



FairGround 2025

Conference Program

Connecting for Change

12–13 June

The Esplanade Hotel by Rydges,
Walyalup (Fremantle)



yacwa



Carers WA

Do you know a young person aged 8-25yrs caring for a sibling or parent with disability, physical or mental health challenges?

Practical and emotional support is available.



www.carerswa.asn.au

Connecting for Change

Welcome to FairGround 2025! On behalf of the Youth Affairs Council of Western Australia, it's amazing to see you back in 2025 for our eighth conference!

We know from working with young people that change happens in a multitude of ways: slowly, with small markers that something is shifting, and quickly, through momentous events that signify something major has changed forever. In the same vein, connection occurs in a similar fashion: first with two like-minds, building to a group, and onwards to a movement - gaining traction and momentum until the seeming inevitability of a new way of working. FairGround 2025 marks the beginning of this: Connecting for Change.

As a sector our strength is in our commitment to connection. We see it in our relational practice with young people and in the sharing of knowledge with our colleagues. Without connection, nothing changes. Even the best ideas can only go so far on their own – but when we come together, the potential for positive outcomes is limitless. Our work uses connection to create positive, purposeful change and ensure a sense of belonging for all. With these ideas in mind, FairGround 2025 kicks off, bringing together innovative ideas, best practice modelling, and successes from every corner, challenging us all to come together to ensure positive change for all young people.

Great thanks and appreciation go to Lotterywest for their continued support of FairGround. Lotterywest's support allows a significant contingent of regionally based youth sector workers to attend, many who could not be here otherwise. Their support also provides free and significantly reduced tickets for those of you under 25 years of age. As advocates for young people and the youth sector, YACWA believes that it is essential for a youth sector conference to support the participation of regional WA workers and young people. Thank you Lotterywest for sharing this enthusiasm, and for continuing to ensure that the impact of both are celebrated.

We could not have created this year's FairGround conference without the support of our wonderful Conference Planning Committee. **A big thanks to: Isabella Choate, John Sutcliffe, Joshua Patrick, Kassandra Boladeras, Ron Bin Swani, Sally Savage, Tamara Mott and Troy Wood.**

I wish to acknowledge the ongoing commitment and support of all our fabulous sponsors, without which FairGround wouldn't be possible. These sponsors provide substantial contributions, ensuring that the voices of young people, and the youth sector that walks alongside them, are acknowledged and celebrated.

Our sincere thanks go to:

- Lotterywest
- Department of Communities
- Carers WA
- Mission Australia
- Vinnies WA
- Parkerville Children and Youth Care
- Anglicare WA
- Commissioner for Children and Young People
- ECU

