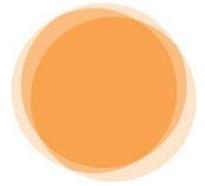


SUMMER
FOUNDATION



Consultation on Home and Living

Submission by the Summer Foundation

September 2021



This submission has been endorsed
by People with Disabilities Western Australia

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Executive Summary

The Summer Foundation welcomes the opportunity to contribute to the National Disability Insurance Agency's (NDIA, Agency) consultation into Home and Living and the focus on person-centred supports, flexible funding and an ordinary life in the community.

Our submission responds to the key themes in the consultation paper and makes recommendations to uphold human rights, increase participant choice and control, and build capability among people with disability, families and the disability sector.

The proposed Home and Living Policy is a significant step towards securing better outcomes for National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS, Scheme) participants. A flexible and responsive Home and Living Policy is essential to stop younger people with disability being forced into Residential Aged Care (RAC) and to meet the outcomes outlined in the [Younger People in Residential Aged Care Action Plan](#).

Our submission supports the new approach to home and living supports outlined in the consultation paper and we recommend that the policy:

- Is consistent with Article 19 of the UNCRPD
- Assesses participant housing and support needs in line with Article 19 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD)
- Enables planning conversations to focus on understanding and implementing the needs, goals and preferences of the participant, in line with a reasonable and necessary assessment of funding
- Funds co-produced, peer-led information for participants
- Ensures participants have access to easy to navigate information about housing options
- Ensures participants receive timely responses to housing and support funding requests, particularly through the Home and Living Form
- Enables participants to be informed about appropriate housing and support options
- Ensures participants have opportunity to be part of and engage with the community
- Provides options for home and living that are person-centred rather than restricted to a funding line item
- Allows flexibility in funding in line with disability needs
- Provides funding, tailored support and capacity building for participants to 'trial and test' housing and support arrangements
- Invests in capacity building for participants requiring supports with decision-making to access circles of support and microboards
- Provides participants in group settings with information about housing and support options
- Invests in building the knowledge, understanding, consistency and quality of planners, support coordinators, Local Area Coordinators (LACs) and allied health professionals

- Ensures that participants' individual needs and goals inform personalised budgets, as stated in the NDIS Act, in line with what is reasonable and necessary
- Enables new funding models to:
 - involve allied health professionals familiar with the participant
 - ensure feedback and appeals processes are in place at every step
 - ensure no one is in hospital or RAC because they cannot access an NDIS assessment or are waiting for an outcome
- Expands eligibility for MTA
- Ensures early access to and approval of plans or interim (3-6 month) plans that fund Specialist Support Coordination or other services and supports for participants with high and complex needs to leave hospital
- Ensures planners, LACs and support coordinators have the time and expertise to provide hands-on support
- Enacts legislative changes in line with the Tune review to mitigate the risk of conflicts of interest
- Provides clearer definitions around eligibility for different types of housing and supports

A vision for a person-centred Home and Living Policy empowering participants

As one of Australia’s most significant national reforms, the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) represents generational reform to the way disability services are delivered. Flexible budgets, person-centred conversations and capacity building of the NDIS workforce are central to ensuring positive participant outcomes. The Summer Foundation is hopeful that the recommendations in this consultation paper will support the National Disability Insurance Agency’s (NDIA) Home and Living Policy to ensure participants are at the centre of their plans and are supported to live an ordinary life.

Changing the conversation

Human rights

Renewed emphasis on human rights strengthens Australia’s commitment as a signatory to the United Nations [Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](#) (UNCRPD). The Home and Living Policy and planning conversations must uphold the rights stipulated in Article 19 which states:

- “a) Persons with disabilities have the opportunity to choose their place of residence and where and with whom they live on an equal basis with others and are not obliged to live in a particular living arrangement;*
- b) Persons with disabilities have access to a range of in-home, residential and other community support services, including personal assistance necessary to support living and inclusion in the community, and to prevent isolation or segregation from the community”*

Monitoring and compliance must ensure that participants’ rights are being upheld in line with Australia’s signatory requirements. Ongoing work must be done to ensure that outcomes experienced by participants are in line with the Agency’s commitment to human rights.

Recommendation 1

The NDIA must ensure that the Home and Living Policy is consistent with Article 19 of the UNCRPD.

Housing and support options must be designed with and around the participant, in line with their goals, needs and preferences.

