



MINISTRY OF
JUSTICE
Tāhū o te Ture

CHRISTCHURCH YOUTH DRUG COURT

Established by Judge John Walker, 2002

Christchurch Youth Drug Court

- Criteria for entry
- Young person is appearing in Youth Court
- Is a serious offender (in terms of seriousness of charge or volume of charges)
- Has a diagnosed drug and/or alcohol dependency
- Is a link between offending and dependency
- Is prepared to undergo treatment

Typical Entry Path

■ Tuesday 12 February

- First appearance in Youth Court
- Admits charge
- Drug screen conducted at Court – indicates likely dependency
- S 333 Drug Court Assessment directed
- Family Group Conference directed when assessment available

■ **Tuesday 13 March**

- Second appearance in Youth Court
- Assessment confirms dependence
- Family Group Conference recommended
Drug Court
- Remanded to Drug Court

■ **Thursday 15 March**

- Appears in Drug Court

Acceptance into Drug Court

- Involvement in Drug Court is voluntary
- The Family Group Conference recommends transfer to Drug Court and The FGC Plan is presented at Court
- The Judge discusses the Plan and the process with young person and agreement is reached
- The young person then attends Drug Court every fortnight

Drug Court Team

- Judge
- Youth Advocates
- Drug Court Social Worker
- Police Prosecutor
- Clinicians
- Family Group Conference Co-ordinator
- Education Office
- Court Clerk

Aims:

- Early identification of young offenders whose alcohol and/or drug dependency contributes to their offending
- Increase interagency co-ordination with regard to programmes for these young people
- Reduce the delays in treatment programmes
- Closely monitor young people in treatment programmes
- Effect a reduction in crime-associated drug use

Discharge:

- Plan Completed

The young person has successfully completed the programme (often 6-12 months later) can be ***discharged without any formal convictions***

- Non-compliance or Further Offending

The young person is transferred back to the mainstream Youth Court and continues in the usual manner. There is no penalty for not being successful in the Drug Court.

Treatment Plan

- Regular but random urine screens
- 1 on 1 counselling
- Group counselling
- Odyssey House day programme
(5 days a week; school room each morning)
- Odyssey House Residence

Balance of the Plan

- Community work
- Reparation
- Regular review letters/reports
- Artwork
- School/Course

Young People

- First 30 young people – 14 March 02 to 13 March 03
- 14 – moderate cannabis dependence
- 12 – moderate to severe cannabis dependence

At time of discharge, 22/30 (73%) had stopped or significantly reduce use and of the 22, 10 were in full remission

Last Week ...

- **14 young people aged 15, 16, 17**
 - 12 males 2 females
 - 7 Maori
- **1 lives with both birth parents**
- **1 attend school**
- **10 Declarations made that they are in need of care and protection**

Diagnoses

- **3 – severe cannabis dependence**
- **7 – cannabis dependence (4 – alcohol dependence as well)**
- **1 – cannabis abuse**
- **3 – alcohol and synthetic cannabis dependence**

Case Study 1

B born June 97 16

■ **22 offences March – June 2013**

■ **burglaries, car theft, theft, dangerous driving, failing to stop**

■ **reparation of \$42,544.95**

■ **Severe cannabis dependence. First used aged 13. Daily use by 13½**

■ **Last attended school aged 13½.**

■ **Mother alcoholic – foetal alcohol spectrum disorder**

- Accepted into Drug Court on 15 August while in Youth Justice Residence
 - Entered Odyssey Residence 26 August
 - Now on Level 1. Head of kitchen.
 - Discharge planning after Christmas.

Case Study 2

L born June 97 16

- **14 charges October 12 – April 13**
 - **robberies, attempted robbery, burglaries, theft, trespass, offensive weapon**
 - **(lots of offending aged 12 and 13 for money)**
- **Severe cannabis dependence. First used aged 9. Regular user at 12. Daily at 13**
- **Expelled from school for possession of cannabis aged 14.**

- In CYFS care.
- Father heavy cannabis user.

- Accepted into Drug Court on 6 June 2013
 - Entered Odyssey Residence 26 June
 - Detailed transition plan

Case Study 3

T born November 97 16

- **4 offences 13 July – 2 August 2013**

 - **burglaries, intention damage**

- **Severe cannabis dependence. First used aged 13. By 14 half a tinny daily.**

- **Excluded from school age 14 for cannabis use.**

- Accepted into Drug Court on 29 August 2013
 - Attends Odyssey day programme
 - Weekly appointments with clinicians
 - Drug screens