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1. **Introduction & General Information**

Adam is a 16 year old male (turning seventeen soon after the report was completed) and is one of three children. His sister is nineteen and has recently moved out of the family home to attend her second year at University and to live with friends who attend university also. His brother is aged 10 and is currently in year 4 at primary school. Adam's parents live together, have been married for over 20 years and have been living in the same house since they were married. Information for this report was obtained through interviews with Adam and with both parents individually (Appendix B) and through informal participant observation of the family on several occasions during a two week period. Consent was received from Adam and from his parents for the case study and is held on file.

2. **FAMILY PROFILE**

2.1 **Current Situation**

Adam is currently working full time in the retail trade having left school approximately half way through year 11 in 1999. Adam remains living at home although has suggested that he may either leave home to share accommodation with friends or join the army at the end of 2000. The family is currently undergoing some significant changes including (i) the increasing independence of the eldest child who is attending second year at University and has recently moved out of the family home, (ii) the increasing independence of Adam who has left school and is working full time, and (iii) the decision to sell the family home of twenty years to build a new house in a different area (although relatively close to the old area). Both paternal and maternal extended family live relatively close by (within 50 kilometers) and both extended families maintain varying degrees of contact with Adam's family.

Adam's sister, whilst now residing some distance from the family, does come home most
weekends to visit friends and family and appears to maintain regular contact with the family.

Adam's mother was, and remains as, the primary carer for all children although she has been working part time for a number of years to supplement the family income. Adam's father is a partner in a family business and works full time including Saturdays and the occasional Sunday. Adam does not work in the family business and this was raised as an issue during the interviews; the significance of which will be discussed later.

**Figure 1:** Genogram
2.2 Family Background and Parenting

Adam's family have lived in the same house for over twenty years and all the children attended the same primary school at varying times. Contact with both paternal and maternal extended family has occurred throughout Adam's life. Adam's ecomap (see Appendix A) may suggest that his relationship with his paternal grandmother (paternal grandfather is deceased) appears to be stronger than his relationship with his maternal grandparents, although this was not mentioned as a significant determinant during interviews with either Adam or his parents.

Adam's mother is one of three female children, one of which resides relatively close by (her twin sister) whilst the other resides in Sydney. Adam's maternal grandparents remain married, live relatively close by and maintain regular contact with the family. Adam's father is one of seven children including one half-brother (from his father's previous marriage) and two brothers deceased (one as a baby and one that died several years ago of natural causes, aged 34). All of whom reside relatively close by and maintain varying degrees of regular contact with Adam and his family.

Adam's father is a partner in a family business (Adam's uncle is the other partner) which was created and run by Adam's paternal grandfather until his death in 1990 when his two sons took over. Whilst Adam has had the opportunity to participate in the family business, he has chosen not to pursue it as a long term career path and this has clearly influenced his life choices during his adolescent period as indicated during the interview process where he states that "I worked with dad every Saturday and holidays since I was 11, and I hated every single minute of it. Never ever liked it." (Appendix B 2)

Informal participant observation indicated that Adam's mother and father generally engaged in democratic or authoritative parenting styles. Adam's father mostly took the authoritative role demonstrated by his setting of rules. Adam's father also appeared to set the rules such as
requesting information as to where Adam was going and whether he would be home that night or not until the next day and where he would be staying that night. Adam's mother frequently indicated what she expected of Adam whilst referring rule setting back to Adam's father as the ultimate figure of authority. These rules were already known to Adam however he was clearly allowed a degree of freedom to come and go as he pleased and even stay away for extended periods within certain boundaries. Hence Adam's mother and father exerted a "high level of control with warmth, affection and respect for the child's own decision making competence" (Peterson, 1996 p 431). This can be demonstrated in the decision to allow Adam to go to Queensland for 10 days with his peers despite the fact that both of Adam's parents had serious concerns for his safety during this period.

Anything I do now, I make the decision and if I think it's important that my parents should have a say in it, then I'll ask them, otherwise I go ahead and do it. When I went to Queensland I said that S and I wanted to go, I did ask my parents, I sat them down and went through thoroughly what we were doing money wise and stuff like that, anything large I take it to them, this is what I've decided do you yay or nay, but anything that's not large and I feel that they have no right not to do it then I just go ahead and do it (Appendix B:4)

When asked "did you feel he was old enough to go to Brisbane?", Adam's father replied "Yes I did .. He's nearly seventeen, I thought he needed the experience - get away from mum and dad" (Appendix B 12)

Adam's parents indicated that despite not wanting Adam to go to Queensland by himself (without the family); they felt that he needed a degree of autonomy and his effort to negotiate with them about the trip was an indication that he was responsible enough to go.