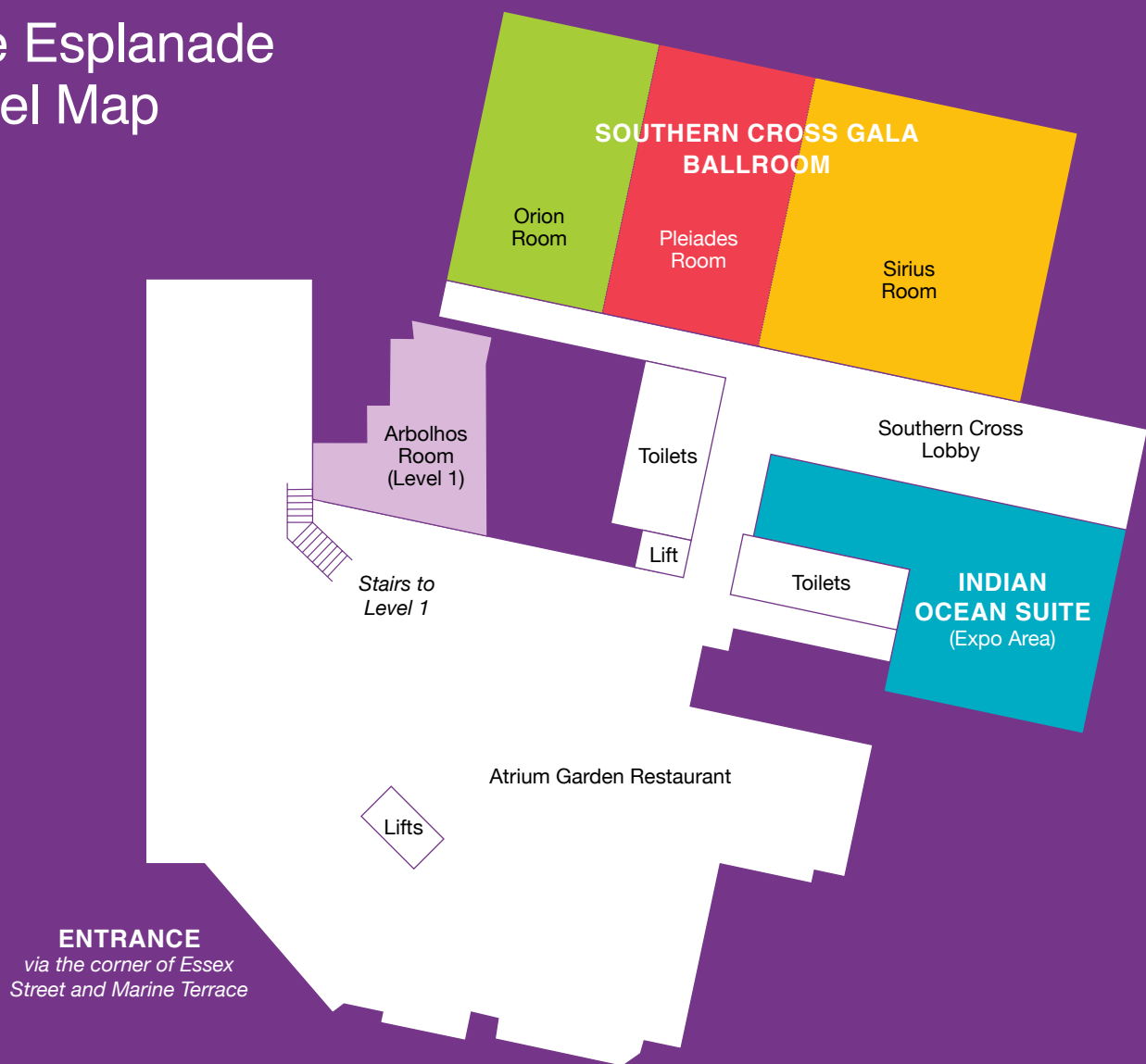
To this year's delegates, speakers, conference partners – and especially to all young people – we hope FairGround 2025 offers you valuable, rewarding, and wide-ranging learning experiences, alongside opportunities for meaningful networking and professional growth. Furthermore, we hope that you will take these learnings to those that couldn't attend, spread the essence of what makes great youth work, and use this knowledge to further support young people's achievement of positive outcomes across every part of Western Australia, if not the world.

The next two days are your opportunity to challenge yourself to engage with new ideas, meet new people, make connections, and enhance the work you already do. I encourage you to make the most of this opportunity to connect with your fellow youth sector professionals – because stronger connections lead to better outcomes for young people. So, on behalf of YACWA, let's get changing!

Sal Cleveray
Chairperson, YACWA



The Esplanade Hotel Map

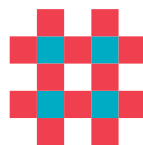


FairGround Conference 2025 will be held at The Esplanade Hotel by Rydges in Walyalup (Fremantle). The venue is wheelchair accessible. A quiet space is provided, which is accessible by lift and stairs.

You are welcome to use the quiet space at any time throughout the conference. We ask that wherever possible you remain mindful of other users of the space and their comfort. If you wish to take a break outside, the Esplanade Park is located across the road. Wheelchair-accessible and gender-neutral bathrooms are available.

