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By : Daljeet Bakshi, Editor

### A Night of Recognition: Celebrating Inclusive Leadership and the Power of Diverse Communities

As an editor, it is both a privilege and a responsibility to shine a light on the individuals and organisations that meaningfully elevate the wellbeing of our community. Today, we celebrate those who work tirelessly to promote independence and enhance quality of life for people with disability — professionals whose dedication provides emotional and psychological support, social connection, and a vital defence against isolation. Their contributions strengthen not only the disability sector, but the broader, diverse community we proudly call home.

The recent Stars of Care Assure Gala Night served as a deeply moving tribute to this extraordinary work. The evening honoured the compassion, professionalism, and cultural diversity of the Care Assure team, while celebrating the progress and achievements of NDIS participants over the past year. Management, frontline staff, families, and community leaders came together to reflect on special milestones and share stories demonstrating the power of inclusive, community-driven support.

Care Assure, a leading South Australian organisation providing Specialist Disability Accommodation (SDA) and NDIS support services, remains steadfast in its mission to empower people with disability. By offering safe, high-quality housing and personalised care, the organisation champions independence, dignity, and meaningful participation — ideals that reflect the richness and diversity of the communities it serves.

It was an honour to join the celebration alongside CEO Madeeha Usman, Kaleem Ulah, Parwin Hakimi (Head of Business Operations – Quality, Risk & Safeguard Manager), and inspiring guest speakers including Cassie Day, Founder of the NDIS State of the Nation Summit, and Afra, along with many distinguished guests. Their collective presence highlighted a shared commitment to advancing inclusion and opportunity for people of all backgrounds and abilities.

Special recognition is owed to Madeeha Usman, whose leadership and compassion continue to uplift the sector. Her outstanding service to the community has been celebrated through her recognition as the 2025 Citizen of the Year by the City of Salisbury — an acknowledgment of her steadfast commitment to empowering people with disability and creating homes where care feels like family. Madeeha's achievements as a multi-award-winning entrepreneur, including multiple Gold Awards in the 2020 AusMumpreneur WA-SA categories — Rising Star AusMumpreneur, Business Excellence, Multicultural Business, and Customer Service — further highlight her dedication to excellence and her advocacy for diversity.

The Hon Jing Lee MLC, Mr. Eddie Liew, Cr Barbara Clayton Deputy Mayor of the City of Port Adelaide graced the occasion with their presence.

On behalf of the editorial team, I extend sincere gratitude to Madeeha Usman and the entire Care Assure team for their vision, leadership, and unwavering dedication to building inclusive, diverse communities where people of all abilities can thrive.

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