

SUMMER FOUNDATION NEWS



Welcome to our spring update. It has been an exciting time for us with the Aged Care Royal Commission hearings in Melbourne focused on young people in aged care.

The Royal Commission is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to address this issue and we have pulled out all stops to ensure the commissioners hear from young people in aged care and their families. The Summer Foundation also made our own extensive submission.

In support of our submission, I appeared at the hearing, which focused on constructive solutions to solve the issue of young people in aged care. We recommended to the Royal Commission that a target is set to stop all admissions of younger people into aged care by 2022 – except in extreme, exceptional circumstances.

At the moment, aged care experts decide whether to place a younger person with disability in aged care. We said that this isn't right – people who better understand the disability housing options for a younger person should help them decide.

We also talked about the need to invest in expert support to navigate complex disability, health and housing systems; immediate housing options; and community-based rehab.

Finally, we also need to make sure that alternatives to aged care are good ones – we don't want to replace institutional aged care with institutional disability housing!

You can read more about the Aged Care Royal Commission in this update as well the latest on our major projects, including the outstanding success of our Rapid Interim Housing prototype.

The next big thing on our agenda is the Annual Public Forum on October 31 (see page 2). I hope to see you there.

Luke Bo'sher
CEO

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ANNUAL PUBLIC FORUM

You're invited to the Summer Foundation's Annual Public Forum

This year's Summer Foundation Annual Public Forum comes at an important time. Systems must change to keep young people out of aged care. And these systems are being influenced and are changing in ways we've never seen before.

Earlier this month, the Aged Care Royal Commission heard devastating evidence about the impact of living in nursing homes on many younger people. It also heard about the system failures that continue to see 6 younger Australians enter residential aged care every day.

Meanwhile, the NDIS continues to mature, health systems seek to adapt, the housing market looks for direction as it responds, and the Australian Government's Young People in Aged Care Action Plan is underway.

Join us on Thursday 31 October as we explore what it will take to stop younger people going into aged care for good.

We ask: **How long is too long?**

Hear as people young people who have lived in aged care, their families, NDIS and health executives, policy makers and sector professionals discuss what is needed.

BOOK YOUR PLACE!



The Summer Foundation's Annual Public Forum is on **31 October 2019**.

DATE/TIME: Thursday 31 October at 12 noon

VENUE: The NAB Arena, 700 Bourke Street, Docklands

BOOK HERE: trybooking.com/BEPIZ



RAPID INTERIM HOUSING A CROWD PLEASER

More than 800 people visited our Rapid Interim Housing prototype when it was displayed in Melbourne and Geelong in July and August.

The unit was designed to support people with a newly acquired brain injury (ABI) or spinal cord injury (SCI) to leave hospital more quickly and return to the community. It addresses the gap these people face between leaving hospital or rehab and finding appropriate permanent housing.

The prototype looks just like any other small house - with a living area, bedroom and ensuite, kitchenette and laundry. Assistive technology increases the occupant's independence, safety and security.

People with ABI and SCI are often unable to find suitable housing in the community due to their accessibility and support needs. But not returning to the community as soon as possible after an injury impacts a person's health and wellbeing, their ability to live independently declines quickly, their connections with the community drop away and their mental health often suffers.

Working with Oscar Building and Stretchy Tech, the Summer Foundation prototyped and displayed the interim housing unit that can be rapidly located to provide housing for someone who is waiting for accessible housing to become available or for home modifications to be completed.

With philanthropic support and funding from the Transport Accident Commission, this project aims to have a long-lasting impact on the way people with disability are discharged from hospital and into the community.

The Summer Foundation set out to demonstrate a concept. The next step is to pass this knowledge onto providers who have the capital and expertise to scale this up.



For NDIS Support Coordinators
& Allied Health Professionals

UPSKILL UPDATE

Our UpSkill program to build the capacity of the support coordination workforce and allied health professionals is going from strength to strength.

A critical part of the program, the UpSkill Referral Directory of support coordinators and allied health professionals, is now open to new listings. It will be used by the Summer Foundation when people ask us for referrals.

