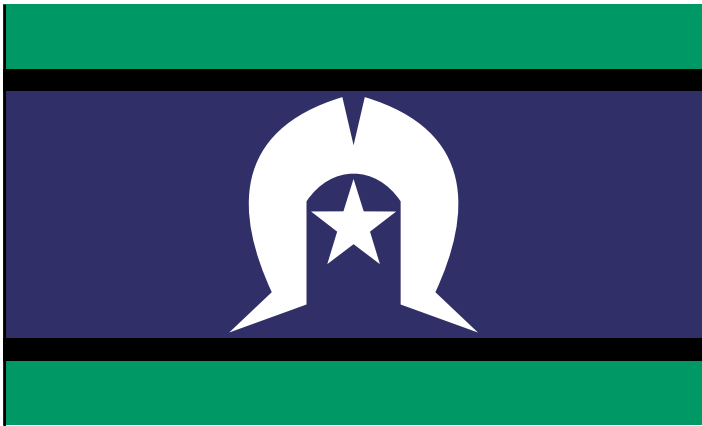




yacwa

THE YACWA 2024 — 2025 ANNUAL REPORT

November 2025



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

This land has always been,
and will always be,
**ABORIGINAL
LAND.**

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

ADDRESS Level 5, 200 Adelaide Terrace, East Perth WA 6004

POSTAL PO Box 6398, East Perth WA 6892

COVER PHOTO Tashi Hall

REPORT DESIGN Matthew Wong



@yacwa



@youthaffairswa



[linkedin.com/company/yacwa](https://www.linkedin.com/company/yacwa)

SUPPORTERS & MEMBERS

OUR MEMBERS

YACWA's achievements are powered by the voices, insights, and commitment of our members.

Your active participation not only strengthens our advocacy but also informs our submissions and helps shape a youth sector that is inclusive, responsive, and resilient. Through the contributions of organisations, individuals, and young people, we turn collective effort into real, meaningful change. Together, we have made a tangible difference in the lives of young people across Western Australia. Thank you — your involvement is at the heart of everything we do.

MAJOR FUNDERS



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



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



FUNDERS AND SUPPORTERS

- Accord West
- Anglicare WA
- Australian Childhood Foundation
- Carers WA
- Centre for Multicultural Youth
- City of Canning
- City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder Youth Services
- City of Melville
- City of Vincent
- City of Wanneroo
- Commissioner for Children & Young People
- Edith Cowan University
- The Federation of WA Police & Community Youth Centres
- Mental Health Commission
- Mercy Community Services Limited
- Mission Australia
- Parkerville Children and Youth Care
- Rainbow Community House
- Roebourne District High School
- Shire of Denmark
- SSJG Ministries Inc.
- St Vincent de Paul Society (WA) Inc
- Synergy
- Town of Victoria Park
- The Y WA
- YMCA WA
- Zurich Insurance

A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO & CHAIRPERSON



YACWA remains passionate, informed, and deeply committed to amplifying the voices of young people and the youth services sector.

Over the past year, we have continued to highlight the experiences, contributions, and challenges of young people across Western Australia, ensuring their perspectives shape public discussion, policy and the communities in which they live.

Our advocacy efforts have centred around YACWA's four key policy pillars — **housing and homelessness, mental health, youth justice, and family and intimate partner violence**. In addition to working closely with the sector to progress change, YACWA consulted widely to engage in the State budget cycle via the release of our 2024-25 Pre-Budget Submission, to ensure the needs of young people were understood and addressed by State government.

The **Youth Homelessness Advisory Committee (YHAC)** continued to play an essential role in shaping policy and service delivery for young people experiencing homelessness. We extend our sincere thanks to the **Sisters of St John of God** for their generous ongoing support, and to the **Office of Homelessness** for ensuring YHAC's continuation through funding in 2025. Working closely with YACWA's policy staff and sector partners, YHAC has maintained focus on one of Western Australia's most pressing issues — the 3,000 unaccompanied children and young people who experience homelessness every day.

The 2024–2025 year was filled with connection, learning, and celebration through our cornerstone events — **FairGround, YActivate! 2025, FUSE, and the WA Youth Awards**.

- **FairGround** brought together over 300 youth sector professionals and young people to learn, share, and be inspired through keynotes, panels, workshops, and poster presentations. The event also featured the launch of the updated **Youth Work Code of Ethics** and the **Department of Communities' Youth Action Plan**.
- With the generous support of **RAC** and the **Department of Communities, YActivate! 2025** convened 80 young leaders from Youth Advisory Groups across the State. Through panels, workshops, and peer-led learning, participants built connections, gained new skills, and developed youth-led projects that continue to create positive change.

- YACWA was proud to accompany delegates from **MYAN WA (Multicultural Youth Advocacy Network WA)** to **Parliament House in Canberra** as part of FUSE: Connect. Ignite. Trailblaze. Delegates engaged in solution-focused discussions with Federal Ministers and Senators, participated in leadership and public speaking sessions, and experienced a 'day in the life' of Parliament during sitting week — a powerful opportunity to ensure multicultural young people's voices were heard at the national level.
- The **WA Youth Awards** celebrated the contribution of WA's dedicated young people and the youth sector. Congratulations to all the winners, with a warm congratulations to WA's Young Person of the Year 2024, Ollie Lim, who created and delivered a series of workshops to promote social inclusion for young people with the Awards prize money.

Without the ongoing commitment and dedication of all who support YACWA's vision and purpose, the array of achievements reflected throughout this report, would not be possible. A deep gratitude and thanks go to the YACWA staff, Board, volunteers, Members and supporters who continue to ensure the voices of young people are front and centre at all times.

