

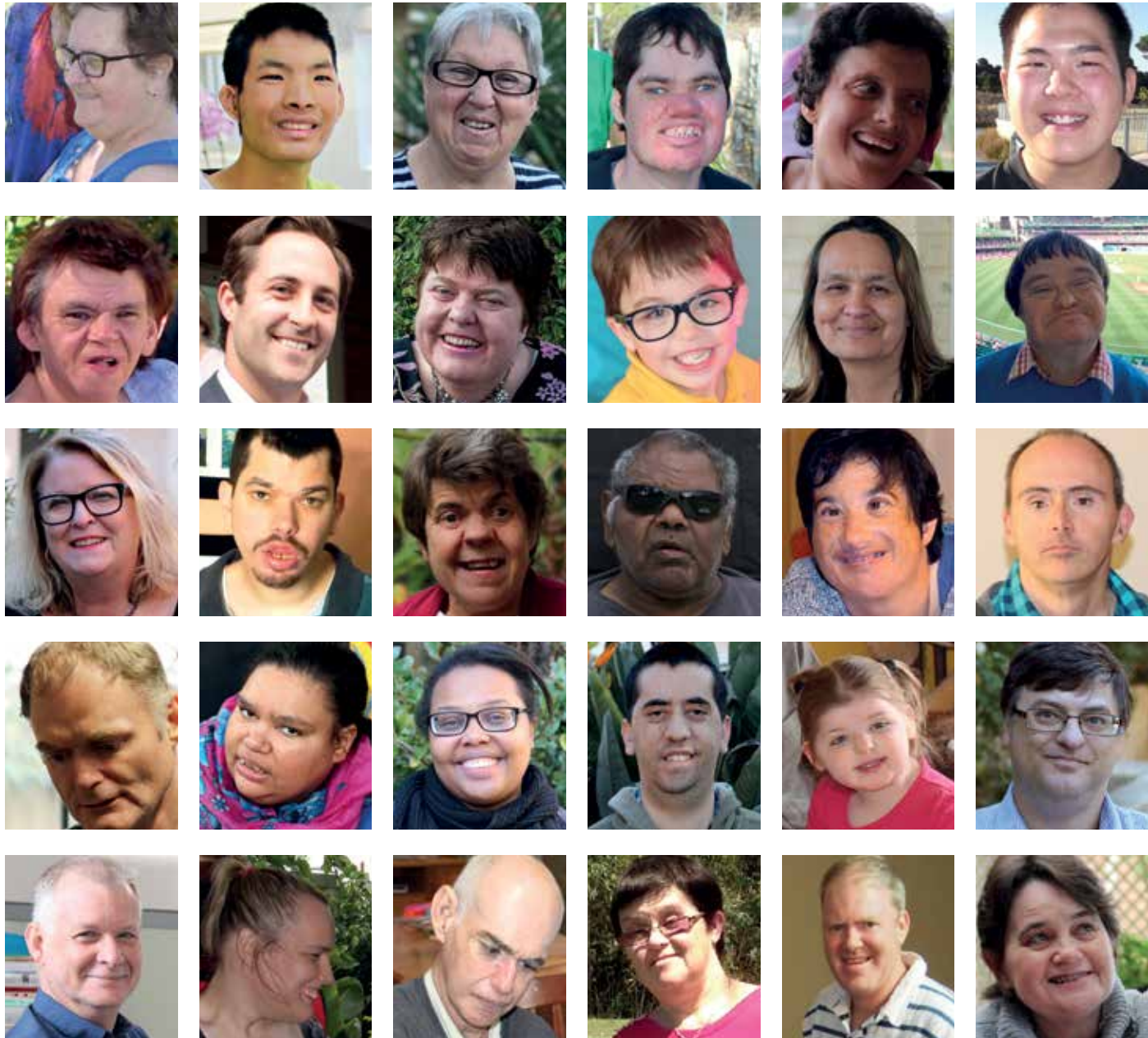


Identikite

40TH ANNIVERSARY SOUVENIR EDITION

Identitywa

| 2017 |



 Identitywa

40
1977 - 2017

CELEBRATING
40 YEARS
of sharing the journey



Our Vision

All people live with a sense of purpose, a sense of belonging and a sense of wellbeing.



