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Seniors living with dementia spearhead recycling initiative

The 60 or so regulars at Amana Living's Catherine King Day Centre in Osborne Park would definitely agree that one person's trash is another person's treasure.

The enterprising seniors are frequently presented with an item found on the roadside verge by the centre's staff, which is then restored to its former glory with the help of the combined skills of the day centre group – all of whom are living with dementia.

According to the Day Centre's Coordinator Alison Openshaw, the enterprising initiative not only fits well with Amana Living's green credentials, it also enables day centre visitors to revisit their DIY and craft skills.

"All our residents have dementia and we have found this activity to be a great way for them to re-learn and in some ways maintain skills that are important for daily living," she says.

"Over the last six months our regulars have restored a collection of items including a rocking horse, garden bench and bird cage, and they've also made dozens of scratching posts for cats out of the timber they've recycled.

"It's something they've found fulfilling and enjoyable, and it's been a productive and useful activity which has assisted them enormously in a great many ways."

Currently around 60 people who are living with dementia visit Catherine King Day Centre every week, however a number of vacancies exist for additional clients. The centre is open seven days a week and enquiries can be made by contacting Alison Openshaw on 9349 5266.

Amana Living delivers a diverse range of services and accommodation to over 800 residents living in five high care centres (nursing homes), 10 low care centres (hostels) and two dementia specific centres with co-located respite centres.

The service provider also offers a range of community services to support those who choose to remain in their own home, and operates 17 retirement villages.

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Media contact – Ruth Gourley 0434 330 384

MEDIA RELEASE

Note to editors:

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