

SUMMER FOUNDATION NEWS



Welcome to our first newsletter of 2017.

We are continuing our work to ensure young people in nursing homes get access to the services and support that they desperately need through the NDIS.

We work at both a grassroots level and a policy level to influence change. Our NDIS Connections Practice Guide and digital stories based on two years of practice wisdom build the capacity of workers and families assisting our target group to engage with the NDIS. Find out more about these resources on page 3.

One of the key challenges to ensuring there are suitable housing options for people with disability and complex needs is establishing a successful NDIS housing market. The Summer Foundation has been working to identify some of the key elements of a successful disability housing market, and will create prototypes to support the development of the sector and encourage new ways of thinking. Read more on page 3.

Warm regards,

Di Winkler
CEO and Founder

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SUMMER
FOUNDATION

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

www.summerfoundation.org.au/sf-newsletters



HUNTER HOUSING DEMONSTRATION PROJECT UPDATE

Three new tenants have moved into the Hunter Housing Demonstration Project since the beginning of the year. We look forward to seeing tenants settle in to their new homes, and enjoying their independence. We will be documenting tenants' journeys to show how accessible housing that is well-located can increase a person's quality of life and independence.

A new video showcasing the Hunter Housing Demonstration Project apartments is now available. In the video, tenant Ben Parkinson demonstrates the apartment features that enable him to live independently. The video outlines the role of smart design, technology and location, in addition to a 24 hour support model that promotes independent living. We would like to thank Ben for his commitment to making this video.

Watch the video: www.summerfoundation.org.au/hunter-housing-project/

IN THE MEDIA



Check out our recent media coverage in The Australian and Pro Bono News
www.summerfoundation.org.au/media

AMY'S STORY

Amy recently moved into the Hunter Housing Demonstration Project.

Prior to moving into her new home, Amy was living with a family member. She had her own area of the house, but it was cramped and inaccessible. Amy looked at other housing options, but found them either out of her budget, or not suitable for her needs. Amy couldn't believe it when she found out she would be moving into her own fully accessible home.

"I was on a train in a quiet carriage trying to contain myself [when I found out]," she recalls. "I was so excited."

It has been nearly two months since Amy moved in, and she is living her life as she chooses. From taking the time to eat breakfast on her balcony, to having visitors when she likes, Amy is relishing having her own space.

"I've had friends and family come and visit...but I was bold in saying, 'Thank you, but I'm not looking for housemates!'"

However, Amy acknowledges that living alone has taken some getting used to.

"The main adjustment is that I am here on my own. Even with the staff located downstairs if I need it, I am so used to having people around. For the most part I am adjusted, just sometimes I think, 'Wow, it really is so quiet.'"

But Amy is excited to embrace the challenges of living alone. She believes that everyone should be able to live their life as they choose.

“LIVING LIFE OUT IN THE BIG, BAD WORLD JUST LIKE ANYONE ELSE IS THE BEST THING FOR ANYONE”



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/resources/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/documents/digital-stories/wallsend-staff/

CREATING A MARKET

The NDIS was established as a market-based system where funding is directed by the user, instead of the provider. This means that participants can allocate funding to providers of their choice.

NDIS participants will also have choice over their housing provider. The NDIS is expected to create new housing places for up to 12,000 participants, including 6,000 young people in aged care.

To ensure that the NDIS housing market is stable, and people with disability have appropriate housing options, NDIS housing providers must mature very quickly. They will need to find the finance required to create and maintain disability housing worth over \$11 billion.

The Summer Foundation has been working to identify the foundations of a new disability housing market and pin-point the key underdeveloped market elements. While some of these elements will be taken care of by providers, others will require investment at a sector-wide level.

To overcome the inconsistency of information around the market, we will be developing a prototype platform that connects people with disability with specialist housing providers and creating a resource bank of housing information for people with disability.

We want to see people with disability benefit as much as possible from the NDIS. That is why we are also developing a shared equity and home-ownership product for people with disability. Using their NDIS funds to work towards home-ownership will reduce the social inequity of disability and reduce the costs to the NDIS over time as people become more self-sufficient.

The market will require ongoing oversight. The Summer Foundation is bringing together leaders from across the private and community housing sectors; disability and carer advocates; and service providers. This group will be providing advice on these projects and discuss the development of the NDIS housing market.

The Summer Foundation is keen to work with sector leaders to develop a nation-wide approach to monitoring the market's development against key metrics and identifying market gaps in shared infrastructure and organisational capability.

POLICY FOCUS IN 2017

The Summer Foundation will be working towards improving policy and practice around the NDIS in 2017. Our policy work is currently focused around two key areas: ensuring young people in nursing homes get access to the NDIS; and developing NDIS housing for people with complex support needs.

We will produce a number of tools to influence decision-makers around key issues including position statements, issues briefs and NDIS report cards which will track the NDIA's progress on key outcomes for young people in nursing homes. These tools will be freely available on our website, and we encourage others to use them for their own advocacy purposes.

An emerging area of policy focus for the Summer Foundation is the interface between the NDIS and the hospital and rehabilitation systems. We are seeing many young people struggle to get timely support from the NDIS before they leave hospital. This lack of support can lead to young people being discharged from hospital to nursing homes.

We were pleased to welcome George Taleporos to the Summer Foundation in December. George has extensive experience in the disability sector and is a leader in disability advocacy in Australia. George has joined the Summer Foundation as Policy Manager.

SENATE ESTIMATES HEARINGS

Senate Estimates Committee hearings are opportunities to get answers to key questions relating to government operations. In December and February, representatives from government and the NDIA attended hearings on young people in residential aged care (YPIRAC) and the NDIS.

The hearings revealed that 211, or 90% of young people in nursing homes in NDIS trial sites have become NDIS participants. The Summer Foundation NDIS Connections program was responsible for connecting approximately one third of these people to the NDIS.

It was also revealed that 2,058 young people in nursing homes are scheduled to transition to the NDIS in the 2016-2017 financial year. The Summer Foundation is concerned that without a proactive approach, such as the NDIS Connections program the Summer Foundation delivered in the trial sites, young people in nursing homes in upcoming rollout areas will not connect to the NDIS at such high rates. This is a key issue that the Summer Foundation will be monitoring in 2017.

Breakfast Club

Lecture Series 2017

Breakfast Club is an opportunity for professionals working in the area of brain injury rehabilitation to increase their knowledge about the latest in research and clinical practice while networking with others in their field.

View the full program at: [www.summerfoundation.org.au/event/breakfast-club-lecture-series-2017/](http://summerfoundation.org.au/event/breakfast-club-lecture-series-2017/)

BOOK AT: www.trybooking.com/OJKJ



NEXT LECTURE

TOPIC: Management of Prolonged Concussion Symptoms

PRESENTERS: Katie Davies, Director, and Amy Blencowe, Senior Therapist, Neurological Rehabilitation Group

DATE: Wednesday 10 May 2017
8.00am. Breakfast from 7.30am

VENUE Royal Talbot Rehabilitation Centre, Kew

COST \$30 per lecture or \$100 for the four lecture series