Our Mission

Identitywa works in partnership with individuals and families to build a community where people with disability enjoy a fulfilled life.

We support individuals to achieve their goals, whatever they may be. We offer families the support they need.



Our Values

Above all else, we make a commitment to act.

We will look for the opportunities rather than seeing the barriers.

Our approach will be objective, transparent and fair. We will always be honest and open and no matter how challenging, we will endeavour to see it through to the end.

40

stories for 40 YEARS

To mark the 40th anniversary of Identitywa, we are delighted to publish this souvenir edition of Identikite.

As a special feature in this edition, we have invited 40 people to share how their lives have been touched by Identitywa.

We thank them sincerely for their generosity and we hope you enjoy their stories.



Archbishop Costelloe with housemates Simon and Joshua at the Blessing and Opening of Identitywa: South

Message from the Archbishop

In this 40th anniversary year of Identitywa, I want to congratulate and acknowledge the meaningful contribution Identitywa has made to the lives of people in Western Australia.

It is wonderful to see how this Archdiocesan agency has grown from its humble beginnings in 1977 as a self-help group for Catholic parents of children with disability, to be one of Western Australia's leading agencies supporting people with disability and their families throughout the Perth metropolitan area.

With a strong foundation based on offering practical expressions of the desire to be of service – Identitywa has worked hard to reach out and connect with people in their communities. It has provided a

home to many people who have sought a place where they can be nurtured and supported to live a life with a sense of purpose, a sense of belonging and a sense of well-being.

Its services are proudly based on Catholic values and a vision which encompasses people of all faiths and backgrounds.

My prayer is that Identitywa continues to do all that it can with the dignity and respect it has built its reputation on.

+ Timothy Costelloe SDB



Most Rev Timothy Costelloe SDB
Catholic Archbishop of Perth



Sharing the journey... Board Chair

One can only wonder if the families who came together some 40 years ago to form what is now Identitywa could have ever imagined that the body they created would have grown into the amazing organisation that it is today – sharing the journey and enriching the lives of so many people. We take daily inspiration from those families who had the courage to seek a fulfilled life in the Catholic faith for their children.

Fast forward to today, and I am proud to say that as a Board we hold those traditions close as we work in partnership with management and staff to better the lives of each individual in our care and their families. Indeed, key features of our recently released Strategic Plan for the next three years include such goals as making a meaningful difference, innovative solutions and strong and honest partnerships – elements underpinned with concrete plans and proposals.

I am grateful not only for the excellent corporate governance from our Board, but also to every staff member for the selfless contribution they make to enriching and enhancing the lives of those around them. Even in these uncertain times, I am certain that we will continue to flourish and deliver the quality of service for which we are well known.

Graeme Mander
Board Chair

CEO

"If I have seen further, it is by standing upon the shoulders of giants."

Sir Isaac Newton.

This saying is an apt description of the vision of Identitywa which has evolved through four decades of dedicated service.

We are humbled by the foresight and strength of the founding families who demanded a better world for their sons and daughters. This aspiration is our daily inspiration; it has remained at the forefront of Identitywa and continues to drive us to raise the bar and strive for a good life for all.

Through the significant contribution of Identitywa Board members and staff, both past and present, and the trust which has been placed in us by people with disabilities and their families, we are in a privileged position to continue to see further and aspire to a better world.

As an agency of the Archdiocese of Perth we are blessed with many supporters who believe in our mission and work with us in partnership to ensure the continued success of Identitywa. The fruit of this collaboration is very clear as we celebrate the opening of the new corporate base in Northbridge on Identitywa's 40th anniversary.

