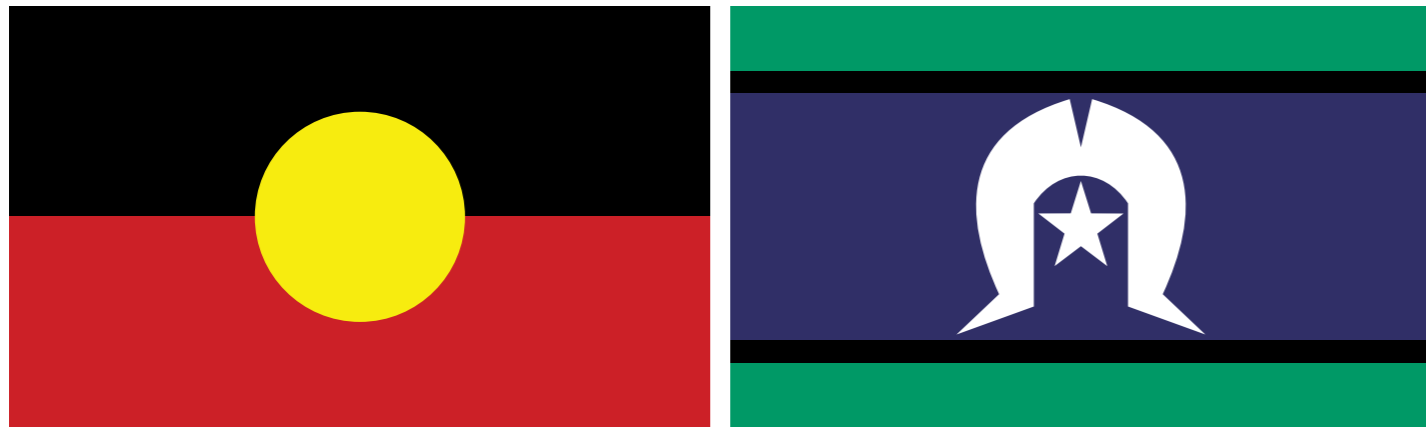


THE YACWA 2023 — 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

November 2024





The Youth Affairs Council of Western Australia acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the traditional custodians of the lands, waterways and plains on which we live, work and play on. We extend our respect to Elders, both from the past and those who guide us today, and we embrace this connection with all young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who we work alongside of.

This land has always been,
and will always be,

**ABORIGINAL
LAND.**

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SUPPORTERS & MEMBERS

STRATEGIC PLAN 2024-2029

OUR MEMBERS

Our members are the driving force behind YACWA's achievements— we truly couldn't do it without you. Your collective voice empowers our submissions, advocacy efforts, and our vision for change. We want to express our heartfelt thanks to the diverse organisations and individuals who stand with YACWA in our mission, as well as the many young people and passionate professionals dedicated to uplifting young people in Western Australia. Together, we embrace our values of courage, inclusivity, curiosity, and connection, fostering a brighter future for all young people.

MAJOR FUNDERS



Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Communities**



Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Health**



FUNDERS AND SUPPORTERS

- Edith Cowan University
- The Y WA
- SVN Commercial Pty Ltd
- Carers Association of WA
- Mission Australia
- RUAH
- Cooltempo Pty Ltd
- RACWA Holdings Pty Ltd
- Humanitix
- Mercy Community Services Limited
- Australian Childhood Foundation
- Parkerville Children and Youth
- Heyder & Shears Catering
- Department of Local Government & Communities
- Shire of Ashburton
- Bendigo Bank
- City of Cockburn
- Shire of Mundaring
- Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries
- Commissioner for Children & Young People
- Department for Communities
- SSJG Ministries Inc.

OUR PURPOSE

YACWA's purpose remains steadfast—to stand as a bold, trusted go-to advocate and systems-shaping body for young people, the sector, and the communities that rally behind them.

OUR VISION

The strategic plan envisions a world where all young people are respected, valued, and empowered to shape the world they live in.

ORGANISATIONAL ASPIRATION

YACWA aspires to be an impactful and focused organisation by actively connecting and building the capacity of young people, the sector, and communities.

OUR VALUES

Inclusivity, Courage, Curiosity and Connection.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

- 1 Amplify the impact of our advocacy
- 2 Engage and grow our membership
- 3 Build a sustainable business and governance model
- 4 Nurture and grow our people

A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO & CHAIRPERSON



A core premise of youth work, and indeed the entire youth sector, is the ability and commitment to learn and move with the changing needs of young people.

This year we embarked on a new Strategic Plan, which considered our position and role over the next five years. In true YACWA style we consulted widely, hearing the voices of young people, sector, life members, staff, and the Board, before finalising our bold and aspirational commitment. A vision that all young people are respected, valued and enabled to shape the world they live in. Alongside our core values of inclusivity, courage, curiosity, and connection, this plan continues YACWA's focus on advocacy, our members, and our people.

In addition to the new plan, and alongside our existing advocacy pillars of homelessness, mental health and justice, we added a new focus on family and domestic violence (FDV). This addition is the direct result of the lack of youth voice in the fight to end this issue. It recognises young people as a distinct group impacted by, and that must be valued within, this discussion. Engagement with organisations and young people has allowed us to understand their priorities and how we can advocate effectively in this space.

The death in custody of a young person shone a light on juvenile justice once again, resulting in our support of Social Reinvestment WA (SRWA) in calling for the closure of Unit 18. Alongside our partners we continue to advocate for positive change in this area, and support ongoing calls for therapeutic and client-centred programs and initiatives in place of detention.

