

Danielle - Assessment

VOICEOVER

Michael Gilmour, a Clinical nurse has been booked to see Danielle Brown an 18 year old TAFE student following an intake phone call being received from Danielle's mother, Mary Brown, two days ago.

Michael reads the intake form prior to assessing Danielle and notes the following points about Danielle:

- She has rarely left her room over last couple of weeks.
- She has stopped attending TAFE for the last month.
- She has thrown her mobile away a couple of weeks ago as she was scared of the messages she was getting from it.
- She is now rarely speaking to her family, or anyone else.
- Unusually, she is no longer joining with the family for meals.
- She has not had meals that she did not prepare, although it did seem she was getting up in the middle of the night to get some food.
- She has seen her local doctor who suggested she attend the mental health service for assessment.

Michael realises it will be important to begin the assessment by establishing rapport and generally asking how Danielle has been finding things over the last few weeks.

After starting the interview, Michael notes that Danielle is responding to him although slowly and with minimal answers.

Before beginning to formally question Danielle by conducting a Mental State Examination and completion of the assessment document more generally, Michael needs to check whether Danielle has the capacity to consent to this assessment or not. That is whether she understands the reasons for the assessment and the likely consequences of the assessment.

FILM

Nurse: Right Danielle, thanks for that information, I now I want to ask you some questions to see if you have understood what we have spoken about.

Danielle: *[Danielle - Long pause and little eye contact]*

Nurse: Danielle it is important for me to know how much you are taking in.

Danielle: *[Danielle looks at nurse and appears anxious]*

Nurse: I have already asked you about your TAFE course, your family and friends, and that there has been a lot happening at the moment. I also mentioned that your family is really concerned because you spend lots of time in your room. Some of these questions may be difficult for you, however we need to ask these questions so that we can understand that you know what's going on.

Danielle: *[Danielle nods]*

Nurse: So we can ask you some questions?

Danielle: *[Danielle - Long pause, looks at nurse, hands twisting...]*

Danielle: You want to talk to me to see if anything is wrong with my thoughts *[Nurse – Nods]* and see if they can be fixed by medication or help. And you have spoken to my family about what has been happening and now you want to speak to me about it.

Nurse: That's right Danielle

Danielle: OK then, ask questions.