



How McArthur Community Care helps a client continue living the life he loves.

McArthur
Community Care

The Project



In November 2018 we were asked to provide 32+ hours per day of active support, 7 days per week (including overnights with 2:1 for all transfers) to a client with a high level spinal cord injury living at the Western End of Kangaroo Island. From meeting the client to discharge was nearly 1 year due to house modifications and completion of rehabilitation.

Once discharged from rehab he travelled via Flying Doctors to be accommodated in the Kingscote hospital. This is when we first ventured over on the ferry to reunite with the client and his potential support team.

Over the past year, Community Care have had a maximum of 8 support workers, 2 support workers from Adelaide and the remaining team members coming from the island.

Negotiations with SeaLink enabled us to secure ferry travel at a significantly reduced rate, allowing the Adelaide workers to work 2 weeks on and 1 week off.

The client is a potato and sheep farmer living on the West End (Flinders Chase) until fires in January put his home and backpackers accommodation in jeopardy. As a result of the fires he was evacuated to the other end of the island where he remains but plans to return to his farm in September once his homestead has been rebuilt.

The Challenges

Living in a remote area on the island was and is challenging, especially for support workers travelling to and from shifts, kangaroos are abundant, especially at dawn, dusk and during the night.

When the client returns to his farm, accommodation will be difficult to source due to the fires wiping out all that was available including the cabins at the caravan park where support workers lived when not working.

Current travel from Adelaide to client is 3.5 hours, plus 45 mins on ferry and 170 kms.....one way. When he moves back to the farm, the travel from ferry to farm will add an additional 1.5 hrs and 125 kms.



The Outcomes

We provide 32+ hours per day, spread out over 4 shifts per day including the overnight period, 7 days per week.

We are slowly able to build the team as Kangaroo Island TAFE are providing Certificate 3 in Disability to a number of island residents, which in turn will provide us with a pool of potential support workers to join the roster.

We maintain ongoing close contact with the client and the workers and report regularly back to the funding body on progress.

The client experiences significant pain daily, but still manages to enjoy the company of his support workers and they enjoy working on his roster.