

Who We Are

The Turning Point is primarily a community based medium to long term accommodation service for young people aged 15 to 18 years (inclusive) who are unable to live at home.

The service is funded through the Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP), and is located in Richmond on the north-western outskirts of Sydney. We can accommodate up to 4 young people at once in the house and several more in our flats (for a maximum of 12 months).

The Turning Point was formerly known as 'The Hayshed' and originally located at South Windsor. The service was launched in 1990 in response to a need for supported youth accommodation in the Hawkesbury. We moved to Richmond in 1994.

We have since extended our service to include early intervention and outreach support to young people (and families when viable) to help them achieve or maintain the best possible accommodation outcomes available.

Our operation is guided by the belief that young people have the right to a safe, supportive and predictable setting in which they can work towards reaching their potential and taking responsible control over their own lives.



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Initial contact with the service can be made directly by the young person requiring accommodation, through a friend, family member, worker, teacher or any other support person



- Medium—Long Term Supported Accommodation for males and females aged 15 -18 years.
- Supported independent living in a flat.
- Early Intervention—mediation and referrals for families.

The House

■ The focus of The Turning Point's program is on young people to learn independent living skills in a supported setting with an emphasis on self care and personal responsibility.

■ Young people living at The Turning Point are required to pay \$75 per week towards food and rent.

■ Our program aims to help young people become self-supportive. One of the ways we try to achieve this is by encouraging young people to be involved in a constructive daytime activity. Consequently, residents are usually required to be absent from the house between 9am and 4pm on weekdays.

■ A staff member can be contacted directly from 4pm to 10pm every day and between 7am and 9am each morning (up to 12 noon on weekends). The service Co-ordinator can usually be contacted between 9am and 4pm on weekdays.



Early Intervention

Our aim is to provide education and support with a view to intervening in youth homelessness.

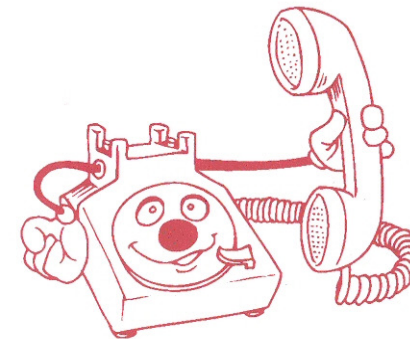
Our service in this regard includes:

- ❖ Family mediation and referrals.
- ❖ Providing information and support to young people, families, schools and youth and family related services.
- ❖ Supporting young people to maintain their current living situation (where it is considered appropriate).
- ❖ Promoting community awareness of the issues surrounding youth homelessness.
- ❖ Respite accommodation may be possible depending on the availability of beds.



Outreach

■ Supported semi-independent living in one of our flats with subsidised rent, giving selected young people a chance to experience living on their own.



Assessment Procedure

The assessment process is very simple and can take as little as two days and usually no longer than two weeks. Here's what you need to do:

1. Call us to arrange an interview between the young person and a worker.
2. The young person is interviewed by a worker where we record information about their situation and needs, and explain the purpose, rules and expectations of The Turning Point.
3. With the help of relevant background information, the interview will be discussed at the next staff meeting and a decision made on whether or not the application has been successful. If so, the young person is invited to move into The Turning Point on a trial basis.