Marina Re
Chief Executive Officer

40

stories for
40 YEARS



Genevieve

As founding members of Catholic Care for Intellectually Handicapped Persons (CCIH), Fay and Tom Tranter shared a vision with other parents that their children with an intellectual disability would become full members of the Church. That vision became a reality when Genevieve, together with the children of other like-minded parents, was confirmed on 10th December 1977 by Bishop Healy at a special ceremony at Clontarf.

Fay and Tom also had a desire that ultimately CCIH would be able to offer Genevieve full time care.

Although they were heavily committed to the development of the residential service, they had to wait a long time after the service commenced for this to happen. Finally their wish came to fruition in 1996 upon the devolution of Pyrton, when Genevieve moved to an Identitywa (Catholic Care) shared living home in Beechboro.

When asked what Identitywa means to them Fay and Tom replied:

“The Confirmation of Genevieve was a very important event in Genevieve’s life. We will always be grateful for the support and encouragement of CCIH to clear the way for this to happen.

Important too was Genevieve’s transition from living in a large isolated institutional setting at Pyrton, where she had to compete for her needs and attention with many others, to an Identitywa shared living home with three other people. This move presented special challenges for Genevieve and the staff and was never going to be easy.

Genevieve had many difficulties to overcome to adapt to life in her new home and this would not have been possible without the incredible efforts of Identitywa staff. The trust they have worked so hard to gain through patience, support, encouragement and prayer has now brought positive and lasting change to Genevieve’s life.

In the knowledge that Genevieve is well cared for, content and secure, we now share with Genevieve grateful thanks to Identitywa and to our God who has made all this possible.”

Adele

For Adele, art is a way of showing how she feels, so her paintings often indicate her mood at the time.

When her husband passed away, Adele painted scenes that were dark and sad. Recently, she has been painting more joyful scenes such as flowers and bright sunshine which reflect she is moving to a much happier place.

One of her goals is to be healthy, so she goes to the gym with her support workers regularly and they go shopping for ingredients to make what Adele calls “yummy meals”.

Adele also benefits from overnight support in her home a couple of times each week which she really likes.



Tasin

I started my journey with Identitywa in 2015 as a House Senior. Whilst I really enjoyed this role, I had the opportunity to do some relief work as a Team Leader in 2016. This opportunity led to me being appointed as a permanent Team Leader, responsible for our shared houses in the Joondalup area.

In my time at Identitywa, what I have discovered is, if you are passionate about what you do and act on what you believe in, you will be guided and supported in every way possible.



Alyda

"The team at the Children's House in Riverton have provided Alyda a fun and loving home away from home," says mum, Lynley.

"They have gone out of their way to make sure I have felt happy with my decision for Alyda to have short breaks at the house. I appreciate that she is given the best possible care but, even better than that, I know they enjoy having her at the house as much as she enjoys going. In the time Alyda has been with Identitywa she has improved considerably and as her mum it gives me a much needed break and a good night's sleep!"



Joe



Joe's good friend, Rose, shares how she believes he feels since Identitywa staff started supporting him in his shared home.

The staff are alright in my book as they are always on hand to help me do great outings like going to a Dockers' game, ice skating, shows like Cirque Du Soleil. We also attend Church and I visit Rose.

"Joe communicates to me that he is very happy. The staff are just wonderful!" says Rose.

Teagan



The new sensory room recently opened at Identitywa's Children's House in Nollamara is a real winner with Teagan who regularly stays at the house during the school week. She loves the lights and music and listening to stories being read by the support workers.

She also loves being outside with the other children watching them play ball or climb on the play equipment.

"She just loves being a part of everything," says her mother, Kristy.

"As her mum, I am so grateful for the help and support the staff at the Children's House give to Teagan and our family. I am so glad I found them!"

Terry



I was pleased when I was asked to join the Board of Identitywa in 2008. Identitywa, as an outreach service of the Catholic Archdiocese of Perth, has quietly gone about the business of supporting people with disability and their families. Its focus on listening to people and their carers, so as to develop the best care for individuals resonates with me. This Committee of Management is the only one of which I am a member that ensures it has a voice of the carers guiding its decisions.

