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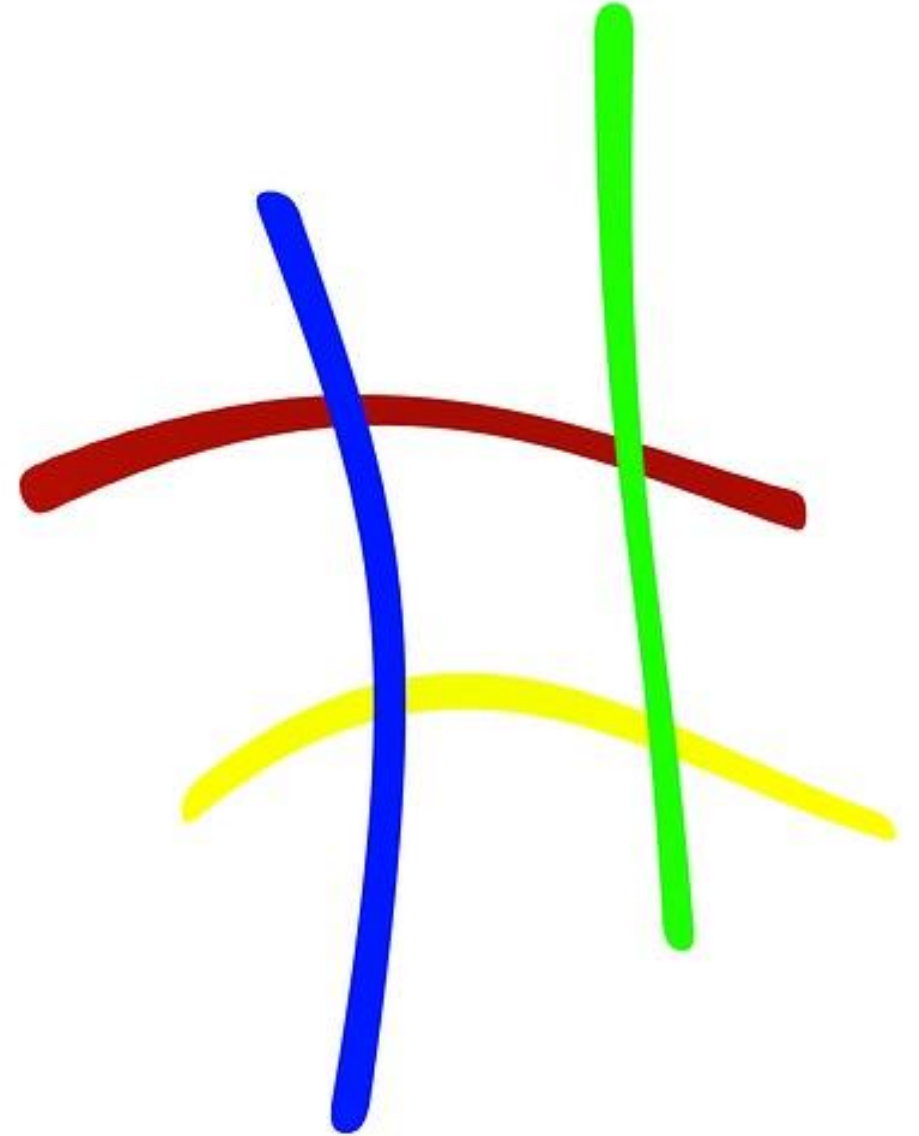
Imagined  
Futures



**St Pat's** | St Patrick's  
Community  
Support Centre

# Regional Snapshot

Towards supporting at risk young  
people in our region



July 2024

# Overview and Acknowledgements

## Overview

This Regional Snapshot aims to help build understanding about the profile of young people, including at risk young people, in the Cockburn, Melville and Fremantle region and insights about issues, needs, responses and emerging initiatives. The Snapshot also includes information on the wider context impacting young people, state and local strategies and plans, youth homelessness and service responses.

The Snapshot was prepared for [Imagined Futures](#) and [St Patrick's Community Support Centre](#) (St Pat's) by [Pauline Logan Consulting](#) to share with the Imagined Futures network and to inform the St Pat's Youth Place Review and exploration of opportunities and gaps for supporting at risk young people in the region.

The Snapshot draws on demographic information, research and consultations by YACWA for the City of Cockburn, City of Fremantle, City of Melville to inform their respective Youth Strategies, a brief desk top exploration and insights from the Imagined Futures network and consultations with the Imagined Futures – Youth Initiative Working Group, and representatives from CREATE Foundation, Y-Shac (Anglicare), SMYL Community Services, headspace Fremantle, Cockburn Youth Centre (City of Cockburn) and the City of Fremantle (Community Development team).

Links are provided to key reference sources (where they are available online). The Table of Contents provides links to various sections for ease of navigation.

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## Acknowledgments

Pauline Logan Consulting is based on the traditional lands of the Whadjuk Noongar people. Pauline Logan Consulting recognises the continuing connection of the Whadjuk Noongar people to land, waters and culture, and pays deep respects to Elders past and present.

Pauline Logan Consulting also thanks all whose research, reflections, insights and learnings informed this Snapshot.

# Table of Contents - Sections

[Summary, gaps and opportunities](#)

[Youth Profile, At Risk Young People, Youth Homelessness](#)

[Local community youth profiles and demographics](#)

[State plans and strategies](#)

[Local government strategies and plans](#)

[Service and support pathways](#)

[Insights from consultations](#)

# Summary, gaps and opportunities

# Summary, gaps and opportunities

This Snapshot has been developed from a desktop review and drawing on insights from the Imagined Futures network including the Youth Initiative Working Group and individual consultations. The Snapshot shows:

- There is a range of information, including demographic information, providing a profile of young people, at-risk young people and youth homelessness. These are heavily reliant on census data. Census data can be limited and quickly become out of date.
- A consistent age range isn't used to define young people for information, data purposes and service delivery purposes.
- A range of factors contribute to youth homelessness and the risk of homelessness, with some young people particularly vulnerable to homelessness often with complex needs.
- Local governments (Cockburn, Fremantle, Melville) have collated local community youth profiles and demographics.
- Current local community information about young people experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness is lacking. Youth homelessness can be hidden and census data on youth homelessness doesn't reflect all young people who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness.
- There are extensive and growing unmet needs for young people experiencing or at risk of homelessness and at risk for other reasons. This is compounded by the continuing lack of suitable, affordable accommodation (including crisis and transitional accommodation) and support services unable to meet all services needs.
- There are several State strategies, plans and programs setting out government priorities relevant to at risk young people. The next Youth Action Plan (2024 - 2026) is in development and anticipated to be launched in late 2024.
- Local governments across the region (Cockburn, Fremantle and Melville) have developed youth strategies based on community demographic profiles and consultations including with young people. The focus is on giving young people a voice and building capacity for all young people. Some local government initiatives support at risk young people. Current youth strategies indicate that local governments are unlikely to meet the growing and unmet needs of at risk young people.
- There are a range of youth advisory mechanisms across the region. These vary in focus. There isn't a current mechanism with a specific focus on at risk young people.

# Summary, gaps and opportunities

- There are a range of service and support options for at risk young people in the region. many of these are helplines and not located within the region. There is a lack of funding for the extent of support required. Funding is program focused e.g. crisis and transitional accommodation, mental health, youth justice, crime prevention.
- Consultations with the Youth Initiative Working Group and individuals provided a range of insights. There was strong alignment on the benefits of strengthening and integrating person-centred services so that at risk young people are provided the right supports at the right time. Insights are grouped to:
  - Issues and needs
  - Data
  - Service and community responses
  - Collaboration
  - Support for a local youth engagement hub
  - Emerging initiatives
  - Other opportunities.

# Youth Profile, At Risk Young People, Youth Homelessness

Profile children and young people (Commissioner for Children and Young People)

At Risk Youth Strategy 2022 (WA Government)

Young People's Mental Health 2020 – 2025 (WA Government)

Long-term costs of youth homelessness (Housing All Australians)

Specialist Homelessness Services Annual Report 2022 – 23 (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare)

Rental Affordability Snapshot (Anglicare)

# Profile children and young people in WA

From the Commissioner for Children and Young People WA 2024, [‘Profile of Children and Young People in WA – 2024’](#):

- The **number of children and young people** increased between June 2022 (644,468) and June 2023 (633,757), while the **proportion of children and young people decreased** from 22.8% to 22.3% during this time.
- In 2022, **Aboriginal children and young people** (aged 0 to 17 years):
  - Represented 7.3% of the total population of children and young people in WA.
  - Were almost double that of the proportion of children and young people in the non-Aboriginal population (38.3% compared to 22.1%). The primary reasons for this were cited lower life expectancy and higher fertility rates of Aboriginal people compared to non-Aboriginal people.
- In 2021, the **cultural background of children and young people** in WA was 84.9% born in Australia. The most common countries of birth after Australia were England (1.7%), New Zealand (1.1%), the Philippines (1.0%) and India (0.9%).
- ABS estimates were that 14,500 children and young people aged 12 to 17 years had a reported **disability**, representing 7.9% of the total population of 12- to 17-year-olds in 2018.
- Census data reported that there were 419,711 **households with one or more children** in 2021. This comprised 262,249 (62.5%) couple families with dependent children and 69,574 (16.6%) single-parent families with dependent children. Most single parents were female (79.9%).
- More than two-thirds of students were educated in government **schools** and almost one-third are educated in Catholic and independent schools (as at Semester 1, 2023).
- Overall, **poverty rates** for children and young people in WA were higher than in Australia as a whole. The Bankwest Curtin Economics Centre estimated that in 2019–20, 16.6% of children in WA were living in poverty (approximately 107,000 children and young people aged 0 to 17 years). This was higher than the percentage for any other age group.
- The 2021 Census demonstrated that, while 80% of all Australian single parent families were female, more than 95% of the **poorest single parent families** who relied on income support payments were headed by women.
- In June 2023, 11,744 children and young people were on the **public housing wait list**; marginally higher than in 2022 (11,461) and almost 20% higher than in 2021 (9,934).
- In 2021–22, 6,802 children and young people aged zero to 17 years **presented at WA specialist homelessness services** alone or with their families (7,102 in 2020–21). The majority (4,117) were under 10 years of age. The most common reason children and young people needed housing and homelessness assistance was family and domestic violence.
- On average, households **waited** 133 weeks (more than two years) **to be housed** (102 weeks in 2020–21 and 116 weeks in 2021–22).
- The 2021 Census data showed at least 2,058 **children and young people were homeless (850 young people aged 12-18 years)**. The figures are known to be underestimated due to the often-hidden nature of youth homelessness.
- On 30 June 2023, there were 5,174 children and young people in **out-of-home care**, more than half of whom (59.3%) were Aboriginal. This was a significant increase from 30 June 2013 when 3,972 children and young people were in out-of-home care, 49.0% of whom were Aboriginal.
- In June 2022, **Aboriginal children and young people were 20 times more likely to be in out-of-home care** than non-Aboriginal children and young people (61.6 per 1,000 compared to 3.1 per 1,000).
- On an average day in 2021–22, there were 490 children and young people aged 10 to 17 years **under youth justice supervision**, with the majority (385 or 78.6%) being supervised in the community.
- In 2021–22, **Aboriginal children and young people were around 45 times more likely than non-Aboriginal children to be held in youth detention.**



