

KINDNESS

The older I get the more I appreciate kindness given and received in my life.

My father was a very kind man who served in the Navy as a dentist. Following his discharge from naval duties he worked in the Children's Dental Hospital and private practise and he was a Legacy father, which we as children did not know much about.

Dr. Noble, the Minister for Health in Queensland, offered me a job in his private office. It was a very caring place to work. He was very available to his constituents and held deputations, which we used to take down in shorthand and then write up the reports for him. I think the care he had for people with problems helped me take a pride in my work and want to help people too.

Thalidomide had been given to mothers-to-be with severe morning sickness in pregnancy but too late was found to cause abnormalities in new-borns. He was very available to parents with problems following taking the drug. It was withdrawn from use then but was later found to be useful for some cancers some years later. It was a pity so many had to suffer such hardships at the time.

Dr. Noble died while I was working for him and it was a surprise to me, when I moved to the Texas area that the new hospital was to be called the Honourable H.W. Noble Hospital, so whenever I go to Texas I have a reminder of that lovely man and the help he gave to people in need. My three sons were born in the old maternity wing, which no longer exists.

In the 57 years since I moved to the Texas/Inverell area I feel the kindness and compassion, given and taken, has been a boost for me in everyday life. Upon marriage I embarked on unchartered waters and I feel that the community work I took part in has helped me meet like-minded people and helped to put me in touch with people in need. In recent years the laws have changed with regard to volunteering and I believe this has not been for the better.

The corona virus and its limitations has created a new group of lonely people who cannot go to their normal activities and have become very insulated. These people need contact so if you know someone in this situation, check on them regularly to see how they are.

Recently my siblings and I had a get together with all the offspring – what a privilege it was to be the matriarch of such a great group and to be thanked by them for the input I had in their upbringing even if it was only occasionally.

Barb Coventry.

Texas