



## REFERRAL PROCESS

- Chaplain or welfare worker fills out referral form with inmate and faxes to Friendship House.
- Friendship House Committee reviews referral and arranges interview if appropriate.
- Decision made by committee to accept or decline referral.
- If accepted, arrangements are made to meet the client on day of his release at a local Newcastle railway station.
- New resident signs agreement, pays rent and moves in for 28 days of Accommodation and Support program by Friendship House Volunteers.

For more information or to volunteer please call Samaritans Friendship House Co-ordinator  
Ph: (02) 4922 1500 or  
0423603555

## BACKGROUND

Friendship House is a program of the Samaritans Foundation in Newcastle, the welfare arm of the Anglican Diocese of Newcastle.

Friendship House receives no government funding, it is completely funded by donations and run by volunteers.



**Samaritans**

Samaritans Foundation—Diocese of Newcastle  
The welfare arm of the Anglican Church in the Hunter, Manning and Central Coast.

Ph: 02 4960 7100 [www.samaritans.org.au](http://www.samaritans.org.au)



**Samaritans**

*Compassion Integrity Justice*

# FRIENDSHIP HOUSE

*a new beginning*



# WHAT IS FRIENDSHIP HOUSE ?



## WHAT IS FRIENDSHIP HOUSE PROGRAM?

Friendship House is a support program for men exiting prison and is situated in an inner suburb of Newcastle.

The program helps you to be part of the community, providing you with a volunteer and car to assist you each day to meet your goals to re-enter society.

## WHAT IS FRIENDSHIP HOUSE ACCOMMODATION?

Friendship House is a two-bedroom house in a local Newcastle suburb to accommodate two clients.

Residents are required to abide by House Rules and sign a licence to occupy for their stay of up to 28 days.

## HOW MUCH DOES IT COST ?

Residents are required to pay \$220 up-front to get into Friendship House, this is made up of \$180 for 4 weeks rent and \$40 refundable key deposit.

The \$220 does not include food or other items like washing powder and toiletries etc., However clients are given a backpack containing a starter pack of toiletries, linen, pillow, food and phone vouchers.

## WHAT SUPPORT WILL I GET ?

The Friendship Program encourages you to establish goals to assist you to be part of the community.

While at Friendship House, you can expect to see volunteers 5 days a week, Monday to Friday. They are rostered to assist you to work through your goals. These goals may be working through your Centrelink problems, helping to get an appointment, opening a bank account or looking for longer term accommodation. Sometimes it is just a cuppa and a chat.

Volunteers are not the decision makers in your life, they are more than happy to help you talk or think through an issue but decisions remain with you.

Volunteers may be able to help you with some useful information or they might talk to someone on your behalf if you wish, but at all times they will consider your confidentiality.

Although you may see a volunteer on your own, it is important to remember that the volunteers work with a team approach, sharing information.

## WHAT CAN I DO NOW ?

You could develop your goals.

Here are some goals to think about to make coming home less of a hassle

- Do I have any identification? Can I apply for some now? Talk to your welfare officer about getting a birth certificate.
- What benefit will I be on?. See CentreLink before you leave.
- What contact will I have with my family and/or friends when I get out?
- What will I need to change about myself?
- Who can I ask for help?
- Why will things be different this time?
- What promises have I made myself?
- Can I save some money now?
- What work can I do?
- What options do I have for future accommodation? (eg Housing NSW eligibility)

*Supportive Program for people leaving correctional centres.*

*Volunteers making a difference in their community and in people's lives.*

*Recognising ex-prisoners have a right to become members of society.*