

5 minute speech – Thursday 1st July

1. What slow to recover and gardenview has meant to me? for example: a chance to recover, get your life back and have a future

2. Also, what a struggle and effort it has been too

3. Plans for the future – and how none of this would have been possible if you had gone straight to a nursing home

MY SPEECH

(OR A SAPOIB STORY BY ANJ BARKS)

I HAVE BEEN ASKED TO TALK ABOUT WHAT IT HAS MEANT TO HAVE REHABILITATION OVER A LONG TIME AT GARDENVIEW AND NOT TO BE PUT STRAIGHT INTO A NURSING HOME AFTER A FEW MONTHS.

WELL OK MY MOST IMPORTANT REASON FOR NOT WANTING TO BE LOCKED AWAY IN A NURSING HOME IS BELIEVE IT OR NOT, I AM

AND HAVE BEEN, DESCRIBED AS A SOCIAL BUTTERFLY. BUT IT'S SO HARD TO BE A SOCIAL BUTTERFLY WHEN YOU ARE IN UNFAMILIAR TERRITORY AND AWAY FROM YOUR FRIENDS.

AND MOST IMPORTANTLY I ONLY JUST TURNED 18 ON AUGUST TENTH LAST YEAR AND WELL, TO BE HONEST, I CAN'T SAY I'M A FAN OF SOCIALIZING WITH PEOPLE DOUBLE OR TRIPLE MY AGE.

I'M NOT MENTALLY RETARDED – I JUST HAVE PHYSICAL PROBLEMS. I THINK THE SAME AND WANT THE SAME COMPANY AND THE SAME THINGS AS I ALWAYS DID.

WHEN I'M ASKED WHAT DO I THINK OF GARDENVIEW – MY FIRST THOUGHTS ARE THAT IT IS SHIT AND I DON'T WANT TO BE HERE AND I DON'T WANT TO HAVE BEEN HURT AT ALL AND I JUST WANT A NORMAL 18 YEAR OLDS LIFE. BUT I CAN'T HAVE THAT SO I GOTTA WORK ON WHAT I CAN. GARDENVIEW IS WAY BETTER THAN SLEEPING AROUND OLD PEOPLE WHO ARE DYING. HERE I AM EXPECTED TO IMPROVE. SOMETIMES THE STAFF THINK THEY ARE FUNNY WHICH IS FUNNY IN ITSELF! THEY ARE GOOD TO CHAT TO WHEN I'M BORED.

LET ME TELL YOU THERE IS ONLY ONE PLACE I WANT TO BE AND THAT IS MY HOME IN BENELLA BUT I GUESS ONE DAY I'D LIKE TO GET MY OWN JOINT WITH SOME FRIENDS – I'VE ALWAYS BEEN MATURE AND SO I LIKE BEING AROUND OLDER PEOPLE – LIKE ABOUT 20 YEARS OLD (NOT 90 YEARS OLD THOUGH!)

WHEN I AM ASKED, WHAT DO I THINK OF THE SLOW TO RECOVER PROGRAM, WELL I HAVE TO BE HONEST AND SAY THAT MY FIRST THOUGHTS ARE THAT STR SUCK COZ OF PHYSIO BUT THEN AGAIN LOOK AT ME NOW. I MEAN BESIDES NOT BEING ABLE TO TALK WELL AND THE CHAIR I'M NORMAL! AND WASN'T BEFORE PHYSIO CAME ALONG AND FIXED MY ARMS THEY WERE SPAZEMED UP AROUND MY CHEST . MY TALKING IS GETTING THERE APPARENTLY BUT I THINK IT IS TOO HARDER WORK SOMETIMES. BUT IF I AM GONNA BE WHAT I WANT IN MY LIFE, I GOTTA WORK ON ALL THIS STUFF. I LOVE WORDS AND I AM GETTING PRETTY GOOD AT PUTTING THEM TOGETHER! I SEEM TO MAKE DO WITH WHAT I'VE GOT AND MAKE THE MOST OF MY NATURAL TALENT!

WHEN I AM ASKED WHETHER IT HAS BEEN A STRUGGLE, SAY – I CAN'T BE SPECIFIC BECAUSE OF MY MEMORY WHICH IS A STRUGGLE IN ITSELF BUT ALL I CAN SAY IS

YOU DON'T KNOW HOW MANY TIMES I'VE WISHED I WAS DEAD AND I'VE EVEN PRAYED I'D DIE.

I CAN BE SO THANKFULL I'VE GOT SUCH STRONG WILLED STAND-BYISH, BACK ME UP, SUPPORTFULL PARENTS. I OWE MY LIFE TO THEM . AND MY LACK OF LIFE I OWE TO MYSELF SADLY. BUT ON THE ODD OCCASION WHEN I DO WHAT I AM TOLD I AM SUCCESSFUL AND FIND SOMETHING ELSE I CAN ACCOMPLISH.

THANKS TO MY PARENTS, THOUGH THEY MIGHTN'T THINK SO, MY DREAMS ARE ACOMPLISHABLE

SO WHAT ARE MY DREAMS???
I'D LIKE TO GET MARRIED AND HAVE 3 KIDS!

I WANT TO STUDY PSYCHOLOGY AND WRITE – I HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT I TELL A GOOD STORY AND ONE DAY I WILL FOLLOW THROUGH WITH WRITING A BOOK.

AS WELL AS MUM AND DAD, SLOW TO RECOVER HAVE REALLY HELPED ME A HEAP AND I'D LIKE TO SAY THANKS DUDES!

I WANT TO HELP OTHER PEOPLE, I DON'T
WANT TO JUST BE A HELPLESS PERSON THAT
OTHERS FEEL SORRY FOR - THAT IS NOT ME!

I GUESS I FEEL PROUD TO SAY IM A
SURVIVOR-I'M GUNNA DO IT, I'M NOT GUNNA
GIVE UP!