



2020-2021 *Annual Report*

yacwa
.ORG.AU

The Youth Affairs Council of Western Australia acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the traditional owners and custodians of the lands on which we live and work.

We pay our respects to Elders past and present and extend this to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people seeing this message.



*Always was,
always will be
Aboriginal land.*

PHONE (08) 9227 5440 **EMAIL** yacwa@yacwa.org.au

ADDRESS Level 2, 196 Oxford St, Leederville WA 6007

POSTAL PO Box 334, Leederville WA 6903

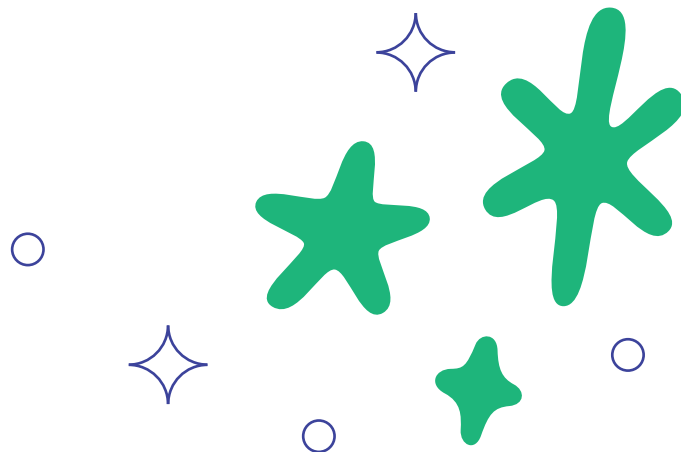
FRONT & BACK COVER PHOTO

Susie Blatchford / Pixel Poetry

REPORT DESIGN Matthew Wong



Contents



<i>2</i>	Why We Exist	<i>18</i>	Youth Digital Inclusion Project
<i>4</i>	Who We Are	<i>19</i>	COVID-19 Youth Engagement
<i>6</i>	CEO Report & Chairperson's Report	<i>20</i>	WA Youth Awards
<i>8</i>	Membership	<i>22</i>	Policy & Advocacy
<i>10</i>	Funders & Supporters	<i>30</i>	YACWA Consulting
<i>11</i>	Comms, Media & SM	<i>32</i>	Sector Events
<i>12</i>	Youth Educating Peers Project	<i>34</i>	Treasurer's Report
<i>14</i>	Multicultural Youth Advocacy Network WA	<i>35</i>	Finances
<i>16</i>	Youth Pride Network	<i>38</i>	Audit

Why We Exist

The Youth Affairs Council of Western Australia (YACWA) is the peak non-government youth organisation in Western Australia.

We operate primarily as a human rights organisation that seeks to address the exclusion of young people in a rapidly changing society. Our continued vision for Western Australia is one that celebrates, respects and engages young people and their voice in all aspects of community and governance. Our role is to strengthen the trust, cooperation, collaboration, professionalism and voice of the non-government youth sector to better serve the young people of Western Australia.

YACWA aims to be a united, independent and active advocate for the non-government youth sector and young people that is both supported and respected by the sector and the wider community. Focusing on young people's varied needs at local, State and Federal Government level, YACWA works to engender and enhance positive community attitudes towards young people. We provide a voice and act as a role model for the definition and demonstration of youth participation. Our work is governed by four guiding principles – respect, equity, integrity and the celebration of diversity.

WHAT WE DO

YACWA carries out a number of activities which seek to promote positive community attitudes towards young people and to assist and advocate for the sector that supports them.

These activities fall under three key focus areas:

Sector Support
Youth Leadership
and
Policy & Advocacy

YACWA Board members Keisha Calyun and Derek Nannup at the 2020 State of the Youth Sector Forum. PHOTO: Susie Blatchford / Pixel Poetry.



Who We Are

*as at 30 June 2021

Board of Directors*

- Vik Jeyakumar (*Chairperson*)
- Katherine Browne (*Vice Chairperson*)
- Sharon Gough (*Co-Treasurer*)
- John Thomson (*Co-Treasurer*)
- Skye Groenveld (*Secretary*)
- Keisha Calyun
- Georgie Carey
- Parul Goplani
- Katie Liew (*co-opted*)
- Brooke Draper (*co-opted*)
- Ross Wortham (*ex-officio, until May 2021*)
- Sandy McKiernan (*ex-officio, May 2021 onwards*)

OUTGOING BOARD DIRECTORS

- Derek Nannup (*left mid-term*)
- Karina Chicote (*left mid-term*)

Subcommittees

FINANCE SUB-COMMITTEE

- Katherine Browne
- Sharon Gough
- Katie Liew
- John Thomson
- Ross Wortham (*ex-officio, until May 2021*)
- Sandy McKiernan (*ex-officio, May 2021 onwards*)

GOVERNANCE SUB-COMMITTEE

- Keisha Calyun
- Georgie Carey
- Brooke Draper
- Parul Goplani
- Skye Groenveld
- Ayden Mackenzie (*co-opted*)
- Ross Wortham (*ex-officio, until May 2021*)
- Sandy McKiernan (*ex-officio, May 2021 onwards*)

YACWA Team*

- Sandy McKiernan (*Acting CEO*)
- Ross Wortham (*CEO, parental leave*)
- Lianda Gibson (*Business Development Manager*)
- Ashton Kealy (*Metro Programs Manager*)
- Olivia Knowles (*Regional Programs Manager*)
- Mason Rothwell (*Policy & Advocacy Manager*)
- Gaurav Singh (*Corporate Services Manager*)
- Matthew Tomich (*Member & Community Engagement Manager*)
- Stefaan Bruce-Truglio (*Senior Policy & Advocacy Officer*)
- Mayma Awaida (*Grants Officer*)
- Marissa Cotter (*Executive Support Officer*)
- Zinab Al Hilaly (*MYAN WA Project Officer, on secondment*)
- Fatema Shalemie (*MYAN WA Project Officer*)
- Charlotte Glance (*Youth Pride Network Project & Policy Coordinator*)
- Hannah Sorenson (*Youth Pride Network Project Support Officer*)

- Danni Forster *(Peer Research Project Lead)*
- Joanna Giles *(Peer Research Project Officer)*
- Jesse Leah *(Peer Research Project Officer)*
- Cheyenne Henderson-Watkins *(Youth Consultant, Youth Pride Network Project Support Officer)*
- Kay Barnard *(Youth Consultant)*
- Caitlin Eaton *(Youth Consultant)*
- Rebecca Evans *(Youth Consultant)*
- Elizabeth Knight *(Youth Consultant)*
- Lorna Geraghty *(YEP Project Coordinator)*
- Summan Asim *(YEP Project Support Officer)*
- Lulkbudia McLean *(YEP Project Support Officer)*
- Drew Sweet *(YEP Project Support Officer)*

Interns & Volunteers

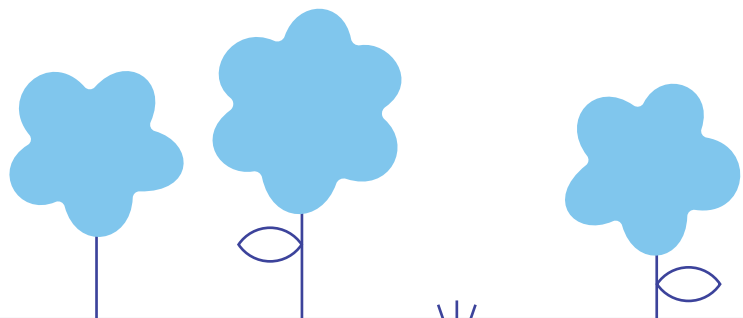
- Georgina Conti
- Chelsea Liley
- Ruby Wang

Life Members

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| • Philippa Boldy | • Elise Jorgensen |
| • George Davies | • Jude Sorenson |
| • Louise Giolitto | • Kerstin Stender |
| • Mark Goerke | • Audrey Turner |
| • Nic Hastings-James | • Brian Wooller |

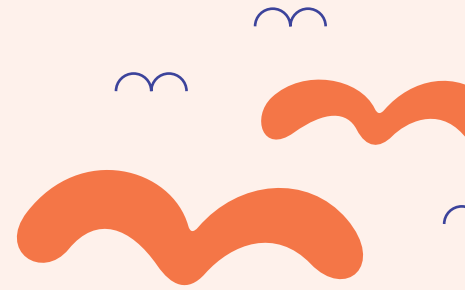
Outgoing Staff

- Anne-Marie White *(Youth Digital Inclusion Project Officer)*
- Kai Schweizer *(YEP Project Support Officer)*
- Evelyn Holt *(YEP Project Support Officer)*
- Bridget Bathgate *(YEP Project Support Officer)*
- Mika Bazeley *(YEW Project Officer)*
- Shanae Campbell *(YEW Peer Educator)*
- Megan Menon *(YEW Peer Educator)*
- Bash Lau *(YEW Peer Educator)*
- Rhiannon De Cinque *(COVID-19 Youth Engagement Support Officer)*
- Finlaey Hewlett *(COVID-19 Youth Engagement Support Officer)*
- Holly Rolfe *(COVID-19 Youth Engagement Support Officer)*
- Ashley Spratt *(COVID-19 Youth Engagement Support Officer)*
- Zahra Al Hilaly *(COVID-19 Youth Engagement Steering Group)*
- Caitlin Eaton *(COVID-19 Youth Engagement Steering Group)*
- Madison Heady *(COVID-19 Youth Engagement Steering Group)*
- Harsha Mahinda-Yogam *(COVID-19 Youth Engagement Steering Group)*
- Katrina Oliver *(COVID-19 Youth Engagement Steering Group)*
- Rosie Pickett *(COVID-19 Youth Engagement Steering Group)*
- Hadi Rahimi *(COVID-19 Youth Engagement Steering Group)*



CEO & Chairperson's Report

The past 12 months has been a period of learning and adaptation as our world has continued to navigate the uncertainty of the COVID-19 pandemic.



