

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Empowering people with disability to live their best lives**

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A leading disability support provider for more than fifty years, Vivid provides care for more than 300 adults (all Participants in the National Disability Insurance Scheme) living with disability across Echuca, Kyabram, Swan Hill and Kerang.

Committed to creating a community where people of all abilities thrive, Vivid's team of Support Workers dedicate their time to helping Participants maximise their potential and provide opportunities based on individual needs.

Vivid CEO, Scott Alexander said "Our Vision is to empower people with disabilities to live great lives."

"To achieve this, we have a team of compassionate employees who build true connections with Participants and provide support and care whilst encouraging independence," Mr Alexander said.

Renae Clifford has been a Support Worker at Vivid for six years and said there is no better place to work.

"Prior to Vivid, I was working in a completely different industry and was looking for a rewarding career change. I started my Certificate IV in Disability and had work placement at Vivid. This led to employment and I have never looked back." Renae said.

Renae also believes there is no better industry to work in.

"It is so rewarding. Every day is different and there are so many personalities. I love getting to know Participants and helping them achieve their personal goals."

Renae has been supporting Samantha (Sam) Greenwood one on one since March 2019. At the beginning, Sam was very quiet. She had not had great success with other programs, was reluctant to try anything new and felt more comfortable with one on one support.

Knowing that Sam was hesitant to try her hand at new activities and often doubted her ability, Renae chipped away at breaking down barriers. Sam was soon able to ask questions which, in turn, led her to build confidence to dip her tow in the water.

Renae empathetically considered Sam's needs and talents trialling activities to gain a better understanding of what she truly enjoyed.

"We started out with learning to cook some easy, basic meals and Sam started to supply a meal one night a week that we cooked on a Thursday to give her Dad a break. This gave Sam a great sense of pride and achievement to know she was contributing at home," Renae said.

"One day when Sam was sick of cooking we decided to go to the op shop and find a piece of furniture that Sam could reinvent. We ended up with a nice little chair that I assisted Sam to chalk paint and decoupage. Sam really put a lot of hard work into the chair over the space of a few weeks, learning new skills along the way. Sam went on to enter it into the Vivid Art Show at The Foundry and I believe it sold on opening night. This gave Sam a great amount of confidence that anything she tried she could really succeed in. Someone associated with the Art Show who had seen Sam's chair then went on to donate four chairs to Sam so she could continue with something she enjoyed and was very good at."

Gradually Renae stepped back to allow Sam greater independence and self-confidence. Sam now participates in a variety of group programs at Vivid which she looks forward to attending each week.

Sam said she lives for Thursdays, it's her special day of the week where she can 'hang out' with Renae and do lots of different things.

"I like going to Vivid on Thursdays to do my furniture repairs and on Friday I like to learn how to cook different meals," Ms Greenwood said.

"I feel very lucky to have the opportunity to support Sam as we have struck up a great team together - Sam has a wicked sense of humour and sometimes asks me 'Am I supporting you today or are you supporting me?'" Renae said.

For further information and all other media enquiries, contact Bel Anderson, Marketing and Communications Coordinator, on 03 5480 1111 or at [Belinda.anderson@wearevivid.org.au](mailto:Belinda.anderson@wearevivid.org.au)