

BEHIND THE SCENES

Esperance Home Care

For the many clients who rely on Esperance Home Care, the service is an incredible source of support and care. The organisation was first established in 1988 by a group of concerned community members with a desire to see a local nursing home built in Esperance. In response to a request for funding, the Government wanted to see a community-based home care organisation in operation in Esperance before it would consider funding a nursing home. This led to the establishment of the Esperance Home and Community Care Advisory Committee Council, under the guidance and financial management support of the Esperance Shire Council. From humble beginnings, starting out with just three staff, two of whom only worked part time, Esperance Home Care has grown to a much-loved organisation supporting 400 elderly or disabled people to live independently in their own homes.



ADVERTORIAL

These days, Esperance Home Care has a dedicated facility on Black Street, and employs 51 people. They provide a wide range of services to help their clients live independently, including housekeeping, personal care, medication support, transport to appointments, and gardening. One important service provided by the organisation is a meal support service, ensuring that clients have hot, nutritious meals. These 'meals on wheels' are cooked daily in the Esperance Home Care kitchen, and delivered by a group of dedicated and caring volunteers. Another vital service that the organisation provides is community access. This includes organising a range of different activities and social outings, as well as transport for the clients. The social program provided by Home Care is made possible by the support of dedicated volunteers.

Esperance Home Care is dedicated to the principles of delivering quality care that treats clients with respect and dignity. The level of care each client receives is tailored to their individual needs, and Home Care staff work hard to make sure clients can maintain independence and autonomy at home for as long as possible. It's a rewarding job. "I feel more connected to community," one Community Support worker says. "It's surprising how many farmers and Kalgoorlie residents retire to Esperance, and they have stories going back 70 to 80 years. I love hearing them talk about when they were younger and I love helping them stay at home so they don't have to go to a nursing home. That means a lot to me, and a lot to our clients."

For Community Support staff, working at the service provides a range of benefits. There are no special qualifications required to work at Home Care, and full training is provided to suitable workers. Staff are also supported on the job by on-staff nurses, coordinators, and other experienced workers. The hours are flexible, and can be adjusted to suit the staff member's needs. The work day is usually varied, with staff deliberately given a range of different activities to suit their abilities and skills. More significantly, staff find the work meaningful and rewarding, knowing that they are helping to care for and support vulnerable and elderly members of our community. Esperance Home Care currently have a number of vacancies available for caring staff who want to make a difference in our community. If you are considering a career change, or want to find a job that will be meaningful and fulfilling, you can find more information about the role at www.esperance.wa.gov.au/vacancies

