

Our Vision Story



It is April 2015 and the Commonwealth Minister for Ageing and the Premier of WA have just opened Amana Living's (formerly Anglican Homes) fourth and most modern hub facility to service the local region. The Minister commended Amana Living for its contribution to society dating back to 1962.

At the launch the Chairman of APA's Board has proudly spoken of the completion of all the projects in the organisation's first 10 year Strategic Facilities Plan and has announced its fourth rolling revision of the plan setting out how Amana Living's facilities will be revitalised for the next 10 years.

The Chair described how the organisation's principles of Christian love and care have come together with the positive aspirations of the Baby Boomer generation to generate Amana Living's inspirational byline "Living the Second Half of Life".

To illustrate Amana Living's relevance to the older population, the launch is attended by many people in the second half of life. They range from the younger old to the older old, from residents at Amana Living facilities to people living in their family home nearby, from the most nimble to the most frail, from those of means to those with the humblest resources.

At the lively gathering after the launch, these guests speak to politicians, journalists and the VIPs with passion about Amana Living. They sound like ambassadors for the organisation.

Those in residential care say it's home away from home. There's tasty, home-style food, there are pets around and husbands and wives stay together, even when one of them needs higher level care. They praise Amana Living's "personal enrichment program" that ensures they continue to "Live Life" based on staying well, maintaining their previous interests and developing new ones. Maybe they can't bend as far these days, but they say the gardening and indoor golf is still great fun.

Some family members have brought relatives to the launch in wheelchairs and others are guiding people with dementia. Some with parents who receive intensive nursing care speak of the excellent facilities and the reflective environment Amana Living creates. They are not the only family members to praise the Amana Living chaplains, who provide Christian ministry, encourage ecumenical services and support everyone regardless of religious beliefs.

The spouses and relatives of people with dementia praise the stimulating, secure environment Amana Living provides. They praise Amana Living for being at the forefront of dementia care and treatment. This is due to Amana Living's close links with the Dementia Centre of Excellence located at one of Perth's major universities and to Amana Living's innovative "teaching facilities" approach that brings the latest research knowledge into everyday care practice.

Those at the launch from Amana Living's residential villages speak of the modern facilities and well maintained buildings and grounds. Their grandchildren can stay

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in the spare bedroom overnight and can use the playground equipment just outside. If residents need extra help with their daily needs, they can receive a variety of support services in their homes. In past years people had to leave home when they found it too hard to cope.

Residents experience great peace of mind because Amana Living also has higher level care facilities on site or nearby, as they say, "just in case". Having access to doctors, physiotherapists and other health services via Amana Living has certainly made life easier for them, and people in the neighbourhood as well.

Those living in the surrounding community commend Amana Living for reaching out to all older people, bringing personal care and health services into their homes or attracting them to what's offered at Amana Living hubs. Some attend services at the parish churches at the hubs but others just praise the Anglican Church for the good work it does. They often come to the hub to enjoy the entertainment on offer or just to have a 'cuppa' at the local coffee shop.

Some of these non-residents obviously consider Amana Living's regional hub to be their local centre and explain how useful the services really are. Some are aware that different organisations provide services from the hub, but they fit so well together that it all seems like Amana Living.

One sprightly 80 year old lady never misses the fitness class at one of the hub gyms often sweating it out next to her nephew who lives nearby; another obviously fit man describes how he once spent time in Amana Living rehabilitation after an accident but regained control of his life thanks to the in-home support he received.

After the enjoyable launch, participants go their separate ways. Some of the older people drive home, while others get a lift from family members and others travel in an Amana Living bus helped by friendly volunteers.

Many people return to where they've lived for many years in the family home. Others go home to a small Amana Living facility and others to what is known as a "hub satellite". The rest return to one of Amana Living's four metropolitan regional hubs or further afield to the ones in Kalgoorlie and the South West. These hubs are HQs for Amana Living, providing an extensive range of care, lifestyle, health and fitness facilities for residents and their friends who live nearby.

Head Office management and staff from Amana Living return to their modern offices located for convenient access to most of the Amana Living centres. There's an easy atmosphere amongst them, with a strong sense of teamwork and deep satisfaction for a job well done.

Those who have worked with Amana Living for some time reflect on how things have changed over the last 10 years. Staff enjoy being full players in the life of Amana Living, speaking up and taking responsibility for results. The technology and equipment is up to date and systems and processes are constantly reviewed. Staff like the training and career opportunities they now get and some can even access a child care place next to one of the hubs.

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These days, everyone on staff seems focused on the “experience” for those whom Amana Living touches. The strategy staff keep Amana Living at the forefront of what older people want and need; support service staff are a tightly knit team and their catch cry is “how can we help?” For the care staff, not so much has changed because the dedication and skill are still there. They reflect that things are better now – there is a strong focus on the individual and, with the help of volunteers, they now have time to get the residents involved in the array of new programs.

The management staff reflect on how Amana Living’s asset base is still strong. But now they are proud of the turn around in the annual accounts that show reliable small annual surpluses while funding the costly “personal enrichment program” that adds quality to life for residents. They reflect on how staff have committed over the years to continuously drive down costs and equally on how Amana Living’s affiliated catering and training businesses have doubled and quadrupled their returns over the last 10 years, while still modeling the core values of Amana Living. Staff now appreciate that sound financial management is helping Amana Living to assist more disadvantaged people than it has been able to in the past.

Everyone from Amana Living takes great pleasure at the hub launch they have just attended. Long-serving staff remember how some Amana Living facilities needed upgrading 10 years ago - a far cry from the established renewal program and the routine maintenance regime of today. They admire the substantial contribution the Anglican Positive Ageing Foundation makes to every capital project these days. Many prominent people from the Anglican community and beyond help raise funds and it is satisfying to see how their efforts, combined with Amana Living’s skilled investment managers, deliver capital streams to undertake project after project to bring Amana Living’s vision to life.

The VIPs and politicians have left the gathering by now too. They talk about the impressive new facility, but they are more excited about what Amana Living is. They make a mental note to find out what really makes it tick.

They have been caught up in Amana Living’s infectious enthusiasm. They have also come to understand that Amana Living will be there for them too and that for everyone, association with Amana Living is about “Gaining not Losing”.