from their Association, if they haven't already, about the timing of a meeting to pass a special resolution to deregister. This meeting will most likely also be the AGM, the Association's last AGM, so make it a good one and celebrate the great work they have done over many years to get us to this stage.

Lastly, State Association memberships cannot legally transfer to HA, so shortly we will be coming to current members with an expression of interest to join HA, which will be free for the first year. In addition, State Association life memberships (including honorary) will also be recognised within HA. More on memberships soon, keep an eye out for it.

Regards



Chris Glasson
Chair HA
11 September 2023