

### **Disability Support Worker of the Year Awards**

Greenwood resident Lynda Innes has won the Independent Living Award in the Disability Support Worker of the Year Awards.

In total there were 90 nominees from across the disability services sector in Western Australia and only eight recipients to be given an award.

Lynda won the award for supporting a gentleman with complex communication needs and challenging behaviours to live independently in the community. Lynda has spent years building a solid relationship with the gentleman and providing him with the supports he requires to live a fulfilling life.

"I am very proud to be part of such a wonderful organisation. Prouder still to be the first UnitingCare West staff member to receive a Disability Support Worker award, it means so much to me," Lynda said.

Lynda has successfully assisted the gentleman to learn skills to manage a lifelong health condition and build positive relationships within his local community and family. He now has greater choice and control in the decisions of his life including gaining employment and redecorating his home.

"To be a disability support worker you must have a desire to work with and for people living with a disability. Lynda has shown she is dedicated to assisting people to live independently and get the most out of their life. Lynda's work with the program participant made a positive long term impact on his life. We are delighted that Lynda has been recognised in this way and I congratulate her for the commitment she has shown," said Sue Ash Chief Executive Officer at UnitingCare West.

The Disability Support Worker of the Year Awards is an annual awards ceremony hosted jointly by National Disability Services and the Disability Services Commission to celebrate the outstanding work carried out by the sectors most valuable resource – our Disability Support Workers.

**For quotes please contact:**

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**An inspiration:** Lynda Innes winner of the Independent Living Award with the Honourable Helen Morton MLC Minister for Mental Health; Disability Services; Child Protection.