

SUMMER FOUNDATION NEWS



A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

The official launch of our Hunter Housing Demonstration Project took place at the end of July, and it was wonderful to celebrate this momentous occasion. Thank you to the Acting CEO of Stakeholder Relations at the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA), Stephanie Gunn who officially opened the housing project and tenant Tania Lewis for speaking on the day. If you would like to find out more about the apartments, turn to page 2 for a link to the virtual tour.

As the Summer Foundation expands its work around influencing the policy related to young people in nursing homes, we are pleased to welcome Luke Bo’sher as the Head of Policy and Strategy at the Summer Foundation. Luke was a key player in the development of the NDIS, working on the scheme’s design in both government and NDIA roles.

Our annual fundraising and awareness luncheon was held on Friday 12 August and raised over \$25,000. These funds will go towards replicating and scaling our model of housing and support for people with disability. The highlight of the day was a presentation by Janelle Curry and Cheryl Parkinson. Janelle’s husband Shane and Cheryl’s son Ben will both be moving in to the Hunter housing demonstration project in the coming months. Janelle and Cheryl discussed their hopes and anxieties around this significant move. We would like to thank Beverley O’Connor for hosting the event.

The Summer Foundation will hold its annual public forum on Thursday 20 October at NAB Melbourne. This year’s topic is “Young people living in nursing homes and the new NDIS world: A discussion about reality, expectations, and the unknown.” I invite you to come along and join the conversation. More details are on page 4.

Warm regards,

Di Winkler
CEO and Founder

IN THIS ISSUE	
LAUNCH OF HOUSING DEMONSTRATION PROJECT	2
NDIS CONNECTIONS UPDATE	3
THE 2016 ALLEN MARTIN RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIP	4



LAUNCH OF HOUSING DEMONSTRATION PROJECT

The Hunter Housing Demonstration Project was officially launched on 28 July with guest speaker Stephanie Gunn, Acting CEO of Stakeholder Relations at the NDIA.

Tania Lewis, an indigenous woman and tenant, opened the proceedings by welcoming the audience to country. Tania described how the apartment would allow her to make the most of her role as mother again.

Summer Foundation CEO and founder Dr Di Winkler said the aim of the project was to change thinking about what's possible for housing for people with disability.

The confirmation of the NDIS Specialist Disability Accommodation payment rates has provided the funding base for housing similar to the Hunter Housing Demonstration Project to be built for young people with complex needs. Our goal is to see this model of housing replicated in all medium and high density developments in Australia to create the range and scale of housing needed for people with disability who wish to live more independently.

About the Hunter Housing Demonstration Project

Peppered throughout a 110-unit private development, the 10 apartments demonstrate what we believe is among Australia's best practice in accessible design and technology enablement. The close proximity to shops and amenities allows tenants to live as independently as possible in the community.

Tours of the apartments will take place until the end of 2016. Book a tour here: trybooking.com/LIQX

Take the virtual tour: summerfoundation.org.au/hunter-housing-project or hear from the tenants themselves in this video: youtu.be/rIjipTXq4ms



SLOW STREAM REHABILITATION ROUNDTABLE

There is a need for enhanced access to slow stream rehabilitation (SSR) programs for young people with high and complex needs in nursing homes, as well as a greater consistency in service delivery across Australia. In partnership with La Trobe University, the Summer Foundation recently held a roundtable on Slow Stream Rehabilitation (SSR) in Melbourne facilitated by Rosemary Calder, Director of the Australian Health Policy Collaboration.

The roundtable event was attended by experts with a wide range of perspectives including government, clinical, advocacy, compensation, research and people with disability and families. Discussion was based on the information from a scoping review created specifically for the event. The review summarised the current state of knowledge regarding SSR from the perspective of people with direct experience and existing research evidence. The Summer Foundation will continue to advocate the importance of SSR programs across Australia to support people with severe brain injury to achieve improvement in function.

Photo: From left: Mary Nolan, Rosemary Calder, and Jacinta Douglas

BRAIN INJURY AWARENESS WEEK

Brain Injury Awareness Week took place between 15-21 August. Helen Barker, mother of Ambassador Anj Barker, wrote a blog about how life has changed since her daughter acquired a brain injury in 2002. Helen reflects on Anj's recovery and offers some advice to others who have a family member with disability.

Read the blog here: summerfoundation.org.au/brain-injury-a-mothers-perspective/



DISCHARGE PLANNER'S FORUMS

The Summer Foundation continues to examine ways of preventing new admissions of young people to nursing homes through targeted forums that bring together representatives from health, disability, aged care and the NDIS. We have gathered information about current practices, barriers and potential ways forward, examining the impact that the NDIS has made.

Initial forums held in the Barwon, ACT, Hunter and Perth Hills trial sites have demonstrated that many people working in discharge roles in the health system are struggling to understand some aspects of the NDIS. While there have been some great examples of individuals advocating alternatives to nursing homes, this outcome largely depends on having access to an advocate.