# At risk young people

The WA Government [At Risk Youth Strategy 2022](#) outlines **factors and challenges that put young people at risk of harm** and can lead to them experiencing negative life outcomes:

- Issues associated with family dysfunction
- Child protection concerns
- Mental health and social and emotional wellbeing concerns
- Disability and neurodevelopmental issues
- Parental offending
- Inadequate housing or homelessness
- Economic and social disadvantage.

**Additional challenges were identified for Aboriginal young people** and their families:

- Living in regional and remote settings.
- Intergenerational trauma.
- Experiencing significant disadvantage across many health and wellbeing indicators.

**Issues for at risk young people often co-occur** with other complex problems including:

- A young person's alcohol and drug use.
- Aggressive and anti-social behaviours.
- Offending and risk taking behaviours.
- Self harm.
- Emotional regulation concerns.
- Truancy.
- Disengagement from support services.
- Care arrangement challenges.

**Significant links to violence were also identified:**

- Many at risk young people have been exposed to violence, including family and domestic violence and sexual violence. It is estimated that 1 in 6 (1.6 million) Australian women have experienced physical and/or sexual violence by a cohabitating partner since the age of 15 years.
- **As much as 56 per cent of youth homelessness is linked to family and domestic violence.**
- Emerging research links adverse experiences in childhood, including exposure to family and domestic violence, physical abuse and exposure to pornography as factors that may contribute to a child or young person engaging in harmful sexual behaviours.



3 in 4 people with a mental illness develop symptoms before the age of

**>25**



An estimated **72,527** young people aged 12 to 24 years (17.5% young people) had mild, moderate or severe mental health issues



Poor mental health cost the Australian economy an estimated **\$200-\$220 billion** in 2018-19

**91%**

of young people in WA had experienced impact on their mental health and stress levels during the **COVID-19 pandemic**



**1 in 10 people** aged 16 to 24 reported having thought seriously about ending their own life

**49**

young people (aged 15 to 24) died by **suicide** in 2019 in WA



Young LGBTQIA+ people aged 16 to 27 years are **five times** more likely to attempt suicide

# Young People's Mental Health



**65%** of the juvenile detention population in WA have experienced mental health issues, **three times** the prevalence of the general population



In WA **16% of students** aged 12 to 17 used at least one illicit drug

In WA the average age at which people first tried an illicit drug was **20 years old**

Of the 115 suicide cases (aged 10 to 17 years) investigated by the Ombudsman

**37% were Aboriginal**



An estimated **11,319** of young people in WA aged 12 to 24 years (2.5% young people) had mild, moderate or severe alcohol and other drug issues

In WA, **42% of school students** aged 12 to 17 years consumed alcohol



**One-third** of the 1,000 young people accessing the most public mental health services had a period of care or a child safety investigation



By year 9, students with mental illness are **1.5 to 2.8 years** behind their peers in respect to reading, spelling, numeric, grammar and writing



Only **44% of parents** were confident in knowing where to go for help if their child was experiencing mental health issues

**60%** of young people with an AOD use disorder also have a **co-occurring** mental health diagnosis

[Pp 8-9 Young People's Mental Health and Alcohol and Other Drug Use: Priorities for Action 2020-2025](#)

# Long-term costs of youth homelessness

The April 2024 [Leave No Young Australian Behind: The long-term costs of youth homelessness to Australia - Cost-benefit analysis report](#) by Housing All Australian in collaboration with SGS Economics and Planning explored the long-term costs of youth homelessness in Australia, the 'rate of return' from solving youth homelessness and the urgent need for social and affordable housing solutions. The report provided analysis on approaches to prevent youth homelessness and identified:

- Significant and growing unmet need and growing concerns that, as housing affordability continues to worsen, youth homelessness may grow at higher rates than has been estimated.
- Housing and service needs of young people experiencing homelessness aged 19 to 24 years.
- The importance of shifting the consciousness of Australian taxpayers on the future cost to our children of inadequate investment in housing all Australians.
- The need for clear policy targets for addressing youth homelessness and a focus on young people in the provision of social and affordable housing.

## Key findings include:

- Every \$1 the Australian community invests in social and affordable housing for young people will deliver \$2.6 in benefits (\$2.54 in Western Australia).
- The value cost to taxpayers to fully eradicate youth homelessness over 30 years is estimated at \$4.5 billion.
- Failure to fix youth homelessness will cost the wider community \$2.7 billion by 2051.
- The benefits of providing adequate housing are estimated at \$7.3 billion along with benefits to the wider community through: access to essential workers that would provide more productive economies and more diverse and inclusive neighbourhoods.

## The report also emphasises:

- The critical importance of preventing young people from becoming homeless.
- That 30% of chronically homeless adults experienced homelessness when they were young.
- Shelter is a fundamental human need.
- A lack of shelter results in poor physical and mental health, family violence and avoidable costs. It also results in additional policing and justice costs and long-term welfare dependency..
- Supported accommodation for youth facing homelessness (or unstable housing) is necessary to protect people from poverty.
- Eliminating youth homelessness requires both affordable housing and wrap around services for young people in need.
- A 'housing first' approach ensures young people are provided a safe and stable environment and foundation to provide support to meet other needs such as access to education, training and employment opportunities.

**Youth homelessness in Western Australia was estimated at 1,070 in 2021 growing to 1,292 in 2051 (based on SGS modelling using ABS Census and State Population Forecasts).**

Modelling is also provided on costs for securing appropriate housing and providing wrap around services for newly accommodated households (pp29 – 41).

# SHS Annual Report 2022 - 23

## Key findings: Young people presenting alone, 2022-23

[Specialist Homelessness Service Annual report 2022 - 23](#)

Around 28,200 young people aged 12–24 years were estimated to have been experiencing homelessness on Census night in 2021, making up nearly a quarter (23%) of the total homeless population (ABS 2023).

However, Census estimates likely under-represent the extent of youth homelessness, as some couch surfers may report their usual address as the household in which the young person is staying in on Census night (ABS 2023).

[People leaving care arrangements](#) (including out of home care and health care settings) are vulnerable to homelessness.



# Rental Affordability

Anglicare's [2024 Rental Affordability Snapshot](#) for Australia found that 0 rentals (0%) were affordable for a person on Youth Allowance.

**A property was considered affordable** if it required less than 30% of a household's income. Paying rent of more than 30% of income puts a renter in housing stress and more than 50% of income is considered severe housing stress.

Other overall **findings for Australia** included:

- 289 rentals (0.6%) were affordable for a person earning a full-time minimum wage.
- 31 rentals (0.1%) were affordable for a person on the Disability Support Pension.
- 3 rentals, (0%) all share houses, were affordable for a person on JobSeeker.

Findings for **Western Australia** included:

- 17 rentals (1%) were affordable for a person earning a full-time minimum wage.
- 0 rentals (0%) and 0 shared houses (0%) were affordable for a person on Youth Allowance.
- 1 rental (0%) was affordable for a person on JobSeeker.

# Local community youth profiles and demographics

City of Cockburn

City of Fremantle

City of Melville

# City of Cockburn

The City shared information from 2024 YACWA research and consultation towards the City's next youth plan :

- The City defines a young person as **between the ages of 10 and 25 years**.

## 2021 Census data (for young people 12 – 24 years):

- **18,310 young people** aged 12 to 24 years - **15.5% of the City's population**. Slightly lower than the average across the Greater Perth area (16%).
  - **8,217 young people** aged 12 to 17 years - **7.0% of the City's population**. Slightly lower than Greater Perth (7.4%).
  - **10,093 young people** aged 18 to 24 years - **8.5% of the City's population**. Roughly equal to Greater Perth (8.6%).
- The **highest of number** (n1,951) and **proportion** (21%) of young people are in **Atwell**.
- **Cockburn Central** has the highest proportion (16.7%) of 18- to 24-year-olds. Proportion of 12- to 17-year-olds (3.2%) is drastically below average.
- **2,810 (1.8%)** of the City population was of **Australian Aboriginal ancestry**, and **90 (0.1%)** was of **Torres Strait Islander** ancestry. Roughly equal to the Greater Perth average (1.8%).
- Between 2016 and 2021, the number of respondents identifying as Australian Aboriginal considerably **increased** by **1,957 people**—a nearly 10-fold increase. Whilst the ages of people in this demographic is not known, population-wide the age of the Aboriginal and Torres Islander populations skew younger.
- **34.2% of the City's population was born overseas**. Slightly lower than the Greater Perth average (36.0%).

