

# SUMMER FOUNDATION NEWS



**Welcome to our spring update.** It's a particularly exciting time for me as the Summer Foundation starts the next stage of our journey to ensure people with disability have access to the support they need to control where they live and who they live with. Our Board has just signed off on the strategy that we expect will see the Summer Foundation achieve its purpose in 5 years. The main change to the strategy that has driven us in the past is the formal addition of "lived experience" as one of our tools. We will support those with lived experience relevant to young people with disability in aged care to inform, co-design and evaluate our resources, tools and interventions. We are actively recruiting people with lived experience to join our team. You can read more about our new strategy on page 2.

We have been working closely with government as part of the YPIRAC Stakeholder Reference Group. It was terrific to see the **Federal Government YPIRAC Strategy** released on 30 September. After 14 years of work, it is great to have a government strategy and Joint Taskforce so closely aligned to the Summer Foundation mission and be in a position of supporting government to achieve its measurable goals for 2022 and 2025.

The launch of our new version of the Housing Hub has been very well received – visit the website [housinghub.org.au](http://housinghub.org.au) to see the new features.




With COVID-19 still very much a part of our lives, particularly in Victoria, we have had to be creative in planning this year's Annual Public Forum, which will be held on Thursday 12 November.

It will be an online event that celebrates how life changing Specialist Disability Accommodation can be. For all the details, see page 2.

I hope you can join us. Stay safe,

Di Winkler, CEO & Founder

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## THE WAY TO 2025

The Summer Foundation Board has endorsed the organisation's Strategic Plan 2021-2025.

In 5 years, we expect the Summer Foundation will have achieved its purpose to permanently stop young people with disability being forced into aged care and ensuring they have access to the support needed to choose where, how and with whom they live.

The strategic plan outlines how we aim to influence, challenge and build capacity of the systems, policies and markets that need to change.

A significant addition to the tools we use is a more formal structure to support those with lived experience of the issue of young people in aged care to inform, co-design and evaluate our resources and interventions.

The plan outlines our strategic priorities:

**Housing** – NDIS participants with complex support needs can readily access a range of housing options that align with their needs and preferences.

**Hospitals** – NDIS participants with complex needs in hospitals are identified early and receive skilled discharge planning so they can return to community living when they are clinically ready.

**NDIS** – The NDIS enables people with complex support needs to be in control of where they live and how they are supported. NDIS access is timely, planning is effective, the workforce is capable, and people with disability have support to make informed decisions and advocate for themselves.

**Aged Care** – Young people who would previously have been referred to ACAT have the information to navigate and access the NDIS funded and mainstream services they need to get appropriate housing and support. Aged care workers have access to quality information about the NDIS and opportunities for people under 65 that is co-designed by people with lived experience of being in aged care.

**Primary Health** – NDIS participants with complex needs have access to quality health services.

The full Strategic Plan can be viewed at:

[summerfoundation.org.au/strategic-plan/](http://summerfoundation.org.au/strategic-plan/)



## SUMMER FOUNDATION 2020 ANNUAL PUBLIC FORUM

**Finding our way home: Navigating the journey to SDA**

**Forum:** Thursday 12 November – 12 noon to 1pm

**Q&A session:** 1.10pm to 1.30pm

People with disability have more choice about where they live than ever before. With the NDIS, many have successfully navigated the journey to Specialist Disability Accommodation and are living happier, more independent lives.

There are, however, many more that are not aware that SDA is an option and others that have experienced difficulties along their journey to SDA.

This year's Annual Public Forum is being held as an online event on Thursday 12 November.

We'll hear from people with disability at different stages of their journey to living happier, more independent lives in SDA. Policy makers and sector professionals will also discuss how to streamline the SDA journey.

Let's get together to celebrate how life changing SDA can be for people with disability and discuss what changes are in play to make SDA a reality for many more.

For more information, please head to:

[summerfoundation.org.au/annual-public-forum-2020/](http://summerfoundation.org.au/annual-public-forum-2020/)

## JOURNAL ARTICLES

Our Research Team has been very busy lately with the publication of several journal articles including literature reviews on young people in aged care, outcomes of moving to individualised housing and the use of smart home technology.

You can read the articles on our website here:

[summerfoundation.org.au/documents-category/research-outputs/](http://summerfoundation.org.au/documents-category/research-outputs/)



## HOUSING BROKERAGE SERVICE UPDATE

Since being set up as part of the Summer Foundation's response to COVID-19, the Housing Brokerage Service (HBS) has grown and developed.

*"We created the team as a COVID response to use the knowledge and expertise in the organisation to help in the emergency situation we all found ourselves in, but the demand and outcomes have been so positive that we are going to continue until at least December 2020, and possibly even longer,"* said Project Lead Cath Bucolo.

