

CONSUMER & FAMILY CARER NETWORK

FROM HOSPITAL TO HOME

SUMMER FOUNDATION
ANNUAL PUBLIC FORUM 2018

11 OCTOBER

THE ARENA, NAB DOCKLANDS, MELBOURNE

We welcome the Prime Minister Scott Morrison's announcement of a Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety. Prime Minister Morrison purposefully included mention of young Australians who live in residential aged care.

The Royal Commission will look at the quality and safety of care in aged care. It's not clear if it will also look at the system changes that need to happen to stop young people ending up in aged care in the first place. We think it's really important to include this in the Royal Commission, so that young people will stop being forced to live in aged care because there are no other suitable options.

I encourage you to join us at midday on 11 October at NAB Arena in Melbourne for our Annual Public Forum - "From Hospital to Home". Health professionals, disability professionals and people with lived experience will gather to discuss how to achieve the best possible outcomes for people with complex needs, as they head from hospital to home.

In other news, we've written a useful guide on how to navigate your way through your search for mainstream housing. "Mainstream Housing Options" will tell you everything you need to know when starting your search for appropriate housing.

Warm regards



Penny Paul
Information and Connections Coordinator

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ROYAL COMMISSION INTO AGED CARE

Last week Prime Minister Morrison announced a Royal Commission into Aged Care. He made a special mention that it will include young people. The quality and safety of care will be part of the Royal Commission.

We want the Royal Commission to bring health, disability, NDIS and housing together to stop young people being forced to live in aged care. We are hoping it will look at the system changes needed to stop young people entering aged care in the first place.

Being part of a government Royal Commission may be daunting for young people living in aged care, so we are putting plans in place to support people to get involved and make submissions.

If you want to tell your story to the Royal Commission, follow our Facebook page for updates on how we can support you.

RAPID RESPONSE HOUSING

The time between being ready to leave hospital and finding accommodation that's suitable for your needs can be one of uncertainty. This situation often leads to young people having to move to aged care while they work out where they will live in the longer term.

Our Rapid Housing Prototype Project is looking at ways that temporary modular housing can be used instead of aged care. The project is working towards creating a prototype modular house, designed for people with a disability to live as independently as possible while their long-term housing needs are organised. The prototype will be publicly displayed to generate awareness of the issue. Watch this space for project developments.



COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

Support coordinators are among the most critical professionals assisting people to achieve positive outcomes under the NDIS. It is support coordinators who assist young people to explore their housing options and find alternatives to residential aged care.

Unless people with complex disability support needs have access to a high quality support coordination workforce, we are unlikely to achieve our goal of young people not being forced into aged care.

You are telling us that a lack of experience, knowledge and suitability of support coordinators is a significant problem.

The Summer Foundation is pleased to announce that we have received philanthropic funding to pilot a community of practice for support coordinators. A community of practice is a way of sharing existing information, and creating new knowledge. In the coming months we will employ a project officer and test our approach to building the capacity of support coordinators to support young people in (or at risk of entering) aged care, to achieve positive outcomes under the NDIS.

Stay tuned for how you can be involved in the pilot, as your feedback will shape the approach we take to scaling up the community of practice. In the meantime, you can let your support coordinator know that this is happening, and if they want to know more they can sign up to our support coordinators mailing list here: [🌐 summerfoundation.org.au/support-coordinators-mailing-list/](https://summerfoundation.org.au/support-coordinators-mailing-list/)



ANNUAL PUBLIC FORUM

"From Hospital to Home" is the theme of our annual public forum on 11 October.

We know that if you experience a severe injury or a rapid and permanent decline in health the treatment and care you get in hospital can have a big impact on the rest of your life. But planning for what happens once you leave hospital is just as critical.

Our forum will bring together hospital discharge and disability sector professionals and people with first-hand experience to discuss how to achieve the best outcomes for people with complex needs, as they head from hospital to home.

A panel of industry experts and people with lived experience will lead the forum discussion.

The panelists are:

- Dina Watterson, Associate Director Allied Health, Alfred Health;
- Brynn Lewin, Senior Occupational Therapist, Austin Health;
- Chris Faulkner, General Manager, Participants and Planning, National Disability Insurance Agency;
- Penny Dorgan, disability advocate with experience of being discharged from hospital with complex needs.