Should you require to get in contact or require any assistance with the venue, accessibility, or anything else, please speak to a YACWA staff member on the day or email events@yacwa.org.au.

Your comfort and ability to participate is important to us!



We'd love to see all of your wonderful highlights of the conference. **Tag us @yacwa on socials and use the hashtag #FairGround2025.**



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

YACWA 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.

Need Support? Palmerston is Here for You

Free and Confidential Help for Young People

If you're between 12 and 24 and facing challenges with alcohol or other drugs, Palmerston offers free and confidential support. Our services are designed to help you make positive changes in a safe and understanding environment.



Services We Offer

Individual Counselling:

Individual Counselling:
Talk one-on-one with
a trained counsellor to
explore your concerns and
goals.

Group Programs:

Join group sessions to
connect with peers and
learn coping strategies.

Outreach Services:

Access support in your
community through our
outreach programs.

Family Support:

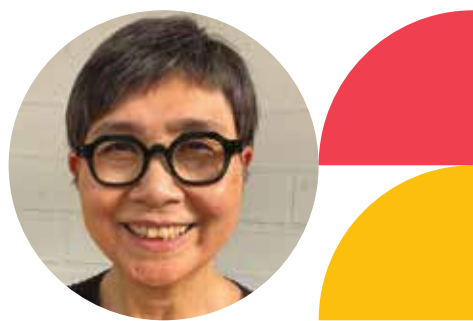
Access support in your community through family
counselling and groups.

How to Get Started

No referral is needed. Simply contact your nearest Palmerston branch to make an appointment. We're located across various regions in Western Australia, including Perth metropolitan, Peel, the South West, and Great Southern areas.

Visit palmerston.org.au for more information.

Keynote Speakers



Rika Asaoka

Rika Asaoka is an intercultural diversity consultant and facilitator. She specialises in intercultural diversity and inclusion management and leadership, delivering workshops, trainings, consultancy, facilitation and coaching.

Rika brings three decades of cross-cultural professional experience and has assisted individuals and organisations to empower their existing diversity to achieve positive outcomes. Over 1,000 participants from a wide range of industries and sectors, including oil and gas, engineering, not-for-profit, environmental, education and government attend her sessions annually. The past five years has seen Rika extending her expertise to community service providers through the program she designed - "See Me See You" - with Multicultural Futures. Her facilitation style is highly interactive, providing insights and skills that harmonise and unify diverse people in the workplace and communities. Her sessions set about activating the power of diversity by promoting understanding, collaboration, communication, and effective leadership for diverse teams.

Rika is a certified licensee of Intercultural Readiness Check (IRC), a powerful internationally recognised assessment tool, that captures the levels of competencies on four core intercultural competences. It is used for improving intercultural readiness and effectiveness. She is the founder of Language and Culture Pty Ltd, a representative of IRC-Australia/Asia Centre, Japan Intercultural Consulting, and a certified Brain-based Coach from the NeuroLeadership Institute.



Amber Anthony

Amber is the director of Neurospicy Collective, a neurodivergent founded consultancy making impactful change by placing people back at the centre of inclusion and belonging.

A proudly Autistic ADHDer, Amber is a Senior Change Practitioner with a specialisation in neuroinclusion, who empowers organisations to drive meaningful change through authentic conversations. Combining her lived experience of neurological disability, professional background within clinical settings and a neuro-affirming approach (#NothingAboutUsWithoutUs), Amber's passion is on creating spaces where we can all thrive.

Let her show you how to fix the environment, not the flower!





Aaron Garth

Aaron Garth is a dedicated youth worker, educator, and supervisor with a mission to develop the next generation of passionate, principled, and professional youth workers. With over 20 years of experience across local government, mental health, child and family services, private practice and higher education, Aaron brings a deep, hands-on understanding of the complexities youth workers face in their roles.

