

National Conference 2019 Summation

LUKE BO'SHER: I just wanted to reflect on where we've come from and landed at the end of today. So, we started today with some remarks from the minister and I think that those remarks were really helpful in reiterating the government's commitment to specialist disability accommodation and outlining where DRC had got to in the future framework for SDA. And the Minister also made some really important announcements about where the government thinks the NDIA and state health systems and others need to get to on halving the number of young people entering aged care over the next 5 years. So, it was a really important announcement, and I think it sends a really strong signal to everyone in the community, whether you're a provider, a family, a hospital worker, an NDIA planner, that the government is really committed to driving down the number of people inappropriately ending up in aged care. And then Rob talked through those changes to the SDA framework and how they were being operationalised, and then Andrew from DSS talked about some of the future policy work, and in particular the work around allowing participants to live with non-SDA recipients, and particularly about families being able to live together.

So, I guess then throughout the rest of the day, speakers have talked about a whole range of different things, but there are 3 themes that really stuck out to me in people's presentations during the day. And the first one was the one that Anthony started on for today, which was around collaboration and the importance of people working together. And I think the range of people in this room, and the range of speakers who we've had today speaks to the unique amount of collaboration needed in SDA. And I think as Karen was saying just then, I think the next step is, now that we all know who these stakeholders are and roughly that we need to work together, the question is how do we work together? What do those models look like to collaborate and in particular, how do people with disability stay at the centre of those collaborations? So, how do we create ways to work across developers, private finance, not-for-profit providers, SIL providers, support coordinators? How do we make that all knit together in a way that people with disability are at the centre of that? And that's a big learning journey for us all over the next couple of years.

I think the second theme that I heard coming out a lot is around people's ability to have confidence that the NDIA and the NDIS will be able to deliver SDA, and many of you will know that I've been really passionate about SDA for a long time. I've been involved for a long time and I've never felt more confident than I feel now that NDIA has the people, the processes and the resources to be able to deliver this. And I think the mood in the room today reflects that I think most people in the room feel like they're much more confident about SDA than they have been in a long time and multiple people, many people reflected that to me throughout the day that SDA is working so much better now and the trajectory is upwards and people have a lot of confidence and we have a lot of confidence at Summer that the NDIA can deliver this and that we've got the right processes in place that are scalable as Antonia was saying before.

So I also just wanted to thank DSS and the NDIA for all the work they've put in to making SDA work and fixing up the problems that the KPMG review identified. And the third thing I wanted to speak about was a topic that Bruce touched on towards the end, which I think we need to continue to challenge ourselves to make sure that SDA delivers an ordinary life, but as Antonia said, we're building infrastructure that is going to be around for decades and

decades and decades. What we're building now is going to be around in 40 years' time and there is a real responsibility that comes with that to make sure that what we deliver creates an ordinary life for people with disability. And certainly for those of us at Summer who don't have a disability, the bar that we set for ourselves is whether we would want to live in these properties and I think, that to me, is always a useful grounding question to ask ourselves is this about is this, where I would want to live. And if it's not, why am I building it for someone with a disability, and I was really heartened today to hear the minister, to hear Rob, to hear Antonia, to hear all the speakers who we've had here today reflect that theme of independence, of choice and of community inclusion and I think it's great that there's so much alignment around that issue.

So Anthony and I am going to do a bit of a tag team, so first of all, we wanted to thank all of our speakers who have made time to come along today.

We really appreciate you taking the time and sharing your experience with us and when we were putting this conference together, we really looked for speakers who have an experience in the market that is useful to share with other people. And we really thank speakers for being really transparent and really open to sharing their journey with others here today. And as we wanted to thank everyone who's attended today, we've been really excited with the amount of demand for this conference and I think it speaks to the level of positivity about SDA out there in the market. And I want to particularly thank those who have come from interstate, and have come down to Melbourne for the conference today. And I also wanted to thank our teams both at Summer and at Youngcare for all the work that they've put in to making today happen. And I wanted to say a particular thanks to Alana Dobra, Robin Zakharov and Candice Dixon, from the team to have put in a huge amount of work to make today happen, so-

(Applause):

Anthony: Someone wrote to me this morning and said, it's like you've created a coalition of the willing in this room and I think that's a really positive term and I don't think it's far from the mark that what we wanted to do, all of us who we've spoken and there are many friends out in the audience who we worked with in the past is that we think this is the time, that it's been building and as Luke just iterated there, we've never had more confidence to move forward.

So we want to thank also those corporate sponsors that are moving forward with us as well.

You already know when you've got a market that is forming, when the corporate sector is coming behind you as well, and wanting to be involved and that's what SDA and that's what it's always been hoped in this market approach, is that there is interest from the private sector that they want to get involved for the reasons, but they also see that there's an opportunity for them to do this and I think that's a great thing.

So can we please thank our sponsors EY, Free Hooks, Suncorp and Trade Link for supporting today?

(Applause)

Thanks. Great, well, thank you all very much.

I really encourage you to fill out the evaluation, we're very keen for your feedback on how today went. Youngcare and Summer have never endeavoured such a large conference before, so please give us feedback on what you thought worked well and what we could do better next time and we look forward to staying in touch.

We're making a bunch of material today available through the Get Building SDA website and through the social media channels, so if you haven't already subscribed to the mailing list today or the social media channels, jump on to Get Building SDA to the website and subscribe and you can get all the information from today.

So thanks again for joining us and we look forward to staying in touch with you all. Thanks.

(Applause)

END OF TRANSCRIPT