



## Fact Sheet

### Service Name: Clifton Adolescent and Family Support (CAFS)

Updated: June 2011

Mission Australia's Clifton Adolescent and Family Support (CAFS) is an early intervention service that supports young people who are at imminent risk of homelessness or who have recently left their family home. The service works holistically with 12 to 24 year-olds, their families and/or carers and with existing services to bring about positive change in their young lives.

#### Target groups

Our primary target group is young people aged 12 to 24 years, their parents, carers or other family members when:

- Problems are getting in the way of relationships or hopes for the future;
- It's getting hard for the young person to keep living at home or;
- If the young person has already left home.

We are funded to work with people who live in or have ties to the Hornsby, Ku-ring-gai and Ryde Local Government Areas;

Referrals are received from a range of Government and non-Government services, as well as from families and young people themselves.

#### Service activities

We provide a counselling and case management service that is flexible, innovative and client-focused, with support individually tailored to meet the needs of the young person and/or their family.

We believe everyone has personal resources and abilities. We believe that it is not the person that is the problem - it is the problem itself. We aim to work together with families and young people to find ways to bring about positive changes and achieve goals. CAFS is a confidential, flexible and friendly service.

CAFS provides:

- Counselling and support for individuals;
- Counselling and support for families;
- Group work programs, including creative, support and educational programs and information groups for parents and young people;
- Information, referrals and practical assistance;
- Youth support and case management.

#### Outcomes

CAFS is committed to strengthening family relationships and helping to minimise youth homelessness wherever possible. Our services assist young people and their families to achieve the goals they set for themselves. CAFS staff work in partnership with young people and their families to reduce the influence of problems on their lives and assist them to bring about desired changes.

During 2009-10, CAFS assisted 217 individuals, supporting them through times of transition and change.

Our team includes a full-time Case Manager, a role that has allowed CAFS to broaden its support scope into the wider community and, in particular, to local schools.

#### Funding Sources

CAFS is fully funded under the Specialist Homeless Services and administered by the NSW Dept. of Human Services, Community Services.

#### Mission Australia

Mission Australia is one of the nation's leading community service organisations, having helped transform the lives of individuals and families in need for over 150 years. Mission Australia's vision is to see a fairer Australia by enabling people in need to find pathways to a better life. We currently operate more than 550 community and employment services throughout metropolitan, rural and regional Australia, which provide:

- Pathways away from homelessness;
- Pathways to strong families and healthy, happy children;
- Pathways through a successful youth;
- Pathways to life and work-ready skills
- Pathways to sustainable employment

#### Contact information

Monday to Friday: 9.00am – 5.00pm

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