

Local Knowledge

FACES
IN YOUR
COMMUNITY

Lucy McGrath began a secure document shredding program at non-profit western suburbs disability organisation Mambourin in 2004 to create a productive program for people with disabilities.

What's your role?

I'm a facilitator. I started the shredding program in 2004. It's a program for people who fall through the cracks because they need support and supervision 24/7.

What does the shredding program do?

The paper comes from local businesses, doctors, lawyers, accountants. Our volunteers do the pick up. Some of the proceeds go toward our costs and the workers receive an allowance.

How many people with disabilities take part?

About 20 people come through, we could have 10 any given day. The ones there choose to be there —



that's the program they've chosen to do. Some also do hip hop, basketball and computer programs. The shredding is on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

How did you come up with the idea?

You know when you have your own paper with sensitive information and you don't want to put it in the bin? Well I thought someone must be shredding. We just needed a machine, then GBC Fordigraph Australia donated one.

We've since brought another one with a donation from the George Adams Foundation.

What's the best thing about the job?

Just seeing how content and fulfilled and proud the people are, their confidence is boosted enormously and what they do validates who they are. I hate the word disability, I don't see the 'dis'. They've got a wonderful work ethic, they come back after lunch without being asked. They're brilliant at what they do.