As a practitioner, manager, and educator, Aaron has seen firsthand the challenges and triumphs of youth work. His experience has fuelled his commitment to equipping youth workers with the skills, knowledge, and ethical foundation they need to create meaningful change in the lives of young people. Aaron is passionate about minimising burnout in youth work by fostering strong professional supervision, reflective practice, and self-care strategies that sustain workers for the long haul. Through dynamic training, professional supervision, and practical support, he helps youth workers build resilience, confidence, and a strong professional identity.

Whether working with new practitioners or seasoned professionals, Aaron is committed to fostering a culture of excellence, self-reflection, and professionalism in youth work leading to principled, passionate and professional youth workers—because well-supported youth workers change lives.



Catia Malaquias

Cátia Malaquias OAM is a lawyer, board director, and human rights and inclusion expert in disability. She co-founded All Means All – The Australian Alliance for Inclusive Education and helped establish the Australian Coalition for Inclusive Education (ACIE).

A PhD candidate at Curtin University, Catia is also an External Affiliate at QUT's Centre for Inclusive Education. She has received multiple awards in recognition of her work for the human rights of people with disability, including an Australian Human Rights Award.

Catia was also recognised as one of the Most Influential Lawyers of 2021 by Australasian Lawyer. Catia has three children and lives in Western Australia.



Conference Program Day 1

TIME	PRESENTATION		VENUE
7:30–8:45AM	Regional Breakfast / Pre-registered regional attendees only		To Be Announced
8:15–9:00AM	Conference Registration / Arrive early to get signed in, check out our exhibitors and grab yourself a free barista-made coffee		Southern Cross Lobby
9:00–9:15AM	Opening Address from Chairperson / Sal Cleveray		Southern Cross Gala Ballroom
9:15–9:30AM	Welcome to Country / Dylan Collard		Southern Cross Gala Ballroom
9:30–9:40AM	Opening Address		Southern Cross Gala Ballroom
9:45–10:30AM	Keynote Presentation / Rika Asaoka		Southern Cross Gala Ballroom
10:30–11:00AM	Morning Tea		Indian Ocean Suite
11:00–11:25AM	Poster Presentations		Southern Cross Gala Ballroom
11:25–12:30PM	Panel Discussion / Youth Homelessness		Southern Cross Gala Ballroom
12:30–1:30PM	Lunch		Indian Ocean Suite
BREAKOUT SESSIONS			
	Orion Room: Purpose	Pleiades Room: Connecting	Sirius Room: Belonging
1:30–2:10PM	WA Youth Action Plan 2024-2027 - Koorlangka Bidi Louise Koyd, Stacey Golding, Department of Communities	Being an Activist is Every Day Emily Williams	Rewiring the pathways: Understanding Blocked Care and Blocked Trust in Youth Work Kristy Geuer
2:10–2:40PM	Fair and equal treatment in the justice system: How adopting a human rights lens and frameworks can help improve the lives of young people in WA Chloe Wood, Ronald Bin Swani	Seeing comes before words: Using photography to understand, connect and amplify young people’s voices Lauri Parr, Christina Pollard, Curtin University	Supporting Violence Prevention Education Jolene Ellat
2:40–3:10PM	So, you want to be a Youth Worker? Supporting Career Longevity in Youth Work John Sutcliffe, Edith Cowan University	Working collaboratively to create positive change for CaLD young people Diyane Dushime, Ishar Multicultural Women’s Health Services	Belonging in Action: Empowering Young Adults to Create Inclusive Communities Rebecca McLevie
3:10–3:40PM	Afternoon Tea		Indian Ocean Suite
3:40–4:30PM	Keynote Presentation / Amber Anthony		Southern Cross Gala Ballroom
4:30–4:45PM	Day 1: Closing Remarks		Southern Cross Gala Ballroom
5:00–7:00PM	Sunset at FairGround / Keep the conversation rolling as the sun goes down on day one of FairGround.		To Be Announced

To explore full presentation descriptions, visit yacwa.org.au/fairground-2025.



