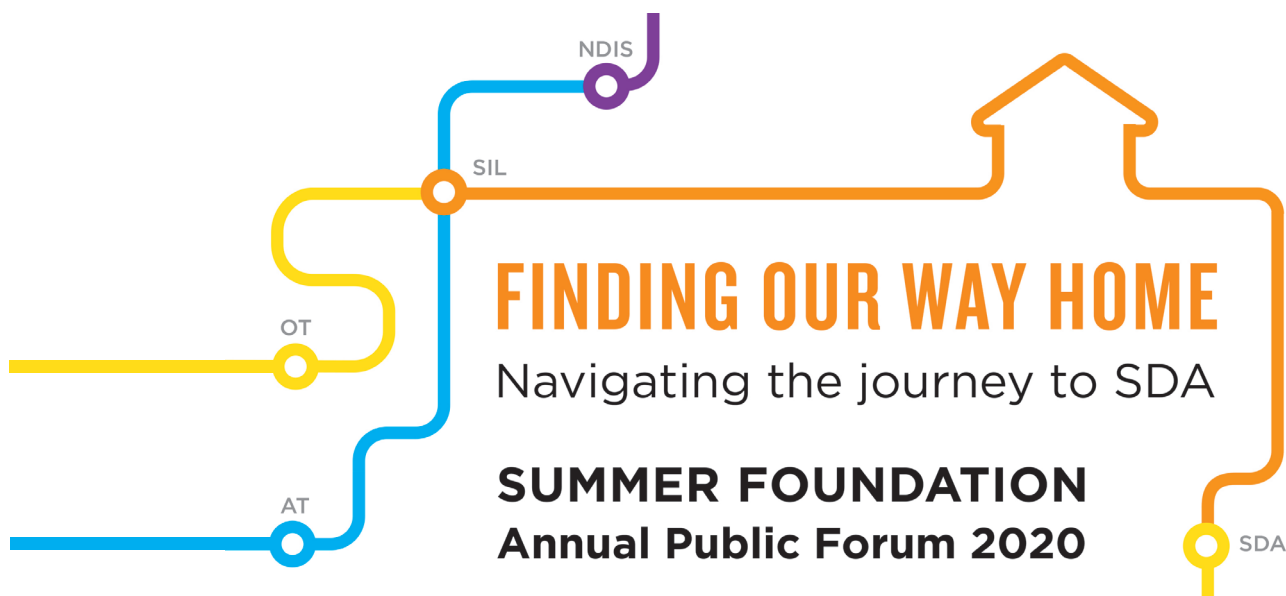


CONSUMER & FAMILY CARER NETWORK



NOVEMBER 12TH, 2020 12:00 PM

Welcome to our spring update.

As we navigate what's happening in the world around us we are faced with new challenges, but also new opportunities. We have been planning a number of initiatives in recent months that we are excited to start rolling out.

You will be seeing more opportunities to get involved, including a pilot project designed to develop tools that will help people find a new home, and also inform the future of our work. We will be inviting people to contribute so stay tuned for updates.

We have welcomed some new faces to the organisation, including Emma Gee as a Lived Experience Advisor. Emma will be working with teams to create resources shaped by lived experience and help facilitate better ways to engage more people with disability in our work. You can hear more from Em in a recent post on the Staying Connected page.

We also have research projects looking at paid disability support and the role of support coordinators that you can be part of (see next page).

Until next time, stay safe and well.

Monique de Costa,
Program Manager



EMMA GEE – STAYING CONNECTED

Emma Gee is part of our new lived experience team.

"With a background as an occupational therapist and then surviving a stroke at the age of 24, I hope that I can share my experiences as a provider and recipient to further humanise the incredible work that the Summer Foundation already delivers," Emma said.

"In my role, I hope to develop and deliver resources, services, policies and processes that are informed and shaped by people with lived experience."

As a Lived Experience Advisor, Emma will also be looking at ways for the Summer Foundation to engage more people with disability in our work.

Emma draws on her own experiences to write a blog that she hopes will help people feel more valued, empowered and informed. You can find out more on our Staying Connected page:

summerfoundation.org.au/staying-connected/

HAVE YOUR SAY

If you are a person with an acquired neurological disability, a close other with an acquired neurological disability, or a disability support worker, we want to hear your views about the factors that influence the quality of paid disability support.

We will be facilitating online focus groups and 1:1 interviews to discuss your experiences and perspectives. If you are interested in participating, please email research@summerfoundation.org.au and we will tell you more about the project.

LOOKING INTO THE CHANGING ROLE OF SUPPORT COORDINATORS

We are running a study to investigate the role of support coordinators and how they can effectively assist people with disability and complex needs who are enrolled in the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS). This research is essential because the role of the support coordinator has changed with the implementation of the NDIS, making it challenging to find skilled and experienced support coordinators.

At present, there is still limited understanding of the demands of the role and the skills required for support coordinators, as well as the operating environment in which they work. This is a substantial problem because people with disability need assistance from support coordinators in order to get the most out of the NDIS and in turn make more progress towards achieving their goals.

The insights derived from this research will enable the Summer Foundation to develop resources that will build the capacity of the workforce of support coordinators and assist them to be more effective in their work. This in turn will enable people with disability and complex needs to achieve positive outcomes under the NDIS.

We are inviting individuals to participate if they:

- Are an NDIS participant with complex needs, aged 18-65 years, with disability or an acquired brain injury, who is receiving support via a support coordinator
- Have a family member who is an NDIS participant with complex needs, aged 18-65 years, with disability or an acquired brain injury, who is receiving support via a support coordinator
- Have experience in the role of a support coordinator where they supported a person with complex needs, aged 18-65 years, with disability or an acquired brain injury

The study involves 1 interview that will take up to 1 hour and will be conducted at a date and time that is most suitable for you.

If you think you are eligible and would like some more information about taking part in this study, please contact Lee Cubis on 1300 626 560 or email lee.cubis@summerfoundation.org.au

We would love to hear from you.