Welcome to the winter edition of the Consumer and Family Carer Newsletter.

It’s a testament to the strength, resilience and advocacy of people with disability and their families that the rollout of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) gets underway next month.

Many people who are eligible to join the scheme on 1 July will have received a letter from the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA). The NDIS is using a guided planning approach called First Plan, which may allocate a generic package to participants or simple roll over their existing funding into the NDIS. In some instances the planning process is occurring over the telephone. If you have received a call in regards to this already, request a plan review.

In order to get a plan that provides you with the support you require to meet your goals, request both a pre-planning meeting and a planning meeting. It’s really important that you are well informed about the scheme and what it can fund. If you want to move out of a nursing home you must identify this as a goal in your plan.

The Summer Foundation is documenting your experiences of the NDIS to inform our advocacy priorities. The NDIS is scaling up quickly. Waiting times on the phone are long and staff are still learning the ropes. The scheme is still being built, so it’s vital that we continue to work together to shape an NDIS that meets your needs. If you’re unsure of your rights, or feel disadvantaged by the NDIA’s processes and have not been able to resolve your issue by dealing with them directly, please contact me.

Warm regards,

Penny Paul
Information and Connections Coordinator

IN THIS ISSUE

ROSANNA SCIULLI’S STORY 2

SPECIALIST DISABILITY ACCOMMODATION 3

BREAKFAST CLUB LECTURES 4

There are further links to resources available in the online version of this newsletter:

www.summerfoundation.org.au/cfc-newsletters
FIRST PLAN
The NDIA is implementing a planning process called First Plan to assist in bringing a large number of participants into the scheme from July 1. Participants will either be allocated a generic package or simply have their current state or territory funding package rolled across to the NDIS.

We don't believe this streamlined planning process is appropriate for young people in nursing homes. We recommend that you request both a pre-planning meeting and a planning meeting to ensure that your plan funds the supports you need to reach your goals.

If you need support in your dealings with the NDIS please get in touch with Penny Paul on 1300 626 560 or email: penny.paul@summerfoundation.org.au

GETTING PLAN READY
For the NDIS to live up to its objective of supporting people with disability to live an ordinary life and pursue their goals, participants will need to do their homework. A good place to start is the My NDIS Pathway page on the NDIS website. This page contains information that will help you to think about what your life looks like at the moment and what your goals are for the future, so your planner can develop the best possible plan for you. It can be empowering to know what support is available to you. If you would like to find out what is available and how much it will cost, download the price guide from the NDIS website.

Remember moving out of a nursing home is a legitimate goal. The NDIS operates on an insurance model so prepare to discuss with your planner how living in an appropriate environment will make you less reliant on paid support over the long term.

Find out more about the planning process here: ndis.gov.au/participants/planning-process
Download the price guide here: ndis.gov.au/providers/pricing-and-payment

ROSANNA SCIULLI’S STORY
Rosanna is a sociable 51-year-old woman with a love of coffee, family and as a result of NDIS funding, a new lease on life.

Rosanna was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis at the age of 28. Last year she was admitted into hospital after a minor fall. Following her discharge, a lack of suitable housing options forced Rosanna into a nursing home.

Fortunately, Rosanna was connected with a new NDIS service provider who made flexible use of her NDIS funding, allowing Rosanna to access the community on outings with a support worker.

But Rosanna's long-term goal was to leave the nursing home and return to the community. Rosanna secured the expertise of an NDIS funded support coordinator to search for more appropriate housing options. The support coordinator assisted Rosanna through complex application processes and liaised with other stakeholders on her behalf. This hard work paid off and Rosanna moved into an accessible townhouse at the beginning of the year.

Due to this significant change in circumstance, Rosanna received a new NDIS plan reflective of her life stage. The NDIS allocated Rosanna 24-hour funded live-in support and assistive technology to allow her to live independently. She also received funding for occupational therapy and physiotherapy to prescribe equipment and oversee a home-based exercise program. Rosanna continues to work with her support coordinator to ensure her plan is progressing well.

