

CONSUMER & FAMILY CARER NETWORK



Are you thinking about living independently?

If the answer is yes, the good news is that you don't have to wait to become an NDIS participant to start looking for somewhere to live. Most NDIS participants are looking for suitable housing in the mainstream market. In this newsletter we have put together links to good resources that will help you on your journey to independent living.

Recently we held a seminar called Unlocking SDA, which followed on from our Annual Public Forum in October. If you couldn't make it to the seminar, here is a link to watch a video from the event: summerfoundation.org.au/event/unlocking-sda-seminar.

Unfortunately, to date very few people have Specialist Disability Accommodation (SDA) in their plans. This is creating uncertainty for individuals, SDA providers and developers.

As the holiday season approaches it's natural to want some certainty about the year ahead. The Summer Foundation is continuing to develop resources to help NDIS participants and Support Coordinators develop robust housing plans so that younger people in nursing homes, and those at risk of entry, can test their eligibility for SDA. Our sister organisation, Summer Housing, is also continuing to plan and build SDA developments.

May 2018 bring you closer to affordable, accessible housing.

Best wishes,

Penny Paul
Information and Connections Coordinator

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AGED CARE FEES

Everyone in residential aged care (RAC) pays a basic daily fee that is set at 85% of the basic rate of the Pension. Residents with an annual income over \$26,327.60, or assets over \$47,500, pay additional fees.

In 2016, with funding from the Ben Bodna Award, the Summer Foundation researched the impact of paying residential aged care fees on young people in nursing homes and their families. This work helped us convince the NDIS to pay participants' means-tested fees. Twelve months ago the NDIS agreed in principle that it would do this and we are pleased that we are now starting to see residential aged care costs and fees going into participant's NDIS Plans. This is an important step and we want to thank everybody who took part in the research.

Below is an example of how aged care fees might appear in your NDIS Plan – note that actual plans sometimes use different words and phrases.

CORE SUPPORTS



BUDGET:

\$162,000



DETAILS:

Stated Support: Cross billing payments for residential aged care subsidies and supplements **(\$77,539)***

Stated Support: Assistance with daily life tasks provided in residential aged care facility **(\$22,461)****

Individual assistance to support you to attend and participate in community, social and recreational activities of your choice – higher needs. **(\$62,000)**



HOW WILL THE SUPPORT BE PAID:

NDIS will pay my support provider and my plan management agency for these supports.

*Stated Support

A \$77,539 per year cross billing payment for residential aged care subsidies and supplements.

What is this? This payment shows the cost to the Department of Health of providing residential aged care. The NDIS is now paying this amount to the Department of Health.

Who will get this? All NDIS participants living in RAC will see this in their plans.

How will these supports be paid? The nursing home will still claim this payment from the aged care system. You don't need to do anything.

**Stated Support

\$22,461 (individualised amount) for assistance with the participant's daily support needs in a residential aged care facility.

What is this? This payment is the means-tested accommodation and care fees the NDIS has agreed to pay on behalf of this participant. Whether you pay means-tested fees is decided when you start living in aged care via a permanent residential aged care combined assets and income assessment.

Who will get this? NDIS participants who are paying means-tested fees. The actual amount depends on how much they are paying.

How will this support be paid? It can be reimbursed or claimed by self-managing participants or a plan manager after evidence of the expense is provided to the NDIS.

If you are paying means-tested fees the NDIS should also provide Capacity Building funding for a plan manager to manage this payment.

This is an example of how Capacity Building may appear in an NDIS Plan:

CAPACITY BUILDING SUPPORTS

SUPPORT AREA: IMPROVED LIFE CHOICES



BUDGET:

\$1,395



DETAILS:

Stated Support: Financial intermediary set up costs **(\$218)**

And monthly processing fee for your plan manager to manage your plan **(\$1,177)**



HOW WILL THE SUPPORT BE PAID:

NDIS will pay my plan management agency for these supports.

We think it's a good idea to tell your NDIS planner that you would like all your supports (except transport) plan managed to reduce the time you have to spend on the Participant Portal. See the Participant Portal user guide:

www.ndis.gov.au/participant-portal-user-guide

Remember, all participants will continue to pay the The basic daily fee that is 85% of the single rate of the Pension, which is currently \$49.42. The basic daily fee is for day-to-day living costs such as meals, cleaning, laundry, heating and cooling.

For more see this fact sheet from the NDIS and the Department of Health: <http://bit.ly/2kcn7ve>



NDIS ROLLOUT UPDATE

The rollout of the NDIS requires a tight schedule that includes developing and approving hundreds of NDIS plans every day, so it's little wonder some participants have been less than impressed with their dealings with the NDIS. In response to complaints the NDIS is trialling a new pathway. It includes face-to-face planning meetings, a consistent point of contact, clearer information for participants and a stronger focus on outcomes and goals. In North East Melbourne Area (NEMA), participants can see a draft of their plan and make adjustments before it's finalised.

We welcome these improvements and would like to see them rolled out nationally. You can check when the NDIS will come to your area on the NDIS website:

ndis.gov.au

Remember, preparing for your planning meeting is really important. This means thinking about your goals for the next 12 months, as well as your longer term goals and aspirations. We have developed Sample NDIS Plans and tools to help you get started: summerfoundation.org.au/resources/sample-ndis-plans

NDIS FOR PEOPLE WITH MENTAL HEALTH CONDITIONS

People with mental health conditions, including psychosocial disability, were a last-minute inclusion in the NDIS. It's widely recognised that the Scheme hasn't delivered for these groups.

