

Media Release

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New disability accommodation fills gap in Shepp

Moving out of home and into a share house is a rite of passage for young people. For people with disability, the same opportunities for independence and freedom aren't always readily available.

Enter Kialla House, Shepparton's newest Supported Independent Living accommodation. The home, run by for-purpose aged and disability organisation VMCH, meets a huge local gap for low-care disability accommodation for young adults, and its first resident, Teagan, is looking for two new housemates.

Teagan, aged 22, moved in around five weeks ago, and is enjoying her new-found independence.

To help with the transition from her family home, Teagan lives at Kialla House Monday to Friday and spends weekends with her family.

"I like doing crafts, lego, and playing my PS5," Teagan says.

Kialla House Team Leader Drew Burnett says he and Teagan have bonded well over their shared love of cooking (Drew's a qualified chef) and fondness of belting out Taylor Swift tunes on the way to Teagan's day program, Shepparton Access.

"My employed role is Team Leader of Kialla House, but since Teagan has moved in, I have become so much more. I am her sous chef, expert Lego piece finder, a nervous PS5 spectator and the 'embarrassment' that cheers way too loud at bowling nights," he laughs.

Teagan has also developed a very special bond with Residential Support Worker, Tanya, which has seen her become more confident and comfortable within herself.

Drew says it's been fantastic to see Teagan work towards her goals since moving in, including being able to better manage her diabetes, and figure out who she is as a person.

Teagan says a recent highlight was hosting her parents for dinner, and making silverside, roast vegies and sticky date pudding from scratch.

Drew believes what sets Kialla House apart from other disability accommodation is individuality and fun.

"Shepparton does high care disability accommodation well, but there is a hole in the market for low care accommodation," he says.

"Kialla House will always be a safe space for those young adults who need some help in figuring out who they want to be. We allow our residents – without pressure – to define their own routines and give them choice and control over every decision relating to their care. We don't want it to be about just getting them to their next step and ticking off jobs, we want them to have fun along the way."

If you are aged over 18, are looking for sociable new housemates, and have appropriate SIL funding in your NDIS plan, call 1300 698 624 or email hello@vmch.com.au

Media enquiries

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About VMCH

Here at VMCH, our services are as diverse as the people we support.

Our values underpin the work we do. As a Catholic, for-purpose organisation, compassion, respect and inclusion aren't just words to us, they guide us in everything we do.

While we've been around for over a century, we're always moving forward. Always staying true to who we are by supporting people and families to live their best lives; providing a place to call home and spaces to learn and grow.

Our professional and passionate teams are with you on your life journey; helping you with a wide range of support from early learning and therapy, specialist education, disability services, affordable homes, residential aged care, retirement living and at-home aged care.

