Robert’s Transcript

Audio Description: Robert, a middle aged man with a clean shaven head and colourful tie dyed t-shirt, sits in a power wheelchair at a kitchen bench. His support worker, a tall woman with blond hair in an updo, hand across some cut up apple on a plate. Robert picks up a carrot stick from a different bowl with vegetables and grins as he pretends to smoke it. The support worker copies him.

Robert: I’m Robert. I’m a funny guy, I like joking around. I live in my own house. It’s especially built for me.

Audio Description: Robert drives his chair into the loungeroom. He is now wearing another bright tie dyed pullover and has a rainbow coloured rug across his legs. His fingernails are painted bright pink.

The loungeroom is spacious with lots of colourful paintings and photos on the walls, a Christmas tree and table and chairs. There are coloured lights strung across one wall. Robert goes over to a freestanding set of shelves and takes out a plastic container which he carries across to a desk with art materials.

Robert: It’s so roomy. It’s easy to get around the house. I wanted to get out of that hole I used to live in. All my sisters helped me achieve this house. My life is the way I want it now. Life’s more fun.

Audio Description: Three older women, Brenda, Linda and Rhonda, Roberts’ sisters, stand with him in the loungeroom, chatting, laughing and having a hug. On the table closeby are some snacks and some presents, including a framed photo with the words Brenda Happy Birthday. One of the sisters brings over a plate of cupcakes with different coloured icing and a single candle in each one. There is a small round sign saying Happy Birthday. She lights the candles with a gas lighter. Everyone sits round the table and takes a cake.

Robert: I’m a thrill seeker. I’ve climbed the QV1 building. I abseiled, I’ve been on boat cruises, I’ve done a lot of traveling.

Audio Description: On the loungeroom walls is a large frame with different pictures of Robert abseiling the QV1 building in his wheelchair and next to it a framed certificate saying “Abseil Robert Sulley, You Did It! 160m QV1 for the kids at PMH. Congratulations”. Robert and a different support worker look at the certificate and photos.

Robert: I like going out. On a nice day, I ride the bike up and down the street. I have a good neighbourhood. Good neighbours.

Audio Description: Outside his house Robert pedals a tricycle with an oblong shaped handlebar and a tray at the back. He rides down the road and on the pavement.

Robert: I sell the Big Issue. I like a job outside, fresh air and people coming by. The same people come every week and buy my paper. I like to keep things friendly and make their day.

Audio Description: In the city mall Robert, wearing an orange hat that says Big Issue and a fluoro vest, offers the Big Issue magazine to passers-by. He calls out as he does so. An older man buys one and passes over a banknote. A middle aged woman takes a magazine and flicks through it, then pays for it. Robert hands a copy over. She waves goodbye.

Robert: I love my house. There’s so much freedom, can do my own thing. I decorated my house and made it more colourful. I like big pictures. I colour in with textas. I get people to draw for me, my ideas. I’m full of ideas. My pictures is how I see the whole world, full of colour, full of energy. It’s a version of me!

Audio Description: Robert wheels into his back garden. He has a purple exercise band on his lap. Parked on the grass. Robert exercises with the band looped around one foot so that he can pull his leg.

In the loungeroom we see more of the art on the walls, including a portrait of a tiger on an orange background, and a very large and multicoloured painting.

Robert sits at his art desk using different textas to colour a very large drawing with different animals and backgrounds. In another scene, he wheels down the hallway, where there are many different framed pictures of his on the walls. One has butterflies and another winged creatures as well as a snail, gathering round a waterfall. All have happy faces. One shows a beach scene with a mermaid and has the words “ Welcome to Robert’s Beach Retreat. A piece of Perth Paradise”.

Robert: I like a happy house. When people come to see me, they walk in here: “wow!” Their eyes pop out of their head. (laughter)

Audio Description: In his colourful bedroom, Robert sits near an open wardrobe full of his clothes, and brings out a pullover that has bursts of blue, green and orange, like fireworks. In front of a mirror he exercises with some hand weights. Back in the loungeroom, two of his sisters sit on the couch, and one holds one end of beautiful fabric dyed different pinks, with Robert holding the other.

Robert: I like brightness, coloured t-shirts, tops, dresses. They’re more comfortable. I don’t care what people think. I just love colour. I’m just me! Too many serious people in the world, they need to get out of their box and spread their wings. I’m a free spirit, yeah!

Audio Description: In the loungeroom, Robert sits in front of a large wall mounted tv and operates the remote control.

Robert: I like the door shut. I value my own space. In the summertime, I walk around naked! I like to be free. Too much clothes on me, it makes me too hot.

Audio Description: Robert and his sisters are back at the table, and he hands across a framed photo of himself. It has Brenda, Happy Birthday at the top. Brenda looks at it and Linda claps her hands.

Robert: I’m very proud of myself and my house, and the way I dress, and the way I do things. I’m happy about my decisions.

Text on screen:

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Underneath are the logos for: WAIS (WA’s Individualised Services; Kin (Know What’s Possible) and PWDWA (People with Disabilities Western Australia)