

CONSUMER & FAMILY CARER NETWORK



Welcome to the winter edition of the Consumer & Family Carer Network update.

It has been a very busy few months for the Summer Foundation and there is a lot happening in the world of Specialist Disability Accommodation (SDA).

Of particular note is the resounding success of our inaugural Get Building SDA National Conference, presented with Youngcare in Melbourne in March. It was a sellout with more than 400 attendees. See the full report in this newsletter.

Our work to improve the processes that allow people to Leave Hospital Well is being ramped up with the expansion of our pilot Collaborative Discharge Process. The details are on page 3.

The Aged Care Royal Commission has extended the deadline for submissions until the end of September. We have helped 100 people tell their stories to the Royal Commission and will be putting in our own submission.

The UpSkill program that we launched at the beginning of the year to build the capacity of support coordinators continues. For more information about it, go to:

summerfoundation.org.au/project/upskill

Stay warm and best wishes,

Penny Paul

Penny Paul
Information and Connections Coordinator

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NATIONAL SDA CONFERENCE

In March, we partnered with Youngcare to host our first Get Building SDA National Conference. It was a great success with more than 400 people attending. Our speakers generously shared their knowledge and expertise about specialist disability accommodation (SDA) and you can access presentations and video content here:

[🌐 getbuildingsda.org.au/national-conference-2019](https://getbuildingsda.org.au/national-conference-2019).

The Hon. Paul Fletcher (then Minister for Families and Social Services) made a commitment to reduce the number of people being forced to live in aged care by half, and to assist those that are already living there find alternative age-appropriate housing. We applaud this commitment and look forward to working with the government to achieve this.

In his opening address our CEO Luke Bo'sher explained why now is the time for SDA: *"I've never felt more confident than I do now that the NDIA has the people, processes and resources to be able to deliver SDA. The mood in the room today reflects that SDA providers feel much more confident in SDA than they have been in a long time."*

Those that attended left the conference with a renewed confidence and optimism around SDA.

SDA Supply Report

In partnership with Social Ventures Australia, we launched our report into the current supply of SDA. The report looks at new SDA projects under development in order to determine how many SDA places are in the pipeline. The data presented in the report came from 55 SDA providers. *Specialist Disability Accommodation – Supply in Australia* is an important snap-shot of SDA and provides an insight into where we need to focus our attention.

You can download the report here:

[🌐 summerfoundation.org.au/specialist-disability-accommodation-supply-in-australia/](https://summerfoundation.org.au/specialist-disability-accommodation-supply-in-australia/)

CHANGES TO VICTORIAN DISABILITY TENANCY LEGISLATION

In Victoria, regulation of specialist disability accommodation (SDA) will soon become part of the *Residential Tenancies Act 1997*. SDA is housing paid for in NDIS plans for those who are eligible. This change will affect Victorians who need SDA, residents living in SDA, and SDA providers.

Consumer Affairs Victoria will regulate the new provisions for SDA in the *Residential Tenancies Act 1997*.

Under the new provisions, all SDA housing must:

- Meet National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) requirements, and
- Be enrolled with the NDIA ('SDA enrolled dwellings')

There are 2 types of SDA agreements that SDA residents and providers can enter in to:

- An SDA residency agreement (which gives the resident extra rights and protections)
- A residential tenancy agreement (which gives the SDA resident the same rights as anyone renting a standard property)

SDA residents and providers must have one of these agreements in place within 6 months of the new laws starting.

The new regulations specify that certain information must be explained to SDA residents in away they are likely to understand.

For all the details, see the Consumer Affairs Victoria website:

[🌐 consumer.vic.gov.au](https://consumer.vic.gov.au)

BUILDING SDA KNOWLEDGE

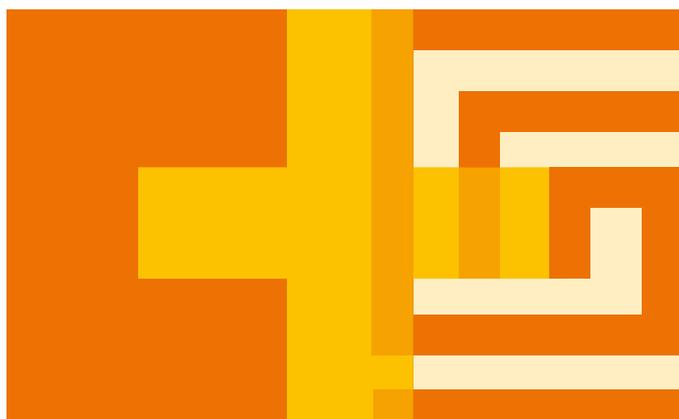
In April, the Summer Foundation ran Connecting NSW, a series of events across NSW to bring together housing providers and people with a disability looking for new housing options. More than 300 people attended across Sydney, Dubbo, Wagga, Penrith and Tweed Heads.

Our focus was to discuss what SDA means for them, and plan for good housing outcomes. The events showcased early adopters of SDA, built knowledge about SDA eligibility and highlighted key success factors and challenges.

People with disability were able to engage directly with providers of SDA to share their housing aspirations and learn more about exciting innovations in the current market.

To access resources from Connecting NSW go to:

[🌐 getbuildingsda.org.au/connecting-nsw-events](https://getbuildingsda.org.au/connecting-nsw-events)



LEAVING HOSPITAL WELL

The Summer Foundation continues to be concerned about the high numbers of people with disability who remain in hospital long after their medical or clinical needs have been addressed. Often this is due to a lack of alignment between systems in health and the way the NDIS is operating. Many people with complex needs cannot be discharged safely without having disability supports in place, so having an active NDIS plan before leaving hospital is critical.

