to occur behind the closed doors and high fences of institutions. Nothing has moved me so much as seeing the unrestrained, inconsolable grief of a man who asked me what it was that he did wrong, to	are doctors, lawyers, Journalists, movers and shakers. In other words friends in high places. Perhaps most welcome of all was the unexpected sense of safety and security he	are doctors, Iawy shakers. In other v places. Perhaps most wel unexpected sense	Like many others who were living in institutions because there were simply no other options, my friend moved out and made a home for himself with the support of family, friends, and newly	moving. The leader of the group shuffled in as I shuffled out to make room. She loudly exclaimed about the 'lovely' room and said the fatal words ''l don't know why you want to
		have lifelong friends who	OUT TOMORROW!" a disability should live.	"GOOD YOU CAN HAVE IT I'M MOVING OUT TOMORROW!"
"Nothing has moved me so much as seeing the unrestrained, inconsolable grief of a man who asked me what it was that he did wrong, to be moved to an institution six hundred miles away from his family home where he had lived as part of a loving family for forty years"	"Nothing has move inconsolable grief of a r wrong, to be moved to a his family home wher	with a disability who employed students as support workers now	vulnerable people, and on the other there are those who are struggling to assert their legitimate rights to have a regular life as part of their community. This tension is perhaps most obvious in the continuing passionate discussions about where and how people with	ambitious with the expectations, some new faces appeared at the door. It was a group of concerned looking people arriving to say farewell well not really. We all knew that it was a last ditch effort to talk him out of
		Some people	concern is for the safety and security of	
of the routine humiliations, and regular incidents of abuse and neglect which continue	far beyond the work role, and endured long after the working relationship had ceased.	far beyond the ward far beyond the ward the ward the second second second second second second second second se	concerns involving people with a disability. On one hand there are those whose primary	a friend over for coffee or a meal, having a garden, and maybe even having a pet cat.
sorrow, or abiding anger at this deeply flawed thinking. Such thinking ignores the existence	and found that genuine reciprocal friendships developed which more often than not, went	and found that go developed which	I reflected yet again on the tension which always seems to exist between two genuine	like sleeping in on the weekend, staying up late at night, eating between meals, having
unknown dangers of ordinary community living. Many of those who live or have once lived in institutional places will remember	coffee break with him. He found that loyalty, accountability and respect were re-oriented to him rather than to the employing agency.	coffee break with accountability an to him rather that		"I don't know why you want to leave here. I'd be happy to live in a room like this!"
) -	
Those who are planning for the future are often convinced that a choice between group home or living in a real home means choosing either the safety, security and supervision of an institutional model, or the risk taking and	Like others he found that relationships with those who were paid to support him were very different from his time with workers in the institution. He found that without a staff room to go to, his support workers would have their	Like others he for those who were r different from his institution. He fou to go to, his supp	his communication board. This time however he took his time, taking great care to ensure that his response was clearly understood. "GOOD YOU CAN HAVE IT I'M MOVING OUT TOMORROW!"	cal ut
he had ever felt while living in the institution.	someone who shared his love of gardening.	someone who sh	was always so quick to spell out his words on	spend in the institution he had endured for
felt safer than he had since he had left the family home years ago, and certainly safer than	offer advice and assistance without having to be paid, and to his great delight he found	offer advice and a to be paid, and to	I will never forget the next few moments. He	5
be protected by the walls and rules of institutional life. To his surprise however, he	neighbours, local shopkeepers and others he met in his new neighbourhood were quite willing to	neighbours, local shopkeeper new neighbourhc	leave here. I'd be happy to live in a room like this!"	Many years ago I was visiting a friend in the small room (more of a cubicle really) he
"Such thinking ignores the existence of the routine humiliations, and regular incidents of abuse and neglect which continue to occur behind the closed doors and high fences of institutions."	"Such thinking ignore: and regular incidents of a behind the cl	with disability should have a fair go in life. He found that his	this article, he draws on his abilities as a service worker Advocacy Program in more nes, March 2008, Issue 40.	Bob Lee lives and works on the Sunshine Coast. In this article, he draws on his extensive experience in the lives of people with disabilities as a service worker originally and as the Coordinator for the local Citizen Advocacy Program in more recent times. This article was originally published in CRUcial Times, March 2008, Issue 40. Community Resource Unit: Brisbane.
he had been relentlessly warned, that the cost of gaining some independence, autonomy and privacy was that he would no longer	had gone before, found that far from being hostile and dangerous, the 'community' was in fact welcoming, accepting and determined that people	had gone before, found that far from being hostile and dangerous, the 'community' wa in fact welcoming, accepting and determin that people	BARB WIRE HAS GONE NOW	AT LEAST THE BARB WIRE H

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www.beloningmatters.org	W		belief that people treated with respect
TO ORDER OR VIEW VISIT		him how he liked living there. He glanced up at the two metre high chain wire fence with the three metre high posts surrounding the building and said "at least the barbed wire has gone now."	
VIEW THESE FREE VIDEOS ON TALKS THAT MATTER	VIEW TH		d a little more carefully to those ence of institution or group home do more to avoid the unintended good intentions."
Anything's Best of Alexa Best	Cur Presence Has Roots The free trans of the areas the trans of the areas the areas the trans of the areas the areas the trans of the areas the trans of the areas the trans of the areas the trans of the areas the trans of the areas the trans of the trans of the areas the trans of the areas the trans of the tra	Perhaps if we listened a little more carefully to those with personal experience of institution or group home living, then we could do more to avoid the unintended consequences of our good intentions. Recently, I found myself at another institution visiting a man who had lived there for many years. He was a quiet, gentle person who liked to sit in the sun. He was placed in the institution by family members who were	e with others which those w iecure. If we live where or grou e unconditional good ir nd are prevented good ir cendent relationships, anothe d, and buildings will lived th gentle J predations of those He was
ORDER THESE BOOKS & DVD		We all need to resist the temptation to associate the strong walls of institutions with protection from harm. We need to resist the temptation of seeing the congregation of people with disability as anything like family life.	safety and security We all r e not provided by associa rticularly buildings protect cople from the tempta y live. It is all about people ective at keeping us life. s life interesting and
Thinking elseet.		Unfortunately, when isolation, rejection, abuse and neglect comes along as part of the bargain, peace of mind gets considerably diminished.	ife.
ORDER EDITIONS 3. 4 AND 23 OF "THINKING ABOUT"	ORDER EDITI		itions with protection from harm."

are vulnerable. abuse, neglect and exploitation of those who and given a fair go, will simply not tolerate the

lived as part of a loving family for forty years. away from his family home where he had be moved to an institution six hundred miles

This man needs more than an explanation.

opportunity to live close to his family and He needs to go home. He needs to have the

in an institution because those who did the I have never met anyone who was placed placing wanted them harmed. The motivation

strong walls of institutions with protection from harm." "We all need to resist the temptation to associate the

> safety, security, is most often about

community he belonged to friends, and to be once aga

we are detached from the people. What is most effec community in which they buildings of any kind, part who seek to do us harm. from making other indepe support of our families, an make our lives safe and sec safe is exactly what makes which serve to isolate peop for vulnerable people are r truth is that satisfaction, sa However challenging it is t not protect us from the pro then we are truly isolated, the relationships we have fulfilling for us. It's the con

with personal experier consequences of our g living, then we could d "Perhaps if we listened

with disability. should be t whose eyes are watching v who visit, and being part o safety and security comes community which has a be the neighbours, having frie People have found that rea

RESOURCE LIST

How people with a disability can be supported to live in their own home

ORDER EDITIONS 3, 4 AND 23 OF "THINKING ABOUT ... "





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