Indications were given during the interviews with Adam and his parents that the adolescent period for Adam's sister was considerably more difficult for Adam's sister and for the parents. There was a considerably greater degree of conflict, "It's been easier with him than it has with J" (Appendix B:9) This appeared to be a factor in Adam's conciliatory nature and in the way in which Adam's parents approached Adam's desire for independence during a similar period.
3. CLIENT PROFILE

Table 3.1 Brief Chronological Outline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Age</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Born</td>
<td>1983</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Began to walk</td>
<td>1984</td>
<td>11 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Began talking</td>
<td>1984</td>
<td>18 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commenced kindergarten</td>
<td>1987</td>
<td>3 ½ years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commenced primary school</td>
<td>1988</td>
<td>4 ½ years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commenced secondary school</td>
<td>1995</td>
<td>12 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entered Puberty</td>
<td>1997</td>
<td>14 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Left School</td>
<td>1999</td>
<td>15 - 16 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commenced Full Time Work</td>
<td>1999</td>
<td>15 - 16 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decided to join the army</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>16 years</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.2 Detailed Developmental History

Adam was born in 1981 as the result of a planned pregnancy, both Adam's mother and father reported that they were delighted both with the pregnancy and with Adam's birth. Adam's mother reported that the pregnancy was mostly uneventful except for some initial nausea during the first trimester. Adam's birth occurred following a five hour labor and was at full term. Adam's mother reported some initial difficulty with feeding which resulted in brief hospitalisation and a resulting diagnosis of lactose intolerance and mastitis. Adam was then weaned from the breast and commenced on formula. No further problems were reported.

Adam's mother and father reported that Adam was a very contented baby following the commencement of formula with no significant periods of crying other than what they expected of
an infant. Adam's mother indicated that she took most of responsibility for feeding Adam during the night because of Adam's father's work commitments and as such was the primary carer. Adam's mother described Adam as a contented baby who rarely cried when she left the room but was glad to see her upon her return which would indicate aspects of both secure and avoidant attachment. When asked "Was he upset when you weren't around or when when you left the room?, Adam's mother replied "No I don't think so. He never really cried." and when asked "How did he respond when you came back?" Adam's mother replied "He was quite happy to see me. But he was fine."

(Appendix B 7)

Neither parents reported any delay in developmental milestones and Adam attended kindergarten, primary school and secondary school at age appropriate levels. No significant crises were indicated during primary school other than some initial bullying.

The transition to secondary school was reported as more troublesome in that Adam began to encounter difficulties with the academic workload. Adam's mother suggested that this was exacerbated by Adam's relationships with his newly acquired peers at the secondary school. Adam indicated some loss of direction on attending secondary school. Both Adam and his parents felt that his pubescent period was relatively crisis free, indeed Adam stated that ". . . everything I thought I needed to know and know now was quite clear to me" (Appendix B.4). Therefore it is unclear as to whether this 'loss of direction' was caused by puberty and adolescence, by cognitive factors or by peer relationships.

Adam left school in 1999 part of the way through year 11 because he "didn't enjoy it, I never wanted to be there" (Appendix B 2). Adam gave an indication that he might have left school earlier if it weren't for the fact that he did not have a full time job and he did not wish to floor sand. Adam has been working full time in the retail trade for approximately twelve months and has been discussing the idea of moving out of the family home and living with one or more of his friends. He now appears to have decided to join the army for a trial six week period at the end of 2000.
Both his parents indicated during the interviews that the army was the preferred option from their respect. Adam's father stated that "I think it will be good for him, I don't think he's happy where he is" (Appendix B·11). Both parents indicated that they did not feel that Adam was ready to live alone, however the army would provide a secure environment whilst allowing Adam some independence.

3.3 Current Functioning

Whilst Adam has developed close relationships with his peers, it would appear that he is engaged in a process of 'identity versus role confusion' in line with Erikson's theory of the identity crisis. Erikson states that to achieve a satisfactory resolution of the Industry versus inferiority phase children need to develop and cooperate with other people. Whilst Adam has yet to determine a clear vocational goal and is currently experimenting with possibilities such as living independently and joining the army, he has developed meaningful relationships with both his immediate family and his close friends. Whilst he has said that he intends to join the army at the end of 2000, he also highlighted that there was a six week period in which he could determine if the army was going to be suitable before committing himself. Adam stated at one point in the interview that he "wanted to go out and use my time as a young person, and do it then when I'm still young" (Appendix B·3). Erikson suggested that individuals who had achieved the intimacy versus isolation stage (young adulthood) were ready to commit to close relationships. Adam clearly indicated that this was not a priority at his stage of his life.

Adam's ability to set short term goals and his understanding of the ability to control aspects of his life; including the projection that he may get married and have children in later life and that he wants to be financially sound (Appendix B·5) all indicate at least a concrete operational level of
thought from Piaget's cognitive theory and may indicate aspects of formal operational thought, although this is difficult to determine for certain on the available evidence.

