

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910171005303321
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Titolo	From the mental patient to the person / / Peter Barham and Robert Hayward
Pubbl/distr/stampa	London, : Routledge, 1991
ISBN	1-134-95287-2 1-138-97475-7 1-134-95288-0 1-280-06019-0 9786610060191 0-203-20707-6
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (171 p.)
Altri autori (Persone)	Hayward Robert
Disciplina	362.2/6
Soggetti	Schizophrenics Schizophrenics - Social conditions Schizophrenics - Mental health services
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Book Cover; Title; Contents; Acknowledgements; Introduction; THE PERSON IN QUESTION; COMMUNITY MENTAL PATIENTS?; ON THE EDGE OF THE COMMON; BATTLING ON; REVALUATIONS; BEN: ONE PERSON'S JOURNEY; THE PERSON (MENTAL PATIENT) PREDICAMENT; Notes; References; Index
Sommario/riassunto	The aim of contemporary mental health policy is to enable people who have had a severe mental illness to lead relatively independent lives in the community, rather than be sequestered permanently in the large mental hospitals. In recent years plans to hasten the closure of many of these hospitals have become controversial and generated sharp debate about community care. From the Mental Patient to the Person contributes to this debate through an exploration of the experiences of a group of people with a history of schizophrenic illness, who are living in the community.