



Transforming lives for good

Transformations Program Information Pack

PART 1

About the Transformations Program and what you can expect.

Introduction

Since 1999, Transformation Ministries International has been providing a Residential Rehabilitation Service that endeavours to tend to and provide for individual needs in our community. Our signature Program, Transformations, initially adopted a therapeutic community model using base structures and philosophies used by establishments such as MIRIKAI Drug & Alcohol Rehabilitation Centre and the Los Angeles Dream Centre Program.

Transformations has evolved into an effective and successful client-centred, medium-term, drug-free service. Its program delivery occurs within a structured, safe and supportive environment, which adopts an abstinence approach.

A core concept of the Transformations therapeutic model is the purposive use of the peer community to promote constructive social and psychological change in individuals. Thus residents are highly involved in working with each other, on each other, and taking responsibility for charting their own progress.

An ongoing effort is made by our case management team to monitor and provide for the needs of the individuals we care for. We also consistently modify and adapt the program by consulting other professionals that are educated and experienced in dealing with the social and personal problems we face as an organization and to ensure best practice for our clients.

Therapeutic Community Model

Essential elements of a Therapeutic Community model include:

- Participants contribute directly to all activities
- The use of membership feedback is encouraged
- The use of collective formats for guiding individual change
- The use of shared norms and values
- The use of relationships between individuals, peers and staff to encourage individuals to engage and remain in the process.

Both the initial and extended programs utilise individual counselling and group work to achieve its goals. Group work encompasses educational, therapeutic and support groups addressing topics which include anger management, guilt, shame, social skills, assertiveness & communication training, relapse prevention, nutrition etc.

In addition to group work, each resident is assigned a counsellor/caseworker who is jointly responsible for tailoring interventions to the unique needs of the individual. These may include supporting residents while they address issues associated with the criminal justice systems, family and community services, housing and other legal/financial matters that are either pre-existing or arise during their participation.

Admissions

Criteria and requirements for Admission are as follows:

- Applicant has detoxed from illicit/licit drugs and alcohol for 7 days minimum prior to entry.
- The applicant has identified his/her problem that is causing his/her life to become unmanageable.
- The applicant is 18 years of age or older. (Young people between 16 and 18 years: admission will depend on their maturity and the composition of the house. Staff will determine if program will be supportive of potential client needs.)
- Assessment of applicant's personal motivation and desire to stop using prior to admission.
- Applicants diagnosed with major mental health issues cannot be accepted due to constraints and demands of the program which is not able to support their needs. However, dual diagnosis clients who are stable and are taking prescribed medication will be accepted on a case by case basis.
- We do not have the facilities to cater for couples or single parents with children.
- Assessments will be completed with staff by telephone on the initial contact by applicant. Then an appointment must be made for formal assessment will be advised of approximate waiting time until a vacancy occurs.
- The applicant needs to maintain regular contact as advised until admission is negotiated.
- The applicant will be placed on an assessment waiting list until requested reports, consent form, other requirements are met.
- The applicant must have the full amount of rent to pay upon admission.
- The applicant must be eligible for Centrelink payments.
- The applicant must be willing to agree to program and rules
- The applicant must be fit enough to fulfil works element of Program

Note: Residents are unable to attain employment whilst in the program.

Detoxification options and need for proof of drug/alcohol free status

Transformations does not provide detoxification facilities. To evaluate individual detox needs, it is important that applicants gain an assessment through a Community Health Detoxification Worker for either a home/ambulatory or hospital detoxification. Liaison between the client, detoxification services and Transformations will give a smooth and supported transition into rehabilitation.

Self detoxification – urine tests will be requested by staff and instructions provided.

Ambulatory and Home Detoxification Service – Verbal confirmation from professionals concerned and an instant alcohol and Drug Screen provided on arrival.

Potential residents who staff determines to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol will not be able to enter the Program. Appropriate referrals will be provided although accommodation and support options may be limited within the local area. Staff will renegotiate admission date and time if appropriate.

Random urine urinalysis is consistently conducted during program participation

The Transformations Program

The goal of the therapeutic program is to provide an opportunity for clients and peers to experience personal challenges to support positive lifestyle change. We also provide opportunities for recreation, sporting and social activities.

The Transformations Program is separated into 5 Stages.

Assessment Phase

The initial level or stage is a two week period and is called **Assessment phase**:

- This is where the new Residents are becoming familiar with their new environment
- A time of no interaction with the outside environment.
- A time of cutting off all ties to their old lifestyle.
- A time of being nurtured and supported to stay committed to the programme.
- The new resident will be supervised by a senior resident at all times for accountability.

