

CONSUMER & FAMILY CARER NETWORK



The lack of affordable accessible housing is a major reason why younger people are forced into residential aged care. The Summer Foundation is tackling this problem from lots of angles.

As the NDIS works to develop a market for specialist disability accommodation (SDA), new opportunities are being created for people with disability and housing developers. The Summer Foundation has been running workshops around the country to document the demand for SDA, to encourage housing developers to enter the disability housing market with confidence.

In April we launched Summer Housing, a sister organisation to the Summer Foundation, that will build SDA for people with very high needs who have SDA funded in their NDIS plans.

We have also launched The Housing Hub, a pilot website for people with disability to search for accessible housing vacancies. Victorian readers may be interested in using The Housing Hub to express their interest in current vacancies in Fairfield, Richmond and Greensborough.

We have been creating resources to assist NDIS participants to make the most of the housing opportunities that are opening up under the NDIS, including a tool for participants to record their housing needs and preferences, a guide to getting the most from any NDIS funding you have to explore your housing options, and a guide to SDA payments.

Please help us make sure that we are meeting your information needs by giving us feedback on these resources – and suggesting others that would support you to live well in the community.

Warm regards,

Penny Paul
Information and Connections Coordinator

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NDIS HOUSING RESOURCES



SDA PAYMENTS GUIDE

Specialist disability accommodation (SDA) is housing that has been specially designed or modified to suit the needs of people who have an 'extreme functional impairment' or 'very high support needs'.

If you are eligible, the NDIS funds the cost of your housing through SDA payments to an SDA provider.

The Summer Foundation's SDA Payments Guide explains what the payments are, who they are paid to and how they are accessed. For people who have SDA payments included in their NDIS Plan, the guide also explains how to make the most of the funding.

The guide is available to download at:

 summerfoundation.org.au/sda-payments-guide



MY HOUSING PREFERENCES

What type of housing you would like to live in? Where you would like to live? Who you would like to live with? The Summer Foundation has developed a tool called My Housing Preferences to help you think about these things and work out your housing goals.

My Housing Preferences is in three parts. Part one explains housing and support under the NDIS. Part two asks about your routine, housing history, needs and preferences. Part three is optional and looks at long-term preferences and goals.

Information you record can be copied and pasted into housing application forms.

If you have an Exploring Housing Options Package, the answers you provide will help when talking to your Support Coordinator about your needs and goals.

My Housing Preferences is available to download at:

 summerfoundation.org.au/my-housing-preferences



EHOP GUIDE

The NDIS doesn't provide housing for people with a disability, but it may be an opportunity for people with disability to look for more suitable housing through an Exploring Housing Options Package (EHOP).

The Summer Foundation has produced an EHOP Guide to help you understand if you need an EHOP in your NDIS plan, how to go about getting one and how to make the most of an EHOP once you have one in your plan.

An important change under the NDIS is that housing and support are considered separately, meaning that you can move if you need to, without necessarily needing to change your support provider.

The guide is available to download at:

 summerfoundation.org.au/ehop-guide



FUTURE RESOURCES

For many people the NDIS is a new world with new words, new rules and new ways of doing things.

To make sense of the options available to people with a disability, their carers, allied health professionals and NDIS Support Coordinators, the Summer Foundation is preparing a range of resources.

As well as the resources that have already been released, more resources are coming soon. Some of the materials being prepared are especially to help NDIS Support Coordinators, allied health professionals and other people working with NDIS participants.

Follow us on Facebook at  facebook.com/SummerFoundationLtd to find out as new resources become available: And if you haven't already, sign up to receive our newsletters via email:

 summerfoundation.org.au/subscribe



TALKING TO THE DECISION MAKERS

The Summer Foundation has teamed up with Youngcare to take the issue of young people in residential aged care to political leaders in Canberra.

On 15 August, MPs and Senators from all sides of politics attended an event at Parliament House, to hear about the issue first hand. They were told how many young people in each of their electorates currently live in aged care.