In a continued time of uncertainty for all young people, the work of the Youth Affairs Council of WA remains as important as ever. This annual report reflects a year of opportunity for YACWA in an uncertain world, where more than ever we need to ensure the voice of young people and the sector that supports them continue to be acknowledged, heard and acted upon to create a better Western Australia.

YACWA's COVID Recovery Framework launched in August 2020, provides a blueprint for all levels of government to focus efforts on improving outcomes for young people. The Framework outlines a series of key recommendations to ensure that all young people are given meaningful opportunities to co-design a future for Western Australia, and where young people are not left behind.

One concern that was exacerbated during COVID lockdown is the growing digital divide experienced by young people. YACWA advocated for and mobilised the Youth Digital Inclusion Project that saw digital devices such as mobile phones, tablets and laptops, donated via government departments and other sources, bundled with six months of free data and being delivered directly into the hands of vulnerable young people. YACWA was the conduit in connecting essential resources to young people through deep relationships with frontline service providers. This project had an overwhelmingly positive impact on young people's connection to services, family and enabled increased opportunities in education and employment.

Over this year, we are proud of the deepening engagement between the youth sector and government. YACWA has maintained a consistent and pragmatic voice, despite numerous changes within the structures of the public service. Through those changes, our ongoing representation in key government and sector forums including the Supporting Communities Forum and Communities Partnership Roundtable have ensured we are providing the direct voice of our members to government and agency decision makers. This was further strengthened by our direct submissions and input into a diverse range of sector, state and federal reform agendas including:

- Inquiry into the Children and Community Services Amendment Bill 2019, where we focused on advocating for increasing young people's ability to be central to decision making, as well as implementing Independent Oversight of the Child Protection System
- Facilitating the development of the Mental Health Commission's Young People Priorities Framework
- Raising the Age of Criminal Responsibility, where we actively campaigned with Social Reinvestment WA to end the incarceration of young people under 14
- Supporting the expansion of the Homestretch Pilot, extending supports for young people in the care of the child protection system from 18 to 21 years old across the state

Beyond these core submissions we celebrated success in many ways:

- We facilitated the inaugural Christmas Island Youth Taking Charge Youth Summit with Multicultural Youth Advocacy Network of WA supporting young Christmas Islanders on how to use advocacy to effect change
- We launched a successful tender bid with the Department of Health where our well regarded and evidenced based Youth Educating Peers project was awarded a new contract until the end of 2024 in partnership with WAAC (formerly known as WA AIDS Council)
- We formalised our partnership with our long-time collaborators Aboriginal Health Council of WA, signing our first Memorandum of Understanding

For several years, YACWA has focused on elevating youth voice and channelling youth leadership initiatives into sustainable, for-purpose initiatives. We reached an important milestone this financial year when we supported the Youth Pride Network to attain 3 years of independent funding to cement the group as the peak body for LGBTQIA+ young people.

YACWA has for some years aimed for a greater regional presence. This year we took significant steps towards achieving our long-held goal with the first ever Regional YACWA expansion. We are grateful for the support of Lotterywest, who have granted YACWA the resources to support a regional team, helping us ground deeper connections in the Mid-West (Geraldton) and Great Southern (Albany) with young people and the sector that supports them.

The Board has been cognisant of YACWA's recent rapid growth. With YACWA's increased financial security as a result of project growth, the Board and CEO adopted a management structure aimed at being more responsive to staff and sector needs. This new structure also enables us to further develop our work in consultancy so that we

can continue utilising our knowledge and experience to support agencies often outside of the youth sector, including Local, State and Federal Government agencies, to better engage with young people to achieve youth-driven outcomes.

None of this work would be possible without the tireless efforts of the people deeply committed to YACWA's mission. Our staff, consultants, volunteers and Board continue to ensure young people are at the front of all decisions and opportunities and hold this commitment in each moment of our time together. As a collective, we are proud to present the YACWA 2020/21 Annual report and thank each of our stakeholders for your support.

Regards,

Vik Jeyakumar

Chairperson



Ross Wortham

CEO



Sandy McKiernan

Acting CEO, May 2021 - present



Membership

YACWA's work is driven by our membership.

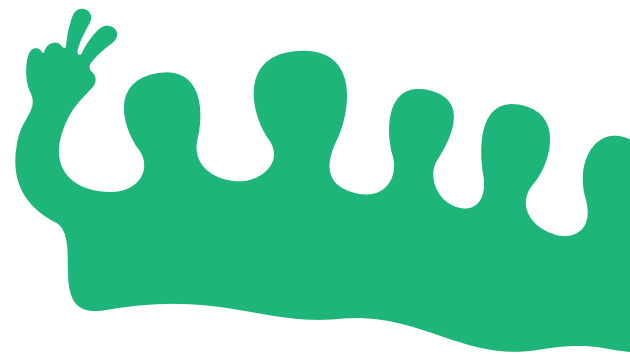
Our members are young leaders, youth sector veterans and organisations leading the way in service delivery, and it's the collective voice of our membership that lends power to our submissions, our advocacy and our theory of change.

In the 2020-21 financial year, over 100 organisations became YACWA members. They ranged from regional, place-based support services to major, statewide

agencies supporting thousands of young clients. We'd like to thank the diverse group of organisations and people who support YACWA's mission, alongside the many young people and individual sector professionals committed to uplifting young people in Western Australia.

OUR MEMBER ORGANISATIONS

- Aboriginal Health Council of WA
- Accordwest
- Albany Youth Support Association
- Anglicare WA
- Australian Childhood Foundation
- Australian Youth Affairs Coalition
- Befriend WA
- Calvary Youth Services
- Centre for Asylum Seekers, Refugees and Detainees
- Centrecare
- Chamber of Commerce and Industry WA
- City of Albany
- City of Armadale
- City of Bayswater
- City of Belmont
- City of Bunbury
- City of Busselton
- City of Canning
- City of Cockburn
- City of Fremantle
- City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder
- City of Kwinana
- City of Melville
- City of Rockingham
- City of South Perth
- City of Stirling
- City of Swan
- City of Vincent
- City of Wanneroo
- Communicare
- Community Connecting Youth
- Community Employers WA
- ConnectGroups
- Consumers of Mental Health WA
- CREATE Foundation
- Dismantle
- Edmund Rice Centre WA
- Escare
- Ethnic Communities Council of WA
- First People's Rainbow Mob WA
- Fogarty Foundation Youth Leadership Program
- Foundation Housing



