

SUMMER FOUNDATION NEWS

WHERE WILL I LIVE?

SUMMER FOUNDATION ANNUAL PUBLIC FORUM

Thursday 19 October 2017

It's been a busy winter at the Summer Foundation! We have a range of new projects on the go, which aim to tackle the various systemic problems that are causing young people to end up in nursing homes. You can read more about some of these projects – as well as some of our recent successes – on the following pages.

But first up, here's something for your diary: the Summer Foundation's Annual Public Forum will be held on Thursday 19 October, 12 noon – 1pm, at The Arena, NAB Docklands. This year's forum will consider:

Where will I live? The NDIS is turning our disability system on its head. Scheme participants have become consumers rather than clients, and the market is expected to evolve and deliver innovative responses to market demand. Join us as people with disability, policymakers, housing providers and property developers discuss NDIS ambitions to stimulate the development of new housing for 28,000 young people over the next 5 – 10 years.

Hosted again by ABC's Beverley O'Connor, the forum will hear from a panel of high-profile guests, including a senior representative of the National Disability Insurance Agency, a person with disability currently living in inappropriate housing, a businessman who's developing three owner-occupier Specialist Disability Accommodation units and the Chairperson of BuyAssist Australia (a shared equity broker).

The forum will be followed by a seminar, where sector professionals will explain how people with disability can make the most of the NDIS to explore housing options, and potential providers and investors can participate in the emerging disability housing market. For further details, subscribe at summerfoundation.org.au/subscribe or keep an eye on [facebook.com/SummerFoundationLtd](https://www.facebook.com/SummerFoundationLtd).

Warm regards,



Di Winkler, CEO and Founder

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NDIS HOUSING RESOURCES

For many people, the NDIS is a complex system with a new set of rules that can be difficult to navigate.

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

Resources recently released include a guide to Exploring Your Housing Options, Specialist Disability Accommodation (SDA) Payments Guide and a My Housing Preferences tool. Other resources, including Sample NDIS Plans, have already been released – and more are in the pipeline.

The guide to Exploring Your Housing Options is intended to help people with disability understand if they need specific funding in their NDIS plan, and how they go about getting and making the most of this funding.

The SDA Payments Guide helps explain what the payments are, whom they are paid to and how they are accessed. For those who have SDA payments in their NDIS Plan, the guide explains how to make the most of the funding.

The My Housing Preferences tool has been developed to help people with disability think about their housing goals, such as where and with whom they would like to live. To make it easier for people to apply for housing, information provided in the tool can be cut and pasted into housing application forms.

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.

To view the Summer Foundation's NDIS housing resources go to: summerfoundation.org.au/ndis-housing-resources



THE PATHWAY TO A MATURE HOUSING MARKET

The Summer Foundation and PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) have released a joint report that outlines a pathway for a \$5 billion investment in new disability housing.

Called *NDIS Specialist Disability Accommodation: Pathway to a mature market*, the report aims to provide a vision for a fully functioning market, with the range and scale of housing needed for 28,000 NDIS participants.

One of the most important tasks for the NDIS is to create more housing for people with disability, especially for young people living in aged care. Specialist Disability Accommodation (SDA) payments are the mechanism the NDIS is using to stimulate the creation of this housing.

Government and philanthropic agencies don't have the resources to build the scale and range of housing required for people with disability. SDA payments provide a subsidy to cover the additional cost of building accessible housing as well as providing a market return to the housing provider, and so provide a stimulus for the SDA market.

Our report shares a vision of what a mature SDA market will look like. It highlights the five different market players involved and shares lessons learnt from the growth of other markets. The report also identifies nine key enablers, which can be used to monitor the maturity of the accessible housing market.

The report has been prepared at the very beginning of what will be a transformational journey. Emphasis is placed on considering how each key market player can adapt to achieve the end goal: high-quality accessible housing for people with complex support needs.

You can download the full report here:

summerfoundation.org.au/publications/

TALKING TO THE DECISION MAKERS

The Summer Foundation teamed up with Youngcare to take the issue of young people living in nursing homes 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 provided with information about the number of young people in each of their electorates currently living in nursing homes, and told what government can do to help resolve the issue.

It was explained to MPs and Senators that the NDIS can be the solution to young people in nursing homes, by stimulating growth in the disability housing market and supporting people with complex disability to live in the community. But to succeed, young people living in nursing homes must be effectively connected to the NDIS, and the bumps in the implementation of the scheme ironed out.

