

SUMMER FOUNDATION NEWS



Welcome to our final newsletter of the year.

This newsletter closes what has been a very big year for the Summer Foundation. We are working on an unprecedented number of projects and have more to look forward to in the new year.

Our Annual Public Forum in October was a great success. Guest speakers offered their insights from a range of perspectives around the theme of 'Where Will I Live?'. The discussion included the radical changes happening in the housing and finance markets, the advantages and pitfalls for people with disability and the central role the NDIS must play in providing clarity and certainty for all stakeholders. If you were unable to attend, you can watch the forum here: summerfoundation.org.au/apf17

To progress the multi-faceted issue of young people in nursing homes, we've commenced a number of new projects:

- We are working to improve the hospital discharge process to minimise the number of young people discharged to nursing homes.
- We're establishing a tenant matching service for new accessible housing that is coming online and we've created The Housing Hub, a website that advertises vacancies and provides resources for people looking for accessible housing.
- In addition, our sister organisation, Summer Housing, recently launched a comprehensive design guide for builders and developers.

These and some of our other current projects are covered in this newsletter.

I hope you enjoy this update and have a safe and happy Christmas.

Warm regards,

Luke Bo'sher
Acting CEO

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DESIGNING FOR INCLUSION AND INDEPENDENCE

Last month the Summer Foundation's sister organisation, Summer Housing, launched a new guide especially for builders and developers of specialist disability housing.

Designing for Inclusion and Independence is a comprehensive guide that aims to stimulate new accessible housing for people with disability, by providing builders and developers with a thorough understanding of what is required and why.

The guide is in easy-to-digest parts for different stages and aspects of development. It includes every detail, from identifying potential sites and positioning of apartments in larger developments, down to detailed internal design considerations such as room layouts, structural and electrical provisions for assistive technology, door, window and floor treatments. The guide is filled with detailed design drawings and photographic examples throughout.

The guide is an outstanding resource for anyone interested in designing and building accessible housing.

You can download the guide here: summerhousing.org.au/designing-for-inclusion-and-independence

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

summerfoundation.org.au/ndis-housing-resources

 The infographic features a central question: 'Do you want to consider home ownership?'. A 'YES' path leads to 'The Housing Hub' (represented by a magnifying glass icon) and 'SDA Payments guide' (represented by a book icon). A 'NO' path leads to 'Move in' (represented by a house icon with a truck). A large blue circle with the number '4' and a house icon is positioned at the top right of the flowchart.


HOSPITAL DISCHARGE PROJECT

When talking about keeping young people out of nursing homes, it's important to understand the how young people end up in nursing homes in the first place.

Both the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) and hospitals have a critical part to play in supporting young people with disability to leave hospital and return to their communities. Improving this support is one of the keys to preventing these young people from being discharged into nursing homes. The Summer Foundation, in partnership with two regional hospitals and the NDIS, is working towards testing new approaches to discharge planning as part of its Hospital Discharge Project.

The project aims to improve the pathway from hospital back into the community for people who have acquired a significant disability. Through testing new approaches to discharge planning, we hope to help people with complex health and disability supports to return home and reduce unnecessary lengths of time in hospital.

So far we have held two co-design workshops, which brought together policy and practice staff from Barwon Health and Ballarat Health, as well as planners and senior staff from the National Disability Insurance Agency to identify different approaches to the hospital discharge process.

We have also held two workshops with NDIS participants to better understand their journey from hospital, the issues they faced and what areas could be improved. Eleven participants took part in the workshops; we are grateful for their valuable insights.

The next stage will be to test new planning pathways at participating regional hospitals in Barwon and Ballarat. We will keep you updated on the project's progress.



PROFILE: DEB HUISSMAN

On Christmas Eve two years ago Deb Huissman went from thinking about what she was cooking for Christmas dinner to being in ICU, in an induced coma with her organs shutting down.

A few days earlier a kitten had scratched Deb's leg and the scratch soon became infected with a serious bacteria. Deb spent the next 12 months in hospital and rehabilitation.

After rehab, Deb was told she couldn't return home because her house couldn't be modified – so she had no option but to move into a nursing home.

