

Case Study: Michael Dawson

Name has been changed to protect privacy

Background

Michael Dawson has been residing in Level 3 Supported Accommodation (L3SA) since 2019. He was referred by Queensland Health following a significant deterioration in his mental health.

Michael has a history of violence and has been diagnosed with paranoid schizophrenia. He is currently under a Forensic Order, imposed by the Mental Health Court due to property-related offenses and unlawful drug activities.

Despite his high level of need, the services available to him have been inadequate. His escalating erratic behavior poses a serious risk to

- Himself:
- Other residents: and
- The wider community.

Mental Health and Behavioral Challenges

Michael's mental illness and substance abuse have resulted in frequent aggressive and unsafe behaviors, including:

- Verbal outbursts: yelling, swearing, and disrupting the facility and neighborhood.
- Aggression toward women & children: approaching and threatening them in public.
- Public safety risks: stepping into traffic, engaging in erratic behavior.
- Unsafe behaviors in the facility: leaving uncapped needles in shared spaces.
- Medication non-compliance: resulting in psychiatric instability.

Community & Stakeholder Complaints

Michael's behavior has led to multiple community complaints, including from local businesses, shopping precincts, and the police:

DATE	INCIDENT
30/04/2024	State MP for Greenslopes raised concerns about his presence in Stones Corner business district.
27/11/2024	Greenslopes Mall management reported him screaming at customers and causing disruptions.
31/12/2024	A woman reported being aggressively threatened at a bus stop—she now avoids leaving home alone.

06/01/2025	His room found in hazardous condition—uncapped needles posed a risk to staff and residents.
08/01/2025	Reported acting aggressively at a bus stop, causing bystanders to flee. Police notified.
09/01/2025	Community reports of drug use, harassment, and involvement in an assault.
10/01/2025	Community member raised concerns about his verbal abuse towards women and children.
30/01/2025	Observed yelling at motorists, displaying erratic behavior in shopping precincts.

Efforts Taken to Address the Situation

Despite being an unfunded service, the facility has taken extensive steps to manage Michael's behavior, including:

- Providing daily support: ensuring he is fed, monitored, and encouraged to take medication.
- De-escalation techniques: staff are trained to intervene during aggressive episodes.
- Incident response: Making reports and responding to Queensland Police Service (QPS).
- Mental Health Services: Multiple requests for additional interventions, with limited response.
- Updates to government agencies: stakeholder engagement and discussions with local MP regarding community concerns.
- Case Management: Attempting to coordinate case meetings, despite minimal engagement from mental health services.

Despite these efforts, the system has failed to provide the required intervention.

Systemic Failures & Need for Urgent Intervention

Michael's case highlights critical failures in the mental health system and the lack of suitable accommodation for someone with his complexity:

- Mental Health Services Not Engaging: despite repeated requests, no intervention plan has been implemented.
 - No Alternative Accommodation: no facilities suitable for high-risk individuals like Michael.
 - Inconsistent Medication Management: Mental health teams are not ensuring compliance with antipsychotic medications, resulting in frequent psychiatric relapses
 - Insufficient Support: the burden entirely on an unfunded L3SA provider.
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Urgent Request for Action

Despite SAPA and facility staff exhausting every possible intervention, Michael remains a serious risk to:

- Himself
- Other residents
- The community

Immediate intervention is required.

Given his violent history, ongoing Forensic Order, and escalating community risk, we request urgent action from Mental Health services review his case transition him to an alternative accommodation with higher support levels.

This case is beyond the scope of L3SA and requires an urgent government-led response.

The continued lack of appropriate intervention is putting the community at risk. We ask that this matter be treated with the highest priority to prevent further harm.