

Remembering disability institutions



Easy Read

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About this information



Some of the information you are about to read might make you feel sad or angry.



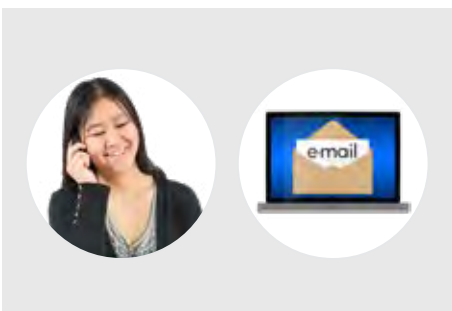
You might want to read it together with someone you trust.



You might want to talk to someone after about how you are feeling.



We can help you find a counsellor or someone to talk to.



You can

- Call us on **1800 424 065**
- Send an email to **info@cid.org.au**

About disability institutions



Many people with intellectual disability used to live in disability institutions.



Disability institutions are big places where many people with disability live together.



People with intellectual disability were often treated badly in disability institutions.



Australia started to close disability institutions 30 years ago.



People moved from disability institutions to other housing like group homes.



Some closed disability institutions are now used as

- Hospitals
- Universities
- Hotels.



Many people do not know much about disability institutions.



They do not know about the bad things that happened there.

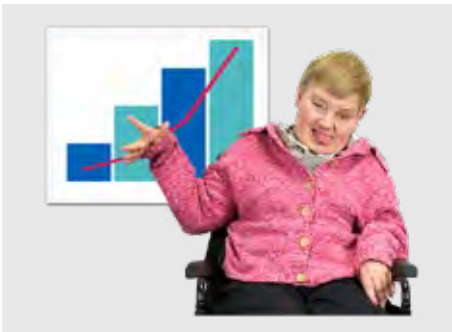


We think it is important to talk about what happened in disability institutions.

About this research



This research is about people with disability having a say on what happens with disability institutions.



Research means to find out more about a topic.



University of Technology Sydney and Council for Intellectual Disability did the research together.



We call them **UTS** and **CID** for short.

They paid for the research together.

What we wanted to find out



We wanted to know what people with disability think should happen with disability institutions.



The Government did not ask people with disability what to do with disability institutions.



We wanted to hear what a good way is to use the buildings and the land.



We wanted to hear what the community should know about disability institutions.



We wanted to know how we should remember disability institutions.

What we did

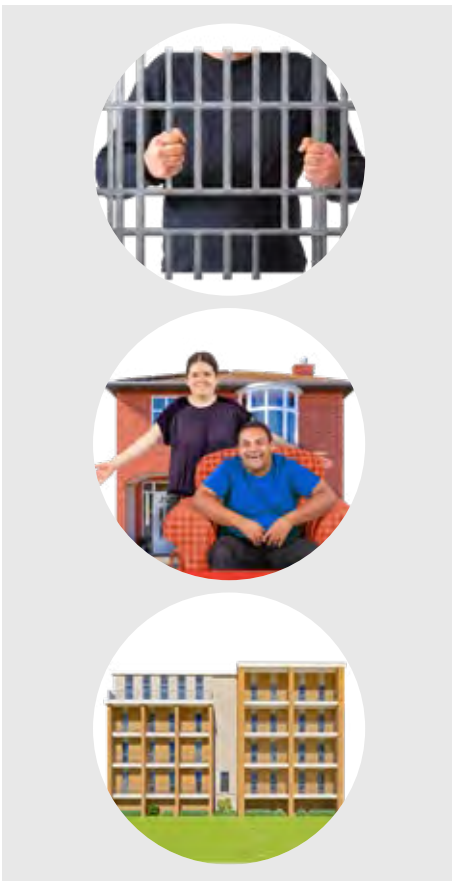


We did 3 focus groups and 1 interview.

A **focus group** is a group of people who talk about a topic.



We did not talk to anyone who had lived in a big disability institution.

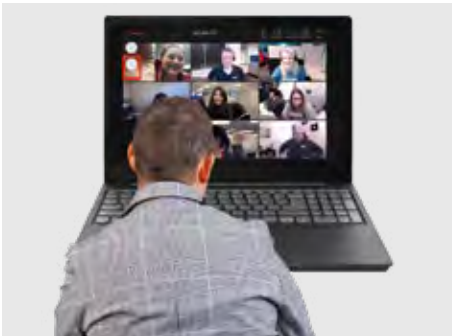


We talked to people who

- Have lived in other institutions like group homes or prisons
- Had friends who lived in disability institutions
- Grew up when there were many disability institutions.



We did 1 focus group in person.



We did 2 focus groups and 1 interview online.



