

My name: Malloy

My town: Adelaide, South Australia

My experiences of COVID10

Hello my name is Malloy and I'm 85. When we first heard about Covid I thought it was awful. It reminded me of the second world war. People were dying, and we were scared then too. I watch the news all day long – I think the situation in Europe and America is shocking and I want to say to all those who are struggling – hang in there, reach out and talk to people; we care about what is happening to you.

Being in lockdown wasn't that different for me to how things are anyway. I only go out to social things – they were all cancelled. I missed them, but that was okay. I missed not being able to go to mass, and even now that's still restricted. I pray for $\frac{3}{4}$ of an hour every day.

I was worried about Coronavirus because I was managing ok on my own and was able to get on and off buses and do my shopping. And then with Covid I couldn't get around so much. I couldn't go to my exercise classes and so my balance was affected, and I stiffened up. I couldn't bend down or move as well. They sent me exercises to do at home, but I was a bit willy, nilly with them. I was a bit naughty.

One of the good things was that my friend Maria was close and we looked out for each other. That was a huge relief. I'm sorry it's difficult for so many people still.

My act of Intersectional Kindness

The act of kindness I want to talk about is the new Bill to stop people doing 'conversion therapy' on gay and lesbian people. I'm glad I am alive to see that. When I was young the psychiatrist told me that that I was mentally sick because I am a lesbian. He told me that I wouldn't be happy unless I was cured of my homosexuality and became heterosexual. He also told me that God wouldn't love me because I was a lesbian. So he tried to cure me. They gave me psychotherapy, pin prick therapy, shock therapy and LSD therapy. None of it worked.

It has taken me a life time to get to where I am today. I am as contented and as peaceful as I have ever been. I am proud to be a lesbian. I know that God loves me. My relationship with God is good. I pray every day. My faith is an important part of my life.

So now in my 80s I see the procedures are happening to remove the laws that say its ok to try to 'cure' gay and lesbian people. I think that is an act of kindness because it will help a lot of people not get bogged down in what I got bogged down in. It will mean that people will learn to accept their sexuality and be happy. I think that is what God would want. Definitely.