

CONSUMER & FAMILY CARER NETWORK



We keep hearing good news about developments that are improving the lives of young people who would otherwise be forced into nursing homes because there are no alternatives.

There is still much to be done, but new housing opportunities are increasing. Improvements to the SDA pathway, growing numbers of new builds, and changes to policies are allowing more young people with complex support needs to live more independently.

The recent release of the Aged Care Royal Commission's interim report examined the range of issues that have led to young people going into nursing homes, and we welcome the revised targets the government has announced to stop younger people going into aged care, and the renewed collaboration effort that has resulted from this announcement between government, the NDIA and community partners. We look forward to working with other agencies to address this challenge once and for all.

Tom Worsnop

Executive Manager – Practice

SDA SUPPLY SURVEY

The Summer Foundation has again partnered with Social Ventures Australia to undertake a survey of how much and what types of Specialist Disability Accommodation (SDA) development is being planned and built around Australia.

Our first *Specialist Disability Accommodation – Supply in Australia* survey was launched at our Get Building SDA national conference in March this year.

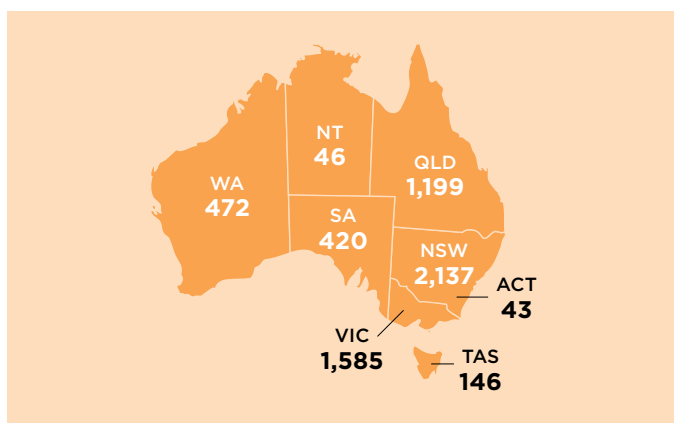
The latest survey results, useful for those planning SDA developments, will be reported this month.

FEWER YOUNG PEOPLE IN AGED CARE

There has been an 11 per cent reduction in the number of people under 65 in residential aged care, the Minister for the NDIS Stuart Robert said.

The numbers were down from 6,287 to 5,606 in the period from 31 March 2017 to 30 June 2019.

While promising, the reasons for these decreases aren't clear yet. We don't know how many young people have been able to leave aged care and return to living in the community as a result of new housing being created.



SNAPSHOT SHARPENS FOCUS

The recently announced Australian Government initiatives and the Aged Care Royal Commission's interim report highlighted the lack of data available around young people in aged care. The Summer Foundation has been working to address this for a long time.

A report we released earlier this year aims to better understand the needs of young people who live in aged care.

Our research team's *Young People in Residential Aged Care (2017 - 2018) A Snapshot*, provides critical information for organisations and government bodies that can create the systems change needed to resolve the issue.

The report analysed the 2017-2018 administrative data available for aged care in Australia. At 30 June 2018, it found that across the country there were 6,048 people aged under 65 living in permanent aged care.

About 50 young Australians entered aged care each week in 2017-2018, with 5 of them aged 50 or under. Of the 1,853 young people who left aged care only about 1 in 10 returned to family or home, while more than half died.

Almost all young people in aged care have substantial support needs for mobility, personal care and cognitive impairment.

While most young people in aged care have a disability and should be eligible for the NDIS, only 66 per cent were enrolled.

The Snapshot provides both a national view and a state-by-state breakdown about where young people are living in aged care and what their needs are.

You can see the report here: [🌐 summerfoundation.org.au/resources/young-people-in-rac-2017-2018](https://summerfoundation.org.au/resources/young-people-in-rac-2017-2018)

ILO ARRANGEMENTS CONTINUE

Individual Living Options (ILO) are living arrangements that focus on the individual. They include living alone, co-residency, host arrangements and living together options. They are an alternative to group home services.

Some people living in ILO models have experienced significant disruption to their living situation as they move to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

The National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) has continued existing arrangements for participants as they transition into the NDIS. Funding arrangements will be in place until longer term policy, pricing and practice is confirmed, which is currently underway.

ILO that were in place before the participant joined the NDIS are maintained based on planning guidelines where the exact amount of funding is 'reasonable and necessary'.

A specific Service Delivery contact is available to support participants with current or previous ILO as transition arrangements are rolled out.

For further information contact your planner or email [🌐 ILO@ndis.gov.au](mailto:ILO@ndis.gov.au)

SDA CHANGES

Three new SDA documents were released in October:

- **SDA Design Standards** - clarifies design requirements for SDA
- **SDA Innovation Plan** - outlines what the NDIA will do over the next 18 months to encourage innovation in SDA
- **SDA Limited Cost Assumptions Review report** - a review done by the NDIA in response to concerns about pricing for some types and locations of SDA

Disability Services Consulting explains these reports in this article: [🌐 disabilityservicesconsulting.com.au/resources/sda-update-oct19](https://disabilityservicesconsulting.com.au/resources/sda-update-oct19)

Earlier this year the government made a number of important SDA rule changes, outlined in this document: [🌐 summerfoundation.org.au/resources/summary-of-changes-to-specialist-disability-accommodation-framework/](https://summerfoundation.org.au/resources/summary-of-changes-to-specialist-disability-accommodation-framework/)

The Summer Foundation looks forward to seeing more changes expected in 2020, which will reduce barriers and disincentives for families to live together in SDA.