Moving out of the nursing home and into her own home has allowed Rosanna to regain independence, and become a part of the community again.

Break Thru People Solutions provided Rosanna’s support coordination. breakthru.org.au/category/iamable-blog/
We have prepared a position paper on Access to the NDIS for Younger People in Residential Aged Care.


SPECIALIST DISABILITY ACCOMMODATION

The NDIA has released a Specialist Disability Accommodation (SDA) Decision Paper on Pricing and Payments. SDA refers to specialist housing for NDIS participants with complex needs. Summer Foundation CEO Di Winkler published an article with Luke Bo’sher in The Conversation explaining how this policy lays the foundation for developing the range and scale of housing needed to resolve the issue of young people in nursing homes. Read the article here: summerfoundation.org.au/back-up-the-ndis-with-housing/

The NDIS recognises that many people with complex needs have a reasonable and necessary requirement for SDA. We anticipate that around 28 000 or 6% of NDIS participants may be eligible for funding to assist with the cost of their housing. This funding will be allocated to the participant but may be paid directly to the provider, and will appear on the participant’s plan. The payment will cover the housing provider’s capital costs and is designed to increase the supply of affordable accessible housing. The rent amount for eligible participants will be set at 25% of the disability support pension plus their commonwealth rent assistance allocation.

Assistance with housing costs is separate from the funding for participant support costs. This separation is important because it gives participants more choice over where they can live. It means that an individual NDIS participant is no longer committed to receiving support and housing from the same provider, which is the norm under the existing system.

Read more here ndis.gov.au/ndis-april-enewsletter#specialist

FINDING A REGISTERED SERVICE PROVIDER

Once you have a funded NDIS Plan, you will need to purchase your supports directly from providers registered with the NDIS. The NDIS website has a list of registered providers that is growing rapidly and you can search for them by location or category of support. See: ndis.gov.au/document/finding-and-engaging-providers/find-registered-service-providers or call the NDIA on 1800 800 110

SUPPORTED DECISION-MAKING

It’s really important that you’re well informed about the NDIS and what it can fund. Having support to make decisions may be beneficial in helping you make the most of the NDIS.

If you think you may benefit from support with decision-making, talk to your planner about putting assistance with decision-making, daily planning and budgeting in your NDIS plan.

ACCESS TO THE NDIS
AGED CARE COMPLAINTS COMMISSIONER

On 1 January the Aged Care Complaints Scheme moved to the Aged Care Complaints Commissioner. If you have concerns about the quality of care or services provided in a nursing home you can contact the Aged Care Complaints Commissioner. Phone 1800 550 552
agedcarecomplaints.gov.au/

CARE FOR ME – AN APP FOR CARERS

“Care for Me” is an App for iPad and iPhone developed by a carer that allows users to upload text, photos and video that explain and document care requirements.

For more information see:
careappsaustralia.com.au/?page_id=2

The Summer Foundation Breakfast Club Lecture Series

is an opportunity for professionals working in the area of brain injury rehabilitation to increase their knowledge about the latest research and clinical practice.

The next Breakfast Club lecture will take place on 20 July. Franca Butera-Prinzi, ABI Team Leader of The Bouverie Centre will be presenting Holding Resilience in Trust – Working Systemically with Families post ABI. This lecture explores the complex nature of family resilience following acquired brain injury (ABI). Franca will present a systemic and dynamic view of resilience that is critical to helping families cope with the grief and stress surrounding ABI.

VENUE: Royal Talbot Rehabilitation Centre,
1 Yarra Boulevard, Kew, 3121

DATE: Wednesday 20 July 2016

TIME: 8.00am. Breakfast from 7.30am

COST: $30 per lecture

BOOK NOW TO RESERVE YOUR PLACE

www.trybooking.com/KGIV

Find out more: summerfoundation.org.au/event/breakfast-club-2016-lecture-3/