

Ed: Mentally, you know, emotionally too, I suppose, it did affect me.

Interviewer: And did it affect your health in any way that you noticed?

Ed: Well, it reached the stage where I found it hard to physically to look after Mary. At that time, through carers, I had Respite care for a fortnight, and they came and looked after Mary.

Interviewer: How did you find with the changes that you had to make?

Ed: Well, it was 2001 when Mary was diagnosed with dementia, 81 I spose [sic] I was, so I was physically tired, that was one thing. But then, I found out I was having difficulty driving because sometimes I'd nearly have an accident if I couldn't pull off the road. I could have had an accident once or twice. Of course, it was mentally too. Mary had hallucinations quite a lot and she used to imagine snakes biting her during the night and she'd be trying to escape from them and she'd be grabbing her arm and tearing her arm and perhaps tear her arm. Tear the skin from her arm. So, physically having to get up to her at night quite often too, for that and other things you can imagine, emotional as well.

Interviewer: And with Mary's deterioration, obviously, that had an effect on you emotionally which impacted on your health?

Ed: Yes, that did. Yes, when she lost the ability to do things that she could always do before, very emotional when you have to clean someone's teeth, brush their teeth for them and so on. They can't do it themselves. They can't do that sort of thing. And mobility and so on. It's not good yeah, and you'd have to assist with that. Occasionally she'd have a fall and all very emotional and when you look back at it at the time, at that time that was what you were doing, that was your job, and you did it.