

Fact Sheet:

Reverend Charles Harris Diversionary Centre Incorporating Breaking The Cycle Program

The Diversionary Centre is a sobering up facility open 24 hours a day, 365 days of the year to provide alternatives to the Townsville Police Watch House for those who are at risk of incarceration, risk to themselves and or others due to public intoxication issues. The centre is a 50 bed facility with 28 male beds and 22 female beds.

The popularity of the Diversionary Centre amongst Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people seeking sanctuary from substance abuse prompted the instigation of the Breaking the Cycle Program in 2010. Today, its proven success has been a great source of inspiration for Yumba-Meta to do more in this space.

The program is overseen by Karen Kite and managed by Roslyn Lively with two senior workers and 12 care workers. As well as offering a safe and familiar place for clients to sober up for the night, the well-respected staff at the centre provide more reasons than just a bed and a healthy meal to stay on or return to the facility. By allowing them to stay on in the centre for an elongated period, it's an incentive for clients to become more involved with the programs offered.

All regular clients of RCHDC are encouraged to participate in the Breaking the Cycle Program, if successful they are transitioned onto DPP, community housing or private rental depending on the clients capacity to maintain a tenancy.

The centre provides the clients with a safe place in which to sober up. Clients are offered the use of the shower and laundry facilities, are provided with a nutritionally balanced diet, encouraged to rest and are provided with basic first aid if necessary.

Assistance is provided to those who are too intoxicated to meet their basic needs unaided.

The centre is also facing new challenges as hard drug use, specifically ice, continues to impact some of its clients. Yumba-Meta has been seeking funding for a mental health worker to help ease the burden of hard drug use and mental health concerns, but this need has not yet been met.

Clients must be 18-years or over to access the centre and are closely monitored, and support is offered where needed to ensure their wellbeing whilst staying at the centre.

Overview:

The Centre is open 24 hours a day, 365 days of the year to provide alternative accommodation to the Townsville Police Watch House for those who are at risk to themselves or others due to intoxication.

The Centre is a 50 bedded facility; with 28 male beds and 22 female beds. Six beds are kept exclusively for diversions. A maximum of 25% non-Indigenous clients are allowed to access the Centre per night.

Self-referral clients are transported to the Centre by Community Patrol and the Police Liaison Officers of an afternoon and evening and are transported to the city the following morning via Community Patrol and the Centre's bus.

Townsville Police may divert clients to the Centre at any time of the day or night.



All other referrals need approval of the Centre's Manager (between the hours of 08:30 & 16:30 Monday to Friday) and confirmed in writing, or after hours approved by the on-call manager or senior worker.

Services Provided:

The Centre provides the clients with a safe place in which to sober up. Clients are offered the use of shower and laundry facilities, are provided with a nutritionally balanced diet, encouraged to rest and are provided with basic first-aid if necessary.

Assistance is provided to those who are too intoxicated to meet their basic needs unaided.

Clients are closely monitored, and support and guidance offered where needed whilst staying at the Centre.

Other agencies visit the Centre of a morning to offer support around medical, mental health, housing, financial and alcohol and drug issues that the clients may be encountering. In addition, clients can be referred to relevant services if they wish.

Regular clients of the Centre are able to access the 5 to 30 day Breaking the Cycle program held at the Centre. The program provides access, support and activities in a safe and caring environment to give clients opportunities to address any health issues or other needs they may have.

Those clients who successfully complete the program will be considered for shared transitional housing options with ongoing support.

Client Responsibilities:

Clients of Yumba-Meta Limited have the following responsibilities:

- Clients should abide by the rules of the Centre.
- Clients should act in a way which respects the rights of other clients, staff and property of the Reverend Charles Harris Diversionary Centre.
- Refrain from bringing alcohol and nonprescription drugs to the Centre.
- Refrain from violent, abusive or intimidating behaviour towards other clients or staff of the Centre.

Reverend Charles Harris Diversionary Centre
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