The most significant determinant of Adam's level of functioning can be found in Charlotte Buhler's humanist 'theory of intentionality' in which she defined 'tentative self-determination' as a "

period of plans and initial commitments to a job, to other people and to a sense of self. The individual may adopt a career, but be prepared to change it, and become committed to another person, but also on a tentative basis. Basic personal values have also become clear by the end of this phase. (Peterson, 1996:58)

Whilst Adam's basic personal values are not fully realised, it can be demonstrated that he has developed a sense of self when he states that he wants "to be financially sound, good job, good friend" (Appendix B, p 5)

4. Conclusions

Indications from interviews with Adam and with his parents are that he is an adolescent functioning within the normally accepted range of physical development, cognitive functioning and social-emotional development. Adam has engaged in many sporting activities and is capable of creating and maintaining meaningful social relationships with his immediate and extended family and with his peers. Whilst Adam is not interested in developing an intimate (in his case) heterosexual relationship with another individual, this is not considered necessary by either his parents nor is it indicated as essential through theoretical argument of individual functioning at his age. Buhler's indicators for a successful course through life include

1. The realistic selection of a range of goals that are consistent with the individual's creative potential, personal values and possibilities.

2. An honest and hard working endeavor to meet these goals.
3. The monitoring and modification of goaled direction to suit the current life phase and its' biological and social circumstances

(Peterson, 1996 59)

Information obtained during the compilation of this developmental report suggests that Adam either has met or will meet the above criteria as part of his ongoing developmental progress during life.
Adam

What are your earliest memories?
Most likely Kindergarten, at Kindergarten we got there in the morning and we used to put up pictures on the walls about what kind of day it was, whether it was cloudy and stuff like that. What day of the week it was. We were always playing in the sandpit, building huge castles. That’s probably as far as I go back. We went to Queensland before that and I have no recollection at all of doing that, so Kindergarten would be the earliest.

What about your first day at school?
I don’t really remember the first day but I do remember the first couple of hours though and then mum left. It wasn’t that bad because about eighty percent of the kids I went to kindergarten with were in my class, so I already had friends and it only lasted till about 12 o’clock in the afternoon and we started about 9 so it wasn’t a very long day for the first term.

Was school exciting or scary or lonely, how was it for you?
Probably the first exciting, I saw my sister go through it. Lonely no, I always had friends to play with. Scary, yes because as every prep knows, grade 6’s are very big and very tall and you were very short and very little, although for the first couple of terms, you didn’t actually have your lunch and recess with them; separate times, until we were half way through the first year. But after that it was fairly scary, but if you stayed in a group you were pretty much all right. Although the kid that used to live next door was actually a diabetic; wasn’t all there. He was a brick short of a building and used to try and pick on me. After that happened for a while I started hanging around with my sister until he eventually went away. He wasn’t all there, and apart from the fact that he was in prep he was a couple of years older than everyone because he just didn’t have the mental ability. He ended up staying until grade 3 and he was very old compared to the rest of us. Then he went to a special school where they catered to his needs. More than to the general public.

Overall what was your relationship with J like at primary school?
After the first year I didn’t really see her that much as with every brother and sister after that it just went downhill.

Do you remember when S started school?
Yes I do, I remember his first day. I was in year seven at Frankston High.

So you didn’t go to school with him?
No. If I’d stayed at school every time I’d finished a certain section at school he would start the year after.

Did you have a lot of friends at Primary School?
Yes, there was heaps of us. Most of grade 6 there was a whole lot of us that played basketball and there was about 20 to 25 of us; all from grade 6 whatever season it was and yeah it was grous.

So what things did you do outside of school?
At 5 or 6 I started 10 pin bowling with J [sister] around 1999. I did that for 4 years. In grade 2 which was 1992, I played football for Langwarrin Football Club. My best friend J got me into that. I left after one season and then in grade 5 I think it was; I joined Frankston Football Club, Frankston YCW and I played a season there and then after that in grade 5 or 6 - most of year 7 I played basketball for the Baxter All Stars with my friends.

When did golf start?
Golf started in grade 4. I was nine when I started golf and I still play that to this day.

Are your memories of Primary School positive?
I had a great time at Primary School, I was relaxed, it wasn’t hard; in fact I was the biggest square in the school. All my close friends probably didn’t tease me, but people I wasn’t good friends with used to give me a lot of trouble because of maths. I was very good at maths at Primary School.

What about the transition from Primary School to Secondary School?
That was very awkward. Three of my best friends applied for Frankston High, only two got in and subsequently we weren’t placed in the same grade so first day at year 7 I was sitting in a class room with twenty-five people I had never met in my entire life before.

