



Substance Use Policy

Policy: 05

While drugs and alcohol are not allowed on the premises, we do house many guests who are actively using these substances. We offer a non-judgmental approach that attempts to meet guests “where they are at”. Volunteers should recognise that the realities of poverty, class, racism, social isolation, past trauma, sex-based discrimination and other social factors affect guests’ vulnerability to and capacity for effectively dealing with substance use.

Policy:

- 1. Guests who are obviously substance affected or intoxicated on arrival at the Shelter will not be admitted.**
- 2. Guests must not use or be in possession of controlled drugs or substances or associated equipment whilst on the shelter property.**
- 3. Guests must not consume or be in possession of alcoholic drinks whilst on the shelter property.**
- 4. Smoking of tobacco will only be permitted in the designated areas at each shelter, no later than 11 pm.**

Procedures:

- 1. Guests arriving at the shelter obviously substance affected or intoxicated will be turned away by the Venue Coordinator. They will be given written notification of the reason for non-admittance and information on how to re-register. This must be recorded in the log book. They may be given water and/or food to take away.**
- 2. If a guest presents in a state of severe intoxication they will not be permitted to enter and emergency services should be notified. The shelter will not take responsibility for the care of individuals in this condition as it will not have the necessary expertise to do so.**
- 3. If a guest violates this policy, they will be required to leave and will be given an exit pack if available. This decision should be made in consultation with the shift leader. They will receive a 24 hour ban from attending a shelter and will need to re-register. This must be recorded in the log book.**

(Winter Night Shelter – Sunbury acknowledges and thanks Stable One for permission to use their documents either whole or as reference)