SAL CLEVERAY Chairperson

KYLIE WALLACE Interim CEO

POLICY & ADVOCACY



As the peak body for youth in Western Australia, policy and advocacy are central to YACWA's purpose. Through meaningful collaboration and engagement, our work amplifies the voices of young people and the youth sector to shift policy and create long-term systemic change.

Our advocacy priorities and broader efforts are informed by:

- Young people's knowledge and lived experiences;
- The youth sector's practical expertise; and
- Comprehensive evidence-based research

YACWA's policy and advocacy efforts are underpinned by the human rights of all young people across WA, and respond to their different contexts and challenges. We advocate for innovative solutions, with a focus on our four advocacy pillars:

- Housing and homelessness
- Mental health
- Youth justice
- Family and intimate partner violence

Our work is guided by our regular engagement with our membership base of young people and close collaboration with members of the Youth Homelessness Advisory Council (YHAC), Multicultural Youth Advocacy Network WA (MYAN WA), Youth Pride Network (YPN), and the All It Takes Project.

In 2024-2025 we released our YACWA Policy Priorities document, outlining key priorities for young people and the sector over the next term of government. We also released a pre-budget submission, highlighting budget recommendations for the State Government over the next financial year. Our four advocacy pillars were represented in these documents.

Highlights from YACWA's policy work this year are listed below, divided into our advocacy pillars. These are rarely discrete issues, and we also strive to acknowledge outliers and overlaps between the pillars.

HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS

- Membership of the WA Working Group - FoyerInvest, highlighting the need for ongoing investment into support for young people experiencing homelessness
- Advocated for free public transport for tertiary students in WA
- Consulted with the Office of Homelessness on their 2025-2030 Action Plan for the All Paths Lead to a Home: Western Australia's 10 Year-Strategy on Homelessness 2020-2030
- Collaborated with the Department of Communities to organise At Risk Reference Group meetings
- Participated in the Department of Communities' Homelessness Commissioning Reference Group
- Attended the Australian Alliance to End Homelessness' Summit in Fremantle

MENTAL HEALTH

- Participated in the State Government's Mental Health, Wellbeing and Alcohol and Other Drugs Ministerial Advisory Panel
- Continued to work with the Department of Communities to implement the *At-Risk Youth Strategy 2022-2027*

YOUTH JUSTICE

- Collaborated closely with Social Reinvestment WA for the immediate closure of Unit 18 and reform across WA's youth justice system
- Published opinion editorials in The West Australian, calling for youth justice reform
- Advocated for the State Government's justice reforms to have a greater focus on prevention and therapeutic measures for young people
- Called for the State Government to completely overhaul the youth justice system in response to its failure to protect children from harm or uphold their basic human rights

FAMILY AND INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE (FIPV)

- Advocated for the State Government to include the experiences of young people impacted by FIPV as separate to that of parents or caregivers – young people are impacted in their own right
- Called for increased prevention and early intervention funding for young people at risk of perpetrating family and/or domestic violence

ADDITIONAL WORK

- Submission to and analysis of 2025-26 State Budget
- YACWA Policy Priorities 2024, outlining election priorities for the State Government
- Joint submission with the Youth Pride Network (YPN) to the Department of Justice calling for the end to conversion practices in WA
- Continued to host the Agency Network for Youth meetings

YACWA'S ADVISORY SERVICE



YACWA's Advisory Service continues to assist the youth and community sectors with unique, bespoke approaches to engaging and involving young people in meaningful ways. Youth-led practice is at the core of what we do and YACWA has a team of youth consultants who help deliver all aspects of our advisory service work.

YACWA'S CLIENTS IN 2024/2025

- Australian Childhood Foundation
- City of Cockburn
- City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder
- City of Karratha
- City of Stirling
- City of Vincent
- City of Wanneroo
- Department of Communities
Office for Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence
- Mental Health Commission
- Roebourne District High School
- Shire of Ashburton
- Shire of Denmark
- Town of Port Hedland
- Town of Victoria Park
- Youth Network of Tasmania

THE HIGHLIGHTS

PHOTO CREDIT: Jack Findlater

YACTIVATE! 2025

YACWA was delighted to deliver a re-invigorated YACTivate this year. This much anticipated event brought together young people and staff from 30 Youth Advisory Groups all around the State for a day of learning, sharing, networking and fun at the Cockburn Youth Centre. We look forward to doing it all again in the coming years!

YOUTH STRATEGIES AND PLANS

YACWA continues to be in demand to deliver Youth Plans and Strategies for Local Government Authorities. A highlight was working with the Town of Victoria Park for a second time, reviewing the excellent progress they had made towards their first Youth Action Plan, and supporting them to renew their commitment to young people over the next three years.

YOUTH CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

YACWA was proud to work with the Mental Health Commission and support young people to provide meaningful feedback on the Draft Concept Design for the new Youth Step Up / Step Down Service. Through a survey, workshops and consultation pack, 65 young people aged 14 to 25 were able to have their say and shape what this facility will look like. We also enjoyed delivering a youth leadership forum to over 100 Year 6's in the City of Wanneroo. This great group of young people were brimming with ideas, and we look forward to watching their ideas evolve in the future.



WA YOUTH AWARDS 2024

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS!

YACWA was delighted to host the WA Youth Awards, our flagship annual event, in September 2024. We proudly celebrated 25 years of recognising the outstanding achievements of young people, youth workers, and the organisations that support them, reflecting YACWA's ongoing commitment to amplifying young voices in Western Australia.



The 2024 WA Youth Awards brought together almost 300 attendees, including young people and their families, youth workers, and sector organisations – with many travelling from regional parts of Western Australia. The Awards provide a platform to recognise the leadership, resilience, creativity, and advocacy of young people, while also shining a spotlight on those who support them. The work of the finalists and winners strongly displayed the diversity and strength of WA's young people.

