



National Centre of Excellence
for Complex Trauma

LEEANNE (*case scenario involving dissociation*)

Leeanne is a 28 year-old woman who arrives with her husband, Rob. She has seen a series of therapists, 'none of who were any good'.

The letter from her GP includes a letter from the treating psychiatrist in the acute unit in the nearby public hospital. It states that Leeanne grew up in a violent home and that her father left when she was three. She had lived with her mother after that but had been sexually abused by different 'boyfriends' of her mother's till her mother threw her out of the house after her first 'overdose' at the age of 16.

She left school and lived on the streets, trading sex for drugs and food, until she met her husband Rob.

Leeanne married Rob at 22 but was very up and down in her moods. Sometimes during sex she would start screaming and Rob wouldn't know what to do. Soon she avoided sex altogether. She started having flashbacks of being sexually abused and then became very depressed. She would cut herself to relieve the pressure and stop the voices in her head. Leeanne also lost time and sometimes would find herself with shopping she hadn't bought or new clothes which weren't hers. Leeanne would get lost in new places without knowing how she got there.

Leeanne had been given a diagnosis of Borderline Personality Disorder with suicidality.

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patron

Thomas Keneally AO

ABN 49 072 260 005

ambassadors

Jane Caro

Rose Parker

Christine Foster

Detective Chief Inspector Peter Fox

blue knot helpline 1300 657 380

education & training

information & resources

advocacy & health promotion

other services

contact

T 02 8920 3611

E admin@blueknot.org.au

W blueknot.org.au

PO Box 597 Milsons Point NSW 1565