



FOYER
— OXFORD —



APPLICATION INFORMATION FOR REFERRERS

WHAT IS FOYER OXFORD?

Foyer Oxford is a large scale independent living initiative established by a consortium comprised of Anglicare WA, Foundation Housing and North Metropolitan TAFE. Foyer Oxford provides young people experiencing homelessness, at risk of homelessness, or experiencing disadvantage with fully self-contained transitional housing. Most young people stay for around 18 months, though every young person experiences their own unique journey. Whilst at Foyer Oxford, residents receive case management support to maintain engagement with education, training or employment and to develop the independent living skills necessary to break the cycle of homelessness.

THE BASICS

- Foyer provides a safe, secure, positive, aspirational living environment.
- Young people sign a fixed-term residential tenancy agreement with Foundation Housing, for their own furnished apartment.
- Support is structured through the Foyer Deal – a something for something agreement built around the young person's goals.
- There is always a staff member on site and residents are allocated a Case Manager for regular support throughout their Foyer journey.
- Through a bespoke, person-centred learning program through North Metropolitan TAFE, support is provided to engage with education, training and employment opportunities.
- 98 apartments are available, including up to 24 apartments for single parents with one child under the age of 3

THE FOYER DEAL

To live at Foyer Oxford, young people are asked to sign up to the Foyer Deal. This requires them to:

- Be able to self-care, self-manage and live independently.
- Be motivated to maintain engagement with Employment, Education or Training at a full time capacity, depending on their circumstances.
- Actively engage in case management on a regular basis.
- Be willing to connect with support programs to further develop “adulting” skills and work towards financial independence, through regular employment.
- Be able to meet the obligations of a lease (pay rent, maintain property standards, be a good neighbour, etc.).
- Be able to follow a few house rules, designed to maintain a positive, aspirational community.
- Be a positive community member in Foyer Oxford and Leederville.

WHERE DOES FOYER OXFORD FIT IN THE YOUTH HOUSING SPECTRUM?

In Western Australia, there is a continuum of accommodation services available to young people experiencing homelessness dependent on their circumstances. Foyer Oxford is a high barrier, low support service designed to complement the pre-existing homelessness services and to provide that final step towards independence.



Young people at risk of or experiencing homelessness may need to access the more intensive support services offered through crisis accommodation or transitional housing programs in order to prepare for the level of independence and stability required to be successful at Foyer Oxford. This is to ensure that by the time they access Foyer Oxford, young people will be demonstrating a high level of motivation and be ready to work towards exiting housing services completely, through engagement with employment and the development of strong independent living skills. In this way Foyer Oxford aims to disrupt the cycle of homelessness and disadvantage commonly experienced by young people accessing homelessness services, thereby reducing the demand on public housing.

ELIGIBILITY - SINGLES

- 16-24 years of age
- Homeless, at risk of homelessness, or experiencing disadvantage
- Have the capacity for self-care and self-management
- Capacity and motivation to maintain engagement with Employment, Education or Training on a full-time basis, dependant on circumstances
- Willing to accept and engage in supports
- Have an ability to live independently without ongoing monitoring or staff intervention
- Have proof of Australian Citizenship or Permanent Residency
- Be on an assessable independent income (at least equivalent to Centrelink's independent rate of Youth Allowance) e.g. \$455 per f/n.

EXCLUSIONS/UNLIKELYS

- Couples, unless willing to live in separate apartments and abide by sleepover limitations.
- Active, problematic drug use/ history of problematic drug use with no intention of abstinence.
- Unmanaged, significant mental health condition.
- History of using violence to solve problems, anti-social behaviour and aggression.
- Low engagement or a lack of history of engagement with education, employment and training.
- Unable to live independently (eg. in need of constant supervision, staff intervention or living skills too low).
- Close connections (partner, family, friends) that are likely to put others in Foyer at risk and without the ability/strategies to set boundaries.
- Unable to cope with large scale and high density living environment for any reason.

FOYER APPLICATION PROCESS

- Young person submits an Expression of Interest through the Foyer Oxford Website by registering for an information session (can be run individually dependant on circumstances).
- Young person attends an Information Session held at Foyer Oxford.
- Young person submits an application for Foyer Oxford either in person or through the website.
- Young person attends a one-on-one interview with a Case Manager (only applicants meeting Foyer's eligibility criteria will be booked for an interview, ineligible applicants will be informed of this).
- Reference checks completed with individuals nominated by the young person.
- Young person informed of the outcome of their application:
 - Successful applicants will be offered a property once one becomes available.
 - Unsuccessful applicants will be informed of the reason for the decision, steps they can take to be successful in the future and avenues for appealing the decision.

SINGLE APPLICANTS FAQ'S

How do I refer a young person to Foyer Oxford?

Foyer Oxford would like young people to take responsibility for their own application process. You can assist them to register online for an information session, and help them to attend the info session.

When are the information sessions held?

Information session times and frequency are dependent on demand and vacancy rates but are generally held on a weeknight at 6pm on at least a fortnightly basis. They run for approximately half an hour with additional time required for any individual questions or completing an application form.

Is there a waitlist?

