

# Taimana's Story

## A Journey of Growth with Jack by His Side

### Inside Scoop

Taimana's story is a beautiful journey of courage, determination, and the transformative power of support. From the moment he bravely shared his dream of becoming a CEO, he set in motion a path filled with hope and possibility. With every step, Taimana has overcome challenges and embraced new opportunities, growing in confidence and independence along the way.

Supported by a team who truly believes in him, Taimana has not only built a successful micro-enterprise but also discovered his own strength and purpose. His journey reminds us that when dreams are nurtured with care and encouragement, they have the power to change lives; inspiring everyone around him and proving that with the right support, anything is possible.

*He treasures spending quality time with his family and friends, valuing those connections deeply. With a wide range of interests and hobbies, Taimana has a special passion for all things Marvel, from the movies and comics to the characters and stories that inspire him.*

*One of the highlights of his year is Halloween, a time he eagerly anticipates every season. He approaches this celebration with great enthusiasm, dedicating time and creativity to planning and perfecting his costume. Whether he's embodying his favourite superhero or trying out something new, his excitement is contagious, and he loves sharing the experience with those around him. This joyful spirit and love for community are just a few of the many qualities that make Taimana truly unique.*

*In this feature, you'll also hear from Jack, Taimana's dedicated support worker, who shares insight into Taimana's incredible journey of growth and independence. Jack talks about how Taimana's recycling micro-enterprise began, the challenges and triumphs along the way, and the positive impact it's had on Taimana's confidence and daily life. Together, they show us how the right support can help turn dreams into reality.*



### Meet Taimana: A Local Young Entrepreneur!

*Taimana is a vibrant and social 20-year-old with a warm personality that lights up every room he enters.*

# SUPPORT IN ACTION: JACK ON TAIMANA'S RECYCLING VENTURE

*If you know Unique Support Services, you've likely heard of Jack, a trusted support worker known for his calm approach and strong connections. One person he's supported is Taimana, whose journey from dreaming of being a CEO to running his own recycling micro-enterprise is truly inspiring.*

*We sat down with Jack to hear more about how Taimana's business began, the challenges they faced, and the incredible growth Jack has witnessed along the way.*

## **How did you support Taimana to believe in himself and take the first steps toward starting his recycling micro-enterprise?**

Taimana always talked about becoming a CEO, and it was a dream he mentioned often. The idea for the business began as a "two birds, one stone" situation, with a strong desire to start something of his own and just as much excitement about getting a Spider-Man costume.

The recycling micro enterprise was set up to work towards both goals, and from there, things really started to take off. As the business gained attention, his confidence grew, and the support from the community made a big impact. Throughout the process, we kept reminding him to treat everyone like a client, because in many ways, they are.

That simple idea helped shape how the business was run and built a strong sense of responsibility and pride. It has been amazing to watch him take those first steps and truly believe in himself.



## **Can you share an example of a moment where you encouraged Taimana to make his own decisions about the business, even when it might have been easier for you to step in?**

At the bottle bank, I usually hold the bag while Taimana handles the bottles himself, it's his job, and I step back to let him lead, even when it gets frustrating. We have a note on the collection tin that says, "This is Taimana's money," which reminds everyone that while we can guide him, the decisions are his to make.

When he earned \$90, he chose to buy the Spider-Man costume he'd been saving for, and even if he'd wanted to spend it differently, that would've been his call. It's not always easy to stay hands-off, but the goal is to build his confidence and decision-making, not to control the outcome.

## What creative strategies or ideas did you bring to the table to help Taimana shape the recycling business into something meaningful and practical?

One creative idea I brought to the business was designing Tai's logo. I used Procreate, took a photo of him, and sketched the logo from that image so the branding would feel personal and meaningful.

Everything else was a shared effort between the two of us. At first, Taimana wasn't overly keen, as it was a new concept and something outside his usual routine. But over time, we found a rhythm, and now he's really into it. I don't even think he realises half the time that he's actually working, he's just doing something he enjoys, and that's exactly how it should be.



## What have you noticed about Taimana's confidence, skills, or independence since launching his business, and how do you feel your support contributed to that growth?

Since starting the business, his confidence has really grown, especially after buying something he had been saving for. He has learned to be patient and understands the value of money. He also has a routine now, getting into his uniform to work on Mondays.

What started small has become something important to him. Everyone has been very supportive, helping by collecting bottles and giving things like a hi-vis jacket.

Taimana now looks after several bins each week, and the business keeps growing. It gives him something to do and helps him learn new skills and meet people.

## How did you balance guiding and supporting with allowing Taimana to take ownership of his micro-enterprise journey?

Right from the start, Taimana knew it was his business. I made that clear to him early on, that this was his thing and he could take it in whatever direction he wanted.

My role was to support him and help lay the groundwork, but the ownership was always his. Once the money started coming in, something shifted. He began to take it more seriously, and it became real for him. You could see the pride building as he got more involved, asking when we could go collect bottles, looking for his uniform, and really taking initiative.

That sense of ownership grew naturally, and from then on he wasn't just participating, he was leading the way.

## What does the Micro enterprise have planned?

Taimana's keen to save up for a microphone so he can start a podcast, which I think is awesome. I'm hopeful all the talking to people and staying on topic will help with that next step. Maybe we'll move on from collecting bottles to doing YouTube or podcasts. Even if he doesn't earn money from it, he'll keep building new skills.

He wants to be the mega CEO and take over! It's not just me supporting him, other staff have really gotten behind him too and they have all helped. Everyone's gotten involved, and it's been a really great effort all around.

