



Speaking from Experience

Asthma in Adults

Transcript for chapter 1 of 12: The first time

Leisl: I was about three, and mum noticed that I was coughing, not sleeping very well and she was rather concerned. Then one day, she heard me give an audible wheeze, and so she took me to the local doctor, who diagnosed me with asthma.

De: I do remember when I was two or three years old, being laid out on the kitchen table with masks and things boiling in saucepans, all sorts of things. Because at the time there wasn't a hospital in Orkney.

Arthur: I had had a bad cold for quite some time. It finished with an infection in the chest. And I was rather surprised during the consultation, that I was informed that I had asthma.

Margaret and Michael: I probably would've been about thirteen, the first time I heard, "You have asthma, and this is your puffer that you have to take." I remember walking home from the doctor and thinking, how can I hide that in my schoolbag, and not let the other kids know?

John: I can't remember it because I was only about four. I can remember that far back, I had asthma before that. I can remember being at a party one night when it was very hot. I can remember all the noise and the parents. I wanted to play with the other kids, and I couldn't. It was the days before air-conditioning in Melbourne, so it was hot. I can remember sitting at this window trying to breath. That's the first recollection I have of having asthma.

Glenda: I'm in my sixties now. I think the first attack I had was probably when I was about six or seven. The only thing I can remember is lying in this rather hot room, thinking I was going to die. But nobody ever told me anything. I suspect that my family knew nothing about it. I suspect the doctor didn't know much about it either, in those days.