

Clienthood

I'm a client at an intake meeting, you move house. I'm a resident, you reside.

I'm aggressive, you're assertive. I have challenging behaviours, you're rude. I'm non compliant, you don't like being told what to do.

When I ask someone out for dinner, it's an outing. When you ask someone out it's a date.

I don't know how many people have read the progress notes about me. I don't even know what is in there. You didn't speak to your best friend for a month after they read your diary.

I made mistakes during my money management program and withdrew \$50 instead of \$15. I had to put the rest back. You forgot some direct debits from your bank account, transferred \$200 to cover them, and took out the same for spending.

I wanted to talk with the nice looking person behind us in the grocery store. I was told it was inappropriate to talk to with strangers. You met your spouse in the produce department; they couldn't find the bean sprouts.

I celebrated my birthday with five other residents and two staff members. I hope my family sends a card. Your family threw you a surprise party. It sounded wonderful.

My Case Manager sends a report every month to my guardian. It says everything I did wrong and some things I did right. You're still mad with your sister for calling your mum after you had that speeding ticket.

I'm on a special diet because I'm 10 kilos over my ideal body weight. Your doctor gave up telling you. I am learning household skills. You hate housework and pay a cleaner. I am learning leisure skills. Your T-shirt says you're a 'couch potato'.

After I do my budget program tonight, I might go to McDonalds, if I have enough money and if I'm allowed. You went to the new French restaurant and paid with your Mastercard.

My Caseworker, psychologist, occupational therapist, nutritionist, vocational trainer, and house staff set goals for me for the next year. You haven't decided what you want out of life.

Someday I won't be a consumer of special services – maybe. You will move onward and upward.

I'm a client, you're a person