

When Covid-19 hit, I was relieved I was home. I had just spent six months abroad and had only just made it back into the country. The idea of the virus was still novel to most Australians as it had not taken off like it did in China. I was able to get back to my family and share some fond memories of my travel. It felt like the next morning when I woke up to mass panic. Where's all the dunny roll gone? Covid had hit Australia and was starting to get a hold of people. We were thrown into a dark, uncertain time and went into isolation.

It started off at home. We didn't leave the house unless we needed supplies. Mum went through a fair bit of floor cleaner... and wall cleaner... and roof cleaner... and everything else cleaner. I'm almost certain we were getting drunk off the fumes of the chemicals. If you think you know your family well, try spending a month locked in a confined space with them - you'll come to learn a lot more about them! I learned that my dad has a unique ability to tune absolutely everyone out. I also learned that my mum doesn't like that my dad can do that. I learned some interesting new words that I was told I couldn't repeat at work. I learned a lot about myself as well. I learned that I might not be the angel I thought I was. And I most certainly do not have the patience I often bragged about to employers. There's something that your family can do to get on your nerves that others just can't, isn't there?

With something more positive, I learned just how supportive my partner is. In all the fighting with mum and dad, he never raised his voice and always made sure I didn't do something stupid - like putting muddy handprints all over mum's freshly cleaned wall. Even in lockdown, I had managed to break my foot. My partner picked up most of my chores without a single complaint. I felt really bad but whenever I tried to help, he'd tell me to go back to bed and if he saw

me on my foot again, he would break the other so I would have to rest. But anyone who knows me knows that I'm stubborn - I get that from my mum. In the five minutes it took my partner to hang the washing out, I had reorganised the bedroom and given it a quick clean. He wasn't too happy with me.

With all that's said and done, my family is still my family and I love them no matter what. We eventually went back to work and escaped the house - but some could argue we are still in isolation. With borders closed, we are. We're still in isolation from the rest of Australia (especially Victoria) until we know that it's safe. Hopefully that day will come sooner rather than later.