

## Chef brings new flavour to Parkview

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Luciano Morselli decided to start volunteering at Wesley Mission Brisbane after visiting a close friend residing at Wheller Garden's residential aged-care facility Parkview. His Italian accent is still strong despite living in Australia for over 40 years. "I'm so typically Italian, I can't lose the accent," he says. Luciano arrived in Australia in 1970 with his wife and three children.



Luciano has been volunteering for just over a month and plans to increase his time spent at Parkview to two days a week. The life-long chef just recently retired from the restaurant business, closing his classic Italian eatery at Fortitude Valley.

"About a month ago I woke up and thought what will I do today? I have no business – so what will I do? I thought: I want to talk to people. I could talk for centuries – I love to hear people's stories, to have conversations." It was then he decided to begin volunteering at Wesley Mission Brisbane.

"I do whatever I can at Parkview – I cook often, I've been cooking since 1948 so cooking is my life. If they need anything I will make it; lasagne, gnocchi, desserts, whatever. But I also like to play games and speak with the residents here; the feeling of community is fantastic," says the 75-year-old, though his sprightly walk and cheerful manner don't betray his years.

"I don't get paid but I love to see all these people and make them happy by spending time with them. I've worked in the restaurant for 40 years, and that industry is of course all about people. So my life is about people. I find that here, it doesn't matter if you are a volunteer like me or staff, we have the same degree of happiness."

"Staff here work here because they love it here – they could easily work somewhere else. But they choose to be here. I find that very inspiring."

If you are interested in volunteering, please visit [www.wmb.org.au](http://www.wmb.org.au) to fill out a volunteer registration form or call Volunteer Services on 3621 4669.