In this cost-of-living crisis, youth homelessness continues to be a large area of work for YACWA. The Youth Homelessness Advisory Council (YHAC) continued to build momentum, speaking at numerous events. YHAC has built the knowledge and capacity of many organisations by highlighting both the short and long-term impacts of youth homelessness

Youth health and wellbeing saw a boost through the successful extension of the Youth Educating Peers (YEP) project. This resulted in an increase in engagement activities, supporting more young people to gain an understanding of respectful relationships, consent, and safe sex practices. This work directly supports young people to recognise intimate partner

violence in a safe, non-judgemental and de-stigmatising format. Considering the current prevalence of FDV in Australia, this peer-based education is essential to tackling the wider problem.

Our Advisory Service continues to grow, working with 18 agencies to deliver youth engagement projects and build sector youth engagement skills. This year we rolled out grant workshops across WA. We visited the Wheatbelt, Great Southern, Pilbara, and Kimberley. These regional connections continue to build YACWA's presence outside of the Perth metropolitan region while we remain committed to sustainable regional engagement.

This year we moved to our own office in East Perth with room for our growing team. This huge undertaking will allow us to continue expanding our work in the sector with new projects and team members.

These achievements, and so many others not mentioned, could not be possible without the commitment of all those who work with, and alongside us. We deeply thank our fabulous staff, volunteers, Board, and members for your continued dedication and support. A final thank you to all of the young people we have the privilege of walking with; your strength comes from the collective voices of many, and we remain here to amplify your voices.

SAL CLEVERAY Chairperson

SANDY MCKIERNAN CEO

YACWA'S ADVISORY SERVICE

YACWA's Advisory Service continues to assist the youth and community sectors with unique, bespoke approaches to engaging and involving young people in meaningful ways.

Youth-led practice is at the core of what we do and YACWA has a team of youth consultants who help deliver all aspects of our advisory service work.



YACWA'S CLIENTS IN 2023/2024

- Accordwest
- Australian Childhood Foundation
- Carers WA
- City of Cockburn
- City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder
- Commissioner for Children and Young People
- Department of Communities
- Department of Local Government, Sports and Cultural Industries
- Ruah Community Services
- Shire of Ashburton
- Shire of Denmark
- Shire of Mundaring
- Short Term Accommodation for Youth
- Town of Victoria Park
- Volunteering WA
- WA PCYC
- Water Corporation
- Youth Action

THE HIGHLIGHTS

YOUTH STRATEGIES AND PLANS

YACWA continues to be highly in demand to deliver Youth Plans and Strategies for Local Government Authorities. In the 2023/2024 year we were delighted to work with the:

- Shire of Mundaring
- Shire of Denmark
- City of Cockburn, and
- City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder

We talked with their staff, elected members, stakeholders, and of course young people about challenges young people were facing and identified local solutions. We look forward to finishing off this work and engaging new LGAs in the coming year.

YOUTH ADVISORY GROUPS

YACWA is a best practice leader of the development and delivery of Youth Advisory Groups. This year we established brand new Youth Advisory Groups for Ruah Community Services and Carers WA.

Our focus was on building the strong foundations needed to make these groups purposeful, safe, sustainable and fun! YACWA also worked with the Commissioner for Children and Young People on a short-term Youth Advisory Group comprised of young people from around the state to explore and make recommendations around their youth engagement practices.

YOUTH CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

YACWA is regularly engaged by organisations to run targeted consultation and engagements with young people. Highlights this year were two pieces of work with DLGSC. In the first we hosted two extremely popular (booked out) youth forums to provide input into the State's rescoping of the *10 Year Vision for Culture and the Arts in WA*.

The second was the reactivation of YACWA's *Voting Party* platform with a focus on increasing youth representation on Local Government councils. YACWA held two youth-focused forums where we matched interested young candidates with existing young councillors to build their knowledge and confidence to stand for election. We also ran a social media campaign to get young people out to vote!

TRAINING

In the 2023/2024 year YACWA continued to upskill the sector by running well attended workshops on *Establishing and Running a Successful Youth Advisory Group*. We also provided support to the Shire of Ashburton, developing their staff's skills in youth participation through an online workshop and youth engagement toolkit. YACWA's training options can be viewed on our website.

THE YEP PROJECT



The YEP (Youth Educating Peers) Project provides sexual health education for young people by young people through peer-based in-person workshops and online education.

YEP also offer sexual health education for youth workers by youth workers. YEP takes a sex-positive, inclusive and harm-reductive approach to sexual health education, covering topics including safer sex, contraception, healthy relationships and consent, pornography and sexting, and LGBTQIA+ 101.

SECTOR ENGAGEMENT & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

During this period YEP delivered professional development workshops, webinars and/or presentations to 347 metropolitan professionals and 84 regional professionals across Western Australia. Regional participants represented the Pilbara, South West, Wheatbelt, Mid-West, Great Southern, Goldfields and the Kimberley; as well as services operating state-wide and nationally. YEP presented at Curtin University's Relationship and Sexuality Education Symposium and co-facilitated an interactive workshop with WAAC at the SiREN Symposium. YEP also hosted sessions for the youth sector by external agencies, including Sexual Assault Research Centre (SARC),

Pelvic Pain Foundation Australia and Good Shepherd. During this period YEP supported 10 organisations through its consultation service. Some of these included Passages Youth Engagement Hub, City of Wanneroo, La Trobe University, Relationships Australia South Hedland and WACHS Northam.

Impact of the work:

91% of participants reported an increase in their knowledge, skills and/or capacity about the relevant topic.

92% of participants reported feeling more supported in providing sexual health referral pathways to young people in Perth.

96% felt that the session was relevant to their professional role.