Christopher

When Christopher moved into shared living, he could only walk with crutches, was extremely overweight and had diabetes. "His quality of life is great now and he has achieved things I thought he never would," says mum, Sue. "He has lost a lot of weight, and in turn, no longer has diabetes due to his new diet and regular exercise... and he now walks independently!

"He even has a job for the first time which is fantastic and he has achieved one of his dreams to walk his sister down the aisle when she married. Now when I spend time with Chris, it is precious, quality time together, as I am not under pressure. I could not be prouder or happier."



Janice

Since Janice has made the move from home to Woodside Street, her parents, Brian and Gail, have seen a lot of progress.

"She has learnt to be more helpful around the house, helping with preparation of food and keeping her room clean.

"She really enjoys the company of her housemates and always loves to socialise. The staff have currently got her involved in one of her favourite sports, Ten Pin Bowling, and also regularly take her to swimming, which she has always enjoyed."

Brian and Gail believe the transition of Janice moving to her shared house with Identitywa has all been very positive which they are very appreciative of.



Sebastian

For 11 year old Sebastian, a visit to a park opens up a world of fun and adventure. He is fascinated by other children and all the activity, which really shows as he smiles the whole time he is there. His regular stays at Identitywa's Nollamara Children's House have really boosted his confidence. His mother, Chantal, says the interaction with staff and other children has enabled him to build his trust in others.

"The staff are all so friendly and willing to help. Nothing is too hard for them."



Amanda



Mandy first moved into her Identitywa shared home in 1987 - 30 years ago! Exercise, cooking, 'girly activities', painting and craft, going to the movies and live shows are just some of her favourite things to do.

Her mum, Kathy, says whilst life at times has been challenging, over the recent months she has been inspired to have a focus on healthy lifestyle options which include swimming weekly, going to the gym, long walks along the coast, reading time at the local library and cooking well balanced meals. Oh... and she loves having her nails done too.

Ben



My name is Ben and I just turned 19 years old. Identitywa has been supporting me and my mum for over 12 years now. I like my support worker a lot. She takes me to the gym and football and she works with me on my speech homework and teaches me the calendar. She even teaches me how to spread my favourite Nutella on toast for afternoon tea.

I left school last year and I have my own courier business now and Identitywa was my first customer. I am enjoying life after school with delivery work in the mornings and activities which I enjoy in the afternoons. And I am doing all this through the help and support from Identitywa which I am most grateful for.

Nola



I enjoy living in my shared living home, having my own place, a place I can call home. I am very happy and the staff around me support me – whether it's my health or leisure. I am also happy that I get to develop friendships with other people I live with. And, most importantly, I feel safe.

My family always wanted me to live my life to the fullest and by myself as much as possible. I think that my family is very satisfied with the way things have worked out.

With Identitywa's support I can live my life the way I want to.

Melissa

Melissa's mum, Rosalba, was introduced to Identitywa (Catholic Care) in 1989. Over the years the family have accessed a number of services for Melissa including in-home support, breaks at the children and adult houses and eventually, when funding became available for Melissa in 2011, shared housing.

"It has been a great help," says Rosalba. "We couldn't cope without Identitywa support. It has meant that we now have time to attend to our day-to-day commitments and it is ideal that the house where Melissa lives is close to where we live. She seems content and settled. It's reassuring that Melissa is happy which is a reflection of the support she is receiving."



Matt

"When our family moved from Paraburdoo to Perth with our sons, thirty years ago, I contacted Identitywa (known in the 1980s as Catholic Care) about support options for Matt," shares Jenny, Matt's mum and member of Identitywa's Board.

"A number of amazing staff (some of whom still work with Identitywa) supported our family, allowing me to return to work part-time, to spend time as a couple, and with other son, Ben. When we were ready to explore the options of out-of-home support and later, shared living, Identitywa was our agency of choice."

