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## *YHARS Operational and guidelines service model. Information required when referring young people.*

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Youth Housing and Re Integration Service is the Government's initiative to provide a coordinated and integrated response to the complex needs of young people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

YHARS will target 12 -20 year olds at the time of referral who are homeless and or at risk of homelessness and who:

- Are transitioning from care from The Child Safety System
- Transitioning to community after sentence or remand in a Youth Detention Centre
- Have recently exited from care after being subject to statutory intervention (18-20yrs)
- Been sleeping rough or living in unstable or temporary housing arrangements

### **There are 2 components**

#### **1.Support Service**

- To provide case management, support and brokerage to assist young people 12-20 years, that are homeless and at risk of, to transition to greater stability and independence in the Townsville Region.
- Young people who are without accommodation, living in unstable accommodation, living in community managed Youth Studios.
- Living in transition to independent living units in Townsville.
- Living in supervised community accommodation in Townsville

#### **2.After Care Service**

- Provide individualised support through brokerage funds and case management support aged 18 years who are homeless, at risk of homelessness
- Have or are leaving the care of Child Safety.

## **The Goals of the Service**

To assist young people transition to greater stability and independence through flexible, evidence-based service delivery, focusing on:

- Supporting young people to apply and success transitional accommodation
- Reconnecting young people to family/carers if appropriate
- Engage young people in education, training and employment
- Providing and developing young people's skills to maintain tenancies
- Providing young people knowledge and skills to function independently and successfully
- Linking young people to support, specialist services and plan for long term housing

## **Who can refer:**

Youth Justice Services, Youth Detention Centres, Child Safety Services and other Government, non Government organisations may make referrals to YHARS. Self referral is acceptable.

## **Referral Criteria:**

Accepted and prioritised for young people aged 12- 20 years who are homeless, or at risk of homelessness and are:

- Exiting or transitioning from Child Safety statutory interventions, and or are transitioning from a period of sentence or remand in Youth Detention Centres
- Sleeping rough and or living in unstable, temporary or inadequate housing.
- Are aware of the program is voluntary and willing to engage in the program.
- Youth Justice and Child Safety will provide a copy of the current case plans/exit plans/transitional plans and work collaboratively with YHARS to meet the identified young person's needs.

## **Process After the referral has been made:**

- YHARS will undertake an entry/screening process to ensure the referral criteria is met.
- YHARS will make the decision on whether to accept the young person's referral.
- The minimum information to be provided to YHARS by Child Safety and or Youth Justice will be:
  1. Client's Full name, D.O.B, address and phone number
  2. Parents, guardians and carers names and contact details
  3. Family members, ages, gender
  4. Information on any involvement with Child Safety or Youth Justice including any statutory interventions that the young person is subject to
  5. Health issues including mental health
  6. Current case and exit plan, including identified needs, risks and responsivity to interventions
  7. Referrers name and contact details

Child Safety may also refer young people who are approaching their 18<sup>th</sup> Birthday and for whom a support service case has been opened. In this case, the following must be provided:

1. Child Safety identifies a young person that meets the criteria
2. The young person and their support networks, including parents, or care providers where appropriate, agree to the referral. Where relevant, other parties may be consulted about the decision
3. Child Safety Officer completes the YHARS referral process
4. Child Safety Officer to provide the current case/exit/transition plan and contacts the YHARS coordinator to confirm and or to discuss the referral.