The right to decide where and who you live with and how you are supported

The NDIA has stated that participants have a right to choose where they live and who they live with. This means that NDIS planning decisions must not force people into shared living arrangements with people or providers they have not chosen. This is consistent with the UNCRPD and with an ordinary life.

Individualised living options are an important tool to enable people to be in control of their housing and support. The Summer Foundation welcome the introduction of options that enable people to use their funding flexibly to develop personalised solutions to meet their housing and support needs.

Recommendation 2

The NDIA must assess participant housing and support needs in line with Article 19 of the UNCRPD.

Consistent with the UNCRPD, participants must be supported to decide where they live and who they live with and not be forced to live in a particular living arrangement that is not consistent with their needs and preferences.

The Summer Foundation recognises the need for person-centred conversations that acknowledge:

- Participants (and supporters) are the best judges of what they want and need
- The importance of home as a place of belonging, safety and security
- Participants have the right to live an ordinary life and decide where they live and who they live with
- The need for flexibility in funding to achieve desired outcomes
- The need for capacity building to explore, design and implement housing and support options
- The ability to try different housing and support options and to move across different types of housing and support arrangements throughout a participant's life, in line with their personal circumstances

Recommendation 3

The NDIA must ensure planning conversations focus on understanding and implementing the needs, goals and preferences of the participant, in line with a reasonable and necessary assessment of funding.

Meaningful and appropriate conversations lead to plans that enable participants to choose where they live, who they live with and how they are supported. Plans need to be developed with the necessary funding included to support participants to live an ordinary life.

*“Training for NDIA staff, so they have real-life understanding...
Communication lines should be genuine. We need the option to contact
a particular planner.*

*There must be open lines of communication and flexibility in making their
processes work for people. How NDIA staff ask questions, and showing
their understanding, is important.”*

Ashley* – Participant

Supporting informed and empowered consumers

Participant-led information

Information released and distributed by the Agency must be based around participant-led conversations and peer-centred support.

Funding for high-quality participant-designed and led information (such as [participant-led videos](#)) should cover new and emerging issues. Information should include examples of how a participant can use their funding, how to search for and arrange housing and find specialist supports, videos are invaluable for participants and their supporters to determine how they wish to live.

*“[We’re] needing support with complex information – need basic step-by-step
instructions so you can work through things sequentially.”*

Ashley – Participant

Recommendation 4

The NDIA must fund co-produced, peer-led information for participants.

- a. Co-produced, peer-led information should be delivered in many ways, such as participant-led videos, information, stories and resources produced by participants ([Summer Foundation](#) and [Housing Hub examples](#)) and through consultation with groups such as the Summer Foundation’s SDA Tenant Group.
- b. Consistent messages and information must be developed through co-production of videos to provide simple and informative examples developed by participants, for participants.

Understanding housing options

The NDIA must have earlier conversations, prioritising participants in institutions such as residential aged care (RAC), hospital and group homes, and implement timely responses to housing options. A timely response to a request for housing and support will aid in the prevention of new entrants into RAC, one of the Young People in Residential Aged Care (YPIRAC) targets, due to be achieved by 2022. Shorter wait times for appropriate housing and supports will enable a greater quality of life, independence and connection to community.

Recommendation 5

The NDIA must ensure participants have access to easy to navigate information about housing options.

Building the capacity of participants around all housing options (NDIS-funded and other accessible options) is essential for a participant to make a choice about what option best suits their needs. The Summer Foundation's [Housing Hub](#) provides accessible self-paced [learning](#) about housing options and a workbook to help participants consider the housing options available in each state.

Recommendation 6

The NDIA must ensure participants receive timely responses to housing and support funding requests.

Improved response times and standard of responses by the Agency to requests, reviews and change of circumstances will enable better outcomes for participants, ensure participants have timely access to appropriate housing options (including state pathways) and build confidence in NDIA's decision-making processes. A timely response to a request for housing and support will aid in the prevention of new entrants into RAC, one of the YPIRAC targets, due to be achieved by 2022.

Independent Living Options

Independent Living Options (ILO) are an important policy initiative that will, if properly implemented, enable participants to achieve home and living arrangements that are person-centred and that meet their individual needs. These options should be available to all participants including people with high and complex needs.

In order for ILO to be effectively implemented, participants and support coordinators need to be supported to understand the variety of possible options that can be funded under the ILO arrangement.