## 2021 Socio-Economic Indices for Areas (SEIFA) data:

- The **City had a SEIFA score of 1,033.3**, which is **higher than the Greater Perth** score of 1,020. This indicates that the City's level of disadvantage is on average lower than that of Greater Perth. There is a diversity of scores across the City - **Treeby** scored 1,104.9 which is in the **top 2% of Australian suburbs**, with **Leeming** and **North Coogee – Rottnest Island** also scoring within the **top 4% of suburbs**. This indicates a very low level of disadvantage. **Hamilton Hill** scored 963.1 which is in the **bottom 24% of Australian suburbs** and **Coolbellup** scored 960 which is in the **bottom 23% of Australian suburbs**.

# City of Cockburn

## 2021 Census Data – Disability, Education, Employment:

- **Disability** - 4.5% (*n* 5,278) of the City's population reported that they needed help in their day-to-day lives due to **disability**. A narrow definition of disability is used in the census, and there will be a **far higher number of young people who have disabilities** within the City, especially developmental disabilities such as autism and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD).
- **Education**
  - The proportion of people attending **secondary school** in the City was **6.4%** of the total population. **Comparable to Greater Perth (6.7%)**. **59.1%** of the City's population had **completed Year 12 schooling** or equivalent. Roughly equal to Greater Perth (59.6%).
  - The proportion of people attending **university** in the City was **4.7%** of the total population. **Comparable to the Greater Perth** average of 4.9%. The proportion attending **TAFE or other vocational education** in the City was 2.3% of the population. The same as the Greater Perth average of 2.3%.
- **Employment** - the proportion of young people aged 15 to 24 who were **disengaged with employment or education** in 2021 was **8.0%**. Slightly higher than the Greater Perth average of 7.8%. There is great variation in the data across areas in the City. For example, the proportion of young people in South Lake aged 15 to 24 who were disengaged with work was 14.2%.

## Facilities, activities, programs, and events for young people:

**Education** - there are **ten schools** catering for **secondary school aged students** in the City:

- Lakeland Senior High School (South Lake) – public secondary
- Atwell College (Atwell) – public secondary
- Hammond Park Secondary College (Hammond Park) – public secondary (7-11)
- Emmanuel Catholic College (Success) – private, Catholic secondary
- Divine Mercy College (Yangebup) – private, Catholic K-12
- Fremantle Christian College (Hamilton Hill) – private, New Life Church, P-12
- Perth Waldorf School (Bibra Lake) – private, Steiner school P-12
- Havenport MSL College (Cockburn Central) – private, 3-12
- Alta – 1 Cockburn (Cockburn Central) – alternative education, independent
- Port High School (Hamilton Hill) including Port Young Parent Centre – alternative, independent



# City of Cockburn

## Facilities, activities, programs, and events for young people:

- **Leisure and recreation**

- **Cockburn ARC** (Aquatic and Recreation Centre), opened in 2017. It has an outdoor pool, indoor pool, a programs pool and spa, hosts a six-court multipurpose stadium, a gym and fitness studios.
  - **Cockburn Youth Centre (CYC)**, a purpose-built youth centre established in 2008 in Cockburn Central. CYC offers a variety of different drop-in and outreach programs for young people aged 10 to 24. Services include (but are not limited to) cooking lessons, a choir, a drama group, 3D printing classes, a chess club, a boxing club, a tabletop gaming/RPG club, and a barista course. CYC houses the Youth Jam radio station, a full recording studio, rehearsal and performance space, video games, pool tables and other arts classes and leisure activities. CYC delivers funded youth programs including a youth mentoring program working with the South West Metro Youth Justice Services funded by the Department of Justice, and a Cockburn Youth Outreach program funded by the Department of Communities to support young people to remain at school and stay living at home. Youth Reach South and a commercial café are major tenants. Other services provide outreach via the CYC including the Salvation Army (transitional accommodation service), Youth Focus and headspace Fremantle.
  - Two large natural reserves - **Manning Park** and **Bibra Lake**.
  - Two major beaches; **Coogee Beach Reserve** and **C.Y. O'Connor Reserve** and facilities such as toilets and showers, BBQ and picnic areas, playgrounds, and walking/cycling trails. Coogee Beach reserve also holds two free, bookable tennis courts.
  - **Adventure World**, Western Australia's only theme park.
  - **Cockburn Ice Arena**
  - **LaserCorp**.
  - The City will also be home to the **Perth Surf Park**, to be built in Jandakot and open in 2026 providing a surf academy, a store, a pump-track, a health and wellness centre, restaurants and bars.
  - **Four skate parks** (Atwell, Bibra Lake, Coolbellup, Spearwood).
  - **Seven pump tracks** (Banjup, Bibra Lake, Hamilton Hill, Spearwood, South Beath, South Lake, Yangebup).
- **Organised sport clubs and groups** within the City cover a range of sports including netball, football, soccer, softball, cricket, badminton, basketball, little athletics, ice skating, Taekwando, baseball and darts. Also, the **Bibra Lake Scout Group**, the **Jervoise Bay Sea Scout Group** and the **Spearwood Sea Dragon Girl Guides**.

# City of Cockburn

- **Libraries and learning** - There are **three libraries: Coolbellup Library, Spearwood Library and Success Library**. Activities for young people include the STEAM (Science, technology, engineering, arts, mathematics) Club, Gamer Club and Anime club. Wi-Fi is free at all libraries, and access to PCs is also free and available for all library members
- **Arts and Culture**
  - **Artzplace**, a volunteer-run visual arts group (participants more older populations).
  - **Over ten dance schools**, ranging from casual and community classes to full-time training and diploma courses.
  - Around **ten music schools**, which provide education in musical instruments such as guitar, piano, violin, percussion and voice.
  - **Events** such as the annual **Coogee Live** festival on Coogee Beach, generally a weekend in early March. The festival has a strong focus on children and young people, and heavily involves local businesses, organisations and community groups in its program.

## Youth Funding

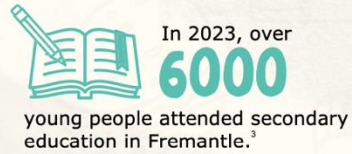
The City administers:

- The **Cockburn Youth Fund**, a grant between \$100 and \$400 for young people aged 15 to 24 in the City for small projects or events. This is currently under subscribed.
- The **Youth Academic Assistance** to young people aged 21 years or younger living in the City who study at an educational institution to attend academic events that they have been selected for, generally providing travel assistance of up to \$350.
- The State Government funded **KidsSport program**, to provide families who have a valid health care or pensioner concession card with financial assistance up to \$300 per annum towards club fees (including uniform and equipment).

# City of Fremantle

## YOUNG PEOPLE IN FREMANTLE

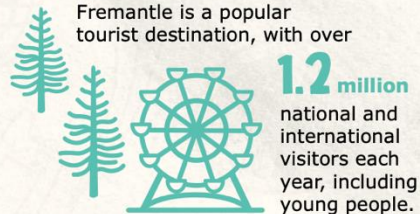
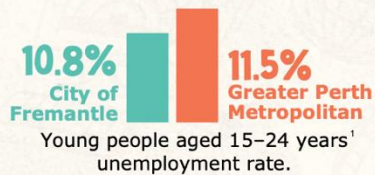
Demographics related to young people<sup>1</sup> in the City of Fremantle are as follows:



Approximately **1500** young people were engaged in tertiary education in the City of Fremantle in 2021.



A larger proportion of young people attend university in Fremantle.



Young people under the age of 18 make up **23%** of Western Australia's population

The number of Western Australian children and young people is projected to increase by **63%** to more than **1 million** by 2066.<sup>2</sup>

In Western Australia up to **17%** of young people under 18 live below the poverty line.<sup>2</sup>

In 2021 over **9900** children and young people were on the public housing waitlist, which is projected to increase in the south metropolitan area.<sup>2</sup>

## Education facilities

**Seven schools** - either secondary schools or take young people all the way through to year 12.

- Fremantle Fast Track — alternative, independent, co-ed education centre for senior students
- CBC Fremantle — private, Catholic, single sex (boys) high school
- John Curtin College of the Arts — public, independent, co-ed and partially selective high school
- Seton Catholic College — private, Catholic, co-ed high school
- Fremantle College — public, independent, co-ed high school
- The Studio School — alternative, Anglian, co-ed senior school (years 10 to 12)
- SMYL — alternative, independent, co-ed Curriculum and Reengagement in Education (CARE) school

**One university** — the University of Notre Dame.

**South-Metropolitan TAFE** campus located in Fremantle.

**Fremantle Education Centre** - a Registered Training Organisation (RTO).

## Employment (2021)

- **6.5% of young people aged 15 to 24 years were disengaged with employment** – compared to 7.8% for Greater Perth.
- **15.0% were partially engaged**, - compared to 12.7% for Greater Perth.
- The rate of disengagement from employment decreased from 7.3% in 2016.

## 2021 Socio-Economic Indices for Areas (SEIFA) data:

- The City has a SEIFA score of **1,031**, which was **higher than the Greater Perth** score of 1,020. This indicates that the City's level of disadvantage is on average lower than that of Greater Perth.

# City of Fremantle

## Sport and recreation

- A range of **sporting clubs**; a directory is included on the City's [website](#) and includes KidSport approved clubs.
- Three **skate parks** - Montreal Skate Park in Booyeembarra Park, North Fremantle Skate Park, The Esplanade Youth Plaza.
- **Leisure Centre** - contains pools, a gym and fitness classes.
- **Samson Recreation Centre**
- **Brad Hardie Clubrooms**
- **Dick Lawrence Oval**

## Arts and culture

- **Fremantle Arts Centre** – offers limited youth programs.
- **Walyalup Aboriginal Cultural Centre (WACC)** runs regular youth programming, based around school holidays and limited youth programs outside of the school holiday periods.
- **Public library** - has a Young Adult section, a gaming and a 'chill space'. There is some programming for children and 14-year olds but little in the upper high school age range. The Library is well used by young people, with them using it as a place to study, hang with their friends and access amenities, such as water fountains, hot water for food, toilets etc. This provides an opportunity to meet the needs of young people and engage them in low-key semi-structured activities. One of the Library Officers said that they would like training and support to engage with young people.

