# Stories of Change – Nicole - Transcript

I am so excited to be playing in a semi-final with our cricket team, today.

I'll walk because it is only a kilometre away.

And my bus stop is not easy.

It's just a post in the middle of a road of a busy street with lots of cars.

I have a vision impairment and the extra busyness makes me disorientated and vulnerable, and I don’t know when the bus is coming.

It takes a lot of energy.

Walking with Harper, my guide dog, I need to follow paths through a couple of parklands and then we're there!

With Harper and my bag, I can lose my balance.

The shared path is starting to turn.

I trip and tell Harper to stop.

I look for a bench to sit and steady myself.

But there’s none.

Now, there are other people on the path going in different directions.

The foot path is narrow for passing pedestrians and cyclists.

And it’s even more crowded for Harper and I when we walk together.

Some people are saying hello to Harper.

They stop us.

I really don't like this.

I feel frozen and can’t get the words out.

It’s like people don't see me.

It sounds strange, but when you pat Harper, it is like you are patting me,

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It feels violating.

Please don’t pat or talk to Harper.

She is working for me.

Now I‘m feeling physically and mentally exhausted and drained from navigating this path.

It feels like I am stuck in some sort of maze.

But I keep on going.

I have some where to be.

There are no signs that I can see.

It has to be really large print, talking signs or even Braille – or all three!

I think I see a sign ahead.

I strain my eyes.

But I still can't see it.

This journey is like an endless, winding staircase.

I feel invisible, alone, anxious and tired too.

I haven’t even started playing cricket yet.

I can make out the entry to the cricket grounds ahead.

I hear the excited crowd.

A couple of players are calling my name really enthusiastically.

I feel seen.

It's like the excited shouts and the other players blew away my invisibility cloak.

Now my cloak is gone, I am ready to play!!