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

YEP had 563 engagements with young people throughout their workshops in the metropolitan area. This included out of home care services, youth centres, mental health facilities, and drop-in centres. YEP engaged with 246 regional young people, largely face-to-face in the Wheatbelt and South West. Approximately 614 referrals to sexual health and bloodborne virus (SHBBV) clinical services were made to young people during face-to-face community engagement.

Impact of the work:

97% of participants reported an increase in their understanding and awareness of STI & BBV testing services.

95% of participants reported a preference for receiving SHBBV information from peer educators aged under 25 compared to teachers or guest speakers aged 30+.

EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES & SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGNS

YEP launched 94 new educational resources, including posters, videos and social media content. The cumulative online reach (TikTok, Facebook, Instagram, and YEP website) this period exceeded 200,000!

YEP released three campaigns in the 2023-2024 period: the Barrier Method Campaign, the HPV Campaign and the Period Campaign. Over the three campaigns, 57 resources were created (social media carousels, videos and posters) and released on social media reaching a collective of 96,622 viewers. All campaigns were created as a response to relevant trends reported by young people and the youth sector.



SERVICE VIDEOS

YEP created promotional tour videos of SHBBV services including Luma in Northbridge, headspace Mandurah and Merredin Medical Centre. These videos capture what the inside and outside of the service looks like, introduce some staff members from the service, provide youth-friendly information about what to expect from their SHBBV services and information about confidentiality, inclusivity and access.

WA YOUTH AWARDS

The YEP Project was a WA Youth Award Finalist for the Youth Futures Innovation for a Sustainable Future Award.

“It [the workshop] was the best thing that’s ever happened to me”

— student from Wagin



WA YOUTH AWARDS 2023

The WA Youth Awards is the largest event in YACWA's annual calendar. The event stands as the foundation of our work to develop and recognise young people in Western Australia.



The Awards night was a remarkable celebration of the contributions made by young individuals, youth workers, and the broader youth sector. Each finalist demonstrated exceptional passion and commitment across diverse domains, including activism, creativity, technology, community support, and peer leadership. At its heart, the Awards serve to illuminate and honour the often unseen efforts of young people and the sector that supports them, bringing their impactful work to the forefront.

The WA Youth Awards returned to Hackett Hall in the WA Museum Boola Bardip in October 2023, taking place as a gala dinner. This year, we had:

- a record number of 129 nominees from across WA
- 39 of those were named finalists
- six from regional areas
- 226 people joined us for an evening of celebration and reflection in honour of young people and the youth sector.

At this year's awards, we were joined by Ministers Hon. Dr. Anne Aly (Federal Minister for Early Childhood Education and Youth) and Hon. Simone McGurk (WA Minister for Youth; Training; Water), as well as respected members of our sector, young people, and their families.

The winner of the 2023 Young Person of the Year Award was Isabella Choate.

This event would not have been possible without the generous support from our major partners Lotterywest and the Department of Communities; our category sponsors, Edith Cowan University, the Commissioner for Children and Young People, Mission Australia, Perth Festival, The Y WA, Youth Futures, Youth Focus, MercyCare; and the State Library of Western Australia. Thank you for your ongoing support.

WINNERS

ISABELLA CHOATE

The WA Young Person of the Year and the ECU Community Leadership Award

JACK CONNOR ANDERSON

The Mission Australia Young Changemaker Award

DILLIAN CUMMING

The Commissioner for Children and Young People Participate Award

HOME STRETCH WA COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

The Youth Focus Sector Collaboration Award

YOUTH PRIDE NETWORK

The Y Collective Action Award

ABIGAIL GREGORIO

The MercyCare Positive Achievement Award

SAMUEL THOMAS

The Youth Futures Innovation for a Sustainable Future Award

XANTHE TURNER

The Perth Festival Creative Contribution Award

CAMERON CARR

The Charmaine Dragun Memorial Award

BEN DANCEY

The Minister for Youth's Most Outstanding Youth Worker Award

YOUTH & SECTOR ENGAGEMENT

Over the past financial year, YACWA has significantly expanded its digital presence, increasing engagement across Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, and MailChimp. This growth reflects our enhanced capacity to cultivate a strong social media presence, aided by the addition of dedicated Digital Communications and Events Officers.

Additionally, the introduction of internal Style Guidelines has strengthened YACWA's public image and brand recognition.

FACEBOOK REACH

61,632



Between July 2023 and June 2024, we reached over 61,000 accounts through Facebook. In a similar pattern to previous years, engagement considerably increased around the WA Youth Awards.

INSTAGRAM REACH

12,021



Our Instagram reach increased considerably, reaching over 12,000 accounts and expanding our digital presence.

EMAIL MARKETING

90,593 4.7%

emails sent click rate

37% 0.16%

open rate unsubscribe rate

Between September 2023 and June 2024, YACWA sent 90,593 electronic direct mail emails (such as our e-news) to our 3,185 subscribers. These emails focused on sharing sector specific news, event information, and youth-related content. Our unsubscribe rate remained low at 0.16%, highlighting the relevance and quality of our communications.

GRANTS

LOTTERYWEST

Funded through Lotterywest, the Youth Sector Small Grants Scheme enabled YACWA to provide financial support to deepen youth engagement and improve the wellbeing of young Western Australians. A total of \$340,000 was funded throughout the state.

