



Mission Australia

ASP Townsville

Accommodation Support Program

The Mission Australia a National Community Service Organisation has been part of the Drug Court Diversion Initiatives since 2002 through its provision of Accommodation Support Program (ASP) in Townsville Queensland.

Service Overview

We seek to deliver high quality and effective support services to participants on Intensive Drug Rehabilitation Orders (IDRO's). We operate within a participant-centred delivery model, which takes a strengths-based approach to working with participants. We seek to provide services and opportunities that are timely, culturally appropriate and individually tailored, to people who are drug dependant. In this way, we can assist them to comply with the conditions of their Intensive Drug Rehabilitation Order (IDRO's) and to ultimately break the cycle of addictive behaviour.

We believe that the reasons for drug use are varied and complex, and therefore our program is designed to incorporate maximum flexibility in meeting participant needs.

We believe that the most important aspect of our service is the opportunity for a client to develop self-sufficiency. We aim to assist clients in developing practical skills that enable them to make positive life-style choices. These choices will allow the clients to make the necessary changes to abstain from illicit drug use and any associated offending behaviour. Services provided include, but are not limited to:

- ***Safe and Supportive Accommodation***
- ***Generalised supportive counselling***
- ***Information about local services and organisations, and referral as required***
- ***Assistance with independent and community living skills***
- ***Individual advocacy***
- ***Individual and family support***
- ***Assistance with transport***
- ***Assistance with identifying needs and developing action plans to address those needs***
- ***Assistance with social and personal development***
- ***Support when exiting ASP to an independent living situation***

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES



The Accommodation Support Program aims to:

- Assist clients to break the cycle of addictive behaviour
- Reduce criminal behaviour associated with drug dependency
- Advocate on the behalf of clients to appropriate local organisation in order to facilitate supportive, responsive communities
- Improve client self-sufficiency through improving their personal skills and supportive networks
- Work collaboratively with other local service providers and stakeholders within the Drug Court Program
- Provide accommodation support to people participating in Intensive Drug Rehabilitation Orders

SERVICE MODEL



The service model embodies an approach of capacity building which embraces the three outcomes of the Drug Court Accommodation Support Program; that participants on an IDRO will be empowered to:

- **Meet the condition placed on the IDRO and address their dependency and its underlying causes.**
- **Access suitable accommodation during the term of the IDRO and be living independently in safe and secure accommodation**
- **Obtain enhanced capacity to achieve the maximum possible degree of self-reliance and independence**

Under the accommodation support service model, support workers will provide daily non-residential support to Drug Court participants including providing after hours and emergency on-call services.

Accommodation Support Program provides housing and support for up to 9 clients who are on an Intensive Drug Rehabilitation Order (IDRO) by the Townsville Drug Court and have been referred to ASP by the Department of Corrective Services Case managers. IDRO participants with families are eligible for ASP accommodation according to the availability of space in accommodation at the time.

ASP also receives Referrals For Access clients who are Drug Court Program Participants who live in independent accommodation in the community, however may require a level of support from ASP as an Access client to assist them to comply with the conditions of their IDRO.

The service is funded for a full time coordinator and a full time program worker, by the Department of Communities and the Department of Housing. The houses are provided by the Community Rent scheme. All of the houses are within the Townsville region and are fully furnished and close to shops and public transport.

HOUSE RULES AND GUIDELINES

- Clients are required to abide by the terms of their lease, as well as the House Rules of the Community Rent Scheme (CRS).
- Clients must also abide by the ASP Guidelines, contained within the **Participants Handbooks**.
- Breaches of these rules are reported to the clients DCS Case Manager and are dealt with accordingly
- The ASP co-ordinator is to liaise closely with CRS regarding the ASP housing. Any maintenance required must be referred to the CRS. ASP conduct monthly inspections of which a report is then forwarded to CRS.