The Summer Foundation is involved in several projects to address this problem. We have produced a number of resources for health workers and are working with discharge planners to navigate the complexities of NDIS language, plans and assessments.

We are now expanding the scope of the collaboration pilots that are underway with Ballarat and Barwon Health, rolling out a Collaborative Discharge Approach (CDA) with Austin and Alfred Health. The expansion of these projects has been made possible by support from the William Buckland Foundation and DHHS Victoria. We are also negotiating similar projects in Brisbane and Sydney, and hope to expand further as we gather evidence of people having improved transitions home.

These projects all involve better alignments between health and NDIS processes, but also focus on skills development in the support coordination workforce and the all-important issue of finding a suitable housing option ([🌐 summerfoundation.org.au/housing/finding-housing](https://summerfoundation.org.au/housing/finding-housing)). It is also essential to have the right amount of support, particularly when there is a risk of admission to aged care.

More information on the Collaborative Discharge Approach will be available in the coming months, so watch out for updates on our website.



MELBOURNE: FRI 26 – MON 29 JULY
GEELONG: WED 31 JULY – SUN 4 AUG

RAPID INTERIM HOUSING DEBUT

The Summer Foundation has worked with Oscar Building and Stretchy Tech to develop a self-contained unit that can be rapidly installed and moved from location to location to provide housing for people who require short-term accessible housing.

This one-off prototype unit will give the market an idea of what is possible.

After bad weather forced the scheduled June debut to be postponed, the first public display of the prototype will be held at the Melbourne Museum forecourt from Friday 26 July to Monday 29 July, as part of the Open House Melbourne weekend. It will then be on show next to Geelong Town Hall from Wednesday 31 July to Sunday 4 August. The prototype will be open for public tours on each of these days. For opening times and details see:

[🌐 summerfoundation.org.au/rapid-housing](https://summerfoundation.org.au/rapid-housing)

We know that a lack of accessible housing available at the right time and in the right area can leave people stuck in hospital, rehab or being admitted to aged care. The prototype addresses the gap between leaving hospital or rehab and finding appropriate permanent housing.

The prototype looks just like any other small house – it has a living area, bedroom and ensuite, kitchenette and laundry. Assistive technology increases the occupant's independence, safety and security.

The next step is to work with housing providers who can scale up the Rapid Interim Housing model and make this type of unit a reality for people with disability.

Keep an eye on our Facebook page for more information.

'OPPORTUNITY OF A LIFETIME'

When Karen (not her real name) came to one of our Royal Commission workshops she had no idea of the possibilities that were about to open up to her.

A disability advocate told Karen about the workshop, which supported her to tell the Royal Commission about her experiences during 15 years in aged care. Karen had a fall when she was 46, leaving her with complex support needs.

"When I went into aged care I wanted to do some physio and speech therapy but nobody would help me," Karen said in her submission to the Royal Commission. *"I wanted to exercise and do some rehabilitation to improve myself. I was given no encouragement at all to help myself. They told me they were there for old people and not for rehabilitation."*

"I taught myself a little bit about the computer. I wanted to learn more things. A lovely yardman fashioned a pointer for me out of an old pool cue and made splints for my hands out of old paddle pop sticks. He helped me to get Wi-Fi. A couple of years ago they told me I could not have my own Wi-Fi anymore. They took away the only control I had over anything in my day."

Coming to the workshop gave Karen the chance to talk about these experiences. *"Aged care homes are for old people. It feels so good to tell my story,"* she said.

But that was just the beginning.

Staff at the workshop recognised the potential for Karen's life to be so much better. They told her about a new specialist disability accommodation (SDA) development in the area and the Tenant Matching Service has supported her to apply for the SDA funding in her NDIS plan that would allow her to seek more appropriate housing.

"I am hoping beyond hope my time at the nursing home is nearing the end ... I do so appreciate this opportunity of a lifetime and pray I get the NDIS funding," she said.

SAVE THE DATE!

 The Summer Foundation's Annual Public Forum is scheduled for **31 October 2019**.

Put it in your diary! Details to come.

ROYAL COMMISSION LATEST

Staff at the Summer Foundation have supported people across the country to tell their stories to the Aged Care Royal Commission. So far, we have supported 100 people to make submissions to the commission. Most of these were done through workshops, which were held in capital cities, regional cities and towns across Australia.

We also supported 5 people to speak at public community forums organised by the Royal Commission, which provided an opportunity for participants to speak directly to the Commissioners. Those forums were in the Victorian regional centre of Bendigo and in the west of Melbourne.

The Summer Foundation will also be making its own submission to the Royal Commission.

Submissions will be accepted by the Royal Commission until the end of September, with the Royal Commission providing an interim report by the end of October, 2019.

USEFUL RESOURCES

Carers Victoria has produced two new resources to help people navigate the NDIS.

The Carers Victoria NDIS Carers Handbook offers practical advice and support on how to achieve the best possible outcomes for both the person being cared for and for carers.

You can download a copy of the handbook at:

 everythingcarers.org.au/resources/ndis/carers-victoria-ndis-carers-handbook/

Carers Victoria is working with the Department of Health and Human Services to support carers through the transition process of short term accommodation assistance, previously called respite, from the department to new providers.

For more information on this resource, keep an eye on:  everythingcarers.org.au/resources/ndis/respite-under-the-ndis/ for updates.