Reflecting the growth of the Awards, the gala was held at The Ritz-Carlton Perth, proving to be an unforgettable celebration. This year, we had:

- A record number of **155 nominations** from across Western Australia
- **43** of those were named finalists
- **11** from regional areas
- **295 attendees** joined us at The Ritz Carlton Perth

The winner of the 2024 WA Young Person of the Year was Oliver Lim.

Ollie is a passionate advocate for disability. As the 2021 Little Telethon Star, he helped raise over \$100,000 for Telethon and has since continued to champion causes including MSK, Arthritis, and Osteoporosis WA. Through his work with the Youth Disability Advocacy Network, Ollie has spoken out against funding cuts affecting young people with disability, while also contributing to research on pain management for young people. As a member of the City of Melville Youth Advisory Committee, Ollie has played an active role in securing grants for community inclusion initiatives.

This event would not be possible without the generous support from our major partners Lotterywest, Department of Communities, and RAC; category sponsors, Carers WA, The Commissioner for Children and Young People, Edith Cowan University, MercyCare, Mission Australia, Parkerville Children and Youth Care, The Y WA, Youth Focus, and Youth Futures; and supporting sponsors 54 Reasons and the State Library of WA. Thank you for your support.

WINNERS

OLIVER LIM

WA Young Person of the Year *and* Commissioner for Children and Young People Participate Award

CASEY MOLLER

Minister for Youth's Most Outstanding Youth Worker Award

AMBER UGLE-HAYWARD

ECU Community Leadership Award

ELLIE HIGGINS

MercyCare Positive Achievement Award

EMILY WILLIAMS

Mission Australia Young Changemaker Award

WADANDI CULTURAL RANGER PROGRAM (Regional)

Youth Futures Innovation for a Sustainable Future Award

MOLLY MCKENNA (Regional)

Parkerville Children and Youth Care Creative Contribution Award

SHARLENE BALOCH & IJ MCKENNA

Charmaine Dragnon Memorial Award

CHILD ADOLESCENT HEALTH SERVICE YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Y WA Collective Action Award

JOSHUA PATRICK

Carers WA Milestone Award

ISHAR MULTICULTURAL WOMEN'S HEALTH SERVICES

Youth Focus Sector Collaboration Award

FAIRGROUND 2025

CONNECTING FOR CHANGE

YACWA was pleased to once again deliver its biennial FairGround Conference at the Esplanade Hotel by Rydges on the 12th and 13th June.

The conference was attended by 311 delegates, a significant increase from the 2023 conference, reflecting our increased organisational capacity and stable reputation within the youth sector. The conference brought together youth workers, sector leaders, community development workers and young people for two days of knowledge sharing and professional development. The program included four keynote speakers, plenary and panel sessions, practice development workshop, sector presentations, poster displays and a breakfast for regional attendees.

The theme for this year's conference was Connecting for Change, reflecting the organisation's interest in bringing together passionate groups and individuals across multiple sectors to bring about positive change for young people across the state. FairGround was planned by a Conference Committee which included YACWA staff, academics, youth workers, sector representatives and young people.

The breakout sessions were divided along the themes of Purpose, Connecting and Belonging. These reflected the key outcomes and priorities of the conference, and were delivered to positive feedback.

A key priority for this year's conference was to add value for the regional attendees, which was reflected in the offering of regional travel subsidies, as well as a breakfast and information session provided specifically for delegates from the regions.



SPONSORS:

- Lotterywest
- Department of Communities
- Anglicare WA
- Carers WA
- The Commissioner for Children and Young People
- Edith Cowan University
- Mission Australia
- Palmerston
- Parkerville Children and Youth Care
- Richmind WA
- Vinnies WA

STALLHOLDERS / EXHIBITORS:

- Carers WA
- Helping Minds
- Cancer Council WA
- YDAN
- Investing in our Youth
- PCYC
- Thriving Minds Education
- WAAC / The YEP Project
- Youth Work WA / YACWA