Recommendation 7

Participants and support coordinators must be informed about ILO.

The NDIA needs to support participants to understand ILO. A wide range of resources in accessible formats should be made available to inform participants and support coordinators about the opportunities that are available for a highly personalised housing and support arrangement.

Participants must have access to examples of ways to use individualised funding that demonstrate options and approaches to utilising funding, tailored to the needs of different cohorts.

Supporting community connections

Community involvement is a crucial component to the Home and Living Policy and one of the best supports and capacity builders for participants. Community involvement builds social connections and enables a participant to pursue goals, choose supports and live an ordinary life.

“With housing choices, it feels like we’re fighting for the right for a presence in the community.”

Megan* – Participant

Recommendation 8

Ensure participants have the opportunity to be part of and engage with the community.

Community involvement and peer support are important to living an ordinary life. Participants should be supported to participate and engage in a way that is meaningful to them.

Well designed housing and supports enable a participant to live with family and friends and to live within their chosen community.

Recommendation 9

Home and living options must be person-centred rather than restricted to a funding line item.

Participants must have flexibility in how they establish their housing and support arrangements, including having the ability to choose the providers that deliver the best support options to suit their needs in a flexible way. This allows participants' needs to come first and for them to have greater choice and control over their supports.

Recommendation 10

The NDIA must allow flexibility in funding, in line with disability needs.

The Independent Advisory Council [defines](#) non-service solutions as “practical ways to meet a need without the use of disability services”. Participants must have flexible funding for practical matters that provide better outcomes, while offering value for money.

Opportunity to trial and test housing and support options

Shortages in both accessible and affordable housing effectively limit options for participants, particularly where a participant is unsure if the housing and support arrangements will work for them. Trialling of homes and supports (such as SDA and ILO) would empower participants to choose better homes and supports.

No options currently exist to explore and safely trial the suitability of housing and support options. This is particularly important for participants who are institutionalised and hold concerns about moving into a different accommodation setting. Trialling of housing and support options, for the individuals who require this, may produce better long-term and secure housing arrangements. It will allow participants who are leaving an extended hospital stay or RAC the opportunity to explore their new homes and get to know the individualised supports that best meet their needs.

Funding for supports to explore housing options should enable the participant to identify the components of housing and support that are important for them. This will also provide the opportunity for a participant to get to know and interact with a community and facilitates opportunities to experience the ‘living environment’.

Creating transition arrangements to support a participant to explore housing and support options, elect the housing and support arrangements that best support their needs and transition with flexibility will allow for more confidence in securing new housing and support arrangements and allow participants to actively manage the components that both work and do not work for them.

Flexible budgets will go far in supporting this, allowing more flexibility in the hours and support components in home, in community and through shared support models. This can be achieved through use of funds, rather than increase of funds where plans have the required flexibility.

“The NDIA makes sweeping statements re: ‘try before you buy’, flexibility or an ordinary life. I don’t think these reflect the reality [of what we’re experiencing].

NDIA have a duty of care that people with disability get what they need.”

Danielle* - Participant

Recommendation 11

The NDIA must provide funding, tailored support and capacity building for participants to ‘trial and test’ housing and support arrangements.

Participants face uncertainty when arranging and moving into new housing due to new supports and living arrangements with which they are unfamiliar.

Expansion of Medium Term Accommodation (MTA) eligibility and provision of funding would ensure participants are able to trial the quality and type of housing as well as support arrangements to accommodate their needs.

Expanding support for decision-making

People with disability and their supporters, are the best authority on their own needs and circumstances. The Agency must empower participants’ decision-making support through capacity building. This ensures that decision-supporters know how to best support a participant to make decisions.

Recommendation 12

The NDIA must invest in capacity building for participants requiring supports with decision-making to access circles of support and microboards.

Wider involvement through circles of support and microboards creates a more robust and sustainable situation for participants. Microboards offer an approach that takes pressure off family being solely responsible for sustaining a participant’s home and living arrangement.

Opportunity to leave institutional living

While there has been some progress in participants moving out of RAC, there are still new entrants monthly and others residing in RAC still struggle to find information about and access to appropriate housing options. Additionally, those stuck in hospital due to discharge delays and those in group homes must be actively engaged by the Agency to support transition to appropriate housing options.

