

Eligibility Criteria for the Mother Baby Unit at Curran Place

ReGen's values are:

Hope - Affirming the possibility of change for everyone.

Social Justice - Standing up for the rights of all people to be treated equitably and with dignity.

Empowerment - Building on people's strengths, so that they can speak and act for themselves.

Integrity - Upholding honesty, openness and responsibility in all our actions.

Respect - Accepting all people as they are and acting with compassion, empathy and fairness.

ReGen works within a harm minimisation framework. Harm Minimisation provides a multilayered approach to reducing the supply of and demand for alcohol and other drugs in Australia, while also addressing the needs of people who currently use these substances. It also focuses on prevention and targeting at-risk groups.

At UnitingCare ReGen, we are focused on the principles of good practice of working with women with complex drug and alcohol issues. We seek to reduce the stigma around mothers seeking help for alcohol and/or drug issues particularly in the postnatal time period.

Eligibility Criteria

- This is a voluntary service for a Mother (or primary carer) seeking to undergo withdrawal accompanied by their babe(s) in arms (up to 12 months of age or walking stage) for part of or the entire length of admission
- It is a state-wide service for clients already linked into AOD treatment
- The vast majority of mothers and babies would be returning to their home environment with support from the community sector, including some visits by Maternal and Child Health Services
- It has capacity to transfer a mother (or primary carer) from Methadone to Suboxone
- It may include Mothers (or primary carer) undergoing withdrawal as a pre-admission requirement for:
 - AOD rehabilitation
 - Dual-diagnosis where a substance use issue is the primary diagnosis, and the mother (or primary carer) and baby are assessed as safe in this environment, and there is no active risk to the baby
 - Where admission to a family and parenting service requires the mother or primary carer to complete withdrawal
- Antenatal women seeking to undergo withdrawal or Methadone stabilisation
- Clients referred to us by child protection must first be engaged with family support services

Area	Effective Date	Last Review Date	Version	Responsibility	Next Review Date
Clinical Services	June 2016	June 2016	1	Director Clinical Services	December 2016

Exclusions:

- This service is **not** for babies in the early stages of withdrawal or babies with health needs that the mother cannot manage and are outside of the scope of the withdrawal unit. However, we may accept medically stable babies still receiving treatment for addiction where the mother is proficient at independently providing care to the baby. (This will be assessed on an individual basis)
- Where DHHS involvement places restriction on the ability for the child to be in the parent's custody in the program, or where there is an imminent risk that DHHS may remove the child. The mother could attend our service, but in the general adult unit.
- Excludes clients mandated to residential parenting treatment and where reunification of the mother and baby should be occurring in a parenting centre
- Where an assessment of the child and parent interaction/relationship should be completed in an early parenting centre
- Mothers presenting with a high level of absconding risk
- High level of risk of harm to others (including baby)

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