

SUMMER FOUNDATION STRATEGIC PLAN 2015 - 2018

30th July 2015

VISION

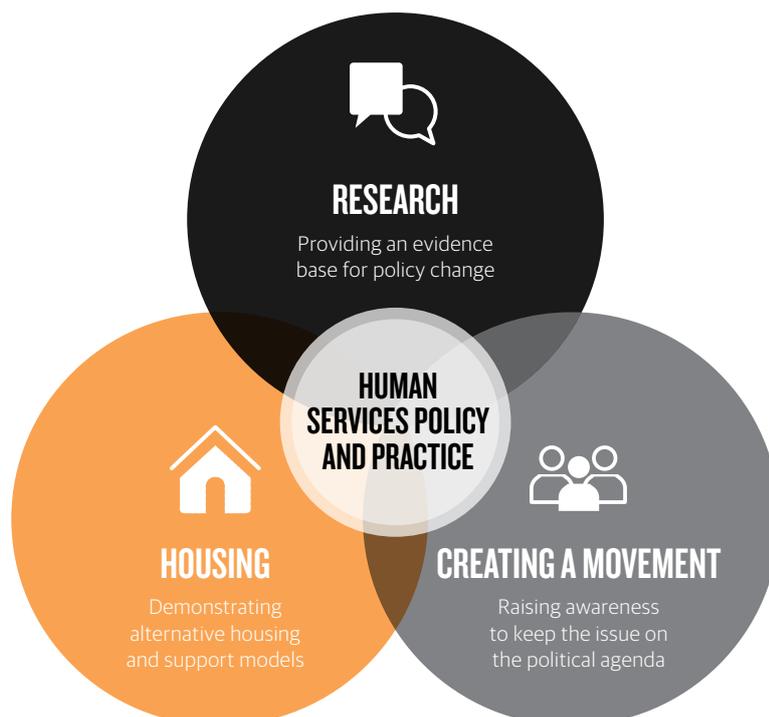
That young people with disabilities and complex care needs will have inherent value as members of our society with access to a range of housing and support options that enhance health, wellbeing, and participation.

MISSION

To create, lead and demonstrate long-term sustainable changes that stop young people from being forced to live in nursing homes because there is nowhere else for them.

A CHANGE AGENT

The key aim of the Summer Foundation is to change human service policy and practice related to young people in nursing homes. The Summer Foundation utilises a range of strategies to influence health, housing and disability services policy and practice related to this target group. These strategies are depicted in the figure below. The Summer Foundation is not able to implement all of these strategies in isolation – we collaborate with other organisations, government, people with disabilities and their families to achieve this aim.



Creating a movement: We support people with disability to tell their story to raise awareness and keep the issue on the political and public agenda

Building an evidence base: We conduct and foster research that provides an evidence base for policy and practice change

Housing: We establish, evaluate and document demonstration projects in order encourage others to replicate the model to increase the range and number of housing and support options.

WHAT POLICY CHANGE DO WE WANT?

There are four key areas that must be addressed to resolve the issue of young people in nursing homes in Australia. Our work will focus largely on policy and practice change in the NDIS sites. This change will have a national impact as the NDIS rolls out.

1. Ensure that young people in RAC get access to the NDIS

The Summer Foundation is conducting action research to measure outcomes and identify any gaps, issues or barriers to young people in nursing homes getting access to services funded by NDIS in the trial sites. We are working with the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) to streamline the NDIS registration process of young people currently in nursing homes and entering nursing homes. Our target group requires information, resources and support to access the services they desperately need.

2. Prevent new admissions

Once in a nursing home, young people lose skills and their social networks diminish. Most (59%) young people are admitted to an acute or rehabilitation hospital before their first admission to a nursing home. We will work to improve the interface between health, Aged Care Assessment Services (ACAS) and the NDIS in order to minimise new admissions of young people to nursing homes. We will also advocate for slow stream rehabilitation services so that people with severe ABI have the time they need to demonstrate their potential before a decision is made about their housing and support options.

3. Increase the range and scale of housing

We do not expect many people to move out of nursing homes in the NDIS trial sites because of the lack of appropriate housing and support options. Housing for people with disability needs to be integrated into mainstream housing strategies instead of continuing to build segregated and specialist housing – this will create the scale and range of housing options we need.

4. Support

Getting the physical design and technology right in housing for people with disability is relatively simple compared to getting the model of support right. One of the biggest challenges for disability support organisations is developing and maintaining a culture that treats people with disability with dignity and respect and fosters independence and community inclusion.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Individuals and families: Supporting, informing and empowering people with disability and their families is critical to resolving the issue of young people in nursing homes

Collaboration: We build partnerships with government, other organisations, people with disability and families to create positive change

Innovation: We strive for innovation by collaborating across sectors and disciplines and taking calculated risks

Integrity: Preserving our credibility is paramount; we are committed to integrity in our relationship with others and in the presentation of facts.

THEORY OF CHANGE

Research

Research underpins the work of the Summer Foundation and provides an evidence base for policy and practice change. However, research alone is not enough to change policy and practice. The knowledge generated by our research is disseminated to both the decision makers and the wider community. We also distil expert knowledge and make it available in formats that are accessible to people with disability, families and workers at the grassroots. We are a knowledge hub for research about young people in nursing homes and potential solutions.

Stories

Enabling young people in nursing homes and their families to tell their stories and distributing these stories is a powerful and effective tool for influencing the general public, decision makers and politicians. We have a rich bank of powerful stories and relationships with a broad group of people with disability and families who are keen to tell their stories in order to effect change. These stories combined with the publication of research provide an effective hook for media coverage. Politicians and decision makers are heavily influenced by stories in the media. Media coverage forces government to pay attention to our target group and allocate resources.

We also use stories as a basis to support people with disability and families to actively participate in the political process. We support people with disabilities and families to influence government by:

- Providing toolkits about writing letters to politicians and making submissions
- Conducting workshops to produce letters to politicians prior to elections and submissions to inquiries.
- Supporting people with disability to meet politicians and make presentations to government.

Housing

We are implementing housing demonstration projects to provide concrete examples of alternatives for young people living in nursing homes. We are using these demonstration projects show how to increase the range and number of housing and support options for our target group. We are not planning to scale this model ourselves across Australia but are establishing its efficacy and sharing the knowledge generated by these projects with other organisations and government. A comprehensive knowledge translation and communications strategy is required to scale this work from a pilot to policy change. We are working to influence key decision makers in local, state and federal government in addition to community housing organisations, developers and disability service providers.