Assessment Phase residents are not allowed contact with anyone outside the program unless approved by staff. Mobile phones are not allowed until Stage 3.

Access and use of personal vehicles is restricted until Stage 2.

Stage 1

The next phase is called **Stage 1**. This is where Residents are:

- Experiencing the benefits of a drug-free and victorious lifestyle
- Gaining an understanding of basic human behaviours and developing life skills
- Making an informed choice about future treatment needs and options
- Education on issues such as relapse prevention, relaxation, harms minimisation, infectious diseases, basic nutrition, conflict resolution etc.
- Basic sessions on anger, shame, grief and loss, fear and guilt, self esteem etc

Stage 2

During **Stage 2** of the program residents continue their recovery in a physical sense. The emphasis during this stage is on emotional and spiritual growth with the support of other residents and staff:

- A time of increased feelings of self-worth, gaining self-confidence in decision-making and learning through consequential thinking.
- A time of restructuring lifestyles, developing healthy attitudes and activities and setting realistic goals.
- A time of exchanging false belief systems and learning Cognitive Behaviour Therapy through self regulating behaviour.
- A time of addressing core issues including past trauma, grief, loss and shame.
- A time of assuming greater responsibility for personal recovery, involvement in the running of the Community and supporting “newcomers” to the program.

Before the resident can progress to Third Stage they must have given up cigarettes for a minimum of one week.

Stage 3

Stage 3 is where the residents in this level:

- Take on a role of responsibility for the overall running of the program.
- Learn management and people skills.
- Learn stress management and time management
- Learn selfless behaviour and positive role modelling.
- Identify and address Power and Control issues within their behaviour and belief systems.
- This is also the phase when residents begin the process of networking and discussing an exit plan with staff to move into transition phase.
- Setting goals for the future.

Stage 4 or Transition Phase

Stage 4 is called **Transition Phase** and this is where the residents move into another house and have a supported structure for integration back to the outside world. The residents in this level of the program are;

- Required to volunteer time in some area of Transformations.
- Required to be actively seeking employment or vocational training.
- Required to attend certain groups within the program
- Required to be actively participating in continued accountability with Staff.

Graduation

Graduation of the program is a celebration of the success of completing the program, however it is also a step towards and continuation of living in a supportive environment and maintaining:

- A clean and sober life
- A positive influential life in the community.
- Positive relationships and healthy boundaries
- A spiritual foundation through prayer, the Bible and networking with like-minded people.

Counselling & Case Management

- Residents can access weekly counselling sessions with our own registered Psychologist if requested.
- Our supportive and professional case management team help address the clients biological, psychological, social and spiritual needs, providing ongoing support through-out the program as well as community advocacy where needed.
- If at any time residents are finding things difficult they may find it helpful to talk with other residents or approach a staff member for support.

Various Groups

Spiritual Groups

The Soak

This is a time of meditation and prayer in a safe monitored environment of peace and love where clients are encouraged to develop a personal relationship with their maker.

This is life

This is a ten week educational course on basic spirituality.

Morning Devotions

This group is an opportunity for residents to grow spiritually and gain further understanding on how the spiritual aspect of the program might apply to their day to day life and recovery.

Chapel

A combined group where all the Transformation Residents come together for a time of worship and to hear an inspiring message from one of our staff or volunteers.

Process Groups

Feelings Group

Feelings Group is held daily during the week. This group is designed to encourage each person to both express their feelings and to become more comfortable feeling their emotions, without the use of mind altering substances. It also gives people an understanding of how others are travelling for the day.

Hot Seat

This is a client run group where one person is given encouragement and the client's peers give him positive feedback and constructive criticism.

Assertions Group

Assertions Group uses a communication model that is designed to help the residents develop effective communication and listening skills.

Peer Groups

Issues Group & House Groups

Issues Groups are designed to address a variety of different issues occurring in the house. These can include conflicts between residents, confronting other resident's behaviour and/or attitude, and addressing any rules, which have been broken.

The primary goal of Issues and House groups is to bring into a person's awareness, a behaviour of theirs that may no longer be productive. The final step in a house group is to support the resident to question their behaviour and explore how a change in this behaviour could support them in their personal growth and achievement of goals.

