



Establishing a Social Enterprise?

A Unique Opportunity to Make a Difference

The Problem

Today in Australia approximately 4,500 young people with disabilities live in residential aged care (RAC). Young people typically enter RAC following a hospital admission - triggered by the sudden onset of disability, a change in circumstance or an increase in the level of complexity in required support. The default housing solution at the point of discharge is often RAC.



Watch James Nutt share his story from RAC to home, and the positive impact this move has on his life.

Click image above to watch Jame's story.

Catalyst for an Intervention

In March 2020, we expected a rapid escalation in hospital discharges, as Health Services cleared beds in anticipation of a significant COVID response. It seemed likely that young people with disabilities would be fast tracked to RAC as a consequence of these rapid discharges. We know that once a young person enters RAC, it's very difficult for them to leave... So, we stood up an intervention! We call it '**Housing Brokerage Service**'

We had the unique skills and experience to step in and support discharge teams to customise housing solutions for individual patients who were at risk of entering RAC due to not having a suitable housing option. We did this by coordinating bespoke solutions spanning the Health, Disability and Housing sectors. We found creative housing options to match patient's needs and preferences. And, we did this in a way that built the capacity of discharge teams...

The Opportunity

What began as a short term response to COVID has uncovered a continuing need. The Health, Disability and Housing sectors operate in silos. In addition, the NDIS is relatively new and the pathways between Health Services and the NDIS are tenuous and in their formative stages.

There is a need for experts to straddle these sectors to achieve timely housing outcomes which, most significantly, factor in the housing needs and preferences of the patient. Everyone agrees this is best practice, yet very few know how to make it happen. We do.

To date we've delivered this work through philanthropic funding. Demand for the service has constantly been at or beyond our capacity, based on word of mouth alone. Our initial inquiries confirm an appetite for Health Services to continue to access this service under a fee for service model.

Should Health foot the whole bill? That's a good question, they get benefits at the front end, but Disability benefits in the long run. Finding the right business model to take this service forward will be one of your first challenges!

What We've Done To Date

We've spent the past twelve months refining processes and data collection. We have a small team of experts with a unique range of specialist knowledge with the practical 'know how' to bring all this knowledge together to deliver creative, workable bespoke housing options. Which importantly suit the person with disability stuck in hospital.

We've evolved our service over the past 12 months using a continuous improvement process based on action research, and now we're ready to grow! Ultimately the work we do in this space will land a sizable puzzle piece in the broader endgame of solving the problem of young people living in RAC.

You

You are a social entrepreneur who is looking for a big challenge to fully sink your teeth into. You will be motivated to build on your previous commercial successes, taking an opportunity from a pilot to a unique, viable and sustainable national service. You'll be excited about building a successful service which doesn't compromise the needs and preferences of the people with disability who the service indirectly supports.

Your expectations of remuneration are in the \$130k-\$140k ball park, and you'll be enthusiastic about the opportunity to be mentored by someone who's successfully walked the social enterprise start up path before you!

Some Statistics from Inception (March 2020) to Now

Number of eligible referrals to the service	103
Number of cases closed	80
Number of hospitals worked with	48
Estimated number of eligible patients nationally per month	60
Jurisdictions covered	5
Number of team members	4

The Organisation

The [Summer Foundation](#) was founded in 2006. While the organisation was established with the clear goal of contributing to a permanent solution to the problem of young people with disability being forced to live in RAC, there have been, and will continue to be, social enterprises such as the that break away from the Summer Foundation and will continue beyond the life of the Summer Foundation. This **Housing Brokerage Service** has the potential to do the same.

The Summer Foundation's Directors include Chair [Paul Conroy](#), [Jason Chequer](#), [Adam Horsburgh](#), [Dean Ireland](#), [Caro Llewellyn](#), [Selina Short](#), [Cain Beckett](#) and Executive Directors [Di Winkler](#) and [Jacinta Douglas](#).

The Summer Foundation is led by an Executive team comprising CEO and Founder [Di Winkler](#), COO [Carolyn Finis](#), General Manager Housing Matching [Alecia Rathbone](#), Head of Government Relations and Policy [Amelia Condi](#) and CFO [Eugene McCrory](#).

To meet some of our staff and hear about our organisation, [please view this clip](#).

Next Steps

We'd love to see your pitch! What do you bring to this opportunity that qualifies you, and what sets you apart? Why do you want to be the one to bring the vision for this service to fruition?

Here is a [position description](#) in a more traditional format if you are seeking that. While our head office is in Melbourne, applications outside of Victoria will also be considered.

Email alecia.rathbone@summerfoundation.org.au with the subject line 'Building the Housing Brokerage Service'. **Closing date for pitches is 13th July, 2021**