

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 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.

YOUTH OUTREACH PROGRAM

This program promotes the well-being and health of young people who are experiencing interpersonal and social functioning problems related to drug use.

Who?

Clients are aged 12 to 25, at risk of misusing drugs, experimenting or may already be addicted. Clients can be referred from a range of sources, including health, welfare, community organizations, youth organisations/networks or they or their families/friends may self-refer.

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

How?

The service includes counselling, psycho-education and arts-based therapeutic groups, all within a harm-minimisation model. It provides early interventions e.g. anger management, problem-solving, goal-setting and stress management) and psycho-education for young people around alcohol and drug mis-use. The Program also embraces a solution orientation, where a young person's strengths are recognized and encouraged.

One-on-one counselling by an experienced Youth Counsellor is conducted on a weekly or fortnightly basis dependent on the needs of clients. For some clients, arts based group activity is also available to meet their particular needs.

Clients can also be referred to the D.R.A.S.T.I.C. Program, which is about young people exploring their identity, their friendship, their environment and their world and sharing it with the wider community.

Where?

The Youth Out-Reach 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).