Conference Program Day 2

TIME	PRESENTATION		VENUE
7:15–8:45AM	Buns and Boundaries: A Breakfast Session on Youth Sexual Health & Violence Prevention / Pre-registered attendees only. YEP Project, WAAC, Centre for Women’s Safety and Wellbeing, Curtin University (RSE Project)		To Be Announced
8:15–9:00AM	Conference Registration / Arrive early to get signed in, check out our exhibitors and grab yourself a free barista-made coffee		Southern Cross Lobby
9:00–9:15AM	Welcome to Day 2		Southern Cross Gala Ballroom
9:15–9:30AM	Acknowledgement of Country		Southern Cross Gala Ballroom
9:30–10:15AM	Keynote Presentation / Aaron Garth		Southern Cross Gala Ballroom
10:15–10:45AM	Morning Tea		Indian Ocean Suite
BREAKOUT SESSIONS			
	Orion Room: Purpose	Pleiades Room: Connecting	Sirius Room: Belonging
10:45–11:15AM	Rubys: A Youth Homelessness Prevention Program Angela Brynjulfsen, Melissa Taylor, Parkerville Children and Youth Care	Co-Design: Exploring a New Frontier Michele Burnlar, Bridget Clarke, Consumers of Mental Health WA	Beyond Inclusion: Systemic Advocacy as a Tool for Real Change in LGBTIQA+ Young People’s Lives Chloe Clements, Becca Attwood, Youth Pride Network
11:15–11:45AM	The social media ban is coming: Here’s what you need to know Paris McNeil	Peer Pal: Building knowledge and autonomy in young people who use drugs through peer harm reduction education Peta Gava, Peer Based Harm Reduction WA	Sovereign Voices: The Power of Storytelling and Belonging Sharlene Baloch
11:45–12:15PM	Responding to change for educational perseverance Shikara Collins, Blade Shaw-Trenouth, The Y School	Working with teens to create real solutions that work for potential online harms Giselle Woodley, Edith Cowan University	Caring for the carers: Empowering young voices Natalie Websdale, Nick Baldwin, Carers WA
12:15–1:15PM	Lunch		Indian Ocean Suite
PRACTICE DEVELOPMENT SESSIONS			
	Orion Room: Purpose	Pleiades Room: Connecting	Sirius Room: Belonging
1:15–2:50PM	Lived Experience Training Trish Owen	Child Safety Principles Panel Discussion Mark Glasson, Anglicare WA, Kylie Wallace, Safeguarding WA, Aaron Garth, Ultimate Youth Worker, Facilitated by Fiona Costello, WACOSS	Youth Work Code of Ethics Kat Mosele, Zach Gibson, Sally Savage, Youth Work WA
2:50–3:20PM	Afternoon Tea		Indian Ocean Suite
3:20–4:10PM	Keynote Presentation / Catia Malaquias		Southern Cross Gala Ballroom
4:10–4:30PM	Day 2: Closing Remarks / Sal Cleveray		Southern Cross Gala Ballroom
4:30PM	FairGround Closed		



Passages Youth Engagement Hubs provide a non-judgemental safe space to our communities most marginalised and at risk young people in Perth and Peel. Young people aged 12 to 25 years have a safe, friendly and positive place to access support and referrals to essential services.

Passages is very often the first step off the street for young people with complex needs. The people we help are often excluded from other support services and would otherwise have nowhere else to turn. Passages works to build relationships with young people by offering practical assistance and support, while identifying longer term needs and issues.

Thank you for joining us at FairGround 2025!

You made it through two big days of ideas, action, and of course, connection.

As FairGround wraps up, take a moment to reflect on what you're leaving with (or what we hope you leave with!). Tick all that apply.