## Civics and citizenship

- Youth advisory group — the **Fremantle Youth Network (FYN)**.

## Other Advisory Groups:

- headspace Fremantle - has an active Youth Advisory Group that meets on a regular basis. This group is for young people with current or former lived experience of mental health challenges.
- Spectrum Space also has a [Youth Advisory Council \(YAC\)](#) for autistic young people that attend their social groups.

## Networks

- The City of Fremantle is part of the **Cockburn, Fremantle and Melville (CFM) Youth Network**. This network meetings is held monthly and often has a guest speaker or capacity building element.
- **Imagined Futures Youth Initiative** working group, these meetings are held once per month. The working group supports in-school participation programs at schools across the Cockburn, Melville.

# City of Melville

## **Snapshot of young people from 2021 Census data (the City's latest Youth Strategy provides 2016 Census data):**

- There were approximately **17,931 young people aged 12 to 25** living in the City.
- Young people made up **16.2% of the City's population**. Slightly higher than the average across the Greater Perth area (16%).
- **20.9%** of people aged 12 to 25 years were **born overseas**.
- **18.8%** of young people (aged 10 – 24 years) **spoke a language other than English at home**.
- **9.6%** of young people aged 15 – 25 years **were looking for work**.
- **1.6% are First Nations young peoples**. This is slightly lower than the Greater Perth average (1.8%). From 2016 to 2021, City of Melville's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population increased by 228 people (32.9%). This represents an average annual population change of 5.86% per year over the period. A major difference between the age groups of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population in the City of Melville and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander in Greater Perth were a **larger percentage of people aged 18 to 24 years** (15.8% compared to 12.7%).

## **2021 Socio-Economic Indices for Areas (SEIFA) data:**

- The **City had a SEIFA score of 1,070**, which was **higher than the Greater Perth** score of 1,020. This indicates that the City's level of disadvantage is on average lower than that of Greater Perth. There is a diversity of scores across the City – Willagee scored 984.5 which is in the bottom 30% of Australian suburbs and Applecross scored 1128.3 which is in the **top 2% of Australian suburbs**.

## **Activities and Programs for Young People (from YACWA DIRECTIONS FROM YOUNG PEOPLE (DFYP) STRATEGY 2022-2025 Report for the City):**

- **Leeming Skate Park**.
- **PHAZE** – urban artist painting program for 12- to 25-year-olds.
- **Youth Drop In** – Willagee and Blue Gum Community Centres (ages 12– 15 years).
- 22 active reserves.
- 5 [public libraires \(Melville, Booragoon, Bull Creek, Applecross, Willagee\)](#), [weekend and school holiday programs](#) for children and young people and school exam, study and quiet spaces.
- 2 Leisure fit recreation facilities and programs and classes for young people.
- Dozens of sports clubs across the sport spectrum.
- 4 skate parks
- 1 pump track
- **Piney Lakes Environmental Educations Centre** – **education programs** run by Youth Cultural Programs Officer.

# City of Melville

## [Museums, Arts & Culture](#)

- 3 museum and art exhibition spaces
- Public art trail
- Artists and creatives programs, workshops and events
- Paid opportunities for artists

## [LeisureFit Recreation Centres](#)

- 2 Recreation Centres in Melville and Booragoon
- Fitness studios, gyms, pools, spa and sauna, cycle classes, reformer studio, sports courts and more

## [Community Centres](#)

- Willagee, Bull Creek, Blue Gum Community Centres
- After school and school holiday programs
- Sports courts
- All ages workshops and events

## [Melville Youth Collective Instagram](#)

- Key channel for communicating with young people
- Advertising events, opportunities, grants, volunteer, training, opportunities for young businesses and creatives, and more

## **Civics and citizenship**

- Youth Steering Group – monthly catch ups.
- Imagined Futures Youth Initiative Working Group – monthly meetings & school participation programs
- Headspace consortium meetings – monthly meetings

## **Sponsorship and grants**

- Youth sports grants
- Youth sport scholarships
- Kidsport
- Youth development fund

# State plans and strategies

Youth Action Plans

Youth at Risk

Homelessness

Mental Health

Family and Domestic Violence

Homelessness Commissioning

# Youth Action Plan and At Risk Youth Strategy

Priorities from the State Government Youth Plan and Strategy include:

**Beyond 2020: WA Youth Action Plan** focus areas:

- **A Voice for young people** – empowering and listening to young people
- **Reaching potential** – education and job readiness
- **Jobs** – job opportunities, transition to work support programs and other career, training and employment assistance
- **Climate change** – policy and strategies
- **Mental health and wellbeing** – services, supports and wellbeing programs
- **A secure place to live**
  - Helped young people purchase their first home with 200 additional Keystart shared equity homes, increased income limits, added housing stock by supporting new apartment projects in Bayswater and Maylands.
  - Funded the Housing First Homelessness Initiative.
  - Continued to fund supported accommodation for young people such as Foyer Oxford and Y-SHAC.
  - Continued to deliver the Housing and Homelessness and Social Housing Economic Recovery Packages.
  - Building two Common Ground facilities.
  - Developed a Homelessness Services Database.
  - Supported young people to stay in rentals as WA by expanding the rental relief grants scheme.
  - Supported the establishment of a new LGBTIQ+ youth advocacy body who can speak up for the rights of LGBTIQ+ young people.
  - Pursuing outcomes under the Government’s “All paths lead to a home” strategy and the WA Housing Strategy 2020-2030.

The Department of Communities, in partnership with over 18 key State Government agencies are considering findings from a consultation process to inform the development of the new **Youth Action Plan 2024- 2026**. This is anticipated to be launched in late 2024.

**At Risk Youth Strategy 2022-2027** seeks to:

- Identify further opportunities for the **earlier identification and assessment of young people at risk of harm and cumulative harm** and strengthen responses across agencies to appropriate and timely supports – **the right supports at the right time**.
- Develop and implement **targeted, culturally and trauma-informed responses to meet the priority needs of at risk young people**, including **diversion from the youth justice system, homelessness, family safety concerns, and support to transition from care to independent adulthood**.
- Undertake a phased approach to **strengthen Department of Communities targeted services for at risk young people** including reviewing the service mix, service consistency, sector capacity and best practice across the service types, cultural responsiveness and agility to respond to emerging areas of service need. The **views of young people with lived experience will inform** this work.



# Homelessness Strategy and Action Plan

Priorities of note from the State Government Homelessness Strategy and Plan include:

## *All Paths Lead to a Home: 10-year Strategy on Homelessness 2020 – 2030:*

- To collaborate with the community sector in the **design and delivery of support services to enable people to sustain their homes and achieve their housing aspirations**.
- To **provide safe and stable homes for people experiencing homelessness as a first priority, to allow access to appropriate support**.
- To **trial initiatives that combine housing assistance and wrap around support** to build household capacity and provide viable pathways and transitions from social housing.

## *Homelessness Action Plan 2020 – 2025:*

- To **support the development of a Housing First for Youth Model**.
- To **develop and support low-barrier / low threshold accommodation options for young people** which are **inclusive of the needs of vulnerable groups, including culturally and linguistically diverse (CaLD) and LGBTQI+ young people**.

# Mental Health and Alcohol and Other Drug Use Priorities for Action

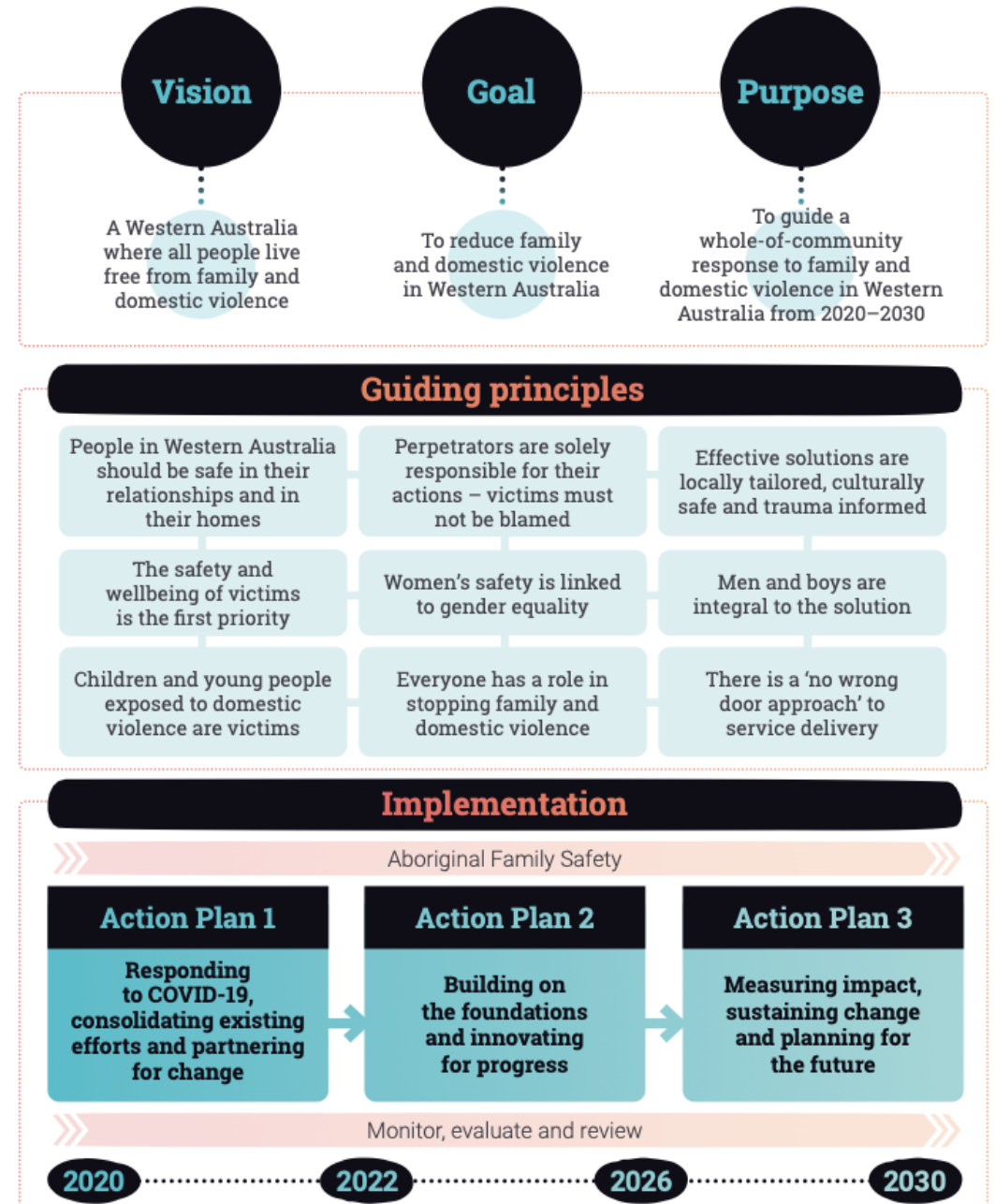
## [Young People's Mental Health and Alcohol and Other Drug Use: Priorities for Action 2020-2025:](#)

