**Hayden McDonald Transcript**

Audio Description: A young man, Hayden, in blue work gear and Akubra hat, walks across a yard with big farm machinery in the background; tractors, sprayers and headers. He walks toward a building with a sign that says Farmers Centre. There are some utes and a tractor parked nearby.

**Hayden**: My name’s Hayden. I’m twenty years old. I work at Farmer’s Centre in Esperance. I also have a Youtube channel and I’m working towards a career in commercial aviation.

Audio Description: Hayden now out of uniform and wearing a blue checked shirt, concentrates as he uses a Go Pro camera to film two light aircraft in a hangar. The sign on the front plane says Jabiru J-160.

In a different scene Hayden, now wearing his uniform and safety glasses, puts on a white mask and red and black ear muffs. He uses a high compression air hose to blow down a front machine in the Farmers Centre yard, where it is lined up with other similar vehicles. In a shed nearby, Hayden energetically climbs up the ladder of a boom sprayer . Outside the driver’s cab, he sprays and polishes a rear view mirror as well as the front of the machine. In a separate area on a concrete wash pad, Hayden hoses down a large green seeder. A large red boom sprayer drives slowly across the yard.

**Hayden:** Farmers Centre sells and services farm machinery. I’m a detailer. So pretty much, we blow machinery down for bio-security reasons, so we don’t introduce weeds or foreign seeds onto the farm. It is really important that they are properly cleaned, especially going over the border. Right now, my specialty is polishing and interior cleaning. The skills I’m picking up is pretty much teamwork, risk management, working to deadlines. This job has really improved my life. It’s made me a lot more independent, and even better, it’s actually funding my next career move.

Audio Description: Back in the shed, Hayden watches as his boss climbs down from the cab of the boom sprayer . The camera tilts above the men to the sky, with lots of white fluffy clouds. A small white plane appears and flies through and seems to hover in slow motion for a moment or two.

**Hayden**: Aviation is a big deal in my life. After take-off when I’m up in the air, I feel so free. I have full control of what I want to do. I can go anywhere without the traffic. I like the solitude. You’re actually quite close to the clouds, you can almost touch them. Esperance is just so beautiful, it’s not like any place you could find in the world.

Audio Description: The same light aircraft is on a gravel runway waiting for take-off with its propeller spinning. Hayden is in the cockpit and moves it forward slowly. It takes off, listing slightly to the right.

Through the plane’s window the landscape can be seen clearly with some salt lakes, small trees, and a large steel shed. The view is now over the shore line at Esperance, with the bright green of grass and dark green of pine trees, plus houses and other buildings. As the plane moves, the view changes to a pristine stretch of coastline with white sand and different shades of blue ocean. Hayden is seen in close up in the cockpit. He is wearing a headset and speaking into it.

The view has changed again, more coastline but with wind turbines dotted along it. The plane flies very close to clouds. Down below there is a curved section of beach with hills in the background.

In the hangar Hayden walks toward the first plane. He tests the fuel with a dipstick, holds one of the wings and moves the flaps. Inside the cockpit he checks the controls on the instrument panel.

**Hayden:** Before every flight I have to do something, what is called a pre-flight check. I have to make sure that there’s nothing that can affect the safety of the aircraft. Safety is one of the major factors in aviation, and I’ve been trained to take it very very seriously. I’m actually pretty good at focusing for long periods of time and good at keeping the aircraft under control. In fact, in one instance I actually recovered faster than my instructor did. I landed an aircraft when the electrics failed, so it’s pretty much shown me that I know I can handle some minor issues.

Audio Description: The view changes to the plane approaching the runway, with the propeller spinning at the front. It lands smoothly and taxis in. Hayden gets out of the cockpit.

Hayden writes in his flight manual. He then does more checks on the aircraft, spinning the propeller and checking the tail.

**Hayden**: Right now, I have my recreational pilot’s certificate and right now I’m working towards my recreational pilot’s licence and private pilot’s licence. My heart has been set on commercial aviation. I actually want to fly either for The Royal Flying Doctor Service or Qantas. Because I like helping people. It’s doing something for the community.

**Hayden**: From what I hear there aren’t a lot of people on the spectrum who fly. On my Youtube channel, I want to challenge that, and show that people who have autism are more than capable of becoming pilots.

Audio Description: Hayden presses on a video on his Youtube channel. He sets up his Go Pro on a tripod. On the viewfinder, we see him talking straight to camera.

**Hayden:** If I don’t fly commercially, my passion will keep going. No matter what happens, I’ll keep on flying.

Audio Description: Hayden pulls the plan out of the hangar. The propeller starts to spin and the plane taxis along the runways past some sheds. In the cockpit, Hayden smiles, nods, and gives a thumbs up. The plane continues to taxi and then is seen just after take-off winging its way into the sky.

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 a 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