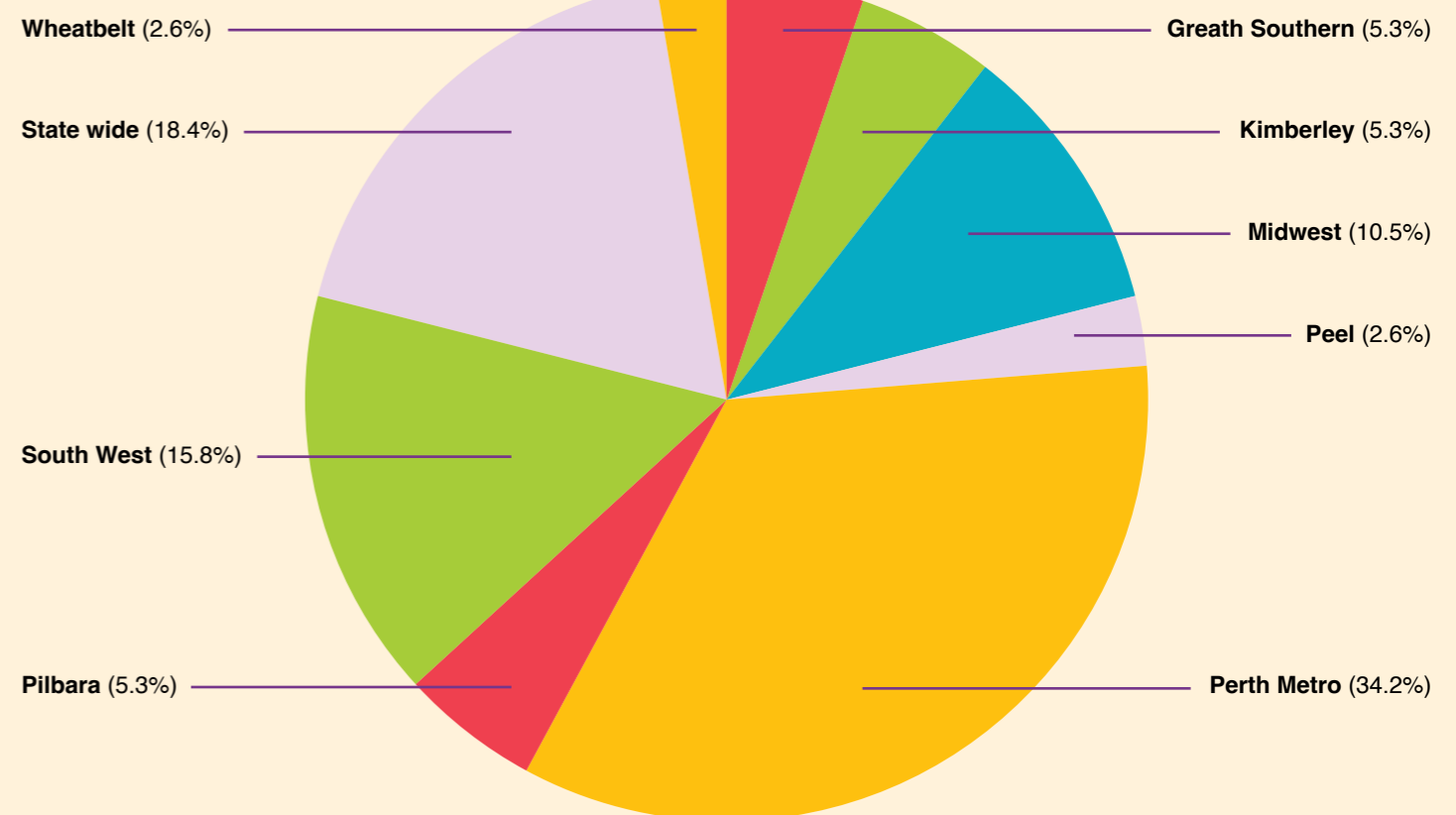
This grant program targeted young people who were:

- Culturally and Linguistically Diverse
- Living with a disability
- Lived in regional, rural and remote communities

A total of **38 grants were issued**. Examples of successfully funded programs include:

- **Swim for Refugees (Perth Metro)**
Swimming lessons for refugee and asylum seeker communities by qualified swim teachers and trained, strong swimmers.
- **The Skill Engineer Ltd (Kimberley)**
A social enterprise initiative that invites schools and service providers to refer school non-attenders to partake in engineering and other STEM activities.
- **Man Up WA (Mid-West)**
Using peer education workshops on male culture, relationships and coping mechanisms to provide early intervention and prevention of family and domestic violence, mental illness, and suicidal ideation.

Distribution of regions funded:



YACWA partnered with the Department of Communities to deliver a Small Grants Scheme that provided grants of up to \$25,000 per organisation.

In total, \$525,444 was awarded to organisations across Western Australia, with two funding rounds targeting specific communities.

Raising the Voice of Aboriginal young people

This grant round aimed to improve engagement and participation with decision-making processes for First Nations young people. This was delivered in collaboration with Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCO's) and the youth sector.

11 grants were awarded in this round.

Locations:

- Geraldton
- Fitzroy Crossing
- Albany
- Queens Park
- Narrogin
- Ellenbrook
- Manjimup
- Paraburdoo

Increasing support for LGBTIQ+ young people

Programs were funded to improve the health and wellbeing of LGBTIQ+ young people, through greater representation, engagement, and participation with decision-making.

14 grants were issued in this grant round.

Locations:

- South Perth
- Kalgoorlie
- Perth
- Victoria Park
- Fremantle
- Newman
- Bunbury
- Bridgetown

CASE STUDY

On-Country Youth Leadership Camp – Geraldton

This project was a partnership between Streeties Geraldton, Wula Gura Nyinda Eco Adventures, (working closely with Department of Communities and Department of Justice).

