SUMMER FOUNDATION NEWS

Welcome to our winter update. The start of the new financial year sees a refocusing of the work the Summer Foundation is doing to keep young people out of aged care.

We will be building on the strong foundations we have established in creating more specialist disability accommodation (SDA) options to help young people avoid aged care and improving the transition from hospital to home.

This means we will be expanding The Housing Hub and Tenant Matching Service with a big focus on matching NDIS participants with appropriate housing as early as possible. A critical part of this is ensuring that NDIS participants in hospital and aged care understand the housing options available and have the right supports in their NDIS plans to leave hospital.

To this end we will be ramping up our hospital discharge work to encourage engagement from senior health executives; extending the rollout of the Collaborative Discharge Approach (see page 4); and continuing the UpSkill program to build the capacity of support coordinators so they are better equipped to help young people avoid or leave aged care.

Our inaugural Get Building SDA National Conference, presented with Youngcare in March, was a great success with more than 400 attendees. Of particular note was the announcement from the Hon. Paul Fletcher (then Minister for Families and Social Services) on concrete targets the government has set to halve the number of young people in aged care. We look forward to working with the government to achieve the goals (see page 3 for details).

The Aged Care Royal Commission continues and the Summer Foundation has been delighted to support 100 people to tell their stories through submissions.

Luke Bo'sher
CEO

IN THIS ISSUE

SUMMER FOUNDATION

There are further links to resources available in the online version of this newsletter:
www.summerfoundation.org.au/sf-newsletters

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, relocatable 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**

We know that a lack of accessible housing available at the right time and in the right area can leave people with a newly acquired disability 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.

#EveryStoryMatters

ROYAL COMMISSION LATEST

During February, March, April and May, staff at the Summer Foundation have been supporting people to tell their stories to the Aged Care Royal Commission. We held a series of workshops in major cities and regional centres across Australia. Through these workshops, 100 people were able to make submissions to the Royal Commission.

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 Royal Commissioners. The 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.

The deadline for submissions has been extended until the end of September, with the Royal Commission providing an interim report by the end of October, 2019.

NEW SUMMER FOUNDATION BOARD APPOINTMENTS

With our continued strategic focus on the health sector, we are pleased to announce that Adam Horsburgh and Professor Andrew Way have joined the Summer Foundation Board.

Andrew is the Chief Executive of Alfred Health and Adam is Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Operating Officer of Melbourne Health.

Both have a wealth of contemporary experience in the health sector, which will be invaluable as we continue to seek systemic change in our mission to stop young people with disability being forced to live in aged care.

We warmly welcome Andrew and Adam and look forward to working with them.

SDA IN FOCUS

More than 300 people attended our Connecting NSW events in Sydney, Dubbo, Wagga, Penrith and Tweed Heads during April.

The events brought together people with disability and housing providers to discuss the world of specialist disability accommodation (SDA) and what it means for them.

The events were a great opportunity to showcase early adopters of SDA, build knowledge about SDA eligibility and make connections between housing providers and people with disability.

SDA providers had the opportunity to promote their current vacancies and pipeline properties. Most importantly, they were able to learn more about the needs and aspirations of people with disability when it comes to creating bespoke housing solutions.

To access resources from Connecting NSW go to:
⊕ getbuildingsda.org.au/connecting-nsw-events

SDA SUPPLY REPORT

In partnership with Social Ventures Australia, the Summer Foundation launched the SDA supply report: *Specialist Disability Accommodation – Supply in Australia*. The report on the current supply of SDA in Australia presents data around SDA projects in the pipeline, which was provided by 55 SDA providers.

The report will be a useful tool for those planning SDA developments. You can download the report here:
⊕ **summerfoundation.org.au/documents/specialist-disability-accommodation-supply-in-australia/**

CONFERENCE WRAP

At the end of March, in partnership with Youngcare, we hosted the inaugural Get Building SDA National Conference in Melbourne. The lineup of impressive speakers and storytellers generously shared their knowledge and expertise, which provided a rich and informative day for more than 400 attendees. You can access copies of the presentations and video content here:
⊕ **getbuildingsda.org.au/national-conference-2019**

The conference also provided an opportunity for attendees to meet others working in the field, make connections and establish new relationships and partnerships. This will lay the ground for potential new investments and collaborations around specialist disability accommodation (SDA).

In his opening address 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."*

The keynote address by the Hon. Paul Fletcher (then Minister for Families and Social Services) included commitments to halve the number of people with disability under the age of 65 entering aged care by 2025. The Action Plan included a range of new ways that young people in aged care will be better supported, including through improved NDIA processes, better pathways home from hospital, more initiatives to increase housing options and better data and evidence.

We welcome these commitments and look forward to working with the government to achieve these goals.

Attendees left the conference feeling better informed, and with a renewed confidence and optimism around SDA. Thank you again for your attendance and support of the conference.

LEAVING HOSPITAL WELL: IMPROVING THE INTERFACE BETWEEN HEALTH AND THE NDIS

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 in place before leaving hospital is critical.

The Summer Foundation is involved in several projects to address this problem.

We also offer a range of training packages to assist in improving NDIS access and planning.

We are now expanding the scope of 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.

SDA EDUCATION INITIATIVE

A new Summer Foundation initiative will help Specialist Disability Accommodation (SDA) providers understand their obligations in delivering high quality services to NDIS participants.

Through the Specialist Disability Accommodation Quality and Safeguards Education Initiative, we will develop education resources and deliver training to registered SDA providers.

We will also develop resources to support SDA-funded participants to understand their responsibilities as their own SDA provider, which is an option under the SDA Framework. The initiative is funded by the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission.

WATCH HOW IT'S DONE

In a ground-breaking initiative, we are launching a program in July to train people working in the disability sector in how to support people with cognitive and communication impairments to create training videos for their support workers.

The NDIS is revolutionising the disability support system, promising to offer choice and control to people with disabilities. But for many people with a disability, having a real say over the way they are supported remains a challenge.

Some people with disability – especially those who have cognitive or communication impairments – have trouble explaining how they want to be supported 'in the moment'.

"*If people feel like their preferences can't or aren't being taken on board, it can be incredibly disempowering*," said Carolyn Finis, Summer Foundation chief of staff.

We've developed an innovative way for people with disability to determine how they are supported – based on goals that are meaningful and valued by the person with disability.

"*We've developed resources that guide someone through the process of making a training video for their support workers,*" Ms Finis explained. "*The video can then be shown to the person's support workers, to help them understand what's important to the person – what they want to be supported to do and how they like to be supported. It's about handing control back to the person with disability.*"

NDIS participant Richard road-tested the process. "*This is the best gift anyone has ever given me*," he said of the video.

Now that the process has been road-tested and refined with the help of participants who have cognitive and communication impairments, it is being rolled out. The first workshop is in Canberra in early July for local NDIS support coordinators and allied health professionals.

To see the resources go to:
🌐 **summerfoundation.org.au/making-a-training-video**

SAVE THE DATE!

📅 **The Summer Foundation's Annual Public Forum is scheduled for 31 October 2019.**
Put it in your diary! Details to come.