The free event is on:

Thursday, 11 October, from noon to 1pm
The Arena, NAB Docklands,
700 Bourke St, Melbourne.

Bookings are essential – go to trybooking.com/YBKW

The forum will also be streamed live on Facebook.



PENNY'S STORY

In 2009 Penny suffered a stroke. Four years later a motor vehicle accident caused further injury.

Through her NDIS plan Penny was funded for home and car modifications, support hours and equipment.

Her first plan increased her independence and social interactions – she says:

“

[IT WAS] A GOOD PACKAGE AND OPENED UP MY WORLD. I FELT LIBERATED. ”

However, at subsequent reviews items were removed. Penny's informal supports had also broken down in the meantime and despite needing additional support hours, her package was reduced. Getting less support at home resulted in more frequent hospital admissions for Penny.

Penny has been forced to pay for the community nursing and items not covered by health or disability funding out of her own pocket, which means less money for food and other essentials.

Penny has worked in the disability sector for a number of years, so is well informed and has a good understanding of the sector, but she too has had to work tirelessly to navigate the health and disability systems.

Penny will be speaking about her discharge experiences with the NDIS at the upcoming Annual Public Forum on October 11.

GET BUILDING SDA

Specialist Disability Accommodation (SDA) is housing that has been specially designed to suit people who have very high disability support needs – and there's a huge shortage of it.

The Summer Foundation and Disability Services Consulting have launched a building initiative that aims to help fill the gap.

Get Building SDA has begun in regional NSW with information sessions to give people with disability and their families, developers, investors and disability support providers the knowledge they need to explore building SDA.

The aim is to get close to 100 new SDA properties underway in NSW in the next 18 months.

The initiative has funding support from the NSW Government under the Smart, Skilled and Hired: Disability Sector Scale Up program.

For more information about SDA, building and managing SDA and financial considerations, go to the Get Building SDA website: getbuildingsda.org.au/

MAINSTREAM HOUSING GUIDE

We've written a useful guide to help you navigate your way through the search for mainstream housing. "Mainstream Housing Options" is written specifically for people with disability and is part of a series of guides that we put together to help people with disability find suitable housing.

The search for mainstream housing is the first step you need to take in your journey to choose where you want to live and who you want to live with.

If you can't find the right housing because of your disability, you may want to test your eligibility for specialist disability accommodation (SDA) funding, but you need to have a record of your search for mainstream housing when you apply for SDA.

"Mainstream Housing Options" will tell you everything you need to know when starting your search. You can download it here: summerfoundation.org.au/mainstream-housing-options

NURSING, SUPPORT AND THE NDIS

The NDIS is still working out what is reasonable and necessary for people with disability and complex needs. Difficulty accessing appropriate health supports is one of the reasons young people are admitted to aged care.

So we were pleased with the decision by the Administrative Appeal Tribunal (AAT) in relation to Mazy v. the NDIA. Mazy requested the provision of care by a registered nurse to administer regular insulin, which was declined by the NDIS. After an internal review, Mazy took her case to the AAT. The AAT found that it was a reasonable and necessary support for a registered nurse to administer her insulin (in accordance with s 34(1) of the *National Disability Insurance Scheme Act 2013 (Cth)*). For details of the decision: austlii.edu.au/cgi-bin/viewdoc/au/cases/cth/AATA/2018/3099.html

If you need access to nursing care to live well in the community you may want to print this decision to take to your planning meeting. Or, if your plan does not meet your needs, consider seeking advocacy support to request a review. To find an advocate see, disabilityadvocacyfinder.dss.gov.au/disability/ndap/

PAYING AGED CARE FEES

The Summer Foundation has produced new resources that explain residential aged care fees and what charges are covered by the NDIS.

"The NDIS and Aged Care Fees" is a guide for people with disability, their families and key supporters, support coordinators and plan managers. It clarifies what the NDIS will fund in a participant's plan. The information is for people living in aged care or those preparing to move in to aged care.

"Residential Aged Care Costs for NDIS Participants" is a fact sheet for NDIS plan managers and financial intermediaries, to guide them in how to best support people to access the NDIS funding.

You'll find information around NDIS planning meetings and explanations of the different fees charged by residential aged care providers. It clarifies what the basic daily fee and the means-tested care fee are, and what the NDIS will cover.

See: summerfoundation.org.au/paying-aged-care-fees