

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **Young author and disability advocate pursues publishing dream with second book**

Perth author Nicholas Argent is a vocal advocate for people living with disability. To celebrate International Day of People with Disability on Friday, 3 December, he is sharing his dream of being a published author.

Nicholas has a goal of changing the world's perspective on people with disability. His second and latest book *Life with a Disability* highlights the well-rounded, full lives that people with disability live, encompassing work, friendships, love, achievements and hardships.

Nicholas said the book sought to break down barriers and teach others to not make uninformed or unfair assumptions about people with disability.

"I've written stories about superheroes, and stories for kids, but one day I got thinking about all the negative things I've heard people say about people with disabilities, so I thought maybe if they heard something that actually came from someone with a disability, they might see it from a different point of view," he said.

"I want other people with disability to read my book and know to just not lose hope – as people living with disability, we can achieve things we thought we may never be able to accomplish."

"I want to show everyone – guardians, support workers, the community – that if you step back and give us a chance, you'll be surprised at what we can do."

Nicholas is employed at Activ Employment Services in Bentley and lives independently while accessing drop-in support. He has been steadily working towards his writing goals over time. The next step in his writing journey – and his goal – is to collaborate with illustrators and catch the eye of a publisher.

"I'd love to connect with someone else with a disability to do the final illustrations and sketches," he said.

"I've been writing since I was a teenager, it's very relaxing for me and I've always dreamt of writing my own books."

Nicholas' Activ support worker Kate Engelbrecht and other Activ support staff are helping to make his dream come true.

"I can see what Nick's passionate about and I'm really impressed with what he does," said Kate.

"I help Nick with editing. When he's finished writing he'll get me to read through it and see what I think, and I help him with spelling and proof-reading."

In the future, Nicholas said he hoped to follow in the footsteps of his biggest inspiration, famed writer and producer Stan Lee.

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“In his work, he opened my eyes and made me realise that we’re all different, but that’s not a bad thing. And that’s exactly how I see people with disabilities. We’re very smart in our own ways and you’ll be surprised about what we can achieve,” Nicholas said.

**Excerpt from *Life with a Disability* by Nicholas Argent**

*In some ways, some people think of people with a disability as stupid. I can assure you we are not.*

*I am just like you. Just in some things I need extra help.*

*Some of us are good parents, others are great painters and others are good singers. No matter the disability, one thing we are not is stupid.*

*As a guy with a disability all I have to say to you is, don't judge me for my disability but judge me for my actions, for it is what we do that makes us good or bad. Like other people we make good and bad decisions. Like you, we are people and no one on this globe is perfect, so let's not judge.*

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**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.