

# Brimbank Weekly

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## A better way of living

A Brimbank service is changing lives, writes Anthony Loncaric

Intellectually disabled Kealba resident Peter John would be stuck at home most of the time if it wasn't for Deer Park-based disability service Allara Mambourin.

The 24-year-old has been a client of the not-for-profit service since he turned 18. He has gained skills in independent living and been able to express his talents as an actor.

"I really like Allara," Peter says. "I do expressive arts like singing and acting and I've played Spiderman and Harry Potter. I also do swimming and bowling and I try to help people in the local area as a volunteer."

Allara manager Jeanette Young says there are not many services in Brimbank for people with intellectual disabilities who are above the age of 18. "Peter attended Sunshine Special Development School before he came to us, but if we weren't around he'd have nowhere to learn new skills or just have fun."

Mambourin Enterprises, which runs the Allara facility and many like it across the western suburbs, will host its fifth annual charity golf day at the Sanctuary Lakes course on March 25.

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Ms Young says money raised will help Allara provide more services for people like Peter.

"Most of our clients' programs are funded by the state government, but we always need more adult day training," she says. "We have 64 clients being trained to live independently and we run community inclusion programs with them. The more funding we get, the more services we can provide." The golf day is open to anyone.

Mambourin is calling on businesses to sponsor the event. "Sponsors get local press coverage and have their business names put on signage around the course and included in promotional material," Ms Young says.

Details: 0409259022.

Acting up: Peter John enjoys performing and learning new skills at Allara Mambourin.