So you went to Frankston High because your friends were going to Frankston High, or because your parents.
wanted you to go there?
Well because my best friends were applying, it gave me the idea and Mum and Dad had also heard great things of Frankston High

Once you settled into Frankston High, how was it different to Primary School?
The homework load was a lot harder, the amount of work we did was a lot harder, I thought that Baxter Primary School didn't really prepare my for high school  A lot of the maths and staff we did I didn't really know a lot about it; on the other hand some of the other kids did, so I figured that their schools had taught them better than I had been taught

What about friends and relationships?
I met up with a couple of guys that I still see today  There was about 6 of us in year 7 that always used to hang around together  We'd play hand ball and friends was fine  There was always dickheads around but most of the friends stuck together so it was all right

Did you still see friends from Primary School?
For the first couple of months I did until I got really settled  We used to hang out at lunch time  We went down to the basketball courts and played a bit there  As time went on I started seeing less of them and more of the kids in my class

Why do you think that is?
You go to year 7 - I just didn't see enough of them  I started meeting people in my class so we eventually just separated  I saw them every now and again just to have a chat to them, but they weren't as good friends in high school as they were in primary school

When did you leave school?
I left school about the 25th May, 1999  Just under half way through year 11

Why did you leave school?
I didn't enjoy it, I never wanted to be there, I wasn't coping with the work load, I just found that I was wasting my time in the end  All I wanted to do was leave and get a full time job

Did you know what sort of work you wanted to do?
Yes  I wanted to work in retail as a salesman or a salesperson, and from a part time job that I had at the time I picked one up straight away

Do you think you wanted to get into retail because of work experience, or you probably would have go into retail anyway?
Yes and no  Growing up I always thought I would be a floor sander but I did do work experience in a retail store and I loved it and so after that work experience did help

Talk more about Floor Sanding.  What impact do you think it had on your decision to stay at school or leave school or move into retail?
A huge amount  I worked with Dad every Saturday and holidays since I was 11, and I hated every single minute of it  Never ever liked it, I always thought I would be an office worker or something that wasn't a physical thing and known all through my life as a smart ass and I've got the gift of the gab so why not put it to use

Do you think you stayed at school so you wouldn't have to Floor Sand?
Yes  I would have left earlier as long as the requirements of the job didn't require a VCE pass  If I knew I wanted to do something else in retail I would have left as soon as I could

What do you want to do now?
Now I'm probably just going to work in retail till about the end of the year then I'm going to join the Army and going off to do that

Why?
Easy way to get fit  Meet new friends, the pay if good,  I get to travel around Australia, I get to shoot guns and stuff which every child wants to do  It's just an experience, and if I start now I can retire by the time I'm 35 and take up another profession because I'm not too young to start at 35

So you think you'll stay in the Army?  Or you're not sure whether it will work out?

2
There is a six week trial that you go for so that will basically tell me I think the six weeks that you first do is just to see if your fitness is up to it but if you can get past the hard work the results are good

**What happens after the six week trial. How long are you committed for?**
I believe it's a four or five year contract that you have to give to the Army after the five years you decide whether you want to stay or not

**Is part of the reason for joining the Army that you want to move away from the family home?**
Not really I've always liked family B-B-Q's and stuff When I do eventually retire I'll settle near my family I do rely on my Mother a lot but I can get through without her I always wanted to see Australia what better way to do it than to go through the Army

**So you feel like you can cope now without your Mum or Dad on a practical level?**
Yes, on a practical level, money wise at the moment I couldn't live by myself but if I did earn a full wage and I could rent I think I could look after myself all right

**What would you do if they said you couldn't join the Army?**
I'd probably tell them to get stuffed That's my decision I'm working full time, Mum's always telling me I should do stuff by myself so if I've got my own Medicare Card Bank accounts and I'm over age it's my decision in the end

**How do they feel about that?**
They think it's fine They're a little bit worried about the physical examination at the start but after I join a Gym I should be fine but they think it's it's a great idea They love it

**Where do you see yourself in ten years time?**
I see myself in the Army Hopefully married, settled in a house working in the Army, most likely working in communications with one kid on the way The Army's always going to be a steady job I want to start having a family probably in my mid twenties There's a time in your life when you have to have fun, you don't want to be always working I want to go out and have fun I want to live my life while I'm young and while my body can cope with copious amounts of alcohol and having fun with my mates When you get old with a family life not all of it stops but most of it does Want to go out and use my time as a young person, and do it then while I'm still young After I've had enough fun and still young then I'll begin a family life

**What are your relationships with your friends like at the moment. Are they the same as they were before, do you have the same friends you had when you were at school?**
Yes We go out every weekend

**Are they still at school?**
One of them is an apprentice curator at a golf course the other one is doing year 12

**Are they heading in the same direction as you are - like the Army?**
No none of them do

**What do they think about you joining the Army?**
I've told them but they haven't given my any reactions

**What about relationships? Would you said that your sexuality is settled. Do you understand where you're at at your age?**
Yes

