



**NEW OPPORTUNITIES:** Work Skil site manager Mark Fullford and ac.care worker Angela Malpas are pleased to see Mathew Roughton receive a car from Barry Maney director Barry Stafford.

Picture: GEORGIA KELLY-BAKKER

## Naracoorte man earns keys to better future



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THE Barry Maney Group has given a helping hand to a Naracoorte resident in need of transport.

Mathew Roughton, who has experienced the reality of homelessness, has shed sweat and tears to improve his life and has now received something in return - a car.

The Ford Falcon was initially given to ac.care to help raise awareness during Homelessness Week, but then the service provider was told to keep the car.

"We then had to decide who the car should go to and Mathew's worker Angela Malpas put forward a very good argument," ac.care homelessness services program manager Trish Spark said.

"He has worked so hard to get to where he is, so we agreed that it should go to him."

Mr Roughton's worker Angela Malpas said she was proud of what Mathew had achieved.

"It has been a fantastic journey with Matt, but it was never going to come about unless he wanted it to," Ms Malpas said.

"This is a credit to him and I hope that he knows that about himself."

Mr Roughton said this would open up his opportunities for employment.

"I am not limited to Woolworths and McDonalds and I can apply for any company that interests me," Mr Roughton said.

"Now I have my L plates and a car, I can knuckle down and get into the frame of mind to move forward."

Work Skil site manager Mark Fullford, who has also worked closely with Mr Roughton, agreed the car would make a difference to his future job prospects.

"In Naracoorte there is no public transport and if he was to look for work outside of town he would need a car," Mr Fullford said.

"I don't think people realise the difference it makes, but now it will be fine and we will find something for him."

Barry Maney director Barry Stafford said he was pleased to help a local person in need.

"Our mantra is to make sure we support local charities to make sure the dollars we spend don't go outside the area," Mr Stafford said.

"People might start off homeless, but if they get wheels then they can get a job and then a home."

"This car brings all those things together and we are proud to be a part of that."

The donation is the third car the Barry Maney Group has presented for a community cause in the region.