

SUMMER FOUNDATION NEWS

HOW LONG SHOULD WE HAVE TO WAIT?

**SIGN THE PETITION TO TURN MONTHS
OF DELAYS INTO ACTION IN 10 DAYS**

Down to 10 days



Welcome to our Autumn newsletter.

Critical to successfully resolving the issue of Young People in Residential Aged Care is streamlining NDIS processes for funding housing and support until they become as responsive as the aged care system.

In the lead-up to the federal election, the Summer Foundation is working with an alliance of people with disability, advocacy organisations and the housing, health and disability sectors to campaign for timely NDIS funding for housing and support.

The government has been dragging its feet on this issue so we have launched the Down to 10 days campaign. It aims to get commitments from both major parties to fund the NDIS to process Specialist Disability Accommodation (SDA) paperwork within 10 days, instead of the current 60 days.

Today, 1,100 young people with disability are waiting in hospitals for housing support approval from the NDIS. And hundreds of SDA properties are sitting vacant, waiting for tenants to get that housing and support approval. Read more about the campaign and how you can get involved on page 2.

The Housing Brokerage Service is now working with 2 state governments to improve discharge processes and housing outcomes. See page 3.

And our profile with Samar (on page 4) brings the reason for our work into sharp focus.

"I have things I look forward to now, I have a purpose in life," she says.

I hope you enjoy reading this edition of our newsletter.

Di Winkler,
CEO & Founder

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HOW LONG SHOULD WE HAVE TO WAIT?



HELP END THE WAIT FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY

Last week a new campaign was launched to get Australians with disability the housing support they need.

The 'Down to 10 days' campaign calls on the Government and NDIA to make faster, more accurate decisions around housing and supports for Australians with a disability.

It's simply unacceptable to have people with a disability languishing in hospital beds, nursing homes and other unsuitable places for months on end.

That's why we are proud to be part of an alliance of disability, health and housing organisations that are backing this new campaign.

To succeed in getting the Government and NDIA to action though, we need your support.

Sign the petition, share the stories on social media and contact your local MPs and ask 'How long should we have to wait?'

A safe, suitable place to live is something every Australian has a right to. Together we can make it happen.

🌐 Visit downto10days.org.au and sign the petition.

SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCE

ARE YOU CURRENTLY WAITING FOR HOUSING AND SUPPORT FROM THE NDIS?

HAVE YOU PREVIOUSLY HAD TO WAIT TOO LONG FOR AN NDIA DECISION?

We would love to hear your experience and, if you are comfortable, share it with others to get people with disability the housing and support they need.

Please fill out the form on the website at [🌐downto10days.org.au](https://downto10days.org.au) and our team will discuss with you.

Down to 10 days

PRE BUDGET SUBMISSION

The Summer Foundation submitted its Pre Budget Submission 2022 to the Federal Government's Budget process in January 2022. It highlights the need for action from the Federal Government to achieve better outcomes for 30,000 NDIS participants with the highest support needs.

The 'Down to 10 days' campaign builds on this submission, emphasising the need to improve the efficiency and accuracy of funding for housing and support for participants. 🌐 You can read the Pre Budget Submission here.



NEW PODCAST SERIES

An in-depth interview with NDIA CEO Martin Hoffman kicked off the new series of the Summer Foundation's Reasonable and Necessary podcast.

In a wide ranging interview, Senior Analyst and NDIS Communications Producer Dr George Taleporos talked to Mr Hoffman about COVID, NDIS appeals and the priorities for the NDIA in 2022, including the importance of co-design.

In the second episode George spoke to Therese Clark from Barwon Health about Rapid Antigen Tests for people with disability.

Watch out for these and other new episodes of Reasonable and Necessary.

BUILDING BETTER HOMES UPDATE

Off the back of our successful Building Better Homes campaign in 2021, this year will see many new homes around the country built to minimum accessibility standards. This means new homes will include features such as increased door widths and a no-step entrance, making a significant difference to the millions of Australians with mobility issues.