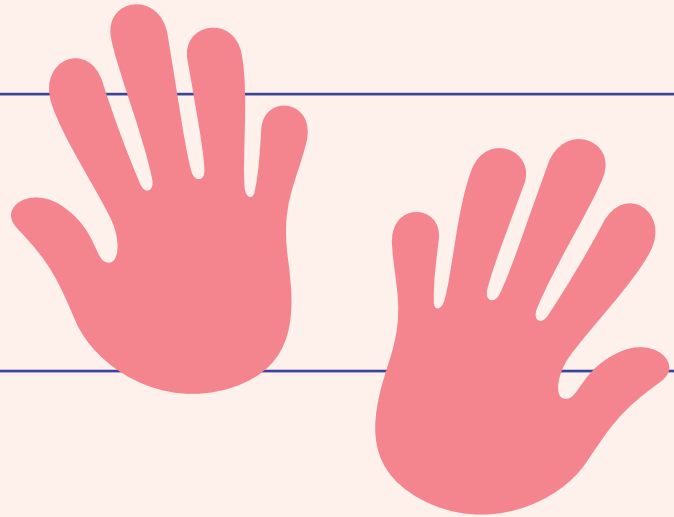
- Goldfields Women’s Health Care Centre
- headspace Albany
- headspace Osborne Park
- headspace Pilbara
- Hello Initiative
- Hepatitis WA
- Holyoake
- Home Hub
- Hope Community Services
- Indigo Junction
- Key Assets
- Kimberley Aboriginal Law and Cultural Centre
- Leeuwin Ocean Adventure Foundation
- Life Without Barriers
- LinkWest
- Lit Therapy
- Living Proud
- MacKillop Family Services
- MercyCare
- Mission Australia
- National Disability Services WA
- NEAMI National
- Ngala
- Palmerston
- Parkerville Children and Youth Care
- PCYC
- Peel Youth Services
- Propel Youth Arts WA
- Purposeful
- Rainbow Community House
- Reconciliation WA
- Richmond Wellbeing
- Rise Network
- Ruah
- Safe Places for Children
- Save the Children Australia
- Scouts WA
- Sexual Health Quarters
- Shelter WA
- Shire of Northam
- St Patrick’s Community Support Centre
- St. Vincent de Paul Society WA
- Short Term Accommodation for Youth
- Stephen Michael Foundation
- Swan City Youth Services
- Swan Districts FC
- Technology for Aging and Disability WA
- Telethon Kids Institute
- The Good Chat
- Town of Bassendean
- Town of Victoria Park
- Transfolk of WA
- United Way WA
- Uniting WA
- Volunteering WA
- WAAC
- WA Council of Lived Experience
- WACOSS
- WANSLEA
- Whitelion
- Wirrpunda Foundation
- Workpower
- Wyndham Youth Aboriginal Corporation
- The Y WA
- Yorganop
- Young Boxing Woman Project
- Youth Action
- Youth Affairs Council of Victoria
- Youth Disability Advocacy Network
- Youth Futures
- Youth Legal Service
- Youth Network of Tasmania
- Youth Involvement Council
- Zero2Hero



Funders & Supporters

CORE FUNDING

Department of Communities



MAJOR FUNDERS

Department of Health

Lotterywest

FUNDERS & SUPPORTERS

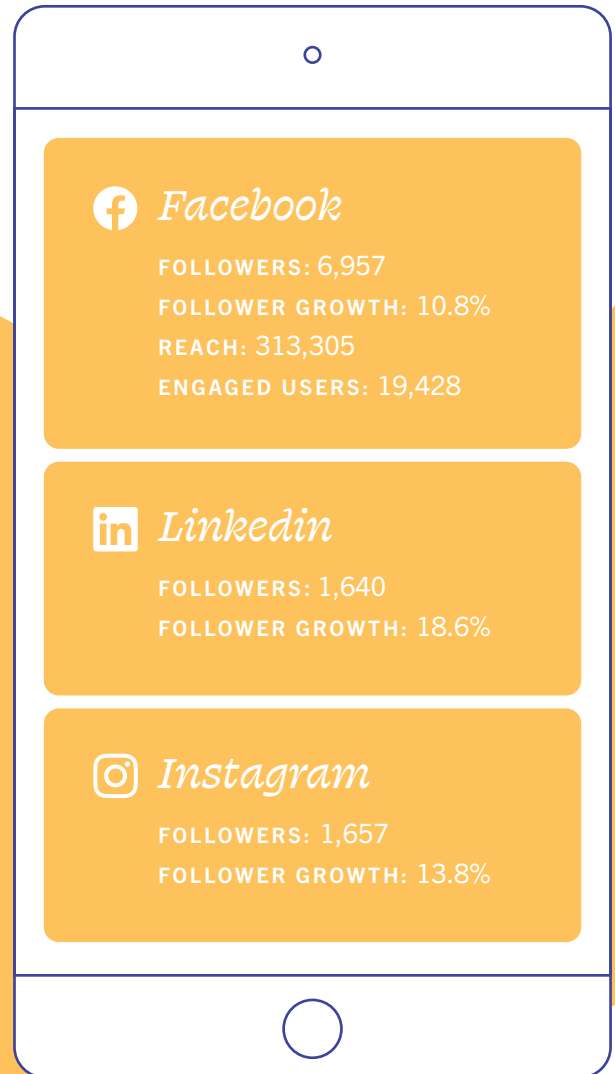
- Aboriginal Health Council of WA
- City of Fremantle
- City of Gosnells
- City of Melville
- City of South Perth
- City of Subiaco
- Commissioner for Children and Young People
- Curtin University
- Department of Local Government, Sport & Cultural Industries
- Edith Cowan University
- Islamic Council of Christmas Island
- Life Without Barriers
- Mental Health Commission
- MercyCare
- Mission Australia
- Multicultural Youth Advocacy Network Australia
- Nous Group
- Propel Youth Arts WA
- Short Term Accommodation for Youth
- State Library of Western Australia
- Telethon Kids Institute
- The Y WA
- Town of Victoria Park
- WA Council of Social Services
- Youth Focus
- Youth Futures

Comms, Media & SM

YACWA's digital engagement continued to grow in 2020-21, amplified by the suite of digital resources we produced in the wake of COVID-19.

Facebook continues to be the primary means for YACWA communicating with our audience through sharing events, initiatives, consultation opportunities and resources. YACWA also maintains an active presence on Instagram and LinkedIn, promoting relevant content for young people and the youth sector.

Our youth networks, in particular the Youth Pride Network, the YEP Project and the Multicultural Youth Advocacy Network WA, continued to expand grow their reach through dedicated content and campaigns focusing on the WA State Election, Harmony Week and Women's Health Week.



Youth Educating Peers (YEP) Project



The Youth Educating Peers (YEP) Project is YACWA's peer-led sexual health education initiative providing training, support and resources about sexual health and blood-borne viruses for young people and the youth sector that supports them.

In the 2020-2021 financial year, the YEP Project is proud to have delivered professional development training to almost 600 youth, community and health care workers across 28 workshops run online and in-person throughout metro and regional areas.

YEP also hosted workshops from specialist agencies including Legal Aid's R U Legal? workshop, Buttery's Body Esteem webinar, and the Sexual Assault Research Centre (SARC) workshop on sexual assault.

The most frequently requested workshops to run with young people were for Healthy Relationships and Consent as well as LGBTQIA+ 101, which reflects the current state and needs of the sector. The YEP Project's healthy relationship continuum activity continues to challenge young people to consider how their behaviour can affect others, and how to respect not only the people around them but themselves as well. The Gender Burger activity has evolved to meet changing educational needs from the sector, and has been replaced with a new Gender Person activity. This new activity has met positive reception and more visually demonstrates the wide variety of sex, gender and expressions that exist.

YOUTH LEADERSHIP

One of the ways that The YEP Project supports young people around relationships, sexual health and blood-borne viruses is by utilising a peer-based model and employing young peer educators, known as the YEP Crew.

The strength of the YEP Project's innovative approach to adapting their practice in response to COVID-19 has been acclaimed across the youth and sexual health sectors this year. A significant achievement for the YEP Project was presenting on 'Providing Youth Sexual Health Education in Western Australia During COVID-19' at the 2020 ASHM Conference. ASHM is a peak organisation of health professionals in Australia and New Zealand who work in HIV, viral hepatitis and sexually transmissible infections. ASHM draws on its experience and expertise to support the health workforce and to contribute to the sector, domestically and internationally.

As COVID-19 restrictions eased, the YEP Crew were able to resume delivering more in-person workshops directly to young people, while maintaining an active social media presence and building on the momentum generated by YEP's online content output during the height of the pandemic. This online engagement continues to drive interest towards YEP's in-person workshops and creating unprecedented demand for the skills and knowledge of the YEP Crew.

KEY STATS / YOUTH SECTOR

- 17 professional development workshops reaching 291 professionals in person in the metro area
 - Topics covered include LGBTQIA+, sexual assault (co-hosted with SARC), porn and sexting, healthy relationships and consent, STIs and BBVs
- 68 regional attendees at a professional development workshop in Geraldton
- 10 webinars for youth sector professionals engaging 224 professionals online
 - Topics covered include Body Esteem (co-hosted with Butterfly), LGBTQIA+ 101, consent and healthy relationships, STIs and BBVs, contraception and pregnancy prevention, dating online, porn and sexting

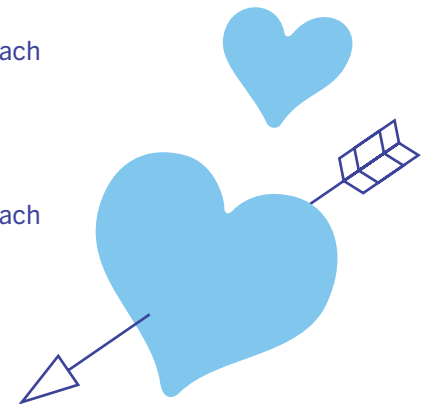
KEY STATS / YOUNG PEOPLE

- The YEP Project established a Youth Reference Group late 2020 and has held five meetings involving 12 participants
- 45 youth workshops reaching 564 young people in person in the metro area
 - Topics covered include healthy relationships and consent, STIs and BBVs, LGBTQIA+, porn and sexting, safe sex and contraception
- Six online youth workshops reaching 75 young people online
 - Topics covered include LGBTQIA+, STIs and BBVs, consent and healthy relationships, online dating, sexting and porn
- Eight youth workshops attended by 101 young people in regional areas (Geraldton) in person

