

SUMMER FOUNDATION

CONNECT & SUPPORT



COVID-19
RESPONSE

HOUSING BROKERAGE SERVICE

The Summer Foundation has established a Housing Brokerage Service to support hospitals to find housing for people with disability and complex support needs who are stuck in hospital with no discharge destination.

The COVID-19 pandemic puts people with disability who are stuck in hospitals at higher risk of health complications and the influx of COVID-19 patients to hospitals potentially means long-stay patients with disability may be discharged to inappropriate housing options.

It is also available for those who have been discharged urgently from hospital to an interim option or to unsuitable housing, as identified through the Summer Foundation's Discharge Follow Up Service.

The Housing Brokerage Service will mentor and support the relevant hospital staff and support coordinator who form a person's "team" while they are in hospital to:

- Explore a person's housing needs and preferences and support needs
- Help a person navigate the housing supports provided through the NDIS
- Find housing vacancies that align with a person's needs and preferences
- Ensure a person's rights, choice, control and inclusion are upheld in any housing option
- Obtain quality information about potential housing vacancies
- Screen for possible eligibility of a person for Specialist Disability Accommodation (SDA) funding and write quality evidence for SDA determination
- Connect people with disability with housing providers and facilitate offers for housing

Outcomes

- A better match between housing seeker needs and housing options
- People with disability having increased choice and control about their housing and support
- Increased capacity of hospital staff and support coordinators to navigate the NDIS and housing sector to access interim and long-term housing for people with disability

Project participants

The Housing Brokerage Service will prioritise working with health services where capacity building is already operating in Victoria, Gold Coast, Queensland and New South Wales.

It will include working with discharge planners, occupational therapists, social workers and support coordinators who make up the "team" for the person with disability and their close others.

It will include collaboration with the NDIA and housing providers (both SDA and non-SDA).

More information

Email: housingbrokerage@summerfoundation.org.au