Most commonly, across Australia, people live in shared housing of up to three people. Likewise for a participant, living with a small number of others would contribute to living an ordinary life. Participants living in traditional group homes experience a lack of choice and control, living situations that do not meet their needs and a lack of opportunity to explore individualised housing options.

Recommendation 13

Participants in group settings (e.g. RAC, group homes) must be actively engaged and provided with information about housing and support options.

- a. The NDIA should build the capacity of participants and the RAC and hospital workforces by providing information and resources around appropriate housing and support options.
- b. YPIRAC must have access to active and informed conversations that connect them with skilled and experienced YPIRAC planners and YPIRAC System Coordinators. Conversations must be set up to build trust, explore options and provide a clear pathway around housing and support options. Importantly, conversations must not be limited to asking if YPIRAC 'want to move', as this does not support, prepare or enable confidence about the change of living situation.
- c. The Summer Foundation has significant experience and resources that would be of benefit to YPIRAC planners and support this engagement, which can be supplied on request.

The need for capacity building of the NDIS workforce

The Home and Living Policy provides a great starting point for supporting participants. However, further work is required to develop capacity in the NDIS workforce to better support participants.

NDIS planners, support coordinators and LACs should have the opportunity to build their knowledge and understanding of the options available for participants. The information being provided to participants and their supporters must be clear and consistent across planners, support coordinators and LACs. Information, resources and options about available services, how to judge value for money, or other information (such as housing options) should be easy to access.

Additionally, allied health professionals require capacity building to understand the NDIS and the language used, get to know and understand participants' needs and provide evidence in a consistent way.

Recommendation 14

The NDIA must invest in building the knowledge, understanding, consistency and quality of planners, support coordinators, LACs and allied health professionals.

Participants must be able to access a workforce with the necessary skills, knowledge and values. Participants often face inconsistent and/or incorrect information regarding the wide range of needed services and supports integral to their plan.

- a. The NDIA must invest in strategies that will enable planners, support coordinators and LACs to develop the necessary skills and knowledge to work with participants who have complex housing and support needs.
- b. Planners, support coordinators, LACs and health teams must be required to follow person-centred frameworks that actively promote participants to take the lead in conversations about where they want to live and with whom.
- c. The NDIA should require planners, support coordinators and LACs to undertake a minimum number of hours a year of professional development in line with the needs of NDIS participants.
- d. Allied health professionals must be given access to training on how to assess and describe disability support needs in a way that is consistent with the language and approach used in the NDIS legislation, policies and used by the NDIA. This will enable greater application of fairness and consistency in funding allocations through consistent provision and articulation of evidence.
- e. The NDIA should fund industry development measures, including access to training and resources, such as membership within [UpSkill's Community of Practice](#).
- f. The NDIA should develop strategies to make training on facilitating support for decision-making available and affordable to support coordinators.
- g. The NDIA should reassess price limits to factor in the importance of allowing time for training, coaching and knowledge development work for the planning, support coordination and LAC workforce to provide quality services to participants.
- h. The NDIA must invest in the development of a formal accreditation and/or qualifications for the practice of support coordination. Accreditations and/or qualification must be co-designed or co-produced by participants and support coordinators. Co-production will provide insight into what quality support coordination means to a wide range of participants. Qualifications should not be mandatory so participants may opt for a support coordinator who does not have formal accreditation. The Summer Foundation's [UpSkill](#) program is a national program offering professional development to support coordinators and allied health professionals. UpSkill offers training sessions, resources, and a [Community of Practice](#) for support coordinators to engage with peers, access information and develop best practice approaches.
- i. The NDIA must support, engage and promote participant-driven research done by the sector and use it to inform and better the NDIS.

“The policy framework doesn’t guide people on how to take different steps; where you get training from. It needs more transparency regarding the skills of providers. Needs benchmarking across the board - providers, housing.”

Megan – Participant

“A better support coordinator does what she says she’s going to do. Will check in, e.g. with recent lockdown to make sure [I] was ok. Independent communication. She takes initiative. If they help you, you need less help overall as you might not get to a crisis point/overwhelmed - if they do the little things, it builds your capacity over time.”

Ashley – Participant

Reforming the funding model

Funding to be informed by needs and goals

The proposed Home and Living Policy must ensure that individuals’ needs and goals translate into appropriate funding, in line with the NDIS Act 2013. Planning discussions should centre around needs and preferences of the participant and how these can be achieved within a budget, allowing participants flexibility to choose support options.

