

De-institutionalisation and housing: the perspective of people who have moved into the community and the staff who work with them

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The process of de-institutionalisation in Queensland has now been happening for several years. This has meant that large numbers of people who previously resided in hospital type settings are now living in their own homes in the community. The ongoing adherence to this philosophy means that many more individuals will be relocated to the community in the next ten years. While governments are developing strategic plans to handle this increased demand for social housing, it is also important to review the actual impacts at a smaller or individual level. This paper intends to provide a snapshot of some of the realities for people. It will look at the good, the bad, the fears, the hopes of a group of people who have moved into the community and the staff who work with them. Through this process we hope to assist those interested in the provision of housing to formulate clearer understandings of what factors harm and which help in individual and community lives.

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