



**UTS**

UNIVERSITY  
OF TECHNOLOGY  
SYDNEY

# Reparations for people with dementia in aged care



**Easy Read**

## 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.



Disability Gateway can help you find a counsellor or someone to talk to.



You can

- Call them on **1800 643 787** or
- Go to their website  
**[www.disabilitygateway.gov.au](http://www.disabilitygateway.gov.au)**

# About this research

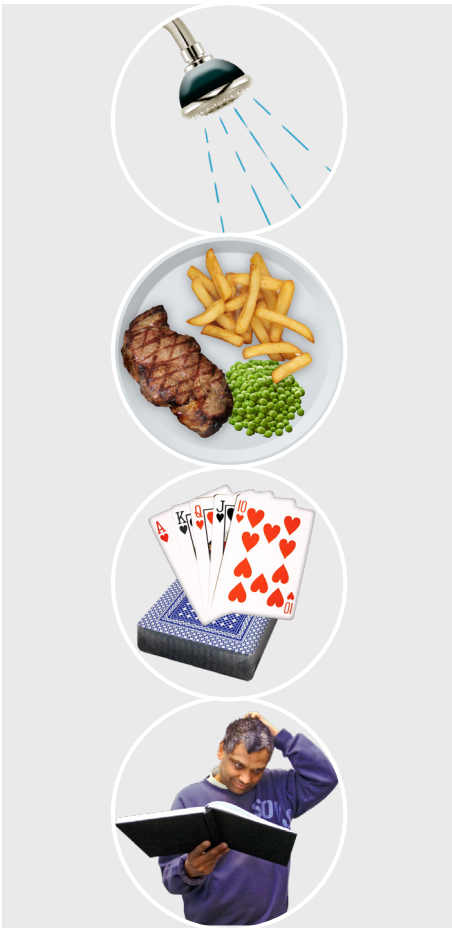


University of Technology Sydney did **research** about people with **dementia** who live in **residential aged care**.

**Research** is when we look into something to find out more about it.



**Dementia** is a disability that affects the brain.



People who have dementia might need support to do things like

- Having a shower
- Eating food
- Doing activities
- Understanding information.



**Residential aged care** is when you live in a place with other people who need care.

We will say **aged care** for short.

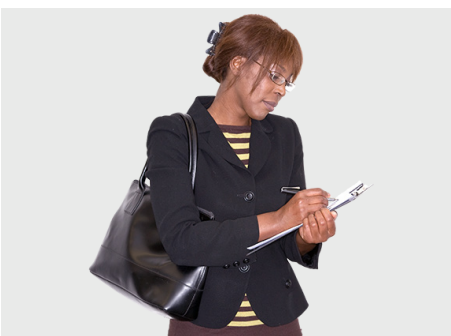


Aged care is a type of **institution**.

**Institutions** are big places where many people live together.



People who live in institutions are away from the rest of the community.



The research is about **reparations** for people with dementia living in aged care.

**Reparations** means the government making up for bad things that have happened.

## Reparations can include



- Saying sorry for the bad things that happened



- Changing laws so that the bad things can't happen again



- Give money to people who have had bad things happen to them



- Letting the community know about the bad things that have happened.

# Who did this research



Different groups of people worked together to do the research.



They were people from

- University of Technology Sydney
- Dementia Alliance International
- People with Disability Australia
- Interrelate.



The research was paid for by Dementia Australia Research Foundation.

# Why we wanted to do the research



We wanted to do the research to find out what people thought about reparations for people with dementia who live in aged care.



We know that a lot of people living in aged care have bad things happen to them.



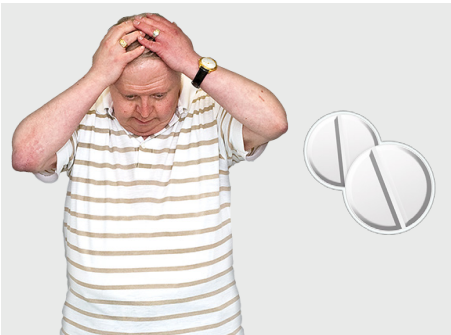
They might not get the care and support they need.



A lot of people in aged care do not get the food they need to stay well.



They might not get to spend any time with other people.



Many people in aged care are given medicine that changes the way they think and feel.



They might also get medicine that is not right for them.