**When would you say that you were comfortable with that? Was there a point at which you started to think about sexuality and was it confusing for a period? Or was it always clear?**
It's always clear, always been straight forward

**Have you had any girlfriends?**
I had one for a while about one month and a half since then I haven't had a relationship

**When do you think you entered puberty - at what age?**
I think around 14, 15 I think I was about year 8
Did you have the information that you needed during that period?
Yes All through year 7 and 8 they had sex education classes It was pretty much explained So everything I thought I needed to know and know now was quite clear to me

Does that include the social emotional stuff?
I never got a lecture about anything like that from my parents

Have you ever spoken about things like that to your parents?
No Not in serious manner They know I know

Tell me about your Mum?
She 43 this year She's quite short, great sense of humour, great cook and very caring, she yells a bit but every Mum does

Describe you relationship with her and how she relates to you?
The relationship is fine I've never had a problem with anything Mum does apart from the fact that she yells a lot but every Mum does that I never get into really large fights with Mum, I think it's a general Mother and Son relationship There's nothing really different or strange about it It's pretty straightforward

What about your Dad?
I have a great relationship with my Dad I reckon We get on really well Always having a laugh We get the occasional tiff every now and then It's just different generations I suppose I think I have a great relationship with my Father

How do you think both of your parents felt about you leaving school?
Initially as every parent should and probably has done they were against it They thought that nowadays you need University degrees and that to get jobs but in the end I think they respected my decision I was of age so I think they respected my decision to leave school and from thereon in supported me

Now that you're starting to make your own decisions, is it a decision you make with your parents, or is it a decision you make by yourself and negotiate with your parents?
Anything I do now, I make the decision and if I think it's important that my parents should have a say in it, then I'll ask them otherwise I go ahead and do it When I went to Queensland I said that S and I wanted to go, I did ask my parents, I sat them down and went through thoroughly what we were doing money wise and stuff like that, anything large I take it to them, this is what I've decided do you yay or nay, but anything that's not that large and I feel that they have no right not to do it then I just go ahead and do it

Have there been examples of them saying no and you just doing it anyway?
No If a situation like that was to come up where I think I have to do it and they say don't do it, I would do it anyway but so far nothing like that has happens

Why do you think that is?
I think they're very, not easy but you get some parents who are really strict whereas Mum and Dad like me to have a little bit of freedom I don't see a lot of conflict there If there is a situation where we can't work out we usually do work something out, but they're fairly easy going, they let me have my space, I let them have theirs

How would you describe your family? How does your family compare to others?
Compared to my three best friends, our family is a shining example and should be broadcast to them every day All three of my best friends, their parents are divorced and they're either living with their Mum or their Dad or they're not living at home at all My parents are the only ones still together so compared to my friends my family is good and functional

So does that effect the way you relate to your parents?
In a way yes When I go back and stay at my friends house and he has to ring his Mum to visit her this weekend and stuff like that and then I can just go home and everyone in the family is there apart from my sister who has moved out, but there's no conflict and everyone's there It's definitely different

What's important to you?
Good health, make sure the family's OK I want to be financially sound, good job, good friend I like to have a couple of hobbies I like doing that's about all
What's not important to you?
Politics
Adam's Mother (H)

Tell me about when you found out you were pregnant with Adam
It was just after I got my license, we had been trying for six months and as soon as I got my license I found out I was pregnant, within the month

How did you feel?
Good, because we had been trying for a while and we wanted a second child

Did M feel the same way?
Yes

Tell me about the pregnancy
I only had twelve weeks of morning sickness - I was nine months with J so that was a plus but at the end I couldn't walk because she was sitting on a nerve but apart from that I was as healthy as a horse

What about the birth?
Pive and a half hours labor, I was brought on, bloody hard work but when I had Adam on my arms I was delighted

Were you early or late?
Roughly on time

Was M there?
Yes

Through the whole thing?
Yes

When did you find out it was a boy?
As soon as he was born

How did you feel about that?
Fantastic, because we already had a daughter and then we had a son, and that's what we wanted

What was Adam like as a baby?
Actually he was very good. We had a bit a problems with the milk, because he was intolerant to the lactose in the milk, I only fed him for three weeks because I had mastitis. I just didn't want to put up with anymore so I just said no more, apart from that he was a great baby, I don't remember much of him because I already had a toddler and a baby and it just sort of goes in a blur, but he was a pretty good baby

Do you think that you only fed for three weeks made a difference?
No

Did you feel any different towards him when you compare J as a baby?
No. I was happy to have a boy and I already had a girl and I always vowed I would treat my children equally

How would you describe him as a baby?
He was a very happy baby, very contented. I can't remember him crying very much except for the three weeks when we had trouble with the milk. That's the only time he really really cried. He cried nonstop for three weeks until I put him in hospital for observation. And they found out about his lactose intolerance so we put him on formula and once he was on formula he was fine

And you were the primary carer?
Yes

Who got up during the night?
I mainly got up at night because my husband was working during the day but I can't remember getting up very much for Adam at all during the night except for teething or if he was sick
Was he upset when you weren't around or when you left the room?
No, I don't think so because he always had his older sister around. He communicated very well with other kids. He never really cried.

