



TERRY BAINBRIDGE

**TERRY, LATE 40'S,
LIVES IN A NURSING HOME
FOUR DAYS A WEEK.**

Terry Bainbridge, late 40's. Lives with his brothers 3 days per week, where he cooks meals and is motivated to do things for himself. The other 4 days he spends in a nursing home, where he waits out the days of routine and restriction in frustration, longing to be with his family again.

Those who knew Terry prior to him acquiring his disability used to joke about his two personalities. The personality that landed at the pub after work each day depended on whether Terry's boss had rushed through another job just prior to knock off, which happened frequently! In the world of scaffold construction, a 'last minute' job was no small achievement, but if knock-off time and the pub were calling, Terry could work very quickly!

Its ironic that now, almost five years after a ruptured aneurism and stroke changed Terry's life so significantly, he is still characterised by two different personas. He has also held firmly onto his infectious sense of humour.

For the three days of the week Terry lives at home with his brothers, he is motivated, independent and feels completely at home. Terry cooks, attends to his own personal care, and slots comfortably into the routine of bachelor life alongside brothers Darrell and Wes. Between support and therapy, the time Terry spends at home exhausts his limit of 15 hours of weekly funding. For this reason, Terry lives in a nursing home the remaining four days of the week.

It is here in the nursing home that Terry's alter ego emerges. His independence evaporates into the cloud of structure, routine and rush that hovers in the nursing home. Here, Terry is not free to step into the kitchen and prepare a meal and no one has the time to supervise him attending to his own personal care. **(Continued on next page)**



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Everything is achieved far more quickly when done for (and to) Terry. Independence and motivation are such vital ingredients for recovery, but they lay dormant in Terry for the time he spends each week in the nursing home.

Terry communicates with his brother Darrell without an overreliance on words. Words don't come easily to Terry following his stroke, despite the clarity with which he can speak. An exasperated eye roll effectively sums up the resignation he feels when he leaves home each week to return to the nursing home. Terry's preference while in the nursing home is to keep to himself in his room, although as he points out, shutting himself away does not shut out the noises around him.

The bond between Terry and his two brothers is extraordinary. Terry and Darrell nursed their mother through a terminal illness, and following her death, they jointly took on the role of watching out for their brother Wes, a role which prior to her illness had fallen to their mother. Following Terry's aneurism and stroke, Darrell quietly and without hesitation assumed responsibility for the care of Terry. Darrell found himself catapulted into a world of funding, paperwork, terminology and disability.

For almost five years now Darrell has negotiated this confounding world, and can finally see light at the end of the tunnel. For the three brothers, the end will be achieved when Terry is living permanently at home. This is where Terry deserves to be, and it is where he belongs.

Terry and Darrell maintain their faith in the system. They are unwavering in their conviction that Terry belongs at home. Terry has made remarkable progress from the initial prognosis, one that predicted he would remain in a permanent vegetative state, be peg fed, and live in a nursing home full time. In the early days, Darrell dreamt of simple gains such as Terry being able to eat and talk. Darrell's hopes for Terry now are less about physical progress, they are focused on his wellbeing, happiness and realising the full potential of his ongoing recovery.

For two former tradies, Terry and Darrell are patient and gracious. Their style of advocacy is quiet, but purposeful. Terry is on a journey, and the time has come for him to close the nursing home chapter.



Terry and brother Darrell



Terry as a young boy