

# ALL INCLUSIVE

## Progressive employment opportunities in WA

Since 2017, Rotary clubs in Western Australia and Inclusion WA have been working together in a WA first to put people with disability into meaningful, paid employment.



The WA Rotary Employment Project helped Colin find his dream job at Northcom Auto Wreckers, specialising in Holden Commodores.

**IN 2015**, statistics showed that nearly half of all working age people with disability were not in the labour force. The National Disability Strategy (2010-20) recognises increased access to employment opportunities is key to improving economic security and personal wellbeing for people with disability.

Through funding from the Department of Communities, Inclusion WA commenced working with local Rotary clubs to create pathways into open employment for people living with a disability.

PDG Angus Buchanan, of the Rotary Club of West Perth, WA, also the Head of the School of Occupational Therapy, Social Work and Speech pathology at Curtin University, was well aware of the issues.

“Through experience, I could attest to the success and value of employing people living with a disability,” Angus said. “I was keen to be involved with this initiative and harness Rotarians’ vocational networks so we could make a difference in this area.”

The WA Rotary Employment Project is based on a similar project in Alberta, Canada, and is the first of its kind in WA.

This innovative project identifies local businesses that can offer valued roles to individuals in a mutually beneficial relationship between employee and employer. This project focuses on finding opportunities within the community that connect an individual to employment based on their interests and skill set.

Through the WA Rotary Employment Project, Inclusion WA has been able to build strong connections to local businesses and begin creating pathways to real employment. For example, Louise Youens, of the Rotary Club of Beaufort, worked with Inclusion WA to create two cleaning roles and one other opportunity for an individual to do audio editing at Go Go Media in Bassendean. Another two individuals have also gained ongoing paid employment at A2B Removals and Storage in Wangara and another has gained part-time employment at Northcom Auto Wreckers.

This project has been endorsed and supported by PDG Lindsay Dry.

“I am proud to say that approximately 30 Rotary clubs have to-date collaborated with Inclusion WA, resulting in 22 individuals gaining employment through Rotarians. This has made a real difference to the lives of people with disabilities,” Lindsay said.

The WA Rotary Employment Project is a very practical way for Rotarians to demonstrate the power and importance of vocational service. For more information on how you can get involved, contact PDG Angus Buchanan on 08 9266 3604 or [a.buchanan@curtin.edu.au](mailto:a.buchanan@curtin.edu.au)

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Adam, right, gained employment with A2B Removals and Storage in Wangara.