- ☐ A new friend (that I'll definitely look up on LinkedIn)
- ☐ A brain buzzing with ideas
- ☐ Tools I can use right away!
- ☐ Insights that challenged my perspective
- ☐ A couple of ah-ha! moments
- ☐ Proof this work matters!
- ☐ Mild caffeine dependency

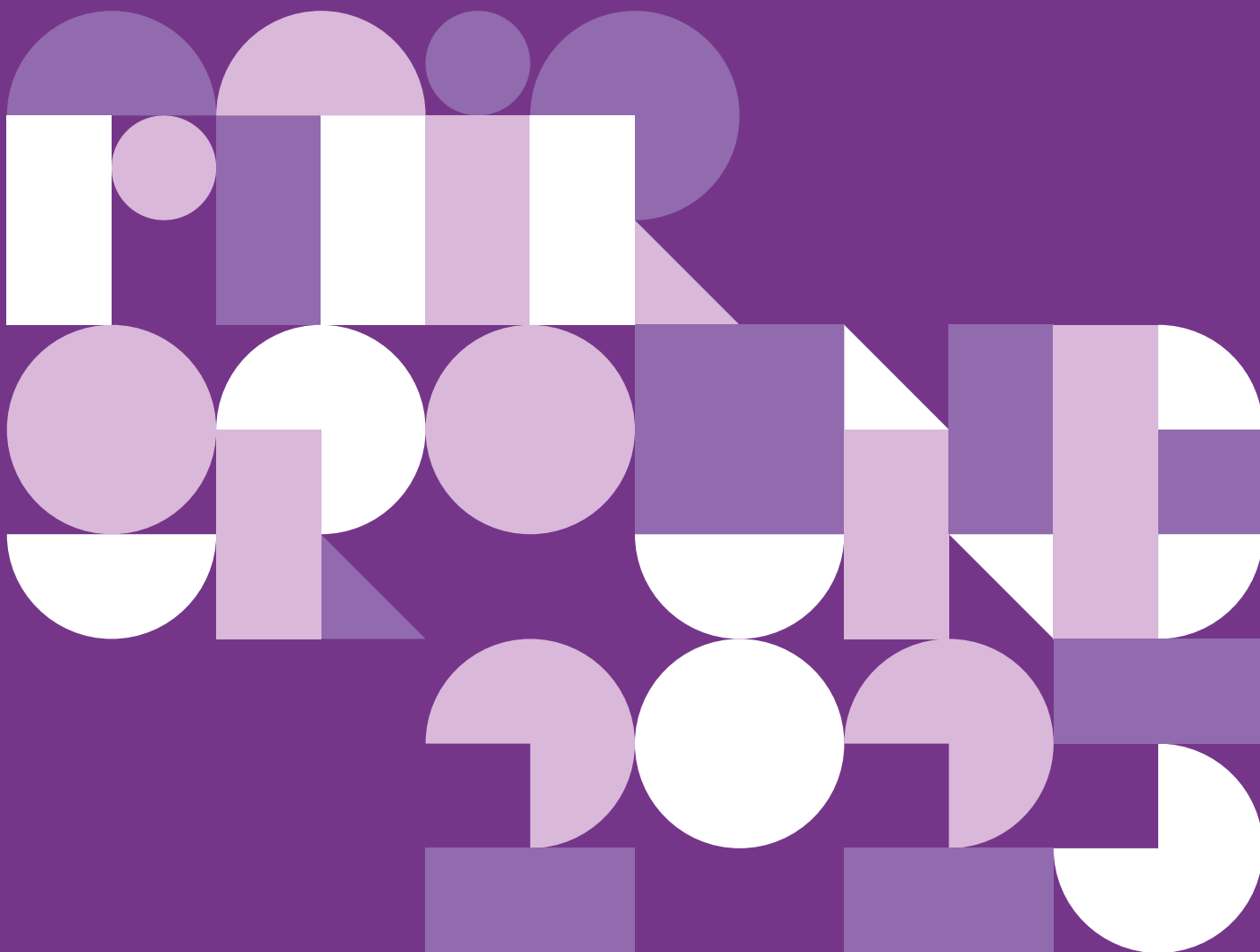


Proudly sponsored by



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





See you
next time!



yacwa