We talked about

1. What should people know about disability institutions?
2. How can we share this information?
3. How should people remember disability institutions?



We always had a counsellor there for support.

What we learnt



We learnt many things from the people we talked to.



They said that it is important to share what happened in disability institutions.



This might help change the way the community treats people with disability.



It is important to remember the people who lived and died in disability institutions.



Some people with intellectual disability who lived in disability institutions spoke up about them.

These people are called **self-advocates**.



Their work helped to close disability institutions.



Other people with intellectual disability can learn from the work of self-advocates.



It might help them speak up about things that are not right.



People with intellectual disability want to have a say in decisions about disability institutions.

What the Government and services must do

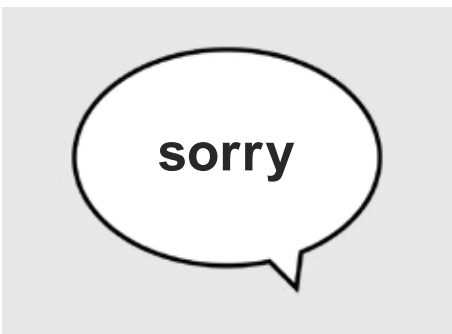


Disability services and Governments must learn from what happened in disability institutions.



They must make sure what happened in disability institutions does not happen in places like

- Group homes
- Prisons.



The Government needs to say sorry for what happened in disability institutions.

Teaching about disability institutions

There are 4 groups that should learn the most about disability institutions

1. School children



2. Young people with disability



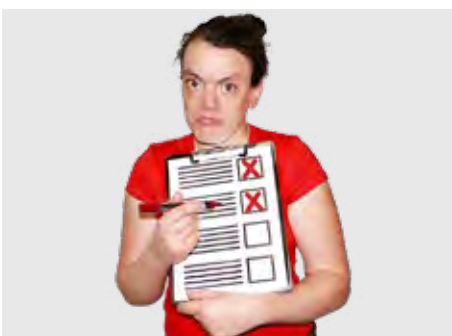
3. Government



4. Support workers in group homes



These groups should learn about the bad things that happened in disability institutions.





They should learn about the work of self-advocates in closing disability institutions.



They need to know that bad things can still happen today.



Bad things can still happen in places like group homes or prisons.



We must teach these groups about

- Respect for other people
- The rights of people with intellectual disability.

Some ideas about how we could teach them



- Going into schools



- Info sessions at workplaces



- Speaking at conferences and expos.

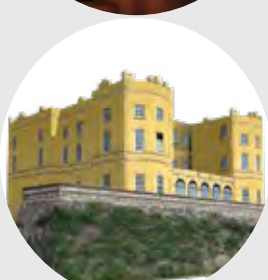
Some ways we can share information are



- On the internet



- At museums



- At the old disability institutions.



The way we teach about disability institutions must be safe and respect everyone.



It must be in a way everyone can understand like Easy Read.



People with intellectual disability must be part of teaching about disability institutions.

What happens next



These are some of the things we want to do.



We want to talk to people with intellectual disability who lived in disability institutions.



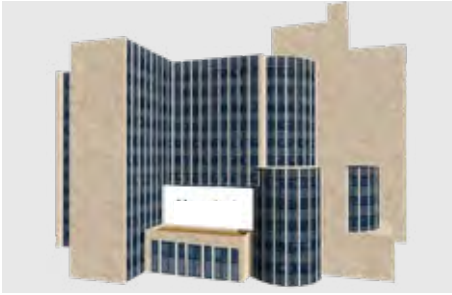
We want to ask them what they want people to know about disability institutions.



We want to make information about disability institutions and what happened there.



This information will have stories from people with intellectual disability who lived there.



We want to have a say about what happens to disability institutions that still need to close.



We want to talk to people from the area about what should happen with the buildings and land.



This might be the local Council or advocacy organisations.



We want to look into what other countries did with their disability institutions to get some ideas.

Who did the research



The people who made this research were

- Linda Steele and Phillippa Carenmolla from UTS
- Leanne Dowse from the University of NSW
- Robert Strike and Rachel Spencer from CID
- Laura Naing and Jack Kelly from CID



People with Disability Australia also helped with the research.

PWDA for short.

More Information



To find out more

- Call CID on 1800 424 065
- Send an Email to CID at info@cid.org.au
- Send an email to Linda at Linda.Steele@uts.edu.au
- Send an email to Phillipa at Phillippa.Carnemolla@uts.edu.au

Council for Intellectual Disability made this document Easy Read. **CID** for short.
You need to ask CID if you want to use any pictures in this document.
You can contact CID at **business@cid.org.au**.