

**MEDIA RELEASE**  
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## **Kalgoorlie local James looks forward to blossoming future**

**Activ Property Care Kalgoorlie supported employee James Dessis is a budding gardening entrepreneur, after starting his very own nursery.**

Selling at both Activ Business Services Kalgoorlie and at local markets, James' Rustic Nursery is a true demonstration of James' passion for gardening. With a unique style that sees James use quirky objects as pots for his variety of plants, James' creativity ensures that his nursery stands out from the competition - and the Kalgoorlie public have loved it.

"We're located near the bush so I go out bush a lot to find things to use as pots. I've used hard hats, boots, a fire extinguisher, old tea pots, and even a zombie doll," said James.

"I've always loved gardening, I did it as a kid. I just like getting my hands dirty!"

Along with the creative side of the business, James has learnt new skills with the support of his support workers and supervisors to ensure that his nursery grows and continues to be successful.

"I've learnt more about the business side of things – things like budgeting and creating business cards. I've made a Facebook page to help promote the nursery too."

James has also been able to apply the practical horticultural skills he's learnt from working at Activ Property Care Kalgoorlie, to his nursery.

"There's been a lot of times where I've learnt things at property care that I can apply to my nursery, like learning how to setup the retic system, and using an aquaponic system that was donated from one of our clients," said James.

One of James' supervisors at Activ Business Services Kalgoorlie, Raelene Kroemer, said it's been a delight watching James pursue his dreams.

"The best part has been seeing how James has developed his own quirky style," said Raelene.

"We support James to do the planting at our Activ site, and during community services James is supported to buy all of his supplies, use the computers to complete any planning and to attend the town markets to sell his plants."

"James will plant a plant in anything. We have to tie everything down otherwise he will try to put a plant in it!"

With Raelene's and Activ's encouragement, James dreams of expanding his small business.

"I really want it to grow bigger and have more variety. For anyone who wants to start gardening, I say 'just give it a go and get your hands dirty'," said James.

**END**

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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 1,800 individuals and their families across WA.

For more information visit [www.activ.asn.au](http://www.activ.asn.au)

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