Audio Description: Nihal, a middle-aged woman with long golden hair stands at a kitchen bench carefully chopping onions and transfers them from the cutting board into a bowl. On a bench nearby is a tray of golden pastries. Wearing an oven mitt, she opens the oven door and brings out a large spiral pastry.

Nihal: I’m Nihal, a Turkish-Australian. I own my own home here. It’s a small but very cosy little house. I live by myself, but I have my family and friends very close to me.

Audio Description: In her loungeroom, Nihal sits playing piano as a little girl around 4 plays with a toy truck. Two men and two women sit on a sofa near a colourful rug. Shoes are by the door and everyone wears socks. The men and women sing as Nihal plays. Nihal’s Mother, an older woman in a blue headscarf, joins the family and Nihal on the couch. In another scene, Nihal sits in her garden between her mother and her father.

Nihal: In our Turkish culture, women are expected to live with their family until they get married. This was very difficult for me. I decided that I actually really wanted to move out and develop my own life skills. It was very important to me and it took a lot of convincing to get my family to accept it. But I was also very lucky that they got around and helped me move out and find my own place and my independence,

Audio Description: Nihal locks her front door and walks down the pavement outside her house using a white mobility stick. Across the road is a train station and a car turns into the parking area. Nihal crosses the road and waits at the fence as a train passes. She crosses the walkway across the train lines and waits on the platform as a different train arrives. She presses the button on the side of the doors to open them. A sign on the train window says Transperth.

Nihal: The house is in a very convenient location directly across the road from a train station. where I can easily catch the train and go wherever I want. Very easy to get around. Independence is very important to me. I pay my own mortgage. I have a part time job. I support myself. I go on my holidays. It’s just fantastic for me.

Audio Description: In her living room, Nihal sits at her computer and types. She chats and laughs on her mobile phone.

Nihal: I just wanted my own safe haven where I could invite my friends, my family, I could cook for them and make mess if I needed to. I love my home. This is where I feel very safe and it’s where I feel relaxed and myself. I can just close the door and be myself.

Audio Description: Nihal brings over a silver tray with mint tea in elegant glass cups which sit on blue saucers. She places the tray on the table. Back in the living room she chats with all the family members.

Nihal: My home is filled with art works from my travels. They all have a story to tell. Being blind, it doesn’t matter for me what colour they are, but most of them were either made especially for me, or I was present when it was being made. It’s the time and the effort that the artist puts in it that makes it very valuable.

Audio Description: Colourful paintings adorn the walls of Nihal’s loungeroom which is now empty of people. Nihal straightens the couch cushions and after does the washing up in the kitchen. She rinses the ornate silver tray. As she walks down her hall-way we see paintings on the wall. One is a hanging done on silk with blue swirls and a building with minarets. A watercolour features men in long white coats and traditional red caps in a boat with a elongated end close to a harbour wall where people stroll. Another is a portrait of a flapper in the 1920s with a clothe hat and fur trimmed kimono style coat. Another has colourful short squat houses almost mushroom shaped with trees in the background.

Nihal: In my own time, I listen to my audio books, do some knitting, crocheting, but the best thing I like is gardening and producing my own fruits, plants, etc and it just gives me a lot of satisfaction.

Audio Description: Nihal sits front on in a hammock and knits with blue wool. In the garden she wears one plastic glove as she trims and plucks her lush parsley and mint plants. She cuts some and puts them in a plastic container.

Audio: (car horn toots)

Nihal: My family and friends drop by spontaneously. Sometimes they just drop by, toot the horn and say “hello, how are you?”, which is lovely and then we go out to have coffee together.

Audio Description: A black car drives up in Nihal’s driveway with Nihal’s sister, in a black and white top, at the wheel. Nihal walks toward the car with her bag over her shoulder. She opens the door and gets into the front passenger seat, holding her mobility stick which is folded into different lengths. Nihal and her sister chat and laugh over coffee sitting outside at a café.

Nihal: A while ago, I established a Turkish choir. I actually wanted people in Perth to experience our culture through our music and I opened my home, and we mainly did our practices here.

Audio Description: A small band plays in Nihal’s front courtyard. They are all dressed in black. Two men sit, one playing guitar, the other on the oud. A third man stands to play his oboe. Two women clap and sing. Nihal and her sister dance together and her family and friends listen. More women join Nihal and her sister, and they join hands and dance in a circle.

Nihal: I love entertaining and hosting people, cooking, serving, as much as I can. I get my family, friends, culturally diverse community all coming here and I’m a bit of a gatherer. I like getting people together.

Audio Description: Nihal puts out the spiral pastry and another onto an outdoor table loaded with food and plates. She unwraps plastic wrap from a plate of bird’s nest pastries. The family and friends all sit around helping themselves and eating.

Nihal: I love my freedom, being in my own home, having my own friends, it’s just wonderful.

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)