COMMUNICATION WITH KEY ORGANISATIONS



ASP direct reporting obligations are to the Department of Corrections and the Department of Communities.

- The ASP co-ordinator must liaise closely with staff of DCS. DCS are the primary case managers for all IDRO clients, and they are to be kept informed of participant progress and treatment.**
- A weekly report for each client is submitted to the Department of Corrective Services Case Manger.**
- The ASP Coordinator attends monthly meetings with the Nth QLD Drug Court Coordinator of DCS**
- The ASP Co-ordinator attends monthly treatment team meetings for all ASP clients with other relevant stakeholders and service providers.**

- **A monthly report and data collection is submitted to the Department of Communities.**
- **Monthly house inspections report submitted to Community Rent Scheme.**
- **An annual report and acquittal reports are sent to the Department of Communities.**
- **ASP Coordinator attends monthly Coordinators meetings with other key organisations in the Drug Court Program including the Department of Corrective Services (DCS), Queensland health (QH), Department of Justice and Attorney General (JAG), Legal Aid Queensland (LAQ), the Queensland Police Service (QPS) and Community Rent Scheme (CRS) rehabilitation service providers.**

The Mission Australia Accommodation Support Program aims to support, encourage and enhance the client's own life potential by providing an individual client needs based assessment, which gives the individual an opportunity to identify their circumstances and perception of their needs and develop a support plan.

This contributes to planning the assistance that will be provided and the development of an intervention plan.

The intervention plan is then implemented in the facilitation of services and resources to assist in achieving the individual's goals.

While the needs of individual clients differ, common issues identified in the assessment phase that require a means to address can include:

- **Court support**
- **Aiding the client in gaining ID**
- **Aiding the client in gaining Child Care facilities**
- **Transport to all drug court appointments and other therapeutic and practical interventions**
- **One individual session/personal counselling per week**
- **Random curfew checks (both phone calls and impromptu visits)**
- **House meetings (in share housing) once per week**
- **Emergency relief funding**
- **Client consultation and feedback**
- **Promotion of reintegration into the community**
- **Reunification into the family unit**
- **Advocacy and referrals.**
- **Weekly Programs (ensuring that there is no duplication of programs by DCS)**

➤ **Gaining I.D.**

➤ **Living with others**

➤ **Nutrition and Health**

➤ **Budgeting**

➤ **Assertiveness**

➤ **Self esteem**

➤ **Conflict resolution**

➤ **Preparing resumes**

➤ **Job seeking skills**

➤ **Time Management**

ASP recognise that this program may not be able to adequately meet the needs of all clients and or their families therefore promotion of referrals to other agencies and services providers also occurs to ensure that the client and or families needs are appropriately met for example:

- Child Care
- Parenting Skills
- Relationship counselling
- Budgeting assistance
- Literacy/Numeracy
- Employment/Vocational training

The standard Mission Australia Accommodation Support Program model varies in stages similar to phases of the Intensive Drug Rehabilitation Order. Each stage includes monitoring and evaluation, client consultation and feedback.

The purpose is to update the support /intervention plans and ensure that these are relevant to the changing needs of the client.

EXIT PLANNING

- The development of an exit plan to enable a secure transition
- Assistance with alternative stable accommodation if required
- Referral to a Job Network Provider, if required
- Encouragement with further networks and support services within the community.
- Referral to other agencies if required

At the completion of Phase three of an IDRO a participant graduates from the Drug court Program and is often placed on a probationary period. Mission Australia Accommodation Support Program continues to offer minimal support for transition clients and encourages further networks and access to support services within the community including Referral to other agencies if required.

CHALLENGES

As a support service provider having day to day contact with the client, an ongoing challenge is the limited role ASP have in Case management decisions and outcomes of the Drug Court Program. Therefore it is important to Work collaboratively with other local service providers and stakeholders to have good communication and sharing of information and respect each others role and not lose sight of our common goal which is the rehabilitation of the participant of Drug Court Program.