The Mental Health Coordinating Council, worked with people with mental health conditions to develop Reimagine, a tailored website that explains the NDIS and how it can help: <http://reimagine.today/>



YOUNGER PEOPLE IN AGED CARE

For three years, as part of our NDIS Connections Project, the Summer Foundation went around to nursing homes in the NDIS trial sites, to let younger people living in them know about the NDIS. Without this project, it's likely many of these people would never have known about the NDIS.

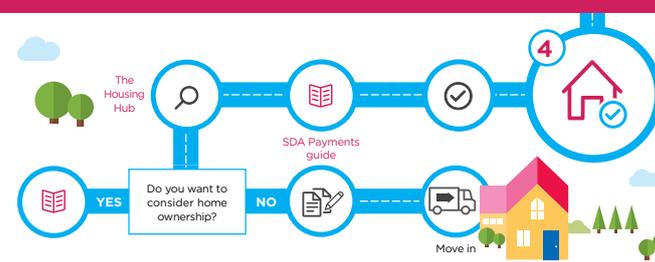
Learning from our work, the NDIS has introduced what it calls 'facilitated access' for younger people in aged care. This means that a person from the NDIS will talk to nursing homes with people under 65, to explain how the NDIS works and make time for planning meetings with the younger residents. If the NDIS is operating in your area but has not made contact with you, call 1800 800 110 and ask to speak to the national access team.

Younger people in registered aged care are eligible to receive the following NDIS supports:

- Funding to explore alternative housing and support
- Supports to access the community and keep in touch with family and friends
- Therapy, including allied health
- Specialised equipment
- Means-tested registered aged care fees

OUR RANGE OF NEW AND UPDATED NDIS HOUSING RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE HERE:

summerfoundation.org.au/ndis-housing-resources



HOUSING

Thinking about living independently? It seems that people's sense of what's possible is limited by what has been possible under the old system. The separation of housing and support under the NDIS and access to appropriate supports means that you can start exploring a range of housing options that allow you to live like everyone else.

You don't have to wait to get your NDIS Plan to start looking for appropriate housing. To help you get started, the Summer Foundation has developed this resource found at: summerfoundation.org.au/my-housing-preferences

It's important to remember that different housing arrangements suit different people and different life stages. Here is a list of some of the possibilities you may want to consider:

COMMUNITY/SOCIAL HOUSING: Managed by a not-for-profit organisation, which may also own the property.

COOPERATIVE HOUSING: A housing co-operative is formed by a group of people with a common interest to work together to maintain and manage housing. Here's an example: <http://www.silc.coop/faq>

PRIVATE RENTAL: Renting a house from a private landlord. This guide to renting in the private market (written for all Victorians) contains useful checklists and templates: <http://bit.ly/2nedYmO>

SHARED EQUITY: When buying a home is shared between the resident and a partner - usually a government or not-for-profit agency. For example: Buy Assist <http://www.buyassistaustralia.com.au/homebuyers/>

SHARING WITH FRIENDS: Share houses generally rent in the private rental market. Watch Adam's story of moving out of home for the first time at the age of 25 on this website, which also has excellent resources about living independently: <https://adammovesout.wordpress.com/>

HOMESHARING: Unrelated people share a house, and each person has access to private space. My Place operates homesharing in WA. Here is a link to a video about My Place: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ox-G4m67zpa>

A MOVEABLE UNIT OR BUNGALOW: Movable units are self-contained and can be set up in the backyard of a friend or relative. They are available through public housing: <http://bit.ly/2AfoYoX>

PUBLIC HOUSING: Housing that is owned and managed by the government. Asset tests apply and there are long waiting lists. If you're eligible it's worth joining the queue.

GROUP HOME: A suburban house with four to six bedrooms that is staffed by disability support workers. Here is a group home checklist: <https://rtc3.umn.edu/questions/lookfor.html>

RESIDENTIAL AGED CARE: Primarily this housing option is to provide care for frail, older people. Younger people are forced to live in aged care when they can't access suitable housing and support in the community. The NDIS can help young people leave aged care. Watch this video about Denis' experience of living in aged care: <https://youtu.be/jIRnfGyjEKM>

If, because of your disability, none of these housing options is suitable, you may be eligible for specialist disability accommodation (SDA). Developers are building SDA and vacancies are starting to be listed on specialist websites such as The Housing Hub, which is gradually expanding to new regions. The Housing Hub also includes links to other housing vacancy websites: thehousinghub.org.au

RENTING TO OWN: Hometown Villas are offering a rent-to-own scheme for SDA in Queensland, visit: <http://bit.ly/2icirVn>

It's taking a long time for the NDIS to put SDA payments in participants' NDIS Plans, which is frustrating for participants and developers. We also know that some people are looking at advertised SDA vacancies and assuming they couldn't afford them - but this might not be the case. Participants with SDA in their NDIS Plans pay what is called reasonable rent contribution (RRC), which is 25% of the Disability Support Pension, plus 100% of their Commonwealth Rent Assistance.