

SUMMER FOUNDATION NEWS



Welcome to our winter update.

Over the past 3 months the Summer Foundation team has worked hard to provide tangible, direct support to people with disability and complex needs in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

With more than 5,000 younger people still living in residential aged care across Australia, we remain as focused as ever on spreading the word about the independent living options that are available for people with disability.

As you may be aware, our Tenancy Matching Service (TMS), is a dedicated team of Specialist Disability Accommodation (SDA) experts who partner with quality SDA providers to find tenants for their beautifully designed new SDA homes.

The TMS team is supporting some exciting housing opportunities which are currently open for application across Sydney, Brisbane, Canberra, Melbourne, Adelaide and Perth for NDIS participants who either have SDA funding or are 'likely' to receive funding in their plans.

On page 4 of this update we put the spotlight on opportunities currently available in NSW.

You can find out about all available opportunities via the Housing Hub: housinghub.org.au

Stay safe,

Di Winkler,
CEO

IN THIS ISSUE

	WORKING UNDER COVID-19	2
	LEAVING HOSPITAL WELL PROJECT	3
	EXCITING SDA OPPORTUNITIES	4

WORKING UNDER COVID-19

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit Australia in March the Summer Foundation responded rapidly with a raft of projects to provide tangible, direct support to people with disability and complex needs.

Within weeks we had redeployed staff and set up a Discharge Follow-up Service, a Phone Outreach project and a Housing Brokerage Service. By the start of May we had added our Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Initiative.

The country's great success in limiting the spread of COVID-19 and the work of the NDIA in supporting people with disability being rapidly discharged from hospital means we are now able to wind down the Discharge Follow-up Service.

"As an organisation we are extremely proud of the responsiveness, commitment and sheer hard work undertaken by this team over this short but intense period," said Chief Operating Officer Carolyn Finis.

"As one support coordinator who used the service said – the team was beyond fantastic."

Hundreds of calls were made to people in our network as part of the Phone Outreach project. It provided an invaluable check on their health and wellbeing as well as a way for us to find out how people with disability want to connect.

Referrals to the Housing Brokerage Service are continuing and we are also looking at what we've learnt from this work and our future plans for the service. As an example of the impact this project has made, 2 applications for Specialist Disability Accommodation funding were approved within weeks – a process that can often take months.

The PPE Initiative continues with an information webpage and 2 online stores (being operated by suppliers Blackwoods and RSEA Safety) to specifically allow NDIS participants to buy the PPE they need.

The Summer Foundation's Box Hill office remains closed, with most staff working from home. You can still contact us via email to info@summerfoundation.org.au



ONLINE IS THE WAY TO GO

The Summer Foundation's program of training to hospital staff, support coordinators, housing seekers and other groups across the country hit a large bump in the road with the COVID-19 lockdown in March.

However, we responded quickly and moved to different ways of delivering our programs online. Webinars have been developed for all training and information sessions are being successfully delivered online.

UpSkill, our program to build the capacity of the support coordination and allied health workforce, has seen booked out webinars for regional Victorian audiences; and the Leaving Hospital Well webinars for hospital discharge staff attracted hundreds of participants. To see all our upcoming webinars visit our events page:

summerfoundation.org.au/all-events/

The Tenancy Matching Service has also moved to online delivery of information about Specialist Disability Accommodation (SDA) and new SDA property listings. It is a convenient way for housing seekers and people who think they may be eligible for SDA funding to take the first steps towards choosing where they live and who they live with.

You can see all the upcoming TMS online workshops here:

eventbrite.com.au/o/summer-foundation-tenancy-matching-service-28015766133

PPE ONLINE STORES

Follow the link below to access the stores:

summerfoundation.org.au/PPE-info-covid-19/



HOSPITAL VISITOR DIRECTIONS WIN

The State Government recently changed its Hospital Visitor Directions to allow *"a disability worker to enter or remain at a hospital for the purpose of providing a disability service to a patient with a disability"*.

The change in policy came as a result of one of our storytellers, Sam Petersen working together with the Summer Foundation's Policy Manager Dr George Taleporos, to drive change in this area.

"The Victorian Government has now issued some very clear directions that mean disability support workers are excluded from any hospital visitation restrictions," George said.

"It is important for people to know that their health needs remain the responsibility of hospital staff. Most people with disabilities will not need support workers when they are in hospital. But for people with high and complex needs who do, this change is a very reassuring."

Of her advocacy work to drive change in this area, Sam said: *"At the start of COVID-19 I got so scared because if I had to go to hospital, maybe my support workers would be refused entry to support me."*

"The nurses are very unlikely to fully understand me and will not treat me right, I have had hundreds of experiences of them doing just that."

“

I HAVE LEARNT THAT HAVING A SUPPORT WORKER [IN HOSPITAL] THAT KNOWS ME CAN MAKE ALL THE DIFFERENCE.

”

"I had so many people say 'no, you will not be able to have a support worker in hospital'. It felt like a knife to the heart. They didn't know the sentence they were putting on me. And it makes no sense. If I could have a nurse near me, why not a support worker?"

"Then I contacted George and found out they were working on it too. Fear drove me to advocate. I know that it can be really painful and take up so much of your time and often we can't do it but if you can it's so important to keep going and talk to others in your situation, for that is the only way we will see change."