Change is growth, and growth is positive in your progress. All you need for house group is you, and an open mind. Anybody can call a house group whenever they feel an issue is unresolved or see another resident continuing with an unproductive behaviour etc. This is your house too.

Rules of Issues and House groups are:

- They can under no circumstances, occur without staff present.
- Use active listening skills.
- One person speaks at a time.
- No swearing.
- Respect other people's opinions, even if not in agreement with them.
- Respect people's feelings.
- Do not place blame on other's or justify behaviours.
- Look for a way to support a change in behaviour.
- Separate the person from the behaviour.
- Everyone is to actively participate.

- Keep focused on a solution.
- Use "I" statements.
- Look for Win/Win situations.
- No anger outbursts
- Time out may be given whereby anger is arising
- No leaving group without permission

Educational and Therapy groups

These groups are designed to teach new skills and redevelop old skills to enable residents to cope with stresses, emotions, conflicts and the general "ups and downs" of life.

Some of the groups held include:

- Anger management.
- Conflict resolution skills.
- Relapse prevention.
- Relaxation techniques, anxiety and stress reduction.
- Personal empowerment.
- Self-responsibility.
- Health education.
- Co-dependency identification
- Communication skills
- Boundary setting
- Recovery from Addiction

Social Groups and Activities

Big Day Out

Every six weeks the residents are blessed with an opportunity to socialise, relax, escape from the seriousness of the program and have fun. A variety of activities are available including Jet Skis, camping, BBQ's, ten pin bowling, bush walks, games days and other outdoor activities.

Birthdays

We believe in providing a caring home environment for our residents, and celebrating birthdays is one way we let the residents know we care. We buy a gift and provide cake and snacks for each residents' birthday.

DVD Night

A relaxing night at home where the residents can watch some DVDs of their choice, have a snack and relax.

R.O.M

Each month the residents vote for the Resident of the Month Award. A resident who has been consistently improving and applying the tools of the program is selected.

The Rules

Cardinal Rules

1. No possession and/or ingestion of alcohol or any other mind altering substances. *(This includes any substances containing Pseudo ephedrine Hydrochloride or Codeine Phosphate. i.e.; Codral cold and flu tablets, Nurofen plus.)*
2. No sexual activity on or off the premises.
3. No acts or threats of violence.
4. No theft of any description.
5. No gambling
6. No withholding knowledge of anyone breaking any of the above rules.
7. No denial of random urine analysis.

Breach of any of these rules could result in immediate discharge from the house and the Transformation program.

House Rules (Sample only)

- 8 Residents must fulfill roster duties.
- 9 Residents must sign in and out when going anywhere.
- 10 All residents must be home in bed by Curfew. Failure to do so will result in restrictions.
- 11 Residents must attend all program activities unless a request form has been completed and approved.
- 12 Residents must not enter other residents' rooms unless invited for a purpose.
- 13 Visitors must check in with a supervisor.
- 14 Residents must be out of bed with bed made by upbed time.
- 15 T.V. can be watched only between the times specified by the Program Schedule.
- 16 The supervisor will resolve disputes over channels.
- 17 Residents must not leave personal items in lounge or kitchen.
- 18 No sleeping between upbed and 6pm except Sunday afternoon and No sleeping during programme activities.
- 19 House must be secure when unattended, i.e. windows and doors locked and electricity turned off.
- 20 Flow chart must be followed for any questions or requests.
- 21 No "Neg raving" (includes all talk about past drug use, sexual activity or criminal activity.)
- 22 All lights and electrical appliances to be turned off while rooms are unattended.
- 23 Rooms must be kept clean and beds made at all times.
- 24 No eating or drinking in Bedrooms.
- 25 Mobile phones to be switched off during church and program activities.
- 26 Journal to be completed every day.
- 27 No offensive jokes.
- 28 No smoking in the house.
- 29 No swearing or blaspheming.
- 30 No pornography.
- 31 No sexual innuendoes to be made.
- 32 No looking at anyone of the opposite sex in a lustful or inappropriate manner.
- 33 No racial or sexual jokes/slander.
- 34 Residents must fulfill consequence duties during free time and prior to Consequence Group each Friday.
- 35 No provocative or deliberate flatulence in the house
- 36 No one of the opposite sex allowed on the premises.
- 37 No worldly music allowed. Life FM accepted.

