

SUMMER FOUNDATION NEWS



Welcome to our last update for 2020.

What a year it's been! COVID-19 forced us to rethink the way we work and has led to a greater focus on using technology to engage and build the capacity of people with disability and other stakeholders. All our training and information sessions are now delivered online.

It is exciting to be in a position where we are no longer lobbying for change. The federal government's YPIRAC targets are aligned with the mission of the Summer Foundation. We are working hard to support the government achieve its YPIRAC targets including no people under 65 entering residential aged care by 2022. It has been heartening to see the number of young people entering aged care continue to drop. There are less than 4,860 younger people living in aged care and most (74%) are now NDIS participants. Implementation of the recently released YPIRAC Strategy will see further progress and collaboration with government in the new year.

Our work for the 2019-2020 financial year is splendidly portrayed in our Annual Report, which you can read here:




 summerfoundation.org.au/annual-report-2020

On behalf of all of us at the Summer Foundation I wish you and your family a happy Christmas and safe holiday period.



Di Winkler,
CEO & Founder

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ANNUAL PUBLIC FORUM

Our 2020 Annual Public Forum was delivered online due to ongoing COVID-19 related restrictions.

This format enabled much wider participation than in the past, with about 300 people tuning in to celebrate

Finding our way home: Navigating the journey to SDA.

People with disability, policy makers and sector professionals talked about how life changing SDA can be for people with disability and the changes that are in play to make it a reality for many more.

Liz Ellis, Jonathan Bredin and Lisa Corcoran shared the journeys that now see them each settled in their own SDA apartments.

Forum participants also heard from NDIA General Manager Provider and Markets Gerrie Mitra, Disability Discrimination Commissioner Ben Gauntlett, Guardian Living CEO Justin Nix, disability reform consultant Toni Rowe and the Summer Foundation's General Manager Housing Matching Alecia Rathbone.

More than 60 people took the opportunity to ask questions of the panel. Some were answered on the day and a full Q&A summary is available on our website:

summerfoundation.org.au/event/annual-public-forum-2020/#qa

Chief Operating Officer Carolyn Finis said the event was a tremendously proud day for the Summer Foundation. *"The feedback in relation to this year's forum has been overwhelmingly positive, and rightly so,"* Carolyn said.

You can see a video of the forum here:

summerfoundation.org.au/event/annual-public-forum-2020/#vid



Selina Short



Caro Llewellyn

NEW BOARD MEMBER APPOINTMENTS

The Summer Foundation welcomed 2 new Board members in November, as part of an active Board renewal process designed to strengthen the diversity, strategic capacity and breadth of expertise.

To consolidate our capacity to resolve the issue of young people living in residential aged care, the Summer Foundation Board has appointed Selina Short and Caro Llewellyn as Independent Non-Executive Directors.

Selina Short is Oceania Real Estate and Construction Managing Partner at Ernst & Young. She is a vocal champion of placemaking and its role in fueling economic prosperity, liveability and sustainability.

Caro Llewellyn is the Chief Executive Officer of the Wheeler Centre for Books, Writing and Ideas. She is a specialist in engagement, diversity and communications with extensive experience working in the business, cultural, educational and not-for-profit sectors.



Building Better Homes

The Summer Foundation is supporting a campaign for mandatory accessibility standards in the National Building Code to ensure all Australians have access to appropriate housing.

This will give Australians with disability greater choice about where and how to live; older Australians will be able choose whether to age at home; and wider doors and hallways, stepless entries and open planning will make life at home more sustainable for everyone.

Watch videos from prominent Australians calling for more accessible housing and join the campaign at

buildingbetterhomes.org.au/media.html



WELCOME HOME

The Summer Foundation is delivering a national education project for Specialist Disability Accommodation (SDA) providers.

The *Welcome Home* project has been funded by the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission to develop resources that will help registered SDA providers understand their service obligations under the SDA Practice Standards and adopt a rights-based approach to delivering housing and tenancy supports.

The Welcome Home resource package will include written and audio-visual education and training materials that feature the voices and experiences of people with disability. It will have additional input from disabled persons' organisations, peak bodies and a range of SDA providers.

The package will be available on the Summer Foundation website as free, self-paced training and downloadable content from April 2021.

The Summer Foundation will also host Welcome Home webinars from April.



REGISTER YOUR INTEREST

To register your interest in the Welcome Home resource package please email your details to welcomhome@summerfoundation.org.au.

For more information about the project, visit summerfoundation.org.au/welcome-home or email rosie.beaumont@summerfoundation.org.au



SDA Housing Advice Line
1300 61 64 63

NEW HOUSING ADVICE LINE

The Housing Hub team has launched an SDA Housing Advice Line.

It is for housing seekers and their families, as well as support coordinators and other supporters of housing seekers with a disability.

People can call the advice line for all questions about SDA and other options for housing under the NDIS, how to work out what sorts of housing might suit their needs and lifestyle, and how to search for a home.

You can visit the website here: housinghub.org.au

INVESTING IN SDA

Specialist Disability Accommodation (SDA) is well placed to meet a rising demand for impact investment products in Australia, as is outlined in our newly released SDA Explainer for Investors.

In recent years, impact investing - investments made to generate positive, measurable social and/or environmental impact as well as a financial return - has started to attract the attention of investment banks, super funds and private sector investors.

Summer Foundation CEO, Dr Di Winkler, said the SDA Explainer provides a succinct analysis of the SDA demand and supply outlook and investment principles to support investors considering SDA investment opportunities.

She said SDA has enormous potential to provide both long-term stable returns to investors while also meeting the housing needs of people with disability.

Read the report at: summerfoundation.org.au/sda-explainer-for-investors



PROFILE – HELEN BURT

In 2020, Summer Housing, a sister organisation of the Summer Foundation, supported 56 young people with disability to move into their own specialist disability accommodation (SDA). One of those people was Helen, a 63-year-old woman who had previously been living in residential aged care for over 7 years. Helen was also a panellist at our 2019 Annual Public Forum.

Helen loves to be out and about. She catches up with her friends regularly and visits numerous cafes, markets and shops as part of her weekly routine. When Helen discovered the possibility of moving into her own SDA, she was of course hopeful of finding a housing option that would allow her to find somewhere that felt like a real home.

In December of 2019, Helen was approved for SDA and her excited wait began for her new SDA apartment. Helen speaks very fondly of the Housing Matching team at the Summer Foundation and various members at Summer Housing, who supported her. *"They helped me through the whole process. Just everything, all the applications, they kept me really confident and helped me understand what to expect. It's hard to put it into words."*

Helen moved into her SDA apartment in September. She recalls the added pressures during her move due to stage 4 lockdown in Melbourne. Her long awaited moving day was a coordinated effort, with help from her family and friends.

Helen says she is the happiest she has been in years and is excited to make up for lost time as she lives the life that she wants to lead.



HOUSING OPTIONS WORKSHOPS

The Housing Hub is running a new series of workshops about NDIS housing options for people disability.

The workshops are for people with disability and their families to build their understanding of housing options.

People with disability will run the workshops. They will talk about their journeys to find the right home.

The workshops will cover:

- Housing and support under the NDIS (including writing a housing goal)
- Different types of housing and ways of paying for it
- Specialist Disability Accommodation (SDA)
- Tips for searching for housing
- Home ownership and Independent Living Options

In-person workshops will be held in Queensland, Western Australia, New South Wales and the ACT. Online workshops (via Zoom) will be held nationally and in Victoria and South Australia.

For workshop dates and to book see:

housinghub.org.au/news/ndis-housing-options-events