Hi, my name is Jenny Scown and I’m team leader at Business Enterprises.

I was born partially blind through a disease from a cat. It was carried by my mother. She picked it up carrying me. We lived on a big property and it was, um, feral cats we used to have down the end of the property and she might have a cut on her foot or something and a germ got into her system while carrying me. But I was very lucky cos, um, it could have gone further, I could have been blind, deaf and, um, brain damaged as well, so it only stopped at the eyes. So, I, you know, I think I’m one of the lucky ones, and it was very rare in those…in my era too, cos, it was only one a year that, back in the fifties. It was only about one a year they heard of that they heard of that sort of thing.

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Um, after I lost my sight, thirty years ago for a cataract operation, I lost my job, lost my independence, in respect of living in a flat, um, I had to change my life style all together after going totally blind.

I ended up going to a unit for blind and vision impaired people and I made my way from there. Travelling was sort of a problem for a while there, I had to get instructors showing me how to catch buses, trains which was very new to me. I adapted fairly well in that situation. Every day was a bonus when I went on a bus and a long as I got home on a bus that afternoon I was quite happy that I knew I made it. During the day well I used to cook do all my own cleaning with a little bit of problems but – yeah – you overcome that as you get better and better like at it.

I was taught by another blind vision impaired person unfortunately which passed away 6 months after I’d come here which he was my idol in some respects as I had no idea how to make anything like that when I first come. And from there I developed other skill in making pegs, make Jigs. For everyday use for other staff members to use to make it easier for them to adjust to some of their different work areas that they were involved in every day.

When we move to Coorparoo I’m looking forward to the challenges before us – travelling -all the excitement of a new place to familiarize myself with. Always looking for challenges I suppose – clean surroundings! The work is going to be a little different I’ve heard. It’s going to be more generated around mail that’s here for the enterprises part, food processing possibly. It’s going to be a lot better for all types of work that we’re going to get involved in, it’s going to be a bigger and better place for the work and the location is going to be a lot better for getting work.

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