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# Long-lost romance rekindled

By Kylie Stevens Feb. 16, 2015, 2:43 p.m.

YOU'RE never too old to rekindle a long-lost romance. Engaged Blacktown couple Franca Gilbert and Ian Henderson haven't let cerebral palsy or lack of mobility get in the way of their relationship.

Ms Gilbert, 47, and Mr Henderson, 58, first met through work 25 years ago but went their separate ways and married other people.

"We knew each other for a short time, where we'd catch up for lunch and go on social outings," Mr Henderson said.

"But then I met someone else and our lives took different paths and lost contact."

They reunited two years ago and the rest is history.

"Franca was living in a group home and I was widowed at the time when I received a Facebook message from her," Mr Henderson said.

"We got together and realised that we loved each other and were suited together.

"We're very happy together. She's a bubbly, good-natured person."

He popped the question last February and his fiancée moved in last July after living in group homes for 20 years.

Wheelchair-bound, Ms Gilbert needs support to manage her condition and live independently.

With some help from Diverse Community Care, part of the Care Connect Group, got funding to make modifications needed to Mr Henderson's home to move in with him.

They plan to marry this year but are yet to set the date.

"She's my soul mate for the rest of my life," Mr Henderson said.

"I want us to continue to lead normal lives and be an example for other people with disability.

"My advice to other couples is to stay strong and take every opportunity that comes your way."



All you need is love: Ian Henderson took his fiancée Franca Gilbert out to dinner for Valentine's Day on Saturday. Picture : Natalie Roberts



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