311
delegates

65
abstracts submitted

41
regional attendees

45
presenters/panelists

16+ HOURS
of professional development

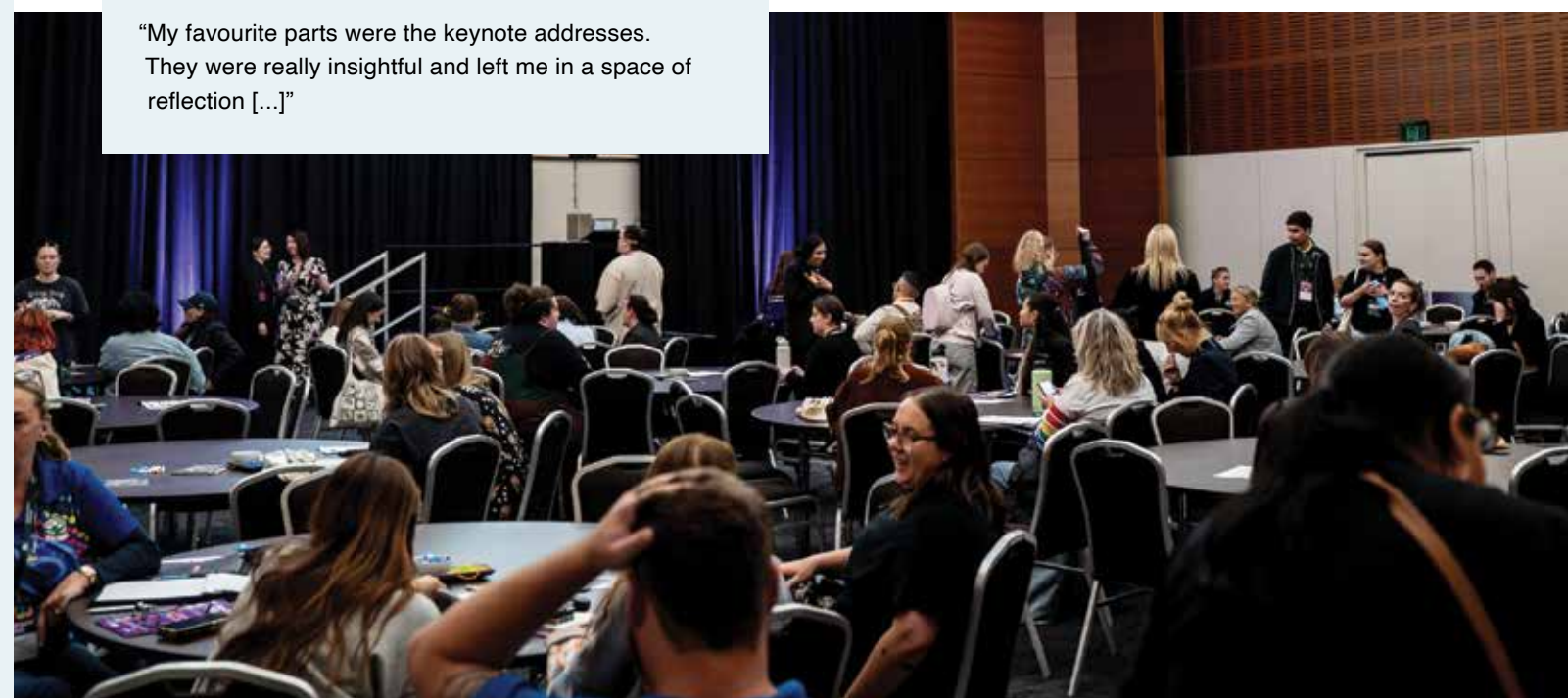
"Coming from regional WA (Great Southern/Albany) it was useful to be able to have networking opportunities and to see what is beyond the Great Southern for future career pathways and inspiration for the only youth centre I've been exposed to."

"[I felt] Inspired to come back to my workplace and act on the connections I had made, to create more opportunities for the young people I work with."

"The panel on Youth Homelessness - the messaging was clear and the young people involved spoke very well."

"I also attended the Regional Breakfast. Thank you so much for providing this opportunity. This really helped those of us travelling without knowing anyone, to make connections early and build on these over the two days."

"My favourite parts were the keynote addresses. They were really insightful and left me in a space of reflection [...]"



THE YEP PROJECT



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

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

SECTOR ENGAGEMENT & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

During this period, YEP delivered professional development workshops, webinars and presentations to **163 metropolitan professionals** and **49 regional professionals** across Western Australia. Regional participants represented Mandurah, Merredin, Busselton, Geraldton and Port Hedland; as well as services operating state-wide and nationally. YEP hosted a Buns and Boundaries session at YACWA's FairGround Conference with five presenters from the sexual health and family and domestic violence sectors. During this period, YEP supported eight organisations through its consultation service.

Some of these included North Metropolitan TAFE, the University of Western Australia, Uniting WA, Trinity College, Bob Hawke College, Youth Pride Network, Holyoake and North Metropolitan Youth Mental Health.

Impact of the work:

97% of workshop participants recorded an increase in their knowledge, skills and/or capacity about the relevant topic.

95% of participants reported feeling more supported in providing sexual health referral pathways to young people in Perth.

100% felt that the session was relevant to their professional role.

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

YEP had 407 metropolitan engagements with young people throughout their workshops. This included Curriculum and Re-Engagement in Education (CaRE) schools, universities, vocational and community schools, youth drop-in centres and youth residential services. YEP engaged with 87 regional young people; located in Geraldton and Northam. YEP participated in many community events, providing over 750 referrals to sexual health and blood borne virus (SHBBV) services in Western Australia. Events included Curtin Pride Fest, Canning Vale College Leavers Expo, City of Cockburn's Pride and Progress Ball, Dunsborough Leavers Beach Day, Youth at Risk Network (YARN) Youth Week, Cyril Jackson Harmony & Wellness Festival, Byford Youth Festival, Wanneroo Youth Centre Open Day, White Lion Youth drop in, Indie School Health Expo and many more. YEP also finalised their newly developed youth

peer leaders training package— YEP Champions. This will be piloted during the following financial year.

Impact of the work:

95% of youth participants reported an increase in their understanding and awareness of STI & BBV testing services.

94% of youth participants reported an increase in knowledge of STIs and BBVs as a result of a YEP workshop.

“It was super informative but still engaging & youth friendly. Topics that are usually really scary and uncomfortable were approached in super safe & cool ways.”

— young person

EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES & SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGNS

YEP launched 99 new educational resources, including posters, videos and social media content. The cumulative online reach (TikTok, Facebook, Instagram, and YEP Project website) this period exceeded 435,000.

YEP released two campaigns during this period: the 'Stay Bloody Safe' Blood Borne Virus Campaign and Sexual Health Week Meme Campaign. Over two campaigns, 27 resources were created (social media carousels, videos and posters) and released on social media reaching a collective of over 243,000 viewers. All campaigns were created as a response to relevant trends reported by young people and the youth sector.

SERVICE VIDEOS

YEP created promotional tour videos of SHBBV services including the sexual health clinic and Women's Wellness Centre at Desert Blue Connect in Geraldton, as well as Luma Medical Service in Joondalup. These videos captured footage of the buildings (including exterior and interior); introduced staff members; and provided youth-friendly information about what to expect from their SHBBV services, including information about confidentiality, inclusivity and access.

SUMMARY

In 2024-2025, the YEP Project empowered young people and youth sector professionals across Western Australia with inclusive, peer-led sexual health education. Through workshops, events, online campaigns, and new resources; YEP reached hundreds of thousands, increased awareness of SHBBV services, and supported organisations in creating youth-friendly, sex-positive environments.



