

Celebrating new beginnings in Balcatta



Photo caption: Leonie, Michael, Tim and his son

It was with great joy and gratitude that we welcomed housemates, families, workers and the Identitywa community to the official opening and blessing of two remarkable new homes in Balcatta on 22 October 2020. These homes represent the power of collaboration, support and community.

This milestone marked the culmination of a strong and deep partnership between the Viney family and Identitywa. The Vineys' connection to Identitywa initially commenced through Ross (dec) and Leonie's contributions to Catholic Care during the formative years. This extended through their son Michael, who has been supported by the organisation for many years and most recently through the build of these two homes by Michael's brothers, Tim and Jarrod.

Michael's journey from Geraldton to Willagee and now to Balcatta, has been shaped by the care and support of Identitywa's dedicated team.

In mid-2021, Tim and Jarrod Viney purchased the Balcatta block with a clear vision to build two homes, one for Michael and two housemates and another for three additional housemates.

Construction began with the slab pour in September 2023 and by June 2025, the stunning homes were complete. They are part of a broader initiative by Identitywa to address the shortage of accessible housing across Perth. Since 2019, over \$17 million has been approved for construction, with an additional \$25 million invested by third-party partners.

To date, 14 homes have been built for more than 45 participants, with 16 more in the pipeline, expected to be completed by the end of 2026.

Built to Specialist Disability Accommodation (SDA) design standards, these homes showcase TV Studio's craftsmanship and commitment to sustainable living. Features include:

- Master-sized bedrooms with accessible ensuites
- Spacious open-plan living areas
- Alfresco areas and water-wise gardens
- Wide corridors for ease of movement
- Passive solar design elements
- Advanced security systems including front door cameras, intercoms, gate management and alarms.

These homes are more than buildings, they are vibrant, modern spaces that foster independence, connection and a true sense of belonging.

Identitywa Chairperson Graeme Mander warmly welcomed the delightful housemates who have moved into these homes.

"Some of you have previously lived in older-style accommodation supported by Identitywa, and it's clear you are thrilled to begin this new chapter. We look forward to seeing you build new friendships and thrive in your new community," Graeme said.

"This project would not have been possible without the dedication of many," said Graeme.

"TV Studio's and the Viney Family, whose vision and commitment brought these homes to life. The housing team, for their tireless work and resilience. Our operational team, whose behind-the-scenes efforts ensured every detail was delivered with care. Our sincere thanks and congratulations to you all," said Graeme.



Photo caption clockwise from top left: Graeme, Fr Mark and Marina, Marie and Cathy, Helen and Graeme, Andrew, Sarah and Wendy.