

## OUR HISTORY

Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Women's Shelter (HKWS) came about through the seeding of an idea by Women's Community Shelters (WCS) in conjunction with the Hornsby Homelessness Task Force in June 2013. The project gained significant community support and a Steering Committee was formed by the end of 2013. During 2014 the new HKWS Board, with complete support from WCS, secured and renovated a suitable property and established a robust infrastructure to begin shelter operations.

HKWS was officially launched on 4 December 2014. This was only realised due to the overwhelming support and enthusiasm of the Hornsby and Ku-ring-gai local communities. Fund-raising from many group activities and from individual donations, together with a significant contribution of funds from WCS, secured the set up and initial operational costs of the Shelter. The establishment of the Shelter was an incredible effort brought about by the dedicated commitment of local community groups, businesses and residents all working together.

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**Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Women's Shelter**  
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**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.**



Hornsby Kuringgai **Women's Shelter**

# GIVING WOMEN HOPE

# AIMS OF THE SHELTER

To provide temporary supported accommodation for women in times of crisis such as homelessness and/or domestic violence. Provide a safe, non-threatening environment for women that will assist them through their emotional and physical crisis.

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## WE CAN ASSIST WITH

- Temporary supported accommodation
- Assisting, creating and exploring housing options
- Resolution of the crisis
- Promotion of good health and well being
- Life skills to promote independence and self esteem

*We take a client centred approach to collaborative case management.*

## WHAT IS 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. House 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.

## WHO CAN ACCESS THE SHELTER

Local women over 18 years of age who are homeless and/or escaping domestic violence with no dependent children or unaccompanied by their children.

Due to the nature of our staffing, we are presently unable to support women with unmanaged addictions, unmanaged mental health issues or who have a history of violence. We are seeking to improve physical access to our service but currently there is a small flight of stairs used to gain entry to the property.

## ***Referrals can be made Monday to Friday 9-5pm***

- Direct to the Shelter via (02) 8411 2046
- Domestic Violence Line 1800 65 64 63
- Link to Home 1800 151 152
- Police, Hospitals, Centrelink, Community Organisations, and other Government and Non-Government organisations
- Self-Referral

# SERVICES PROVIDED

- Supported Shelter accommodation
- Information and referral
- Advocacy
- Crisis counselling
- Court Support
- Community education and development
- Access to interpreter services via Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS)
- Women's Homelessness and Domestic Violence

You can donate to the Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Women's Shelter via our website below:

**[hornsbykuringgaiwomensshelter.com.au](https://hornsbykuringgaiwomensshelter.com.au)**

All donations are tax deductible.

## WOMEN'S HOMELESSNESS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

- Every night, around 46,000 women are homeless in Australia
- Most women are homeless due to domestic violence
- Mental illness also plays a big role in women's homelessness