# A lawyer’s guide to residential rehabilitation services

This guide is for lawyers assisting clients who want to be admitted to a residential drug rehabilitation facility. It includes the steps to be taken where the client is in custody.

## Benefits of client doing residential rehabilitation

Residential rehabilitation may increase a client’s chances of getting bail, or found the basis for seeking a sentence deferral. Your client must genuinely want to overcome their alcohol or drug addiction and be willing to do a long term residential program and comply with strict rules.

## Selecting a residential rehabilitation facility

There are number of publicly and privately run residential rehabilitation facilities. These are listed in the attached documents:

* Appendix A – Public residential rehabilitation centres in Victoria
* Appendix B – Private residential rehabilitation centres in Victoria.

Speak with your client to determine which residential rehabilitation facilities most suit their needs. Matters to consider include:

* the theoretical basis for the program - is it based on long-term cognitive change or behavioural modification
* the facility’s setting – urban or rural
* the cost of the program.

Odyssey House and Windana have the greatest bed capacity, but some of the smaller bed programs are worth trying, as they often have quick turnaround times.

Most residential rehabilitation centres will not take clients who are charged with sex offences, offences involving allegations of serious violence, or who have priors for such matters. There may be some discretion in this area, but you will have to provide the summaries for any previous cases falling into this category, going back five to seven years.

## Applying for entry into a residential rehabilitation facility

If your client opts for a private facility, contact the provider directly, for their intake and assessment process. Your client may want to apply to a private facility if the nature of their priors or financial situation makes them ineligible for a public facility.

The application process for public residential rehabilitation facilities can be time consuming and normally takes at least six to eight weeks. All public drug and alcohol facilities use standard screening and assessment tools when assessing applications for treatment. The tools include the forms referred to in [Step 1 – Initial screen](#_Step_1_–) and [Step 2 – Comprehensive assessment](#_Step_2_–).

These forms and the full set of assessment tools are available online at:

Health.vic > Intake and assessment <https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/alcohol-and-drugs/aod-treatment-services/pathways-into-aod-treatment/intake-assessment-for-aod-treatment>.

## Steps in the admission process for clients on remand

You can arrange for your client to be assessed by ReGen which organises assessments, either by phone or in person, at the major remand prisons: MAP, MRC, Port Phillip and Dames Phyllis Frost.

### Step 1 – Initial screen

Assist your client to complete the attached ‘Self-complete initial screen’.

Email the completed screen to ReGen at: [intake@nwmetroaod.org.au](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Cma8116%5CAppData%5CLocal%5CMicrosoft%5CWindows%5CINetCache%5CContent.Outlook%5CL8T7Z81W%5Cintake%40nwmetroaod.org.au). Include your client’s custody location and which residential rehabilitation facilities they want to go to. Attach copies of the police summaries, charges and priors. Your client will need to consent to this.

The individual facility has full discretion when considering applications and may change their individual requirements without notice. It is good to know your client’s second choice facility in case they don’t get into their preferred facility.

### Step 2 – Comprehensive assessment

A worker will be allocated to conduct an ‘Alcohol and drug comprehensive assessment’ by phone, or at the prison. Make sure that you receive a copy of the assessment.

Review the comprehensive assessment carefully and follow up as required. If the client discloses a serious psychiatric condition (e.g. schizophrenia), or medical condition, the program may request a psychiatric or medical report or assessment. This is to ensure that the person’s conditions are stable and can be managed in the treatment facility. The provider may also have strict rules pertaining to pharmacotherapy, central nervous system stimulants such as Ritalin and prescribed medication, especially benzodiazepines.

It can be difficult to arrange an assessment or report, if funding is unavailable or you are unable to get someone to see your client in custody. If you want to obtain information about treatment the client has received in custody, you can make a Freedom of Information application to Justice Health. This can take in excess of 45 days. This will delay any bail application and entry onto the program.

### Step 3 – Acceptance onto a program

ReGen will forward the results of the initial screen, the follow up assessment and supplementary documents to the residential rehabilitation facilities they have nominated. The facility will consider the application based on the information provided and notify ReGen and you of their decision.

### Step 4 – Bail application

List a bail application when you receive written confirmation from the facility that a bed is available for your client. Make arrangements for your client to be driven from court to the residential rehabilitation centre, if released on bail. This is crucial. Check with the provider as to any special intake requirements.

## More information about drug and alcohol addiction

### Health.vic

Victorian government website with information about drugs and alcohol and treatment services available. See Alcohol and other drug treatment services <https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/alcohol-and-drugs/aod-treatment-services>

Website: <https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/>

### ReGen

ReGen is a publically funded alcohol and other drug treatment and education agency of UnitingCare Victoria and Tasmania, which delivers a comprehensive range of alcohol and drug services to the community.

Telephone: 1800 700 514

Website: <http://www.regen.org.au>

### DirectLine

Confidential alcohol and drug counselling and referral in Victoria.

Telephone: 1800 888 236

Website: <http://www.directline.org.au>

### Drug info

Australian Drug Foundation service providing information about alcohol and other drugs and harm prevention. See [Drug Facts](http://www.druginfo.adf.org.au/drug-facts/drug-facts) (<http://www.druginfo.adf.org.au/drug-facts/drug-facts>) for factsheets and online information about specific drugs.

