

# Lobbying Toolkit

## Case Study: Shut in



**Booklet**

**7**

# Shut In Case Study



## Shut In Campaign

Shut In is a campaign that was started by two self advocacy groups: Reinforce and VALID.

In this booklet we are going to show you the steps that the Shut In campaign used to lobby.

### 1. What is the Issue?

When you want to lobby to change things the first step is to decide exactly what the issue is and the changes you want to happen.

**Shut In Issue:** People with intellectual disabilities are still living in institutions in Victoria and Australia.

**Changes:** The Shut In campaign wants all institutions to close and all the people living in them to move into houses in the community.

### 2. Is it a good issue?

The questions that Shut In asked before choosing the issue were:

- Is it something that should change?  
The answer was yes!!!! Many people still live in institutions and they are not nice places to live.
- Is it a human rights issue?  
Yes! all people have the right to full community inclusion. Institutions exclude people from the community.



# Shut In Case Study



## 4. What was the first step?

VALID and Reinforce were partners in the Shut In campaign. They set up a 'working party' to meet each month. They talked to other groups who could help them and asked them to join the working party. The groups that joined were:

- AMIDA (Action for More Independence & Dignity in Accommodation)
- SARU (the Self Advocacy Resource Unit)
- AFDO (Australian Federation of Disability Organisations)
- People who had lived in institutions



## 5. Who can make the changes?

The next step in lobbying is to find out the people that have the power to make the changes you want and to ask to meet with them.

The Shut In working party met and wrote down a list of people that had the power to make the decision to close institutions. This included:

- The Minister for the Department of Human Services in Victoria
- Local State Government of Victoria Members of Parliament
- Government workers
- Boards and tribunals

# Shut In Case Study



## 6. Meeting with people who can make the changes.

It is a good idea when you go to a meeting to have a list of things you want to talk about. The Shut In campaign met with the former Minister for Human Services. They had a list of things to talk about including:

- The number of institutions still in Victoria
- Information about how people's lives had improved since moving out of an institution
- Why they did not agree with people who thought the institutions should stay open
- The stories of the people who had lived in institutions
- Why institutions deny people their human rights
- The need for people to live in the community in good houses



## 7. Lobbying

So you have met with people who can change things but nothing is happening. Now you need to do more lobbying activities to remind people in power about the issue and make sure they do not forget about the issue.

Some of the lobbying Shut In did included:

- Setting up a website and a Facebook page
- Filming people's stories
- Speaking at Conferences
- Asking people to spread the word



**Don't forget: if they can do it so can you!!!!!! Good Luck**