Planning should be redesigned to allow for comprehensive consideration of support options by planners and LACs, rather than be limited by the knowledge, resources or time available to planners. This would provide participants with flexible budgets that meet their needs, therefore reducing the need for appeals and change of circumstances requests.

Recommendation 15

The NDIA must ensure that participants’ individual needs and goals inform personalised budgets, as stated in the NDIS Act, in line with what is reasonable and necessary.

Person-centred planning must mean that the participant’s needs and goals are at the centre of the plan.

- a. Plan flexibility must ensure immediate funding for supports and services that allow participants stuck in hospital to transition into more appropriate interim housing.
- b. Participants should have sufficient funding to ensure that their goals and preferences are achievable rather than having to meet financial gaps – e.g. between their SDA funding and cost of an SDA property that meets their needs.

“So many aspects of your plan impact your choices... if housing is not built near public transportation, will car modification be approved, or will transport payments be adequate? Do I have to move out of my local area just to get access to housing that will suit how I want to live my life? It often requires a significant emotional, physical and logistical investment to get what you need.”

Megan – Participant

Person-centred planning

Person-centred planning is critical to participants’ choice and control. Plans, funding and supports must be responsive to participants’ needs. For example, fast-tracking access to funding may be needed to enable participants to leave inappropriate housing as soon as possible.

Recommendation 16

The new funding model must:

- a. Involve allied health professionals who know the participant and understand their needs. It takes time to understand the support needs of an individual and so any assessments must involve people who know the participant best.
- b. Ensure that timely feedback and appeals processes are in place and easy to access at every step. This will improve accountability and ensure that unsatisfactory assessments and decisions are appropriately reviewed.
- c. Ensure that no one with a disability is stuck in hospital or in RAC because they cannot access an NDIS assessment or because they are waiting on an outcome. The NDIA needs to act quickly and provide rapid assessments and plans for participants.

Medium Term Accommodation

The new funding model provides an opportunity to expand eligibility for MTA. Eligibility should be expanded to allow flexibility while participants are arranging and/or awaiting longer-term housing solutions, such as SDA or home modifications, to be ready. This would provide a much-needed method for participants to stay in appropriate housing while leaving both RAC and hospital.

Participants in hospital will usually have a home and living goal, however they are struggling to obtain adequate funding in a timely way to enable discharge. A transitional arrangement is needed to allow participants to leave inappropriate settings. Exploration and design can happen once the participant has left hospital.

Recommendation 17

The NDIA must expand eligibility for MTA.

Participants in RAC, hospital or non-crisis high-risk situations would benefit from MTA while awaiting appropriate housing solutions. Flexible funding must be available for transition purposes. MTA must be expanded to address a variety of medium-term disability-related housing needs, including:

- a. People who have a long-term housing solution and need an interim housing solution while they wait for that to be ready
- b. People who are stuck in RAC or hospital and require an interim housing solution while they confirm their long-term housing solution
- c. People who have a goal to move but require an interim housing solution so they can trial aspects of independent living and build their capacity and skills as a stepping-stone to long-term housing solution. This would be strictly time limited to prevent people being 'stuck' in MTA, with the participant either having to:
 - i. return to their previous home and plan to move to other MTA categories or plan to move to long-term housing
 - ii. go to MTA from here if the long-term has been confirmed
 - iii. go straight to long-term from here
- d. Strengthened definitions of MTA are needed:
 - i. The NDIA to define MTA as funding that furthers participants' housing goals
 - ii. NDIS Price Guide and MTA Operational Guidelines to define MTA as funding directed towards flexible, suitable housing options that are also safe and in line with a participant's housing goals and meeting their needs and preferences
- e. It is critical to have MTA (or similar interim housing) in a participant's plan (without a secured long-term housing option, but with safeguards in place so the participant does not also become 'stuck' in [MTA](#) long term) while waiting for discharge, a housing search, and the exploration for all home and living funding types (as described in the [consultation paper](#)). This allows participants to leave unsuitable housing and enter appropriate housing soon without creating additional risks for housing providers

Improving choice and control through flexible budgets

Further work is required by the NDIA to develop clear guidelines as to when and what parts of participants' budgets need to be fixed or flexible. This must extend beyond housing and be developed with input from people with disability.

Interim plans

No one should be stuck in RAC or hospital due to lack of access to assessments. The Agency should consider targeted use of interim plans (3-6 months) to secure funding for support (such as support coordination and Specialist Support Coordination) that actively works towards participants' successful return to the community.

