

Virginie has multiple sclerosis and lives alone in her own home. She is only able to move her neck and head and spends long periods of time alone between carer visits.

## Case Study- Virginie's Story



Virginie is still capable of living alone and does not want to move to a high care facility. She loves spending time outside in her garden and does not want to lose her independence.

### The solution

Tunstall developed a customised solution for Virginie, allowing her to maintain her independence and stay in her own home, while taking the need for constant supervision and concern off her carers. A wand switch was installed on the back of Virginie's wheelchair so all she needs to do is tilt her head back to activate an alarm call for help or answer the telephone.

Tunstall also fitted out Virginie's bed with a puff/sip switch, enabling her to activate an alarm call from the bed. The switch is attached to a flexible rotational tube which allows Virginie to blow into the device to activate an alarm call.

Tunstall's response operators are alerted to Virginie's specific medical conditions and can organise the appropriate help whether that is emergency services, family, friends or a carer.

### The outcome

Virginie says "I will never give up; I am so glad I have my mind unlike some others. Before my new wheelchair and the Tunstall alarm I would be put in one spot where I would have to stay until the next carer visit. Now I can control my chair and I am working on ways that I can begin my artwork again – I have works of art inside my head just waiting to come out!"

Virginie believes the Tunstall sensors have allowed her to remain living in her own home and enable her to feel safe and secure, should she ever need help.



Before my new chair and the Tunstall alarm I would be put in one spot where I would have to stay until the next carer visit

-Virginie

## How it works

The wand switch and puff/sip switch are triggers which allow people with disabilities to activate a Tunstall personal emergency alarm unit.

The wand switch is positioned so that the client is able to move a part of their body to trigger the spring ended switch. This is connected to a Tunstall ROM (radio output module) or to a Bellman telephone transmitter.

The puff/sip switch is positioned using a unique flexible tube so that the client is able to either suck or blow in the tube to activate the trigger. Each switch may be attached to a wheelchair, table top or a bed frame.

When the trigger is activated by the client it will raise an alarm call to the Tunstall response monitoring facility or the immediate carer.

When used with a Tunstall alarm unit, the wand switch can also be used to answer incoming telephone calls, allowing a hands free telephone call via the alarm unit.

## The Tunstall wand switch

The wand switch is a trigger to allow people with disabilities to activate a Tunstall personal emergency alarm unit. The wand switch mounting bracket may be attached to a wheelchair, table top or a bed frame.



For further information contact  
**1800 611 528**

Tunstall LifeCare

1/56 Lavarack Ave Eagle Farm QLD 4009

t: (07) 3637 2200 f: (07) 3637 2255

e: [sales@tlcare.com.au](mailto:sales@tlcare.com.au) w: [www.TLCare.com.au](http://www.TLCare.com.au)