- **Vision** – We as young people, all need **support and education to help keep one another well and build our resilience**. If we need services, we should be able to find them easily, with **fewer wrong doors or long queues**. We need **services to work together, respect our differences, make us feel welcome, and treat us as equal partners**.
- **Strategies** to implement the Vision:
  - **Help in stay well** – promoting mental wellbeing and intervening early to prevent mental health issues and alcohol and other drug related harm.
  - **Supported by our family and community** – boosting whole of community and whole of family engagement, and support for families, loved ones and carers so they can go on supporting young people.
  - **Making it easier to find and access services that are right for us** – the right services are available when and where they are needed and are easier to find and access.
  - **Valuing that we are all unique** – diversity and culture is respected, nurtured and catered for at every point, ensuring services and workforces are welcoming, inclusive, culturally safe, person-centred and holistic.
  - **Services working together** – there is a partnership approach to recovery with better coordination and transition between and across sectors, services and life stages.
  - **Experiencing positive and trusting relationships and best practice care** – building the capacity, capability and confidence of everyone who works with young people and their families and carers.

# Family and Domestic Violence Strategy

## Path to Safety: Western Australia's Strategy to Reduce Family and Domestic Violence 2020 – 2030

- Provides a **system reform focus** to achieve **coordinated, collaborative and integrated responses**; robust, wrap-around supports to keep victims safe and hold perpetrators to account; culturally appropriate, holistic, safe and accountable responses; streamlined service pathways; coordinated service delivery.
- Adopts a **public health approach** across the continuum of primary prevention, **early intervention and crisis responses** at individual, family and whole-of-population levels.
- Recognises the importance of an **engaged, experienced domestic violence workforce**.
- Prioritise **growing the capacity of early intervention and crisis response services** to:
  - Identify women and children at risk early and refer them to appropriate support.
  - Provide a continuum of care (including post-crisis recovery).
  - Deliver person-centred, risk and trauma informed, accessible services.
  - Family-centred supports that build safe and respectful relationships.
  - Provide culturally appropriate services, meeting the needs of women and children from diverse backgrounds.
  - Provide a response-based practice model.
- **Commissioning and procurement focused on sustainable services, longer contracting periods, investment in outcomes, evaluation on client needs and outcomes.** Priority to services that align with the priorities and principles of the Strategy, provide best outcomes at best value to achieve the long-term vision of a Western Australia where all people live free from family and domestic violence.



# Homelessness Commissioning approach

The [Homelessness Commissioning](#) approach and strategic timeline complements [All Paths Lead to a Home: Western Australia's 10-Year Strategy on Homelessness 2020-2030](#) with **Housing First and No Wrong Door as guiding principles**. The approach seeks to improve the design and delivery of homelessness services, so they:

- **Meet the needs of the people that use them, at the right time and in the right place.**
- **Are funded appropriately to be sustainable.**
- **Delivered by organisations that have the right staff and systems in place.**
- **Are based on evidence of what works and robust quality standards.**
- **Are culturally safe and tailored to local community need.**

The Office of Homelessness aims to facilitate sustainable and ongoing change in the homelessness system to deliver outcomes for individuals and the community that meet current and evolving needs with each part of the commissioning cycle representing opportunities for:

- Collaboration between service users, providers and government and how each provides value.
- To make changes to the system and build the capability of service providers within the system.

Homelessness Commissioning is informed by and aligned with [Western Australia's State Commissioning Strategy for Community Services](#) which seeks to:

- Change the way government delivers community services in Western Australia.
- Achieve a holistic and sustainable community services system through a commissioning approach.
- Enable a fundamental shift in the system of managing the delivery of services, to provide better services to Western Australians that:
  - Meet the needs of the people that use them, at the right time and in the right place.
  - Are sustainable and delivered by organisations with the right staff and systems in place
  - Are evidence based with robust quality standards, and
  - Are culturally safe and tailored to local community needs.

Underpinned by the [Communities Agency Commissioning Plan](#), commissioning will be grounded in key principles applicable to both government and the community services sector:

- **A community and person-centred approach focused on outcomes.**
- **A sustainable system.**
- **Inclusive services – focus on Aboriginal outcomes and partnerships.**
- **Well-led, supported and transparent system.**

# Local government strategies and plans

City of Cockburn

City of Fremantle

City of Melville

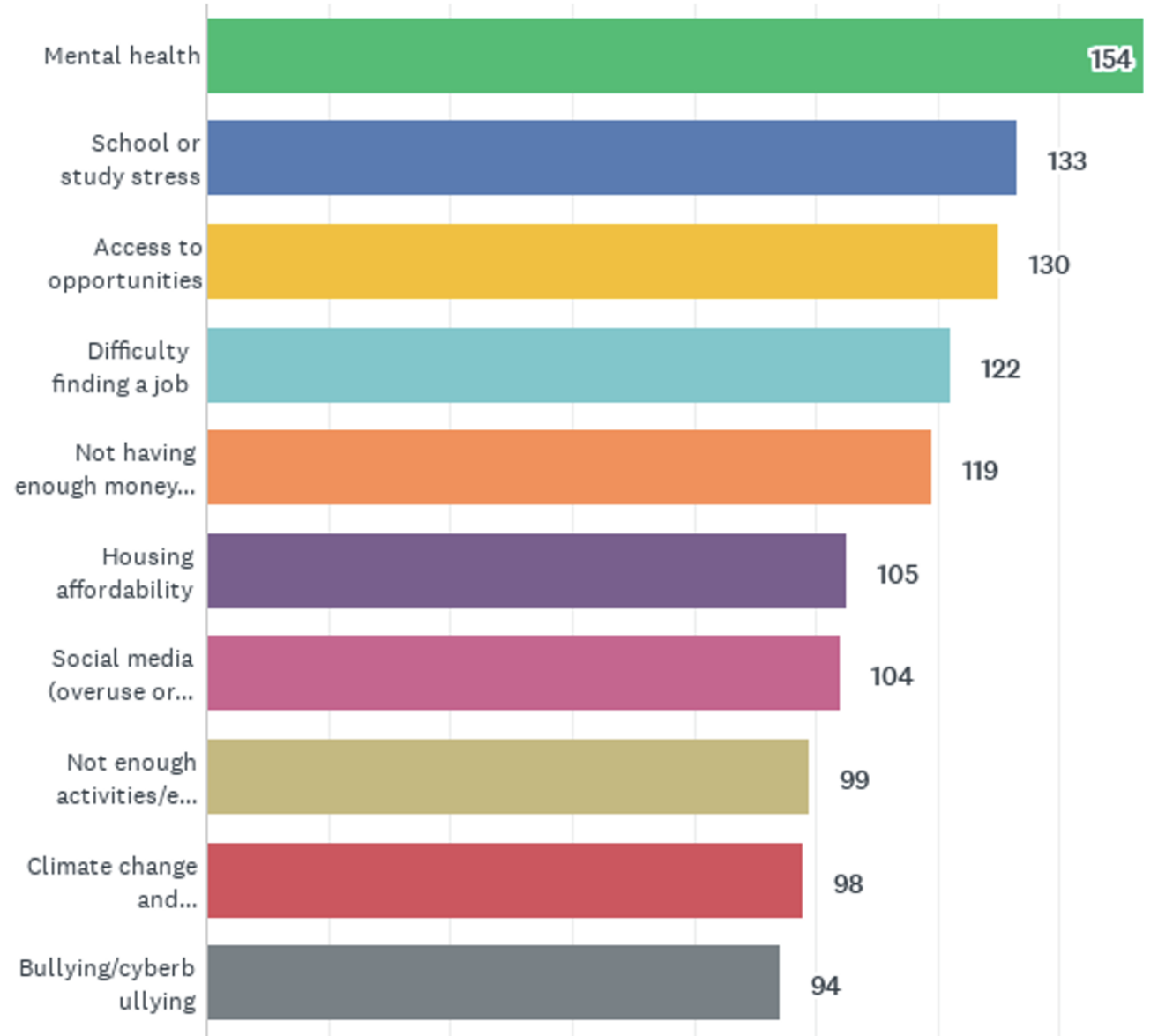
# City of Cockburn Youth Planning Process

The City's most recent Strategy is the [City of Cockburn Youth Strategy 2017 – 2022](#).

The City have engaged YACWA to undertake research and consultation towards their youth planning process.

