

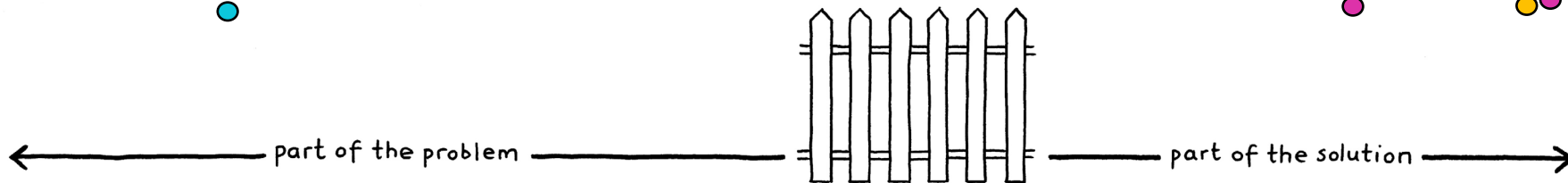
# QUALITY RESPONSE CONTINUUM

## EXAMPLE 4.03

Situation

### Sexual safety in Psychiatric Inpatient Units

(The victim-survivor is reliant on services understanding that sexualised violence can impact mental health support)



complicit	harmful	unhelpful/unsupportive		helpful/supportive	transformative
Enabling, extending and excusing the perpetration of violence.	Causing further risk, harm, violation or loss to the victim of violence.	Being an unreliable, uncertain or hard to reach, hard to access 'support'.		Upholding dignity, building on safety, enabling support, increasing or restoring resource and connection.	Involving people with lived experience in regular review, design and leadership.
"When I told a staff member I was being forced to 'touch' the nurse on duty she laughed it off and said I needed to learn which male nurses to avoid because 'some get the wrong idea'." (victim-survivor)	"I was told that I had 'borderline personality disorder' and the psychiatrist described me as 'seductive'. It was like it was my fault, as though I deserved the abuse and as though I brought it all on myself." (victim-survivor)	"I asked if there were practical options to reduce time spent with male inpatients in the mixed-gender unit I was in, because of my experiences of sexualised violence. I was just told 'there are policies and procedures to deal with that'." (victim-survivor)		"She (accredited mental health social worker) was actually the first person who made me feel worthy of care. She helped me realise I wasn't 'crazy'. I was sexually assaulted in a mental health ward and my distress was a normal response to institutional violence and abuse." (victim-survivor)	"Being on the Sexual Safety Advisory Board, being listened to and taken seriously, even by the psychiatrists, means that I can meaningfully use my experiences to help others and to prevent sexual violence in mental health units." (victim-survivor)

#### About the Tool

The [quality response continuum](#) is an Insight Exchange tool designed to support critical reflection about the quality of our responses. The example is not conclusive, exhaustive or advisory and does not provide a full context. The example is illustrative for supporting self-reflection.

### INSIGHT EXCHANGE

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