

# CONSUMER & FAMILY CARER NETWORK



## Welcome to the autumn edition of the Consumer and Family Carer Newsletter.

We're continuing to build on opportunities to ensure good outcomes for young people with disability and high support needs in relation to the NDIS, health and housing.

In response to the high level of uncertainty expressed by participants at our NDIS workshop in October last year, we'll be holding a number of workshops for the Consumer and Family Carer network in 2017. Resources from these workshops will be freely available on our website. Read a summary of the Specialist Disability Accommodation (SDA) workshop held in December on page 3.

The policy team is currently gathering case studies of experiences that illustrate what is and isn't working in relation to accessing the NDIS, health and housing. These case studies will be a key resource for our systemic advocacy work and we will be sharing them with decision-makers in order to help them understand what is occurring at a grassroots level. We will make sure that these case studies do not contain any personal information that could identify an individual. If you are willing to share your story please contact us.

Please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Warm regards,

*Penny Paul*

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## NDIS CONNECTIONS UPDATE

As we understand more about how the NDIS is rolling out, our NDIS Connections project work has adapted to stay true to our objective of ensuring all young people who are already in nursing homes can connect to the NDIS. We are also working with the health and housing sectors to ensure that young people are no longer forced to move into nursing homes because there are no other alternatives.

To ensure that all young people in nursing homes get access to the NDIS, the Summer Foundation is focused on providing support and training so that other local supporters can connect young people in nursing homes to the Scheme. We have produced a number of resources about this process including a Practice Guide. Download the guide here: [www.summerfoundation.org.au/practice-guide](http://www.summerfoundation.org.au/practice-guide)

The NDIS is now operating in more places across Australia. It has adopted a "phase-in" approach with the aim of allowing people with existing funding to transfer their funding package to the NDIS with minimal input. This is problematic for the majority of young people in nursing homes because they do not have any funding that can be phased-in.

The aged care system is central to ensuring young people can connect to the NDIS. The sector is currently undergoing major re-structuring, however with the cooperation of nurse unit managers and diversional therapists we have seen a number of good outcomes for young residents with disability.

We have produced a digital story that explores how one aged care provider has been working to connect young residents to the NDIS. Watch it here:

[www.summerfoundation.org.au/wallsend-staff](http://www.summerfoundation.org.au/wallsend-staff)



## THE NDIS: MOVING TO A MARKET-BASED SYSTEM

As part of its commitment to providing people with disability in Australia with more choice and control, the NDIS was established as a market-based system where funding is directed by the user, instead of the provider. This means that people with disability get to choose their own service providers.

The advantage of this is that if an individual is not satisfied with certain services, they can allocate their funding to a different provider of those services. While the model will be empowering to many, as the market expands there is potential for businesses to take advantage of people who may have had little experience in making decisions about their service provision. It is therefore increasingly important for NDIS participants, or people making decisions on behalf of someone else, to be aware of consumer rights.

To prepare consumers and businesses for the market-based system, the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission has released a range of resources including videos, fact sheets and an Easy-English guide to educate consumers and businesses about their rights and obligations.

Find out more here: [www.accc.gov.au/about-us/information-for/consumers-with-disability](http://www.accc.gov.au/about-us/information-for/consumers-with-disability)





## SPECIALIST DISABILITY ACCOMMODATION

Some NDIS participants with high support needs will be eligible for Specialist Disability Accommodation (SDA) funding. This funding is a contribution to the “bricks and mortar” costs of housing, but does not cover support costs.

In December last year we held a workshop to share our knowledge about SDA. Justin Nix, who is the Summer Foundation Innovative Housing and Support Project Manager and Director at Equitable Access Solutions Pty Ltd, gave an overview of the payment system. The podcast and related resources are now available.

Luke Bo'sher and Libby Ellis have written an article for Disability Services Consulting addressing the four key questions about housing and support under the NDIS that people with disability and their families should consider to assist them in developing a quality first plan. This article may be useful for support coordinators, service providers, advocates and families.

