

Solomon

Rhythm of care: Solomon's path from banking to bringing joy

Solomon Ogunsile is proof that it's never too late to change paths. As a Home Services Team Member at ECH, Solomon's empathy and zest for life allow him to nurture deep connections with his clients, turning every visit into an opportunity to bring a little more light into their world. Find out how this former journalist and banker traded the corporate world for a rewarding path of compassion, song and dance at ECH.

A journey of compassion

If there is one person who knows how to spark joy in a person's day, it is Solomon. With an infectious sense of humour and love for singing and dancing, he can turn any moment into a celebration. In fact, it's not uncommon to find Solomon and his clients mid-dance and enjoying life to the fullest.

"I like to see my clients smile. I like to see them happy because it gives me joy, too,"

Solomon says. "I feel fulfilled when I return home knowing I have been able to put a smile on their faces."

While Solomon seems like a natural fit for this work, his path to ECH was far from traditional. He began his career as a journalist before moving into banking. He was working as a branch manager in Nigeria when his 93-year-old father fell ill, prompting Solomon to take a leave of absence to ensure his father received the dedicated care he deserved.

"My Dad was taken to a home, so I would visit him each day to help take care of him," Solomon recalls. "When I wasn't supporting my Dad, I would assist other people at the home. One day, the manager asked if I would like to volunteer. I ended up volunteering for six months until my father passed away."

That experience stayed with him. When the opportunity arose for Solomon and his family to immigrate to Australia, he saw it as a chance to lean into this rewarding new path of compassion. He traded his banking ledgers for a Certificate III in Individual Support (Disability and Ageing) and began

working as a carer for older people living at home. After discovering ECH through his work in the community, he knew he had found the place he was meant to be.

"Everywhere I went, I saw ECH. I was often taking my clients to ECH wellness centres and day programs, and I became curious. Right from the recruitment process, I felt so welcome. I knew I was making the right choice and I've never had a single regret. I truly enjoy what I do at ECH."



Making a difference in the everyday

Solomon's life at ECH is hands-on, active and full of variety. As part of the West Home Services Team, or "Westies" as he affectionately calls them, he visits up to seven clients a day. His role is a bit of everything, from personal care and medication assistance to driving clients to their appointments.

"I love the variety; it would be boring otherwise," Solomon says. "Some days can be a bit of a challenge, but I genuinely enjoy being there for older people."

He credits much of that enjoyment to the people he works with: "My teammates and managers are so friendly - they made me feel welcome from day one, and it's been easy to give that same warmth back to them."

Solomon always maintains a professional and respectful relationship with his clients, but he still puts his heart into everything he does. He has a genuine fondness for the people he supports, and when a cherished long-term client recently passed away, he saw firsthand how much ECH cares for its people, too.

"I care about the people I support, so it's natural to feel that loss," he says. "My manager and team lead called me straight away just to make sure I was OK. It's a good feeling to know people are looking out for you."

To clear his head after those tougher days, Solomon finds his own quiet moments by putting on his headphones and heading out for a long walk. This time for reflection often sparks new ideas; Solomon isn't afraid to speak up if he thinks a client needs something extra.

"I'm always happy to speak up for my clients. If I see something that will help them, I'll say it. Our leaders encourage us to share our ideas, and it's nice to know that my voice is heard."

Writing the next chapter

When Solomon finishes his workday at 5.30pm, he switches gears to spend time with his wife and their two sons. Whether they're heading to the cinema, going for a hike, or simply sharing a meal, he makes sure his downtime is all about family.

"I also continue to write. I was a journalist, so I have always loved writing. I can't stop it!" Solomon laughs, adding that he is working on a novel idea inspired by his rewarding career as a carer.

For anyone thinking about following in his footsteps and joining ECH, Solomon says it all comes down to being genuine.

"You have to be genuinely interested in helping people. If you have that, the empathy and the love for the work will come naturally. When a client tells me they appreciate what I've done, it makes me feel good. It lets me know I'm doing something that matters."

