

Amana Living takes the lead in green efforts

A unique initiative is being introduced to St George's Home in Bayswater which will benefit both the environment and the 100 residents who call the Amana Living centre home.

An innovative aquaponics system - a combination of aquaculture and hydroponics – has been installed to enable fish and plant life to grow in an integrated system which is providing an abundant organic food supply for residents and staff.

Amana Living's Sustainability Coordinator Linda Mortimer explains the aquaponics system circulates water from an integrated fish tank to a 'grow bed' where plants are seeded and cared for. The nitrifying bacteria then converts fish waste into organic nutrients which the plants are then able to feed on.

The fish also benefit from this ecologically-sound process as their water is filtered by the plants, ensuring that their environment remains clean and uncontaminated.

"We are really pleased to introduce this completely innovative system to St George's Home because it is not only good for the environment, it is also fantastic for our residents who will be involved in the care of the fish and plants," Mrs Mortimer says.

"Because the system can harvest up to 25kg of fish and an abundance of vegetables and fruit every year, our residents will in effect be able to harvest their own organic food supply, so this initiative really is a great win-win for all concerned."

Amana Living has a keen focus on the environment and has already developed a model to assess its energy usage and carbon emissions at its sites throughout WA. This latest aquaponics initiative has been supported by Backyard Aquaponics in Jandakot, which has donated the installation costs of the system to Amana Living.

Ray Glickman, Chief Executive Officer of Amana Living says the organisation is focused on being a progressive, innovative provider of aged care throughout Perth and Western Australia.

"We are striving to ensure that we provide the best environment possible for the seniors in our care, whilst also being responsible for minimising our impact on the environment," says Mr Glickman.

"We are very pleased to introduce this system at St George's Home, and we'll implement it into our other residential facilities across Perth in the coming months."

Amana Living operates 17 retirement villages, 10 hostels, five nursing homes and three day clubs throughout Western Australia. It provides specialised care for residents with dementia and their families, as well as a wide range of community services to people living in their own homes.

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MEDIA RELEASE

Note to editors:

"Amana Living" should not be shortened to Amana as this is a registered name of another company.