How did he respond when you can back?
He was quite happy to see me. But he was fine.

How would you compare that with M's relationship with him as a baby?
Her followed his father around. Me and my shadow. All the children were like that with their father. Maybe because they didn't see that much of him.

What about when he went to preschool?
He loved it. I think because there was so many other kids there.

Was it difficult for you?
Yes, because he was the younger, he was born in May so he could start Kindergarten earlier. I just wished I had kept him do that year to have another year at Kinder. But he was ready because of his older sister, he was so ready for it so he started school at 4½.

Did you feel like it was the right time for him to go to Kinder?
Yes. He needed it.

Why was that?
I don't know. He was quick at talking at a very young age and socialising. I think he needed it with other kids. There comes a time when they do need to interact with other kids.

Were you happy for him to go?
I was glad he was going to Kinder, because he really needed it.

Did you need it as well?
Yes, because you get to a stage where there is so much you can occupy your children with and it doesn't satisfy them and Kinder fills in that gap.

What do you see as the important events from the time he was born, to now. What are the most significant times?
I think starting school. He had his older sister, Kindergarten School, Secondary School. At Secondary School his attitude changed towards school dramatically. He didn't apply himself like he did at State school but if you don't like something you don't apply yourself do you?

What influenced the change. Was it the school for example?
No. I think it was peer pressure. Friends, peer pressure, and what goes on, too much mucking around.

Would it have been different if he had met up with different friends?
No. I don't think so, not with Adam. Adam was very easy going and I don't think he took it too seriously.

What are your overall memories of Adam at Primary School?
Happy. We had a few upsets like when he was bullied, but his sister was always there to help him fight those battles but he learnt to defend himself very quickly. In High School he had a lot of friends he always had a lot of friends and he had a good time. He did very well actually at Primary School.

What changed in High School?
He learnt to fight back. Once he learnt that, he got very agro.

So you think his attitude changed?
He had to to survive.

How do you think he coped with others areas in High School? Academically?
With the subjects he liked he excelled in. He liked computers and maths wasn't bad, but he always hated English. I don't know why, I don't know if it's in the genes because I never liked English either. He wasn't a reader like J was and I think
he found it hard not being a reader but when he did apply himself he did very well  I think it's just the attitude towards school

**How old was he when he got to High School?**
11 nearly 12

**When do you recall him entering puberty?**
Later when he was 14 or 15

**Was that difficult for you?**
No  He seemed to breeze through life then

**So you don't think it was difficult for him either?**
It probably was, but he never said anything

**Where do you think he got the information he needed?**
I don't know  From friends, they seem to know a lot more than we did at our age  From school maybe they did sex education  I think mostly from friends  I don't know how else they would learn it from and their knowledge of things, they're a lot freer than when we were growing up

**Did things change much when he entered puberty?**
No they just went on pretty much to same, we didn't have any trouble with Adam

**Did you expect him to stay at school?**
We would hoping he would stay right through  But when he said he wanted to leave, we just said if he got a full time job he could leave because my husband and I left school at 16 so we couldn't really say anything but it is different today than it was when we left  We're hoping that in years to come he'll go back and finish year 12  But if he goes in the Army they might train him because he's got the ability to do anything he wants to do because he's very smart, very knowledgeable

**Do you think there are any reasons why he left school when he did?**
We expected him to finish year 11 but because he hated it so much he wanted to leave  You can't push a child to go to school when they won't apply themselves when you've paid all this money and if they don't apply themselves, why go?

**When he left school and started work and went to Queensland do you think he did these things at the right time in his life?**
Yes and no  I think he's a bit young to go to Queensland by himself but he went with a mate and it's opportunities that I never had and I thought he was a bit young but he's handled it very well

**If he was too young, why did he go? Do you feel you could say no you can't go?**
No  because he's at an age where he thinks he's old enough to do these sorts of things and you get to a stage where you have to trust your kids and let them go even though I though sixteen was too young to go away but he'd been working full time and I think he needed the break more than anything else

**Do you think he's the sort of person that makes these sorts of decisions and then does them, or does he negotiate with you and his father?**
I think he makes up his mind and then comes and talks to us about it to see how we feel  He was talking to his mate about it, the one he went with and once he made up his mind he come to us and asked us for permission to go and we couldn't see any reason not to let him go  I think he thinks about it and comes to us about it; he doesn't discuss it with us first, he just says "mum and dad I want to do this and this; can I do it?"  and we generally say yes