Kirby Littley travelled from her home near Geelong to share her personal story – from a life-changing medical event as a young adult, through her time in a nursing home, her eventual move back home with her parents, to her goal of once again living independently. Kirby did a fantastic job of personalising the issue; she reminded everyone listening that the 6,200 younger Australians stuck in nursing homes each have their own story, their own struggles, and their own hopes for the future.

Kirby also met personally with Senator Linda Reynolds, who spoke passionately about young people in aged care in the Senate the following day. You can watch Senator Reynolds' speech here: <https://buff.ly/2wUAB3P>



KIRBY'S STORY

At 29, Kirby Littley was a school teacher, living by herself in a house she had just purchased – until she had a series of strokes following an operation.

Kirby was discharged from hospital to a nursing home for her rehabilitation, but even when her rehabilitation wasn't progressing in the nursing home, it took six months for her to get out. Kirby is now back home living with her parents.

On her first flight since leaving hospital, Kirby recently went to Canberra to speak to Parliamentarians – to put a human face to the numbers they were hearing about how many young people are living in nursing homes, because there are no other options for them.

Kirby is happier to be living with her parents than she was in the nursing home, but as she told the MPs and Senators, her ultimate goal is to once again live in her own house. Kirby is confident that SDA payments from the NDIS will help turn that goal into a reality.

ACAA AWARD FOR HUNTER

Last month the Summer Foundation's Hunter Housing Project (Belle Apartments) won the 2017 NSW Disability Inclusion Award in the residential development category.

The award, presented by the Association of Consultants for Access in Australia (ACAA) in partnership with the NSW Department of Family and Community Services (FACS), recognises achievements in enabling people with disabilities to fully participate in community life through an accessible built environment.

The award was presented for outstanding contribution in the field of Disability Access and Inclusion for the Summer Foundation's Hunter Housing Project, which comprises 10 apartments designed for people with disability, peppered throughout a 110-unit private development.

The apartments feature fully accessible bedrooms and bathrooms, open-plan living and balcony space, and customisable kitchen and bathrooms. We would like to send a big thanks to all involved.

Find out more: summerfoundation.org.au/hunter-housing-project/

PROJECT UPDATE



The Summer Foundation has never been busier, with a number of projects in progress and new projects beginning.

We're doing a lot of work with health networks and government departments in Victoria, South Australia, Queensland, NSW, as well as other key stakeholders, to examine and make recommendations about how people with disability are admitted and discharged from hospital.

The aims of these projects are to reduce hospital admissions, keep hospital stays as short as possible, connect people with the NDIS and transition them back to their communities rather than into nursing homes, as well as building the capacity of health care workers.

We are also working on participant-led training videos that enable people with high and complex needs to tell disability support workers about their needs and preferences.

We will keep you informed of the progress of all our projects in the coming months.

THE FUTURE OF ACCESSIBLE HOUSING

When gathering information about what the future of accessible housing could look like, who better to ask than the people it directly affects?

To build confidence in the sector around the need for accessible housing, the Summer Foundation is gathering information about what the future of accessible housing could look like. As part of our Demand Study, people with disability have taken part in workshops in South Australia, Victoria, Tasmania, Queensland, NSW and the ACT.

The Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute (AHURI) is working with us, researching the level of demand in 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.



thehousinghub.org.au

Last month the Summer Foundation launched a new website, The Housing Hub, which aims to link people living with disability to housing providers.

The Housing Hub also offers a library of information and resources about different housing options to help people plan for and find the right housing solution for them.

A key feature of the site is a searchable list by area of housing vacancies for people with disability. There are some housing vacancies already listed in the North East Melbourne Area (NEMA), with vacancies in the NSW Hunter New England region to be added soon. The number of vacancies will continue to grow in coming weeks and months.

The Housing Hub is still in development and is being tested by the Summer Foundation for its accessibility and ease of use. In its development phase, feedback provided by users is being analysed by The Housing Hub team. This feedback will help inform a business case to scale the platform nationally.

To find out more visit: [thehousinghub.org.au](https://www.thehousinghub.org.au) or email: enquiries@thehousinghub.org.au

NDIS: PRIORITISING YOUNG PEOPLE IN NURSING HOMES

The NDIS has committed to ensuring a better outcome for the 6,200 younger Australians in nursing homes, including prioritising their connection to the NDIS.

In response to questions at Senate Estimates in April, the NDIS has committed to face-to-face meetings for young people in nursing homes and for Local Area Coordinators to start conversations six months before the NDIS rolls out in each region – and to openly report on how many people are connected to the NDIS.

This means that young people in nursing homes have the right to insist on a face-to-face planning meeting.