

Brochure text:

Mercy Ministries is a national not-for-profit organisation. It is a faith-based organisation dedicated to providing homes, care and support for young women in crisis.

Mercy Ministries is a beautiful place where broken lives can be restored through our unique residential program.

The program offers professional support from psychologists, dieticians, general practitioners, social workers, counsellors and program staff who all contribute to provide daily education for the young women in our care.

We provide a holistic program that addresses all aspects of a young woman's wellbeing: physical, spiritual and emotional.

WHO WE HELP

Mercy Ministries helps young women between the ages of 16 and 28. Young women come to Mercy Ministries suffering the effects of eating disorders, self harm, abuse, depression, unplanned pregnancies and other life-controlling issues.

WHY WE EXIST

Mercy Ministries is dedicated to seeing young women reach their full potential, transforming their lives and learning to be free. Providing long-term residential care gives young women the opportunity to live in a safe environment. Working with professionals enables young women to discover their value, vision and skills in order to move forward from abject despair into a fruitful future.

A NEW BEGINNING

Imagine knowing for the first time that you are loved unconditionally, that you are accepted no matter what you have done... and that there is a reason for living.

We believe that change is possible no matter what situation or circumstance young women find themselves in. All it takes is a willingness to face and work through the issues affecting their lives. We understand that this is enormously difficult and challenging, and that it requires a great deal of courage, but we do believe it is possible. Working closely with a counsellor and other staff, and making use of the facilities made available to them, young women have the choice to move beyond minimal function in most cases, into a life that is rewarding and fulfilling.

THE MERCY MINISTRIES PROGRAM

HOW ARE WE DIFFERENT?

Mercy Ministries is the only residential program of its kind in Australia. Mercy Ministries was founded by Nancy Alcorn in America in 1983. Mark and Darlene Zschech went on to establish Mercy Ministries in Australia in 2000. The first Mercy Ministries home in Australia opened in Sydney in 2001 and another opened on the Sunshine Coast in 2003. Mercy Ministries has plans for further expansion and intends to open more homes throughout Australia.

Young women from all over Australia are invited to come and live at one of our residential homes for approximately six months at no charge. The decision to apply to Mercy Ministries is made on a voluntary basis and applications to our program are to be made by the young woman seeking help. A willing heart and a sincere desire to change are the only requirements for entering the program. Mercy Ministries addresses the physical, spiritual and emotional aspects of a young woman's wellbeing, enabling our staff to deal with the cause of an issue and not just the problem. The results are evident in the lives of the young women who go on to lead full, productive lives.

INDIVIDUAL CARE

Life Skills Training

The young women work to a structured, routine schedule and soon discover that this structure is beneficial to their self worth and an important aid to their healing process. Each young woman participates in class time, household tasks, recreation and counselling. Parenting classes are provided if a young woman is pregnant and chooses to parent her baby. Each young woman also receives instruction in budgeting and finance, fitness and health, career guidance and social skills.

WHO FINANCIALLY SUPPORTS THE PROGRAM?

Mercy Ministries is financially supported by individual donors, corporate partnerships and fundraising events held throughout the year. These provide the funds to support our residential program as our program is provided at no charge to young women. This is one of the first steps in building a bridge of trust between the young women and our staff. Many young women have already been through programs that cost hundreds - even thousands - of dollars per day. These young women discover that the Mercy Ministries program is about changing lives, not making money.