Foyer Oxford has a rolling intake as properties regularly become available. As a result of this there has not been the need for a waitlist; however, applicants can sometimes find themselves waiting up to 8 weeks to complete the application process. Limited assistance is available to young people to assist with meeting the requirements of the Residential Tenancy Agreement.

How do I know when there is a vacancy?

Due to its large-scale, Foyer Oxford ordinarily has vacancies all year round. In the event that Foyer Oxford is at capacity, applications will be closed. This will be advised through the Foyer Oxford website. The website will be updated when applications open again, and young people who have attended an information session will also be notified of this via email.

How long will it take to get a young person into Foyer Oxford?

If they are appropriate, a young person will normally be housed within 8 weeks of submitting an application form. Any variation of this timeframe will be advised at the information sessions or interview.

How much is rent?

Foyer Oxford rental costs are subsidised through the National Rental Affordability Scheme, tenants pay a percentage of the assessed rental value of their property, and are eligible for Commonwealth Rental Assistance. As such rents can change depending on the current values of the property, please view the website for current rental rates.

Does Foyer Oxford take couples?

Unfortunately properties at Foyer Oxford are only suitable for single occupancy. Couples can choose to rent separate properties at Foyer but both will have to

meet the requirements of the Foyer deal and they would have to abide by the sleepover rules.

Pets?

Crazy Crabs, Goldfish or Pet Rocks only!

Is there a curfew?

No, young people can come and go as they please as long they do not cause a disturbance to others. There are some limits on visitors and the times they can visit.

Does Foyer Oxford only take low risk young people?

No! However, we have to maintain a balance of young people who have different levels of support needs to maintain an aspirational environment. This may mean that we need to plan entries for young people with higher support needs. Foyer Oxford relies on creating a positive community of young people, so getting the mix right is important to the success of the whole community. Foyer Oxford is not for everybody though, with high expectations placed on young people for engagement and living positively in the community.

How do you determine who is 'Foyer ready'?

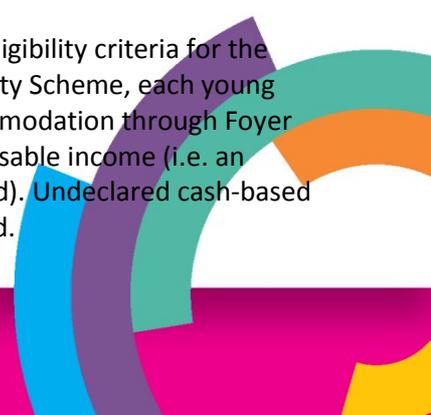
As part of the intake process one of the case management team will complete an assessment interview with the young person and then follow up with referee checks to get a comprehensive view of a young person's suitability. Decisions are based on the impact that Foyer Oxford might have on the young person, as well as the impact the young person may have on the community at Foyer Oxford.

What kind of study or employment do young people need to be in to live at Foyer?

We encourage young people to work or study to their capacity, usually full time hours. Young people do not have to be studying at North Metropolitan TAFE to be eligible for Foyer Oxford. In our experience young people who enroll in courses based entirely upon a motivation to get into Foyer, find it hard to maintain their studies. Online study with limited or no contact hours would normally not meet the requirements of the deal.

Can someone else pay the costs for a young person to live at Foyer?

No, in order to meet the eligibility criteria for the National Rental Affordability Scheme, each young person applying for accommodation through Foyer must have their own assessable income (i.e. an income that can be verified). Undeclared cash-based income cannot be assessed.



If Foyer is staffed 24/7, can it take clients who need lots of supervision and monitoring?

While Foyer Oxford is staffed 24/7, staff are not there to closely monitor young people's daily activities or provide a high level of intervention.

It is expected that with guidance, young people living at Foyer Oxford will be able to largely self-manage the day to day requirements of living independently. This includes maintaining their tenancy and managing their routine, as well as being able to self-regulate emotionally when dealing with normal life events.

What staff supports are available for young people?

All young people living at Foyer Oxford are allocated a Case Manager, who provides regular support to assist them to maintain engagement with education, training and/or employment; work towards personal goals and build skills to exit into long-term housing.

Case Managers are usually available on weekdays between 8am-8pm.

Overnight, Foyer Oxford is staffed by one residential youth worker and one concierge. While the Front Desk is staffed 24/7, their role is to facilitate access and assist in emergencies.

PREPARING YOUNG PEOPLE FOR FOYER OXFORD

There are a number of things services can do to prepare young people for living in Foyer, or applying for Foyer:

- Assist young people to explore options for employment and training. Get young people access to some good career development services.
- Be clear about the expectations of living in Foyer, don't sugar coat the experience.
- Enable young people to engage with Foyer independently as much as is possible. Make sure their engagement is on their terms.
- Integrate elements of the 'Foyer Deal' into case planning you are doing together.
- Assist young people to develop routines, and stabilise barriers.
- If you are unsure whether the young person you would like to refer is 'Foyer Ready' you can use the below infographic as a guide. You can also talk to a Foyer case manager about "what it would take" for a particular young person to be ready for Foyer by presenting a case summary (with the young person's consent). Foyer Oxford staff may work with you for a planned exit from your service into Foyer Oxford.

Should you require further information please visit the Foyer Oxford website:

<http://www.foyeroxford.org.au/>

or contact us on 08 6240 7200.

