

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 Complex Needs Assessment for Integrated Services, (CNAPIS), 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.

Family Support Program

The Family Support Program assists family members, couples and partners as well as friends of young people with alcohol and drug-related problems. The aim of the program is two-fold: to help the clients support the troubled young person and to assist clients in self-care. The service offers individual, couple, family and group counselling sessions.

Who?

The majority of clients are parents, partners or friends looking for information and support to help them assist their family member or friend. Clients can be referred from a range of sources, including health, welfare and community organizations, or they may self-refer.

Clients should phone our Receptionist/ Advice Worker on (07) 5535 4302 to make enquiries about accessing the service.

How?

The number of counselling sessions conducted is decided by the client(s) and the Family therapist. The Family Therapist will see individuals, couples or family groups at these sessions.

Clients can also attend the weekly Family and Friends Support Group. This group provides families and friends with support, encouragement and the understanding and wisdom of others who have similar concerns or are experiencing similar problems.

Where?

The Family Support Program is based at the Gold Coast Drug Council, 191 West Burleigh Road, Burleigh Heads, Qld (see map)

Cost?

This program is free of charge to clients.

The Program is funded by the Australian Department of Health & Ageing as part of the National Illicit Drug Strategy (NIDS).