- The YEP Crew attended nine training events, including Birds and the BBVs (AHCWA), RSE Symposium (Curtin University), Responding to Disclosures of Sexual Assault (SARC), R U Legal (Legal Aid), AHCWA Conference, Trauma Informed Care, WA Department of Health Quarterly Forums, Body Esteem Educator Training (Butterfly Foundation), Nuts and Bolts (SHQ), Supporting the Sexuality of Young People with Disabilities (SECCA), Supporting young people engaging in sex work (Magenta) and SHQ's SHARE meetings

KEY STATS / ONLINE ENGAGEMENT

- The YEP Project launched our successful #SyphilisOutbreakWA resources
 - Released 12 syphilis training videos totaling 17,803 views across all platforms
 - Total combined syphilis resources viewed over 65,000 times
- Instagram
 - 1,220 followers
 - 18,179 views
- TikTok
 - 1,237 followers
 - 46,479 views
 - 174,479 total reach
- Facebook
 - 5,066 followers
 - 668,021 total reach



Multicultural Youth Advisory Network Western Australia (MYAN WA)

The Multicultural Youth Advocacy Network of Western Australia (MYAN WA) provides a voice to the unique issues faced by young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds and a forum for members to network, share information and address sector issues. YACWA continued to auspice MYAN WA during the 2020-2021 period.



In November 2020, YACWA, MYAN WA and three Shout Out speakers travelled to Christmas Island to develop and deliver a two-day youth summit for young people aged 12-25. The Summit was a chance for young people on the Island to learn about how to use advocacy to create change, to have their voices heard on the issues that affect them and to be empowered to be leaders in the community.

The 2020 Christmas Island 'Youth Taking Charge' Report came out of the Summit. This report is a summation of the outcomes and learnings gathered over the course of the Summit, which derived from the young people themselves. YACWA and MYAN WA have since engaged with key stakeholders about the report and are looking to visit Christmas Island again.

During this period, MYAN WA also began planning for the 2021 Catalyst Youth Summit which would happen in September 2021.

MYAN WA held two networking forums during this period, despite the uncertainty of COVID-19, which saw MYAN WA holding its first masked forum on Refugee Week.

KEY EVENTS

- 60 young people attended the inaugural Christmas Island Youth Summit
- 37 people attended Network Forums during Harmony Week and Refugee Week
- 15 young people from the Shout Out program spoke at school and youth events

FACEBOOK

- 1,029 followers; which increased by 156 new followers this period

ENEWSLETTERS

- 10 eNews mailouts
- 1,304 eNews engagements



YACWA and the MYAN WA team with young people from Christmas Island at the inaugural Christmas Island Youth Summit.

BELOW: Members of the Youth Pride Network Committee at Foyer Oxford.



Youth Pride Network

The Youth Pride Network (YPN) is a project run by and for LGBTIQ+ young people in Western Australia.



YPN works to create a Western Australia where LGBTIQ+ young people are accepted, included and celebrated in their communities. YPN received three years of funding in October 2020 from a discretionary grant from the Minister for Youth. This allowed YPN to hire two staff members and to pay its 15 committee members of LGBTIQ+ young people.

YPN was able to support LGBTIQ+ community through the COVID pandemic to coordinate LGBTIQ+ organisations to have their needs heard. As well, YPN uplifted the voices of LGBTIQ+ young people through the development of YPN's policy priorities and election campaign.

YPN supported Rainbow Futures WA, Transfolk of WA, and SOGICE Survivors to advocate across government, through its involvement in many campaigns. This included coordinating training for LGBTIQ+ community on understanding conversion practices advocacy.

YPN collaborated with Legal Aid WA to release a series of information documents helping LGBTIQ+ young people understand their legal rights. As well, YPN released the Me and My Doctor resource which will be adapted nationally by the Australian Commission on Quality in Health Care.

YPN also hosted its first Inclusive Eid, in collaboration with the Youth Disability Advocacy Network and the MYAN WA. This created an inclusive space for young Muslim people to celebrate Ramadan.

YPN has met with many decision makers, including five members of Cabinet in order to advocate for the needs of

LGBTIQ+ young people. Additionally, YPN has provided advice to organisations across the state on how to support LGBTIQ+ young people in their work.

YPN also dramatically increased its social media presence, moving onto Tiktok and increasing engagement across all platforms. As well, YPN supported other organisations like Transfolk of WA and Anchors Youth Centre to promote their activities.

KEY EVENTS

- YPN hosted community potluck event
- First Inclusive Eid celebration

ONLINE ENGAGEMENT / QUICK STATS

- 45% increase in Facebook followers
- 44% increase in Instagram followers & engagements
- 2,402 Tiktok followers on new account
- 50% increase in membership of LGBTIQ+ young people

KEY CAMPAIGNS

- LGBTIQ+ Know Your Rights Fact Sheets with Legal Aid
 - 25,000 reach on Instagram and Tiktok
 - 5,600 reach on Facebook

Youth Digital Inclusion Project

The Youth Digital Inclusion Project (YDIP) was a nine month initiative, designed to provide critical IT equipment to young people facing increased vulnerability during the COVID-19 pandemic, allowing them to maintain important connections to support networks, case managers, education providers and health specialists.

The YDIP was a collaborative response to the increased vulnerabilities some young people experienced at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. The project was funded by the Department of Communities, as part of its COVID-19 Youth Taskforce response. There were increasing concerns that lockdowns and social distancing measures would have unintended, negative impacts on young people who rely on critical services for their wellbeing and livelihoods; many services shifted to online service provision however many young people did not have appropriate devices and data or credit to access these.

The project was complex in nature, and saw strong collaboration across multiple sectors, to meet the digital needs of many young people across the state. YACWA staff worked in partnership with representatives from the WA Government to identify and coordinate the donation of used digital devices across a number of departments. These devices were refurbished, and were supported by the purchase of additional refurbished devices to supplement the demand from young people.

Allocation of devices was overseen by a Steering Committee made up of young people and representatives from government and non-government sectors, prioritizing young people with intersectional needs and those managing complex circumstances. Young people were provided with a range of supports, including devices

such as laptops, tablets and mobile phones, as well as 6-month data packs.

Young people reported their devices allowed them to have increased access to support services, maintain employment and to connect with family and friends – lessening the impact of social isolation during the pandemic lockdowns.

The project saw significant learnings and evolution over the nine month period, with recommendations provided to the Department of Communities to inform future digital inclusion approaches similar to the YDIP.

KEY STATS

- 290 refurbished devices provided to young people
- 40 metro youth service providers engaged
- 19 regional youth service providers engaged
- *“Overall, this device really helped with my day-to-day life – it helped me stay connected during COVID-19, download wellbeing apps, have all school and work information in one place, and access to services. This will also be useful in future when I apply for jobs and move out of home.”* – Young recipient of a device through the program

COVID-19 Youth Engagement

In 2020-21, YACWA received funding from the Department of Communities to produce a suite of resources focused on supporting and informing young people and the youth sector in the wake of COVID-19.

To deliver the project, YACWA recruited a Project Coordinator and a team of six young people, including LGBTIQA+ young people, young people with lived experience of homelessness, disability, young people from migrant & refugee backgrounds, regional and remote young people and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people, to produce population-specific resources during COVID-19 recovery.

The team designed resources with a social media audience in mind, focusing on visually engaging graphics and succinct breakdowns of important changes to legislation and services including the evictions moratorium, changes to Centrelink availability, accessing superannuation, telehealth, domestic violence support and changes to mental health supports.

In addition to delivering these resources, the project involved the creation of a COVID-19 Youth Steering Group featuring representatives from marginalised population groups, informing policy direction and development that fed into YACWA's COVID-19 Recovery Framework. The Youth Steering Group also produced a series of experience papers and delivered a presentation to the 100+ attendees at the State of the Youth Sector Forum, including key decision-makers, members of the youth sector and young people.

The resources produced in this project are available at the YACWA website.

BELOW: Members of the COVID-19 Youth Engagement Steering Committee pose at the State of the Youth Sector Forum.

PHOTO: Susie Blatchford / Pixel Poetry.



WA Youth Awards

The WA Youth Awards is the flagship event of YACWA's annual calendar, and the cornerstone of our organisation's work to develop and recognise youth leadership in Western Australia.