The Building Better Homes campaign, to have these standards included in the National Construction Code, was successful in Victoria, Queensland, ACT, NT and Tasmania.

We will be working with governments and industry in these states to educate the community on the standards as they are brought into legislation.

We will continue to try to get the governments of NSW, Western Australia and South Australia on board.

Support our work by visiting the website.

HOSPITAL DISCHARGE PROJECTS

In October 2021, the Housing Brokerage Service (HBS) started working with the Victorian Department of Health and Melbourne health services to support people with disability to discharge from hospital into housing that meets their needs and preferences.

Building on this work, the HBS began a similar project in February this year with Wellbeing SA and selected South Australian Local Health Networks.

These projects come at a time when COVID-related demand for hospital beds has put significant pressure on already stretched health systems, and where vulnerable patients who are medically ready to discharge may be more at risk while remaining in the hospital system.

Each of these projects is supporting eligible patients to quickly move into appropriate transitional housing at the same time as working intensively with the individuals and their supports to identify, choose and move into long-term housing that matches their needs and preferences.

"These projects are providing an opportunity to test a rapid discharge response at scale in an environment where uncertainty over short-term funding for transitional housing has been removed," said John Koerber, the Summer Foundation's Social Enterprise Lead. "At the same time we are helping up to 160 people with disability who have become stuck in hospital!"

The Summer Foundation acknowledges the support of the Victorian and South Australia Governments.

LEGISLATION EXPLAINERS



The Federal Government is looking to introduce amendments to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) Act 2013. The Summer Foundation has produced explainers for participants and the sector based on information in the draft legislation.

The amendments proposed by the Federal Government are designed to provide participants with greater confidence and clarity around what they can expect from the NDIS. As we get closer to an election, there is no clarity around when the legislation will return to parliament for consideration.

You can see the explainers here.



PROFILE – SAMAR

What would you like to share with readers about yourself?

I'm Samar, I'm 33, I have cerebral palsy and live in a new SDA apartment. I work training support workers at courses and my other job is a personal assistant. I also do projects with the Summer Foundation.

I enjoy getting out and about – I like going to the beach, restaurants and out for coffee. I used to stay at home but now I'm very outgoing and love to live life.

Tell us about your housing journey.

At 18 I had 2 nights in aged care and then ended up in hospital and never returned to aged care. I knew I never wanted to live there.

For many years I lived in government housing that was unsuitable. I couldn't get around and was abused by a person in the building, leaving me very scared. Finally I got a good support coordinator and was able to get SDA in my NDIS plan. I lived in medium-term accommodation for a year and half because initially the SDA came back with shared accommodation, which was not what I asked for. I appealed the decision so I could live on my own – it was a hard journey and really upset me but about 8 months later I got my SDA apartment and I moved in last June.

It was quite overwhelming, getting all the equipment and furniture I needed so I could make it like home, but I felt like I had found somewhere safe to live.

You were involved in the Summer Foundation's project to create resources to help people move out of aged care.

How was that?

It was very good, I felt I was getting my voice out there and helping. It might feel like you haven't got choice and control but there are avenues you can take if you have the right supports in place. I enjoy working on the projects I do with the Summer Foundation.

The NDIS has changed my life for the better. I do things I couldn't do before – I recently went away for the weekend, I have things I look forward to now, I have a purpose in life.

I do have bad days but with the help of support workers I am able to overcome that. Having my support team helps me get focused and see that it's not all bad.

MOVING OUT OF A NURSING HOME

When you have disability it can be hard to find a home that is right for you. And if you have lived somewhere that isn't right – like a nursing home – for a long time it can be really hard to imagine moving somewhere else.

With generous funding support from the TAC and State Trustees, people who have experience of moving out of unsuitable housing created some great resources for those who are just starting their journeys. The resources are designed to help people navigate the challenges and feelings that come with such a big transition. They include a podcast, videos and information about getting the right support.



🌐 You can access the "Moving out of a nursing home" resources here.

🌐 You can also listen to the ABC story that talks about the resources here.

