

# RISK FACTORS FOR SEXUAL ASSUALT IN A CARE SETTING

Risk factors are the things in a person's environment and circumstances that have the potential to harm them. It includes things that might be missing from those circumstances.

The following factors are known to increase the likelihood that a person with disability will experience assault.

1

**A physical environment that prevents the person from being heard if they call for help**



2

**Barriers to physical movements that would otherwise allow escape or self-defence, including the use of restrictive practices.**



3

**Co-residents who lack a sound understanding of personal boundaries.**



4

**Lack of regular visits from family or friends who may notice changes**



5

**Receiving intimate bodily care, especially if it is frequent**



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6

**Requiring care interventions at night or after hours**



7

**Residential settings where social and inter-personal boundaries are informal**



8

**Frequent staff changes and staff turnover, or not having someone trusted to disclose to.**



9

**Receiving care from a provider who does not receive close or regular supervision, or who discourage scrutiny of their work**



You can find communication resources and information about speaking up for your safety at *Speak Up and Be Safe From Abuse* at:

<https://www.speakupandbesafe.com.au/>