



Budget Directions



1

Breaking Down Barriers

1. Address critical gaps in the service landscape for young people.
2. Equip services to meet the complex needs of young people who need help the most.
3. Foster a no wrong door system where services are accessible to all of those who need them.

2

Improving Local Service Provision

1. Enable the youth sector to be sustainable, specialised and person-centred.
2. Provide the resources and infrastructure required to support successful youth work.
3. Rectify structural flaws in policy and governance that inhibit service delivery for young people.

3

Preventing Vulnerability

1. Demonstrate a long-term commitment to early intervention to prevent disadvantage before it is entrenched.
2. Address the social determinants of health as the best way to sustain positive youth health and wellbeing.
3. Recognise the critical role the youth sector plays in maintaining community wellbeing and prosperity.

4

Building Regional Capacity

1. Empower local expertise to deliver effective place-based support for young people.
2. Prioritise investment in infrastructure and amenities in regional communities to guarantee the basic human rights of young people.
3. Fund the delivery of services in remote communities outside of regional hubs.

What's happening for young people & youth services in WA



- 77% of the young people incarcerated in Banksia Hill Detention Centre returned to the justice system within 12 months in 2018-19.
- Suicide is the leading cause of death for young people aged 15 to 24 years in Western Australia.
- Youth homelessness services are currently operating with an estimated 12% gap between funding and service costs.

- There are still zero affordable houses available for young people on Youth Allowance or JobSeeker.
- 9% of young people across Western Australia do not always have enough food to eat at home.
- 1 in 20 young people experienced homelessness for the first time over 2020 and 2021.

A Brief Snapshot of What we're Recommending



Pillar One – Breaking Down Barriers

- Strengthen the delivery, accessibility and sustainability of crucial supports tailored towards young people with complex issues such as trauma, mental health conditions and addiction.
- Support a range of measures to increase the availability and affordability of secure, affordable housing and rentals.

Pillar Two – Improving Local Service Provision

- Improve the sustainability and capacity of youth services by providing immediate investment to address the gap between funding and true costs of service delivery as well as consideration of innovative and unfunded services.
- Implement reform in Banksia Hill Detention Centre to strengthen its therapeutic purpose and transfer young people out of Casuarina Prison into community-based support.

Pillar Three – Preventing Vulnerability

- Address the gap in homelessness services for children under 15 through a pilot program which supports young people to remain safely in their homes.
- Increase investment in early intervention and prevention mental health support for young people, as well as specialist mental health and AOD knowledge across the youth sector.
- Implement the reforms outlined in Social Reinvestment WA's Blueprint for a Better Future: Paving the Way for Youth Justice Reform in WA.

Pillar Four – Building Regional Capacity

- Enhance service support in the regions by developing a collaborative network of regional hubs in satellite locations, as well as transport assistance and regular outreach for young people in remote areas.
- Provide investment for the development of more supported accommodation and social housing options, such as Foyer Education First Housing as well as incentives for affordable private rentals.
- Improve access to programs that provide young people free, accessible and healthy foods as well as STI prevention tools and respectful relationships education.

Our Consultation



- 2 Youth Sector Workshops
- 1 Youth Sector Survey
- 9 organisational consultations

- 4 Youth Network consultations
- 2 Great Southern Youth Sector Forums.
- 1 Mid West satellite communities listening tour.

References

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