Tristan McCarthy Transcript

**Tristan:** My name is Tristan. I run a business called ‘Tristan’s Yard and Garden Maintenance’. I do whippersnipping, I do mowing, I do raking up. I do chainsawing. I cut all the trees and put it into a bonfire.

Audio Description: Tristan, a young Aboriginal man with a stylish moustache, is using a chainsaw in a lush green garden. He wears a red bandana and an orange shirt, both with a logo that says Tristan’s Yard and Garden Maintenance. He lifts up cut branches with another older man, Geoff, in a green high Vis shirt and cap. He puts the branches into the back of a ute, with the same logo. He runs a whippersnapper, slicing off long grass in front of banana trees and also rakes up leaves. He carefully chainsaws part of a branch. He puts a match to branches which are stacked into a pile and the flame starts to take hold. In the light of the fire, he gives his dog a pat and they watch it burn brightly.

**Tristan:** I do lots of places around here. I do the courthouse. I mow at Bayulu School and Fitzroy School. I just make all the places look tidy around here.

Audio Description: Tristan’s white ute, with a drive on mower in a trailer, pulls into a suburban driveway. Another young Aboriginal man, Sebastian, gets out pushing a mower. Tristan shakes the hand of the homeowner, who is wearing a blue shirt and shorts.

Tristan carefully backs the drive on mower down a ramp at the back of the trailer, which is now parked outside a school. He uses the ride on to mow the grass at the front of the school underneath a number of Frangipani trees.

**Tristan:** I look outside my door and it’s like “oh man, that grass is so long, I just wanna cut it”.

I mostly cut grass because its very important, because you don’t know whats in it.

If you’re working with barefoot, there might be snakes.

The secret to a good lawn is to make it even and I cut it really low to make it really nice, so people can see what’s in the grass and to make it safe.

If you want your grass to be cut, I’m the guy to call. (laughter)

Audio Description: Tristan is driving the ride on mower at another site, a former school, where the grass is thigh high. He takes it slowly and precisely. Using time lapse photography we see a speeded up Tristan going quickly back and forth as the long grass starts to disappear.

**Tristan:** We have to take good care of the equipment and just looking after my gear.

I check the brakes on the mowers, and the filter, and the fuel and the oil.

Audio Description: Tristan uses an airhose to blow down weeds and grass on the ride on mower as well as the filter. He closes the lid on the fuel tank which he has just checked.

**Tristan:** When I garden it’s really good for me, it really clears my mind and my stress goes right down. It’s keeping me healthy, it’s really good for my muscles and if you don’t like the sun too much, that’s your bad luck. No one can survive in this heat, but I can.

Audio Description: A soft afternoon light falls on the long grass in the lush garden we first saw. There are a number of orange butterflies flitting through it. Tristan walks through the garden reflectively.

In his other client’s garden, Tristan rakes up leaves while Sebastian mows and Geoff puts the leaves in garden bags.

Tristan points something out to Sebastian who is holding the whippersnapper and listening. Then Tristan talks to both Geoff and Sebastian who are leaning on the other side of the fence. Geoff and Tristan have a laugh.

**Tristan:** I like to be my own boss because its really good and they listen to me. About four people work for me.

I like running my own gardening business and I just can’t get enough of it.

Audio Description: Tristan is seen on the ride on mower back at Fitzroy school. He has cut most of the grass and is closing in a final triangle. He inspects the edge as he goes.

**Tristan:** I do take good care of this place and people respect me a lot. So when they come to me I want it to be really perfect, I want it to be really good. I work really hard for that.

Well, the Fitzroy Crossing gardening is looking pretty good because of me. (Laughter)

End titles appear. The title says The Lives We Lead Worklife next to a logo of the outline of Western Australia in a pindan colour, with the blue and orange geode inside.

The next slide shows funders and partners:

Government of Western Australia, Department of Communities and says – The Lives We Lead has been funded by the Department of Communities, Disability Services through an NDIS Information, Linkages and Capacity Building (ILC) initiative.

Underneath are partner logos:

WAIS, Women with Disabilities WA Inc, EDAC PWDWA and YDAN