Read it here: [www.disabilityservicesconsulting.com.au/resources/ndis-housing-participant-questions](http://www.disabilityservicesconsulting.com.au/resources/ndis-housing-participant-questions)

Download the SDA workshop resources here:

[www.summerfoundation.org.au/sda-workshop-report-dec-2016](http://www.summerfoundation.org.au/sda-workshop-report-dec-2016)



## KIM'S STORY

Kim has moved into the Summer Foundation's Hunter Housing Demonstration Project. She is in her early fifties and currently living in a nursing home. Kim has been sharing a four bed sleeping quarter for over seven years with numerous residents – many of whom suffer from dementia. She never expected her life to unfold like it has.

As you can imagine, privacy and independence are what Kim looks forward to most. Even everyday tasks – washing, paying bills, cooking – play an important part in establishing an independent lifestyle. An accessible home with smart-home technology will enable Kim to complete these tasks for the first time in many years.

Despite Kim's challenging living arrangements, her determination to look toward the future has been a powerful reminder that dreams don't lay dormant forever. She has worked tirelessly to complete her HSC in the nursing home with the intention to lay an educational foundation for her future.

When Kim was asked what living independently means to her, she smiled and said:

“ NOW I HAVE A CHANCE TO SEE WHAT I AM CAPABLE OF. ”

## Breakfast Club Lecture Series 2017

The Summer Foundation is proud to announce this Professional Development Lecture series on brain injury rehabilitation.

**BOOK NOW AT:** [www.trybooking.com/OJKJ](http://www.trybooking.com/OJKJ)

For full details visit: [summerfoundation.org.au/breakfast-club-lectures-2017](http://summerfoundation.org.au/breakfast-club-lectures-2017)





## CARER GATEWAY

A breakdown in care arrangements is a common reason for young people in the community to be admitted to nursing homes. The Commonwealth Government funds a range of services to support carers including the Carer Gateway, an online tool that provides useful resources for carers. The website contains articles about many of the practical elements of caring for someone, or being cared for. It also includes an interactive service finder to help you connect to services in your local area.

For more information visit the website at:

🌐 [www.carergateway.gov.au](http://www.carergateway.gov.au) or call 1800 422 747.



## SOCIAL NETWORKING

My Disability Matters is a social media site designed for people with disability, their families, carers and people working in the disability sector to connect and share their experiences. The site was created by Dale Reardon, who has been blind for 30 years, after he became frustrated at the inaccessibility of many social media sites.

The online forums invite discussion on a range of topics affecting the disability community in an effort to inform users and provide support when required.

Sign up at 🌐 [www.mydisabilitymatters.club](http://www.mydisabilitymatters.club)

## FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE NDIS

Spinal Cord Injuries Australia has released a series of videos about navigating the NDIS. The videos detail what the NDIS is, who is eligible and the experiences of people with disability, family members and carers. The series would be useful to anyone wanting to gain a basic understanding of the NDIS, and what it will mean for them or their family.

To watch the videos visit: 🌐 [tinyurl.com/SCIAvideo](http://tinyurl.com/SCIAvideo)



## HUMAN RIGHTS TOOLKIT FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS

Women with Disabilities Australia has released a human rights toolkit for women and girls with disability. The toolkit explores some of the key human rights issues that women with disability may face including decision-making, sexual and reproductive rights and violence. It contains suggestions about how women and girls can work towards change and provides samples of letters and talking points for speaking to government.

Download the human rights toolkit here:

🌐 [www.wwda.org.au/papers/toolkit/download/](http://www.wwda.org.au/papers/toolkit/download/)

Summer Foundation Ambassador Anj Barker sustained an acquired brain injury in 2002 when she was assaulted by her ex-boyfriend. Since then, Anj has advocated tirelessly to end violence. You can watch her digital story here:

🌐 [www.summerfoundation.org.au/anjs-story/](http://www.summerfoundation.org.au/anjs-story/)