Recommendation 18

The NDIA must ensure early access to and approval of plans or interim (3-6 month) plans that fund Specialist Support Coordination or other services and supports for participants with high and complex needs to leave hospital.

It is critical to fund sufficient hours of support coordination to reduce discharge delays and identify appropriate housing options, preventing the risk of admission to RAC or long stays in hospital.

All participants with high and complex needs should automatically have access to funding for support coordination and Specialist Support Coordination.

The NDIA to issue 3-6-month interim plans to people in hospital immediately after NDIS eligibility is determined. This needs to include 60-75 hours of support coordination to assist in discharge planning, capacity building, functional capacity assessment for SDA or SIL and identifying post-discharge options.

Assisting implementation and maintenance

Flexible budgets may be a new concept for many people so planners, support coordinators and LACs must engage in capacity building and have access to relevant information and resources to support the participant to implement their plan.

Recommendation 19

The NDIA must ensure planners, support coordinators and LACs have the time and expertise to provide hands-on support.

The NDIA must ensure adequate funding for support coordination where a participant may need additional support in implementing their plan or where they have complex needs.

Conflict of interest

The NDIA must work to address conflicts of interest and must be further developed to maximise participants' choice and control.

Recommendation 20

The NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission must enact legislative changes in line with the [Tune review](#) to mitigate the risk of conflicts of interest by requiring providers to:

- a. Give clear and explicit declarations of conflict of interest to participants when providing multiple supports and services or managing plans. Explanations must be provided to each participant in their preferred language and mode of communication.
- b. Avoid referrals to “preferred partners” that funnel participants to particular providers rather than having participants choose their preferred provider.

“How will the NDIA transition away from how things are done now when some providers are making so much money? E.g. providers delivering all types of support – SC, SIL, etc. – how is choice and control achieved with these providers?”

People don't feel like they have the power to go elsewhere. These providers have too much control.”

Megan – Participant

Engaging the market and driving innovation

The NDIA's role in market stewardship must actively improve monitoring, oversight and guidance. Both participants and providers need access to information that is easy to understand. The current market requires innovative and adaptable housing models. It is the Agency's responsibility to develop accessible information around housing options that meet the varied needs of participants.

Renewed emphasis on updating housing guidelines, improving access to data and early exploration of housing options will likely lead to significant improvements for participants, providers and the Agency alike.

Updated guidelines for providers to understand home and living supports should include:

- Responsibilities to uphold participant choice and control
- Access to data around what works and gaps to be filled

Recommendation 21

The NDIA must provide clearer definitions around eligibility for different types of housing and supports.

- a. Shared supports should be more clearly defined. Participants must have service options that suit their needs, especially in shared spaces. A participant must have a say in who comes in to support them.
- b. The NDIA must work to activate demand for the SDA market. There are currently a large number (7,000+) of people in previously state-owned disability housing who may be unaware of SDA, lack SDA funding or have only been given the base level of funding. In most cases, this group is unaware of housing options or that they are able to explore other housing that would better suit their needs.
- c. The NDIA must broaden flexibility of funding to allow participants to find homes (SDA and other housing) that truly suit them. This reduces risks that participants will have to use their own funding to afford real choice and control and potential to further disenfranchise the complex support needs cohort who are least likely to have private means, a stable work history, savings, superannuation etc.
- d. Housing and supports need to be considered collectively and funded in a way that maximises the best outcome for the participant.
- e. The aim to transition people out of large group homes must be supported by a clear commitment to end “closed system SIL homes”. Shared supports within 2-3 resident households may work well if residents are comfortable managing multiple support providers.

About the Summer Foundation

Established in 2006, the Summer Foundation works to change human service policies and practices related to younger people (18-64 years old) living in, or at risk of entering residential aged care facilities.

Our Vision is that younger people with disability and complex support needs live where and with whom they choose, with access to high quality housing and support options that enhance health, wellbeing and participation.

Our Mission is to create, lead, and demonstrate long-term sustainable systems change that stops young people from being forced to live in aged care because there is nowhere else for them.

The Summer Foundation has worked extensively with people with complex disability support needs to ensure they have access to all the NDIS supports essential to living the life they choose. A person-centred Home and Living Policy is critical to achieve the targets of the [Younger People in Residential Aged Care Action Plan \(2025\)](#).