



# Speaking from Experience

## Young People & Type 1 Diabetes

### Transcript for chapter 1 of 8: Diagnosis

**Michael 18, diagnosed 16:** When I was diagnosed with diabetes when I was 16 years old, and now I'm 18, nearly 19. I've had it for two years.

**Marlon 10, diagnosed 6:** I was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes when I was six.

**Rachel 19, diagnosed 7:** I was diagnosed when I was seven. I was diagnosed because I was just feeling sick all the time and my doctor thought I had the flu, but I didn't. Eventually, he tested my blood sugar and he said it was the highest he'd ever actually seen. So, I was taken to hospital.

**Tori 19, diagnosed 6:** I don't remember being diagnosed, as such. But from what my dad has told me, it was after my sixth birthday party and everyone had gone home, he rushed me off to the doctor because I was drinking heaps and he was getting really worried.

**Kayla 15, diagnosed 11:** When I was first diagnosed I was feeling sick. I was hot when it was really cold.

**Marlon:** I just kept drinking and going to the toilet a lot.

**Michael:** Leading up to my diagnosis, I had started drinking a lot of water. I'd take maybe five bottles of water to school. I was trying to be conscious in drinking water, so I just thought it was normal.

**Scott 19, diagnosed 4:** When I was diagnosed, it was just like any other diagnosis – you're thirsty, you're hungry all the time.

**Andrea 19, diagnosed 12:** I was 12 when I was diagnosed with diabetes. I'd just started with year seven and I lost a lot of weight and was going to the toilet a lot and feeling really tired and stuff. Mum and dad just thought it was puberty, or something. I started getting a bit sick, so they took me to the doctors and stuff, and I got diagnosed. When I got diagnosed, I didn't know what diabetes was. I thought I was dying! [Laughs]

**Scott:** Being five years old, you don't really know much about anything. You think you do, but you don't. No, I really didn't know anything about diabetes.

**Rachel:** I didn't know anything about diabetes, at all, when I was diagnosed. I didn't know what it was and I don't think my parents even knew what it was.

**Scott:** It is a genetic thing that's passed on from generation to generation, but it hasn't shown up. My mum and dad don't have it, and their mums and dads don't have it, and as far as they know, their mums and dads didn't have it either. So, it must have gone back a little way down the track until it showed up in me.



**Andrea:** I'm the only one in my family who has diabetes. I've got a great-aunt who has type 1 diabetes, but she's not blood-related. I've got a great-uncle who has type 2 diabetes, but he's not blood-related either. So, I'm the only blood-related person who has type 1 diabetes.

**Tori:** I am the only one in my immediate and extended family who has diabetes.

**Kayla:** In my family, my dad has diabetes. My pop has diabetes. My dad's brothers and sisters, most of them have diabetes. But my dad's brothers and sisters have type 2, because they were only recently diagnosed. My pop, he has old-age diabetes [type 2]. My dad, he has type 1, because he was diagnosed when he was younger.

**Rachel:** I just learnt through the hospital. I think, when I was admitted, they went through a general 'What is diabetes?' thing. There were a few other girls in the ward and they went through it [with us] together.

**Andrea:** Once I actually learnt what it was, it wasn't too bad.