

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.

OASIS

OASIS delivers safe and supported accommodation to young people in crisis, who have a history of illicit drug dependence, and sometimes with additional mental health problems.

Who?

Clients are aged 17-29 and in need of crisis accommodation. Often these clients have a dual diagnosis. Clients can be referred from a range of sources, including health, welfare, community organisations, youth organisations /networks or they may self-refer.

Application for admission can be made in person or by phoning our Receptionist Advice Worker on (07)5535 4302. Suitable applicants will undergo an assessment by one of our clinical staff.

How?

Clients receive support from an outreach worker who will advocate and make referrals to employment, educational and vocational opportunities.

They also receive counseling support in the form of one-on-one sessions and facilitated process and didactic groups. All residents are required to be engaged in either study, training, work or voluntary activities.

Residents are required to collaborate on a treatment plan designed to achieve their goals and exit the program within a six month period. However, length of stay is determined on an individual basis and may be extended in cases of complex needs.

All participants in the OASIS program attend a weekly out-client support group facilitated by the OASIS co-ordinator.

Where?

The Supported Accommodation is based within the Gold Coast area.

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), with some of the houses supported by funding from the Queensland Department of Housing.