MPs and Senators were told that the NDIS can be the solution to young people in residential aged care – it has the potential to grow the disability housing market and support people with complex needs to live in the community – but the bumpy implementation of the NDIS must be ironed out, and young people living in aged care must be effectively connected to it.

Kirby Littley spoke at the event about her own experiences. When Kirby was a young adult, she had a series of strokes after an operation. Kirby was discharged from hospital to residential aged care for her rehabilitation, but even when her rehabilitation wasn't progressing in the nursing home, it took six months for her to get out. She is now back home living with her parents, but her goal is to live in her own house once her NDIS SDA funding comes through.

While in Canberra, Kirby met personally with Senator Linda Reynolds, who had visited Kirby two years earlier at the aged care facility Kirby was living in. The day after their meeting, Senator Reynolds spoke passionately about young people in aged care in the Senate. You can watch Senator Reynolds' speech here: <https://buff.ly/2gAhSjf>



thehousinghub.org.au

The Summer Foundation is excited to announce the launch of a new website linking people living with disability to housing vacancies from a range of providers.

Launched on 23 August, The Housing Hub also offers a library of information about housing options to help people plan for and find the right housing solution.

The Housing Hub is still in development and is being tested by the Summer Foundation for its accessibility and ease of use. You can help grow the hub by providing your feedback on the site to The Housing Hub team.

There are some housing vacancies already listed on the site in the North East Melbourne Area (NEMA), with vacancies in the NSW Hunter New England region coming soon. The number of vacancies will continue to grow in coming weeks and months.

Through the hub, people with disability can also submit an Expression of Interest for NDIS Specialist Disability Accommodation (SDA) if they are eligible.

To find out more, go to thehousinghub.org.au

WHERE WILL I LIVE?

Thursday 19 October 2017
12 noon – 1.00pm
The Arena, NAB Docklands
700 Bourke Street, Melbourne
ANNUAL PUBLIC FORUM 2017
summerfoundation.org.au/apf17



SHAPING THE FUTURE OF ACCESSIBLE HOUSING

The Summer Foundation has been gathering information about what the future of accessible housing could look like.

Who better to ask than the people it directly affects? As part of our Demand Study, people living with disability have taken part in workshops in South Australia, Victoria, Tasmania, Queensland, New South Wales and the ACT.

These participants are being asked key questions about how they live, what they need and their dreams about how they would like to live in the future. Together, these stories will help the Summer Foundation build a picture for government agencies, housing developers and investors as to what accessible housing could and should look like.

The Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute (AHURI) is working with the Summer Foundation on the Demand Study. AHURI is researching the level of demand for accessible housing in Australian cities and regional areas.

Once the workshops and research are complete, a report will be prepared that investors, developers and government bodies – including the NDIS – can use with confidence to plan and fund accessible housing options into the future.

The report will be available early in 2018. We will keep you posted on progress and outcomes.



EVERYDAY ACCESSIBILITY – MARIA AND OPENING HOMES

Thinking outside the square has helped Maria find simple ways to help her live independently.

Maria lives in South Australia and recently took part in one of the Summer Foundation's Demand Study workshops, which aim to help us better understand the housing needs of people living with disability.

With limited movement in her arms and legs, Maria uses her wheelchair as a tool to help with daily activities, such as opening doors and turning her taps and heating on and off.

Technology is also playing a vital role; using voice commands, Maria can turn lighting and electrical appliances on or off and open and close her blinds.

"We can do so much with technology," Maria said.

"I can put my front and back blind up and down using Vera Mate and Siri on my phone. I don't have to wait for a support worker to come."

Maria's inspiring story features in a short video on the Opening Homes website. She hopes others can learn from her ideas.

“ I JUST WANT TO SHOW PEOPLE THAT YOU CAN LIVE INDEPENDENTLY AND, SO LONG AS YOU CAN THINK OUTSIDE THE SQUARE, YOU CAN FIND WAYS TO DO THINGS. ”

See Maria's video: openinghomes.org.au/open-homes/marias-gadget-and-tech-filled-home