

1

To the senate Standing Committee on  
Community affairs



Hi, my name is Deb Sandford  
22 months ago my husband Graham  
suffered a massive stroke.

He spent 1 month in R.A.H and a  
further 11 months in Hornshead.

He lost the power of speech due  
to aphasia + dyspraxia

The impact on his life and  
those around him has been huge.

Graham has had speech therapy  
throughout his journey and has  
made slow but steady improvement.

He is now wanting to join in  
on group discussions and is  
regaining his confidence.

When a person cannot speak  
people tend to treat that person  
differently. They avoid the victim,  
don't visit as much, and find it  
difficult to know what to say.

All of these things are devastating  
but with the help of the wonderful.

2

speech therapists that Graham has worked with his life is returning to normal.

Speech therapy is incredibly important to those who lose the power to communicate.

Graham has benefited immensely from this and is regaining his self esteem.

He now doesn't rely on me for all his answers and he now starts conversations with friends and neighbours.

He is very thankful for the wonderful help he has received as are myself and all his family and friends.

Please accept this as a plea for more of this help for those people who are in need of rehabilitation.

We can be contacted for more information about Graham's journey if you wish.

Thank you for your time  
Deb & Graham Sanford.