



Respite and Recovery Facilities

Integrated health and homelessness support

Fact sheet

Last updated: 12 June 2020

Background

The Department of Health and Human Services (the department), together with St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne (SVHM), Launch Housing, the Brotherhood of St Laurence, Sacred Heart Mission, Anglicare Victoria and VincentCare Victoria, has developed the Respite and Recovery Facilities (RRF) program to provide a coordinated health and homelessness response to people experiencing homelessness. Four RRFs sites have been established across inner Melbourne.

The facilities will provide temporary accommodation for approximately 60 people experiencing homelessness who require supported short-term accommodation in order to access appropriate healthcare. St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne will lead nursing care in all facilities.

The RRFs program is specifically targeted to people currently residing in temporary hotel accommodation in Melbourne's CBD.

Eligibility

The RRFs will assist people who are experiencing homelessness and:

- Have a physical or mental health issue that inhibits their recovery in unsupported accommodation AND this health issue is anticipated to be able to be addressed during their stay; and
- Are seeking support for these health issues and agree to engage in their own care during their stay.

Clients will not be eligible for the program if they require acute nursing or medical care (including management of clinically significant Alcohol and Other Drug withdrawal or frequent monitoring of vital signs and other observations). These clients will be referred to appropriate health facilities for assessment and treatment.

Service delivery

The RRFs program provides an integrated short-medium term health and homelessness response.

Homelessness service staff will provide 24-hour support to people in the facilities alongside St Vincent's Hospital nursing staff. Clients requiring an increased level of care will be referred to mainstream health services as appropriate, including to the nearest hospital emergency department.

It is anticipated that most clients will stay in the facilities for between six and twelve weeks, depending on their housing and health needs.

Intake and referral

Referrals to the RRFs will initially come from agencies that are represented in the CBD Motel Taskforce.

To refer clients to the facilities, staff are required to send an Initial Assessment and Planning (IAP) form to the Nursing Team Leader at SVHM. The Nursing Team leader will consult with homelessness staff at the RRFs to identify an appropriate placement at one of the facilities, according to the clients' needs and demographic profiles.

Completed IAP forms should be sent to the Nursing Team leader by fax number 9231 1147 or secure email to CIRFteamleader@svha.org.au.

Risk management

Service providers will adopt all required coronavirus (COVID-19) risk management measures including regular cleaning, hygiene and sanitisation practices, and physical distancing.

Further resources

For the latest funded homelessness service provider guidelines related to coronavirus (COVID-19), visit <https://fac.dhhs.vic.gov.au/news/new-guidelines-funded-homelessness-service-providers-related-covid-19>.

For information about coronavirus (COVID-19) in Victoria, visit the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) [website <https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus>](https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus).