

About the Summer Foundation



The issue of young people in aged care

In Australia, more than 3,000 people aged under 65 are living in aged care. The issue is complex and crosses multiple sectors, including hospitals, housing, disability and primary health.

JUST UNDER

10

**YOUNG AUSTRALIANS
A WEEK ENTER AGED
CARE EVERY WEEK***

Young people end up in aged care when disability and health services don't work together in a timely way.

These young people are living with people in their 80s, they rarely see family or friends and it is common for young people in aged care to lose skills and independence.

The issue of young people in aged care will be resolved when the systems, policy settings and markets consistently enable people with disability to live where, how and with whom they choose; experiencing choice and control equal to people without disability.

People with disability must have access to the support they need to be in control of where and how they live and who they live with.

This means we need to take a multi-faceted approach - to empower people with disability in their housing searches; to build the capacity of those providing services; and to influence the governments making the critical systems and funding decisions.

***BETWEEN JULY 2021 AND JUNE 2022**

[www.gen-agedcaredata.gov.au/Resources/
Younger-people-in-residential-aged-care](http://www.gen-agedcaredata.gov.au/Resources/Younger-people-in-residential-aged-care)

Our journey so far

The Summer Foundation exists to permanently stop young people with disability ending up in aged care. We do this by lobbying policy-makers to bring about policy, system and practice change. By changing policy and practice we can ensure that young people with disability have access to support so they can control where, how and with whom they live.

The Summer Foundation was established in 2006 by Di Winkler, an occupational therapist who has worked with people with severe brain injury for more than 20 years.

The early work of the Summer Foundation focused on understanding the experience of young people forced to live in aged care and growing a body of evidence to support the need for systemic change.



We support the disability, health and aged care systems to work more effectively with younger people in aged care or at risk of entering aged care. We leverage our knowledge of government drivers to influence policy and inform government agenda.

We also develop practice guides, training materials and new models for government and non-government organisations to work together to resolve this issue. We design, test, evaluate and improve potential solutions and market interventions to develop social enterprises.

We draw on existing research and undertake academic and applied research to make sure there is a strong evidence base for what works.

We use the voice of those with lived experience of the issue of young people in aged care to inform, co-design and evaluate our resources, tools and interventions.



Our Goals

Our overarching goal is to ensure systems, policy settings and markets consistently enable people with disability to live where, how and with whom they choose, with choice and control equal to people without disability.

Our goal will be achieved when these outcomes across 3 strategic priorities are realised.



Housing

NDIS participants with complex support needs can readily access a range of housing options which align with their needs and preferences.



Preventing new admissions to RAC

NDIS participants with complex needs in hospitals are supported leave residential aged care (RAC) and successfully return to community living, where and how they choose. The services, supports and workforce to maintain community living are available and well skilled.



Aged care

The only young people living in RAC are there due to exceptional circumstances, it is an informed choice, and they are connected to effective NDIS plans which they are supported to implement.

How we work



Our strategy is to influence, challenge and build capacity of the systems, policies and markets that need to change; to permanently eliminate the need for young people with disability to live in aged care.

We focus on unique, high impact interventions that complement the efforts of government, relevant sectors, markets and other organisations.

The Summer Foundation uses the following tools:



Evidence base

Our research informs the development and evaluation of potential solutions, resources and tools.



Expert knowledge from lived experience

We build on the expert knowledge from those with lived experience of the issue of young people in aged care to inform, co-design and evaluate our resources, tools and interventions.



Clinical experience

We use clinical experience that tells us what is happening on the ground to develop and share resources and tools designed to build the capacity of the system and market users.



Demonstration projects and social enterprises

We design, test, evaluate and improve potential solutions and market interventions to develop social enterprises.



Knowledge of government agenda and drivers

We leverage our knowledge of government drivers to influence best practice policy, to facilitate understanding and implementation of policy and inform government agenda.

Research

The Research team is made up of professionals with experience across clinical and academic settings.

Our team investigates the pathways and factors that may lead to people with disability ending up in residential aged care, as well as related issues such as the quality of support, NDIS processes, support costs in different housing models, outcomes for specialist disability accommodation (SDA) tenants, and supply and demand in the SDA market.

Three key principles underpin the Summer Foundation's approach to research:

- Engagement of end-users, particularly young people with complex support needs who live in, or are at risk of entry to, aged care; as well as community organisations, mainstream services and policy makers
- Impact on policy, practice and systems change is central to the purpose and design of our work
- Knowledge exchange and collaboration



We use a range of methodologies to develop the breadth of evidence needed to inform policy and practice around the issue of young people in aged care:

- Literature reviews and environmental scans help us understand the problem and build on previous local and international work
- Analysis of administrative data helps unlock the full potential of existing data
- Primary research involves the collection of information about the needs, preferences and outcomes of young people with disability, as well as the impact of the NDIS, pilots and prototypes
- Established in 20XX, the Summer Foundation - La Trobe University research partnership uses research to improve the lives of people with disability and understand the issue of young people in aged care and the associated systems and pathways. By researching the issues at each stage of the critical pathways that lead young people to aged care, we can provide the evidence needed to create system change that will help to solve this problem.

