

James family: 2.30minute segment transcript

Karen: My father's name is Lesley John Hicks. He went missing in March 2008 and at the time he disappeared he was 81 years old.

Cassandra: There is no way that we would expect to have been as real as it was.

Pop was just the strongest old man I've ever met. As the days went on it just kind of hit home that it was really serious after we checked everywhere.

[Older people with dementia or memory loss are at risk of going missing]

Karen: He had very mild dementia, that he would just repeat a story that he'd already told you but not continually or anything you know.

For the first three weeks I didn't leave the home, I didn't leave the house because I kept thinking you know he was going to ring.

It's a five –ten minute walk from the retirement village to here. For him to go missing something's happened out of his control.

The retirement village have been really good. They have kept the room for him because they said that he is not getting the services so they are not charging him.

The staff when you go there they just hug you and cry. You know they really liked him and he really loved them because they were very good to him.

Cassandra: It's not like it's a time of day or a picture or a memento that reminds you of the person that's gone missing. It's always there. You're always thinking about it.

Karen: The longer it goes on I think the chances of him being ok get slimmer but I still have some hope, and I think I need to, to go on.

Cassandra: It's hardest that we can't say goodbye, have a funeral. Give pop what he deserved.

Just not knowing is the hardest thing yeah.

[Not knowing is like living in darkness]

Karen:

I worry the most when it rains because I don't want him out in the rain and that's the darkest time for me.

National Missing Persons Week: 2 – 8 August

You can help by keeping an eye out.

www.australia.gov.au/missingpersons

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