Information from YACWA's research and consultation towards the City's youth planning process:

- A young person is defined by the City as **aged between 10 and 25 years**.
- The graph in the diagram shows the **top 10 issues** identified by young people in the City who took part in a 2024 YACWA Youth survey.
- **321 young people responded** to the youth survey. 200 responses were via a peer researcher, and 121 responses were via the general community.
- Data from hard copy surveys were still being collated / isn't included in the top issues.



# City of Fremantle Youth Strategy

Issues and trends from the current [City of Fremantle Youth Strategy – 2024 – 2028](#) and the *document Excerpts from City of Fremantle youth strategy background paper* provided by the City included:

## ***Emerging youth issues and trends***

- Ongoing and uncertain future challenges that the **climate emergency** will bring.
- **Mental health** concerns - An estimate of 17.5% of young people aged 12 to 24 have mild, moderate or severe mental health issues and one in ten young people aged 16 to 24 have reported seriously considering ending their own life.
- **Housing** - the rental market in WA has become critical and young people are finding themselves at risk of experiencing homelessness. Now homelessness does not typically look like street presence for young people. With rental prices in the City being especially unaffordable for young people, this is a critical advocacy issue.
- **Employment** - transition from full-time education to work is increasingly uncertain. The City is rich in job opportunities for young people. Businesses often struggle to find staff. Disconnect between the jobs available and young people looking for work. The City could play a unique role in connecting young people up with local businesses.
- **Education** worries.
- Young people with one or more minority identities face **disadvantage and discrimination** to a greater degree than those who do not.

The Strategy highlights that **local government authorities have a role to play in providing free or low-cost, low barrier access to quality community services** such as community events and activities, sport and recreation facilities, parks and open spaces, libraries and museums.

## ***Issues of importance – young people***

From consultation with young people on topics that were most important and/or relevant to them and other young people that they knew from a list of 28 topics to choose from.

Overall top five issues were:

- **Mental health** (75%)
- **Climate change** (63%)
- **Environmental sustainability** (58%),
- **Housing affordability** (57%)
- **School/study stress** (55%).

The least important issues were the impact of COVID-19 pandemic (28%), disability (33%) and not enough places for young people to hang out (33%).

# City of Fremantle Youth Strategy

## ***Issues of importance – stakeholder organisations***

Some of the major issues affecting young people in the City of Fremantle were identified by stakeholder organisations as:

- **No dedicated youth space or places/spaces to hangout**, other than the facilities of service providers. Facilities in Cockburn are used by young people in Fremantle who have nowhere else to go. A significant lack of space young people with disabilities, mobility access, sensory needs and not a dedicated space for LGBTQIA+ young people. Organisations said it would be great to have co-located services and facilities.
- **Homelessness** - a clear divide between demographics in Fremantle based on wealth. Housing including public housing is very poor in Fremantle, rents are high and options are generally limited. Consistent negative perceptions about people experiencing homelessness within Fremantle, especially young Aboriginal people. Homelessness is not always visible in Fremantle however organisations had noticed young people being moved off the street by the City's Community Safety Team.
- **Mental health issues** are notably significant. The 'missing middle' whereby moderate mental health support is lacking. Young people are more aware of mental health language etc. but their knowledge is relatively superficial and that more could be done to strengthen this and build awareness. Transport to and from services can be difficult if young people are not dropped off and there were unsafe areas around public transport. Specific mention of the end of Beach Street.

## **The Strategy's 4 Focus Areas are:**

See next page for details.







## FOCUS AREA 1: LIVING, LEARNING AND WORKING

**Vision:** Walyalup Fremantle is an affordable, accessible, and desirable place for all young people to build their lives. Young people have a variety of education, training and job opportunities and choices.

**Strategy:** To achieve this the City will work with key agencies to strengthen young people's capabilities, build community connection and advocate for increased and broader services.

### This looks like:

- Building partnerships that support good outcomes for both young people looking for jobs and employers.
- Assisting young people to develop the skills they need to find and keep good jobs.
- Advocating for housing options that are affordable in Walyalup Fremantle.
- Connecting young people to opportunities to get involved in protecting the environment.



## FOCUS AREA 2: HEALTHY AND SAFE

**Vision:** Young people in Walyalup Fremantle have access to the support they need to live healthy and happy lives. Walyalup Fremantle is a community where young people feel comfortable and safe.

**Strategy:** To achieve this the City will empower young people to make informed choices that support their mental wellbeing and safety.

### This looks like:

- Making it easier for young people to access mental wellbeing support when its needed.
- Ensuring City of Fremantle staff are supportive and easy to talk to.
- Having conversations with young people about personal safety.
- Ensuring young people have safe spaces to connect and build relationships.

## CLOSING STATEMENT

A detailed action plan will be reviewed annually to ensure that it remains relevant to the Youth Strategy and the priorities of the community. For further information contact the City of Fremantle's Community Development team on [info@fremantle.wa.gov.au](mailto:info@fremantle.wa.gov.au)



## FOCUS AREA 3: CONNECTED AND ACCEPTED

**Vision:** All young people in Walyalup Fremantle have choices of exciting and inclusive activities and events that contribute to their sense of belonging.

**Strategy:** To achieve this the City will expand and strengthen partnerships to increase inclusion of young people in the arts, community development and life long learning programs.

### This looks like:

- Creating local mentoring opportunities for emerging artists and creatives.
- Engaging sexuality and gender diverse young people in the planning for programs and events.
- Connecting young First Nations people to truth telling and storytelling opportunities.
- Working together with local sporting groups to increase opportunities for young people with disabilities in sport and recreation.



## FOCUS AREA 4: ENGAGED AND EMPOWERED

**Vision:** Young people are active citizens and leaders and are celebrated by their community.

**Strategy:** To achieve this the City will support and strengthen the voices of young people and embed youth participation in the City's processes.

### This looks like:

- Developing leadership programs to increase involvement in Council decision making processes.
- Involving young people in the planning for big picture projects on climate action, urban planning, community safety and crime prevention and mental well-being.
- Communicating about the services and events available to young people in Walyalup Fremantle.

# City of Melville Youth Strategy

The City's current Strategy is [City of Melville – Directions From Young People Youth Strategy – 2022 – 2025](#)

One of the most significant findings was that **although young people aged 12 to 25 make up a significant proportion (17.2%) of the City's population; they are currently not a very visible part of the community**. Young people want there to be more focus on youth culture and to feel included in council decision making.

**Vision** - that through the delivery of the Strategy, young people are a visible, connected, and respected part of the City of Melville community.

## The Strategy's four focus areas and goals:

### 1. Youth focus:

- Young people can access and engage in variety of youth-friendly spaces in the City of Melville
- Young people have the opportunity to participate in youth-focused programs, activities, and events in their areas of interest
- Young people can contribute to the design and implementation of youth projects, events and facilities

### 2. Wellbeing:

- Young people have more options to access information or support for their health and wellbeing in the City
- A greater number of support services or organisations visit or operate in the City
- Young people have opportunities to build skills and create networks that lead to improved employment prospects

### 3. Communication:

- Young people are easily able to find out what activities, events, programs, and initiatives the City is offering
- The City is more connected with groups and organisations that work with young people
- Young people have an improved understanding of what the City of Melville does

### 4. Making a difference:

- Young people volunteer their time in areas of interest and on issues that important to them
- Young people are meaningfully involved in City planning and decision making
- City staff have increased knowledge and skills to involve young people in their work

## Four priority actions:

1. Explore the development of more dedicated youth spaces in the City (Ongoing).
2. Establish a youth-focused communication channel (In progress).
3. Appoint a Youth Steering Group or similar, comprised of local young people to oversee the delivery of the Strategy (Completed).
4. Develop a whole of City Youth Engagement Toolkit (Completed).

More information on actions is available in the [Directions from Young People: Key Actions Report 2022-2023](#)

# Service and support pathways

Service and support pathways for at risk young people in the region

# Services and supports for at risk young people in the Cockburn, Fremantle, Melville region

<b>Accommodation</b>	<p><a href="#">Entrypoint Perth</a> – assessment and referral service for people in metropolitan Perth who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.</p> <p><a href="#">Anglicare Y-SHAC</a> for crisis/ short term accommodation - 15–20-year-old young people who are homeless or at imminent risk of homelessness</p> <p><a href="#">St Pat’s Youth Place</a> – transitional accommodation for 15–25-year-old young people who are homeless or at risk or homelessness. Do not offer crisis accommodation</p> <p><a href="#">AYLA Copelands</a> - crisis and medium-term transitional supported housing for young people aged 16-30 years who identify as LGBTQIA+.</p>
<b>Emergency Relief - food vouchers/ smart riders and rent relief</b>	<p><a href="#">St Pat’s Youth Place</a> providing food vouchers and smart riders.</p> <p><a href="#">AYLA</a> providing hampers, clothing, furniture and back to school packs.</p> <p><a href="#">WA Rent Relief Program</a> providing one-off rent relief payments to help eligible tenants who are at risk of eviction because their rent is in arrears, to negotiate with their landlords to extend their tenancy. Access via <a href="#">Emergency Relief &amp; Food Access Service</a> 1800 979 777 (M – F, 9.30am – 5pm).</p>
<b>Legal and Tenancy Assistance</b>	<p><a href="#">Fremantle Community Legal Centre</a></p> <p><a href="#">Circle Green Community Legal – Tenancy</a> help people who rent their home to resolve tenancy problems.</p>
<b>Support for Alcohol and Other Drug issues</b>	<p><a href="#">Palmerston</a></p> <p>Support may also be available through <b>Drug Education Support Service workers</b> located in some youth accommodation services.</p>
<b>Mental Health Support</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Visit local GP</li><li>• Speak with school chaplain/psychologist</li><li>• Call/visit <a href="#">Fremantle headspace</a></li><li>• Call <a href="#">Kids Helpline</a></li><li>• Check out <a href="#">e-headspace</a> for online support</li></ul> <p>If in crisis –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Call <a href="#">Children and Adolescent Mental Health Service</a></li><li>• In immediate risk of harm call 000</li></ul>
<b>Help and advice on other mental health supports and resources</b>	<p>Call <a href="#">COMHWA Peer Pathways</a></p>



# Services and supports for at risk young people in the Cockburn, Fremantle, Melville region

**Help for Aboriginal young people in crisis**

Call [13YARN](#)

**Grief counselling (bereavement or parents have separated)**

Call [Lifeline](#)

**Counselling after having been bereaved by suicide**

Call [Anglicare CYPRESS](#)

**Help re-engage during/ after an episode of mental ill-health**

Call [Neami National](#)

**Help applying for NDIS support**

[Explorability](#) (services full at June 2024)

[Uniting WA](#)

**Employment**

[SMYL Community Services](#) provide hands on jobs and skills services, including foundational and life skills, work readiness skills for parents (including crèche), free RTO courses, Key 4 Life, Work Development Scheme support – providing an opportunity to pay off fines via approved activities, personal support, counselling, mentoring, advocacy and referral services. Services include case management support. Target at risk students.