A commitment to working collaboratively across systems is the main way good outcomes are being achieved for people with complex brain injury, neurological disease and other high support needs. We also found that in almost all circumstances there is a need for a specialised liaison position in acute and rehabilitation wards to negotiate between the health and NDIS systems to ensure that people don't get caught between the two systems.

We are currently planning more of these forums in NDIS rollout areas and will continue to share our findings.



JOIN THE UPSTREAM 50KM/20KM CHALLENGE
SATURDAY 5 NOVEMBER 2016, GOSCH'S PADDOCK

Register now at: www.upstreamfoundation.org

NDIS CONNECTIONS UPDATE

On 1 July the NDIS rolled out to new regions across Australia, with North Eastern Melbourne (NEMA) as the first new region added in Victoria. The national NDIS rollout has seen some changes to the connection process. Contracted local area coordinators (LACs) will now provide first point of contact, some planning and follow up for Scheme participants in Victoria. For those with more complex support needs, planning will continue to be done internally by the NDIA – a process we know will need additional support for most young people in nursing homes.

The Summer Foundation has been providing additional support in connecting young people to the NDIS in the Barwon and Hunter trial sites through the NDIS Connections Project. Over two and a half years, the Summer Foundation helped connect 108 people to the NDIS who otherwise would not have connected to the Scheme. This project has demonstrated that people with complex support needs often require intensive assistance to engage with the NDIS.

Initial findings from the NDIS Connections Project demonstrate that there are significant gaps in the service system for young people in nursing homes. The streamlined approach embodied in the "My First Plan" concept assumes an existing relationship to the disability system. However only 25% of young people in residential aged care were found to have had any relationship to the disability system in trial sites. The NDIS needs to provide additional support to assist people with complex needs to register, prepare and implement their plan.

Drawing on findings from our project work, the Summer Foundation has created a Practice Guide for connecting young people in nursing homes to the NDIS. The guide is a tool to help support the capacity of the sector to connect with young people in nursing homes. Download it at: summerfoundation.org.au/practice-guide

The Summer Foundation will continue to work in NDIS rollout areas for as long as necessary to assist young people in nursing homes to connect and engage with the NDIS. We recently welcomed Melody Carbarns to the NDIS Connections Team to assist with this work in the NEMA region and we look forward to reporting on our findings as the rollout continues.

THE 2016 ALLEN MARTIN RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIP



The Summer Foundation is pleased to announce the 2016 Allen Martin Research Scholarship sponsored by The Rotary Club of Kew.

This scholarship is open to clinicians and health professionals who wish to conduct a new research project in the field of recovery following acquired brain injury. The award is valued at \$5000 which is to be utilised over a period of one year.

The recipient of the Allen Martin scholarship will be announced at the Allen Martin Memorial Lecture in November.

Applications should be sent to Louise Dixon at louise.dixon@summerfoundation.org.au by Friday 7 October 2016. All applications must meet the eligibility criteria and responsibilities of the scholarship outlined here: www.summerfoundation.org.au/scholarship



YOUNG PEOPLE LIVING IN NURSING HOMES AND THE NEW NDIS WORLD

**A DISCUSSION ABOUT REALITY,
EXPECTATIONS, AND THE UNKNOWN**

The NDIS is a long awaited reform, and one that has enormous potential to improve the lives of people with disability, especially those living in, or at risk of entering a nursing home.

But what impact has it had to date and what are the implications of a system rolling out while still finding its feet? What is working, and what still needs tweaking?

Join us for this year's annual public forum where we will discuss some of the issues and opportunities surrounding the NDIS.

This is a free event, but bookings are required. Book now at: www.trybooking.com/MTID

DATE: THURSDAY 20 OCTOBER 2016

TIME: 12.30 TO 2.00PM

VENUE: THE ARENA, NAB, DOCKLANDS,
(ALSO LIVE STREAMED VIA OUR WEBSITE)

Breakfast Club Lecture Four

Our final Breakfast Club lecture for the year will be held on 21 September. Last year's Allen Martin Scholarship winner Michelle Kahn will present on "The development of a gold-standard clinical assessment for associated reactions of the arm following brain injury".

This presentation will detail how the use of low-cost, accessible technologies may be integrated into clinical practice for assessment purposes. The challenges that currently exist in the field of associated reactions (ARs) will be highlighted, with a primary focus on the need for clinicians to be able to accurately identify ARs and assess changes in response to treatment.

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

DATE: Wednesday 21 September 2016

TIME: 8.00am. Breakfast from 7.30am

PRESENTER: Michelle Kahn, Senior Physiotherapist,
Epworth Rehabilitation and PhD Candidate

COST: \$30

www.trybooking.com/KGIV

Find out more: www.summerfoundation.org.au/lecture-4/