

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What happens if I don't complete my DAAR course?

A: If DAAR is a condition of your bail and you do not attend; fail to complete the course; or attend under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol, the court will be informed but it will not be a breach of your bail undertaking.

If DAAR is ordered as a condition of your recognisance and you do not attend; fail to complete the course; or attend under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol, your matter will be returned to court. The recognisance may be forfeited and you may be resentenced in relation to the original offence/s.

Q: Can I reschedule my DAAR course?

A: Generally, no. If you are unable to attend for some reason, contact Referral and Support Services. You may be asked to provide supporting documentation, for example, a medical certificate or letter from your employer demonstrating your inability to attend.

Q: Do I have to attend in person?

A: Generally, yes. However, in some circumstances you may have your DAAR course conducted by phone. For example, if there are no appropriate service providers in your area or if you have pending or previous convictions of a violent or sexual nature.

Q: Can I bring a support person?

A: Yes, you may bring a support person. However, please note that you cannot bring children to your course unless given prior approval by the DAAR counsellor. Contact the Referral and Support Services Office to enquire whether you can bring your child to your course.

Contact Information:

Department of Justice and Attorney-General
 Referral and Support Services
 Courts Innovation Program
 Phone: 07 3738 7100
 Email: Court.Diversion@justice.qld.gov.au
www.courts.qld.gov.au/services/court-programs

Courts Innovation Program

Drug and Alcohol Assessment Referral (DAAR)

What is a DAAR course?

DAAR courses are available to most defendants appearing before the Magistrates Court who identify drug or alcohol use as a contributing factor to their offending behaviour.

The course involves an assessment of substance use followed by counselling and education about the use of drugs and alcohol.

A court can direct a defendant to attend a DAAR course:

- » while on bail – i.e. before being sentenced; or
- » as part of their sentence as a condition of a recognisance order (this is also known as a good behaviour order).

Am I eligible?

To be eligible for a DAAR course you must:

- » be charged with an offence where drug and/or alcohol use was directly linked to your offending behaviour
- » be charged as an adult

- » be at least 18 years old – if you want to participate in DAAR while on bail
- » be at least 17 years old – if you want to participate in DAAR as part of your sentence.

You are not eligible for a DAAR course if:

- » you have completed two DAAR courses within the last five years.

How can a DAAR course help me?

A DAAR course can assist you to understand your substance use and how it relates to your offending behaviour.

It can also help you to address your alcohol and/or drug use.

If you would like further treatment or support, you can discuss your options with your course provider.

How long does a DAAR course last?

The course lasts approximately two hours. If you are attending the course in person, you should arrive at least 10 minutes prior to the start time of your course.

If you arrive late, the service provider running the course may refuse to see you and you may have to return to court.

If you are participating in the course by telephone, you must ensure you are not driving and are in a quiet, safe location to gain the most benefit from the course.

How do I get involved?

If you would like to attend a DAAR course, speak to your legal representative, a duty lawyer, or court staff.

They will discuss your eligibility and can help you complete an eligibility form.

This form is presented to the magistrate who will make a decision on your eligibility and may direct you to attend a course.