

our NEWS

July
2019

New CEO Peter Gardiner (left) with Seton Villa Chair, Marco Colli, at the recent Parents & Friends mid-year luncheon at North Ryde RSL.

From our Chairman

It has been a busy first half, starting with the three-month process to find and appoint Peter Gardiner as our new CEO. Peter has restructured and redefined the management team at Seton Villa, to build a team which allows us to provide better and more consistent services for our residents.

We kicked the redevelopment program into gear, with the appointment of Andrew Boyd, Project Manager to start progressing a detailed program and costings. Andrew is a highly experienced community housing developer and a welcome addition to the team. This step makes the redevelopment a firm part of the Seton Villa organisational structure, managed by the CEO.

In the second half of the year, the Board will focus on the next strategic plan for Seton Villa. We will be working with the CEO and Deloitte to define a strategy of how Seton Villa should evolve to remain a relevant and sustainable service for the future.

Introducing our new CEO

Peter has over 40 years of professional social work and management experience in the human services sector, with a focus around social inclusion and citizenship for people with disability in both government and not-for-profit organisations.

Prior to Seton Villa, Peter was the CEO of Samaritans Foundation, Diocese of Newcastle, responsible for 730+ employees serving people with disabilities, with services including 20 group homes, day projects, community participation and support coordination. Peter has a special interest in clinical governance as part of the Quality Improvement Framework.

Peter has held senior management positions with CatholicCare Sydney as Senior Manager Organisational Development, Regional Director of NSW Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care (ADHC), and Executive Director at Large Residence ADHC.

Peter's collaborative leadership is driven by values of faith, courage, integrity, justice and wisdom.

Marco Colli, Chairman, Seton Villa

Building our Future Update

Seton Villa has taken a key step forward with the Asset Redevelopment Program by appointing a project manager to guide the process forward over the next few years. Reporting to the CEO, with direction provided by the Asset Redevelopment Committee (ARC), Andrew Boyd has initiated conversations with architects and Ryde City Council to consolidate a Program of Works that will bring our accommodation into line with contemporary Specialist Disability Accommodation (SDA) requirements.

It is envisaged that the schedule will involve purchase of some new sites with sufficient footprint to construct innovative houses and villa-style configurations, along with knock-down and rebuild of some existing properties.

We will communicate regularly with resident families and friends about progress and offer consultation opportunities as potential accommodation models take shape. We will also use this transition period as an opportunity to review the current resident mix in each house in order to balance resident choice with necessary operational efficiencies in line with the Supported Independent Living (SIL) funding available through the NDIS.

Introducing Andrew Boyd, Project Manager



Andrew is a property professional with 25 years' experience covering all aspects of development from high density residential apartments to master planned estates, commercial and industrial. He has a special interest in Community and Disability Housing.

Originally qualified as a civil and structural engineer, Andrew progressed to be a Senior Development Manager for Stockland for close to 10 years before establishing his own consultancy business.

Over the past seven years, Andrew has delivered numerous Group Homes and Affordable Housing projects around Sydney for clients such as UrbanGrowth NSW, ADHC, NSW Land and Housing, Link Housing, Wentworth Housing and Independent Living Villages.

Congratulations Jessica Dunlop

Our Human Resources Manager, Jessica Dunlop has commenced maternity leave following the birth of her second child – a healthy baby boy – and has been replaced on an interim basis by Tina Naterian, who will be working with us three days per week.

NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission

The NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission (the NDIS Commission) is an independent Australian government body that provides a nationally consistent approach to quality and safeguards in the NDIS.

The NDIS Commission's role is to promote the rights of NDIS participants and work with providers to provide safe and high quality supports and services to people with disability.

In most situations the NDIS Commission works alongside providers to offer guidance, education and assistance to resolve issues. When NDIS providers or workers don't meet their obligations, the NDIS Commission can investigate and enforce penalties including infringement notices, civil penalties and bans.

The NDIS Commission has recently introduced a new NDIS Code of Conduct that sets clear and enforceable expectations for ethical conduct in the delivery of supports and services. Seton Villa is in the process of supporting our workers to both understand and apply the Code of Conduct in the course of their daily work. A new and free worker orientation module has been created on the NDIS Commission website to assist workers in this orientation process.

The NDIS Commission is responsible for the registration of NDIS providers, taking over from the NSW Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care on 1 July 2018. Seton Villa has up until 30 April 2020 to be certified against the new NDIS Practice Standards and a compliance gap analysis is underway with policy and procedure uplift to follow over the coming months.



Introducing Dino Santos, Operations Manager



Dino Santos has also joined the Seton Villa Executive Team on a full-time basis as Operations Manager.

Dino has more than 26 years' experience working in the sector as a Disability Support Worker, working up to Senior Management and Executive level positions with Family and Community Services (FACS) and in the NGO sector. A passionate advocate for the rights of people with a disability and their families, he always places the people he serves in the centre of his decision-making process to ensure a safe and world class quality service is provided sustainably.

Dino is a subject matter expert in the overall operation and management of services in the disability sector. He is a dedicated, sensitive, determined and passionate human services professional, with strong customer focus skill and extensive exposure in the areas of homelessness, mental health, disability services, supported employment and family support.

Dino has a solid working knowledge of the NDIS and the NDIA processes. He successfully led the development of several person-centred service models to support the most disadvantaged members of our community. This included the creation of complex service models such as community justice programs and medical model group homes for FACS and Achieve Australia.