People can apply to be listed in the directory from our website: summerfoundation.org.au/join-the-upskill-directory

UpSkill workshops are also continuing. For latest dates and availability for sessions on working with people in the hospital setting and how to write a housing plan, go to:

summerfoundation.org.au/upskill

RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIP

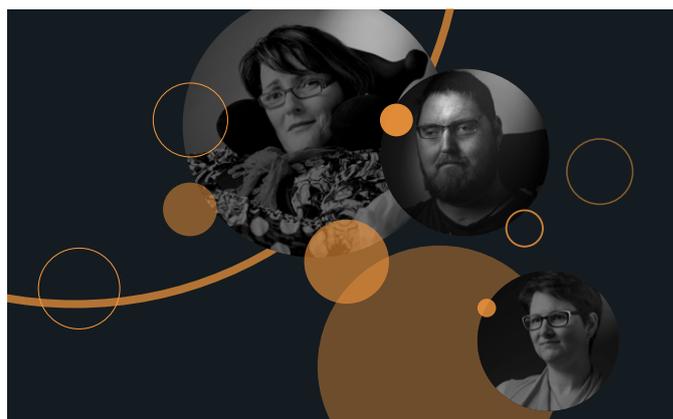
Applications are now open for the Allen Martin Research Scholarship 2019.

Sponsored by the Rotary Club of Kew and Robinson Gill Lawyers, the scholarship is open to clinicians, health professionals and students to conduct a new research project in the field of recovery following acquired brain injury.

This year there are two awards on offer, each valued at \$5,000, to be used over a period of one year.

For all details, including the application form, go to: summerfoundation.org.au/allen-martin-research-scholarship-2019

Applications close on **Monday 21 October** and award winners will be announced at the Allen Martin Lecture in late November.



ROYAL COMMISSION HEARS OUR VOICE

The Summer Foundation's interaction with the Aged Care Royal Commission ramped up in September when we lodged our submission and CEO Luke Bo'sher appeared at the commission's Melbourne hearings.

The fact that aged care is not the right place for young people is well known, but our submission provides further evidence of this and of the terrible outcomes many younger people experience as a result of living in aged care.

Our submission says what needs to change and how it can happen.

It includes 12 recommendations to reduce the number of young people entering aged care; to assist those in aged care to exit; to improve the interface between the NDIS and the health system; and to stimulate accessible housing supply.

We illustrated the reality of the issues raised in the submission with the stories of people with lived experience of young people in aged care. Many of these stories were gathered at workshops we held across the country to support people to make their own submissions to the Royal Commission. In all, our **#everystorymatters** initiative resulted in nearly 100 submissions being written and lodged.

In its first Melbourne hearing in September the Royal Commission focused exclusively on the issue of young people in aged care. Our CEO was called to appear at the hearing as were several of those we supported to write their own submissions.

The commissioners are required to provide an interim report by 31 October 2019, and a final report by 12 November 2020.

You can read the Summer Foundation submission here: summerfoundation.org.au/acrc-submission



PROFILE – KIM MACINTOSH

The publication earlier this year of Kim MacIntosh's book *"Full Circle – Overcoming Disability through Faith"* is just the latest in an impressive list of life goals achieved by the Summer Foundation storyteller.

The book is Kim's story from her birth in the Newcastle suburb of Belmont on the NSW coast through the challenges of growing up with disability, living in a nursing home in a shared room to finally gaining her independence.

As the title of her book suggests, her life has now come full circle – she is living back in Belmont, the suburb where she was born. Kim lives independently in one of the 10 apartments in Summer Housing's Hunter Housing Project.

While she was living in the nursing home she began studying for her HSC. *"I was doing this in bed most of the time during the day if my roommate was out of the room,"* Kim says in the book.

"You could say I was doing my HSC under duress. It wasn't easy. I was doing it via correspondence from a TAFE in western Sydney."

Kim graduated in 2016 and is now working towards her Bachelor of Behavioural Studies through Open Universities Australia.

Kim said she loves her new life. *"I am able to live the kind of life I have always wanted. I have learnt so much while living in my new apartment including cooking meals, doing laundry, the dishes amongst other things."*

"I just love the freedom I have to do the things I want to do and when I want to do it. I have control for the first time in my life."

Kim's e-book is available on Kindle and Google play books.



WELCOME HOME

The Summer Foundation has been funded to deliver a national Specialist Disability Accommodation (SDA) Quality and Safeguards Education Project.

The "Welcome Home – towards best practice management in Specialist Disability Accommodation" project will support SDA providers across Australia to meet the requirements of the NDIS and the NDIS Quality and Safeguarding Framework, and build their capacity to provide high quality SDA services.

We will:

- Develop a suite of education and training materials
- Deliver face-to-face and web-based training to the employees, management and Boards of SDA providers

The development of resources and training approaches will draw on the experiences of people with disability about what quality housing services and outcomes in SDA should look like. The lived experiences of people with disability will be incorporated into the resources in the form of videos and written case studies.

The resources will also have input from disabled persons' organisations, peak bodies and a range of SDA providers.

The Summer Foundation is engaging with key stakeholders to scope and develop content, resources and training materials. Resources and training are planned to be delivered from mid 2020.

Funding for this national project has been provided by the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission as part of the national Support for NDIS Providers Program.