

CONSUMER & FAMILY CARER NETWORK



Welcome to our winter update. As the Summer Foundation moved quickly to respond to the evolving COVID-19 situation, a new project team was created to identify and address the needs of people in our network, especially those at risk of social isolation and reduced access to supports. The Phone Outreach project aimed to provide a point of social contact, information and support with problem solving.

We have connected with close to 150 people through this work. This time of listening to people's experiences and stories has emphasised the resilience, big-heartedness and wisdom of our network. We want to create more opportunities where this kind of connection is possible and are taking what we have learnt from this project to explore new ways of working.

You'll hear from 1 of our storytellers about their COVID-19 experience in this bulletin and can also read other stories on our Staying Connected web page.

Monique de Costa,
Program Manager

The COVID-19 pandemic has made feeling and staying connected more important than ever before.

Our new Staying Connected web page is providing the opportunity for people with disability to share their stories. You can visit the webpage to find out more: [🌐 summerfoundation.org.au/staying-connected/](https://www.summerfoundation.org.au/staying-connected/)



SEIZING THE OPPORTUNITIES

Summer Foundation storyteller Michelle has welcomed the opportunity to spend quality time with her family and to learn something new.

"COVID-19 hasn't really impacted me in a bad way and has actually been a lovely opportunity to spend quality time with my family. I have really missed my support workers though," Michelle said.

"I have decided to take up a new project during COVID-19. My sister is always doing online courses and she inspired me to get creative and learn something new. I came across a diploma in soap making..."

Read Michelle's full story on our Staying Connected page:
summerfoundation.org.au/staying-connected/

GET YOUR PPE ONLINE

The Summer Foundation has worked with 2 of Australia's largest providers of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to ensure people with disability can get PPE during COVID-19.

The 2 providers – RSEA Safety and Blackwoods – have each developed PPE online stores for NDIS participants.

Users need their NDIS participant number to log in to the online stores to receive priority access to reasonably priced PPE with a discounted delivery cost.

Products available include gloves, gowns, surgical masks, face shields, hand sanitiser and disinfectant wipes.

The Summer Foundation has also developed a PPE webpage to provide information for people with disability and close others. See: summerfoundation.org.au/ppe-info-covid-19/ for more information and to access the online PPE stores.

SDA RULES CHANGE

SDA participants across Australia recently welcomed much-anticipated changes to the Specialist Disability Accommodation (SDA) Rules which will allow people with disability to share an SDA property with people not eligible for the NDIS or SDA, including their partner, children and friends.

The Summer Foundation has been working hard to achieve these changes, which were announced by the NDIS in mid-June, enabling people with disabilities with SDA in their plans to have greater choice and freedom to live how they wish.

Summer Foundation storyteller, Masoud, has been living in residential aged care for the past 4 years as there was no other option for him.

The main goal for Masoud has always been to live in his own home and he recently received SDA in his NDIS plan but only for a 1-bedroom apartment.

Masoud's brother Edris said it was a big relief to hear that the SDA Rules have now changed.

"We have always wanted Masoud to live independently and make his own choices and to have his own home, more choices and flexibility," Edris said.

"We feel it is very important for Masoud to live with family as he trusts us more".

"The area where you live and who you live with impacts how you live and feel about life".

"It would be life changing for Masoud. We will have more time not travelling to RAC and spending a lot of time there - less pressure on our shoulders."

These changes will allow Masoud to take control of his future and to enable him to live with whom he chooses, in appropriate accommodation with the right supports in place.

For more information about the recent change to the SDA Rules please go to: www.ndis.gov.au/about-us/operational-guidelines/specialist-disability-accommodation-operational-guideline/whos-eligible-sda

WHAT DO THESE CHANGES MEAN?

- You can share SDA with a person who is not funded for SDA
- You can have more than 5 longer-term residents in new or existing stock where these residents are from the same family