**ANYONYMOUS TRANSCRIPT – ARMADALE ART STORIES**

**ANONYMOUS:** I'm 15. I think it takes time to get to know me and I probably don't show everything all at once, I'm quite an introvert. Because I like people, but sometimes people are too much.

My friends are a really good support network for me. I have friends in a lot of different places, at school, outside of school, volunteering; and yeah, I think maybe when I was younger, I struggled with making friends, but now that I'm a little bit older, I think I've found my people and yeah, it's good. I suppose [I like] someone who's really authentic, someone who says it as it is, will be honest with you and is not afraid to talk about the hard things.

I do a lot of graphic design, so I like doing that and studying. I do a lot of study outside of school of things that they don't teach you in school, like design principles and things like that. I think design in general is just really fascinating. It combines how people, you know, how we can make things better for people and how we can communicate with people in a really inclusive kind of way. There's a lot of barriers to things such as language, for example. So, if you can use symbols and use things that people can collectively understand, I think that's really cool. I just have a desire to empathise with people and make sure that everyone is equal and everyone gets the chance to do things in this world.

If you asked me that about a year ago, I would've said I want to go to uni. If you ask me that now, I will say I want to go to TAFE and complete a Cert IV or a diploma, and then use that to get into uni so that I have the experience of both TAFE and university.

So, my dream goal would be in the field of UX, which is user experience. It’s basically studying how we can make products, but especially digital products, more accessible for people. And making sure that everyone can have an enjoyable experience with that. So, you know, say you're building an app and you need to consider a colorblind person, can they use that app? A disabled person, can they, is this product gonna help them or would that be hard for them to use, kind of thing?

Yeah, I am part of the Armadale Youth Advisory Council. We advise the local government on issues that affect young people and give them advice on what to do about these issues and talk about programs and things that can be put in place to help young people. Well, we did start a project, a program that gives education to young people on how to build really good relationships with yourself and how to build really good relationships with your community and other people. So, it's sort of a social emotional kind of learning program, because we as a group felt that there probably wasn't enough of them in the Armadale area and that we needed to sort of introduce that to people around the ages of 8-to-10 kind of [age] bracket on these issues. So that when they get to high school, you know, they have that experience, and they can get through high school with that knowledge.

We sort of noticed that maybe a lot of young people don't know how to build their own self-confidence and believe in themselves and that kind of thing. And another one was how to respect cultural differences. So, you know, teaching kids that everyone's different and everyone sees things differently.

Both your relationship with yourself and your relationship with other people in the communities is equally important because you can't give to others unless you give to yourself as well.

There's a lot of things to be grateful for, I think I'm really grateful. You know, there's a lot of people my age and not my age that are doing it hard. I think I'm just really lucky to be going to school, to be doing well at school, to be able to do what I love and be around good people, and just be in a generally good situation in life. I think I have a lot of things to be proud of myself and you know, how far I've come and how strong I've been over these 15 years. I didn't have the easiest childhood. It could be worse, but it wasn’t perfect, and no one’s is. Yeah, just everything that I've overcome, ever, is something to be proud of.