

## **THE GOLD COAST DRUG COUNCIL INC.**

The Gold Coast Drug Council Inc., also known locally as Mirikai (formerly the Drug Referral Centre), is a registered charitable institution. It was established in 1971 as the first alcohol and drug service on the Gold Coast and received a land grant from the Gold Coast City Council in 1981 to develop services in West Burleigh. Since that time we have developed into a centre for education, prevention, assessment, referral and detoxification.

In addition to the Mirikai ("place of peace"), Therapeutic Community Program, we offer a growing number of programs, such as the Drug Court, QIDDI, Youth Outreach service, Family Therapy service and OASIS supported accommodation program. In recent years we have developed a specialist clinical team to manage and treat clients with both addictions and mental health disorders (referred to as "dual diagnosis"). We continue to review and develop our services to meet new needs.

The Gold Coast Drug Council also provides a 24 hour telephone information and referral service for people wanting assistance to address drug-related problems. We handle thousands of telephone calls and enquiries each year.

The Gold Coast Drug Council has been quality accredited by the Institute of Healthy Communities Association since 2001.

## **DRUG COURT DAY THERAPEUTIC COMMUNITY PROGRAM**

This program is part of the Queensland Drug Court Pilot Program and helps drug dependent offenders to deal with their addiction(s) by combining treatment services, correctional programs, and frequent drug testing, with supervision by the Courts.

### **Who?**

Drug Court clients are non-violent offenders, who are referred on a suspended sentence undertaking an Intensive Drug Rehabilitation Order (IDRO) for a period specified by the Drug Court Magistrate. All potential clients are assessed by Queensland Health who refer the client to the Gold Coast Drug Council. An additional assessment then takes place to decide which particular Drug Court program the client is suited to.

Drug Court Day Therapeutic Community (T.C.), participants are individuals over 18 years old, which are subject to an Intensive Drug Rehabilitation Order (IDRO). This program provides case management; medical support; counselling; advocacy; court support; crisis intervention and social activities. Participants of the program are initially required to attend a regular living skills group with a gradual reduction in attendance as the participant progresses through the three-stage program.

### **How?**

The Day T.C. Program operates three days a week. Clients attend different days depending on how far they have progressed through the program. This program provides life skills groups; psychotherapy groups; creative therapies; relapse prevention and social activities.

As a client of the Day T.C., an individual treatment plan is tailored to individual needs and may comprise of counselling; court advocacy; transport and support; case reviews; case management; crisis intervention; family therapy; dual diagnosis education; support and treatment and referrals to other programs and services.

The Day T.C. Program takes a minimum of nine months to complete.

### **Where?**

The Drug Court Day T.C. Program is based at 191 West Burleigh Road, Burleigh Heads, Qld (see map).

### **Cost?**

This program, funded by the Queensland Department of Health, is free of charge to clients.