- 38 Room checks are compulsory.
- 39 No manipulation of residents, supervisor, volunteers or staff.
- 40 Residents are not to confront or Deliberately disobey Staff.
- 41 Blackmail or threats will not be tolerated.
- 42 No provocative behavior.
- 43 Males are to wear shirts when outside at all times and any other time when in the presence of a female.
- 44 No play fighting.
- 45 No manipulation of consequence book.
- 46 No smoking on Church property other than designated area.
- 47 Assessment stage residents are not to Prophecy or lay hands without specific permission from a leader.
- 48 Residents are not to lie down on lounges or beds from Upbed till 6pm except for Sunday afternoon.
- 49 Males and females are not to have one on one time together unless supervised.
- 50 No indecent exposure
- 51 No dishonesty
- 52 Residents are not to enter licensed or gambling premises
- 53 No loaning, lending or borrowing of money, cigarettes, tobacco products or personal items.
- 54 No self harm of any kind
- 55 No exclusive “clicks”
- 56 Residents are not permitted to associate or talk with ex-residents unless permission has been given by the Director
- 57 No discrimination of any kind
- 58 No smoking during Consequence hours, Work therapy or any other program activity unless on a specified break given by the supervisor of that activity.
- 59 Residents are not to “gossip” in the program.
- 60 Residents are not to wear “revealing” clothing.
- 61 All residents (both male and female) are to wear t-shirts and board shorts while swimming at program times.
- 62 No tank tops, singlets, thongs, mini skirts to be worn in Church.
- 63 Residents must wear uniform T-shirt at all times excluding Sunday Church, Congregational meetings, and specified outings.
- 64 It is a resident’s own responsibility to have clean sheets on his or her bed.
- 65 Residents must not use other resident’s toothbrush, razor, comb, brush.
- 66 Residents must shower every day.
- 67 All residents are to follow the confidentiality act and not reveal any other resident’s details either over the phone or any other means.
- 68 All details from any group or meeting are to remain confidential, adopting the rule that “what is said in the house stays in the house”.
- 69 Residents are to follow all spill kit procedures if there is an accident involving blood.
- 70 Residents are not to speak against leadership or the Program.
- 71 Residents must not attend Surfers Paradise after 5pm unless accompanied by a leader.
- 72 Residents are not to have any medication (prescribed or not) in their possession.
- 73 Disrespect to a leader or Staff member.

Breach of any of these rules will result in a consequence.

The consequences are as follows:

1- 20 = 1 Hour 21- 59= 1 Hour + 1 essay 60-66= 5 hours

10 or more consequences will result in a stage demotion and an essay.

Continued breach of these rules may result in a disciplinary contract or discharge from the program.

Daily Program (Sample only)

7.00 – 7.15am	Wake up, shower, bed & room tidy
7.15 – 7.45am	Breakfast
8.30 – 9.30am	Morning devotionals and prayer
10.00 – 12.00pm	Life skill Courses (eg. Anger Management, Conflict Res.)
12.30 – 2.00pm	Lunch
2.00 - 4.00pm	Work Therapy
4.00 - 5.30pm	Free Time
5.30 - 6.15pm	Dinner
6.15 – 7.00pm	Feelings Group
7.30 - 9.30pm	Soak
9.30 - 10.30pm	Free time
10.50 - 11.00pm	Bed/Lights out

Client Rights

- A client has the right to confidentiality of their treatment records and access to their personal file.
- No information about you will be given out, unless you agree in writing or it is a legal requirement.
- Your file will be kept in a lockable cabinet with restricted access.
- You have the right to be treated with respect, dignity and consideration by staff and other residents.
- You have the right of independent expression, decision and action, within the house rules.
- You have the right to refuse or accept treatment.
- You have the right to be discharged, without physical or psychological harassment.
- You have the right to refuse involvement with trainee staff/students, or be involved in research.
- You have the right to expect all services to be offered without regard to race, national origin, creed, political affiliation, sexual preference or previous criminal record.

You have the right to be:

- Treated with courtesy and dignity by staff
- Assured of privacy and confidentiality
- Advised of your progress.
- Given prompt attention in emergencies
- Given access to grievance procedures.

Client Responsibilities

You are expected to:

- Treat staff and other residents with respect and courtesy.
- Apply yourself to the task of dealing with your issues and participation in program.
- Answer questions honestly and frankly.
- Comply with the care plan developed together by you and staff.
- Accept the consequences of your actions.
- Conduct yourself in such a way so as not to interfere with the wellbeing others who support you such as staff & volunteers.

Confidentiality

- Transformation is committed to respecting your confidentiality at all times.

