



Youth Accommodation Program (YAP)

Information Guide



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SUMMARY OF YAP:

YAP is an externally supported transitional housing program. YAP aims to support young people who are homeless, or at risk of homelessness, gain the support they need to identify and address barriers to, and enhance skills needed for, living independently and sustaining their own tenancy.

Whilst residing in YAP, residents are supported by both the Tenancy Worker and a designated caseworker. The Tenancy worker ensures that our housing is well maintained and that the young people we support, gain the information and guidance they need, to make informed housing decisions. The caseworker further supports our residents by helping them identify their housing, education/employment and life goals, and put strategies in place to start them on their journey in making their goals a reality.

To be eligible for YAP you must be homeless, or at risk of homelessness. Depending what vacancies are available and which you might be applying for, the age criteria is young people 16-21 years old, or young families aged 16-25 years of age.

Participation in YAP is based on duration of need, which means that there is no particular end date to the tenancy agreement. Instead the resident's progress and engagement with the program is reviewed ongoing and a recommendation may be made for either continuing in the program, or for the resident to begin the exiting process into alternative or independent accommodation.

Unless there are extenuating circumstances, participation in the YAP program can be extended for up to a period of 12 months. Most YAP accommodation is shared units; this means that most likely you would be sharing with one other young person.

As well as active participation in your transition planning, you would also be expected to be actively engaged in education and or employment, or actively working toward education or employment, or a suitable alternative as identified in your case Transition Plan.

There are a number of YAP tenancy & living skills programs, workshops, meetings and special events to attend too, and referrals to other support and/ or professional services that you and your caseworker identify, would also be actioned to further assist you in reaching your goals.

WHAT DO THE YAP UNITS LOOK LIKE?

YAP has seven units located in the Miami and Burleigh Waters areas. Each unit is self-contained and has either one or two bedrooms. All units are fitted with security screens and security doors, and the bedrooms in the shared units are lockable. Each unit is furnished with the following items:

- Stove/oven
- Microwave
- Fridge/ Freezer
- Kitchen appliances i.e. toaster, kettle
- Crockery, Cutlery & Utensils
- Pots &Pans
- Lounge and Dining Suites
- Washing machine
- Iron & Ironing Board
- Vacuum Cleaner
- Mop & Broom
- Television
- Bed/s

If you are accepted into YAP you will need to provide your own bed linen, towels, cleaning/laundry products and food.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I MOVE IN?

All YAP tenancy agreements are periodic, that means that they have a start date but no stated end date on the tenancy agreement itself. This is because YAP is a transitional housing program. The purpose for transitional housing support is to work with our young people to address their barriers to independent living, so is based on duration of need. Your caseworker will review your participation in YAP ongoing for progress against your Transition Plan, compliance with the tenancy agreement and engagement with the program.

Before you take up residence you will meet with the Tenancy Worker and caseworker, to ensure you have a clear understanding of your rights and responsibilities. The Tenancy worker will also organise a catch up with the existing tenant, before you make a decision on whether or not to accept the tenancy. If you do accept, the Tenancy Worker will then organise a move in date and complete all of the administration paperwork with you. The amount of rent you will pay will be worked out using the DHPW Community Housing Rent Calculator (based on 25% of your income + a 3% fully furnished property charge).

New tenants will also complete the Welcome to YAP Induction prior to taking up residence.

WHAT DOES YAP EXPECT FROM ME?

Whilst residing in YAP, GCYS expects that young people will actively engage in the program and meet the following guidelines:

There are some rules when residing in YAP that you may, or may not like. Everyone is expected to abide by these rules however, as they form part of the tenancy agreement.

- YAP Tenancy Agreements are made up of rules that come under both the RTA & Housing regulations, and rules that come under the GCYS Annexure to Tenancy Agreement.
- A copy of the GCYS Annexure to Tenancy Agreement can be requested from GCYS prior to making application. Read through the Annexure to see what you think before deciding if YAP is the program for you and you want to make an application.
- You will be expected to have a regular source of income.
- You will be expected to be honest with YAP workers and willing to work through issues and/ or problems as they arise;
- You will be expected to take responsibility for your own actions and accept whatever consequences come from them.
- You will be expected to show respect to all GCYS staff and visitors, other YAP tenants and neighbours, and YAP property.
- You will be expected to notify us of any significant changes to your circumstances that may impact on your eligibility for the program.

WHAT IF I AM INTERESTED IN APPLYING FOR A YAP VACANCY?

If after reading this information guide and the GCYS Annexure to Tenancy Agreement you find you would like to make application, all you need to do is obtain and complete a YAP Application Form when a vacancy is advertised. If you do not have one already, you can simply contact Gold Coast Youth Service on **(07) 5572 0400** and ask to have one emailed or posted to you; or you can drop into the service which is located at 15 Oak Ave in Miami, and pick one up. Remember though, your completed application would need to be returned to us on or before the due date marked on the application form, and making application does not guarantee you will be offered a tenancy; it is just the first step in the assessment and allocation process.

Good Luck and we look forward to hearing from you again 😊