

**MEDIA RELEASE**  
**31/05/2021**

## **Activ customer Jo Butler loves being part of her community after securing paid employment at Coles Manjimup**

Jo, who lives with disability, is an active member of her local community in Manjimup, where she has now secured paid work at the local Coles supermarket.

To become more independent, meet new people and feel more a part of her community, Activ support workers Evelyn Hughes and Kathy Carley supported Jo to start volunteer work at the local Coles and Vinnies stores. After a few months of volunteer work, Jo was offered a paid position at the local supermarket, an achievement that she is extremely proud of.

"I've done volunteering at Manjimup Stock Feeds, Vinnies, the community garden and then Coles, and I was really happy that I was given the opportunity for paid employment," said Jo.

"This allows me to have my own spending money, as I love to go out for morning tea and can pay my own way. I also love to go shopping at local stores in my community. Now I can buy presents for my family at birthdays, Christmas and Easter."

Jo works at Coles in Manjimup three days a week, and is responsible for restacking shelves and compressing cardboard boxes. Jo's job not only provides her with the opportunity for greater independence, but it also allows her to learn valuable skills that she can take with her to future employment.

Jo's manager at Coles, Mat Lodge, loves having Jo on the team and recognises the importance of providing employment opportunities to people living with disability.

"Jo is always a very positive and friendly team member, and never fails to greet all her fellow team members. She has always completed her tasks independently, showing great pride in her work," said Mat.

Activ support workers Evelyn and Kathy have seen an immense growth in Jo's independence since starting work.

"Jo really enjoys her work and her colleagues are so supportive. Everyone knows her and even on her days off, if she goes into the shop everyone greets her," said Evelyn.

"I believe Jo really enjoys that close connection to her community. She also really appreciates having financial independence, to have her own money to spend as she pleases."

At Activ, we're so excited to see how Jo continues to achieve her independence goals at work and in the community!

**END**

[www.activ.asn.au](http://www.activ.asn.au)

## **Media Contacts:**

### **Niall Naghten**

E: [Niall.Naghten@activ.asn.au](mailto: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](http://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.