

SUMMER FOUNDATION NEWS



SPECIALIST DISABILITY ACCOMMODATION (SDA) INVESTOR THINK TANK

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS



SUMMER FOUNDATION

 **SAVE THE DATE!** Summer Foundation 2021 Annual Public Forum – Thursday 4 November, 12 – 1.30pm

Welcome to our spring update. It has been a particularly busy and satisfying few months for us.

Most notably has been the release of the Specialist Disability Accommodation (SDA) Investor Think Tank report and the positive response it attracted from the Minister for the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), Linda Reynolds.

The Summer Foundation established the SDA Investor Think Tank in mid 2021, in collaboration with a group of investment fund managers, to consider how the SDA market could best be supported through its next important stage of growth.

It is hoped the findings and recommendations in the report will support NDIA stewardship of the SDA market, provide a platform for collaboration and help build confidence in the market. You can read the full story on page 2.

We're also ramping up for our Annual Public Forum, which will be held as an online event on Thursday 4 November. More details coming soon.

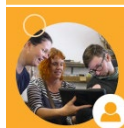
In this edition, you can read about our new UpSkill Provider Directory, the wrap up of our successful Housing Options project and some new features on the Housing Hub.

Rebecca Evans – an accomplished sportsperson, university student and advocate – tells us all about her endeavours on page 4.

Stay well and try to be positive as the COVID battle continues.

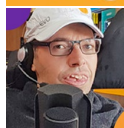
Di Winkler, CEO

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POSITIVE RESPONSE TO SDA INVESTOR THINK TANK REPORT

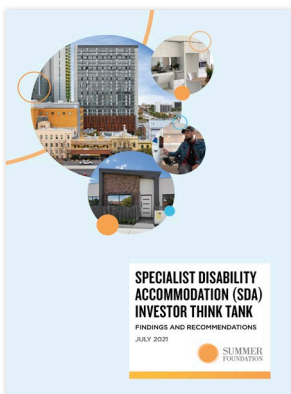
Big changes are needed for the SDA market to meet its potential to help provide housing for an estimated 28,000 young people with disability.

The SDA market has grown from nothing to a \$2.5 billion asset class in just 5 years. But the rapid growth has outstripped the evolution of government infrastructure causing some instability in the market.

Earlier this year, the Summer Foundation established the SDA Investor Think Tank in collaboration with a group of investment fund managers, to consider how the market could best be supported through the next growth stage.

The SDA Investor Think Tank, which includes investment fund managers who have collectively invested nearly \$650 million in the SDA market, produced the SDA Investor Think Tank Findings and Recommendations Report. It identifies issues and opportunities that require urgent attention to help achieve market maturity.

Think Tank members presented the report to the Minister for the National Disability Insurance Scheme, Linda Reynolds, at an SDA Roundtable held by the Minister in August.



Minister Reynolds described the report as a "great piece of work" with sensible recommendations. She committed to gathering more information and developing a plan to implement solutions.

"The commitment from Minister Reynolds also reaffirms that effective collaboration is essential in an emerging market in order to meet the needs of the government, the NDIA, participants, providers and investors," said CEO Dr Di Winkler in a co-authored Pro Bono Australia article.

"Everyone benefits if the SDA market reaches its full potential – participants access appropriate housing, investors and providers are able to offer housing which enables positive outcomes, and the government leverages private capital that helps to achieve NDIS sustainability."

[Click here to access the report.](#)



UPSKILL PROVIDER DIRECTORY

The UpSkill Provider Directory was launched at the beginning of September. The platform gives people with disability online access to a searchable directory of support coordinators and NDIS allied health professionals.

It will allow people with disability to find support coordinators and NDIS allied health professionals with the skills and expertise to meet their individual needs.

The directory is the newest tool in the Summer Foundation's UpSkill program that offers professional development to support coordinators and allied health professionals.

Those who have completed UpSkill training can create a directory profile listing their skills, expertise and experience in supporting people with disability to live well in the community.

People with disability, families and others who assist them can search for support coordinators and allied health professionals using location, skills and experience filters.

"Every day the Summer Foundation gets calls from NDIS participants looking for support coordinators and allied health professionals," said project coordinator Helen Jeisman.

"The Provider Directory will be a great resource to help these people find the supports they need."

[Click here to access the directory.](#)



SAVE THE DATE!

Thursday 4 November, 12 - 1.30pm

Summer Foundation 2021 Annual Public Forum

This year's Annual Public Forum is being held as an online event. More details coming soon.



IN THE SPOTLIGHT

The Summer Foundation's Reasonable and Necessary podcast has attracted high-powered talent to discuss key issues and opportunities for the NDIS.

The federal Minister for the NDIS Linda Reynolds and NDIA CEO Martin Hoffman joined the podcast for exclusive interviews about the future of the NDIS. And in the latest podcast Senator Jordon Steele-John shared his thoughts.

