Dean's Journey: From School Work Experience to Apprentice Chef

Dean aspired to be a chef and confirmed his passion during work experience at Joondalup Resort, which provided an inclusive and supportive environment.

Living with autism, he sought acceptance and encouragement to fulfill his potential.
After finishing Year 12, Dean aimed to start his career at Joondalup Resort.

With support from the Hospitality Disability Network WA (HDNWA), the resort sought guidance to help Dean transition smoothly into paid employment as an apprentice chef, collaborating closely with him and his family to understand his needs and goals.

HDNWA provided essential support to Dean and his family during his transition to work, offering practical advice, a roadmap, and connections to resources.

They collaborated closely with Joondalup Resort's leadership to ensure inclusive onboarding and workplace adjustments for Dean, who returned as a paid kitchen hand while completing his apprenticeship.

HDNWA maintained ongoing communication with Dean, his family, TAFE contacts, and the Executive Chef to ensure comprehensive support.

Now officially enrolled at TAFE, Dean is thriving in his chef apprenticeship, showcasing the impact of inclusive employers partnering with HDNWA.

His family expresses gratitude for the guidance and support they received throughout the process.

Joondalup Resort's commitment and Dean's determination, along with HDNWA's support, made his dream a reality.

Dean's journey highlights the significant impact HDNWA has in providing expertise and connections for individuals with disabilities, helping them transition into careers.

While small to medium businesses aim to hire inclusively, they often find the process overwhelming. HDNWA simplifies this by understanding the needs of hospitality and tourism employers, facilitating support for both businesses and families.

HDNWA invite collaboration to create more success stories like Dean's and promote meaningful careers for people with disabilities in Western Australia.