

MEDIA RELEASE
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Activ customer Michael's keeping local Vinnies shoppers safe from COVID-19

Activ customer Michael Arch is kicking his independence goals after securing a volunteer work placement at Vinnies Bassendean, greeting customers and reminding them to check-in using the SafeWA app.

Since the end of November, Michael has been working at the local op-shop on Thursdays with the support of Activ support worker Adele Longworth, and is loving the experience.

Michael came to Activ support workers Adele and Angela and expressed that he wanted to find work experience in the local community, after seeing that one of his friends at Activ was working in retail. Angela and Adele spent time to find the best fit for Michael, somewhere where he could learn new skills on the job and have a support worker with him. Vinnies Bassendean was the perfect fit.

Michael is most comfortable behind the scenes, unloading new stock, putting price stickers on the toys and DVDs, performing quality control on new items that are donated, and hanging clothes. Adele gently encourages Michael to regularly challenge himself by trying new things and growing his skills.

"He's getting more confident as we go along. Recently, we were in the front of the shop replenishing the DVD's on the shelf. Michael's also made friends with other volunteers, so the next step is to start greeting and communicating with the public and I encourage him to do that now," said Adele.

Adele's encouragement has made a world of difference, with Michael recently commencing work in the front of the shop, greeting customers and reminding them to check-in using the SafeWA app. Michael is happy and proud to be taking up this important job to keep Vinnies shoppers safe.

Michael's favourite part of the job? "I like buttoning the shirts and putting the price stickers on the toys!" said Michael.

Vinnies Bassendean Store Manager Helen Sandery loves having Michael on the team and recognises the importance of providing employment opportunities to people living with disability.

"Michael is a pleasure to work with and I have seen how he's grown in independence.

We want to foster a diverse, inclusive and progressive environment at our Vinnies stores, and I urge other businesses to be open to providing opportunities for people living with disability – it is extremely rewarding for both parties," said Helen.

Looking to the future, Michael's goal for the year is to keep working in the front of the shop, greeting customers and putting clothes on the racks. With all this progress in just a few months, we're sure at Activ that Michael's journey to more independence at work is only just beginning.

END

www.activ.asn.au

Media Contacts:

Niall Naghten

E: Niall.Naghten@activ.asn.au

T: (08) 9387 0548

M: 0419 533 015

About Activ

Activ is the largest disability support provider in Western Australia. We provide individualised services for people living with intellectual disability. We offer services in accommodation, community, employment, training and education, short-term accommodation and behaviour support. Activ was founded in 1951 by a group of families who wanted more for their children who lived with disability and had become marginalised by society. Today, we support more than 1,900 individuals and their families across WA.

For more information visit www.activ.asn.au

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Important Information

When referring to people with disability, we ask that you use the term 'living with disability', rather than 'disabled person' or 'the disabled'. The term 'Supported Employee' is used when referring to an Activ employee living with a disability. The term 'customer' is used to refer to a person living with disability that Activ supports.