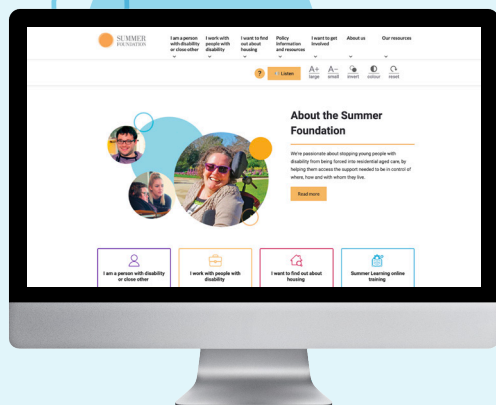


# SUMMER FOUNDATION NEWS



## NEW-LOOK SUMMER FOUNDATION WEBSITE

The Summer Foundation recently launched a new website. We invite you to head to the site and take a look around. New features include dedicated web pages for:

🌐 People with disability and close others

🌐 Policy makers

🌐 NDIS support coordinators and allied health professionals and aged care workers

🌐 Our new Summer Learning online learning platform

🌐 People that want to find out about housing

🌐 Searchable research and resource libraries

**Welcome to our winter update.** It comes at a time of greater public focus on the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), particularly around new independent assessments, personalised budgets and challenges within the specialist disability accommodation (SDA) sector.

Recently a small group of Summer Foundation key staff and I met with the newly appointed NDIS Minister, Linda Reynolds. It was refreshing to hear that the priorities of the Minister around the issue of young people in aged care are closely aligned with those of the Summer Foundation. We are delighted to have an engaged and solutions focused NDIS Minister.

Minister Reynolds has created the space to have open conversations with the sector about key priorities of the NDIS, including those mentioned above. We are looking forward to working closely with her and the NDIA to inform and shape opportunities to improve the NDIS. The voice of people with disability is central to our influence and discussions with the Minister.

The recent decision by state and federal building ministers to include mandatory accessibility standards in the National Construction Code is a great win for all Australians (see page 2).

We also welcome Minister Reynold's commitment to consult further on independent assessments (see page 4).

I hope you enjoy reading about more of our work in this edition of our Summer Foundation News Update.

Stay well,

Di Winkler, CEO

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## BIG WIN FOR ACCESSIBILITY

Under the National Construction Code (NCC) 2022, all new housing will be required to meet minimum accessibility standards.

This includes at least 1 step-free entrance, wider internal doors and corridors and a toilet at ground level or entry level.

State and federal building ministers last month agreed to include minimum accessibility standards to Livable Housing Design Guidelines Silver Level in the NCC from September 2022.

The Summer Foundation was one of the 70-strong group of peak bodies and agencies that worked together to secure this result as part of the Building Better Homes campaign.

More than 17,000 people signed the BHH petition calling for the change to the NCC.

CEO Dr Di Winkler said it was a landmark decision that will improve housing accessibility in Australia for decades to come.

It is an important step in the right direction but further work is needed to implement these new standards and ensure they are applied consistently and appropriately across Australia, she said.

In the leadup to the building ministers' meeting the Summer Foundation and La Trobe University conducted national surveys of people with mobility impairment and occupational therapists (OTs) about housing accessibility features.

The OTs study found that more than 40% of clients had a delayed discharge from hospital as they waited for home modifications to be completed. This resulted in each person spending an extra 20 days in hospital - at an estimated cost of between \$1.7 billion and \$3.2 billion a year.

Ministers took into consideration the feedback from industry, advocates and the lived experience of members of the community affected by the lack of accessible housing, according to the communicate released after the meeting.

*"The decision .... reflects their assessment that a regulatory solution will result in significant and lasting benefit to Australians who need access to homes with accessible features,"* it said.



## NEW DIRECTOR WELCOMED

The Summer Foundation Board renewal program continues and we are delighted to welcome new director Cain Beckett.

Cain is a senior executive in the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet and leads the department's internal consulting unit, the Policy Projects and Taskforces Office.

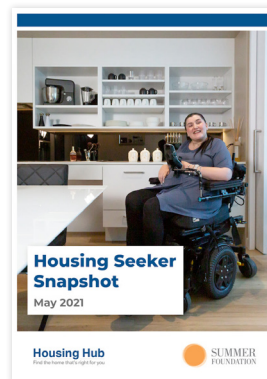
Cain held leadership roles in the design and launch of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), where he built the supply-side functions for the Scheme, including pricing and the development of Specialist Disability Accommodation (SDA). Cain is also now an NDIS participant.

Before his government work Cain's career spanned diverse roles across consulting and in the private sector, including stints at PwC, Accenture and Perpetual. Cain is a former Chair of the NSW Disability Council and former non-executive director of the Cerebral Palsy Alliance.

## HOUSING HUB DATA SNAPSHOT

The Housing Hub has begun publishing data from housing seekers in a summarised way to inform the market.

General Manager Alecia Rathbone said the Housing Hub is working to make sure the needs and wants of housing seekers are driving the market for accessible housing.



*"Housing providers have told us they need access to data on the market to guide their property management and future investment decisions,"* Alecia said. *"By releasing this information, the Housing Hub aims to give both seekers and providers insights into the accessible housing market."*

This Housing Seeker Snapshot summarises data from over 1,500 housing seeker profiles and more than 60,000 searches.