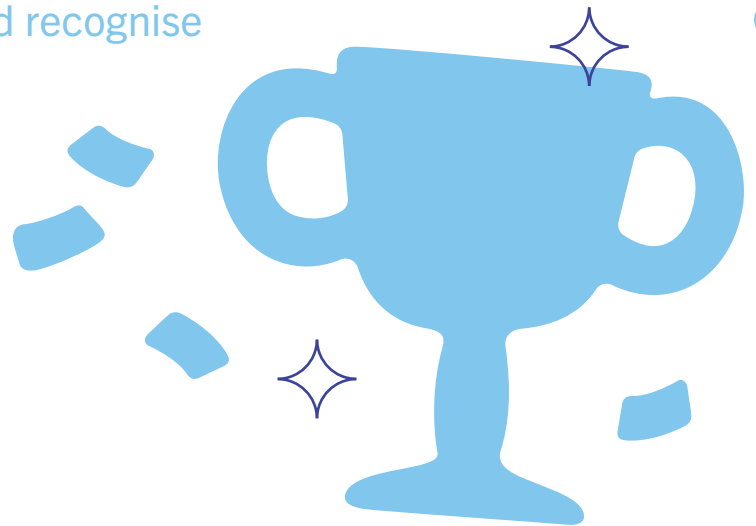


We recognise that young people and the sector that supports them frequently work in the margins and outside of the spotlight, yet their accomplishments in fields like the arts, science, activism and community services are worthy of greater recognition. The WA Youth Awards exists to bridge that gap and bring to the forefront the outstanding work of young people and youth organisations in Western Australia.

The Awards acknowledge that young people and the sector that supports them are worthy of greater recognition, be it through activism, technology, education, creativity, community support or peer leadership.

After a break in 2020, the WA Youth Awards returned in April 2021 with a new brand and a re-imagined format, taking place as a gala dinner in the historic Hackett Hall within the WA Museum Boola Bardip to kick off Youth Week WA.

From almost 100 nominees came 39 finalists, hailing from Christmas Island, Broome, Kalgoorlie, Geraldton and throughout the Perth metropolitan area. Over 230 people joined us for the gala dinner celebration underneath the iconic blue whale skeleton within the WA Museum for a night of celebration and reflection in honour of young people and the youth sector.



We were fortunate to have three previous winners of the WA Young Person of the Year Award in attendance – 2012 winner Brittany Cover, 2017 winner Matt Bill and 2019 winner Brenda Amito, who crowned Derek Nannup as the 2021 WA Young Person of the Year. Derek's selection was based upon his efforts as a health educator, a young leader and an advocate for mentoring and fostering cultural connection for fellow Aboriginal young people.

The WA Youth Awards is supported by our major funding partners, Lotterywest and Department of Communities; our supporting sponsors, Telethon Kids Institute, Youth Focus and the State Library of WA; and our generous award sponsors, Aboriginal Health Council of WA, the Commissioner for Children and Young People, ECU, Life Without Barriers, Mission Australia, Propel Youth Arts WA, The Y WA and Youth Futures.



ABOVE: Winners of the 2021 WA Youth Awards with Hon. Dave Kelly MLA, Minister for Youth. PHOTO: Susie Blatchford / Pixel Poetry.

Congratulations to the 2021 WA Youth Awards winners:

DEREK NANNUP

WA Young Person of the Year
ECU Community Leadership Award

AMY ASTILL

Mission Australia Young Changemaker Award

JOSH DI NUCCI

Aboriginal Health Council of WA Positive
Achievement Award

LAURA FLORISSON

Minister for Youth's Most Outstanding Youth
Worker Award

MADDIE GODFREY

Propel Youth Arts WA Creative Contribution Award

FATIMA MERCHANT

Commissioner for Children and Young People
Participate Award

JOEL PEARSON

Youth Futures Innovation for a Sustainable Future Award

COURTNEY WITHERS

Charmaine Dragun Memorial Award

ALIVE & KICKING GOALS!

Life Without Barriers Small Organisation
Achievement Award

**THE HERS PROJECT
(ASETTS, SHQ & SIREN)**

The Y WA Large Organisation Award

Policy & Advocacy

Policy and Advocacy is at the core of YACWA's purpose as the peak body that represents young people and youth services in Western Australia.

We aim to amplify the voices of young people and the youth sector in decision making spaces and ensure this results in long-term, positive systemic change. Our advocacy supports both young people to have their voices matter, and to support a sustainable and world-class youth sector.

In forming our core advocacy positions YACWA is informed by three key components:

1. The knowledge and experiences of young people

2. The practical expertise of the youth sector

3. A robust evidence-base underpinning the key issues facing young people and the solutions to address them

These components are guided by an overarching focus on ensuring the human rights of young people are at the core of all the work that we do, as well as a desire to discover and explore new and innovative solutions to longstanding problems at the heart of our systems that impact young people.

Our policy and advocacy work this year involved the following activities and areas of influence:

- Written and oral responses to government reform
- Targeted advocacy and awareness raising through campaigning on key relevant issues
- Member consultation, including young people, the youth sector and community leaders
- Member representation in key networks, committees
- Facilitating direct dialogue between young people and decision makers
- Regional representation
- National advocacy and influence

As was the case in the first half of 2020, YACWA's efforts for the large part of the 2020-21 financial year were focused on advocacy around the state's efforts to recover from COVID-19. The pandemic had a significant impact on some of the most marginalised young people in our community, worsening mental health, further entrenching housing unaffordability and deepening unemployment. Despite the breadth of work required, YACWA continued to work closely with key partners in the State Government and community sector, focusing our advocacy on key issues such as mental health, housing and homelessness and youth justice.

RESPONDING TO GOVERNMENT

YACWA Submissions

- Written submission to the Inquiry into the Children and Community Services Amendment Bill in July 2020
- Written submission to the Federal Inquiry into the Higher Education Support Amendment Bill 2020 in September 2020
- Survey response to the Department of Premier and Cabinet's consultation to inform the development of an Independent Oversight System in February 2021
- Written submission to the Federal Senate Select Committee on Job Security in March 2021
- Written submission to the Department of Communities' Implementation of the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations in November 2020
- Joint Submission on the Climate Change (National Framework for Adaptation and Mitigation) Bill 2020 via ACOSS in November 2020

COVID-19 Recovery Framework for Youth

In lieu of our usual Pre-Budget Submission for the 2020-21 calendar year, YACWA released our Framework for Young People's Recovery from COVID-19 in Western Australia in August 2020. This document aimed to provide guidance for the State Government to address the immediate wellbeing needs of young people in an uncertain and rapidly changing environment, as well as ensure that young people's needs were wholly addressed in actions to support community recovery from the significant impact of COVID-19 on health and wellbeing.

The Framework was based on consultations with both young people and the youth sector over the course of 2020, including YACWA's ongoing Youth Workers Unite digital catchups with practitioners supporting young people.

The document's key recommendations were driven by YACWA's COVID-19 Youth Steering Group and other youth advocacy networks, who provided their time, expertise and passion to develop a recovery plan to benefit all young people. Anecdotal feedback from senior executives within the WA public service has indicated this document was highly influential, informing several major budget requests from key agencies focused on young people.

2020/21 WA State Budget Analysis Report

In response to the release of the WA State Budget in October 2020 (an extension of the COVID-19 Recovery Plan released in July 2020), YACWA developed and released our State Budget Response in November. This report provided an overview of the key funding announcements and initiatives that would impact the health and wellbeing of young people in WA. It also tracked the State Government's actions to address the impact of COVID-19 on young people and reiterated the recommendations from our Recovery Framework that were yet to be actioned.

We also released number of social media snapshots to complement the report which contained select overview of the key initiatives announced under issues such as mental health, education and employment.

MEMBER REPRESENTATION

Throughout the 2021/22 financial year YACWA continued to represent our members, including the youth sector and young people, across a range of areas that make up the core focus of our advocacy. Following the conclusion of the COVID-19 Youth Response Taskforce and prioritisation of pandemic recovery efforts, YACWA was involved in a number of cross-sector collaborative committees which were aimed at coordinating these efforts, where we continued to advocate to ensure actions focused on providing support to vulnerable young people were given priority focus.

In the latter half of the financial year, YACWA developed three key priority areas for our advocacy efforts to focus on in response to our members' feedback. These were:

- Youth justice
- Housing & youth homelessness
- Mental health & alcohol and other drugs

The following are some examples of committees and key stakeholders that YACWA regularly engaged with throughout the year.

