

CONSUMER & FAMILY CARER NETWORK



#EveryStoryMatters

Welcome to the Autumn Consumer & Family Carer Network newsletter.

Preparations for the first Get Building SDA National Conference in late March are well underway. The conference, co-hosted by the Summer Foundation and Youngcare, is a great opportunity to take a look at how SDA is developing. The topics of discussion at the conference will be relevant to participants, providers, developers, investors and policy-makers. Discounted tickets are available for concession card holders, people with disability and their families.

The opening of public submissions into the Aged Care Royal Commission is also keeping us busy. We have been hosting workshops around the country to help people tell their stories and make a submission to the Royal Commission.

At the start of February we launched UpSkill, a Summer Foundation initiative to build the capacity of support coordinators through workshops, a community of practice and a connection service.

Last month the Hon Paul Fletcher, Minister for Families and Social Services, and Sarah Henderson, Assistant Minister for Social Services, Housing and Disability Services, announced immediate reforms to SDA. We are very happy with these reforms and look forward to working further with the government to see the reforms implemented. You can read more about this and other initiatives in this newsletter.

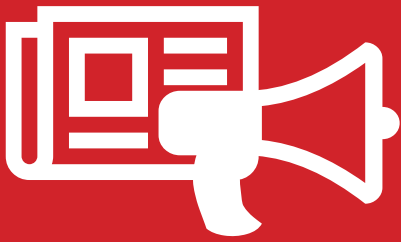
Best wishes



Penny Paul
Information and Connections Coordinator

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SDA REFORMS

Early last month the Hon Paul Fletcher, Minister for Families and Social Services, and Sarah Henderson, Assistant Minister for Social Services, Housing and Disability Services, announced important reforms to Specialist Disability Accommodation (SDA). The reforms will improve choice and control for NDIS participants, build market confidence in SDA and drive stronger investment in SDA. Among other important changes, the reforms will fast track access to SDA funding for priority groups, including young people in aged care, hospital or awaiting discharge. We have put together a useful summary of what the reforms are and what they mean. You can read more here:

🌐 www.summerfoundation.org.au/summary-of-changes-to-specialist-disability-accommodation-framework/

The Housing Hub

Have you seen The Housing Hub? It is a website 🌐 www.thehousinghub.org.au where people with disability, family members, support workers and health professionals can search for a home that is suitable for people with disability to live independently. There are around 300 properties listed in Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland and South Australia. New properties are added daily.

We are reviewing the website's features as we prepare to launch a new version in 2019. If you have any feedback for the next version, please feel free to get in touch with our team at enquiries@thehousinghub.org.au

To stay up to date on The Housing Hub, please subscribe to our mailing list at 🌐 www.thehousinghub.org.au so we can send you updates from time to time.



RAPID INTERIM HOUSING

A lack of accessible housing available at the right time and in the right area can leave people with a newly acquired disability stuck in hospital, rehabilitation settings or being admitted to aged care. Without innovative housing options, many young people will continue to be forced to live in aged care while they wait for appropriate housing.

The Summer Foundation is prototyping and displaying a rapid response housing unit that has been designed to support people with disability to avoid aged care.

The prototype looks just like any other small house, it has a living area, bedroom and ensuite, kitchenette and laundry. Assistive technology will increase the occupant's independence, safety and security.

The prototype unit will be displayed in Melbourne and regional Victoria.

HAS THE NDIS GOT YOUR FUNDING WRONG?

New NDIA guidelines will streamline the appeals process on decisions.

If you feel that the NDIS has missed the mark on an aspect of your funding and it's not resolved by an internal review you can now go to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT). This removes the the previous requirement for a second internal review, which has been causing lengthy delays.

You can access the updated guidelines here:

🌐 www.ndis.gov.au/about-us/operational-guidelines/review-decisions

For more information, go to: 🌐 www.latrobe.edu.au/lids/resources/aat-ndis-decision-digest



MAKING THE CONNECTION

Jo Stewart started working at the Summer Foundation in 2014 assisting young people living in aged care to connect to the NDIS. This work was done knowing that in the future connection to the NDIS would increase opportunities for younger people in aged care and that these opportunities would be beneficial.

She is now working in our Housing Matching Team, where she engages with people with disability, their families and supporters to connect them with newly built housing in Victoria.

"Access to SDA funding and housing for people with high support needs is one of the opportunities we knew would be on the horizon when we started our NDIS connections work," Jo said. "It is rewarding to now be in a position to see real housing outcomes for young people."

