

RESIDENT FORUMS

in centres for people with disabilities
in 2021

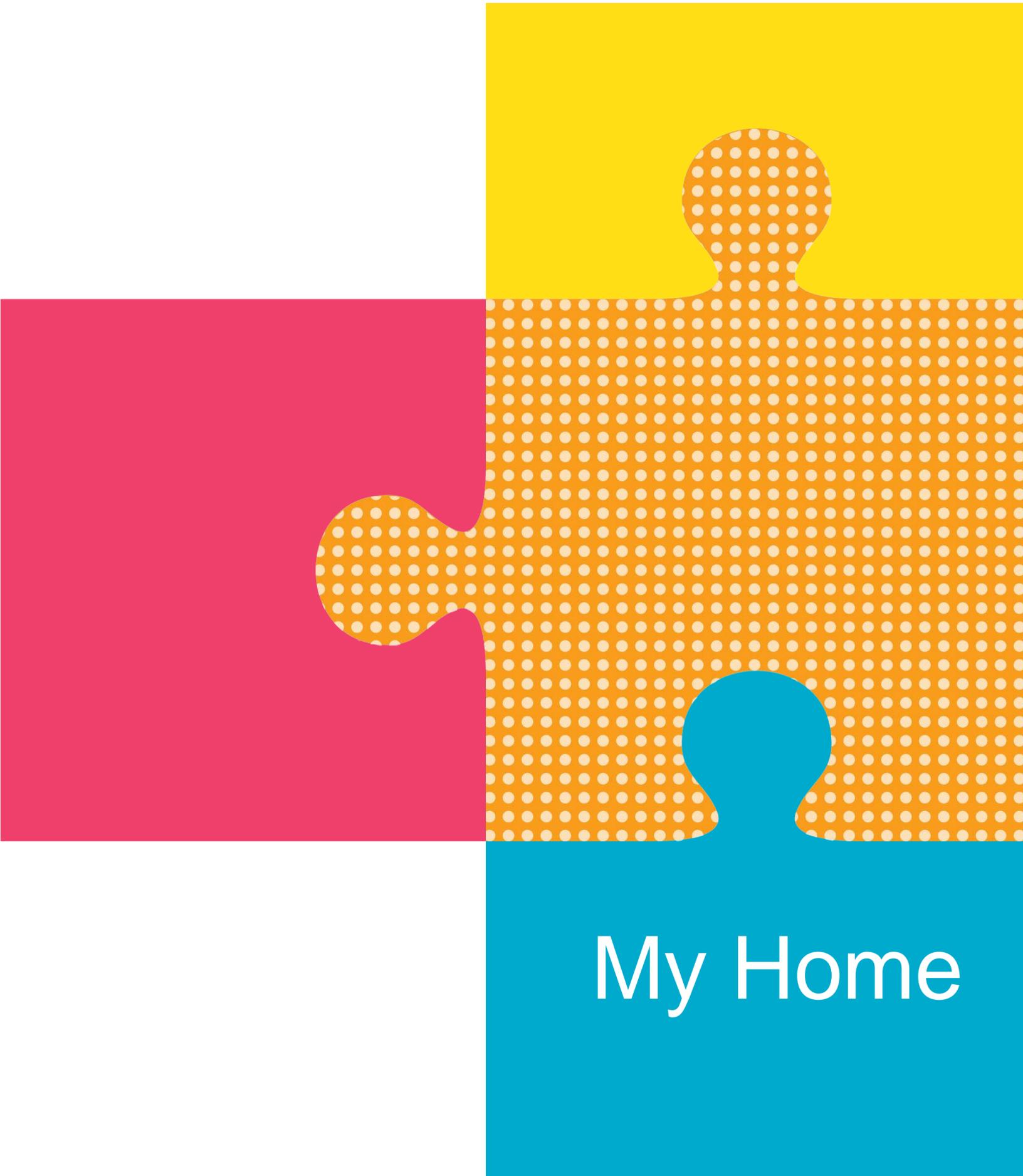


Health
Information
and Quality
Authority

An tÚdarás Um Fhaisnéis
agus Cáilíocht Sláinte

My Home





My Home

About

In 2021, HIQA met with 80 residents in 22 resident forums across Ireland to hear about their experiences of living in residential services for people with disabilities.

Some people were living in homes in the community, while others lived in larger complexes on a campus, known as congregated settings.

We asked residents about their experiences of living in and moving from congregated settings.

This is what they told us about their homes.

My Home

Congregated settings:

Centres where more than 10 people live in the same building or in a group of buildings which are located together on a campus.

Community houses:

Smaller houses located in the community where less people live.



It is national HSE policy for people to move from congregated settings, into the community.

Every year, many people with disabilities make this move.

What is it like living in a congregated setting?

“You could live with a load of people and you wouldn’t know who some of them were. Much better in a smaller house.”

“No private bathroom.”

“Feels like years in jail without shooting anyone.”

“Too many there. You wouldn’t know everybody.”

“Want to move closer to home.”

What would you like to change about living in a congregated setting?

“I have no television in my room. I would like one in my room.”

“I’d like a new bedspread.”

“I am going to put blue paint, get a double bed and television up on the wall, and a hook for my coats, and wardrobes.”

“I want a big chair in my room.”

Residents in congregated settings had different experiences of staff

“Nice like, it was a proper hospital...the staff were terribly nice up there.”

“Staff restricted in time.”

“Not all staff have time.”

“Sometimes they won't listen to me.”

What do you like about your new home in the community?

“Everything. To be honest, in previous home, we didn’t have our own living room. We used to share with other people. Now we have our own living room.”

“Like that I don’t have to share my space.”

“Like the fact that it’s my home.”

“Here I have the run of the kitchen. In [congregated setting] the kitchen would be locked.”

How does living in the community differ to congregated settings?

“Nobody to boss you around, do this, do that”

“I am my own boss”

“No one bothering me anymore.”

“I get a choice when to go out.”

What was it like moving from a congregated setting to the community?

“It’s been an eye-opener for me. I’m very happy where I am now.”

“It’s been a great experience for me.”

Were you involved in your move to a house in the community?

“No, not at the time. It kind of happened too quickly.”

“I just saw this one, but I was happy with it. I just feel that living on my own, I can do what I want.”

How do you feel in your new home?

“Relaxed, I am happy.”

“I’m very happy with everything put in place, I have no problems or issues.”

“I’m so glad with where I’m living.”

“I love it here. I love everything. My apartment, the staff, and my friends.”

Find out more about the day-to-day lives of people living in designated centres for people with disabilities in our report on Resident Forums in Centres for People with Disabilities 2021 at www.hiqa.ie.