Committee Representation

- Supporting Communities Forum 2020-21
- COVID-19 WA Premier's Recovery Advisory Group
- WA Peaks Forum
- Youth Work WA Board
- WA Peaks COVID-19 Coordination Meeting
- Curtin University Navigating Through Life Advisory Group
- Ministerial Taskforce into Public Mental Health Services for Infants, Children and Adolescents Aged 0 to 18 Years in Western Australia

- ECU Joondalup Youth Work Consultative Committee
- WA Alliance to End Homelessness Leadership Group
- Department of Communities – Target 120 Executive Committee Meeting
- Youth Mental Health Sub Network
- The Advance to Zero Project Youth Interagency Working Group
- Youth Accommodation Network Meeting
- Children’s Policy Advisory Council
- Anti-Poverty Week Facilitating Group
- Department of Communities’ COVID-19 Youth Taskforce and Working Groups
- WA Ministerial Council on Homelessness
- The Department of Communities’ Youth Workforce Attraction Campaign Steering Committee
- Social Reinvestment WA - Law Reform Sub Committee: Raising the Age and Youth Justice
- Social Reinvestment WA Quarterly Coalition Meetings
- SRWA Executive Committee Meetings
- Department of Communities - Community Partnerships Roundtable
- Mental Health Commission – Mental Health & Alcohol and Other Drugs One-Stop Shop Advisory Group
- Department of Communities - Online Homelessness Services Portal Development Workshop
- Western Power’s Fifth Access Arrangement Community Reference Group

Parliamentary Hearings

- Oral testimony to the Standing Committee on Legislation’s Inquiry into the Children and Community Services Amendment Bill in August 2020

Regular Meetings with Key Decision Makers

- Department of Justice - Monthly Justice System responses during COVID-19 Sector Meeting
- Department of Justice – Monthly Sector and Department of Justice Working Group
- Regular meetings with the Assistant Director General, Services (metro and regional), Department of Communities
- Regular meetings with the Department of Communities, Department of Justice & Mental Health Commission across multiple function areas
- Quarterly meetings with the Commissioner for Children and Young People
- Quarterly meetings with the Minister for Youth
- Regular meetings with the Minister for Child Protection, Women’s Interests, Family and Domestic Violence and Community Services
- Regular meetings with the Lotterywest General Manager
- Meeting with the Shadow Minister for Youth
- Meeting with the Minister for Mental Health; Aboriginal Affairs; Industrial Relations
- Meeting with the Minister for Housing; Local Government
- Meeting with the Minister for Corrective Services
- Meeting with the Mental Health Commissioner
- Meetings with the Minister for Housing and the Minister for Community Services to discuss youth homelessness sector sustainability issues (representing 17 key service providers)

CONSULTATIONS

Mental Health Commission's Priorities for Action for Young People Consultations

YACWA was contracted by the Mental Health Commission to conduct a series of consultations with young people and the youth sector to discuss the Commission's future priorities of action to improve mental health and wellbeing for young people in WA. We also contributed to MHC priorities and delivered key information to the sector through the Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drugs - System Leadership Forum. Work on this will be ongoing throughout the next financial year.

Christmas Island Youth Summit

In November 2020, MYAN WA and YACWA travelled to Christmas Island to develop and deliver a two-day youth summit for young people aged 12-25. The 2020 Christmas Island Youth Taking Charge Youth Summit was a chance for young people on the Island to learn about how to use advocacy to create change, to have their voices heard on the issues that affect them and to be empowered to be leaders in the community.

YACWA developed a report based on the discussions from the summit which contained a summary of the key issues identified by young people as well as several recommendations for the State and Federal Governments to deliver to create improved outcomes for Christmas Island's young people.

Youth Workers Unite Sector Check-Ins

Whilst the majority of YACWA's Youth Workers Unite online youth sector check-ins during this reporting period focused on delivering professional development training on different areas of youth work, one of these sessions in the financial year was consultation-focused - gauging the status of youth

services and their service delivery - while also exploring YACWA's most significant policy publication of the reporting period - the COVID-19 Youth Recovery Framework. In this session, YACWA explored with youth workers the impact of lockdown and the pandemic on young people, the way it exacerbated existing inequities and challenges faced by our young people and outlined the sector's funding priorities to shape a youth-focused recovery.

COVID-19 Youth Steering Group

Throughout the second half of 2020 YACWA convened a diverse group of young people who provided leadership, guidance and advice on the key issues and priorities young people in WA would be facing in response to COVID-19. This group was made up of representatives from key youth advocacy bodies in WA including the Multicultural Youth Advocacy Network, Youth Disability Advocacy Network, Youth Pride Network, Aboriginal Health Council of WA, Youth Homelessness Advisory Council and the Regional Youth Leadership Development group. The contributions of this group were instrumental in the formation of the recommendations provided in the COVID-19 Recovery Framework for Youth.

State of the Youth Sector Forum 2020

In September 2020 YACWA held its fourth annual State of the Youth Sector Forum, a key consultation activity with 100 attendees, including representatives from youth services, young people and other key community stakeholders to inform our priorities for the following 12 months of advocacy. The Forum provided an opportunity for the youth sector to come together, find common ground, explore gaps in the systems supporting young people and build a collective list of priorities for advocacy in the year to come.

Surveys

- 2020 YACWA Sector Survey - 89 Responses
- Campaigns and Advocacy training survey - 8 responses
- Needs of the Youth Sector in Response to the COVID-19 February 2021 Lockdown Survey – 46 responses
- Have Your Say! Youth STI Screening Needs in City of Wanneroo Survey (YACWA Consulting) - 394 responses
- 2020 State of the Youth Sector Forum Feedback Survey – 30 responses
- Family Carer Survey – 48 responses
- Youth Workers Unite Feedback and Next Steps Survey – 17 responses
- Youth Worker's Unite - YEP workshop topic interest - 15 responses
- STAY Survey for young people and other stakeholders (YACWA Consulting) – 71 responses from young people and 17 from other stakeholders

AWARENESS & ADVOCACY CAMPAIGNS

In 2020-21 YACWA carried out and supported several state and national campaigns that aimed to raise awareness of the issues facing vulnerable young people, change community attitudes and promote youth engagement.

National Campaigns

- The Raise the Rate for Good Campaign (led by the Australian Council of Social Service)
- National Youth Homelessness Matters Day (led by the National Youth Coalition on Housing)
- Everybody's Home campaign (led by a coalition of Non-Government Organisations)
- Reconciliation Week (led by Reconciliation Australia)
- The Know Your Country Campaign (led by World Vision)
- The Intergenerational Fairness Inquiry Campaign (led by Think Forward)

State Campaigns

- Raise the Minimum Age of Criminal Responsibility Campaign (led by Social Reinvestment WA and linked with campaigns in other state and territories)
- Your Help WA Campaign (led by the WA Council of Social Service)
- Prevent Support Heal Campaign (led by the WA Association for Mental Health)
- Make Renting Fair Campaign (led by a coalition of NGOs)
- The Anti-Poverty Week Campaign (led by a coalition of NGOs)
- The Home Stretch Campaign (led by Anglicare WA in partnership with Department of Communities)
- 2021 WA State Election Campaign – Highlighting the issues affecting young people in the lead up to the election (led by YACWA)



Regional Representation

It is critical that YACWA engages regional and remote communities, young people, and service providers in our policy and advocacy work as there is often a significant gap in resourcing, support services and outcomes for young people in these areas.

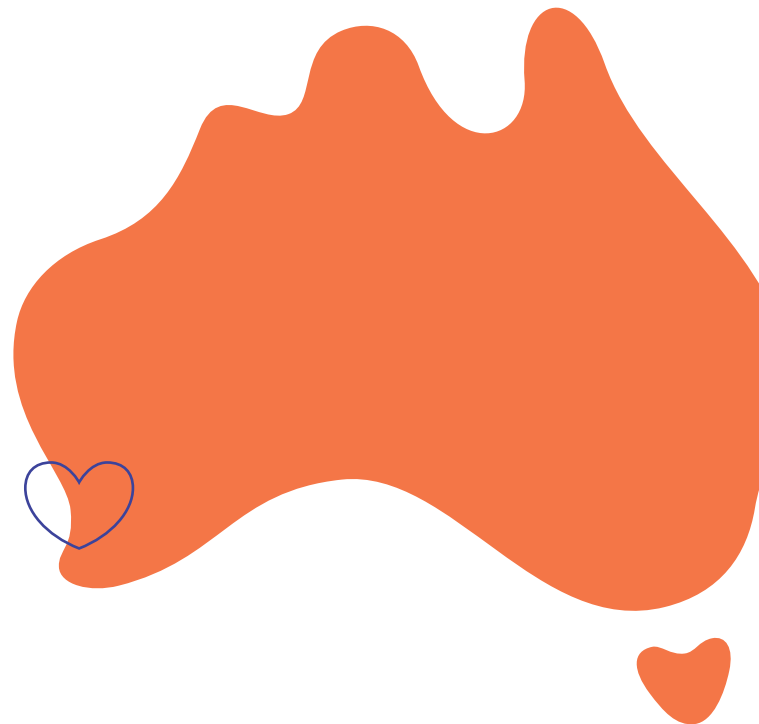
As WA's peak body for young people and the youth services sector, YACWA has a statewide remit, however, being a relatively small, Perth-based organisation, reaching regional communities proven challenging. Thanks to funding from Lotterywest, this financial year YACWA was able to expand its staffing to two areas (the Great Southern and Mid West) to enable a greater reflection of regional voices and issues in YACWA's work. This work was overseen by the newly appointed Regional Programs Manager who focuses on regional issues and sector needs across the state. YACWA's core functions of youth participation, policy and advocacy and sector support is at the heart of our work across regional Western Australia and will continue to grow as this program develops.

