

# MEDIA RELEASE



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## Program boosts home safety in Oakey

When 26 year-old Daniel Hassett announced he was getting married, one of his elderly clients politely asked if she could attend the wedding.

Daniel was very happy to oblige and hand delivered an invitation to her. Unfortunately, she could not make it to the big day due to ill health but it shows the special rapport he has with his clients and remains one of his favourite stories.

It is the reason why Daniel loves his job as the home maintenance officer with YellowBridge QLD, which delivers the government-funded Home Assist Secure program in Oakey.

“I really like getting out and about and meeting new people,” he said.

“The work is always different and interesting. One day I might be fixing a clothesline or installing a key safe and the next day I’m checking smoke alarms and changing light bulbs.”

“The best part is that it doesn’t feel like a job because you’re helping people and making a difference in people’s lives.”

The Home Assist Secure program helps older Australians and people with a disability keep their homes safe and secure so they can continue to live independently.

There is no denying that most people want to stay in their own home for as long as possible. The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare found that 90 percent of Australians aged over 65 want to stay in their current home, rather than move into an aged care or residential facility.

Home Assist Secure provides financial assistance to people who receive a government age or disability pension to help them do that.

According to YellowBridge QLD Home Services General Manager Maria Sloane, feeling safe at home is a major priority for their clients.

“We know how important it is to feel safe in your own home so if it locks, bolts, screens or glows then we may be able to help you,” Ms Sloane said.

“We install, repair and maintain a range of security devices around your home to give you peace of mind.”

To find out more about Home Assist Secure phone YellowBridge QLD on 1300 882 764.

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***YellowBridge QLD is a local, independent, not-for-profit organisation that provides housing, disability support and home services across the greater Toowoomba region.***