

# our NEWS

June  
2023

## From our Chairman



Seton Villa is a happy place. This seems a trite statement but it has become core to the organisation's culture. A huge part of happy places is a feeling of safety, which arises from a sense of belonging. Emotional connections and the sense of belonging to a place or greater community improves motivation, health, and happiness of both staff and our residents, and this becomes self-reinforcing.

As Peter mentions below, the last home is being built at record speed and looks likely to be ready for 'move-in' before the end of the year. I am looking forward to the end of this project and the Board and management are starting to consider 'what's next' in the context of our strategic plan.

Marco Colli  
Chairman, Seton Villa

## From our CEO

### "Building our Bright Future" Status Report

**As foreshadowed in our last newsletter, we have commenced construction on our seventh new SDA house!** Once completed, we will have replaced all our ageing residential accommodation with new SDA Improved Livability homes. This will bring our Asset Redevelopment Program to a conclusion – at least for the time being. It has been very gratifying to see such joy on the faces of our residents as they receive the keys to their new homes from our amazing builder, Ronnie Beaini. Many of you have commented on the noticeable improvement in relationships within the houses as the women enjoy their comfortable and spacious new living environments.





## From our CEO continued

**The construction at Koorong Street has progressed at pace and is perhaps the fastest build to date.**

Ronnie is confident of handover during November 2023, noting that “we have finally managed to get everything co-ordinated perfectly – assisted of course by the magnificent weather”.

This final house will provide Supported Independent Living (SIL) to males with intellectual disability, in line with our strategic plan. Expressions of Interest are now open, and I have received one promising application from a family associated with St Anthony’s Catholic Church. Please share this news with other families seeking SDA housing for men that you may be aware of. Detailed information is available on the disability accommodation Nest website [gonest.com.au](http://gonest.com.au).





## RASAIID SIL Integration

**We have successfully integrated the 14 residents from RASAIID into the Seton Villa community.**

A majority of disability workers previously employed by Participate Australia have now signed new employment contracts with Seton Villa and have been inducted into our Purpose, Vision and Values. They are now connected to our digital platforms via a new mobile phone app that displays their fortnightly roster with 'clock on' and 'clock off' functionality. This is a significant step change for these employees who have expressed their appreciation at joining such a professional organisation.

Residents are also very thankful to Seton Villa for our commitment to enriching their participant experience at RASAIID. We recently arranged a visit from Fire & Rescue NSW and the Rural Fire Service to speak with residents about fire safety and the use of extinguishers.

By all accounts they had a fabulous day.



## HR Matters



**I am delighted that Chandan Sharma has settled in as the new Head of Operations at Seton Villa.** Chandan has over a decade of experience in various leadership roles within the disability sector, including serving as the Assistant Director for Service Delivery Teams at the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) for 2 years. Subsequently, Chandan worked in SIL at Achieve Australia and Open Door Mental Health Services. He brings a great understanding of the NDIS plan approval process and will be tackling some of the more challenging NDIA decisions over past weeks. He is in the process of ringing each of you to introduce himself and is keen for you to reach out with any issues or concerns at [chandan.sharma@setonvilla.org.au](mailto:chandan.sharma@setonvilla.org.au) or mobile 0421 520 173.

We have also now commenced our House Manager restructure and will be interviewing current managers for the new roles over the next two weeks. I will advise the outcome of this process as soon as it is completed, including the allocation of houses with the least possible disruption to current arrangements.

**SAVE!**  
the **DATE!**

**Sunday 26 November 2023**

For our mega Christmas luncheon at The Epping Club, complete with DJ and Ballroom dancefloor. We will be extending the invitation to the RASAIID residents and families to celebrate our new partnership. Further details will follow in due course.