



Michelle Griffin waits at the end of the new path. Photo by Verna Costello

# Bus stop a step in right direction

by Helen  
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**WHAT** may seem to be a humdrum announcement—the building of a new bus stop in Kent Street near the intersection with Hayman Road—came about as a result of a co-operative effort between several organisations to achieve a positive result for a CALM employee.

Michelle Griffin, who works in the Corporate Relations Division as a switchboard operator at Como and has severely-impaired vision, travels to and from work each day by bus.

Until recently, her bus dropped her on the CALM side of Hayman Road in the mornings, and Michelle relied on her CALM friends and workmates to see her safely across the same road to her bus stop in the evenings.

Changes to the route of Michelle's bus resulted in

the bus stop being moved from Hayman Road to Kent Street, and away from the pathway she had previously used to reach Hayman Road. There was now no safe access for Michelle to or from her bus service.

Michelle realised she had a problem and organised a site meeting with the relevant authorities to try to find a solution.

The Department of Transport is responsible for the location of bus stops and because the border between the City of South Perth and the Town of Victoria Park is Kent Street, both municipalities are responsible for building bus stops along that border.

Representatives of these organisations, Main Roads Western Australia, Michelle and a representa-

tive of Michelle's support group, People with Disabilities, attended the site meeting.

Discussions were also held between CALM, the City of South Perth and Michelle about the most appropriate route through CALM property to the new bus stop.

The outcome of this consultation and co-operation is that the bus Michelle needs to catch stops in Kent Street near the intersection of Hayman Road and then turns into Technology Park for its return journey.

The City of South Perth and CALM have shared construction costs of a sealed pathway which provides stable, all-weather access to the new stop.

An added bonus for Michelle is greater independence. The bus now drops her off and picks her up at the same bus stop on the CALM side of

the road, which means she no longer needs assistance to access her bus service in the evenings.

Although the bus stop is for general public use, the special efforts made to accommodate Michelle's needs are recognised and appreciated by Michelle and her many friends in CALM.

"Once I'd found out who I had to contact, I persisted until I'd persuaded them to tackle the problem," Michelle said.

"Eventually, most of those involved were positive, and their approach was to look for ways to solve the problem, rather than for reasons not to try.

"When it came to installing the footpath to the bus stop, Director of Corporate Services John Byrne saw to it that the path was built along the most convenient route, and without delay; he was most supportive."

