

## The Drum Youth Resource Centre

### Contact details

8 Iolanthe Street (PO Box 1074)  
Campbelltown NSW 2560  
T: 4628 3199 F: 4628 4754  
E:dspears@burnside.org.au

**Hours of service:** Monday, Tuesday, Thursday: 9.30am–1pm and 2pm–4pm  
Wednesday: 9.30am–1.00pm  
Friday: 9.30am–4pm; Closed public holidays

<b>Coordinator:</b>	Donna Spears	<b>Manager:</b>	Susan Chapman
<b>Manager Operations:</b>	Anthea Jackson	<b>Director:</b>	Vivien Tait

### About the program

The Drum began in 1992 as a result of the Macarthur area having a very high youth population and accompanying issues like youth unemployment and homelessness.

The Drum provides a youth service for any young people aged between 12 and 24 years in the Macarthur area who may be in crisis, homeless or dealing with drug and alcohol use.

Youth Workers at The Drum work with young people on a broad range of issues such as accommodation, health, income, relationships, employment, education, drugs and alcohol, mental health, legal matters, living skills, recreation, parenting and general welfare.

The Drum's purpose statement is to ***'Innovatively resource young people who are experiencing disadvantage in Macarthur, in a safe environment'***.

The service provides a welcoming environment for young people to access support in reaching their goals and developing positive social networks. The Drum has a drop-in time each morning between 9.30am and 11am, where young people can get to know the workers and other service users and decide how else the Drum might be able to assist them. The Drum is a safe place where violence or discrimination in any form is not tolerated.

Services are free to young people who participate in the program.

## **Eligibility**

Young people aged between 12 and 24 years, who live in the Macarthur area, including Campbelltown, Camden and Wollondilly, and who are in crisis, homeless or at risk of homelessness, or dealing with drug and alcohol use.

## **Objectives**

The Drum's vision is

***'Safe and just lives for all young people, so they reach their full potential'.***

Young people who go to The Drum are listened to and respected, and treated as people who have the abilities and skills to reach their own goals. Young people find The Drum a useful place where they can get information, appropriate referrals and assistance with whatever they are working on. The workers strive to have up-to-date information, good relationships with other services in the area and skills in relating to young people so they can be of service.

## **Referral**

Self-referrals and government or non-government agencies.

## **Services**

Workers at The Drum work for young people and are directed by what those people want to achieve. There are several ways young people can access The Drum. Young people can access our Assessment and Referral Program and receive short-term support, or they can access our Casework Program through a referral to the team meeting and receive ongoing, structured support with an allocated worker. Staff members at the Drum respect the confidentiality of young people. They work from a strengths-based perspective and aim to be innovative.

The Drum offers different types of services so that young people can choose what will best suit them in reaching their goals. Young people can use the friendly and safe space at The Drum to make meals, have showers, find resources, chill out or chat to staff. Young people can access immediate short-term and crisis assistance at the centre. Young people can request longer-term intensive assistance with a caseworker. The Drum provides a range of welfare support including assistance with transport, laundry, medical costs, employment and education costs. Our brokerage program provides financial assistance to support a young person's case plan, and young people who are linked with another service can still access this brokerage through collaboration with The Drum caseworkers.

The Drum provides outreach for young people who cannot come to the Centre.

## **Funding**

The State Government partly funds the program from the Getting It Together Scheme and the SAAP Scheme; UnitingCare Burnside funds the shortfall.

## **Key facts**

The Drum is in a unique position to offer comprehensive assistance and casework that is not attached to another program such as an accommodation service. This allows workers to address a broad range of issues with young people and to be flexible in service delivery. Drop-in times also allow a safe and structured way for young people to 'test out' the service before requesting further work, or simply to access occasional support and contact with other service users.

In 2009, The Drum began a partnership with Hume Community Housing and Housing NSW to provide two youth specific crisis accommodation units in Campbelltown. The Drum can refer homeless young people aged 17 to 25 yrs into this accommodation for up to eight weeks. Young people will be engaged in casework with The Drum during this time and will work towards more stable and long-term housing options. So far this program has proven very successful and the majority of young people have found permanent accommodation within the eight weeks. The Drum is hoping to expand this program in the future, reliant on housing stock becoming available.