

Vignette nineteen

One of our clients when he first got referred to us he was depressed and suicidal, and I think he had just had to get over his wife had died, and he was left with the three kids, so there was a lot going for him. When he came into the service he was really torn up, so we stood beside him. Once again we talked him through the process of engaging him into our service, did the cultural assessment of him, and he just really wanted the support of ... The funny thing about it – he was an Island-born, but he didn't want to talk any Island language. He just kept saying, "No". But the hard case thing about it was that it would have been different if he could speak English properly. You could tell that he was fluent in his language, but he kept on saying, "No, I don't want to speak my language. I want to speak English". We used that as a way of building him up. We sort of joked with him about it, and got him laughing and all that. But, on the serious side of things, it took 2 years for us to really work with him, for him to go through the medication, and then for him to actually take his medication. We are lucky now we have got blister packs and Monday morning, Monday lunch, Monday evening, and bedtime. The pills are all there, not the pills where you are going to have to figure out which bottle was which. He had about four bottles and couldn't remember what bottle to take. So we worked with him through that and we got him involved with our activity. We had cultural activity and we worked with his family. We are lucky now his son is working. He got himself a job, and he is still living at home and really supports his dad. They have got a really good relationship. He knows what his dad has been through. He is 23 now. His daughter is 9 years old and she is under our services also. They are working with her just to make sure she gets off to school and all that. Over the years the whole family – the three kids – have gelled together with the Dad and just supporting him. He has played an active role in the garden group presentations and he has also got a full-time / part-time job. So his main focus is making sure that he drops his daughter off at school and drops his son off to work and can pick his son up from work and pick his daughter up. He's just a real family man, loves his kids, just makes sure. Plus he's still under the GP, and he's taking his medication all the time now. But the transition of seeing from where he was when we first met him to what he is now is amazing.