

# SUMMER FOUNDATION NEWS



A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

## Welcome to our final newsletter of the year.

On 20 October we held our annual public forum “Young People in Nursing Homes and the New NDIS World” in The Arena at NAB Docklands. Guest speakers with a range of perspectives including people with disability, service providers and a representative from the National Disability Insurance Agency discussed their experience of the NDIS, engaging in a constructive conversation about how it could be improved. Many issues were raised at the forum and we will continue to explore these to help the NDIS fulfil its ambition of improving the lives of young people with disability across Australia. Thank you to Beverley O'Connor for hosting the forum. Find out more on page 2.

This was our third year as a beneficiary of the Upstream Challenge, a 50 or 20km walk along the Yarra River to Donvale. It was fantastic to see those who walked on behalf of the Summer Foundation putting in a such huge effort to support our work. Thank you to all participants and volunteers who helped out on the day.

2016 marks ten years since the Summer Foundation started working to resolve the issue of young people living in nursing homes. We would like to thank all of the people and organisations that have supported us, particularly in the last year. To find out more about what we have achieved in the last financial year, download a copy of our annual report from [summerfoundation.org.au/annual-reports](http://summerfoundation.org.au/annual-reports) or call us to request a complimentary copy.

Have a safe and happy Christmas.

Warm regards,

Di Winkler  
CEO and Founder

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## THE NEW NDIS WORLD

This year, the Summer Foundation's annual public forum addressed the topic, "Young People in Nursing Homes and the New NDIS World".

Guest speakers including advocates, people with disability, professionals from across the disability sector and a representative from the NDIA discussed the expectations and reality of the NDIS, and how it could be improved to so that young people living in, or at risk of entering a nursing home can benefit.

Some of the issues raised included the importance of preparing participants for the NDIS, the need to create a market of disability services that allows NDIS participants to exercise choice and control, and the benefits of having an advocate to support participants to access and navigate the Scheme.

Esther Kerr-Smith, General Manager of Markets and Providers at the NDIA, addressed the gap between the expectations and reality of the NDIS.

"If your expectations are about a step-by-step journey, and you're prepared to speak frankly with the agency about where they are not met, that's the only way we are going to identify and close the gaps," she said.

Thank you to everyone who joined us at the venue or online. If you missed the forum, or would like to experience it again, you can do so on our website: [summerfoundation.org.au/annual-public-forum](http://summerfoundation.org.au/annual-public-forum)

Read the blog here: [summerfoundation.org.au/new-ndis-world-an-ambitious-reform](http://summerfoundation.org.au/new-ndis-world-an-ambitious-reform)

**The Summer Foundation would like to hear your experiences of the NDIS. Join the conversation on social media by using the hashtag #newNDISworld**



## CHRIS' STORY

When you walk into Chris' home it is clear he is making it his own. The lounge room is furnished with all the aspects of "home", an audio book is running on a CD player, and the house is scented from the vapour of an e-cigarette. It is an apt picture and in a small way demonstrates how Chris is now making his own choices. It wasn't long ago that Chris lived in a nursing home where most of his decisions were made for him.

"The nursing home felt like a prison," he says. "Having my own home has been like winning the lotto."

It is clear Chris had the potential to live on his own but there wasn't an appropriate option at the time of his discharge from rehabilitation to prevent his admission to a nursing home. Chris was able to move out of the nursing home thanks to the tenacity of several determined advocates in his life who secured him an alternative housing solution.

There is sadness in Chris' eyes when he contemplates his time in the nursing home and how difficult it was to be actively involved in his sons' lives. He intends to do all he can to make up for lost time now that he has his own place.

## UPSTREAM CHALLENGE 2016



Congratulations and thank you to everyone who supported us. We look forward to letting you know how much was raised.



## NDIS POSITION STATEMENTS

The Summer Foundation has released position statements that support two areas of strategic focus: ensuring that young people in residential aged care get access to the NDIS; and increasing the range and scale of housing.

These documents outline the issues we have identified through our action research and provide recommendations to influence policy makers to improve policy and practice around the NDIS. We anticipate these key messages will support individual advocacy as well as our endeavours to achieve systemic change.

“Access to the NDIS for Younger People in Residential Aged Care” recommends five actions that will support young people to exit nursing homes, and prevent new admissions. By undertaking these actions, the NDIA will ensure young people with disability who are living in nursing homes can access and navigate the Scheme.

