

Exercise 3.2 Scenario 1. Greg

Background information on Motor Neurone Disease (MND) “is the name given to a group of diseases in which motor neurones progressively die. Motor neurones are nerve cells that control the movement of voluntary muscles, that is, muscles that are under conscious control. These include all the muscles of the arms, legs, back and neck and of speech, swallowing and breathing. With no nerves to activate them, muscles gradually weaken and waste, and paralysis ensues. Weakness is often seen first in the hands or feet, or the first sign may be swallowing difficulty or slurred speech.” Sensation and intellectual functioning are not affected. The disease is rapidly progressive with an average life expectancy of 2-5 years after diagnosis. Ref Motor Neurone Disease Fact Sheet http://www.mndaust.asn.au/Get-informed/Information-resources/Facts_about_MND/MND-Week-background-fact-sheet-2013.aspx

Greg is 57 years old and until his recent diagnosis of Motor Neurone Disease worked as a site manager for a construction company. He is married to Jane who works 3 days a week as a primary school teacher. They have 2 children: a daughter who is 30 and a single working mum to 2 primary school age children, and an unmarried 32 year old son who lives in Sydney as an accountant in a large global firm. Jane usually provides assistance in childcare for her daughter on her days off and during school holidays. Greg has been on sick leave but will have to officially resign soon. He doesn't have any form of income protection or disability insurance; however he does have life insurance. They own their home.

How could you as an informed friend support Greg (and Jane) across the spectrum of social issues.