**How do you feel about him joining the army at the end of the year?**
Very happy, because I think it will do him the world of good

**In what way?**
I think discipline because he can go so far where we are concerned but whatever they've wanted to do; we've let our children do it within reason  If we agree with it  But I think it would be good because it would be a good career choice, like he'll learn something in the army while getting paid and I think it's good discipline for him

**How do you feel about him leaving home?**
Well joining the army; I feel all right, but if it was to move into a flat to be on his own or with a mate he would be still a little bit too young because he hasn't got his license he can't get around. To me he's just a little bit immature in certain ways.

So your happier about the army because you think he would probably move out if he wasn't going into the army?
Well he's talking about moving out since he was sixteen and I still think that's just a bit young because with the army they've got to do certain things; they live there on the base and everything. I think it's fine.

Describe Adam for me
Very happy go-lucky carefree person.

Where is he emotionally at the moment with regards to his family and his friends?
Adam is a person that gets on well with anybody I think. He's got what I call a gift of the gab and if you've got that, you fairly well get on with anybody. He's very confident. It all depends; some things he is and some things he isn't but once he gets going he gets more confident.

What about girlfriends?
He doesn't talk much about girlfriends; I know he's had one, I've met her briefly but it didn't last very long. I don't know.

Why do you think girlfriends aren't necessarily in the picture yet?
He's having too much of a good time on his own; enjoying life.

Talk about your relationship with him
Like I said before, Adam's very easy to get on with and on the whole we get on really well. The only beef we have is when we don't tidy up his room. That to me is just being lazy but that's the only conflict we really have. We have a few arguments, you know, about how loud the music is and everything else but I think that's just part and parcel of growing up. Apart from that we get on really well.

Have there been any times when there has been major conflict or crisis?
No, not really because he's so easy going. Generally we can talk very easily to Adam and he can talk very easily to us and think that's why. There hasn't been any major major conflicts. When he went to go away [Queensland] I was a bit worried because he seemed so young, but the ten days he was away he handled it very well. I think he's matured since he started working; a little bit and I think he's handling that sort of think very well.

What about his relationship with M?
Very good, very good terms. They get on very well. They joke a lot together because Adam can talk to us quite easily because he's an easy person to talk to. I think that's why they get on well.

What's different about your relationship with Adam compared to your other children?
Because he can laugh at himself and he can make jokes. We can laugh with him. Because he can talk - he's a people person and he gets on well with most people.

Do you think he matured in a different to J other than being a male obviously?
Yes I think he has. He's still got a lot more growing up to do because he hasn't experienced life on his own away from us as a family. But he is a complete different kettle of fish to J. It's been easier with him than it has with J. Maybe because he's seen what we've gone through with J - I don't know. But he has been a lot easier to handle.

Where do you see him in ten years time?
Hopefully he'll still be in the army and having a good career.

Do you see him getting married and having kids at some stage?
Yes, hopefully. I hope whatever he does, he's happy with what he does. That's the main thing - that he's happy with the career that he chooses. I think that's all you wish for - that your kids are happy in what they're doing.
Adam's Father (M)

Tell me about how you felt when H told you she was pregnant with Adam?
I was rapt I was wanted four [kids] so when we found out H was pregnant with the second it was great

How was the pregnancy?
Uncomplicated, pretty straightforward A bit more relaxed because it was the second one

Were you there for the birth?
For me it was easier, it wasn’t much easier for H

What are your memories of the first few weeks when Adam came home?
It was easier than when J was born J was difficult; Adam wasn’t He was fairly easy going - he was a much more relaxed kid even when he was a baby

No problems with feeding or colic or things like that?
Not that I remember, no

In the first year or so, do you remember him being content, did he cry when you or H weren’t there? Could either of you leave the room and he was happy?
Your testing my memory here; he was completely different to J in that I guess because J was our first we were more highly strung than when Adam was born We were more relaxed and I think he was too, but they’re different personalities - he was a much more relaxed kid - you could leave him by himself

Do you remember when he went to Kindy?
No

What about school?
I remember him going to preschool I went to kinder with him a few times mainly on parent teacher nights

When he first went to school, was it difficult for him - did he handle it easily?
I think he handled pretty easily because he’s a pretty easy going kid He had quite a few friends from kinder that he went with

Was it difficult for H when he went to school?
I don’t think so because at that stage she thought it was her last one I guess she was psyching herself up to miss him

When he started school do you remember Adam and J having much to do with each other at school?
I didn’t know at the time but I believe J used to look out for him She used to step in when other kids picked on Adam which I found out later on

What are your memories overall of primary school, was it easy or difficult?
It was pretty easy for him, he doesn’t seem to worry about too much Adam

Lots of friends?
Lots of friends yep, always coming ’round always ringing

What was the difference between primary and secondary school? Did things change when he went to secondary school? Was it a major transition?
Adam didn’t cope with secondary school all that well The fact that he had to study meant that he couldn’t cruise through secondary school He didn’t cope well with it

Why do you think that is?
He’s not a motivated person

Is that because he’s better at social relationships rather than academic stuff?
I think it’s a motivation thing
Was it difficult from day one or were the first couple of years easier?
It got harder for him as he went on. The first year was pretty easy. Year nine and ten got really hard because that's when the discipline came in and I don't think Adam had it.