The HBS works with NDIS participants with complex needs who are ready for discharge but are often stuck in hospital waiting for an appropriate housing option to be found.

It provides support and mentoring to develop and build the capacity of key professionals, including hospital discharge staff and support coordinators, to explore a person's housing needs and preferences.

In 5 months, the service has worked with 62 people across Australia to stop them being forced in to aged care when they leave hospital. Pathways have included to an interim serviced apartment, then SDA housing; to long-term non-SDA housing with supports; and to private rental with supports.

*"The key professionals supporting people with disability who are stuck in hospital are all working so hard to find suitable housing - it's really tough going,"* Cath said. *"It's wonderful to be able to bring them our expertise, knowledge and innovative housing search ideas, and work together to really turn around a situation for the better."*

The small team of 3 full-time and 2 part-time staff does the housing search and secondary consultation work.

## ACCESSIBLE HOUSING IS FOR EVERYONE

All new housing should be accessible for everyone - that's the message in the Summer Foundation's recent submission to the Australian Building Codes Board.

*"Accessible housing is for everyone, every time, every day,"* our response to the Board's Consultation Regulation Impact Statement said.

*"It should not be regarded as 'an optional extra' for 'for special people'. The regulation of minimum standards of accessibility can bring significant benefits to the broader community and is in the public interest."*

We recommended that Livable Housing Australia's Gold design standard be adopted for all new housing.

*"The current consultation provides a once in a generation opportunity to improve the design of new houses for all Australians and also future proof our housing infrastructure for our ageing population."*

You can read our joint submission with the Melbourne Disability Institute here: [summerfoundation.org.au/resources/accessible-housing-the-way-forward-response-to-the-australian-building-codes-board-consultation-ris/](https://summerfoundation.org.au/resources/accessible-housing-the-way-forward-response-to-the-australian-building-codes-board-consultation-ris/)



## NEW BOARD MEMBER

The Summer Foundation Board welcomed new member Dean Ireland at its August meeting.

Dean has been a long-time supporter of the Summer Foundation, particularly the work of the Housing Hub team, and is on the housing advisory committee.

Specialising in senior leadership and organisation design, Dean is a consultant, coach and business leader with extensive experience across listed, private equity, multinational, investment, family, government and not-for-profit organisations.

Principal of Ireland Advisory, Dean is also a non-executive director of Melbourne Business School and of not-for-profit microfinance provider, Opportunity International.



Gretta with her mum in her Penrith apartment

## THIS IS MY HOME...

The Housing Hub team has this year supported 200 young people with disability and complex support needs to move in to their own SDA apartments.

One of these is Gretta, a 29-year-old who has recently moved into a new SDA apartment in the Sydney suburb of Penrith.

Before moving to her apartment, Gretta lived between her mum's and dad's houses in the Blue Mountains. *"Although I didn't mind this setup, I wanted to live somewhere that was closer to the centre of town and where I could get more opportunities for work and study,"* Gretta said.

*"I did have to battle with the NDIS a little, but thanks to a major team that included people from the Summer Foundation I was put into the right SDA Category."*

*"I've been in my apartment for a month now and it's absolutely perfect. As I am getting settled in I am slowly getting used to the fact that this is now my home and I am now able to do the things that I have always wanted to do."*

Gretta said the Housing Hub team had provided great support in helping her fill out forms and connecting her with (housing provider) AccessAccom and its project close to where she grew up.

Although Gretta did have some worries about living independently, they have now vanished and she is particularly happy with the concierge support. *"I absolutely love the Interaction team that does the on-site care as they are all lovely and fun,"* she said.

A great advocate for anyone thinking about SDA, Gretta shares her thoughts and advice on her blog *On Our Own Tracks*.



## NEW HOUSING HUB IS HERE

The new Housing Hub is already proving to be a great success – in its first 3 weeks it saw 52 housing seeker profiles added, 309 housing seeker sign ups and 581 inquiries to providers.

The Housing Hub website is the place for people with disability to find the home that is just right, and for housing providers to connect with people looking for accessible housing.

Its new look, extra features and improved user experience enhance the service that has more than 936 listings for accessible properties for people to rent or buy across the country.

*"The new features we now have on the website are striking a chord with housing seekers,"* said Housing Hub General Manager Alecia Rathbone.

*"One of the new features lets people build a profile with information about themselves and their housing preferences. Housing seekers then receive an email when new properties matching their preferences are listed. And a Suitability Score shows how closely advertised properties meet their preferences."*

The site also has new features for housing providers, including simpler loading of property listings and the ability for people to download listings as a PDF brochure.

User feedback will drive regular updates to the site.

You can visit the website here: [www.housinghub.org.au](http://www.housinghub.org.au)