

Quin House and RLAD Client

LGBTIQ Case Vignette



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INTERVENTION

Yanis* is a 38-year-old male who identified as LGBTIQ and attended Quin House for residential rehabilitation for a significant substance use issue. He was also homeless and had been residing at Westside Lodge Dual Diagnosis Rehabilitation Program in St Albans for recovery and treatment for a range of mental health issues and trauma. Yanis was diagnosed with a Substance use disorder, Bipolar, post-traumatic stress disorder, anxiety, cluster B personality traits, ADHD and Bulimia nervosa. He had a very significant methamphetamines addiction.

Yanis is a victim/survivor of violence perpetrated by his ex-partner that severely traumatized him and triggered increasing substance use to cope, and deteriorated his mental health. Yanis had early experience of being sexually abused as a child combined with his violence by his partner resulted in numerous hospitalizations for complex mental health and substance use.

Yanis came to Quin House after a 4 month stay at Westside Lodge. Yanis's first month at Quin House was a challenge for him as he was trying to establish himself in the Quin peer group and trying to adjust to the new routine and environment. He was supported by other residents and the staff, and his sleep became better, his mood improved and he stated to eat in a healthier manner. One month into his stay he was required to attend the Melbourne Magistrates Court to speak to a violence order that he had taken out with the support of the Victorian police, against his ex-partner. The ex-partner had sent death threats and threats of violence and as the person only lived 1 km away from Quin House. Yanis's anxiety was immense. Staff supported him to attend Court and he succeeded in having a permanent order made against the ex-partner.

OUTCOMES

This seemed to lift a significant emotional burden from him and he was able to focus on his recovery from substance use. During his stay at Quin House, mental health stabilized and he developed a much stronger future orientation towards his ongoing recovery and new life. At this time, Quin House had 4 other male clients who identified at LGBTIQ and as such, Yanis was able to speak more freely with this group of men and feel a connection to community.

Quin House staff were able to negotiate and advocate for Yanis to move into the Extended Supported Accommodation units at Ozanam House post Quin House and continue to be supported through the Reconstructing Life After Dependency (RLAD) program. Yanis, with the support of Quin House and RLAD staff appears well on his way in recovery from amphetamines. When exiting Quin House, Yanis thanked staff for all their work with him and that Quin House was a very safe space for LGBTIQ+ men to be able to focus on their own recovery from substance use, and not be exposed to homophobia or discrimination that has been present in other services.

*Name changed