Text on Screen:

Celebrating the Life of Gareth Jack Mansell Gareth

16 July 1987 to July 30 2022

This voice over was crafted with the people that loved and knew him best.

Audio Description: Gareth, a man in his thirties, wearing a black tshirt with tropical flowers on it, is in his power chair is at the kitchen bench flanked by his support workers Emily and Gizelle. They help Gareth hold a small mixing container, and assist him stirring milk and butter.

Gareth: I’m Gareth. I really enjoy people. I’m happiest when I’m with people I know and who know me well.

Audio Description: Gizelle and Emily help Gareth hold the mixing spoon in his hand and they tip the ingredients in to a bigger mixing bowl and then mix the cookie ingredients, stirring the milk, sugar and butter.

Gareth: I’ve attracted an awesome team of people who support me. They’ve been with me a long time.

Audio Description: Gareth sits in his chair with a smile on his face as he and his support workers continue to stir the ingredients.

Gareth: We have a lot of fun. We often sing together.

Audio Description: Gizelle stands close to Gareth and sings to him while they mix.

Giselle: ♪ Mixing, mixing, real hard. ♪♪ Anzacs. ♪

Gareth: (singing along)

Giselle: ♪ Dough, dough, dough, dough, dough. ♪

Audio Description: Gizelle holds on to Gareth’s hands and helps him to shape the cookie dough in to round shapes and then pushes then in to a flat shape.

Gareth: (singing along)

Giselle: ♪ Mix it up, up, up, up, up! ♪

Gareth: (singing)

Gareth sings along smiling away.

Gareth: In my home, I enjoy ordinary things like long showers, getting my hair washed, and relaxing with a movie.

Audio Description: Gareth is in his power chair sitting in the middle of his living room, there’s a colourful rug under his chair and two blue sofas to the left and right of him. On the sofas there are scatter cushions and chunky blankets.

(Gareth making sounds)

Audio Description: The television set is in front of Gareth and he smiles as he watches the film playing on the TV.

Gareth: I feel safe in my home because people are listening to me, and they respond when I need something to happen.

Audio Description: Gizelle stands at the entrance to Gareth’s wardrobe holding two t-shirts, a blue tie dye and a black one with a lion on it. Gareth is in his chair in front of Gizelle, looking at her. His eyes dart from left to right as he decides which one he wants to wear.

Gareth: Something I really love to do is give to people.

Audio Description: In the backyard under the lemon tree, Gareth is wearing his black tshirt with the lion on it, he is in his chair, with Gizelle who is wearing a white and pink floral top, is next to him. Gizelle picks lemons off the tree and assists Gareth to also pick some off. She places them in to a bowl on Gareth’s knee. She puts the lemon close to Gareth’s nose, Gareth smiles as he take in the aroma.

Gareth: I like to give things from my garden or cakes that I’ve baked.

Audio Description: Gareth is in his chair at a large table with his two support worker by his side. They are in a community centre room prepping for the evenings soup kitchen. Gareth and his support workers are sitting at the head of the table. Around the table are volunteers, everyone is wearing a mesh hair net and some people are also wearing gloves. In the middle of the long table there are bowels of food, including tomoates, spinach, potatoes and chopped up bread. One of Gareth’s support workers is chopping carrots on a board, an assist Gareth with some cutting also.

Gareth: I also like to give my time at a soup kitchen. They’re great people.

Audio Description: Gareth and his support worker Gizelle are in his backyard sitting in front of an easel with a canvas propped on it. They are doing a jigsaw pieces art work. Gizelle is assisting Gareth to place a jigsaw piece on to the canvas. Gareth is smiling as his finger moves up to the canvas which has a painted tree on it with a green pasture in the foreground.

Gareth: I often give people gifts of my artwork, too. I do lots of paintings with mixed media like jigsaw puzzle trees, diamond art

Audio Description: Emily, Gareth’s support worker pushes Gareth in his chair down his driveway. They go past Gareth’s mosaiced letter box number 51.

Gareth: and mosaic. I even decorated my letterbox.

 Audio Description: Gareth’s Mum, Julie is standing in the middle of Gareth’s living room, wearing a white and orange top. There are four of Gareth’s support team sitting on seats to the left side of the room looking on. Gareth is in his chair next to his Mum in the centre of the room. And Leanne, Gareth’s support co-ordinator is on the other side of Gareth. Julie brings the easel and the completed jigsaw pieces tree artwork in to the centre of the room for Leanne to see. It’s a gift for Leanne from Gareth to thank her for all her support, she has a new job. Gareth is smiling as Leanne bends over to thank say thank you to Gareth for the gift.

Julie (Gareth’s mum): Thank you everyone for coming. Tonight we just really, really wanted to farewell you and Gareth has something very special to give you so that you remember him. So, Gareth and the girls made this extra large tree, for you, Leanne.

 Leanne: Aaah, beautiful.

Julie: And I hope that you really like it. : I love it. Thank you, Gareth. It’s beautiful and I love it. You’ve spoilt me.

Audio Description: Gareth’s support team look on and clap their hands.

(Clapping)

Gareth: It gives me joy to see people receive my gifts and just to share life with them.

Audio Description: Gizelle leans over Gareth’s chair and shows him something on her phone, he smiles

Gareth: Since I’ve moved into my own house, my life has gotten a whole lot bigger and more interesting.

Audio Description: Emily, wearing a brown jumper, pushes Gareth, who is wearing a wine coloured sweat shirt, in his chair outside, around his neighbourhood. Gareth is smiling and gesturing with his arm.

Gareth: I’m the healthiest and the happiest I’ve ever been.

Text on Screen:

Gareth lived in his own home for almost four years, some of the healthiest and happiest of his life.

Audio Description: Gizelle and Gareth seated in front of the easel with his jigsaw pieces art work, putting pieces on to the easel together.

Text on Screen:

He was attracted and surrounded by a committed group of people who cared for and loved him deeply. His story is a great example of the difference that quality support can bring.

Text on screen:

The Lives We Lead Homelife. This story is part of The Lives We Lead Homelife and has been funded by the Department of Communities, Disability Services

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