[Workskil Australia](#) services include case by case support with transition to work for young people aged 15 – 24 years on income support who are seeking employment. Also provide other wrap around support and brokerage funds to help address vocational and non-vocational barriers and support work readiness skills building. See also their [Online Resource Hub](#).

**Education**

[Port Young Parent Centre](#) provides teenage mums with parenting support and training to achieve educational outcomes, parenting programs and a weekly playgroup.

**Youth spaces and programs**

[Cockburn Youth Centre](#) offers drop-in and outreach programs for young people aged 10 to 24. Services include (but are not limited to) cooking lessons, a choir, a drama group, 3D printing classes, a chess club, a boxing club, a tabletop gaming/RPG club, and a barista course. The youth centre houses the Youth Jam radio station, a full recording studio, rehearsal and performance space, video games, pool tables and other arts classes and leisure activities

**Other services and supports utilised for at risk young people in the region**

[Ending Homelessness WA](#) – provides Housing First and holistic support with a vision to help end homelessness in Western Australia through housing while implementing a holistic approach to wellbeing, working collaboratively with other organisations with the heart to seeing homelessness ended in our State, while breathing life and hope into each person that we come across in need.

[RYDE Program \(Cockburn\)](#) provides young people (16-25 years) who live, work or study in the City of Cockburn with the opportunity to complete their 50 hours of supervised driving with a volunteer driving mentor.

# Insights from Consultations

Issues and needs

Data

Service and community responses

Collaboration

Support for a Youth Engagement Hub

Emerging initiatives

Other opportunities

# Issues and needs

- It is a **tough environment** for at risk young people and services. Services are seeing **increased numbers of young people experiencing homelessness including couch surfing or staying in unsafe situations** to keep a roof over their head.
- **Less accommodation pathways.** Private rental is not a viable option, the availability and wait times for NHA accommodation is severely stretched and home ownership is not a viable option. Public housing, if available, can be a big commitment for a young person and can present challenges to keep within income limits and remain eligible if a young person secures employment.
- There is **increased visibility and numbers of young people who are rough sleeping.** This is being noticed more widely, for example by local libraries. Services are also seeing young people who are not service users dropping in for a safe place to spend time.
- There are **high levels of loneliness among young people.** The [State of the Nation Report – Social Connection in Australia 2023](#) found young people aged 18-24 years experienced the highest levels of loneliness (22%). Data was not provided for young people under 18 years.
- **Rapid increases in the number of students who are disengaging from school** and being referred to the Department of Education 'participation' branch and to TAFE and challenges in accommodating the needs of many of these young people. Services such as SMYL are facing bottlenecks caused by not being able to connect with or locate students referred by the participation branch, delaying the filling of spaces and support to disengaged students.
- A high proportion of students who are disengaged from school are **LGBTQIA+ young people** and / or experiencing **mental health challenges.**
- Trend of **increasing numbers of young people both being perpetrators of, and/or victim-survivors of FDV.** There are few accommodation options – Rise's [Kira House](#) (out of the region) accommodates young people 14-18 years of age escaping FDV. In the region, Y-shac has 3 crisis accommodation beds for young people 15-20 years who are homeless or at imminent risk of homelessness.
- There is a **lack of social services for vulnerable young people.**
- There are **no therapeutic options for young people in our region who have experienced FDV** – in Rockingham Communicare and Anglicare offer counselling for young people.
- Increasing **numbers and complexity of mental health challenges experienced by young people and in younger age groups.**
- **Service limits** of 6 to 10 mental health sessions are often inadequate to meet people's needs. Access to [ehedspace](#) free online sessions and support can help and provide a pathway to face to face support.
- **Lack of access to mental health and rehabilitation services and supports** for young people with **higher mental health support needs** leading to some young people being admitted to hospital. There is no [Youth Focus](#) presence in the region for mid-level support needs.
- **Stigma presents barriers.** Some people can be reluctant to seek support such as with mental health challenges or receiving a diagnosis.
- Services in the region are **also providing services to young people in Kwinana, Rockingham and Mandurah as areas of high need** e.g. Y-shac, SMYL, City of Cockburn Department of Justice mentoring service.
- **Young people not knowing what's available and how to access.**
- **A lot of programs (sports, arts, culture) are currently for engaged young people.**
- **Schools used to offer spaces for young people to hang out, socialise, connect and do informal activities before and after school.** Now can't go onsite until just before school starts or for structured activities (often that incur a cost).

# Issues and needs

- It is **critical to provide youth-centred and relationship focused services and supports.**
- **Lack of affordable, inclusive, safe spaces for young people to hang out in Fremantle**, particularly for young people aged 12-17 years. The Fremantle Library has diverse users and usage including young people 12– 17 years. [Library Connect](#) which supports people vulnerable to homelessness and other challenges reported 20 visits by young people in 2022/23.
- No space like the [Freedom Centre](#) in the region for **queer young people**. [The Flaming Galah](#) bar offers a queer friendly space for young people 18+.
- **Lack of local engagement hub for at risk young people under 18.** The St Pat's engagement hub is not a youth space, including for young people 18+.
- **More effective leaving care planning and support is needed for young people to transition out of care**, including young people with disability. [CREATE Foundation](#) found that 30% of young people with an out-of- home care experience had experienced homelessness within the first year after their transition from out-of-home care (McDowall, 2020). Of these young people, more than a third had been homeless for a period of six months or more. [Homestretch](#) (provides young people leaving Out of Home Care in Western Australia with the option to continue to receive support up until the age of 21) has helped.
- **More prevention and early intervention initiatives are needed** such as:
  - The [Youth homelessness early intervention and diversion program pilot – Ruby's](#). The pilot is being delivered by Parkerville to support young people aged 12 to 17 who are at risk of homelessness to stabilise at risk family units with a focus on improved communications and cooperation. Assistance is provided for young people experiencing mental health illnesses, drug and alcohol misuse and family conflicts. Ruby's will operate 7 days a week. The project was funded through a reallocation of funds from the Armadale Youth Accommodation Service to Ruby's and support from the Sisters of St John of God, in acknowledgement of Ruby's best practice model in preventing and diverting young people from youth homelessness.
  - **A stronger focus on family reunification and supports to keep people safe at home** including by other organisations connecting with young people such as schools. Noting a case-by-case approach is needed. [Helping Minds](#) offer support services to families and siblings and early intervention programs for young people aged between 7 and 17 who have emotional or social difficulties or are at risk of developing a mental health challenge.
  - **Respectful Relationships education** such as the [WA Respectful Relationships Teaching Support Program](#) run by Starick.
  - More 'inreach' to schools as a way of socialising available services and reducing barriers to engagement.
- **CALD young people and their families often face barriers** (language and reluctance to come forward) in accessing available services and supports and receiving timely services such as for autism diagnoses. Can be exacerbated by racism. Are also barriers to accessing current student grant funding.
- **International students** can experience challenges in living independently without family support and with language barriers.
- **Some young people are excluded from accessing income support and health services** such as New Zealand citizens, refugee young people, queer young people leaving the USA due to transphobia and safety concerns.
- Starting to see reports of **younger people locating to regional centres in response to housing affordability and cost of living pressures**, helped by increased potential for remote working.
- **Limitations of siloed funding approaches, lack of flexible funding and continuing funding for successful pilots and projects are a major issue.**
- **Extent of properties being used for Air BnB and vacant houses** exacerbating rental crisis.
- **Effective strategies to tackle the housing and rental crisis are urgent and critical.**



# Data

- **Imagined Futures are exploring a regional project with People WA, Communities, the WAAEH and the Centre for Social Impact** to enable access to **linked data**, on people experiencing homelessness, drawing on data from WA Police, Communities (including Housing), Health, Justice, Education and Mental Health.
- Services capture a lot of data which **remains internal**, or becomes part of aggregated data sets, due to **privacy requirements and considerations**. There may be opportunities to **leverage existing data** sets such as [SHIP: Specialist Homelessness Information Platform](#) if more local information could be shared by age and other demographics. Also to explore for how existing local data may be better integrated and utilised and reduce the burden on services and clients with data collection – start with a user focus rather than creating new systems.
- [Local by name lists](#) can capture more local information on individual's experiencing and at risk of homelessness in real time. The WA Alliance to End Homelessness manage the data collected by participating services to provide real time by name list data and dashboards showing entry and exit pathways and demographic data to support services to work together and coordinate efforts to help end homelessness for individuals on the list. Perth and Fremantle are currently one data area and not all people experiencing homelessness are included. Imagined Futures are working with the WAAEH and AAEH to explore development of a **Fremantle by name list**.
- **Service challenges** shared about the by name list include:
  - Having to select a particular list when a person may be mobile across different by name list locations.
  - The administrative burden of managing separate log ins for each list for services that span several local by name list areas.
  - Data may not be updated for an individual if they are not in regular contact with a service.
  - Privacy and consent considerations – a young person may not want all their information to be visible to all services, they may also be concerned about privacy if they are seeking future employment in community services. Some young people are too proud to be included on a list.
  - The effort involved in collecting data when there is a low outflow / pathways to end homelessness.
  - Suggestion to explore scope for a 'two tiered' list to capture data on young people (and others) experiencing homelessness in an area who may not want their full details included with the date of birth potentially being used as a discrete identifier.
- Noting the above challenges, more services in contact with young people experiencing homelessness may be encouraged to participate in local by name list data collection and rough sleeping coordination efforts.
- The **connections between out of home care and homelessness** is an under researched area and there is a lack of direct information for young people who have experienced out of home care and homelessness.
- The **proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people entering out of home care in Western Australia is increasing**.
- **Local government data may be available** on people sleeping rough via Ranger and Co-Safe data such as for people sleeping in cars.
- **DFES data may be available** from their tracking homelessness for disaster responses e.g. in Serpentine-Jarrahdale.
- [100 Families research](#) provides information and insights from a lived experience perspective to inform service and system improvements.

