

## **UNITINGCARE WEST clients achieve long service award**

Andrew Hamence and Stephen Guthrie of Riverton were recently acknowledged with a Long Service Award from Activ. In November 2012 Andrew and Stephen received the award having been employed by Activ Industries for the past 30 years. During these years both men have made significant contributions to their workplace in a variety of ways.

Their jobs involve sorting, collating and packing, including yearly projects such as filling thousands of show bags for the Perth Royal Show. Both men have shown a remarkable commitment to their work and thoroughly enjoy participating in the everyday work environment. According to Eden Knight, full time staff member at their Riverton House, Andrew and Stephen are very enthusiastic to go to work every day. "they have their routine, the night before they make their lunch, in the morning they get into their uniform and 8am on the dot they are ready to jump into the car and get to work" Eden says. Both men are employed full time Monday to Friday despite being born with a disability that can make communication challenging.

Andrew and Stephen are also great friends and have shared their home for 19 years whilst receiving support from staff at UnitingCare West. The men live together in Riverton with three other housemates. The property is one of a number of facilities operated by UnitingCare West that provides individualised, 24 hour care for people living with a disability. Eden explains that both Andrew and Stephen have a happy, proud and independent nature. "Andrew has a great sense of humour and likes to make staff and other residents laugh. Stephen is very caring towards the other residents; he enjoys making them a cuppa and takes great pride in keeping the house tidy."

Ian Moore, Executive Manager Mental Health and Disabilities at UnitingCare West, believes the acknowledgment that Andrew and Stephen have received is richly deserved. "Steven and Andrew are two of nearly 500 people living with a disability that UnitingCare West works with each year and we celebrate their achievement. Both men have shown a remarkable commitment to their jobs and they are a great example to the whole community"

In the photo you see Andrew Hamence and Stephen Guthrie with their long service certificate, pin and plaque awarded to them by Activ Industries. The men are accompanied by Ian Moore (Executive Manager, Mental Health & Disability Services, UnitingCare West) and Fiona Cafferty (Manager Disability Services, UnitingCare West).

UnitingCare West is a community services agency that supports thousands of people each year through more than 30 programs in areas of financial hardship, domestic violence, child abuse, mental health and disability.

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