Website: <http://www.druginfo.adf.org.au/>

## Appendix A – Public residential rehabilitation centres in Victoria

### Indigenous

| **Name** | **Location**  | **M/F/Mixed** | **Age** | **Custody clients** | **Pharmacotherapy** | **Notes** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Baroona Youth Healing Place****Tel:** (03) 5480 6252[www.njernda.com.au](http://www.njernda.com.au) | Echuca | Indigenous males, no kids | 14–22  | Yes | No | 10 beds, 16 week program |
| **Galiamble****Tel:** (03) 9534 1602[www.ngwala.org](http://www.ngwala.org) | St Kilda | Indigenous males, no kids | Over 18 | Yes | No | 16 beds, 16 week program, mainly Indigenous service |
| **Winja Ulpna****Tel:** (03) 9525 5442[www.ngwala.org](http://www.ngwala.org) | St Kilda | Indigenous females, no kids | Over 18 | Yes | No | 12 beds, 4 month program, mainly Indigenous service |
| **Yitawudik****Tel:** (03) 5826 5217[www.ngwala.org](http://www.ngwala.org) | Toolamba | Indigenous males, no kids | Over age 21 | Yes | No  | 12–14 beds, 4 month program, mainly Indigenous service |

### Youth

| **Name** | **Location**  | **M/F/Mixed** | **Age** | **Custody clients** | **Pharmacotherapy** | **Notes** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Birribi (YSAS)****Tel:** (03) 9430 2300[www.ysas.org.au](http://www.ysas.org.au) | Eltham | Mixed youth, no kids | 16–20  | Yes | Yes | 15 beds, 6 month program |
| **SHARC****Tel:** (03) 9573 1700[www.sharc.org.au](http://www.sharc.org.au) | Carnegie | Mixed youth | 16–25  | No – community based program | Yes | 17 beds, 12 month program |
| **Tandana****Tel:** (03) 9563 2275[www.weac.org.au](http://www.weac.org.au) | Mount Waverley | Mixed youth | 12–20  | Yes | No | 4 beds, 12–16 week program |

### Other

| **Name** | **Location**  | **M/F/Mixed** | **Age** | **Custody clients** | **Pharmacotherapy** | **Notes** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Bendigo Bridge****Tel:** (03) 5440 8450[www.salvationarmy.org.au](http://www.salvationarmy.org.au) | Bendigo | Mixed | 18–30 | Not suitable – community based program | Yes | Salvation Army (Christian) based program, 10 beds, 16 weeks |
| **Bridgehaven****Tel:** (03) 9480 6488 or (03) 9521 2770[www.salvationarmy.org.au](http://www.salvationarmy.org.au) | Preston | Females, with kids 0–12 | – | Yes | Yes | 18 beds, 4–6 month program |
| **MARP (Maroondah Addictions Recovery Project)****Tel:** (03) 9871 1833 | Lilydale | Mixed adult, no kids | Over 18  | Yes but houses are in the community, which can be a problem for some magistrates in terms of bail  | Yes | 8 beds, 3 month program, $450 payment required in advance |
| **Odyssey House****Tel:** (03) 9420 7600[www.odyssey.org.au](http://www.odyssey.org.au) | Lower Plenty | Mixed | Over 18 | Yes – 15 dedicated beds  | Yes | 113 beds, 12–18 month program, family accommodation available if kids 0–12 |
| **Quin House****Tel:** (03) 9419 4874[www.vincentcare.org.au](http://www.vincentcare.org.au) | Fitzroy | Males only | Over 18 | No – community based program | Yes | 11 beds, 12 week program, with option for longer, focus is homeless and socially marginalised men |
| **The Basin****Tel:** (03) 9760 9203[www.salvationarmy.org.au](http://www.salvationarmy.org.au) | The Basin | Mixed |  – | Yes | No | Salvation Army (Christian) based program, 36 beds, 16 weeks.Needs 1 week in advance payment (80% Centrelink payment)  |
| **Windana****Tel:** (03) 9529 7955[www.windana.org.au](http://www.windana.org.au) | St Kilda East – detoxTherapeutic community: Maryknoll, Victoria | Mixed | Over 18 | Yes  | Yes | 40 beds, 6–9 month program, or longer, up to 12 months |

## Appendix B – Private residential rehabilitation centres in Victoria

Contact them directly for advice about their referral process. They are often much more flexible regarding eligibility criteria.

1. Remar Australia – Nyora, South Gippsland

Christian-based, long-term residential rehab for men.

**Tel:** (03) 5659 6307 or 0419 436 687

[www.remaraustralia.org](http://www.remaraustralia.org)

**Fees:** Portion of client’s Centrelink payments

1. Connect Transformations – Bendigo

Christian-based, long-term residential rehab for men and women.

**Tel:** (03) 5441 3133

[www.connectchurch.com.au](http://www.connectchurch.com.au)

**Fees:** Portion of client’s Centrelink payments

1. Teen Challenge – Kyabram

Christian-based, long-term residential rehab for males over age 16.

**Tel:** (03) 5852 3777

[www.teenchallenge.com.au](http://www.teenchallenge.com.au)

**Fees:** Portion of client’s Centrelink payments

1. Betel Australia – Yarra Valley

Christian-based, long-term residential rehab, men and women over age 17.

**Tel:** 0442 709 664 or 0434 214 527

[www.betelaustralia.org](http://www.betelaustralia.org)

**Fees:** Does not accept payment. Participants work in the organisation for their board.