“Since returning from camp there was a noticeable improvement in the ongoing interpersonal relationships of several participants... This demonstrated the achievement of intermediate outcomes such as improved connection to both culture and community.”

— Jasmin Pavan, Streeties Geraldton

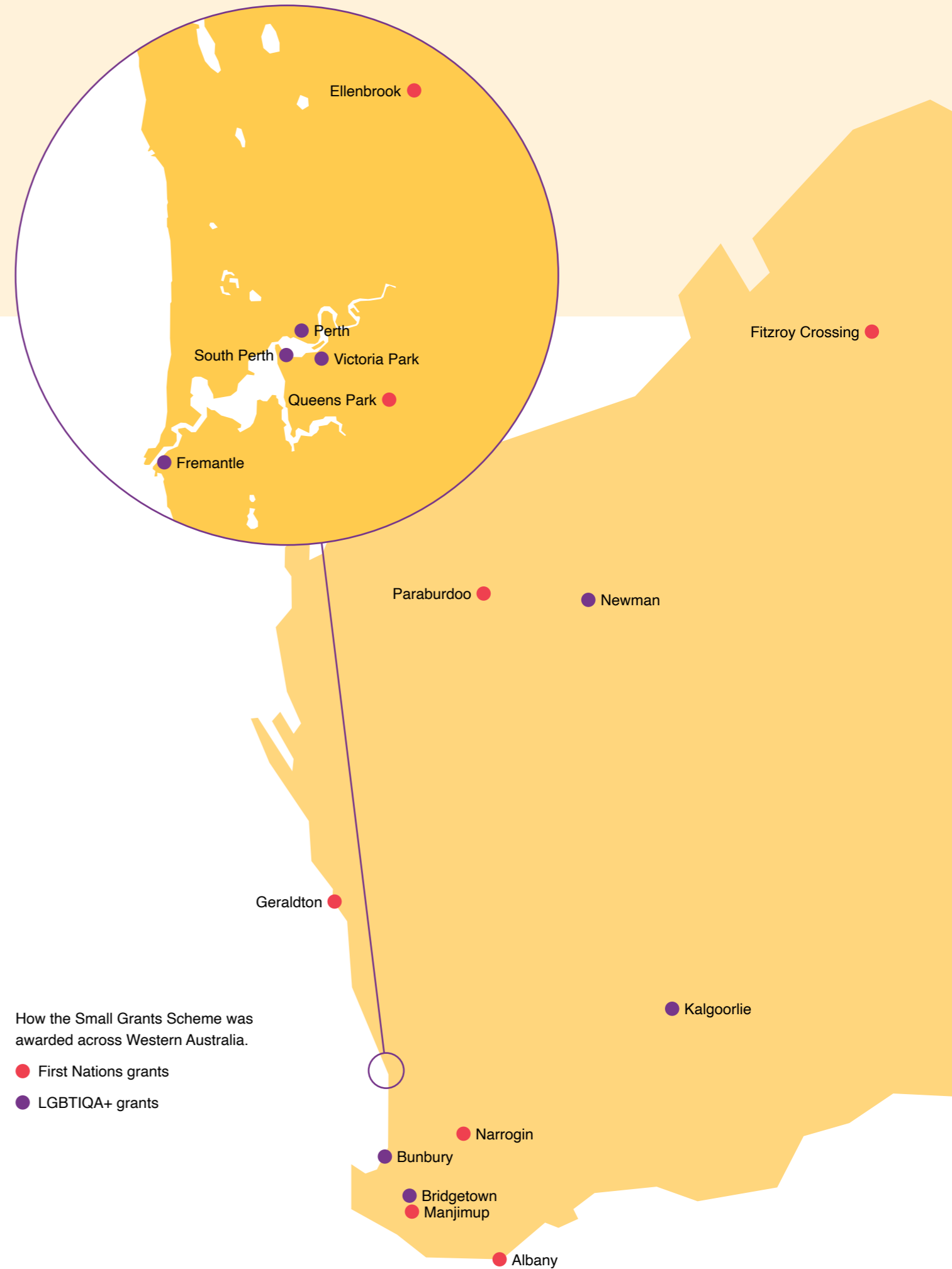


CASE STUDY

Blackwood Youth Action – Bridgetown – Queer Connect

“The program has been an enormous success - so much so that the group has grown, friendships have been established, new experiences have contributed to the growth and development of the young participants in general, and in their experiences of belonging to a minority group, in a rural town. One of our participants became the junior Chairperson on the Board of Out South West.”

— Lisa Burgess, Blackwood Youth Action



POLICY & ADVOCACY

Policy and advocacy are central to YACWA's mission as the peak body for youth in Western Australia. We strive to elevate the voices of young people and the youth sector to create ambitious policy shifts and drive sustainable systemic change.



YACWA's policy and advocacy work is shaped by:

- Young people's lived experience
- The expertise of the youth sector
- Evidence-based research

Our policy team works closely with young people through collaboration with members of the Youth Homelessness Advisory Council (YHAC) and YACWA's two auspiced organisations, the Youth Pride Network (YPN) and Youth at Risk Network (YARN), as well as through regular engagement with our membership base of young people across WA.

YACWA advocates for the human rights of young people in Western Australia with a strong and intersectional focus on our four advocacy pillars:

- Housing and homelessness
- Mental health
- Youth justice
- Family and domestic violence (including intimate partner violence)

In 2023-24, YACWA has proactively advocated for the rights of young people across Western Australia. Highlights from our policy work this year include:

HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS

- Collaborating with the Western Australian Alliance to End Homelessness, Vinnies WA and YHAC to develop a joint submission on housing and homelessness for the Western Australian Department of Communities' *Youth Action Plan 2024-2027*
- Submitting to the People's Commission on the Housing Crisis as part of the Everybody's Home Campaign
- Advocating for improved rental conditions for young people in alignment with the Make Renting Fair campaign
- Contributing to the roll out of the WA Department of Communities' *At Risk Youth Strategy 2022-2027*.