National Influence

YACWA exerts considerable national influence alongside other state-based youth peak bodies. As a member of the Australian Youth Affairs Coalition (AYAC), we maintained a keen lens of national policy developments and activities. Thanks to funding from the Federal Government, AYAC was able to resume its work in this financial year through the National Youth Policy Project, which has enabled consultation and information sharing between young people, the youth sector and the Australian Government.

YACWA's CEO and policy team attend regular meetings on national youth-specific peak bodies and committees to remain informed of national issues and collaborate on national advocacy. These include:

- The Australian Youth Affairs Coalition Board
- MYAN Australia Executive Group
- National Youth Peaks CEO Check-in
- National Youth Coalition for Housing (NYCH)
- Homelessness Australia National Committee
- Youth Peaks Policy Meeting
- National Multicultural Youth Census Advisory Group
- The Know Your Country Campaign Working Group
- The Intergenerational Fairness Inquiry Campaign Coalition Working Group
- National Raise the Age campaign members meeting



SECTOR SUPPORT

Agency Network for Youth (ANY) Meetings

YACWA facilitates a bi-monthly meeting of metropolitan youth services, to enhance the knowledge of YACWA and the youth sector by developing an understanding of service options and pathways for young people at risk, sharing resources, identifying current issues, challenges and innovative ideas and service models as well as galvanising collective advocacy.

These meetings have continued to occur regularly in 2021, following disruption through the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. Key topics to enhance youth worker knowledge throughout the reporting period included improving integration of digital tools and strategies into youth work by James Harris from YouthWork.IO, learnings from the Homestretch Pilot on providing wraparound support and accommodation for young people leaving care over 18 by Andrew Kazim from Anglicare WA, and information on the service model developed for the soon to be opened youth mental health/AOD youth homelessness accommodation by Gary Donnelly from Richmond Wellbeing.

Professional Development Training – Advocacy 101

In April 2021, YACWA delivered a workshop aimed at providing youth workers with an advocacy crash course, providing them with an overview of systemic advocacy and giving them practical ways to improve how to match service delivery with addressing the broader structural barriers and societal preconceptions that affect young people.

We hope to develop this into a more formalised training in the upcoming calendar year and deliver it as part of our consulting work in specialised formats for youth workers, young people and other community leaders.



YACWA Consulting

YACWA Consulting is our fee-for-service arm, offering training, project management, strategy development and extensive engagement with young people for local governments, government departments and service organisations.



The 2020/21 period has been one of strategic growth for YACWA's consultancy work. YACWA is widely acknowledged as a leader in youth participation best practice, and requests for our expertise in this space has grown year on year. At the beginning of 2021, YACWA appointed a Business Development and Consultancy Manager to focus exclusively on YACWA's fee-for-service work. We also employed a team of Youth Consultants with a range of skills and experience to co-design and co-deliver our work.

Organisations tell us that they choose YACWA to deliver youth focused projects, not only for our skills and expertise in this area, but because engaging YACWA supports an ethically driven, for-purpose enterprise that will in turn continue to build the sector and benefit young people. YACWA is also uniquely placed to add value to projects through our wide-ranging existing networks across the state and immediate access to current research and policy on youth issues.

Some of our most successful work over this period has been building the capacity of young people to talk to their peers and advocate in their communities through

the delivery of peer researcher training and young changemaker workshops.

We have also engaged with a number of organisations to deliver their youth strategies and plans and have had a significant focus on working with local governments to connect with their communities of young people and youth organisations, bringing them along the journey.

We have continued to deliver strong work in the youth consultation space, planning and running large scale surveys, workshops, forums and events in partnerships with young people. We have also brokered opportunities for young people to deliver talks and presentations to organisations on a range of topics.

A strong focus of YACWA's Consultancy work is delivering bespoke pieces of work for organisations that draw on our expertise in youth participation and youth-driven co-design, however in the 2020/21 financial year, we have started to develop a suite of training modules and workshops that organisations can match to their development needs. These will be available on the YACWA website in 2022.



A young changemaker workshop with young people from the City of Melville.

YACWA's clients in 2020/21

- City of Fremantle
- City of Gosnells
- City of Melville
- City of South Perth
- Curtin University
- Department of Fire and Emergency Services
- Mental Health Commission
- Mercycare
- Nous Group



TOP: Kobi Morrison and Hadi Rahimi at the Moment of Youth panel at Disrupted Festival. **PHOTO:** Jessica Wyld.

MIDDLE: Imara Mandred at the Moment of Youth panel at Disrupted Festival. **PHOTO:** Jessica Wyld.

BOTTOM & OPPOSITE: Participants at the 2020 State of the Youth Sector Forum. **PHOTO:** Susie Blatchford / Pixel Poetry.

Sector Events

MOMENT OF YOUTH AT DISRUPTED FESTIVAL

In 2020, the State Library of WA reached out to YACWA about arranging a panel for their annual Disrupted Festival of Ideas. Centred on the theme of A Better World, the panel, titled Moment of Youth, brought together five young change-makers with strong connections to YACWA: Zahra Al Hilaly (MYAN WA, WA Youth Awards emcee), Brenda Amito (2019 WA Young Person of the Year), Imara Mandred (MYAN WA and frequent YACWA collaborator), Kobi Morrison (2019 WA Youth Awards finalist) and Hadi Rahimi (MYAN WA).

Livestreamed to the State Library's Facebook and taking place in front of an audience of 100 attendees at Disrupted Festival in November, the five panelists explored their generation's fight for change in light of the Black Lives Matter movement both locally and abroad, along with the push for climate justice and broader movements surrounding racial, economic and gender equality.

STATE OF THE YOUTH SECTOR FORUM

YACWA's first foray back into in-person events post-lockdown was our 4th annual State of the Youth Sector Forum, which took place at Leederville TAFE at the beginning of September 2020. Bringing together over 100 sector workers from every level and area of service delivery, along with government representatives, department staff and community service students, the workshops encouraged participants to explore systemic barriers young people face through a detailed journey-mapping exercise, envisioning the strengths, gaps and potential for change in our service ecosystem.

The State of the Youth Sector Forum also served as the formal announcement of the Youth Pride Network's funding from Department of Communities, along with the launch of the Experience Papers from YACWA's COVID-19 Youth Engagement initiative, enshrining the voice of young people from a wealth of backgrounds on their vision for COVID recovery in WA.



Treasurer's Report

It is with pleasure that I present the financial statements for the Youth Affairs Council of WA (YACWA) for the period ending June 2021.



This report should be read in conjunction with the 2020-2021 Financial Report. The accounts audited by Butler Settineri are included in the annual report.

YACWA's financial position has continued to strengthen, with increased income from \$1,356,697 in the previous financial year to \$1,682,550 in this financial reporting period. YACWA's main source of income included Department of Communities, Department of Health and Lotterywest funding, whilst membership income saw a marginal increase. The Lotterywest support of YACWA's expansion to regional WA and the newly established Youth Sector Small Grants Scheme have generated opportunities for state-wide advocacy and organisational growth. This year's income included supplementary government assistance through the COVID-19 JobKeeper payment of \$105,900. The YACWA Board and Finance Subcommittee have been diligent in determining YACWA's eligibility for the supplement. Consequently, the Board is dedicated to supporting long-term financial sustainability and providing long-term organisational scaffolds to enable YACWA to thrive in future years with these funds.

Expenditure for the 2020-2021 financial year was \$1,614,827 with the majority of expenditure spent on employee costs, sector-wide events and activities. YACWA's consultancy work has continued to expand and generated income with consultation projects to support bringing together the voice of lived experience and that of the sector through consultations on behalf of the Mental Health Commission, Department of Justice and several

local governments. YACWA's Statement of Profit and Loss denotes finishing the 2020-2021 financial year with a surplus of \$312,609 compared to the previous financial year of a surplus of \$148,689.

The Board's management of additional income has been conservative and will be added to YACWA's reserves with a focus for the coming year on contingency planning, responsible spending and YACWA's long-term financial strength and security.

I would like to extend particular thanks to departing CEO Ross Wortham. YACWA has experienced significant strategic growth under Ross's leadership, and he leaves the organisation in a solid financial position. Ross and Corporate Services Manager Gaurav Singh have applied an astute discipline to managing YACWA's finances with a firm dedication to the long-term financial health of the organisation. I thank the YACWA team for their dedication and ongoing commitment to young people and the important work YACWA undertakes every day. Sincere thanks to the outgoing Treasurer and current YACWA Chairperson Vik Jeyakumar, the Finance and Sustainability Subcommittee and the dynamic YACWA Board.

A handwritten signature in orange ink, which appears to be 'Sharon Gough'. The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a matching orange color to the page's design.

