

2024-2025 PRE-BUDGET SUBMISSION

Youth Affairs Council
of Western Australia
Executive Summary

Our Vision

We believe in a Western Australia in which all young people are valued and supported to reach their greatest potential. The 16 recommendations in this submission outline a pathway towards this vision based on the current needs of young people and the youth sector in WA.

Our sector and members call on Government to resource pathways towards healthy and fulfilling futures for all young people in WA, prioritising support for the most vulnerable. Government must address the systemic marginalisation of young people through meaningful change and intentional resourcing based on the solutions provided by the sector. With an expected operating surplus of \$3.3 billion this financial year, the Cook Government is in a strong position to achieve this in its 2024-25 State Budget.

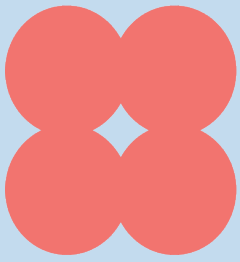
Our focus

Four interconnected themes emerged in our consultation process with members and young people this year:

Safety
Support
Access &
Approach



We urge government to implement the following recommendations:



Theme 1: Safety

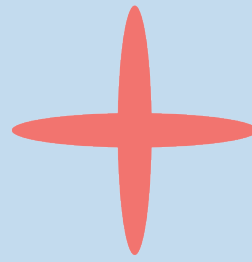
Recommendation 1: Invest urgently in addressing the impact of family and domestic violence on young people in Western Australia.

Recommendation 2: Commit to rolling out the Housing First for Youth model to support young people at risk of homelessness in WA.

Recommendation 3: Resource the establishment of a prevention-focussed service based on the Ruby's model in WA to support young people at risk of homelessness.

Recommendation 4: Create more housing options for young people by increasing WA's community housing stock in line with Shelter WA's Social Housing Policy Position.

Recommendation 5: Invest in creating safety for all LGBTIQ+ young people living in WA through a whole-of-government LGBTIQ+ inclusion strategy.



Theme 2: Support

Recommendation 6: Address the impacts of climate change on youth mental health.

Recommendation 7: Introduce evidence-based climate change legislation in WA that prioritises the futures of young people.

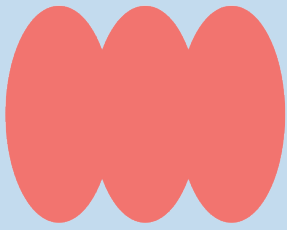
Recommendation 8: Improve mental health services for young people living in regional WA, with an emphasis on preventative care and early intervention.

Recommendation 9: Resource the prevention of youth suicide across WA.

Recommendation 10: Create transformational, life saving youth justice reform by implementing all 17 recommendations within SRWA's Blueprint for a Better Future: Paving the Way for Youth Justice Reform in WA report.

Recommendation 11: Commit to supporting the wellbeing of all young Aboriginal people living in WA through community-led, co-designed support.

We urge government to implement the following recommendations:

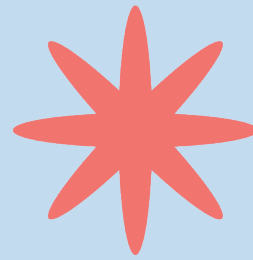


Theme 3: Access

Recommendation 12: Increase support for young people with disability in WA.

Recommendation 13: Provide cost-of-living relief for young people in WA.

Recommendation 14: Invest in Western Australia's care economy.



Theme 4: Approach

Recommendation 15: Transition to whole-of-government approaches to supporting young people to ensure that no young person is left behind.

Recommendation 16: Provide structural support to a world-class youth sector in WA by addressing the chronic under-indexation of community services and implementing the State Commissioning Strategy.



We hold a vision of a Western Australia in which:

- 1.** All young people in WA experience emotional, physical and cultural **safety**;
- 2.** All young people experience consistent **support** from a network of connections including parents and/or carers, schools, employers, service providers and all levels of government;
- 3.** All young people have **access** to the relationships, resources, spaces and opportunities that they need to live a fulfilling life; and
- 4.** The **approach** of Government is adapted to create better outcomes for young people in Western Australia.

The key issues currently impacting young people in Western Australia that Government must address in the 2024-25 Budget are:

- **Family and domestic violence**
- **Housing and homelessness**
- **Mental health**
- **Youth Justice**
- **Lack of regional services/ supports for young people**
- **Climate Change**

Acknowledgment of Country

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.

ABOUT YACWA

The Youth Affairs Council of Western Australia (YACWA) is the peak body for young people and the youth sector that supports them in Western Australia. YACWA operates primarily as a human rights organisation that seeks to address the exclusion of young people in a rapidly changing society. YACWA represents around 60 youth sector organisations and 418 individual members, including both young people and compassionate community members.

PRODUCED BY

The authors sincerely thank the youth sector and our members for their invaluable time and input into this submission.

This submission was produced by Claudia Carles and Thomas Pearce with assistance from Sandy McKiernan, Olivia Knowles, Ashara Wills and Cheyanne Henderson-Watkins.

Graphic design by Hannah Coakley.

OUR CONSULTATION PROCESS

- 1 x Member workshop
- 1 x Member survey
- 12 Consultations with individual organisations
- Regional travel

