RealTimeHealth™
The Digital Health Network

GPO Box 70, Melbourne, VIC 3001 Australia
P 61 3 9654 9001 F 61 3 9654 9003
www.realtimehealth.com ABN 44 120 278 024

Melbourne Central Tower
Level 20, 360 Elizabeth St
Melbourne, VIC 3000, Australia

Speaking from Experience
Motor Neurone Disease

Transcript for chapter 2 of 8: Reactions

George (4 years after diagnosis) and Gerda: It was like a shock, yeah. Kind of seeing my wife/life going away so quickly.

Des (6 months after diagnosis) and Wendy: Well, the immediate reaction was a sense of great depression, and I suppose secondly, disappointment. The possibility that I was going to have all these symptoms by next week, sort of thing. Which of course was entirely false. It was quite devastating.

Peter (1 year after diagnosis) and Joanne: I was never angry, mainly the ‘Why me?’, but that didn’t last long. We’ve got kids and they keep you going, they bring you back into line.

Peter (1 year after diagnosis) and Joanne: Emotionally, it was really those first few days after that, he cried a lot and did all that and then you sort of say, well we’ve got to get on with our lives.

Margaret (Peter’s mother): When it was diagnosed I was devastated and wouldn’t believe it anyway. I thought, no they’ve made a mistake, it couldn’t happen. Because I think in October or November, Peter was doing triathlons and was fit as a fiddle, you know it’s just not possible. And then you start thinking, is there something I did when he was little or was he born like this?

George (4 years after diagnosis) and Gerda: I knew what MND was, I knew people with MND, so I knew the full story of it.

Peter (1 year after diagnosis) and Joanne: A friend of mine rang up when we were having the test, and said “Is it going to be Motor Neurone?” I said, “No way. No way in the world.” And within a month, obviously it was so... I had no idea. I didn’t know anything about it, basically.

Des (6 months after diagnosis) and Wendy: Zilch. I knew nothing. And that’s why I was momentarily, or briefly, unable to ask any sensible questions. I had no background whatsoever. And being a bit shocked.

Margaret (Peter’s mother): We all wept and cried for a weekend and then thought, well, that’s a bit ridiculous. We’ve got to stop and get on with it. So it sort of, it’s behind you all the time, but you but you think to yourself, it’s not helping anybody