DIGITAL ENGAGEMENT

YACWA's reach across social media and digital platforms has remained strong over this financial year, with our engagement across Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and MailChimp steadily increasing. It has been a period of stability for the Digital Engagement and Events team in terms of employment and retention, meaning our online presence and engagement has received consistent attention and effort throughout the year.

FACEBOOK REACH
102,386



Between July 2024 and June 2025, we reached over 102,000 accounts through our Facebook page.

Engagement through Facebook rose considerably during the time leading up to our FairGround Conference.

INSTAGRAM REACH
36,894



We also experienced pleasing growth in our Instagram engagement over the past financial year, reaching over 36,000 accounts.

Periods of increased reach included leading up to the 2024 WA Youth Awards, during the State and Federal Election periods, and also leading up to our FairGround Conference.

Our organisation's implementation of new Style Guidelines throughout the period has introduced a new level of professionalism and consistency into our online output.

EMAIL MARKETING
114,203 **+15.8%**

emails sent

37.4% **+4.9%**

open rate

5.7% **+132%**

click rate

0.12% **-24.2%**

unsubscribe rate

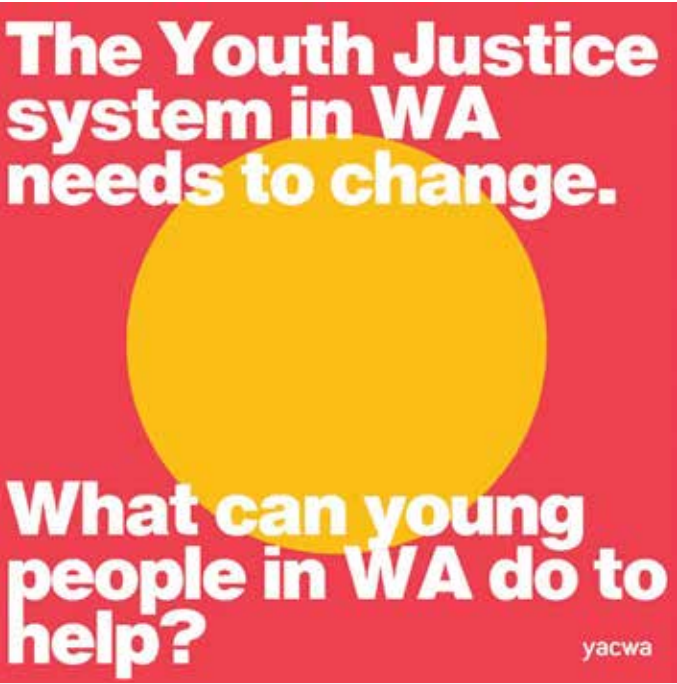
Between September 2024 and June 2025, we sent over 100,000 emails to our 2,839 subscribers.

The increase in engagement can be attributed to our consistent delivery of events and opportunities throughout the period. Our email content includes the fortnightly e-newsletter, event information, youth-related content and opportunities across the sector. Our unsubscribe rate has remained low at 0.12%.

HIGHLIGHTS



16 Days in WA
4,930 VIEWS / 66 LIKES / 46 SHARES



Coronial Inquest
3,866 VIEWS / 104 LIKES / 40 SHARES



Voting Party
4,822 VIEWS / 43 LIKES / 128 SHARES



IDAHOBIT
3,734 VIEWS / 60 LIKES / 42 SHARES

YOUTH PRIDE NETWORK

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



In 2024–25, YPN continued to amplify the voices of LGBTIQ+ young people across Western Australia through targeted advocacy, sector education, and vibrant community engagement. With a dedicated team of three staff and a passionate YPN Committee of 15 young people aged 12–25, YPN centres youth leadership, collaboration, and real impact. From statewide policy consultations to groundbreaking regional outreach and capacity-building initiatives, our work was shaped by the lived experiences and leadership of LGBTIQ+ young people.

ADVOCACY

- Delivered a statewide consultation with LGBTIQ+ young people, healthcare workers, and parents/carers to inform *State of Play: LGBTIQ+ Young People's Experiences of Healthcare in WA* and launched the report in November 2024
- Participated in the Whole-of-Government LGBTIQ+ Inclusion Strategy Reference Group
- Ran consultations for the LGBTIQ+ Inclusion Strategy in partnership with Freedom Centre, including in-person and online sessions; supported youth sector workers to conduct their own
- Delivered *In Dialogue* - a youth-led policy solution on online safety for LGBTIQ+ youth, pitched to platforms like TikTok
- Held direct meetings with key State Government stakeholders including Hon. Peter Foster MLC, Hon. Hannah Beazley MLA, Hon. Stephen Dawson MLC, the Commissioner for Children and Young People, and Hon. Dr Brad Pettitt MLC
- Participated in the Pride Intergenerational Housing Project Reference Group
- Hosted WA's first LGBTIQ+ youth policy forum: Queeries, where young people pitched solutions in housing, education, and healthcare to key decision makers in State Government
- Contributed to consultations with the Mental Health and Other Drugs Strategy, North Metro Health Service Youth Strategy and the Mental Health Commissions Step Up/Step Down
- Submissions made on the Submission to the Review of the Guardianship and Administration Act 1990 (WA) 2025 and The Anti-Bullying Rapid Review Submission 2025

EDUCATION

- Delivered 11 training sessions to teachers, educators, and youth workers across WA
- Secured three grants from local government and community organisations to deliver training programs
- Presented at key sector events including the Safe Spaces Symposium, STI & BBV Forum, SHQ Share Forum and FairGround 2025
- Launched Phase Two of the *Pride Yarns* workshop series, with recruitment underway for late 2025

"It [Queer Prom] was fantastic! It takes a lot of work to put something like that on, and I really appreciate YPN putting the work in. Most events this year [during Pride] were 18+ so it was lovely being able to go to something and meet some like-minded queer young people. Thank you!!"

