Hannah Place

• Hannah Place provides support and long term accommodation to young women who are pregnant and/or parenting and who are under the Custody or Guardianship of the Minister in a home like environment.

• Young people are offered case management support, advice and advocacy towards pregnancy and parenting, personal growth, daily living skills working towards independence.

• Young women are able to reside at Hannah Place up until they are 18 years of age with option of outreach support until they are 19 to transition them into independent living.

• Referrals are made in consultation with Placement Services Unit of Families SA.

• For Aboriginal clients, consultation is to take place with Families SA Principle Aboriginal Cultural Consultant and Centacare Aboriginal Leadership Group throughout the referral process and client support.
Front Entrance to Hannah Place
A unit at Hannah Place
Values and Philosophy

• The values of the service when working with young women recognize the diverse backgrounds and experiences of the women we are working with, acknowledging that due to this they often have high and complex needs.

• We recognize the resilience, strength and life skills that the young women have developed before we have met them and build upon these, treating each young woman as the individual that they are. We deliver our service as one that is driven by the individual woman and do our best to meet her expectations and needs that she has identified.

• ‘We’ the organisation endeavour to take away the authority, the confusion, the rules, the fear for these young women and introduce a home, a place for the young women to come to, to feel safe, to feel wanted, a client focussed program, to know they are in control of their lives and importantly to learn about themselves and their babies and how to manage their lives.
How we Work as a Support Agency with a Statutory Body

- Hannah Place is a support service with mandatory notification responsibilities.
- This at times can make the support role of Hannah Place a difficult one to balance as we do not want a notification to be the end of the clients engagement with support.
- We address this by –
  - Being very clear with the young women when they come to Hannah Place around our mandatory notification obligations and the fact that when possible we will always discuss our concerns with the young woman first and put steps in place to address these concerns. We will also let the young woman know if we need to notify.
  - Being transparent and actively engaging families around any child protection concerns. Having a proactive approach rather than telling them the concerns and then leaving the client feeling helpless about them.
  - Having a child first approach. All decisions made are made by putting the needs of the child/baby first.
  - Having good communication with the young woman’s Families SA worker. This includes regular care team meetings that include the client.
  - Engaging with culturally sensitive services on an individual needs basis.
Services we work with

- Yarrow Place
- DoPM – Department of Psychological Medicine
- CAFHS
- Strong Start
- Private Psychologists
- ICAN
- Shine SA
- Families SA
Theories and Approaches We Practice

**Strengths perspective:** is a way of working with clients that shifts focus away from a client’s problem, deficits and labels and focuses on client’s strengths, resources, abilities and resilience. Strengths based practice is about valuing the client and collaborating together to make a positive change. A strength is viewed as having the capacity to cope with difficulties, to maintain functioning in the face of stress, to bounce back in the face of significant trauma, to use external challenges as stimulus for growth and to use social supports as a source of resilience. This relationship relies on mutual collaboration where the client is the expert in their own life and power is acknowledged as a joining of one another’s knowledge to reveal capabilities and solutions.

**Trauma informed:** All Hannah Place clients have experienced trauma in their past and present.

- Disruption in trusted relationships
- Focus away from clients problems
- Valuing the client and collaborating together proving choices
- As a service we create a safe environment that fosters a client’s sense of efficacy, self-determination, dignity and personal control. Further to this we -
  - Communicate openly
- Equalize power imbalances, allow the expression of feelings without fear of judgment
Theories and Approaches We Practice

**Attachment:** Hannah Place has rules, curfews, visiting hours and expectations but here is where the complexity and difference lay. We do not use the words rules, curfews or any authoritative behaviours as from past knowledge this client group resists authority, has already had a difficult past and wants to be in control of their destiny.

Boundaries to provide a safe base | Consistency - have expectations | Flexibility

Gaining insight and guidance from the complicated but insightful attachment theory the young women’s defence mechanisms and where they are on the cycle of security and their personal stage of development and emotional development assists us in guiding them forward in their lives with their babies.

*The theoretical underpinnings of the attachment theory is guiding us in this endeavour to ‘take out’ the authority and ‘put in’ care support and guidance through mentoring, positive role modelling, positive thinking, out of the box practices, flexibility with the guidelines and a lot of learning and fun along the way. The young women also learn about the circle of security for their own child to maximise bonding and parenting skills.*

**Systems Theory: Transitioning to independent living and adulthood:** recognising functional relationships and boundaries and maintaining connections.

- Promoting the parenting role and all that this encompasses.
- The service utilizes strength’s based approach that recognizes people’s ability to be their own agents of change.
- Flexibility in provision of support.
- Encourage feedback from the young women, service providers.
- To support and foster relationships with extended family where this is deemed a positive relationship.
- We deliver our service as one that is driven by the individual woman
How It Looks On The Ground

**Language:** We try to use informal language where possible and discuss things in a language that young women can understand and relate to, giving real world examples.

**Consistency:** It is extremely important for all staff to be consistent with language, approach, giving options.

**Respect:** Respect their choices and decisions however never give false hope.

**Rules:** We have them, however as mentioned language is very important and word rule is not a therapeutic approach instead we may say agreement.

**Child protection:** Honest and open conversations with young mums. Child protection/concerns are always discussed and addressed openly with the parent/s consistently.
Summary

Hannah Place is a therapeutic model that addresses intergenerational trauma and increases parenting capacity to enable young women to transition into adulthood.