MENTAL HEALTH

- Participating in the State Government's Mental Health, Wellbeing and Alcohol and Other Drugs Ministerial Advisory Panel
- Collaborating with Youth Focus and our members to develop a joint submission on mental health to the WA Government's Department of Communities *Youth Action Plan 2024-2027*.

YOUTH JUSTICE

- Advocating for the immediate closure of Unit 18 and reform across WA's whole youth justice service landscape— including Banksia Hill Detention Centre— through close collaboration with Social Reinvestment WA
- Supporting Change the Record's campaign to Raise the Age of criminal responsibility
- Raising public awareness on the impact of WA's justice system on young people through regular print, radio and social media engagement.

FAMILY AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE (FDV)

- Collaborating with the YEP Project to submit recommendations to the WA Department of Justice's *Statutory Review of the Criminal Law Amendment (Intimate Images) Act 2019*
- Strengthening our research base and ensuring that the voices of young people are included in the FDV/IPV advocacy space.

ADDITIONAL WORK

- Attending the Uluru Statement from the Heart's 'Hands on Heart' Conference in Sydney
- Supporting the Yes campaign ahead of the Referendum on the Voice to Parliament
- Submission to and analysis of the 2024-2025 State Budget
- Submission to the Federal Senate's Cost of Living Inquiry based on consultation with 90 young people across WA
- Continued stewardship of the Agency Network for Youth.



YOUTH PRIDE NETWORK

The Youth Pride Network (YPN) is the peak advocacy body for LGBTIQ+ youth in Western Australia, dedicated to ensuring full inclusion, acceptance, and celebration of LGBTIQ+ young people in their communities.



In 2023-24, YPN saw significant growth, including the addition of a new Coordinator and Project Support Officers. YPN won the Y WA Collective Action Award at the WA Youth Awards, secured additional funding for the Pride Yarns project, and strengthened community connections through its advocacy, education, and community initiatives across Western Australia.

ADVOCACY

- Engaged with political stakeholders including Federal Sex Discrimination Commissioner Dr. Anna Cody, Federal Youth Minister Dr. Anne Aly, State Youth Minister Hannah Beazley, and WA Mental Health Commissioner Maureen Lewis to discuss policy and community issues.
- Held a historic meeting with WA Premier Hon. Roger Cook MLA, focusing on key priorities and law reform.
- Submitted a report to the Australian Human Rights Commission on the threats facing trans and gender-diverse young people.
- Released the extensive *State of Play II Education Report*, nearly doubling the size of the first edition.
- Conducted the State of Play III Consultation to assess LGBTIQ+ young people's experiences in WA's healthcare system.
- Participated in the whole-of-Government LGBTIQ+ Inclusion Strategy Reference Group.

EDUCATION

- Hosted four teacher information sessions on creating safe school environments for LGBTIQ+ students and ran a social media campaign based on the *State of Play II Report's* findings and recommendations.
- Promoted LGBTIQ+ inclusive school posters, and distributed copies of the State of Play report and poster packs.
- Created educational and supportive content for young LGBTIQ+ people across education and healthcare for social media and the YPN website.

COMMUNITY

- Continued Pride Yarns, a project fostering connection and knowledge sharing for First Nations LGBTIQ+ young people.
- Expanded Queer DnD to its fourth year, holding four events in Perth and regionally, in Albany.
- Organised Pride Fest Fairday and Parade, marching with young LGBTIQ+ people.
- Hosted Queer Youth Poetry Night in collaboration with Rabble Books and Games, providing a safe space for queer youth to share their poetry.
- YPN's Instagram reached 11,500 users, with engagement five times higher, follower growth 50 times greater, and link clicks eight times more frequent than industry averages.

YOUTH HOMELESSNESS ADVISORY COUNCIL

“The impact YHAC made is huge. Being able to have a more comprehensive list of experiences homeless young people face will help demonstrate how essential it is to intervene early.”

— Service provider in regards to YHAC’s feedback during consultation

The Youth Homelessness Advisory Council (YHAC) is a WA youth-led advocacy group for young people with lived experience of homelessness.

YHAC is focused on creating positive change within the youth homelessness sector through their work with sector, community and government. Throughout 2023–2024, YHAC solidified its position as a leading advisory body, leveraging lived experience to drive advocacy, collaboration, and sector improvements.

ADVOCACY AND STRATEGY

The YHAC team completed 10 pieces of advocacy work, including:

- Collaborating with Passages Youth Engagement Hub, Mission Australia, and Indigo Junction on a sector project for journey planning.
- Participating in the Western Australian Alliance to End Homelessness’ (WAAEH) Youth Strategy Review and National Housing and Homelessness Plan (NHHP) Strategic Youth Consultation.
- Consulting with Passages Youth Engagement Hub to understand the safety needs of young people, and developing an adverse experience measurement tool.
- Working with the Australian Alliance to End Homelessness to make the Homelessness Vulnerability Triage Tool more youth-focused and trauma-informed.
- Contributing to YACWA’s policy submissions on the Youth Action Plan, the People’s Commission into the Housing Crisis (Everybody’s Home campaign), and the WA Council of Social Service’s 2024–2025 Budget Briefing.

Audience feedback from YHAC’s lived experience presentations:

77% of respondents reported an increased awareness on youth homelessness issues.