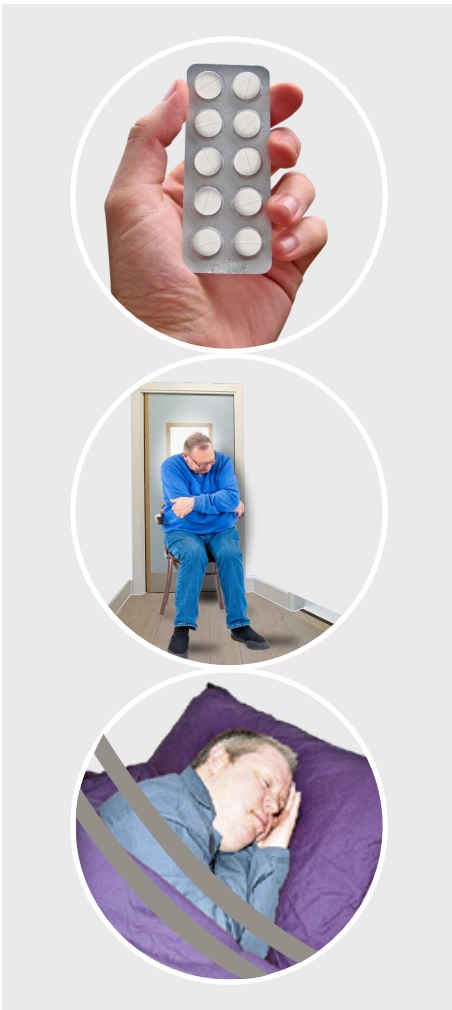
Some people died from taking medicine that was not right for them.





**Restrictive practices** might be used in aged care.

**Restrictive practices** are when people are given things to stop them from moving around.



This might be things like

- Medicine
- Being kept away from other people.
- Being held down by straps.



Many people get **abused**.

**Abuse** means someone hurts you or does bad things to you.



The bad things that happen to people with dementia in aged care are against **human rights**.

**Human rights** are rights that every person has.



They are the same for everyone.



Some of these rights are

- To be treated well
- Not to be hurt, used or abused
- To be part of the community.



People with dementia often need more support after they have been abused.



They might need more support with things like moving around and their health.



They need to be somewhere that is safe and will not remind them of the harm.

# How we did the research



We talked to many groups of people

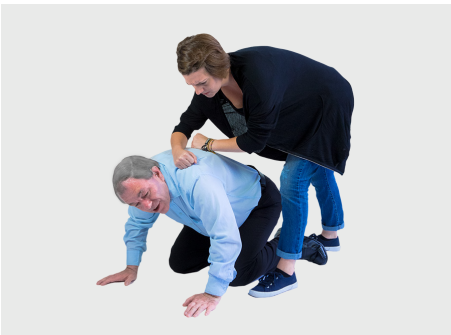
- People with dementia
- Care partners
- Family members
- Lawyers
- Advocates
- Volunteer advocates like family or friends who support you to speak up.



We looked into reparations in other types of institutions.



The government has given reparations to other groups that have had bad things happen to them.



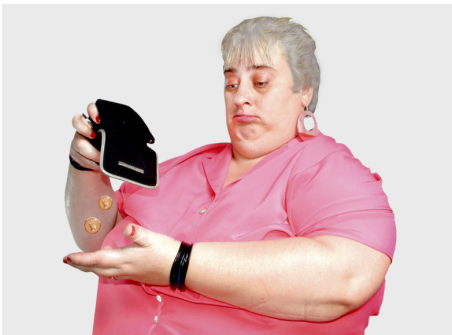
People told us it was important that the community learns about the bad things that happen to people with dementia in aged care.



People told us that they are not believed when they speak up about the bad things.



The government has not said sorry for the bad things that have happened to people with dementia in aged care.



They did not give people money to support them after their abuse.



People told us that reparations should be given to people with dementia in aged care who have had bad things happen to them.



We made 4 **themes** of what we found out about reparations.

**Themes** mean that lots of people had the same thought.

The themes are

- **Recognition**

**Recognition** means make people aware of what it is like for people with dementia living in aged care.

- **Accountability**

**Accountability** means making people responsible for the bad things that have happened to people with dementia living in aged care.

- **Change**

**Change** means the government needs to fix aged care so that the bad things cannot happen.

- **Now**

**Now** means the government needs to start making changes today.



We used the themes to help write the **Dementia Reparation Principles**.

We will say **the Principles** for short.



The Principles are a list of instructions on how to use Reparations in aged care.



We asked people what they thought of the Principles.



We also asked people who know a lot about rights what they thought about the Principles.

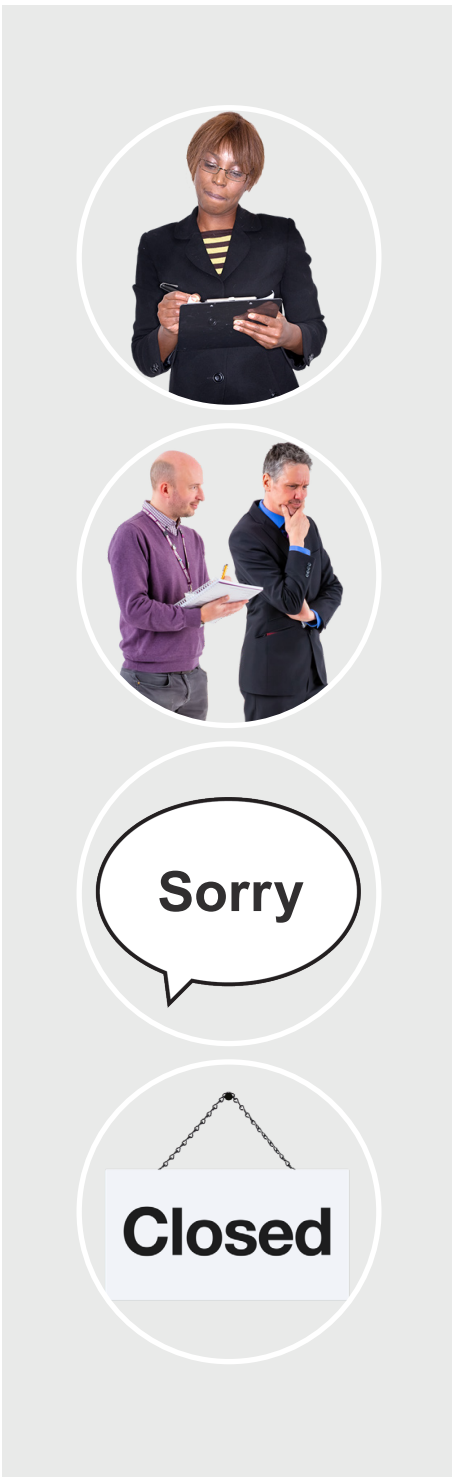


We made changes to the Principles based on what people told us.





There are 25 principles.



They include things like

- Listen to what people say
- Make sure the bad things are looked into
- Say sorry for the bad things that have happened
- Closing aged care institutions.

They include things like



- Have advocates that can support people with reparations



- Ask people with dementia what the reparations should be



- Have Easy Read information about reparations



- Make sure people are not hurt if they speak up about reparations.

# What we want to happen



We want the government to make things better for people with dementia in aged care.

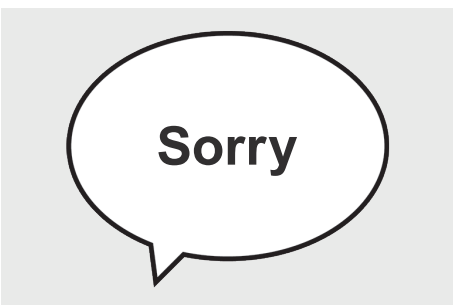


We want them to make up for things that were wrong.



This could be by doing things like

- Giving money to people who have had bad things happen
- Stopping bad things from happening to other people.



We want them to say sorry for the bad things that have happened.



We want them to ask people with dementia and their families what they want to make things better.



We want the government to close aged care institutions.



We want them to help people with dementia to live in the community.



We want Australian law to change so that the government has to do these things.

## More Information



For more information you can send an email to [linda.steele@uts.edu.au](mailto:linda.steele@uts.edu.au)



The Dementia Justice website has information on reparations.

To look at it go to

[www.dementiajustice.org](http://www.dementiajustice.org)



The Truth Justice Repair website has information on institutions.

To look at it go to

[www.truthjusticerepair.org](http://www.truthjusticerepair.org)



Dementia Alliance International has information on rights for people with dementia.

To look at it go to

[www.dementiaallianceinternational.org](http://www.dementiaallianceinternational.org)

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](mailto:business@cid.org.au).