



WA Country Builders' Hylton Parker (back), live-in carer Gail Nicholson, Leonie and Brian Walker (front) and Hawkevale Trust executive officer Yvonne Parnell.

## Business chips in and create home for Brian

by Rosanna Dalibor

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WHEN 38-year-old Brian Walker, who is intellectually disabled, needed a new home, it was important that home would suit his needs and the needs of his live-in care workers.

Unable to find an appropriate house but prepared to have one built, his parents decided to cooperate with WA Country Builders, which had a display home that was almost perfect for their son, and Hawkevale Trust, which is a not-for-profit organisation that creates long-term solutions for people with disabilities.

Together the group worked out how they could modify the design, which involved getting rid of one room to allow for a

bigger bathroom and an extra walk-in storage room, put light switches in different locations, add a door in the carers' bedroom to them direct access to a private living room etc.

Mr Walker's mother Leonie said the house would be bequeathed to the trust in order to make sure her son would be able to stay there for the rest of his life, with the trust "taking care" of him when they no longer could.

Hawkevale Trust executive officer Yvonne Parnell said one of the things parents of intellectually disabled children worried about was what would happen to their child when they were gone.

WA Country Builders housing specialist Hylton Parker said they had been involved in similar projects before, but the opportunities didn't come up often. The owner of the company had been

involved in Telethon for years, including building homes and donating money.

"That's great, that's what we do as a company," he said. "But for myself personally I want to be involved with more projects like this because I think they are very valuable. And you just have to look at Brian – he is really happy and the house works really well for all of them."

"It started off as a display house that we had in Abbey Waters here. The group came through and said they liked it but it didn't quite work, so we needed to change it around and that's what we have done."

"And it has worked out beautifully and we are happy to make changes. If we can do something like that and end up with a happy family at the end of the day, it's what my job is all about."