

# MEDIA RELEASE

**To:** Chief of Staff / News Director  
**Date:** 7 May 2014  
**Pages:** 2

---

## **MENTAL HEALTH EDUCATION ASSISTS DRUG & ALCOHOL REHABILITATION RESIDENTS TO REBUILD LIVES**

### **Unique Partnership with Gold Coast Institute of TAFE Launches Today**

---

Mental Health education to tackle the ever-increasing problem of drug and alcohol abuse and addiction on the Gold Coast has launched today for a group of 13 successfully rehabilitated residents from Goldbridge Rehabilitation Services located in Southport.

The unique partnership with Gold Coast Institute of TAFE allows Goldbridge 'Residential Supervisors' to achieve their Certificate IV in Mental Health, delivered in a format tailored to their needs.

The 'Residential Supervisors' are those who have completed the Goldbridge Residential Phase of treatment and are now participating in the 'Transition-to-Community' phase of treatment.

Goldbridge senior staff have identified these participants as 'successfully rehabilitated'.

According to Charlie Blatch, CEO of Goldbridge, the one year TAFE course is fully funded by Goldbridge for each of the 13 participants, with the first of the monthly training sessions commencing today.

"We are geographically well positioned on the Gold Coast to assist with the higher level of mental health issues within the local community, as a result of substance misuse and addiction."

Mr Blatch said recent statistics from a number of credible industry sources identify the Gold Coast as having a slightly higher rate of risky alcohol consumption when compared to both Queensland and Australia. They also point to a higher rate of drug offences in the Gold Coast Police District than the rest of Queensland, and a higher rate of GP services for mental health.\*

"The Residential Supervisors have an important role in the centre, including supervising new residents, conflict management, as well as supporting and motivating all residents to stick with the program and their daily routine."

Mr. Blatch said educational material reviewed as part of the Certificate IV in Mental Health will be significant for Residential Supervisors in supporting relapse prevention for clients.

"This is because it provides essential understanding of mental health and how it relates to alcohol and substance misuse," he said.

This new partnership training model with Gold Coast Institute of TAFE is the latest in a four-year relationship that has involved TAFE hosting student placements from Goldbridge, and Goldbridge staff providing guest speaker presentations to students completing their Cert III through to Diploma Level in Mental Health and related courses.

The program is also one of Goldbridge's 25 Year Milestone Celebration initiatives, marking the organisation's long track record working with the local community in the provision of successful drug and alcohol rehabilitation.

## ENDS

---

### **INTERVIEW / PHOTO OPPORTUNITIES:**

Interview and photo opportunities available upon request with Charlie Blatch, CEO of Goldbridge

### **ABOUT GOLDBRIDGE:**

Goldbridge is Queensland's leading and most experienced drug and alcohol rehabilitation provider for those in greatest need. Goldbridge was established in 1987 with the vision of minimising the level of social and family dysfunction, disease, injury and premature death, primarily associated with the misuse and dependency of alcohol and other drugs. Today, the organisation continues to uphold and deliver on this vision, run by a passionate and experienced team of nine staff, backed by a skilled Board of Directors.

The facility offers a results-driven program focused on radical personal change, enhanced psychological well-being and social functioning, reducing the risk of relapse and assisting to overcome the challenges of settling back into mainstream society. The organisation has built a reputation amongst past and current residents as the key program on the Gold Coast that achieves real and sustainable recovery outcomes. This reputation continues to result in high levels of enquiry and referrals.

---

**More Information:** Nina Ellingsen | Evoke Communications  
M. 0488 646 225 E. [nina@evokecommunications.com.au](mailto:nina@evokecommunications.com.au)

Kerry Van Der Helm | Evoke Communications  
M. 0410 578 194 E. [kerry@evokecommunications.com.au](mailto:kerry@evokecommunications.com.au)