

About the shelter

We provide supported accommodation generally for up to 3 months, for women over 18 (no children in times of crisis such as homelessness and/or domestic violence by creating a safe, non-threatening environment that will assist them through their emotional and physical crisis.

We take a client centred approach to collaborative case management.

After a thorough intake evaluation, a caseworker is assigned to the client within 72 hours to create a plan to put the pieces of the puzzle together. We assist clients with everything that is required to support a lasting change, including finding sustainable accommodation, access to funds, life skills, study, vocational training, legal help, medical assistance, negotiating Centrelink, etc etc. We work closely with local businesses who provide employment opportunities. When a client leaves the shelter, they do not leave our care: through our outreach service we continue to provide assistance as necessary.

We are unable to support women with unmanaged addictions, unmanaged mental health issues or who have a history of violence.

What's the shelter like?

Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Women's Shelter operates from a large suburban house. The Shelter atmosphere is as close to an ordinary home as possible. The house includes a shared kitchen, lounge and dining room. Each bedroom is shared between two women.

Residents are required to abide by the house rules and attend regular house meetings. These meetings provide a forum to discuss a range of issues regarding residents/staff day to day activities and operations of the Shelter (house rules, rostering of domestic duties, relationships with other residents etc) as well as social activities, events and training.

There's something about Ming...

Ming* came to us with nothing. She had been stripped of dignity, and financial means. The controlling and abusive behaviour perpetrated on Ming by her Australian husband included financial abuse, isolation, degradation, swearing, threats of divorce and misrepresenting her rights in Australia. This resulted in a woman full of despair with feelings of helplessness and hopelessness walking into your shelter in 2016.

It is within the walls of your Shelter that she began to heal. We walked beside her every day. We secured a Bridging Visa, enrolled her into English classes, helped her secure a job and housing.

Today she is healthy, living independently and saved \$500.00 from her salary to donate back to the shelter. We challenge you to Match Ming and be the change for the next woman that comes through our doors.

*not her real name

Contacts for help

If you are in immediate danger, please call 000

The below services are open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. (* can provide a referral to the HKWS)

***Police Assistance Line:** 131 444

***Domestic Violence Line:** 1800 65 64 63/
1800 671 442 TTY (Hearing impaired)

***Link2Home:** (homelessness info line):
1800 152 152

1800 RESPECT:
(domestic & family violence counselling):
1800 737 732

Rape Crisis Service: 1800 424 017

Interrelate Family Centres: 1300 736 966

Lifeline: 13 11 14



Empowering
women in
crisis to create
a better future

About Us

The Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Women's Shelter (HKWS) provides temporary supported accommodation for women who are victims of domestic violence and/or homelessness.

We are part of the Women's Community Shelters (WCS) network, which is dedicated to establishing new shelters in partnership with local communities. We receive some funding from WCS and grants, but mostly rely on donations from the public.

We employ professional staff to work with our clients at the shelter and to run our office (part-time). However, we could not function without all the volunteers from the local community who make up our board, provide services at the shelter and help out in supporting committees. The board is very hands-on and not only spends several hours a week on running the organisation but also works with local, state and federal politicians to bring about policy change.

We are dedicated to keeping running costs to the absolute minimum, but empowering women to create a better future is a costly affair.

We invite you to become a member of our Coffee Crew, which is that special group of people that supports the shelter through a monthly donation.

You can donate via our secure website: www.hkws.org.au/donate, via **PayPal**, **Beem_it @hkws**, or via just about every fundraising platform, including Facebook.

We encourage you to explore workplace giving with your employer or to consider leaving us a gift in your will.

If you would like to support our fundraisers or run an event for us, please let us know! We have special programs for small businesses and corporate supporters.

We are a registered charity and all donations over \$2 are tax deductible.

For more information, visit www.hkws.org.au, email office@hkws.org.au or call **0401 016 431**

Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Women's Shelter
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ABN 49 735 037 904



Follow us on:    @hkwsshelter

About Domestic Violence and Homelessness

Domestic violence is more than physical abuse and can include any or all of the following:

- **Physical violence** including physical assault, choking or throttling and/or using physical presence to stand over, block access or menace,
- **Sexual assault** and other sexually abusive or coercive behaviour,
- **Emotional or psychological abuse** including verbal abuse, name calling, put-downs, constant criticism, deliberately 'pushing buttons' and threats of violence,

- **Economic abuse** including denying a person reasonable financial autonomy or financial support, limiting access to bank accounts or cash, hiding bank cards, taking out loans in a partner's name or demanding someone live on an unreasonable low 'allowance',
- **Stalking** including physical tracking of movement, intimidation or coercion of the person's family in order to cause fear or ongoing harassment,
- **'Cyber stalking'** through tracking devices, hidden surveillance including through the use of electronic communication or social media,
- **Social isolation** including unreasonably preventing the other person from making or keeping connections with family or kin, friends, faith or culture,
- **Property damage** irrespective of whether the victim owns the property,
- **Abuse of an animal** irrespective of whether the victim owns the animal.

Domestic violence occurs across all cultures, social classes, age ranges and across genders.

Women's Homelessness and Domestic Violence Statistics

In 2017

72,000 women

sought homelessness services due to family/ domestic violence
(AIHW, 2017)

On average

8 women a DAY

are hospitalised after being assaulted by a spouse or partner
(AIHW, 2017)

On average

1 woman a week is killed

by her intimate partner.
(Bryant & Bricknell, 2017)

The 2016 census showed

28% increase

In Australians aged 55+ experiencing homelessness. The oldest person that HKWS offered a bed was 81!