



## Speaking from Experience *Stroke in Midlife*

### Transcript for chapter 8 of 9: Relationships

**Noelene, 63 years, stroke 7 years ago:** I think at first, it gave them a great shock; my aunt and uncle and close friends. But I think they accepted the fact and they helped and encouraged me.

**Robyn, 48 years, stroke 11 years ago, & mother Cath:** A couple of them rang me up, angry, and you know, we had a few upsets over the first few weeks. But I think you have to be angry with someone, you know. That's all settled down now. They've all been very supportive; very, very good.

**Jack, 53 years, stroke 11 years ago:** I was one of the lucky ones. The lady I married, her father also had a stroke and he was home for 10 years with a walking frame. She knew what was going on in my mind. So she helped me and backed me up and supported me.

**Robyn & mother Cath:** She was old enough to have some very, very good friends.

**Robyn & mother Cath:** Yes.

**Robyn & mother Cath:** And they've stuck by her through.

I was there questioning as to whether I should be harder on her or mollycoddling her. At times I didn't know which way was right. I ended up convincing myself that as long as Leonie was happy and continually improving, you're on the right road.

**Robyn & mother Cath:** Wednesday, a film.

**Robyn & mother Cath:** That's another friend who takes her to a film and lunch every Wednesday and she has been doing that for years. We've had a tremendous amount of support. Numerous friends of mine have taken you out over the years, regularly.

**Robyn & mother Cath:** Yes.

**Robyn & mother Cath:** She's had a lot of help. She's always cheerful and lovely and people are glad to do it.