“ ONE THING EVERYBODY TAKES FOR GRANTED IS THAT YOU GET TO CHOOSE WHERE YOU LIVE AND WHO YOU LIVE WITH. I DIDN'T GET TO MAKE THAT CHOICE. ”

In the nursing home, Deb was able to get early access to the NDIS. Deb is now using the NDIS to move out of aged care and into a modified home in regional Victoria.

Deb counts herself lucky; her sister works in the sector and has been a terrific advocate as well as her NDIS planner.

Deb is well educated and articulate; prior to the onset of her disability, Deb worked as a senior secondary school English teacher.

“What do other people do who aren't as well supported or don't have the skills I have?”

It's taken two years to get to a place where things are looking up for Deb, but she's still not where she needs to be.

Deb would like to return to work, but to return she must find the right housing with the right support close to Melbourne.

PRODUCTIVITY COMMISSION REPORT INTO NDIS ROLLOUT AND COSTS

In October, the Productivity Commission released its report into the rollout and costs to date of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

The report made recommendations for improvements to the NDIS, which included revising the rollout timetable to reflect a slowdown in the original rollout plan and placing greater emphasis on the quality of participant plans being produced.

It identified a developing shortfall in the disability services workforce and recommended that Information, Linkages and Capacity Building (ILC) funding be increased. The report said that pricing caps should be reviewed and clearer boundaries be established between the NDIS and mainstream services to ensure there no service gaps emerge when people transition.

Any delay to the rollout could mean young people in nursing homes face even longer delays accessing the NDIS. We are committed to ensuring these people are not left behind. The Summer Foundation will continue to provide leadership on the issues raised in the report.

A TOOLKIT FOR SEPARATING HOUSING AND SUPPORT

One of the biggest changes under the National Disability Insurance Scheme is that participants are able to separate their housing from their support.

When support providers are separate from the owners or providers of the home that a participant lives in, the participant has more choice about where they live and who they want to support them. But changing existing arrangements, especially for providers who currently supply both, can be challenging.

The Summer Foundation is developing a toolkit to help with this process. To be available soon as an online resource, the toolkit explains the four-step process to separate housing and support services and helps providers understand why it's desirable.



ANNUAL PUBLIC FORUM

We had a fantastic turnout this year for the Summer Foundation's Annual Public Forum on 19 October at the NAB Arena in Melbourne's Docklands precinct.

More than 170 people attended to hear our panel of guest speakers discuss issues around the important theme of "Where Will I Live?"

The forum was hosted by Beverley O'Connor, ABC News 24 presenter, who led a discussion that heard from a range of perspectives, including people living with disability, accessible housing developers, financial experts and the NDIS, who talked about the opportunities, successes, challenges and risks facing the accessible housing sector in the context of NDIS specialist disability accommodation.

We would like to thank all our panellists for their contributions: Louise O'Neill, Sam Petersen, Keith Fagg, Mike Myers and – via Skype from Sydney – Tim Ferguson.

If you were unable to attend the forum, you can watch the discussion here: summerfoundation.org.au/apf17



THE HOUSING HUB ROLLS OUT

The launch of The Housing Hub pilot website in August was a great success and the site is continuing to go from strength to strength.

To date, more than 10,000 people have visited the site and its reach has now expanded to more regions covered by the National Disability Insurance Scheme in Victoria, as well as the Hunter region of NSW.

The site, which aims to connect people with disability to suitable housing vacancies, is receiving great feedback. Each week The Housing Hub team are receiving more inquiries from housing providers about listing available properties.

While the site's trial ended on November 16, the Summer Foundation is committed to keeping the site active – and expanding – while a business case for its sustainability is developed. It's hoped The Housing Hub will soon be able to extend its reach beyond Victoria and NSW.

Visit: thehousinghub.org.au

Breakfast Club Lecture Series 2018

THE POPULAR BREAKFAST CLUB LECTURE SERIES WILL RETURN IN 2018. LECTURES WILL RUN ON 7 MARCH, 16 MAY, 8 AUGUST AND 10 OCTOBER AT THE ROYAL TALBOT REHABILITATION CENTRE, KEW.

The 2018 line-up is impressive, with lectures covering a diverse range of topics including art therapy, music therapy, participation outcomes following ABI, emerging technologies and rehabilitation of the upper limb.

Bookings will be available from early 2018. Watch this space.

