



Speaking from Experience

Bipolar Disorder

Transcript for chapter 6 of 9: Work and study

Eva (6 years since diagnosis): I was about to start at another school, or I had started at another school, and I was very anxious. And I think the anxiety brought on another sort of mania where I was just not myself and I was doing things that I wouldn't normally do. Very attention-seeking behaviour. And there was this nastiness in there too and I think the children, well, I know the kids in my year level were very put-off by it. And of course they thought that's who I was because that's all they had seen.

David and Donné (2 years since Donné's diagnosis): I was working full-time in a psych hospital. And it was well known that I was extremely ill. I had nothing but support and friendship, and I went back to that job.

Bill (6 years since diagnosis): Well, I would say that the employers would do the best that they were able to do for me. Fortunately, in those days you weren't made redundant when you sick like that. I did a good job... I'd be away for a few weeks and then I'd come back. I didn't have that much time off work. But they all recognised that I did do a good day's work when I was there, even though perhaps not as good a job as I might've done when I was well.

Eva: I think it was very hard for people at high school to understand what was going on. Some of them just didn't want to understand at all. I received a fair bit of teasing and ostracising. But even the ones who really wanted to understand found it very hard because I would do these things and say I was sorry, and then do them again.