



Summer
Foundation

Fulfilling the NDIS promise in housing and living:

Innovation starts today

Annual Public Forum 2024
Program





Meet today's panellists

Host



Jamila Rizvi
Author, advocate, speaker

Jamila is a best-selling author, podcast presenter and gender equality advocate. She has been named in the Australian Financial Review's 100 Women of Influence and was a 2020 Women and Leadership Australia award winner. Jamila is an ambassador for PLAN International and the Royal Melbourne Hospital Neuroscience Foundation. Following her diagnosis with a rare brain tumour Jamila is living with multiple invisible disabilities.

Panel members



Dr Sam Bennett
Disability Program Director,
Grattan Institute

Sam Bennett has worked on disability, aged care, and health reforms at a national level for more than 15 years. He leads the Disability Program at the Grattan Institute. Prior to his role at Grattan, he led the Policy, Advice and Research Division of the National Disability Insurance Agency, where he shaped and delivered national policy, and implemented the Agency's Research Strategy. Sam was also responsible for supporting the work of the NDIS Independent Advisory Council.

In the UK he led transformation programs in the National Health Service (NHS) integrating social care and health services.



Jo Collins
Branch Manager, Home
and Living Reform, NDIA

Jo Collins is a Senior Executive with the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA). She has been with the NDIA since 2014 and has over 25 years' experience in the private and public sector with expertise in disability, injury management, employment and vocational rehabilitation. Jo has been involved in designing, leading and implementing government policy largely focused on supporting people with injuries, disability and complex social barriers.



Rod Davies
CEO, One2One

Rod has committed his life to supporting people with disability to be included, in charge of their own lives and have services tailored to them. Rod has more than 20 years' experience working in the disability sector and started his career providing support to a young man with cerebral palsy that he went to high school with.

Prior to his role at One2One, Rod worked as a senior manager in an individualised accommodation support provider and became a key thinker and practitioner of individual living arrangements in Australia.



Anna Chambers
Lived Experience Contributor

Anna is a Lived Experience Contributor. She is a woman in her 30s who loves DJing, socialising and hanging out in her community. While she can do a lot of things for herself, her support workers help her to build her skills, and to do the things she wants and needs to do. Every day she works hard to be independent, and to be a good friend, neighbour and worker. Anna has paid and unpaid jobs, and social interests. As a Special Olympics athlete, she trains to keep her body strong and healthy. She has a housemate, after her dream of living in her own home came true.



Michelle Newland
Lived Experience Contributor,
speaker, business owner

Michelle Newland is a Lived Experience Contributor, speaker and business owner. She works as a public speaker sharing her story of recovery to give others hope that they too can overcome obstacles in their lives. Michelle runs a small business with her sister, focused on creating handcrafted homewares and assisting to run art workshops for people of all abilities.

Michelle lives with a severe ABI after an asthma attack at the age of 19. She currently lives next door to her parents in her own home. Her living and support arrangement means she is supported in a genuine way to make decisions and choices for herself, her life and her home. It gives her a great sense of satisfaction to be able to live on her own and do things for herself.



Dr Mark Brown
Senior Research Fellow,
Summer Foundation

Mark Brown is a Senior Research Fellow at the Summer Foundation and an Honorary Research Fellow at La Trobe University. Mark is an NDIS participant who lives in Melbourne. Mark has a PhD in Psychology and has worked as a researcher, analyst and consultant for a variety of government, private and not-for-profit organisations in the disability sector.



Impact to date

Since 2006, the
Summer Foundation has:



Helped more than

7,500

young people avoid
residential aged care.



Pioneered the 10+1 housing model that
has led to the creation of more than

2,000

Specialist Disability Accommodation
apartments across the country.



Changed the building code,
as part of the Building Better Homes
campaign, resulting in an anticipated

103,000

new accessible homes by 2027.



Established the Housing Hub
which has provided expert
support to more than

1,200

people with disability to find a home.

Summer Foundation's new direction:



Why we are changing

Since 2006 the Summer Foundation has been working to stop younger people with disability being forced into aged care. In collaboration with other organisations, we have helped 7,500 younger people with disability avoid residential aged care.

It is now accepted that residential aged care is not suitable for young people with disability. The proposed changes to the Aged Care Act will strengthen this position by making it more difficult for people under 65 to access funding for residential aged care.

Yet the problem of finding appropriate housing and support for people who require access to 24/7 support remains. The only option for many of these people is to live in group homes where the support is often poor quality, expensive, and puts them at increased risk of violence, abuse and neglect.

That's why we are relaunching the Summer Foundation with a bold new vision to identify, develop and scale up better housing and living solutions for the more than 40,000 Australians with disability who need access to 24/7 supports.

Our research and experience show that better outcomes are possible and affordable for government. People with complex support needs have the right to equitable and inclusive housing, support and services.

We will identify and rigorously test good housing and living support ideas, and refine and scale up great ideas in partnership with the best and brightest minds.

We are home to one of Australia's leading disability research teams. We want to build on this evidence base by collaborating with people with disability and like-minded organisations, including universities, technology innovators and service providers, to deliver better solutions.

Our vision is to share these solutions with government and providers to help transform the disability sector. As a philanthropically funded organisation, we have the freedom and agility to deliver innovative solutions without the need for government funding or unnecessary bureaucracy.

Young people in residential aged care will always be important to us, and are part of the more than 40,000 Australians with disability who need better housing and living solutions.

Our work will continue to be evidence based and co-designed with end-users.

We are excited about our new direction. We aim to set a new standard in housing and living supports – one that lifts expectations of what a good life and future can look like for Australians with disability with high support needs.



Get involved



Join the Community of Practice

The Leaving Hospital Well Community of Practice shares the latest research from the Summer Foundation about the transition from hospital to home for individuals with complex needs. The Community of Practice provides a reliable source of evidence based information to inform clinical practice for professionals working in hospitals and the community, supporting individuals with complex needs. Opportunities to participate in research for professionals working in the community and hospitals are regularly shared.

To find out more visit the [Community of practice website](#).



Have your say about living in SDA: The Home and Living Outcome Framework

Up to 36,000 people will be eligible for Specialist Disability Accommodation (SDA) payments in the next 20 years. Despite the growth of the SDA market in recent years, little research has investigated the outcomes for tenants who move into SDA. Without knowing what works and what doesn't, there is a risk that the housing sector will develop SDA that won't meet the needs of people with disability.

The Home and Living Outcome Framework explores the lived experience, health, wellbeing, community participation, support needs and economic impact of people with disability who move into SDA. This research project is ongoing and we are seeking new research participants as well as housing providers to partner with us.

To find out more visit the [Home and Living Outcome Framework website](#).



Innovate with us

We are looking for people with lived experience to share innovative housing and living ideas with us. We'd love to hear how you think housing and supports can be done differently, and if you've had any great ideas on how this might look. If you share your ideas, you'll go into a draw to win 1 of 5 \$500 vouchers.

To submit an idea or find out more visit the [🌐 Innovate with us webpage](#).



Co-design call out – share your experience

Do you have a unique living or support arrangement you'd like to share? We are always looking for people with lived experience to share their stories. We have a particular need for stories around individualised living arrangements to demonstrate the range of housing and living options available to people with disability. If you think that's you, please get in touch.

To find out more you can fill out the [🌐 Lived Experience contact form](#).



New direction video

Today we shared information about our change in direction. We shared why and how we are changing the way we work. This video will be available to watch after the event by visiting our [🌐 Who we are webpage](#).

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