



Council for
Intellectual Disability



What are disability institutions



Easy Read

www.cid.org.au

About this information



The organisations that made this information are

- NSW Council for Intellectual Disability

- University of Technology Sydney.



This information is about **disability institutions**.



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



We talked to lots of **self advocates** with intellectual disability to make this information.



Self advocates are people with disability who speak up for their rights.



They shared their ideas and told us their stories.



It can be hard to talk about disability institutions.



You can ask for support to read this information.

What are disability institutions



Disability institutions were big places with lots of rooms.



Lots of people with disability lived in disability institutions.



A lot of bad things happened in the disability institutions.

Some big disability institutions in NSW were



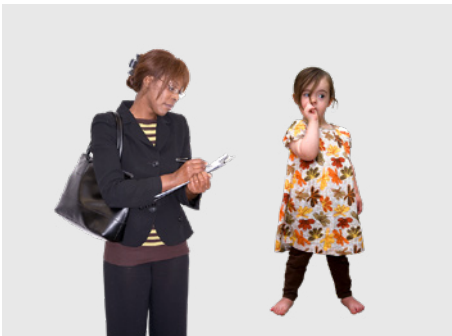
- Rydalmere Centre



- Stockton Centre.



Lots of people were put into disability institutions when they were children.



Sometimes the government put children with disability into disability institutions.

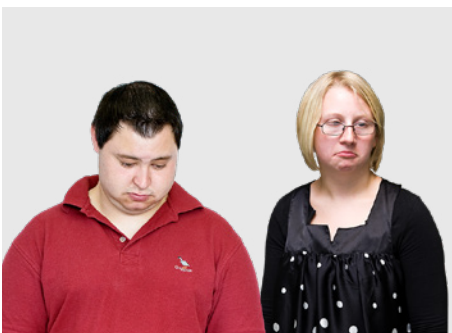


Sometimes parents put their children into disability institutions.



Parents might have done this because

- They did not know how to care for them
- Or the government told them they had to.



Some people were already adults when they went into a disability institution.

People in disability institutions were often



- Not allowed to go into the community



- Not given choices



- Locked up



- Treated in a bad way.



Lots of people with disability had **abuse** happen to them in the disability institutions.



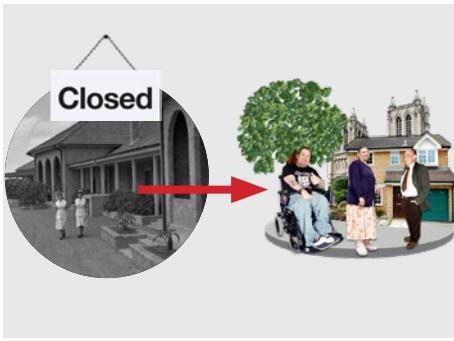
Abuse is when someone treats you very bad.



People with disability did not get their rights in disability institutions.



The big disability institutions are closed now.



People with disability moved into the community when disability institutions closed.



This was called **deinstitutionalisation**.



But it took a long time for disability institutions to close in NSW.



Disability self advocates started speaking up about disability institutions in the 1970s.

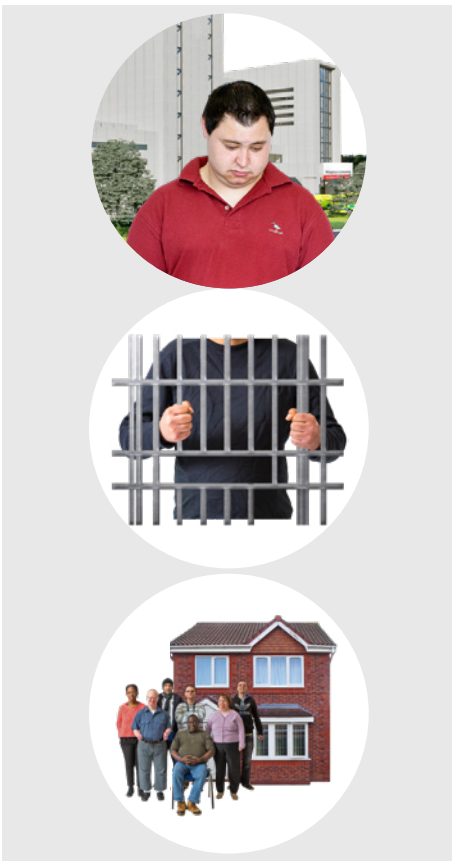


The last disability institutions in NSW only closed in the last few years.

Types of institutions



There are different types of institutions that are still open.

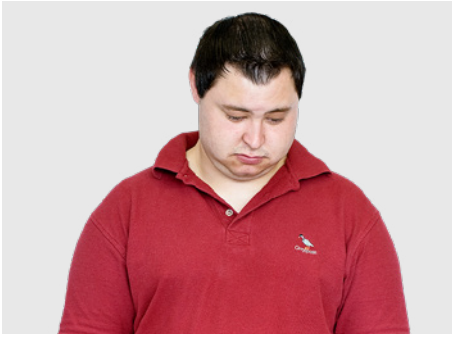


Institutions that are still open can be places like

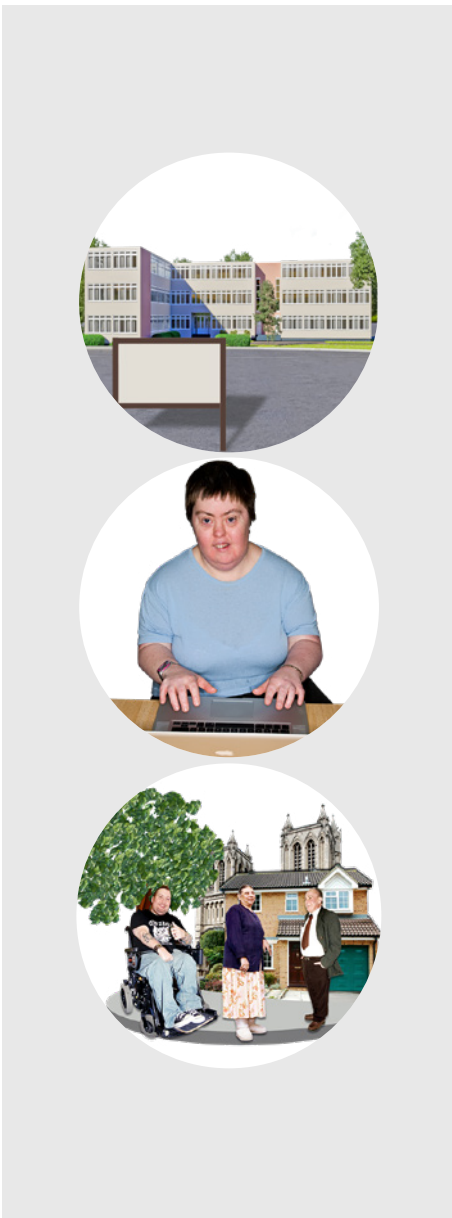
- Mental health hospitals
- Jails
- Group homes.



A lot of the self advocates we talked to had been in these kind of places.



A lot of bad things still happen to people with disability in these places.



Self advocates also told us they have been treated badly in

- School
- Jobs
- The community.

People with disability have rights



People with disability have the right to live free and safe from abuse.



People with disability have the right to choose where they live.



We have to keep speaking up for the rights of people with disability.

Council for Intellectual Disability made this document Easy Read. **CID** for short. Email CID at business@cid.org.au if you want to use any of the pictures.