Housing opportunities

The Summer Foundation is contracted by Summer Housing to find and assess tenants for its apartments.

Jo is supporting potential tenants through the application process for two Summer Housing developments in Melbourne that are leasing soon – Alke apartments in Oakleigh and Botanic apartments in Southbank

🌐 summerhousing.org.au/our-apartments/victoria/

The Summer Housing opportunities along with other accessible housing opportunities are listed on The Housing Hub website 🌐 www.thehousinghub.org.au which is a national website worth checking on a regular basis.

If you are interested in finding out more about the upcoming developments in Melbourne please phone Jo on 0438 333 007 or email joanna.stewart@summerfoundation.org.au We are particularly interested in hearing from young people currently living in aged care in Melbourne.

GET BUILDING SDA

Connecting NSW



We are running a series of events in April to connect NDIS participants with housing providers. We understand that SDA is complex, and that connecting SDA providers with NDIS participants can be difficult, so these events aim to bring participants and housing providers together.

These free events are for anyone interested in SDA.

MONDAY 1 APRIL – Sydney

Register at www.trybooking.com/BAAQX

WEDNESDAY 3 APRIL - Dubbo

Register at www.trybooking.com/BAAPY

FRIDAY 5 APRIL – Wagga

Register at www.trybooking.com/BAAQI

WEDNESDAY 10 APRIL – Penrith

Register at www.trybooking.com/BAAQP

FRIDAY 12 APRIL - Tweed Heads

Register at www.trybooking.com/BAAQZ

For more information: info@getbuildingsda.org.au

ROYAL COMMISSION UPDATE

With the Aged Care Royal Commission now under way, we are encouraging anyone with a story to tell around being a young person in aged care, or at risk of going into aged care, to make a submission. Throughout February and early March we ran workshops to support people with disability to tell their story and make a submission to the commission. Workshops in Western Australia, Queensland and Tasmania are still to come, so if you live in these states and would like to tell your story, please get in touch with us either by phone on 1300 626 560 or email info@summerfoundation.org.au

If you'd like to tell your story without attending a workshop, we have a useful guide to making a submission. You can access the guide and watch others telling their story here:

🌐 www.summerfoundation.org.au/everystorymatters



PROFILE – LIZ ELLIS

The Summer Foundation has a tenancy matching service to support SDA providers who are developing new properties across the country as well as housing seekers who believe they may qualify for the SDA funding.

The team is working with Summer Housing to find suitable tenants for their 10 new apartments in Oakleigh, applications are open now. The apartments are for people with significant physical support needs. For information, you can email newbuild@thehousinghub.org.au or phone the Summer Foundation on 1300 626 560.

Tenants have moved in to a recent development managed by Summer Foundation's Melbourne Housing Matching Team. Liz Ellis was one of the first tenants to move in.

Liz gave a fantastic address at the opening of the purpose-built apartments. Her words provided a powerful insight into what being able to live in an SDA apartment means for a person with disability.

"I realised the other day, I'm in my 30s and I've never had a place of my own to live – ever," Liz said. "Nothing is yours when you live somewhere that's run by an organisation because you always feel like you're intruding. Now, I walk in the door and I think 'hang on, I'm home and I'm not intruding on anyone else's space'. It's awesome."

"It's still very surreal," Liz said. "It's been an aspiration for so long. But it's awesome knowing that people like Summer Housing are in your corner working to make it happen."

Look out for a video featuring Liz talking about life in her new apartment on our website:

 summerfoundation.org.au/profile-liz-ellis

GET BUILDING SDA



National Conference 2019

22 March 2019

Marvel Stadium Docklands, Melbourne

The Summer Foundation and Youngcare are hosting the first Get Building SDA National Conference on 22 March in Melbourne. Specialist disability accommodation (SDA) is transforming housing options for people with disability and the conference provides an excellent opportunity to look at what the SDA market has achieved so far. Participants, providers, developers, investors and policy-makers will all have a voice at the conference.

Keynote Speakers:



Hon Paul Fletcher MP
Minister for Families & Social Services



Robert de Luca
CEO, National Disability Insurance Agency

An impressive line up of presenters and storytellers will be talking about their experiences with SDA.

Download the program at:
getbuildingsda.org.au/program

Pricing:

Discounted tickets are available for people with disability and their families. Concession: \$50 (plus GST) – concession card holders, person with disability or family members

Register today to secure your place:

www.trybooking.com/ZUTU