83% of respondents were inspired to make changes to how they work with young people.

83% felt more equipped to engage with young people about homelessness topics.

93% agreed that the presentations increased the diversity of their understanding on the topic of youth homelessness.

“YHAC’s resources aim to highlight crucial supports and news that can help young people who are experiencing homelessness, as they reflect the information and supports that were not available during our experiences of homelessness and address the sector’s lack of capacity to spotlight services.”

— Committee member on the impact and purpose of YHAC’s resources

RESOURCES

YHAC created 11 new resources on youth homelessness, including:

- Guides on supports and assistance, such as free public showers, laundry facilities, and the Rent Relief Program
- Information on sector funding, achievements, events and reports
- Educational materials on youth homelessness, including guides for destigmatising conversations, holiday supports, and available accommodation services.

LIVED EXPERIENCE STORYTELLING

YHAC team members shared their lived experiences in 7 presentations, including:

- Presentations to YACWA staff and the YACWA Board
- Presenting at the WAAEH’s Advance to Zero Workshop for sector workers
- Keynote speeches at the Mental Health Commission’s Drug Education Support Service Worker conference
- A lecture on youth homelessness as a part of Shelter WA’s lecture series on homelessness, presented to the Mature Age Learning Association.

SECTOR ENGAGEMENT

YHAC actively engaged with the youth homelessness sector through:

- Conducting lived-experience service reviews for Passages Youth Engagement Hub Perth and Calvary Youth Services Mandurah
- Participating in key networking groups, such as the Youth Improvement Team and Youth At Risk Network (YARN)
- Representing young people at risk on WAAEH’s Steering Committee
- Participating in YARN events during Homelessness Week and Youth Week.



YOUTH AT RISK NETWORK

The Youth at Risk Network (YARN) is a small, volunteer-run organisation that is auspiced by YACWA. Throughout the 2023–2024 financial year, YARN held 10 network meetings to coordinate events and share service updates.

These meetings fostered stronger connections and information sharing within the inner-city at-risk youth sector.



HOMELESSNESS WEEK 2023

YARN hosted a free event at the Y HQ in Leederville for young people. The event featured:

- Food, clothing, and haircuts
- A music competition with prizes, including free studio time
- Basketball and art activities
- 10 stalls from youth services offering information and soft referrals for support

Participating services included:

- The Y
- Youth Homelessness Advisory Council
- Youth Pride Network
- Freedom Centre
- PICYS
- Mission Australia (Shift, Youthbeat, DAYS)
- Passages
- MercyCare
- Youth Mental Health (Youthlink)
- Create Foundation
- Salvation Army TSS

PRIDE PARADE 2023

YARN partnered with the Youth Pride Network (YPN) to participate in the Pride Parade. This included coordinating a meetup event, providing food and a space for youth participants to prepare for the parade.

YOUTH WEEK 2024

YARN expanded its reach by hosting an event in Mirrabooka for Youth Week, April 2024. The event was held in collaboration with local services and attracted a wide range of young people. Sponsored by the City of Stirling, this event demonstrated YARN's ability to successfully engage young people outside of Perth's inner city.

OUR PEOPLE



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Sal Cleveray (*Chairperson*)
- Celeste Astorino (*Vice Chairperson*)
- Clare Grealy (*Treasurer*)
- Jill Downard (*Secretary*)
- Naomi Blitz (*Under 26*)
- Sharon Gough
- Craig Webster
- Arbie Pattiselano
- Sandy McKiernan (*ex-officio*)

OUTGOING BOARD DIRECTORS

- Omar Ali MacIntyre (*under 26 – Feb 2023*)
- Katherine Browne (*Mar 2024*)

LIFE MEMBERS

- Philippa Boldy
- George Davies
- Louise Giolotto
- Mark Goerke
- Nic Hastings-James
- Jude Sorenson
- Kerstin Stender
- Audrey Turner
- Brian Wooller
- Elise Jorgensen
- Andrew Hall
- Ross Wortham
- Vik Jeyakumar
- Craig Webster

GOVERNANCE & POLICY COMMITTEE

- Sharon Gough (*Chairperson*)
- Sal Cleveray
- Naomi Blitz
- Arbie Pattiselano
- Jill Downard (*commenced Feb 2024*)
- Omar Ali MacIntyre

FINANCE & SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

- Clare Grealy (*Chairperson*)
- Craig Webster (*from Feb 2024*)
- Katherine Browne
- Jordan Wright
- Celeste Astorino
- Gaurav Singh (*ex-Officio*)
- Sandy McKiernan (*ex-Officio*)

CHILD SAFE, YOUTH SAFE COMMITTEE

(*established Jan 2024*)

- Sal Cleveray (*Chairperson*)
- Jill Downard
- Arbie Pattiselano
- Naomi Blitz
- Sally Savage (*co-opted*)
- David Reid (*co-opted*)
- Lorna Geraghty (*ex-Officio*)
- Sandy McKiernan (*ex-Officio*)

YACWA STAFF

- Adelaide Williams
- Alicia Keenan
- Ashara Wills
- Bella Jia
- Caitlin Eaton
- Cheyanne Henderson-Watkins
- Chloe Clements
- Claudia Bedford
- Claudia Carles
- Courtney Taylor
- Dylan Storer
- Emily Sullivan
- Emily Cole
- Gaurav Singh
- Hannah Sorenson
- Jack Meakins
- Jake de Visser
- Kim Schroeder
- Lianda Gibson
- Lorna Geraghty
- Matilda Griffiths
- Matthew Clancy
- Mia Anderson-Hyde
- Mikaela Kerwin
- Minh Hoang
- Olive Bennet
- Olivia Knowles
- Raj Suares
- Sandy McKiernan
- Salem Kumlachew
- Songul Gozuacik
- Stefaan Bruce-Truglio
- Yande Charli
- Zoe Sullivan
- 11 CCYP Youth Steering Group members
- 4 YEP Peer Educators
- 5 Roads2Respect Peer Educators
- 7 YHAC Committee Members

FINANCES

TREASURER'S REPORT

I am pleased to present the financial statements for the Youth Affairs Council of WA (YACWA) for the period ending June 2024.