Jenny says it is through the support of Identitywa, Matt continues to live with a sense of belonging. He is valued and celebrated as the unique person he is.



Augi

Augustine has been living in a shared house since May 2011. Now 23 years old, Augi has grown into a happy young man, developing important skills in living with others. Augi's mum, Chin Lan believes he has developed a sense of responsibility and a positive attitude.

"He is encouraged to participate in a range of activities which he really enjoys. His home is a safe and caring environment for Augi, providing a base from which he can venture out with his support worker or his family and to which he can return. Identitywa's support has been invaluable, both to him, and to our family."



Melissa



Melissa has an appreciation of the finer things in life - good coffee, restaurant outings, concert recitals, movies and live theatre.

Melissa and her housemates have lived together happily for many years and she has a special relationship with her parents, Keith and Margaret, who she visits on a weekly basis. They are extremely pleased she is in such a happy house.

Melinda



Melinda lived at home until 2004. During this time Identitywa provided Melinda and her family with much needed support. When her mother, Helen, had to make the difficult decision for Melinda to live independently, the obvious choice of service provider for her was Identitywa.

She says it is very comforting for the family to know that Melinda's future is secure.

"We are always made welcome and informed of Melinda's everyday life. It is wonderful to see her contributing and engaging in activities and how well she is treated by her support workers. They have got to know Melinda's idiosyncrasies and have enriched her life immeasurably."

Robbie



My name is Robbie. I first began my journey with Identitywa in 1999 so I have been supported for 18 years now. I chose Identitywa as the perfect fit to support my needs. My parents, Anne and Brian, are also a strong influence in my life. I currently live with my great housemates Paul, George and Scott.

Since being with Identitywa, I have had many exciting opportunities which allow me to be independent and live a content lifestyle. I receive great support from my support workers and family members who are all involved to making my life fulfilled.

Terry

Terry's guardian, Jenni, says... "a HUGE thank you to all the Identitywa people involved in Terry's life!"

"We believe Terry has a good life. He has many fun-filled days when he is out and about in his community and has a strong connection with his culture...so important to him and our family."

Some of the things Terry loves most are sitting in the sunshine with his bare feet on the ground, watching the football and throwing a football to anyone who is up for it! He also regularly participates in Karaoke sessions.



Sadie

Sadie's mum, Lynley, says it was a pivotal moment in their lives when they decided to become part of Identitywa, not only for Sadie but for the whole family.

"Her squeal of delight every time we arrive at the house is testament to how much she loves going and it's been beautiful to see her greet each of her friends and staff with so much happiness that she almost explodes with excitement," says Lynley.

Sadie has been able to be part of an environment where she is welcomed and accepted. Her parents have worked closely with staff in addressing her individual needs and supporting her ongoing learning to develop relationships with other children and staff.

"We now have moments of being able to function as a family without restrictions, we have been able to breathe and gather ourselves and become stronger and more resilient for our life with Sadie."



David

When David is asked how he feels about Identitywa's support he says... "it's fine, I have nice friends, I've known them a long time."

He considers Identitywa, and his support workers to be friends of his. He knows they care about him and he appreciates their role in his life.

"I love living on my own and I'm glad I have friends at Identitywa who help me to live in my apartment." David is a well-known artist and is pictured with one of his paintings.



Jane



In August 1995 as a mature age student at Murdoch University, I joined Identitywa as a casual employee. I had, years before worked in the disability sector and was returning after some time away. To be honest, my intent was to commit to a number of months to support my university practical periods and then move on.

Almost 22 years later I remain as committed to and engaged by an organisation that has a values base and a person centred connection which still resonates with me. While I invested in Identitywa, they also invested in me; I have had opportunities to pursue professional growth, career development and a sense of worth and belonging in the career I chose.

Tim



Phil, Tim's dad and a member of Identitywa's Board, said initially Identitywa helped the family to understand the availability of and how to go about accessing funding for the type of disability support that Tim needed.