The Housing Hub intends to release this data snapshot every 6 months. [View the Housing Seeker Snapshot here.](#)



## WELCOME HOME EDUCATION PACKAGE FOR SDA PROVIDERS

The Summer Foundation's Welcome Home education package for SDA providers was launched in May.

The free, self-paced learning package contains resources designed to help Board and executive team members and tenancy managers understand their obligations under the SDA Practice Standards and explore a rights-based approach to service delivery.

The Welcome Home package includes 6 training modules that provide a comprehensive guide to the SDA Practice Standards with factsheets, policy guides, videos and podcasts.

The resources are available on our new online training platform, Summer Learning.

The Welcome Home Project Manager, Rosie Beaumont, said: *"The package has had a great response with nearly 150 organisations registering to use the resources."*

We will also be hosting a series of Welcome Home webinars between June and October 2021 that will take a closer look at the key responsibilities of the SDA provider role, the partnerships that support the delivery of SDA services and good practices for working with SDA tenants.

### Webinar dates:

- 🌐 **Understanding the SDA provider role** – Wednesday 21 July
- 🌐 **Who should I work with?** – Wednesday 28 July
- 🌐 **Working with an SDA tenant** – Thursday 29 July

*The Welcome Home project has been funded by the Support for NDIS Providers Program, administered by the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission.*

🌐 **For more information, please head to our Welcome Home web page.**

## BUSY TIME FOR RESEARCHERS

The Summer Foundation Research team is currently involved in an extensive range of projects.

These include:

- Looking at the hospital to home journey for people with disability and complex needs with a focus on health and NDIS timeframes
- Looking at ways to support young people stuck in hospital to find housing that aligns with their needs and preferences
- Finding out what makes an effective support coordinator
- Looking at the impact of the NDIS on young people in aged care or those at risk of admission
- Exploring factors that influence the quality of paid disability support
- Investigating needs and preferences regarding housing, disability supports and assistive technology
- Evaluating the outcomes and impact of tenants living in new specialist disability accommodation (SDA) to create an evidence base for the SDA market, and
- Exploring the experience of partnering with people with disability in a co-design project

## NEW RESEARCH LIBRARY

To access the Summer Foundation's wide range of research reports. 🌐 **Head to our new research library here.**

This library features reports detailing information we have gathered to help us understand the issue of young people living in aged care. This includes reports about the needs, preferences and outcomes of younger people with disability, the impact of the NDIS, and ways to solve the issue.

## HAVE YOUR SAY

Our partners in research, La Trobe University, are conducting a study to understand how the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted people with acquired brain injury (ABI) e.g. stroke, traumatic brain injury, brain tumour, hypoxic brain injury. They are looking for adults with ABI who live in Australia, or carers/family members of adults with ABI to participate. 🌐 **Find out more here.**

## PERSONALISED BUDGETS AND INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENTS

🌐 The NDIA has recently released information on plan flexibility and budget planning.

The new approach to personalised budgets enables more flexibility and control for every person. It supports a participant led discussion on what supports are needed, how and when they will be used and can bring opportunity to try and test new types of support.

Amelia Condi, our Head of Government Relations and Policy said *"With the right capacity building and guidance from a quality, informed support coordinator, personalised budgets can give people the freedom to live their lives."*

The NDIA is looking to make personalised budgets possible through the support of independent assessments. The right framework to underpin independent assessments could facilitate a good understanding of the support needs of NDIS participants. Finding an equitable and dignified way of allocating a funding envelope to each NDIS participant is the gateway to personalised budgets and more flexible plans.

There should always be an opportunity for independent assessments to be informed by the professionals already in an individual's life and conducted with the view of enhancing capacity and independence.

The Minister for the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), Linda Reynolds, has announced that the introduction of independent assessments will be put on hold pending evaluation of pilots and consultation.

*"The organisation is looking forward to contributing to the design of a framework to underpin independent assessments,"* said Ms Condi. *"The NDIS participant must be at the centre of the assessment."*

## COVID-19 VACCINATION UPDATE

The Summer Foundation is pleased with the recent decision to expand eligibility for COVID-19 vaccination to all NDIS participants and carers.

🌐 For more information and other COVID-19 updates, [click here](#).



## NEVER GIVE UP YOUR DREAMS

### Profile - Pamela Dean

My name is Pam, I have been involved with the Summer Foundation for about a year now.

I was diagnosed with MS in 2009. I was living independently in a private rental but after I had a serious relapse and ended up in rehab for 7 months they told me to consider moving into a supported home. I moved into a group home in 2018. There were pros and cons – it was nice to be surrounded by people, but I didn't have agency any more.

My plan coordinator suggested looking at SDA and put it in my plan. When the SDA apartment came up I was excited but at the same time I wondered if I would be able to live on my own with my level of disability.

Now I'm living in my own SDA apartment. I manage fine, I didn't need to worry at all. I think the Summer Housing concierge model is very good – with my 1-on-1 staff I manage to achieve a lot more. I'm able to join groups and meet people in the community, I like to do my shopping in the shopping centre – just things that everyone else does.

I had a cat that I had to give up when I ended up in hospital. In the group home I had a concrete statue of a cat but now I have finally been able to get George. I love having a pet.

I've been involved with the Lived Experience Team for about a year. It's nice to be involved in the workforce again after previously having worked as a project manager looking after the doctoral program for a school of bio medical science.

I would just like to say to others – make the best of every situation but at the same time never give up your dreams.