This report should be read in conjunction with the 2023-2024 Financial Report. The accounts audited by Dry Kirkness (formerly Butler Settineri) are included in the annual report. In the 2024 financial year, we've seen a further increase in YACWA's income, from \$2,787,096 (year ended 30 June 2023) to \$2,849,772 (year ended 30 June 2024).

YACWA's main sources of income were consistent with the prior year, being the Department of Communities, Department of Health and Lotterywest funding. This year's income included the Office Fit Out and Relocation Grant from Lotterywest of \$268,668. We thank all our funders and sponsors who have supported our operations this year.

Expenditure for the 2023-2024 financial year was \$2,583,754 with key expenditures on employee costs (59%), sector-wide events and activities and our office fit out and relocation. The relocation of the office is a major milestone achievement for YACWA and this could not be achieved without the ongoing support of Lotterywest.

YACWA's Statement of Profit and Loss denotes finishing the 2023-2024 financial year with a surplus of \$266,018 compared to of a surplus of \$100,285 in the previous financial year. This high surplus is due in part to the need to recognise the Lotterywest grant as income, with depreciation of expenditure

to occur over the next 10 years. YACWA continues to work towards financial sustainability and this year recognises an increase in total equity from \$440,315 to \$706,333.

I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to YACWA's CEO Sandy McKiernan, Finance Manager Gaurav Singh and members of the Finance Committee, for their commitment to maintaining robust financial oversight. In addition, I want to offer special thanks to the wonderful YACWA team who continually demonstrate their capacity to build and strengthen relationships and partnerships through their commitment to young people.



CLARE GREALY Treasurer

STATEMENTS

*for the year ended 30 June 2024

Statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income.*

	2024 (\$)	2023 (\$)
INCOME		
Grant and Service Income	2,329,885	2,269,586
Interest	21,302	9,639
Conference and other income	478,570	487,981
Membership Income	20,015	19,890
	2,849,772	2,787,096
EXPENDITURE		
Employee Benefits	1,527,403	1,536,789
Events & Activities	740,741	873,530
Occupancy	101,961	57,841
Depreciation	43,687	12,767
Vehicle and Travel Expenses	45,215	99,550
Financial and Insurance Costs	42,968	31,765
Administration and Other Costs	81,779	74,569
	2,583,754	2,686,811
Profit/(Loss) before income tax	266,018	100,285
Income Tax Expense	-	-
PROFIT/(LOSS) AFTER INCOME TAX	266,018	100,285
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME		
Items that will not be reclassified to profit and loss	-	-
Items that may be reclassified to profit and loss	-	-
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME/(LOSS) FOR THE YEAR	266,018	100,285

Statement of financial position.*

	2024 (\$)	2023 (\$)
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	1,137,307	1,974,978
Trade and other receivables	16,32630	180,786
Prepayments	48,585	29,411
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	1,202,218	2,185,175
Non-Current Assets		
Property, plant and equipment	307,337	8,040
Right of use Lease Assets	375,882	14,013
Rental Bond	6,106	16,116
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS	689,325	38,169
TOTAL ASSETS	1,891,543	2,223,344
LIABILITIES		
Current Liabilities		
Trade and other payables	148,272	395,333
Provisions	162,146	107,796
Project Funds Received in Advance	481,642	1,242,957
Lease Liability – ROU	33,785	7,423
Make Good Provision	-	20,000
Membership Paid in Advance	11,871	1,909
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	837,716	1,755,418
Non-Current Liabilities		
Lease Liability	347,494	7,611
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES	347,494	7,611
TOTAL LIABILITIES	1,185,210	1,783,029
NET ASSETS	706,333	440,315
MEMBERS' FUNDS		
Retained earnings	706,333	440,315
TOTAL MEMBERS' FUNDS	706,333	440,315

Statement of changes in equity.*

	RETAINED EARNINGS (\$)	TOTAL (\$)
Balance at 1 July 2022	340,030	340,030
Profit /(Loss) for the year	100,285	100,285
Other Comprehensive Income	-	-
Balance at 30 June 2023	440,315	440,315
Profit /(Loss) for the year	266,018	266,018
Other Comprehensive Income	-	-
Balance at 30 June 2024	706,333	706,333

DIRECTORS DECLARATION

The Directors have determined that Youth Affairs Council of WA Inc is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 of the financial statements.

The directors declare that:

1. The financial statements and notes as set out on pages 1 to 14 present a true and fair view of the Youth Affairs Council of Western Australia Inc financial position as at 30 June 2024 and its performance for the year ended on that date in accordance with the Associations Incorporation Act (Western Australia) 2015 and the Australian Charities and Not-For-Profits Commission Act 2012 the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements; and
2. To the directors' opinion there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Youth Affairs Council of Western Australia will be able to pay its debts, as and when they become due and payable. This declaration is made in accordance with a resolution of the directors.

This declaration is made in accordance with a resolution of the directors.



SAL CLEVERAY Chairperson



CLARE GREALY Treasurer

Dated this day: 31/10/2024