"This guidance was really important to us in those early days looking for help to manage his complex physical and medical condition.

"Once he was living in shared accommodation, Tim's need for 24 hour care was met, giving Barbara and me firstly, peace of mind that he was safe and cared for. Secondly, we were able to resume a more normal family life for ourselves and importantly for Tim's older brother, Will."

Jenny



Jenny's family started getting support from Identitywa about 25 years ago. At that time, Jenny was still living at home and her support worker came over on a Monday to take her to dancing classes in Belmont which she really enjoyed.

"Jenny has been in various shared living homes over the last twenty years. It hurt me very much to let her go but my husband was not very well and needed me more and more. We've had ups and downs but she is happy and she is receiving the support she needs," shares her mum, Clare.

James

"When I was told about Identitywa's Children's House in Nollamara, I was unsure what to expect," shares James' mum, Michelle.

"I am so glad James started visiting as we have had great support for our family. When things happened in life and I needed James to be cared for... they were there, not just caring for James, but they have taught him so much. James has made lots of friends which is of huge importance to him."



Sandro

Sandro started in the very early days of Identitywa. "His first experiences went so well, Isidoro (Dad) and I were able to relax knowing he was being well looked after" says his mother, Sheila.

When Sandro graduated from Gladys Newton School, the worry of his future loomed. With support, he moved into a house with two other young men.

According to Sheila, Sandro has not always been an angel, but with the various staff's excellent training and encouragement he has overcome many challenges.

"He has developed a great attachment to the staff who support him, some of whom he has known for many years. We as a family who love him dearly say a big "thank you" to the staff at Identitywa."



Ruth

"My daughter Ruth has been living in a shared home since she turned 22, nearly 12 years ago," explains Ruth's mum, Joan.

"It was the desire of my late husband and myself for Ruth's life to be as normal as possible, which for us meant working on her independence skills and for her to leave home as a young adult while still receiving the support that she needed. Identitywa has been a God-send to us for the support that Ruth receives."

Ruth says she loves living in her home. "I love spending time outside on my trampoline and picking lemons off the tree. I like hitting the shed with lemons! This house is cool and I love my housemates and my best friend is Jodee."



Nathan



I joined the Board of Identitywa in 2009 and have thoroughly enjoyed the last eight years. Identitywa has undergone many changes during my time on the Board but its commitment to the support of people with a disability in our community has never wavered. For me the thing that makes Identitywa so special is the fantastic people that are associated with it – every time you meet or speak to someone you feel a sense of warmth and friendship that isn't as common today as maybe it used to be. How could you not be a better person for being a part of this wonderful organisation.

Rikeesha



My family and I have been supported by Identitywa since 2007. I am very close to my mum and to my family and never miss a function or celebration. My family are always welcome in my home and sometimes come for tea with me and my housemates which we all enjoy. Nearly two years ago the Wadjak Northside Aboriginal Centre opened in my community and every Tuesday I attend *Art and Yarning* with my support worker.

Each week we do a different activity and I have made some beautiful art while listening to mentors sharing their knowledge about my culture, heritage and traditions. We always enjoy a big lunch together and lots of laughter. Most of all it is a chance to catch up with many of my relatives and lots of new friends in my local community.

Esther



I came to Australia from Kenya in August 2003 and enrolled in a Bachelor of Psychology at the University of Western Australia. After graduating, I was keen to gain employment and successfully applied for a job at Identitywa in 2010. Over the past seven years I have had the opportunity to work in a number of positions at Identitywa, the latest being as a Staff Relief Officer. My time with Identitywa has been a real learning experience. I enjoy the familial atmosphere... it is one of the best I have come across in my various places of employment.

Luke

Luke and his sister, Jessica, both live in Identitywa shared living homes. Mother, Gloria, has been very happy with the support they receive which she says has allowed them to grow and mature into wonderful members of the community.