To find out more:

 summerfoundation.org.au/our-research

Government Relations and Policy

The Government Relations and Policy team works to bring the voice of people with disability to government.

We do this through providing policy advice, direction, influence and solutions to government and by collaborating with the sector to build understanding around key issues and challenges. We actively collaborate with government to find and implement solutions for people with disability with complex support needs. The work that happens across the organisation feeds into our policy work by informing us about what is happening with participants, providers and other networks. Both challenges, successes and everything in between are critical to informing the policy environment and enabling good outcomes for people with disability under the age of 65.

What we do:

- Working with government – to directly influence and inform the Young People in Residential Aged Care (YPIRAC) strategy and achievement of targets, market stewardship of the SDA market, building the capacity of YPIRAC and innovative solutions to support people with disability
- Position statements – to articulate the organisational position on government policy or initiatives, raise issues, provide solutions and make recommendations
- Submissions to government – to actively contribute to government consultation and provide lived experience, solutions and recommendations

To find out more:

 summerfoundation.org.au/policy



Hospital to Home



The Hospital to Home program was established to support the discharge of people with disability from hospital to housing that aligns with their housing needs and preferences.

Our coordinators use a secondary consultation approach to support, mentor and build the capacity of key professionals working alongside people with disability who are stuck in hospital and require suitable housing.

This includes:

- Hospital allied health teams
- Support coordinators
- Guardians
- Other stakeholders who make up the person's support team

We use our expertise to assist teams to:

- Support a person with disability to articulate their housing needs and preferences
- Understand the different housing pathways available, both SDA and non-SDA

- Navigate NDIS processes, including reviewing reports and evidence to consider the likelihood of eligibility for SDA
- Complete an innovative housing search using the Housing Hub and other platforms
- Present a range of housing options, connecting people with disability to housing providers to facilitate offers for housing
- Use a rights-based approach and incorporate principles of choice, control and inclusion for people with disability

Outcomes of our service:

- People with disability have increased choice and control about their housing and support
- Increased capacity of hospital staff and support coordinators to navigate the NDIS and housing sector to access interim and long-term housing for people with disability
- Demand data that identifies gaps and informs the development of new interim and long-term housing options

To find out more:

 summerfoundation.org.au/hospital-to-home

Summer Foundation Inquiry Line

The Summer Foundation inquiry line was set up to respond to our stakeholders who are seeking both information and guidance. Navigating the interface between the NDIS and other sectors such as health and aged care is complex for people with disability, their close others and providers.

They are looking for support to address individual challenges they are experiencing with navigating the NDIS and achieving effective NDIS plans.

These challenges often include specific questions related to finding the right housing and support to meet the needs of individuals with complex disability support needs.

The service is manned by an information service consultant who works with people with high and complex disability needs, family members, allied health professionals, external stakeholders and internal Summer Foundation colleagues to ensure those contacting the Information Service receive timely and relevant advice and referrals. The insights from the service are routinely fed back into the organisation to inform our work.



In our response to queries, each person receives individualised information and links to Summer Foundation written resources to support them to address their individual challenges, and/or connect the person with another Summer Foundation service or staff member.

Our response is based on providing consultation to each person to translate information for their individual circumstances and contexts. While some people may have already referred to our resources, they still seek advice about how they effectively use them. This translation of complexity in the systems people interact with appears to be an unmet need for all stakeholders - people with disability, their close others and providers.

Email: info@summerfoundation.org.au

Phone: **1300 626 560**

Programs and Initiatives

Housing Hub

Find the home that's right for you

Housing Hub

The Housing Hub is a website the Summer Foundation launched in August 2017 to connect people with disability to suitable housing.

Housing providers from anywhere in Australia can list their properties on the Housing Hub. Listings include existing SDA properties, new SDA builds, non-SDA supported accommodation, private rental and properties for sale.

The Housing Hub also hosts a library of useful information for housing seekers and housing providers.

To find out more: [🌐 housinghub.org.au](https://housinghub.org.au)



Summer Housing

In 2017, we decided that the replication and scaling of our housing demonstration projects would be best implemented by a dedicated organisation that focuses on the 'bricks and mortar' of housing projects. So we established Summer Housing, a not-for-profit sister organisation to the Summer Foundation. Summer Housing is separate to the Summer Foundation, with an independent Board and staff, but the 2 organisations continue to collaborate.

To find out more: [🌐 summerhousing.org.au](https://summerhousing.org.au)



UpSkill

UpSkill is a Summer Foundation program that offers professional development to support coordinators and NDIS allied health professionals. Workshops cover a range of topics relevant to support coordinators and NDIS allied health professionals in their integral role of supporting people with complex needs to achieve good outcomes and live well in the community.

To find out more:

 summerfoundation.org.au/upskill



RAC Engagement

The RAC engagement team provide guidance and support to aged care providers and their staff to assist residents who are NDIS participants or young people (>65 years) and want to explore more suitable housing options outside of aged care.

Contact our team on **1300 508 945** or email: racengagement@summerfoundation.org.au



Contact us:

Housing Advice Line - 1300 61 64 63

hello@housinghub.org.au

Summer Foundation Inquiry Line - 1300 626 560

info@summerfoundation.org.au

Hospital to home - 1300 817 794

RAC Engagement line - 1300 508 945

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