

### **Clients Assessed with Mental Health Issues Whilst in Service**

#### **Policy**

Lions Emergency Accommodation Centre Inc. (LEAC) is committed to providing safe accommodation for all clients. When a client in the service is assessed by staff as having mental health issues which places themselves or others at risk, LEAC will ensure appropriate external resources are accessed.

#### **Procedure**

If at any time a client receiving services from LEAC is assessed as having a mental health problem which is placing themselves or others at risk and they acknowledge they are in need of support:

- Encourage the client to undertake an assessment by a non-threatening profession
- Develop a support plan in consultation with the health care professional who has agreed to have case management responsibility
- Include an emergency procedure in the support plan.

Staff should know who to contact in case of emergency and who will take responsibility for the children. This is especially important with people who are known to self-harm. The support plan should include a contingency plan for what would happen if medical treatment is required.

LEAC will not take any responsibility for a client's medication.

If the client does not acknowledge that they have a mental health problem, and it is assessed that they are placing themselves or others at risk:

- Staff will take any necessary steps to ensure the safety of the client, their children and other clients in the service
- The appropriate services will be called and may include one or more of the following;
  - Adult Mental Health
  - Hospital
  - Police
  - Department of Child Safety