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Unfortunately, I do have a medical problem and... A pretty serious medical problem. And I am sort of under the doctor and I have to live in Geraldton. The doctor believes it is more better for me. And I agree with that, yes.

But I also miss my home, you know, which is Mt Magnet and the surrounding district. Because I’ve always worked throughout that region and my life was about going out in the bush with my family, living off the land, living with bush tucker. And go out and the kids enjoy it, I teach them a lot about what’s out there in the bush, I teach them about the country, and I teach them about our culture.

I enjoy taking my grannies [grandchildren] out to the bush and showing them... I suppose it takes my mind back to when I was a kid and Mum and Dad used to take me out bush. But even so, you know, when I was young we lived out bush, that was part of my lifestyle. But, you know, for me to go back out to the bush with my grannies and talk to them about the bushland, the culture, and all them sort of things, it’s something... Obviously I’m passing the culture onto my family.

There’s nothing better than coming to a spot and remembering something about it, like you said, and talking about it. Some of the things that I’ve done... If I don’t go back there, I’ll forget them. It’s a story about something that’s happened a long time ago and I think it’s good for people to hear about how different it was many years ago.

Now that I’m older and experiencing this type of lifestyle, I can understand. Throughout my years I’ve worked with the Health Department, and I’ve seen a lot of the old people taken away from their homeland, sent down to Perth, and, you know... Obviously they had to be sent down there for a reason, but a lot of them don’t make it back but. And even myself, you know, I don’t like to go down to Perth. Because, you know, it’s just that when you’re sick and you’ve gotta go to hospital... Yes. And Perth is the only option I’ve got, but... I think to myself, ‘Oh, why can’t I stay home?’ And being a heart patient, I know it’s pretty hard, but my needs and my... The longing for my family and my country is very strong.

And I know I have to live by the rules of what the Health Department is saying, because I can live a few more years and spend a few more years with my little grandchildren... And I think that’s one of the most important things, a lot of older people is their young families.
And when I go back home, I feel more contented and I don’t think about my health, because I can walk out of the house, look up at the hills, see all the trees, and I know where I am. And all these thoughts come back to me...