

## **PRESS STATEMENT: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **CHAIR MAKES A DIFFERENCE**

Mambourin Enterprises Inc. is a community organisation which provides employment, day services and respite to more than 230 adults with a disability throughout the western region of Melbourne.

Mambourin Packaging, based in Werribee South, provides valuable services to the local business community, and employs 35 people with disabilities. One, Ahmad Kabbout, has traveled to and from work by taxi since commencing employment with Mambourin in May 2005. Although capable of travelling independently, the absence of a footpath from the bus stop at the end of Cayleys Road to his workplace, together with his scooter being unsuited to the furniture and space available in the workplace, made this impossible. It could not fit under height adjustable tables and restricted him from accessing some areas.

One of Ahmad's long term goals was to travel to work independently, and thanks to Wyndham Council the first step towards realizing this goal was completed in December 2007, with the footpath being constructed along Cayleys Road.

The final step was achieved via an application for the Commonwealth Government's Workplace Modifications Scheme. This scheme enables reimbursement to employment agencies or employers for the costs of necessary workplace modifications when employing people with disabilities. The application was submitted with the help of Job Access, who completed a workplace assessment. The application detailed that if Ahmad had a light weight joystick controlled battery powered wheelchair he would be fully independent in the workplace and approval to purchase the Workplace Wheel chair at a cost of \$3520 was granted by Department of Employment and Workplace Relations, the government department that administers this program.

Ahmad now regularly travels to work independently which is a major achievement. "The new chair is fantastic," Mr Kabbout said. "Now I can move freely around the workplace independently and access my workstation, which is wonderful."

The Manager of Mambourin Packaging, Derek Bartolo, enthusiastically endorsed this positive change in his workplace. "It is just so pleasing," Mr Bartolo said. "It makes me enormously proud to be part of such a fantastic result."

Mambourin Packaging provides a range of packaging and assembly services. Mr Bartolo can be contacted on 9742 1963.

For additional information:

Rohan Braddy  
Chief Executive Officer  
9731 8203  
[rbraddy@mambourin.org](mailto:rbraddy@mambourin.org)