- Confidential information about you will only be given to persons authorised by you by signing an information consent form eg. other health, welfare or legal services OR it is required by law eg. Dept of Community Services or staff duty of Care.
- Confidentiality is respected within the context of Duty of Care. This means that clinical advisors and case managers are involved in your treatment and will have access to your file and may share information in order to make decisions regarding your well being.
- On occasions information from client files may be used in case conferences, research and training. During such occasions clients remain anonymous.
- You are entitled to see information about you held in your file. To do so please make an appointment with your Case Manager.
- Some information about you is recorded in a computerised system, from which information is extracted and reported to the funding bodies. In all cases names are not used.

Exiting the Program

Residents planning to leave are supported by their case manager in planning and implementing their next steps. This occurs whether or not programs are completed.

Residents must complete an exit form whether discharged by staff or self discharge.

Residents that are discharged for disciplinary reasons may re- apply after a two week period. During this two week period the discharged client is not to have access to Transformations residents or to enter Transformations' property. Access may only be granted following a formal interview between that client and staff following the two week cooling off period.

PART 2

Information on what you need to know about assessment and admission.

What you need to do	What we will do
Phone Transformations 07 55 923 677	We will conduct a Phone Assessment. This may take about 15 minutes. A Staff Member will then contact you to arrange an appointment for a Face to Face Assessment.
Attend appointment for Face to Face Assessment	Assessment will take approx. 1 ½ hrs. You will be asked to provide information which will help us assess your suitability to the program. We will inform you at the completion of the Assessment if you are eligible and approved for Admission. If approved you will be advised of details of Admission based on your situation and bed availability.
If you are placed on a waiting list or asked to complete necessary tasks e.g. completing detox and/or any other reports/ arrangements you will need to continue to contact our office regularly.	We will assess the waiting list and your situation and inform you of admission details. We will endeavor to support any detox process and arrange an Admission date upon completion of detox where possible.
Arrive at the time arranged for your Admission.	Support will be given through the admission process and settling in.
<p>If you arrive at Transformations under the influence of drugs or alcohol or arrive late, you will NOT be admitted. We <u>do not</u> have a detox service at Transformations. We need reasonable proof that you have detoxed:</p> <p>Self detoxification – Urine test will be requested by staff and instructions provided.</p> <p>Ambulatory and home detoxification - <u>If you have attended a detox unit or had the support of a Home Detox Nurse</u>, we can speak with them to confirm this and you will only need to be given a drug screen on arrival. If you have seen a local practitioner, we can liaise on your behalf or refer you to an appropriate ambulatory and home detoxification service.</p>	<p>If new residents go into withdrawal, we will support you in contacting a community detox unit to help you explore your options. (Available during business hours only) We will however, need to discharge you as you will not be able to stay at Transformations during this time</p>
If Transformations is determined to be unable to support your needs then we can refer you to other appropriate services.	Details will be provided.

What to Bring

- Medicare Card
- Healthcare Card
- Bank Card or Debit Card
- Photo I.D eg. Drivers licence or 18+ Card
- Two weeks rent plus a \$50 bond payment.
- Reports from services that you have been working with, such as Mental Health, Probation, Parole, etc..
- Enough spending money for 2 weeks (approx \$20)
- Enough tobacco/cigarettes to last 2 weeks.
- Appropriate clothing and footwear (closed shoes for Work Therapy)
- Toiletries eg. Soap, shampoo, toothbrush, nail clippers etc
- All prescribed medication and prescriptions from medical practitioner eg. Ventolin, insulin etc. These will need to be handed to staff on arrival.
- Towels/face washer.

What Not To Bring

- Any illicit/licit drugs or alcohol (eg. Valium, Serapax, Panadeine forte, barbiturates etc)
- Any expensive personal belongings (eg jewellery, watches)
- Knives, scissors, sharp items and/or weapons
- Mobile phones
- Worldly music
- Any offensive or provocative clothing or material (eg offensive logos, see-thru clothing, midriff tops, g-strings, muscle shirts, CD's, videos)
- Clothing or jewellery with drug and/or alcohol symbols or advertising
- Opened packets of cigarettes and/or pouches of tobacco. (These will be confiscated on arrival and returned on departure).

What Does It Cost ?

\$420 per fortnight (21 years and over)

\$370 per fortnight (under 21 years)

If you are eligible for Centrelink payments, you may be eligible for Pharmaceutical Benefits and Rent Assistance.

Residents must also provide a bond payment of \$50 upon entry.

Contact Us

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