

our NEWS

December
2023

From our Chairman



With the completion of the Asset Redevelopment Program this past November, I feel like we have run a marathon and made it to the finish line! This multi-year project was challenged by the COVID pandemic, escalating building material costs and a couple of really wet weather years. Nonetheless, it is done, and we have some beautiful homes to show for it. I would like to thank all those involved over this time, but particularly the Chair of the Asset Redevelopment Committee, John Cassimatis, and the Project Manager, Andrew Boyd, for their leadership during this endeavour.

The National Disability Services (NDS) association has published the 2023 State of the Disability Sector report. NDS describes 2023 as the worst year for disability providers since the inception of the survey in 2016. 34% of providers made a loss and 18% are just breaking even. I think 2024 will be a rocky year for this sector. Fortunately, Seton Villa continues to be profitable, and it remains financially sustainable.

Finally, I would like to thank you all for your support of the Management and Board during 2023 and wish you a very Merry Christmas and a great start to the New Year.

Marco Colli
Chairman, Seton Villa



From our CEO

The Year in Review

2023 has been a wonderful year for Seton Villa! As reported in our October Newsletter, we have now completed our ambitious Asset Redevelopment Program, which has seen the redevelopment of all seven residential houses with new Specialist Disability Accommodation (SDA) to the Improved Livability design standard. Our residents have been delighted with their new homes, enjoying the extra space and comforts. A big shout out to Rhondda Vassallo, our Participant Experience Lead, who is the amazing interior designer for each uniquely decorated home. You can see the detail of each new home on our website (setonvilla.org.au). A big thank-you too to our amazing builder – Ronnie Beaini and his Academy Constructions team – who delivered such a high-quality outcome.



Mega-Christmas Luncheon at the Epping Club

It was very special to include the residents from Smalls Road and their families in our mega-Christmas Luncheon held at the Epping Club on Sunday 26 November 2023. This was a joyous celebration for 140 residents, staff and families, who joined in a wonderful meal together before being presented with O Holy Night by an amazing Signing Choir made up of our combined residents, who successfully managed to keep rehearsals a secret from families for months!



Christmas lunch is never complete without a visit from Santa Claus and this year he was joined by Mrs Claus and the chief elf, who helped Santa distribute presents to the residents. The photo booth was a big hit too!



And of course – the disco!!



In case you weren't able to join us this year, we are booked again for Sunday 24 November 2024. Save the date now!





Welcome to the RSAID community

It was fabulous to welcome the RASAIID community into the Seton family in April 2023. I have worked closely with the RASAIID Committee members to ensure that we achieved expectations in service delivery for the initial 14 families. I am delighted that we were able to welcome the vast majority of existing staff as new Seton Villa employees and that our culture and values have been warmly embraced. It was particularly pleasing to welcome male staff members into our expanding workforce.

NDIS Recertification Audit

I am delighted to advise that we achieved a great result from the recent NDIS Recertification Audit undertaken by the bsi audit team. The 58-page report is full of the detail; however, I have reproduced the short Summary for you below:

“Seton Villa underwent a recertification audit against the NDIS Practice Standards and Quality Indicators (Version 4) from 30th October 2023 to 3rd of November 2023. The scope of the audit included Core Module, Core Module 4.3, Core Module 4.5, Implementing Behaviour Support Plans Module and Specialist Disability Accommodation Module. Core Module 4.4 was added during the audit.

The recertification audit confirmed that for size and complexity of the organisation, Seton Villa has an effective Management System that is consistently implemented and meets the requirements of NDIS Practice Standards – Core Module, Module 2A and Module 5.

Evidence was available of:

- Continuous improvement
- Qualified and supported staff
- An understanding of legal compliance and implementation
- Communication of vision and values
- Freedom of expression and choice in decision making
- Inclusion and confidentiality and privacy
- Respect, tolerance and diversity

Seton Villa performed exceptionally well in the audit with six indicators receiving a Best Practice rating (3). There were no major or minor non-conformances identified. A total of five improvement opportunities have been offered for consideration.”

Please reach out if you would like to receive a full copy of the audit report.

NDIS Review – Working together to deliver the NDIS

Last month the Final Report of the Independent Review into the National Disability Insurance Scheme was released by the Commonwealth Government. It presents a vision for a connected system of support for all people with disability (a restatement of the original vision for the NDIS). ‘This connected system should include accessible and inclusive mainstream services, foundational supports, support from a navigator and individual support funded through the NDIS.’

There is much to unpack in the 329-page Report, with potentially significant changes ahead for the disability sector. When considered alongside the 222 recommendations from the Disability Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability (DRC), 2024 will be a challenging year, especially as only 48% of disability providers reported an operating surplus for FY2023. The full NDIS Review is available at [ndisreview.gov.au](https://www.ndisreview.gov.au).



I look forward to working with you all again in 2024 and wish you and your families a blessed and safe Christmas season.

Peter Gardiner, CEO, Seton Villa

