



GUTHRIE HOUSE

POTENTIAL CLIENT INFORMATION SHEET

Guthrie House is a residential transitional service for women involved in the criminal justice system

The Location

Guthrie House is located in the Inner West of Sydney in a quiet street but close to local shops, services, RPAH Methadone clinic and bus routes.

We offer a three month residential transitional service which is staffed 24 hours a day and offers safety and security for all residents. Arrangements can be made for potential clients who cannot use stairs. Each client has her own private bedroom with a bathroom ensuite. The kitchen, lounge room and laundry are shared.

Who can come to Guthrie House?

The organisation is inclusive and not discriminatory in its practice. Our service is open to women regardless of race, language, marital status, country of origin, cultural background, political affiliation, religion, criminal justice issues, sexual preference or disability. Guthrie House ensures that services are delivered in a manner that is considerate of needs, culturally appropriate and welcoming to its users.

We accept women on methadone or buprenorphine treatment programs.

To be eligible for admission into Guthrie House a woman must:-

- Be involved in the criminal justice system (see below for details)
- Have a history or a current drug and alcohol issue
- Be homeless **or** at risk of homelessness

The age criteria for admission into Guthrie House is 18 years and over.

Additionally, Guthrie House prioritises:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women
- pregnant women
- women fleeing domestic violence
- women who have medium-high to high risk levels of re-offending behaviour due to their circumstances

Involvement in the criminal justice system:

- currently in custody within NSW and due to be released
- Released into the community from a correctional centre on bail and/or a community based sentence such as a Parole Order, Probation Order, Drug Court Order or Intensive Correction Order
- Guthrie House does not accept women serving community bonds

Women who wish to come to Guthrie House from the community must first complete detoxification at a recognised detoxification unit.

Guthrie House does not take males, women with children over 12 months of age in their care, women prescribed benzodiazepines or opioids or women with an untreated mental health diagnosis.

What are the fees?

Guthrie House requires that residents pay fees for staying at Guthrie House.

Fees include \$100 bond paid on arrival and \$20 each week for compulsory savings. Both your bond and your compulsory savings will be returned to you when you leave Guthrie House provided you do not damage property for which we will require your bond to pay for repairs.

Additionally we charge rent fees each week for your accommodation. Accommodation fees are a percentage of your Centrelink benefit. For example, if you are on Newstart allowance, you will be required to pay \$340 per fortnight. Fees include Utilities, food, use of furnishings, gas and electricity. Fees are inclusive of all program and case management service delivery.

Payments of rent are arranged via CentrePay. Guthrie House has direct contact with Community Officers at Centrelink and rent payment can be arranged directly from Centrelink Payments.

How can Guthrie House assist you?

When you arrive at Guthrie House, we will assign a case manager to you. Your case manager will work with you throughout your stay at Guthrie House. We will assist you to settle in, provide you with detailed information about our program, help you meet your immediate needs such as Centrelink payments, obtaining identification and personal belongings, making contact with family and support people. As well as running group work and other program activities, we provide support in the following ways:

- residential accommodation for women with children under 5 years of age for up to three months
- twenty-four hour staff support
- intensive case management and case plan development
- consideration of your specific needs and cultural identity
- referrals to other services as needed including medical and mental health services
- drug and alcohol assessment and counseling
- support to re-integrate and access family
- group work and living skills training
- information and education sessions
- recreational outings
- court reports and reports for FaCS case conferences
- Housing NSW applications and Community Housing applications
- assistance with appropriate accommodation on completion of the program

What happens now?

Contact Guthrie House and check you fit the criteria for Guthrie House. An intake officer will assist you over the phone. If you fit the criteria we will conduct a 30min – 1hr phone assessment with you, at times where possible we may need to meet you to conduct a face to face assessment. We do this to assess how we can assist you. We will also ask you to sign a release of information form if we need to check your medical needs etc. However you do not have to sign this form at this stage if you choose not to.

If you are successful, Guthrie House staff will make arrangements to pick you up from custody on the day of your release. If you are coming from the community, we will require you to attend a detox facility and make arrangements to pick you up from there. Guthrie House does not accept client “walk-ins” from the street. You should only bring the personal items you need for a three month stay, this would usually be two medium/large bags.

When you arrive at Guthrie House, you will receive a warm welcome and you will be allocated your room and shown around the property. The staff will assist you with a full induction into the service.

What are the terms and conditions at Guthrie House?

Guthrie House offers drug and alcohol services to women who are seeking rehabilitation therefore it is a condition of Guthrie House that you do not use alcohol or drugs while residing at Guthrie House. We will conduct random urinalysis throughout your stay with us. Additionally we require that you do not engage in criminal behaviour while residing at Guthrie House. You will be asked to sign a Terms and Conditions contract with us when you enter the program. This will be explained to you in detail when you arrive or you can request further information by phoning 02-9564 5977

Thank you for your interest in Guthrie House and we wish you the very best!