— young person

COMMUNITY

- Co-hosted *Queer Prom* with Pride WA – the first youth-specific event featured in the PrideFEST program, attended by over 100 young people
- Delivered regional outreach in Port Hedland (Wear It Purple Day), Kalgoorlie (Goldfields Pride), and Albany (Albany Pride)
- Attended key youth expos and community events across metro Perth, including Curtin Guild, ECU, UWA and Murdoch O-Weeks, City of Swan Youth Week, Rockingham's GLOW Festival, and the ACCWA WA Aboriginal Youth Conference
- Ran four successful *Queer Dungeons & Dragons* community events
- Recruited four LGBTIQ+ Muslim young people to the Inclusive Eid Advisory Group and ran Inclusive Eid with over 60 attendees
- Launched *Mob Made* – a creative workshop series for LGBTIQ+ First Nations young people



YOUTH HOMELESSNESS ADVISORY COUNCIL



The Youth Homelessness Advisory Council (YHAC) is a youth-led advocacy group for young people with lived experience of homelessness, creating positive change for young people through their work with the sector, community and government.

As the leading advisory body for youth homelessness, the YHAC team leveraged their lived experiences and worked collaboratively with the sector to create meaningful change for young people experiencing homelessness.



ADVOCACY AND STRATEGY

The YHAC team was involved in various pieces of advocacy work on youth homelessness, including:

- Working with Passages Youth Engagement Hub to develop tools for frontline workers to measure young people's adverse experiences and the barriers they face trying to access accommodation.
- Meeting with the Office of Homelessness on their Action Plan 2025 – 2030 for the State Government's 10-Year Homelessness Strategy.
- Providing insight to the Commissioner for Children and Young People to align their priority statements on youth justice and health and mental health with the needs of young people.
- Contributing to the international recognition of, and solutions proposed to address, the impacts of homelessness and poverty for young people by consulting an Australian representative for the Y20 Summit
- Ensuring mental health services meet the needs of some of WA's most vulnerable young people by providing insights to North Metro Mental Health's five year strategy and the design of the Mental Health Commission's Step-Up Step-Down service for youth.



LIVED EXPERIENCE STORYTELLING

YHAC participated in a number of panel discussions, media appearances, and lived experience events:

- Hosted their first lived experience storytelling event, No Place Like Home: Young People's Stories of Life Without It, for Homelessness Week 2024.
- Were invited to share their lived experiences on eight panel discussions, including speaking at FairGround, the National Homelessness Conference, Shelter WA Homelessness Week 2024 events, and various sector conferences and events.
- Featured in interviews with ABC Radio Perth, RTRFM, and 7 News, where YHAC members shared their lived experiences and advocated for change.
- Collaborated with Shelter WA on a video in their Lived Experience Stories series for Homelessness Week 2024

80% of respondents reported an increased awareness on youth homelessness issues.

80% of respondents were very inspired to make changes to how they work with young people.

100% of respondents felt more equipped to engage with young people about homelessness topics.

90% of respondents agreed that the presentations and panel discussion increased the diversity of their understanding on the topic of youth homelessness.

"Young people who presented were engaging, articulate and great storytellers. Great critical thinkers who provided great insight but also solutions. Will be going back to my organisation to discuss how we can engage."

— Member of the sector, No Place Like Home event

EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

The YHAC team created 19 resources to help young people experiencing homelessness, and educate the youth sector and broader community:

- YHAC's Rental Rights campaign, educating young people about their rights when renting.
- Creating a series of social media Reels for Youth Homelessness Matters Day.
- Infographics covering key youth homelessness issues, including service measurement tools and available support services.
- Collaborating with YACWA's Voting Party campaign on a post about ways young people experiencing homelessness can enrol to vote and participate in the 2025 State and Federal elections.

SECTOR ENGAGEMENT

The YHAC team engaged with the youth homelessness sector in various ways, including:

- Holding lived-experience Service Reviews for DAYS, Horizon House, Street Connect, and YASS.
- Participated in key sector networking groups, including the Youth Improvement Team, the Child and Youth Homelessness Project meetings, and the WAAEH Steering Committee.

100% of services valued the perspectives and insights from young people with lived experience.

100% of services found that YHAC's feedback gave them a better understanding of the needs and experiences of the young people they are engaging with.

"Your service review is an important tool to give young people the opportunity to share their perspectives. Not only because it teaches us how to do better, but it's empowering for the young people. This service review gives young people a voice, and it gives a voice to all the young people engaging with our service."

— Program Coordinator

Additionally, YHAC were finalists for The Y WA Collective Action Award for the 2024 WA Youth Awards.

MULTICULTURAL YOUTH ADVOCACY NETWORK WA

Thanks to short-term project funding from the Centre for Multicultural Youth and the Department of Health Victoria, YACWA successfully re-established a MYAN branch in Western Australia.

Following a transition phase, a Project Support Officer (PSO) was appointed — significantly, a former Catalyst youth delegate — bringing both lived experience and leadership to the role.

RE-ESTABLISHING PRESENCE IN WA

MYAN WA renewed its role as a vital voice for young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds. Building on past initiatives such as the Catalyst Youth Summit and Seat at the Table, we sent a strong message to the community: “We are here, we hear you, and we are ready to work with you.”

HEALTH PROMOTION

In collaboration with MYAN Australia, MYAN WA promoted national health campaigns on breast, bowel, and cervical cancer screening, as well as vaping harm reduction. We partnered with the Cancer Council WA’s Clear the Air Project, delivering professional development to frontline workers and supporting CALD health initiatives, including a workshop on bowel cancer to improve health literacy and reduce stigma.



COMMUNITY AND INCLUSION

MYAN WA co-hosted an Inclusive Eid celebration with the Youth Pride Network and Youth Disability Advocacy Network. Led by queer Muslim young people, the event created a safe and affirming space for intersectional identities.