LEAVING HOSPITAL WELL PROJECT

Over the past 18 months the Summer Foundation's *Leaving Hospital Well Project* has built the capacity of Victoria's health services to understand, navigate and develop best practice collaborative discharge under the NDIS.

The project delivered 93 training sessions to 2,000 participants within 20 Local Health Networks in Victoria. They included local health network staff, support coordinators, allied health and community health staff, GPs and housing providers.

Our pre and post training survey found a 71% increase in the capacity of health staff to interface with the NDIS. Key improvements included the implementation of NDIS governance structures, policies, resources and data collection.

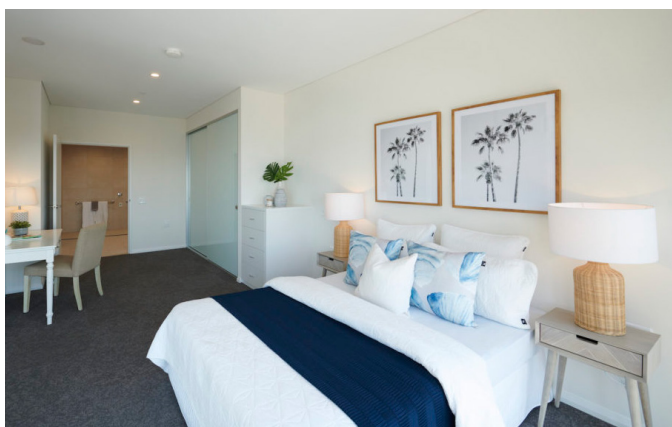
The ability of hospital staff to support people to access the NDIS and gain the support they need showed notable improvements across all topics and 98% of participants said they could apply the learning to their work. This will mean improved outcomes for people with disability.

The Leaving Hospital Well Project was funded by the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services.

The Summer Foundation will continue to support hospital staff involved in discharge planning by moderating and disseminating practical tools and resources through the *Leaving Hospital Well Community of Practice*. We are working on a range of new resources including webinars and practical information to support streamlining health and NDIS processes for better discharge outcomes.

For more information about the *Leaving Hospital Well Community of Practice* and how to join visit:

summerfoundation.org.au/our-focus/pathways-home/for-hospitals/community-of-practice/



South Village – Kirrawee



EXCITING SDA OPPORTUNITIES

In NSW, around 2,000 younger people live in residential aged care, and many other people with disability live in homes that don't suit their needs.

Our sister organisation, Summer Housing, is building Specialist Disability Accommodation (SDA) apartments that you can apply for now in Kirrawee, Westmead, Baulkham Hills, Sydney Olympic Park and Edmondson Park. Other organisations, such as Enliven Housing and Good Housing, are building great new SDA properties around Sydney too.

All these new homes mean that people with disability have more choices about where to live. But many people who might be eligible for SDA haven't even heard of it.

If you want to know more about all the new SDA in Sydney, or talk to someone about whether you might be eligible for SDA, get in touch with Melody from our Tenancy Management team on 0499 111 848, or email melody.carbarns@summerfoundation.org.au

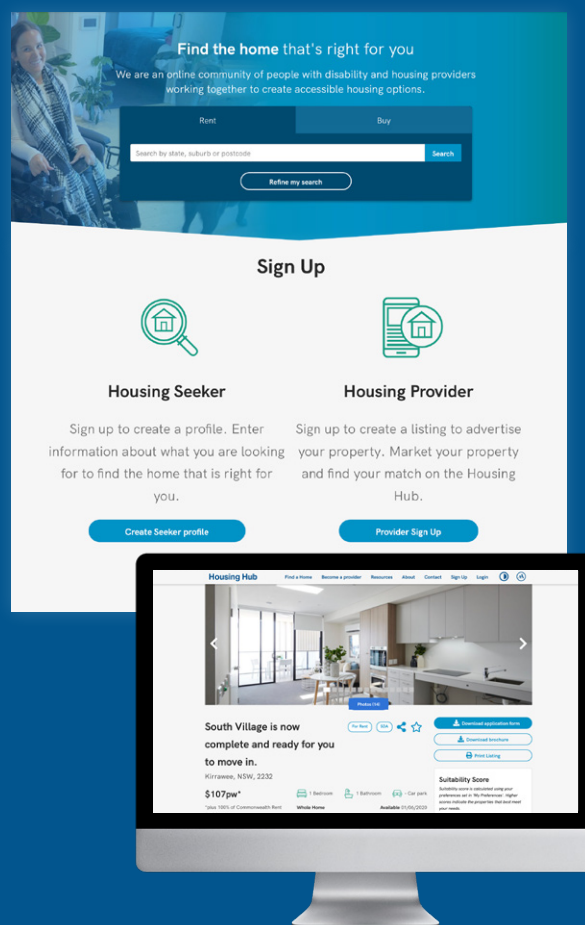
HAVE YOUR SAY

If you are a person with an acquired neurological disability, a close other with an acquired neurological disability, or a disability support worker, we want to hear your views about the factors that influence the quality of paid disability support. We will be facilitating online focus groups to discuss your experiences and perspectives. If you are interested in participating, please email research@summerfoundation.org.au and we will tell you more about the project.

Housing Hub

Find the home that's right for you

Our new Housing Hub website is coming...



Connect with us: