



Locked centres in Victoria

Help for children and young people

Victorian Ombudsman



Easy English



Hard words

This book has some hard words.

The first time we write a hard word

- the word is in **blue**
- we write what the hard word means.

You can get help with this book



You can get someone to help you

- read this book
- know what this book is about

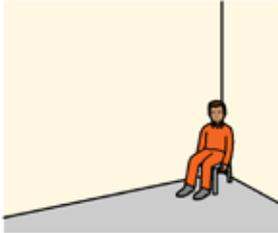


- find more information.

About this book



This book is written by the Victorian Ombudsman.



This book is about

- our **investigation** into **isolation** at **locked centres** in Victoria

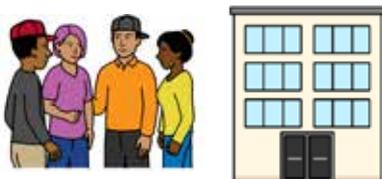


- how to help children and young people in locked centres in Victoria.



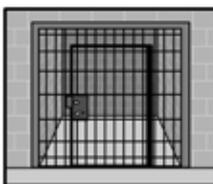
Investigation means we find more information about something.

Isolation means people do **not** have contact with other people for a long time.



Locked centres include

- youth justice centres



- prisons

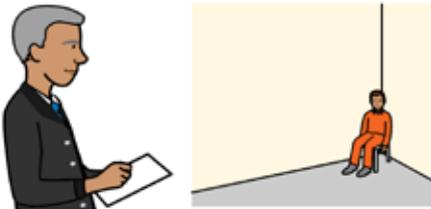
- out of home care services.

What did we do?



We went to 3 Victorian centres

- Port Phillip prison
- Malmsbury Youth Justice Precinct
- Secure Welfare Services.



We wanted to see if people at the centres were isolated from others.

Research shows that isolation can cause lots of problems for young people.

For example

- mental health problems
- social problems.



Laws say that young people must **not** be isolated for a long time.

What did we find?



In the 3 centres we found that people were often isolated.



At Port Phillip we found that young people with **challenging behaviours**

- were isolated more than older prisoners
- were sometimes isolated for weeks even if they were good.



Challenging behaviours might mean a person is

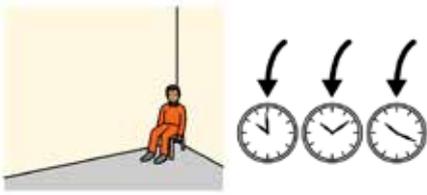
- angry



- violent



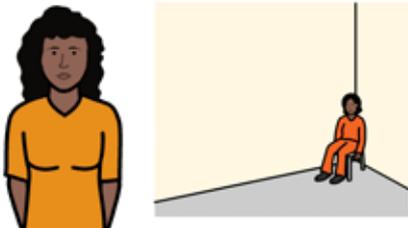
- rude.



At Malmesbury we found that young people were cared for but they were isolated too often.



Some staff did **not** understand that isolation is bad.



We also found that young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people were isolated more than other people.

At Secure Welfare we found that isolation was only used when there were no other choices.

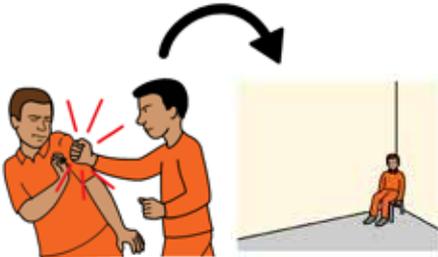


Recommendations

After we went to the centres we wrote a report with some **recommendations**.



Recommendations means ideas about how to fix problems.



We think

- isolation should only happen if there is **no** other choice
 - for example, to stop someone from getting hurt



- there should be other ways to deal with challenging behaviours
 - for example, mental health services.

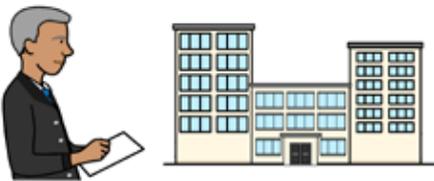


We also think

- young people should **not** be in adult prisons



- the culture in the centres should be better
 - for example, staff care for young people.



We also recommend the Victorian

Ombudsman does regular checks on these centres in future.



More information

For more information contact
the Victorian Ombudsman



Call 03 9613 6222



Website www.ombudsman.vic.gov.au



If you need help to speak or listen

Contact Victorian Ombudsman through the
National Relay Service or NRS.

Call the NRS help desk

1800 555 660

Go to the NRS website

communications.gov.au/accesshub/nrs

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Scope's Communication and Inclusion Resource Centre wrote the Easy English version in September, 2019.

To contact Scope call 1300 472 673 or visit www.scopeaust.org.au

To see the original contact the Victorian Ombudsman.

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