How did you feel when he said he wanted to leave school?
I didn't want him to, I wanted him to stay on. But then I would have been surprised if he had stayed on. I didn't think he would.

What were your expectations when you found out he was leaving school? Did you expect him to start work full time? Did you feel that he had a direction to go in or goals to achieve?
I think he was floating a bit - still is. I don't think he knows yet what he wants to do. But I mean he wasn't allowed to leave until he had a full time job - so he got one.

So that was a stipulation at the time - that he wasn't allowed to leave until he had a job?
He couldn't leave unless he had a job.

Was that a stipulation made by just you or by H and you?
By both of us.

How do you feel about him joining the army?
I think it will be good for him, I don't think he's happy where he is.

What do you think he will get out of it, why will it be good for him?
Because he lacks discipline so I think it will be good for him for at least a couple of years. Maybe not as a career thing for him but I think it will teach him to be more disciplined.

Do you remember when he first entered puberty?
No.

Was there an age when you think things started to change?
Maybe around year nine things started to change a bit - but it wasn't any dramatic change, no.

Would that be around 14 or 15?
He would have been about 14 I guess.

Would you say that he has a lot of friends and that they are close relationships?
He has four or five close friends and yes they are all close.

From school?
From school, from kindergarten, he still has friends from kindergarten.

What about girlfriends?
He's had a couple of minor relationships with girlfriends, not too serious I don' think.

Would you expect him to have a close relationship with a girl now?
No that would be later.

What do you expect him to achieve in the next few years?
I think he'll drift for a few years. I don't think he knows what he wants to do yet. I think he's probably be in his early twenties before he knows what he wants.

Describe Adam for me.
He's easy to get along with. He's got a good personality. He can be very frustrating; frustrating in that he has no discipline. Whereas I do, I think.

Do you think he has less discipline than you had at your age?
Yes, a lot less.

How would you describe his relationship with H?
Very close, they're very similar

**How would you describe his relationship with you?**
We're close but we're different. We get on really well

**Would you say that he was close to his brother and sister?**
He's close with S. They muck around a lot together. It's probably a normal sibling relationship with J.

**Are there any periods when you look back at raising Adam that you see as turning points or crisis or significant times in his life?**
I don't think Adam's had any major shifts or problems in his life.

**Are there any other people besides family and close friends that you think he has significant relationships with?**
He's close to his family and he has a close friend, S and they would talk four or five times a week, meet each other and go out every weekend. He'd be probably his closest friend.

**When he went to Brisbane, did you want him to go? Did you feel he was old enough to go to Brisbane?**
Yes I did.

**What made you think that he was ready?**
He's nearly seventeen, I thought he needed the experience - get away from mum and dad.

**If you'd said that he couldn't go, do you think he would have gone anyway?**
No, he wouldn't have.

**Why do you think that is?**
I think he respects what I say. We argue a bit, but if I'd said he's not going I don't think he would have gone.

**Would you say that H felt the same way or does she have a different opinion as to whether he's ready to do things?**
I think she's more protective of him. I don't think she really wanted him to go. I think she was afraid of what he'd get up to when he got up there.

**What's different about Adam when you look at your other children?**
The other two are exactly like me and Adam is like his mother, same personality.

**So you would say that they are more focussed?**
They're more focussed, they know what they want, whereas Adam tends not to; he drifts a bit. They're completely different.
Appendix C: References

Peterson, Candida (1996), Looking Forward Through the Life Span, Prentice Hall Pty Ltd, Sydney
mother was, and remains as, the primary carer for all children although she has been working part time for a number of years to supplement the family income. Adam's father is a partner in a family business and works full time including Saturdays and the occasional Sunday. Adam does not work in the family business and this was raised as an issue during the interviews, the significance of which will be discussed later.

Figure 1: Genogram
To whom it may concern,

I, David Scoble, authorise Monash University and any representatives therein to use my Social Work "Human Development" (SWK 3130) developmental report for the Social Work Coursebook

All names and addresses have been changed within the report and the use of the report has been consented to by the subject of the report (known as Adam) and by his family

David Scoble