"My son, Luke, loves his independence and has not looked back since leaving home," says Gloria. "Some of his favourite things to do are watching football and Formula 1, and playing games on his Nintendo."

"My children are enjoying their lives which is wonderful. I have peace of mind knowing that they are being cared for, and respected, as individuals to make decisions about their life."



Leo

My name is Leonardo... I am called Leo for short. I have been sharing an Identitywa house for the past six years which I really enjoy as it offers me independence and my housemates are all good company, including Toby the Chihuahua. The house is really well located, close to public transport and not far from my mother who I visit regularly.

Two days a week I travel to Identitywa's main office in Northbridge where I am employed working as a team member in the Human Resource team. I really enjoy the chance to contribute as I get to meet lots of interesting people and find the role really rewarding. Identitywa is one of the best organisations I have worked for so far and I am hoping to continue for many years to come.



Lurlyne

I love my job! I have been working for over 21 years for Identitywa in our shared living home in Bassendean.

They are a happy bunch who love to socialise and enjoy life.

It really has been a privilege to watch each person grow and develop over all this time. We have done so much together including fun road trips down south where we have had lots of holidays.

The opportunity to contribute to their lives is very special.



Ed



How time flies... it's 30 years since I joined Identitywa and the attraction of its values and mission have not changed. To see the opportunities for people to experience a good life has been a privilege. We have shared many happy moments and also sad and difficult times and through these experiences we have grown to respect the uniqueness of each other. I continue to believe we are in a position to create opportunities for the people we support to have an engaging life. I continue to have passion in what I do and I am inspired by those who I support.

Michelle



I have had some amazing people support me since I came to Identitywa when I was five. One special person is Faye who has watched me grow up and played a big part in making me the person I am today.

I have used many of the services that Identitywa has offered. I used to enjoy the weekends of wonder especially when I went down south because I would get to see my grandma and different places in WA, the best part was hanging out with my friends for the weekend.

I now live in my own home with my own staff and this is because Identitywa listened to my needs and my goals for my future. They have been there to support me when I need to talk or help me work through issues. Thank you for all you have done for me and my family.

Paul



"These days Paul is mostly very happy and smiling when I pick him up on Saturday mornings to spend the weekend with me," says Paul's mum, Di. "Seeing my precious son happy, healthy, calm and well-presented makes the mother in me very happy. And...at the other end of the weekend, I am once again so happy that Paul is eager to leave me and return to his home.

"Having Paul in this mostly calm and positive place makes it so much more enjoyable for the whole family to come together on special occasions like birthdays, Mother's Day and the like. We all really love these times together. Thank you, Identitywa."

Oonagh

From the moment Oonagh moved out of the family home and into her own home, sharing with three other people she has never looked back. Her sister, Geraldine, explains that from the very first day her mother felt she was in the right place and it felt good.

"Although Oonagh's needs have changed over the years, the staff have been wonderful and adapted to meet her level of support. As her sister, I am very pleased that she is living a good life."



Julian

Julian's mum, Jan, had lots to do with Identitywa in its early years. She recalls her first contact back in 1979 when she was looking for somewhere for Julian to stay for a short break.

"The family have had a happy association with Identitywa over the 28 years Julian has been accessing their support," reflects Jan.

Julian shares with three others and is always keen to help with all kinds of activities such as shopping for groceries, and he especially likes going shopping at Bunnings. He goes dancing every Thursday night and on Saturdays he participates at a local community group where they do art and craft activities and listen to music. Julian likes getting out and about in the community and he loves visiting his mum at her home and when his sister, Sue-Ellen, comes to see him.



Sharyn

Sharyn is happy in her shared living home and her parents have been happy she is happy! Sharyn's father recently passed away but he expressed in the past that he and his wife were very pleased with the individual attention and support she receives in her home. Sharyn loves joining in and being actively involved in the various events in her community.





Sharing the journey

**A Catholic outreach supporting people
with disability and their families.**

We welcome contributions
to Identikite from people we support,
their families and staff.

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