CAPACITY BUILDING

Staff received train-the-trainer accreditation in the National Youth Settlement Framework (NYSF), enabling us to expand training capacity across WA. MYAN WA also welcomed an Assistant PSO, transitioning from a student placement into a casual employment role, building future leadership pathways.



SECTOR ENGAGEMENT AND PARTNERSHIPS

MYAN WA strengthened collaborations with the City of Stirling, the Youth Australian League’s 120th anniversary, and the Settlement Engagement Transition Support (SETS) Coordination group. We also became an active member of the WA Refugee Health Advisory Council, contributing youth-specific perspectives to health service planning.

YOUTH LEADERSHIP

Two WA delegates were supported to attend the FUSE Youth Summit in Canberra. With preparation and mentoring, both delegates successfully pitched in Parliament House, demonstrating the strength and potential of WA’s multicultural youth leaders.



COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH

MYAN WA grew its digital presence, with increasing engagement across social media platforms, ensuring young people and stakeholders remain connected and informed.

POLICY AND ADVOCACY

At the launch of MYAN Australia’s National Policy Alliance (NPA) in Melbourne, MYAN WA joined peers across Australia to set national advocacy priorities. Locally, MYAN WA convened the first WA NPA Chapter with nine sector members, addressing top policy issues: racism in schools, family violence, and youth settlement. These priorities will inform national advocacy efforts.

CONCLUSION

In just 12 months, MYAN WA has re-established a strong presence in Western Australia, built vital partnerships, advanced health promotion, and empowered young leaders. These achievements lay a strong foundation for ongoing advocacy and service development to ensure refugee and migrant young people are supported, included, and heard across WA.

ALL IT TAKES PROJECT

In October 2024, YACWA launched the All It Takes (AIT) Project, a primary prevention pilot aimed at reducing Family and Intimate Partner Violence (FIPV) through youth-led peer education.

Designed for young people, by young people, AIT will deliver content across TikTok, Instagram and in-person workshops, alongside resources to support healthier, safer relationships for young people.

Alongside youth education, the project will develop resources and training for youth workers, strengthening their capacity to support young people around the gendered drivers of violence, healthy relationships, consent, and harm reduction.

RECRUITMENT

As YACWA's first project of this kind, recruitment prioritised individuality over professional experience, ensuring diverse perspectives, values, and attitudes. All staff are under 27, with backgrounds spanning youth work, hospitality, social work, tattoo artistry, and sexology, as well as diverse cultural and lived experiences. Four Peer Educators bring unique strengths and creativity, guided by a Senior Peer Educator and Coordinator with youth leadership experiences.

CO-DESIGN

To be effective, prevention education must reflect its audience. Our Youth Reference Group (YRG)—12 young people aged 16–25—were selected for their passion for FIPV prevention and their unique experiences. The YRG helped shape content, to ensure it is youth-friendly, inclusive, and engaging.

Each meeting involved reviewing activities, resources or branding, and offered critical feedback to strengthen outcomes. This was further guided by staff and sector experts to ensure content was inclusive and representative.

DEVELOPMENT

The All It Takes Project will deliver prevention education through:

- Social media content and campaigns: trend-based content and longer-form education content
- Educational youth workshops (stand-alone or series)
- Professional development workshops
- Printed resources for youth spaces
- Online resources

This information was presented for the first time at YACWA's FairGround Conference.

This financial year the project was in its 'development stage' with community engagement to commence the following financial year.



OUR PEOPLE



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Sal Cleveray (*Chairperson*)
- Celeste Astorino (*Vice Chairperson*)
- Clare Grealay (*Treasurer*)
- Shelley Micale (*Secretary*)
- Naomi Blitz (*Under 26*)
- Jasmin Ely (*Under 26*)
- Craig Webster

OUTGOING BOARD DIRECTORS

- Jordan Wright (*July 2024*)
- Sharon Gough (*Feb 2025*)
- Jill Downard (*April 2025*)

LIFE MEMBERS

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

GOVERNANCE & RISK COMMITTEE

- Sal Cleveray (*Chairperson*)
- Naomi Blitz
- Shelley Micale (*from March 2025*)
- Jasmine Ely (*from March 2025*)
- Sharon Gough (*until Feb 2025*)
- Jill Downard (*until April 2025*)

FINANCE & SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

- Clare Grealay (*Chairperson*)
- Craig Webster
- Celeste Astorino
- Jasmine Ely (*from March 2025*)

CHILD SAFE, YOUTH SAFE COMMITTEE

- Naomi Blitz (*Chairperson*)
- Sal Cleveray
- Jasmine Ely (*from March 2025*)
- Shelley Micale (*from March 2025*)
- Arbie Pattiselano (*until Dec 2024*)
- Jill Downard (*until April 2025*)

Note: CEO role is ex-Officio on all Board Committees. The Finance Manager is ex-Officio on the Finance & Sustainability Committee

YACWA STAFF

- | | | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
| • Abbi Hammond | • Emily Sullivan | • Kim Schroeder | • Sandy McKiernan |
| • Adelaide Williams | • Ethan Holmen | • Kylie Wallace | • Songul Gozuacik |
| • Alicia Keenan | • Gaurav Singh | • Lianda Gibson | • Sulayman Adams |
| • Antonella Segre | • Jack Meakins | • Lochlan Page | • TC Archer |
| • Bella Jia | • Jake De Visser | • Lorna Geraghty | • Tia Hutchins |
| • Brooke Dalton | • Julian Grony | • Matilda Griffiths | • Tobias Findlay-Abel |
| • Caitlan Hohneck | • Katie Berry | • Matthew Clancy | • Troy Wood |
| • Caitlin Eaton | • Kalpesh Tewani | • MJ Anderson-Hyde | • Tyesha Shelton |
| • Chloe Clements | • Reece Davis | • Michele Petty | • Willow Wessling Machin |
| • Claudia Bedford | • Kassandra Boladeras | • Mikaela Kerwin | • Yurika Oktaviana |
| • Claudia Carles | • Katie Russell | • Minh Hoang | • Zoe Sullivan |
| • Eli Van Stam | • Kaya Caterer | • Morgan Leaman | |

FINANCES

TREASURER’S REPORT

I am pleased to present the financial statements for the Youth Affairs Council of WA (YACWA) for the period ending June 2025.

