

Foyer - Eligibility Policy

Scope:

This policy outlines the Foyer eligibility requirements. These requirements are applicable from intake and continue throughout each student's stay.

Policy Details:

Young people seeking to participate in the Foyer must meet the eligibility criteria. To be eligible for Foyer, young people must be:

- aged 16 to 24 and at risk of, or experiencing homelessness;
- motivated to get involved in education and training;
- motivated to get involved in community, volunteering or employment;
- willing to sign up and commit to the Foyer *Deal*;
- without a recent history of violent, aggressive behaviour
- without a previous serious conviction or charged with an offence involving:
 - arson,
 - drug trafficking,
 - serious violence or serious incidents of a sexual nature;
- not currently charged with an offence likely to result in incarceration;
- not engaging in sustained behaviour that is of serious harm to themselves or others;
- a fit for the service mix.

Eligibility - Special Considerations

Past Foyer Students

Students who have moved on from Foyer prior to completion of the two year period are eligible to apply to return to Foyer. They are required to meet the eligibility criteria and undertake the initial assessment process again.

Pregnancy/Babies/Children

Pregnant women are eligible to apply for Foyer. As the Foyer accommodation comprises single room student apartments without capacity to accommodate or support babies or children, pregnant students will require assistance to access alternate accommodation prior to the birth of their baby to enable them to continue their engagement with the Foyer program.

Young people living with a physical disability

If a young person applying for Foyer has special requirements relating to managing personal activities of daily living, assistance may be sought to ensure that they can live safely at Foyer and participate in the Foyer program.



Catchment Areas

Foyers have been strategically located in certain areas to address the population needs of those areas. For this reason catchment area or affiliation with the area where the Foyer is located may apply.

Australian Residency Considerations

If a young person has identified that they are not currently an Australian resident this requires further exploration. The visa that the young person is on will have implications on their ability to access TAFE/ education, their ability to claim independent income support, live independently and work/volunteer entitlements. Therefore their ability to participate in the Foyer may be restricted.

Mental Health Issues

The Foyer is committed to working with young people who experience mental health issues or are using drugs and alcohol; however some limitations apply. Young people with diagnoses of mental illness or who report concerns with their mental health are eligible for the Foyer if their mental health does not impede Foyer participation. The young person's capacity to manage their mental health is evaluated by the young person and the Foyer team in consultation with the referee where appropriate.

Managed mental health depends on having:

- Few or mild to moderate symptoms that do not interfere significantly upon daily life,
- Current effective management of the mental health issue under the care of a GP, psychiatrist, psychologist, counsellor or other mental health professional, and/or taking medication to manage symptoms if required,
- Current effective self-management - taking positive steps to alleviate symptoms and minimise harm to self and others.

The Foyer will not accept young people with mental health issues that are currently not managed. This includes:

- Acute mental health issues at a level that would preclude participation,
- Recent or repeated hospitalisation due to mental health issues,
- Current or very recent suicide attempts,
- Chronic self injuring.

Drug and Alcohol Issues

The Foyer is committed to working with young people with drug and alcohol issues but is not designed to accommodate or service young people who are using alcohol or drugs at very high levels or who do not have effective management strategies in place. The decision regarding the suitability of Foyer for a young person is made after taking into consideration the type and level



of alcohol and drug usage and the extent of the young person's ability to manage that usage, based upon the information provided by the young person, their referee and the interviewer/s. Young people will be considered eligible if their usage is deemed unlikely to impede participation in the Foyer, as evaluated by the Foyer Assessment Panel and the young person in consultation with the referee where appropriate.

Managed drug and alcohol use includes:

- Using in a way that does not interfere significantly upon daily life,
- Having current effective management of AOD usage under the care of a health professional, AOD counsellor and/or using pharmacotherapy,
- Having current effective self-management strategies in place - taking positive steps to minimise harm to self or others.

Unmanaged drug and alcohol usage that would preclude eligibility includes:

- Using at high levels - frequency and/or quantity and likely to impede Foyer participation, i.e. daily poly-drug use
- Using, with negative impacts, with little or no control or effective strategies.

Quality Document References:

Foyer - Advising Unsuccessful Applicants: Work Instruction -Employment & Education - Youth Foyer

References to Standards and Legislation:

DHS Std 2: Access and Engagement	2.1: Services have a clear and accessible point of contact.
DHS Std 2: Access and Engagement	2.3: People access services most appropriate to their needs through timely, responsive, service integration and referral
NCHS Section 3: Tenant Rights and Participation	3.04: Access to Services of the Organisation
Vic Housing Performance Std 5: Tenancy Management	5.01: Allocations and accessibility

Glossary/Definition of Terms:

AOD Alcohol and Other Drugs