



Gorman House Newsletter

June 2013



In partnership with St Vincent's Hospital, the Order of Malta, NSW is entering its eighth year acting as the lifeline for Gorman House, keeping it open seven days a week. The Order is happy to report that the around-the-clock service continues to be a beacon of hope, offering shelter to some of Sydney's most marginalised population suffering from severe alcohol and drug problems.

The unit provides them with the care and support they need, particularly with physical health intervention, mental health and psychological support. The length of stay is 4 to 5 days, which is the clinical period required for detoxification. Following, residents are encouraged to find stable accommodation and a long term rehabilitation plan in the hope to reclaim their lives.



THE FACTS

- Gorman House admitted 1,507 people for detoxification in 2012 representing a 10.5% increase compared with 2011. Unfortunately, many had to be turned away because of unavailability of beds.
- Alcohol continues to be the predominant substance residents identified as being their main concern (60%), followed by opiates (20%), then stimulants such as methamphetamine, amphetamine and cocaine (20%).
- Housing is still an issue, with a large number of people admitted to Gorman House 'sleeping rough' or living in crisis accommodation.

Charlie Lay, Manager of Gorman House and his dedicated team of inspiring, passionate professionals are committed to the health and wellbeing of their residents. Residents often comment on the wonderful support and care they receive from the staff at Gorman House, which has earned a reputation as the place to go when you really need help.

YOUR SUPPORT

Since 2006 the Order of Malta has successfully raised a total of \$1 million in much needed donations, a fantastic achievement. Now, with your help, the Order is targeting to raise a further \$150,000 by the end of 2013.

The tradition of the barbeque at Gorman House started more than a decade ago as an opportunity for residents to socialise without using alcohol and drugs while gaining skills in the preparation of meals. The Order ensures that members and friends of the Order assist at the barbeques three times a week, serving meals and mingling with residents.

May we express on behalf of the Order of Malta, St Vincent's Hospital, the residents and management of Gorman House, our deepest appreciation for the part the members and friends of the Order and others have played in supporting the fundraising and barbeques activities. In addition we sincerely thank The Sisters of Charity Foundation, Clayton Utz Foundation, Clubs NSW Sydney Region, Harry Triguboff Foundation, Inner Wheel Club of Sydney Inner West, Nell & Hermon Slade Trust, One Tree Foundation, and Secure Parking for their ongoing support.

The Order of Malta's NSW Branch Executive recently approved a proposal to establish a library at Gorman House, offering residents a selection of second hand books on a non-returnable basis.

Two PCs with internet access have been installed at Gorman House. This important addition allows residents to check their email and social media accounts, as well as to access services to support them upon leaving Gorman House. Residents are using the computers to research rehabilitation options, find accommodation and are accessing Centrelink services.



Gary* writes

"I lost everything through heroin, my family, my kids, my mum and dad, my sisters. I never really had any dreams for my future. The staff at Gorman House are great. They have understanding and empathy for you. They don't judge you. They make you feel safe and encourage you to have dreams. This place has saved a lot of lives."

Matthew* writes

"I just wanted to express my thanks in words to the staff of Gorman House as to how much I appreciate all the help that each and every one of you have given me over this past week, and I would like to say that before I came here I never thought this place ever existed. It is sad to know that people including myself abuse substances the way we do! But it's also a pleasure and a blessing to know that people like yourselves are here to help us get our life back on track. Please keep what you're doing because it makes such a difference!"

Anne* writes

"Gorman House gave me a place to sleep, rest, make phone calls, and just try to get back on my feet. If it wasn't for this place, I probably wouldn't be alive. The staff here go out of their way to make you feel safe, to help you feel better. They don't judge you and the doors are always open."

*Real names withheld to protect identity of resident

More than ever, Gorman House needs your financial support – we are seeking your generosity in making a much needed donation by completing and returning the enclosed donation form.

All donations \$2 or more are tax-deductible.



To be involved with the weekly barbeques or to donate to Gorman House, please contact the

Order of Malta

phone: 02 9331 8477

email: info@smom.org.au

If you wish to visit Gorman House and obtain further information, please contact
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Order of Malta Fundraising Committee

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