**Disability Champion: Paul**

[Donna, Forrest Personnel, Disability Employment Service]

For people with disabilities, work can be life changing.

[Paul, Disability Champion]

I look back in my past, and I look in my future and I’m quite happy.

[Voiceover]

Paul is a Disability Support Pension customer.

He has learning difficulties, making school a struggle. But now, at nearly 40, life is full. The difference – part time work.

[Paul]

Because I'm enjoying it, working for trolleys, I wouldn't work for anywhere else but trolleys, because I’m outside I’m outdoors all the time, and when you’re outdoors, you’re outside and you've got a breeze on your face all the time. It feels like I’ve got friends now because I've got friends at work, friends I hang around with, and friends I get to talk to.

[Voiceover]

Paul's proud of his job and it shows.

[Donna]

He has a fantastic work ethic, he is always on time, he’s reliable. At the drop of a hat, we can call him in for shifts to be filled. Has a great relationship with the public, helps out the elderly, helps out business owners that have got two and three trolleys, gets on with all his co-workers, yeah.

[Voiceover]

Even by his own reckoning, Paul has changed.

[Paul]

Before I started doing trolleys, I used to sit home and mope around, and since I got into trolleys, I’m out and about talking to people that I don't know.

[Voiceover]

Those around him have noticed a difference too.

[Tom, Paul’s father]

He's been struggling most of his life. I'm mostly proud of what he's achieved in the days with his school days and to what he's achieved now. That is the proudest moment. Paul is going ahead. He's not stepping back, he's stepping forward. It’s a big relief for me because I'm the type of father that stresses (laughs). All about my kids, I stress about them, but yeah, no, it's good that he’s going to do things himself.

[Voiceover]

Paul's new found confidence has shown in other ways as well.

He's joined a Men's Shed, and he's making things with his hands.

[Paul]

When I started making these things, I was ‘whoa, I did this myself, and with a bit of help’.

[Tom]

His whole social life and his working has helped, yeah definitely, helped him to come out and try things, instead of, ‘can’t do that, can't do that’. He’s actually out trying things now and he comes in my workshop, ‘Dad I want to learn how to do the lathe’, so I’ve got a lathe in the shed and I want out there with him, showed him how to do it, and I says ‘don’t be scared of it, make sure you don’t go too far’. He wouldn't try that when he was younger, wouldn’t attempt nothing, but now he wants to have a go at these things, so it's good.

[Voiceover]

The latest project is a cabinet for his James Bond car collection.

Paul's even finding more time for his first love, fishing.

[Paul]

After I finish a hard day at work I usually just go down the beach, Seven Beach or the wharf and chuck a rod out. It relaxes me. Sort of relaxes whole body after working all day pushing trolleys. All you hear is the ocean off the water, crashing on the beach, and it's so relaxing and peaceful.

[Voiceover]

As for the future – Paul's got it all mapped out.

[Paul]

My future is still doing trolleys until I retire. I’ve got a long way to go yet. I'm only 40, I’ll be turning 40 this year. I'll keep doing it until I actually retire. I look back in my past, and I look in my future, and I am quite happy. I'm working, I'm mixing, plus I am making things out of my hands.

[Text on screen]

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