

SUMMER FOUNDATION NEWS



Welcome to our last edition for 2021. We celebrate the significant amount of critical work that has been done toward ending the need for younger people with disability to live in aged care; in what have been challenging circumstances over this past year. As we open up and resume face-to-face engagement, we look forward to also carrying over the benefits and efficiencies we've honed over the past almost 2 years of working with COVID-19 disruptions.

Recent highlights include the rich insights that have come from our on-site shared support co-design workshops (see page 3) and our promotion of the successful Million Dollar Vax campaign (see page 3).

More than 330 people joined us remotely for our 10th Annual Public Forum (see page 2) for a robust conversation about what has been done – and what still needs to be done – to achieve the Young People in Residential Aged Care (YPIRAC) target of no younger person living in aged care by 2025. We are committed to this target, and will be working toward achieving this target over the coming year.




We will continue working with the disability sector to strengthen the Specialist Disability Accommodation (SDA) market, and with the health sector to streamline more timely, efficient and appropriate hospital discharge processes for the purpose of keeping young people with disability out of aged care in the first place.

Critical to successfully resolving the YPIRAC issue is streamlining NDIS responses until they become as responsive as the aged care system. Young people with disability in hospital, ready for discharge need appropriate NDIS funding determinations for SDA and support within 3 days, and eligible participants with housing need appropriate SDA determinations within 10 days. This is what is required for the NDIS to successfully play its role in keeping young people out of aged care. Our focus in 2022 is to make this happen.

On behalf of everyone at the Summer Foundation, I wish you and your close ones a safe and happy Christmas.

Di Winkler, CEO & Founder

IN THIS ISSUE

	BOARD RENEWAL	2
	NEW UPSKILL GUIDE	3
	PROFILE – ANDREW	4

NEW DIRECTORS



Tim Adam



Michelle Somerville

BOARD RENEWAL

The Summer Foundation's Board renewal process continued with new appointments and planned resignations in November.

We have benefited enormously from the work and insight of Professor Jacinta Douglas and Jason Chequer.

As part of our board renewal process designed to strengthen the diversity, strategic capacity and breadth of expertise on the Board, we welcome 2 new directors – Tim Adam and Michelle Somerville.

Jacinta, who served 7 years as a director, leads a long-running research partnership between La Trobe University and the Summer Foundation. While Jacinta steps away from the Board, she remains very much a part of the Summer Foundation in her ongoing research role.

Jason joined the Board in 2012, and in 2017 took on the role of Chair of the Risk and Finance committee. Jason brought a wealth of financial services experience to the Board with a special interest in social and environmental goals.

The Summer Foundation has been very fortunate to be guided by 2 such experienced and committed Directors. We appreciate their passion and support.

Tim is a retired lawyer and businessman, having spent his career as a long-standing Partner of a Melbourne law firm. He was committed to both successful commercial legal practice and ethical and social justice issues. Tim was a leading practitioner in personal injury law and employment law. He is passionate about developing young people through social group interaction, sport and faith communities.

Michelle Somerville brings deep finance, risk and governance experience to the Board, having worked in the financial services industry in both executive and non-executive roles.

The Summer Foundation's work is informed by the lived experience of people with disability. Both Tim and Michelle bring their own lived experience of disability to the Board and the Summer Foundation celebrates that 44% of our Directors bring a lived experience of disability.



ANNUAL PUBLIC FORUM

More than 330 people logged in to our 10th Annual Public Forum on 4 November. **Reaching Towards Success - Closing the door to aged care for young people** discussed the progress being made to end the need for younger people to live in aged care, as well as the barriers that remain.

Participants across the country heard from the Minister for the NDIS, Senator Linda Reynolds, Australia's Disability Discrimination Commissioner, Dr Ben Gauntlett, policy makers and sector professionals. Andrew spoke about the challenges of living as a younger person in aged care (see his story on page 4) and Paulene gave a passionate account of her successful move into her own SDA apartment.

 **You can watch a video of the forum here.**

ANNUAL REPORT RELEASED



The successes, challenges and new opportunities from the 2020/21 financial year are highlighted in our latest Annual Report.

It shows the progress of the Summer Foundation against our key areas of focus including:

- Building the capacity of key service providers, including support coordinators, hospital staff, allied health professionals, SDA and support providers, and many others
- Developing an evidence base for potential solutions that will ensure young people with disability have choice and control over their housing and support
- Building the capacity of people with disability around housing and support options and housing pathways

 **You can access the 2020/21 Annual Report here.**



SHARED SUPPORT IN SDA APARTMENTS

On-site shared support (OSS) provides a significant opportunity for people with disability living in Specialist Disability Accommodation (SDA) apartments to increase control over their housing and support options and to lower the cost of their support.

Our recent research with SDA tenants, SDA providers and support providers found effective OSS arrangements provide NDIS participants with the foundation they need to achieve a range of goals related to housing, support, independence, community, social and economic participation.

