

SUMMER FOUNDATION HOUSING BROKERAGE SERVICE



The Summer Foundation established the Housing Brokerage Service as a COVID response pilot project in April 2020. The service was established to support the discharge of people with disability from hospital to housing that aligns with their housing needs and preferences.

The Housing Brokerage Service team uses a secondary consultancy approach to support and build the capacity of key professionals working alongside people with disability who are stuck in hospital and require suitable housing.

The service works to identify housing options that align with a person's housing needs and preferences through an innovative housing search. The approach is rights based and incorporates principles of choice, control and inclusion for people with disability.

Outcomes

- A better match between housing seeker needs and housing options
- People with disability have 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
- Demand data that identifies gaps and informs the development of new interim and long-term housing options

Project participants

The Housing Brokerage Service works with health teams e.g. occupational therapists and social workers as well as support coordinators, Guardians, NDIA planners and Hospital Liaison Officers who form a 'team' for a person with disability and their close others.

The Housing Brokerage Services collaborates with SDA and mainstream housing providers to search for housing.

Who is eligible for the service?

The eligibility criteria is listed below:

1. The person is an NDIS participant **or** likely to be eligible for the NDIS, and
2. The person is in hospital **or** has been very recently discharged (i.e. during COVID) from hospital to unsuitable housing, **and**
3. A search for housing has been completed by those formally supporting the person (i.e. health team, support coordinator) to the best of their abilities and no suitable housing options have been found

Note: we realise that sometimes life isn't that simple, and we encourage you to contact us directly on housingbrokerage@summerfoundation.org.au if you have any questions.

How do I submit a referral?

All referrals can be made using [this online form](#).

How does the Housing Brokerage Service work?

The Housing Brokerage Service provides support and mentoring through a secondary consultancy approach to hospital discharge staff and/or other formal supports who are assisting NDIS-eligible patients to identify suitable post-discharge housing.

The Housing Brokerage Service provides support by:



1. Facilitating an online case conference

Facilitating a discussion with the patient's health team, their support coordinator, formal Guardian (if appointed), and other relevant stakeholders.



OUTCOME: A clear articulation of the person's housing needs and preferences and their support needs



OUTCOME: A Tenant Summary Profile, which can be used in a search for housing



OUTCOME: A greater understanding about Specialist Disability Accommodation (SDA) eligibility criteria and written evidence



OUTCOME: An evidence base about the gaps in the service system to inform the development of new interim and long-term housing options



2. Searching for housing

Completing an innovative housing search for potential interim and/or long-term housing options, based on the person's housing needs and preferences.



OUTCOME: A range of quality housing options and information presented back to the person's team



OUTCOME: Health team supports the patient/Guardian to choose a housing option aligned with their housing needs and preferences



 = Health team