

FOR THE BENEFIT OF SCHOOLS AND THE COMMUNITY

Do you know there are eight Western Australian Disability Enterprises (WADEs) that employ more than 2,200 people with a disability or mental health issue? They provide a vast array of products and services including grounds maintenance, printing and cleaning services through to fire equipment servicing and many others. For a complete list of WADEs and services, please view the website at www.wade.org.au which also shows a list of government departments that have partnered with WADEs.

Over the past five years, WADEs have secured work with numerous State and Local Governments agencies at a value of \$47million, a tribute to their quality, reliability and value for money. The Education Department is a regular purchaser of our goods and services.

Our objective is to provide more jobs, more interesting work and at better pay. This we are achieving, greatly improving the quality of life of our personnel. Work is important for everyone, particularly so for people already disadvantaged.

WADEs are keen to extend their services to the Independent School System. If you consider your school can utilise the services offered by the WADE group, please contact Haydn Lowe (former Chief Executive Officer of the Disability Services Commission) on 0408 524 886 or haydn.lowe@gsi.org.au. The participation of your school will go a long way to helping us create extra employment in our workforce.

Haydn will also be contacting schools over the next few weeks to seek an appointment to discuss any opportunities that might exist.

I encourage you to participate in this very worthwhile endeavour,

Good News Stories – Truin Ellison

Truin's journey commenced with Good Samaritan Industries (GSI), in May of 2016. He commenced work experience through the School Transition to Employment Program (STEP) program. STEP is an initiative run by Good Samaritan Industries (GSI), which offers work experience to students with disabilities, across our enterprises, including the likes of our Retail Stores, Warehouse, Transport and Logistics and Administration.

Truin displayed great enthusiasm and a strong work ethic. These qualities along with his great attitude, made him successful in gaining a Retail school based traineeship at the Rockingham Good Sammy's store, in September of 2016.

The School Based Traineeship encompasses a Certificate II in Retail. Truin has been given a number of workbooks and tasks to complete over an 18-month period, which incorporates work place duties and helps him build on his existing skills and knowledge.

Truin is set to successfully complete his traineeship within the next couple of months and is now looking forward to utilising his Certificate moving forward into new employment ventures. Truin also has other community and social participation services provided by GSI. GSI will be further assisting him in moving forward with his future work and career goals.

Congratulations to Truin on all his hard work and the confidence he has gained and displayed over the past 18 months. Well done.

The point of including Truin's case study is to demonstrate that purchasing services from WADEs does not just provide work for those currently employed. GSI operates training programs at its own expense. Providing WADEs with more work also means that more school leavers will experience training whilst at school and will have improved job opportunities once they leave.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'John Knowles'.

John Knowles
Chairman, WA Disability Enterprises
Chief Executive Officer, Good Samaritan Industries