“Developing NDIS Housing for People with Complex Support Needs” presents four recommended actions to increase the number of high quality, accessible and affordable housing options for people with disability. The delivery of more affordable and accessible NDIS housing, provides real options for young people to move out of nursing homes and reduce new admissions.

Download the position statements:

[summerfoundation.org.au/position-statements](http://summerfoundation.org.au/position-statements)

**Download your copy of the 2015/2016 Annual Report** or contact us to request a hard copy



[summerfoundation.org.au/annual-reports](http://summerfoundation.org.au/annual-reports)

## NDIS CONNECTIONS UPDATE

Findings from our NDIS Connections project in the Barwon, Hunter, ACT and Perth Hills trial sites have reinforced the importance of ensuring active outreach is available for young people in nursing homes so that they can become active participants in the Scheme. Our team found that people who submitted an access request form (ARF) needed a high-level of support ranging from 9-32 hours to progress through to registering as a participant. A more detailed report is available: [summerfoundation.org.au/get-help/ndis-connections-project](http://summerfoundation.org.au/get-help/ndis-connections-project)

With the NDIS rolling out, the NDIS Connections Project's focus will shift to how the Summer Foundation can provide the necessary resources and support so that others can connect young people in nursing homes to the NDIS. Our Practice Guide (available at [summerfoundation.org.au/practice-guide](http://summerfoundation.org.au/practice-guide)) and digital stories produced with partial funding from the NDIA are available for this purpose (available at [summerfoundation.org.au/digital-stories](http://summerfoundation.org.au/digital-stories)). The Summer Foundation has now expanded its NDIS connections work into the Central Coast of NSW, the Central Highlands in Victoria, and the North East of Melbourne, which represent some of the first full NDIS roll out zones. Our learnings from these areas will be used to improve policy and practice in the full Scheme.

A new aspect of the NDIS is the information, linkages and capacity building strategy (ILC). This is the funding stream for people with disability who won't be eligible for individualised NDIS packages. The ILC will be trialed in the ACT in January 2017. New South Wales and South Australia will have access to it in 2018, and Victoria in 2019. Until then overall responsibility for disability (apart from the individual funding packages, and the LAC function) remains with the states and territories. We will keep you updated about developments in the ILC.

For more information: [ndis.gov.au/community/ILCCommissioningFramework.html](http://ndis.gov.au/community/ILCCommissioningFramework.html)



## 2016 ALLEN MARTIN MEMORIAL LECTURE AND SCHOLARSHIP

The Summer Foundation hosted the Allen Martin Memorial Lecture on 23 November. Professor Jacinta Douglas, La Trobe University Professor and Summer Foundation Research Chair (Living Well with Acquired Brain Injury), presented a lecture on "Maximising community connection after brain injury: a multi-component program".

The focus of the lecture was the power of relationships and community belonging in the lives of people with severe brain injury. Jacinta described a new multi-component community connection program (M-ComConnect) that is currently being trialled.

The Allen Martin Research Scholarship recipient was also announced. Congratulations to Suzana Hercegovac from the University of South Australia who received the scholarship for her research proposal on "Participation in volunteering roles following acquired brain injury".

Podcast available: [summerfoundation.org.au/event/allen-martin-memorial-lecture-2016/](http://summerfoundation.org.au/event/allen-martin-memorial-lecture-2016/)

## NDIS FUNDING FOR HOUSING

The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) will transform housing for people with disability by providing funding to build NDIS housing for an additional 12,000 people with the most significant levels of disability around Australia. 6,200 of these new places are specifically earmarked for young people who are currently living in residential aged care.

This funding, known as "specialist disability accommodation" (SDA) pays for the bricks and mortar of the housing people live in. It is only available to people who become participants in the NDIS. When young people in nursing homes register with the NDIS, the NDIS will assess their housing needs. If the person meets the NDIA's requirements, they can receive a package that includes SDA funding. Tenants living in NDIS housing are expected to pay a reasonable rent contribution which is not covered by the NDIS.

The NDIS pays a standardised yearly amount for housing that is calculated based on the location, the size of the dwelling and level of accessibility. SDA housing providers will only receive a housing payment once an NDIS participant is living in the dwelling.

The detail about how this will work will be released in the coming weeks. Young people in RAC who want to leave their nursing home should request "specialist disability accommodation" in their planning meeting with the NDIS.

For more information: [ndis.gov.au/specialist-disability-accommodation](http://ndis.gov.au/specialist-disability-accommodation)



Thank you for your support this year.  
From everyone at the Summer Foundation,  
we wish you a very Merry Christmas  
and the very best for 2017.