# Service and community responses

- There has been positive feedback, including by young people, on the [Foyer model](#) and [Foyer Oxford](#), noting some young people have struggled to meet entry requirements.
- The [St Pat's Youth Place outreach support](#) is invaluable.
- Mental Health Commission funding of **Drug Education Support Service (DESS) workers** in youth accommodation. A community of practice has been formed by DESS workers.
- [Mental Health Commission training](#). Courses are targeted to funded youth **AOD workers in youth accommodation services**. The training is suitable for anyone working with young people who use AOD and registrations are welcome from the wider youth sector.
- [Youth Futures](#) provide non-exhaustive **lists of short term and medium to long term accommodation** and **mental health services** for young people.
- [SMYL](#) provide creche support to participants in their [ParentsNext program](#) and incorporate food into program delivery to help remove barriers to participation.
- [Workskil](#) purchased 9 apartments in WA to provide a **Work to Home program** providing low-cost rental accommodation for young people while being supported to find employment.
- **Positive business responses** such as in Cockburn, some businesses are providing people who are rough sleeping with food and coffee and support to sleep at the back of their premises.
- The [City of Cockburn Employ Me program](#) includes employment skills building with young people and working in **partnership with Cockburn Gateway** to provide youth activities within the shopping centre and link young people seeking employment with retail employment pathways.
- [Rockingham, Kwinana and Mandurah Rough Sleepers Coordination Group](#) – a collaboration across organisations as a local ending homelessness strategy.
- An App in the US **connecting people sleeping rough with homestay / housesit opportunities**.
- **One stop shop** in New Zealand's Centrelink equivalent works well and is person-centred. Noted is easier with New Zealand's central government.

# Collaboration

- **Collaboration, integrated services and warm referral are critical** to providing quality outcomes for at risk young people. This includes leveraging services young people connect with and strong relationships with government agencies such as Communities and Health.
- The **value of collaboration** was widely agreed noting there are a range of existing mechanisms but there are always **opportunities for strengthening service integration**. The [Fremantle/Rockingham Family Support Network](#) is a mechanism to provide integrated services, in the region, including for young people, and has more than 30 partner agencies.
- Extensive **relationships and referrals is occurring between agencies** across the region including with schools, the Family Support Network and individual services.
- **Strong, responsive partnerships** – many organisations deliver their services through partnerships with other organisations (for example schools, Davis Park). Many services also provide opportunities for other organisations to deliver wrap around services to respond to needs of service users (for example Palmerston, Freo Street Doctor).
- Participation in **local events such as in schools** hosted by the [Stephen Michael Foundation](#) and [Imagined Futures](#) have been positive.
- The **Cockburn, Fremantle and Melville Inter Agency Youth Forum** is a longstanding network and advocacy forum.
- **Co-location** has been used as a strategy to support services starting up in the region until they get their own premises and then move to a partnership model. Youth Reach South is co-located at the City of Cockburn Youth Centre and **co-location opportunities at the Cockburn Youth Centre are ongoing**.
- The **increased involvement of young people with lived experience** on advisory bodies including [headspace Fremantle's Youth Reference Group](#) and the [YACWA Youth Homelessness Advisory Council](#).
- It is important to **involve and learn from young people with lived experiences of services and systems** and harness their insights to shape solutions. The headspace YRG provided key guidance to the [Neami Right By You website](#).
- The **community of practice** recently formed by **Drug Education Support Service workers** is a good example.
- **Regular networking by Managers of youth crisis accommodation services**.
- [headspace Fremantle](#) facilitate **regular consortium meetings** for networking, information sharing and service coordination (participants include SARC, Helping Minds, Youth Reach South, Youth Place, Youth Access, Palmerston, Workplace and Study and private psychologists). The **Community Engagement role** has also been key in fostering collaboration through raising awareness of available services, linking, coordination and championing the involvement of young people.
- The [WAAEH Youth Homelessness Action Plan](#) for addressing the needs of young people experiencing homelessness, not only those in crisis but as a holistic attempt to prevent and end youth homelessness in Western Australia. The [Youth Affairs Council of WA](#) (YACWA) is committed to ensuring that the Plan provides a clear blueprint for any community organisations looking to contribute to ending youth homelessness.
- [CREATE Foundation](#) facilitate **quarterly youth advisory groups** and follow up meetings with relevant agencies on topics of importance to young people with an experience of out of home care. The 2024/25 topics are health and wellbeing, transition to adulthood (including housing), regional inclusion, sibling connection.
- **CREATE** may also coordinate **fee for service youth advisory groups** for organisations seeking input from young people with a care experience.

# Youth engagement hub

## Wide and strong support for a local Youth Engagement Hub

- There was wide and strong support to establish a **local youth engagement hub / one stop shop** as a model to offer a safe space for young people to thrive and create a sense of belonging.
- **A Hub should be welcoming to young people generally, and provide person centred and wrap around services tailored to individual needs and vulnerable young people where relevant. 'At risk' can include not having a safe, inclusive space.**
- **An all-inclusive space can offer ways of supporting more vulnerable young people and connecting with relevant services.**
- **Important to support with a place plan and allow time for programs to get off the ground (and for mobile services, to find suitable locations). Programs should include creative activities and programs.**
- **Fremantle previously had a youth engagement hub model at Quarry Street with a Drop In Centre and other youth focused services and supports** (including health, employment, welfare and emergency relief). **Coolbellup also had a Drop In Centre** operating from a residential property.
- Strength in local government run youth spaces working in partnership with community service organisations – Cockburn has the [Cockburn Youth Centre](#), Kwinana has [The Zone Youth Space](#), Mandurah has [Billy Dower Youth Centre](#), Swan has the [Ellenbrook Youth Centre](#) which involved young people in the facility and service design.
- Some thought a physical location was critical.
- Others saw the potential in a **pop up / mobile hub** to reach young people across the region. Vinnies [Passages Youth Engagement Hub](#) may offer insights on a physical location model and partnership with the Rotary Club of Perth. Mobile can offer contemporary urbanism and young people having ownership of spaces. Changing locations can also be challenging for vulnerable community members to know where to go.
- **Cockburn Youth Centre has potential to be a centralised hub.**
- **Funding is a challenge.** The [GP Down South – Peel Mobile Health Service](#) was given as an example of an effective service facing issues in securing long-term funding.
- **Operations and security** are considerations – ideal would be 24/7 operations. **Community concerns can be a block but don't tend to manifest in practice** – cite examples where successful models are happening elsewhere.
- The existing Anglicare [Street Connect](#) mobile bus service may offer insights on a mobile model and the potential to replicate / build on. The [Fusion MYHub](#) is another example.
- **Young people should be included** in service explorations and design (headspace YRG and CREATE YAG could be sources of input). The City of Swan is a good example of a successful youth space that was co-designed with young people.
- **Cultural representation** was stressed as important such as programs being operated by First Nations people. The [Champion Centre](#) is a good example where this is working well.
- Explorations for a local youth engagement hub could include **opportunities to pool local government and service resources and capacity across the region.**
- **headspace Fremantle will be exploring new accommodation** and re-locating by the end of 2026. Explorations will include an open space for young people to hang out and connect with relevant support.

# Emerging initiatives and other opportunities

## Emerging initiatives

- **'Lazy land'** that may be used for social housing initiatives such as My Home is being identified within local government areas starting with Mandurah as an action from the [South Metropolitan Regional Homelessness and Housing Plan](#). **There may also be 'lazy land' that can be used to develop community facilities such as a youth engagement hub.**
- [Where is the Door project](#) – opportunity to think creatively and connect young people to services, tap into community touchpoints and provide tailored information.
- **Imagined Futures linked data project** (see Data section above).
- **Imagined Futures Fremantle by name list explorations** (see Data section above).
- City of Fremantle exploring hosting a **Pride event that can connect the community with local queer groups and queer inclusive community groups.**

## Other opportunities

- [Kira House in Midland is a good model](#) – there was support for trying to attract a similar model to the region.
- **Identify 'lazy houses'** - identify vacant houses within local government areas and encourage them to be used. The issue is explored in an ABC news article – [Vacant houses test the limits of private property rights](#) including the scope for stronger government action. The City of Vincent has introduced [higher rates for vacant residential \(and commercial\) properties](#). The City of Bayswater also has [differential rating categories](#).
- There could be value in **youth transitional accommodation services meeting regularly.**
- **Capacity building, skills and awareness raising** including where to go for help to enable (where appropriate) **reunification support and relationship building** between young people and their family. The City of Cockburn Cockburn Youth Outreach and Youth Justice mentoring programs include family relationship repair. The [Fremantle/Rockingham Family Support Network](#) is a key referral source. Strong relationships have also been developed with local school support staff in Cockburn.
- Leverage other's initiatives and what's working well such as Workskil link with Escare for young people to access **online food vouchers** without needing to present to the service.
- **Local government festivals** can offer opportunities for young people to volunteer and enjoy free or low-cost activities. Can also provide casual job opportunities.
- **Town planning** can play an important role in helping improve community safety and creating inclusive spaces.