This report should be read in conjunction with the 2024–2025 Financial Statements. The accounts, audited by Francis A Jones Pty Ltd, are included in this Annual Report.

In the 2024–2025 financial year, YACWA recorded total income of \$2,321,282, compared to \$2,849,772 in the previous financial year. The decrease largely relates to the one-off grant recognition in 2023–2024 of the Lotterywest Office Fit-Out and Relocation Grant, which contributed significantly to income last year.

YACWA’s principal sources of funding remained consistent, with significant support from the Department of Communities, the Department of Health, and Lotterywest. Supplementary income was generated through the Fairground Conference, WA Youth Awards, membership contributions, and advisory services. We sincerely thank all our funders, event sponsors and partners for their ongoing confidence and commitment to YACWA’s work and programs. YACWA’s Advisory Team continues to provide valuable services to various Local Governments and other organisations like Australian Childhood Foundation and Mental Health Commission.

Total expenditure for the year was \$2,341,221, broadly consistent with the prior year’s operating levels. The key expenditure areas continued to be employee costs (65%), sector-wide events and activities, and administrative operations associated with delivering our strategic goals.

The financial year closed with a modest deficit of \$19,939, following last year’s surplus of \$266,018. This outcome was expected, as the prior year included recognition of a significant non-recurring grant for office fit-out while the related depreciation and lease costs (which are non-cash items) will continue to be expensed over the coming years. This timing difference has been noted in the 2024-2025 Financial Statements and was also highlighted in the 2023-2024 Financial Statements.

YACWA remains in a strong financial position, with total equity of \$686,394 as at 30 June 2025 (compared to \$706,333 in 2024). Cash and cash equivalents remained healthy at \$872,540, reflecting prudent financial management and a continued focus on financial sustainability. The organisation remains financially sound and well positioned to meet its commitments. The extension of YACWA’s core funding agreement with the Department of Communities through to 30 June 2026 provides ongoing stability to continue supporting young people and the youth sector across Western Australia.

I would like to extend my gratitude to Interim CEO Kylie Wallace, former Finance Manager Gaurav Singh, current Finance Manager Kal Tewani, and the members of the Finance Committee for their diligent oversight and commitment to sound financial governance. My thanks also go to the dedicated YACWA team, whose work continues to strengthen relationships and partnerships in support of young people in our community.

CLARE GREALY Treasurer

STATEMENTS

*for the year ended 30 June 2025

Statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income.*

	2025 (\$)	2024 (\$)
INCOME		
Conference and Other Income	573,243	478,570
Grant and Service Income	1,690,672	2,329,885
Interest	28,919	21,302
Insurance Claims Received	11,250	-
Membership Income	17,198	20,015
Total Income	2,321,282	2,849,772

EXPENDITURE		
Administration and Other Costs	95,080	81,779
Depreciation	82,406	43,687
Employment Costs	1,518,992	1,527,403
Events and Activities	458,299	740,741
Finance and Insurance Costs	50,254	42,968
Occupancy	64,184	101,961
Vehicle and Travel Expenses	72,006	45,215
Total Expenditure	2,341,221	2,583,754
Profit/(Loss) before Income Taxes	(19,939)	266,018
Income Tax	-	-
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME/(LOSS) FOR THE YEAR	(19,939)	266,018

Statement of financial position.*

	2025 (\$)	2024 (\$)
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	872,540	1,137,307
Trade and Other Receivables	141,743	16,326
Prepayments	52,376	48,585
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	1,066,659	1,202,218
Non-Current Assets		
Property, Plant and Equipment	273,837	307,337
Right-of-Use Assets	336,825	375,882
Rental Deposit	-	6,106
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS	610,662	689,325
TOTAL ASSETS	1,677,321	1,891,543
LIABILITIES		
Current Liabilities		
Trade and Other Payables	151,528	148,272
Employee Provisions	111,454	162,146
Project Funds Received in Advance	365,631	481,642
Lease Liabilites	29,945	33,785
Membership Paid in Advance	8,091	11,871
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	666,649	837,716
Non-Current Liabilities		
Lease Liabilities	324,278	347,494
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES	324,278	347,494
TOTAL LIABILITIES	990,927	1,185,210
NET ASSETS	686,394	706,333
EQUITY		
Retained Earnings	686,394	706,333
TOTAL EQUITY	686,394	706,333

Statement of changes in equity.*

	RETAINED EARNINGS (\$)	TOTAL (\$)
2025		
Balance at 1 July 2024	706,333	706,333
Profit/(Loss) for the year	(19,939)	(19,939)
Balance at 30 June 2025	686,394	686,394
2024		
Balance at 1 July 2023	440,315	440,315
Profit/(Loss) for the year	266,018	266,018
Balance at 30 June 2024	706,333	706,333

DIRECTORS DECLARATION

The Directors have determined that Youth Affairs Council of WA Inc. is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 2 to the financial statements.

The Directors declare that:

1. The financial statements and notes as set out present a true and fair view of the Youth Affairs Council of Western Australia Inc financial position as at 30 June 2025 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 2 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.



SAL CLEVERAY Chairperson



CLARE GREALY Treasurer

Dated this day: 15/10/2025