The collective decision by state and federal Ministers to not proceed with independent assessments, confirmed at the Disability Ministers' Meeting in July, was among the subjects discussed [Access the podcasts here.](#)

BUILDING BETTER HOMES UPDATE

Following April's historic decision by a majority of Building Ministers to incorporate mandatory minimum accessibility standards into the National Construction Code (NCC), it is now up to each state and territory to adopt the new NCC. So far Victoria, Queensland, ACT, NT and Tasmania have agreed to do so, while NSW, Western Australia and South Australia have declared that they will opt-out.

This would be a terrible outcome for people with disability and leave millions of people continuing to face exclusion every day. It is also a clear rejection of the recommendations of the Aged Care Royal Commission, which argued strongly for a national approach to improving housing supply.

The campaign is now focused on shifting the positions in these jurisdictions - starting with NSW. This includes stakeholder engagement and mobilisation of our partners in NSW, an online campaign and lobbying of government, opposition and minor parties in NSW. We have until 17 December to change their minds. If you would like to support the campaign, please email: campaign@buildingbetterhomes.org.au



HOUSING OPTIONS PROJECT

In July, the Summer Foundation completed its 2-year NDIS Housing Options Project with the Department of Social Services' Jobs and Market Fund Program.

The project built the capacity of NDIS participants to understand their housing options under the NDIS and housing providers' capacity to understand how Specialist Disability Accommodation (SDA) works.

Resources developed included:

- Housing Options guides specifically for NDIS participants in Queensland and Western Australia
- Provider-focused information resources about how SDA funding works and key requirements of SDA dwellings and providers
- The SDA in Thin Markets report that looks at the barriers and impediments to the development of SDA in thin markets in Western Australia and Queensland

During the project we conducted 45 events (face-to-face and online) with 1,177 attendees across the 2 states. This included Housing Connections events, workshops and online training sessions for NDIS participants, families, SDA providers, support coordinators and NDIS service providers.

LEARN ABOUT OUR RESEARCH

The Summer Foundation–La Trobe University Research Program is designed to understand the issue of young people in aged care. By researching the issues at each stage of the critical pathways that lead young people to aged care we can provide the evidence needed to create systems change that will solve this problem.

See our 2021 annual research program report and a video presented by CEO Dr Di Winkler. [Access them here.](#)

NEW RESOURCES FOR PEOPLE LEAVING AGED CARE

The Housing Hub has a suite of new resources on the website for people who are thinking about moving out of a nursing home or other housing that doesn't suit them.

With generous funding support from TAC and State Trustees, people who have experience moving out of unsuitable housing have created some fantastic resources for people who are just starting their own journeys.

Sam Petersen is one of the creators of resources to help people get the right support to move out of aged care.

Sam, who lived in an aged care facility for 18 months in her 20s, uses a power wheelchair for mobility and a text-to-speech device to communicate.

"The topics we cover include the impact of mental health and challenging others' perspectives. These are key issues that people with disability experience every day. The podcast provides a platform for real and honest conversations about these topics," Sam said.


Fellow content creator Kirby Littley explains: *"These resources are about supporting people with the information and tools you need – as well as the confidence you need – to make a move into a home that's more suitable."*

 **Access the resources here.**

NEW HOUSING HUB FEATURE FOR SUPPORT COORDINATORS

The new Support Portal on the Housing Hub website is for professionals who are supporting people with disability to look for suitable housing. It makes everything about clients' housing searches easier.

Through the Support Portal support teams can create a housing seeker profile for each participant they support.

Clients can be supported to express what they want in their living situation through guided questions. The Housing Hub will then show housing options that are a good match for the housing seeker profile. Email notifications about these options can be sent.  **Access the Support Portal here.**



PROFILE - REBECCA EVANS

Housing Hub Lived Experience Coordinator Rebecca Evans took time out of her busy schedule to tell us about herself.

Tell us about yourself.

I am 23 years old and I live in Perth. I have a rare neuromuscular disability but that doesn't stop me from living a very active and busy life! I'm studying a Bachelor of Psychology (Honours) at Curtin University and am doing a research project with the Telethon Kids Institute. I'm very passionate about disability advocacy. I volunteer for the Youth Disability Advocacy Network.

Outside of work, study and advocacy, I also play a sport called powerchair football (or soccer), which has become my major passion in life. Oh, and I also work for the Housing Hub as the Lived Experience Coordinator!

How did you get involved with powerchair football? Are there any special highlights for you?

I first got involved in powerchair football when I attended a social evening for young adults with neuromuscular conditions. I met a few athletes there who played and they enticed me to give it a go. From the moment I tried it I was hooked! It was something that I could do independently and where I could really unleash my competitive spirit.

My most special highlight was vice captaining the U21 Australian team at the 2019 Asia-Pacific-Oceania Cup. I was the only female and the only West Australian out of both the senior and U21 teams, which made the achievement special.

When you finish your studies, what are your plans?

I think I'll continue with what I'm doing. I did have plans to secure employment or continue on to do my Masters, but when the part-time opportunity with the Housing Hub came up it was an opportunity I couldn't ignore.