

MELISSA – HOME SHARING



Melissa has an incredibly adventurous spirit and has always lived with her toes facing forward. She is good at asking for support and identifying exactly what she needs. When Melissa announced that she was ready to move from the group home in which she had lived for several years, everyone paid attention. She had experienced big changes in her life and had been well-supported by staff within the home. Her family and others who cared for her, encouraged Melissa to just wait a while.

When she first moved into the home, she lived in a suite by herself with 24-hour staffing support. Over time, she became increasingly independent and confident. However, she also started to feel a little lonely and isolated. She began to reach out to her community and found that she didn't need as much staff contact as she once had. Still, the thought of having her live anywhere else was almost unimaginable for those who cared about her.

Not for Melissa. Since January 2004, Melissa has lived with a wonderful support person. They have been through a lot over the past couple of years, but both agree that their lives have been enriched by the experiences they have shared.