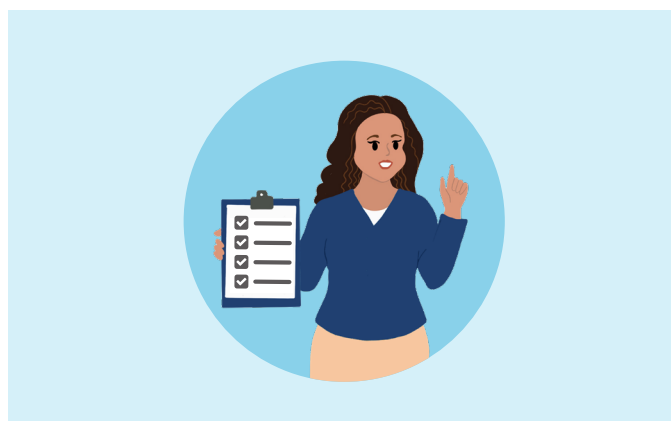
Effective OSS also has the potential to provide high quality and cost effective shared support at a time when the costs of Supported Independent Living (SIL) are rising at a rate that threatens the sustainability of the NDIS.

Initial research indicates that co-located apartments integrated into mainstream developments have the potential to enable high-quality and cost-effective support that results in good outcomes for SDA tenants.

However, anecdotal evidence suggests there are a range of challenges with how this model is being funded and implemented.

"The research provided rich and amazing insights," said Summer Foundation CEO Dr Di Winkler. "The next opportunity is to translate what tenants said into real world resources."

"We also need a clear framework for funding, designing and delivering high quality and cost effective shared support that is tailored to the specific needs of tenants on each site."



NEW UPSKILL GUIDE

Our UpSkill team has developed a new guide to delivering support coordination to people with complex needs.

NDIS participants with complex support needs require a more focused and skilled approach to connecting and coordinating supports, and building capacity. Finding information around best practice support coordination is challenging. This resource has been developed to fill that gap and provide guidance to support coordinators. It takes a rights based approach to supporting people.

UpSkill Lead Linda Hughes said the guide brings together information from a range of sources to assist support coordinators, particularly when working with people with complex support needs. *"We have included many links to relevant information, resources and learning tools,"* Linda said. 🌐 **You can access the new guide here.**

MILLION DOLLAR VAX IMPACT

The Summer Foundation was the proud promoter behind the Million Dollar Vax competition that received over 2.7 million entries in October. The aim was to increase the rate of vaccination nationally to reduce the burden on our healthcare systems and reduce the risk of infection to the most vulnerable in our community including people with disability. The campaign targeted regions with low vaccination rates.

Million Dollar Vax broke records with the highest number of unique entries over 4 weeks for any competition ever held in Australia. Australia saw a 9.8% increase in first dose vaccinations in October. Early estimates indicated that 4% (800,000) Australians were influenced by Million Dollar Vax to get their first vaccination. We are looking forward to the final results of this research and an economic analysis of the costs and benefits e.g. impact on our health, wellbeing, healthcare systems and productivity.



PROFILE – ANDREW

Andrew, who is 49 years old, has been living in aged care in Tasmania for 4 years.

How did you end up in aged care?

I've got MS and I had a fall which put me in hospital for a while. I ended up going from there into aged care because there was no other place to go. Before MS affected me I used to work in the floor covering industry, coach soccer, go fishing and do all those sorts of things. I was a hard worker.

How would you like your life to look now?

Ideally I'd like to be in a house that was suitable for myself and also suitable for my wife and kids – like a 3-bedroom home with a ceiling track to get me to the bathroom. That's about all I'd need as long as the doorways were wider. That would improve my life immensely because one of the biggest hurdles is not living with my family. It would build my spirits heaps just being around my family, being able to say goodnight to everybody as they were going off to bed instead of that phone call to the wife of a night, saying tell everyone I said goodnight.

What are the barriers that stop you leaving aged care?

The biggest obstacle is that there are just share houses available at the moment – and that's not what I want. I don't want to live in a group home.

Unfortunately I didn't own a house - I was in a rental property so I couldn't make any modifications. All I need is a 3 bedroom wheelchair accessible house with a ceiling hoist to be able to still live with my family...

No one can pull a wheelchair friendly home out of the sky and say here you go, but wouldn't it be lovely!

What is day-to-day life like for you in aged care?

Living in aged care is not a real nice environment. The hardest part is actually facing all the death. There are some that have passed on that I have been quite close to.

I don't really fit in with all their scheduled stuff – they play a lot of bingo, they do floral arrangements and stuff that's there for the older generation. Living in aged care is not really suitable for young ones like myself.

SUPPORTING PEOPLE TO GET BETTER SDA OUTCOMES

The Summer Foundation's Housing Hub team will soon pilot a support coordination service that will specialise in developing housing evidence for Specialist Disability Accommodation (SDA) eligibility.

The pilot service, starting early next year, will work alongside a person's ongoing support coordinator to explore different housing options and develop housing evidence.

The service will not provide ongoing support coordination, and we will continue to refer people to support coordinators who are competently supporting people with SDA, individualised living options and exploring housing. Call **1300 61 64 63** to find out more or visit the [Housing Hub website](#).

To connect with experienced professionals for your support coordination or allied health needs visit our [UpSkill Provider Directory](#).