



HARP – What is it?

Hospital Admission Risk Program

What is HARP?

- Established in 2002, HARP is a DoH funded program that arose from the Victorian Government Hospital Demand Strategy.
- HARP is a coordinated multidisciplinary team approach to managing people with complex care needs and chronic disease.
- HARP is a partnership between the public hospital system and community organisations.

What does HARP do?

- HARP aims to decrease avoidable hospital admissions and emergency department use.
- HARP is targeted at people who either frequently present, or who are at risk of presenting, to hospital because of chronic disease or complex medical and/ or social issues.
- HARP aims to improve health outcomes for people by providing short-term coordination, case management and education and by linking people to longer-term community supports where appropriate.

What about all those acronyms?

Each health service has its own HARP program that all have their own individual names and acronyms, but essentially they all do the same things.

St Vincent's has 3 HARP streams of care.

1. ALERT (Assessment, Liaison and Early Referral Team)

ALERT aims to improve health outcomes by providing advocacy and support for socially disadvantaged people with complex psycho-social needs. In St Vincent's emergency department, ALERT provides risk screening, assessment and discharge planning. ALERT also has Care Coordinators located at the Inner East, North Richmond and North Yarra CHCs. ALERT has partnerships with the RDNS Homeless Persons Program and St Vincent de Paul.

2. RESTORING HEALTH

The Restoring Health team provides multidisciplinary disease management and education to people with a confirmed diagnosis of

chronic lung disease, chronic heart failure or diabetes. Services available within this stream include disease specific rehabilitation, programs, care planning, service coordination, outreach nursing and allied health. Restoring Health provides services to people both in St Vincent's and in the community. Care Coordinators are located at St Vincent's inpatient services, Darebin Community Health Centre and Inner East Community Health Centre.

3. TRAAC (Treatment, Response and Assessment for Aged Care)

TRAAC provides a rapid response assessment, short- term case management and service coordination for older people with complex needs who are experiencing a recent change in health or functional status and are at risk of hospital presentation. TRAAC case managers are located at St Vincent's and St Georges, in the LGA offices of Boroondara, Darebin and Yarra, and with RDNS (Yarra centre). TRAAC also has access to a geriatrician and Allied Health services.

What do I do if I want to refer to St Vincent's HARP?

Ring 1300 131 470 to discuss the referral and which HARP response would be most suitable. If you already refer to the service through existing entry points, please continue to use these pathways.

There are no specific referral forms to complete, however we will ask you to provide a medical and social history, demographic information, GP contact details and a list of current medications. We also request that the person you are referring is aware that you will be sending their information to St Vincent's HARP.