Sharon Gough

Treasurer

Finances

Statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income*.

**for the year ended 30 June 2021.*

	2021 \$	2020 \$
INCOME		
Grant and Service Income	1,363,502	952,727
Interest	891	1,908
Conference and other income	190,942	168,453
Government Assistance- COVID 19	105,900	223,600
Membership Income	21,315	10,009
	<u>1,682,550</u>	<u>1,356,697</u>
EXPENDITURE		
Employee Benefits	1,072,111	774,433
Events & Activities	397,211	210,507
Occupancy	46,298	67,995
Depreciation	7,068	8,910
Vehicle and Travel Expenses	15,523	67,532
Financial and Insurance Costs	25,472	18,653
Impairment of Debtors	-	11,000
Administration and Other Costs	51,144	48,978
	<u>1,614,827</u>	<u>1,208,008</u>
Profit/ (Loss) before income tax	67,723	148,689
Income Tax Expense	-	-
PROFIT/(LOSS) AFTER INCOME TAX	<u>67,723</u>	<u>148,689</u>
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	<u>67,723</u>	<u>148,689</u>

Statement of financial position*

*for the year ended 30 June 2021.

	2021 \$	2020 \$
ASSETS		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	1,198,443	473,566
Trade and other receivables	147,860	129,670
Prepayments	24,779	13,245
Government Assistance- COVID 19	-	-
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	<u>1,371,082</u>	<u>616,481</u>
NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
Property, plant and equipment	-	-
Right of use Lease Assets	28,149	35,217
Rental Bond	10,010	10,010
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS	<u>38,159</u>	<u>45,227</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>1,409,241</u>	<u>661,708</u>
LIABILITIES		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Trade and other payables	107,456	78,139
Provisions for Employee Entitlements	80,068	57,928
Project Funds Received in Advance	841,969	211,974
Lease Liability – ROU	6,729	6,406
Make Good Provision	20,000	20,000
Membership Paid in Advance	4,500	13,545
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	<u>1,060,722</u>	<u>387,992</u>
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Lease Liability – ROU	22,100	28,830
Provisions for Employee Entitlements	13,810	-
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES	<u>35,910</u>	<u>28,830</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>1,096,632</u>	<u>416,822</u>
NET ASSETS	<u>312,609</u>	<u>244,886</u>
MEMBERS' FUNDS		
Retained earnings	312,609	244,886
TOTAL MEMBERS' FUNDS	<u>312,609</u>	<u>244,886</u>

Statement of changes in equity*.

*for the year ended 30 June 2021.

	Retained Earnings \$	Total \$
Balance at 1 July 2019	96,197	96,197
Profit /(Loss) for the year	148,689	148,689
Other Comprehensive Income	-	-
Balance at 30 June 2020	244,886	244,886
Profit /(Loss) for the year	67,723	67,723
Other Comprehensive Income	-	-
Balance at 30 June 2021	312,609	312,609

DIRECTORS' DECLARATION

The Directors have determined that Youth Affairs Council of Western Australia 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 to 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 2020 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.

Chairperson: Vik Jeyakumar



Treasurer: Sharon Gough



Dated this day: 10 / 11 / 2021

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT
TO THE MEMBERS OF YOUTH AFFAIRS COUNCIL OF WA INC.**

Report on the Financial Report

Opinion

We have audited the financial report of Youth Affairs Council of WA Inc. (the Association), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2021, and the statement of profit or loss and comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and the management committee's declaration.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report of the Association is prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the Associations Incorporation Act 2015, and Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012, including:

- i) giving a true and fair view of the Association's financial position as at 30 June 2021 and of its financial performance for the year then ended; and
- ii) complying with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in note 1.

Basis for Opinion

We have conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those Standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of our report.

We are independent of the Association in accordance with the auditor independence requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act 2015, Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 and the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our ethical requirements in accordance with the Code.

We confirm that the independence declaration required by the Associations Incorporation Act 2015, which has been given to the management committee of the Association, would be in the same terms if given to the management committee as at the date of this auditor's report.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Emphasis of Matter – Basis of Accounting

We draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the management committee's financial reporting responsibilities under the *Associations Incorporation Act 2015* and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Responsibilities of the Management committee for the Financial Report

The management committee of the Association is responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and has determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 to the financial report is appropriate to meet the requirements of the *Associations Incorporation Act 2015*, Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 and the needs of the members. The management committee's responsibility also includes such internal control as the management committee determines is necessary to enable the preparation of a financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the management committee are responsible for assessing the Association's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the management committee either intend to liquidate the Association or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion.

Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australia Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit.

We also:

- Identify and assess risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Association's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the management committee.

- Conclude on the appropriateness of the management committee's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Association's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Association to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the management committee regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

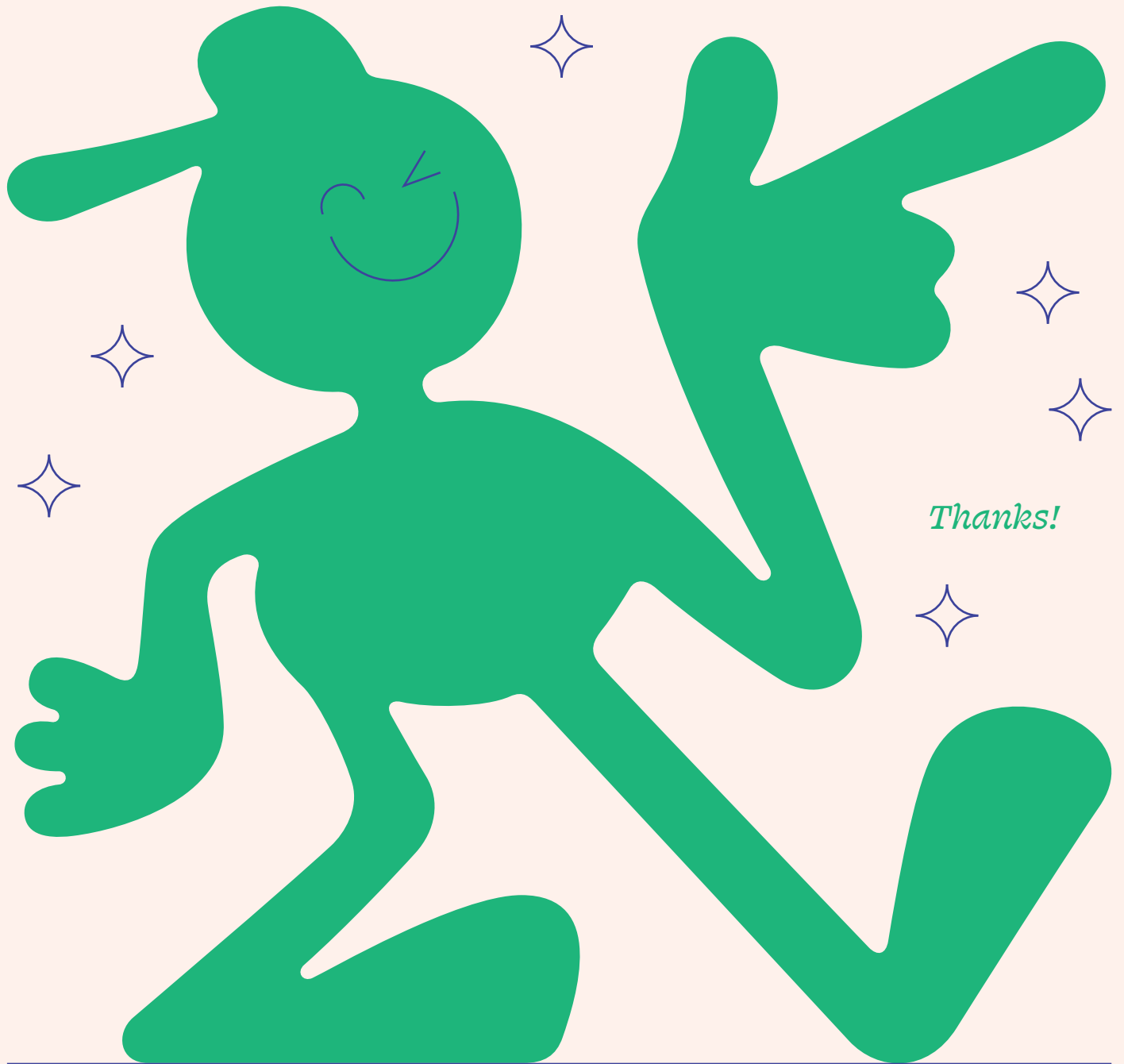
We also provide the management committee with a statement that we have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence, and to communicate with them all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to bear on our independence, and where applicable, related safeguards.

BUTLER SETTINERI (AUDIT) PTY LTD



MARIUS VAN DER MERWE CA
Director

Perth
10 November 2021



Thanks!

