Youth Focus



2025-2026 ANNUAL REPORT

youthfocus.com.au

Everyone is welcome at Youth Focus

Youth Focus acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Western Australia and their connections to land, sea and community. We pay our respect to Elders past and present and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

We are committed to ensuring every individual who interacts with us feels safe and is able to bring their whole selves, being welcomed with equity, dignity and respect. In doing so, we understand that we must first include, listen and reflect in order to build trust, connect and partner.

We celebrate individuality and are guided by the stories and journeys of the communities in which we live and work.



Illustrations by Bethany

Bethany is an illustrator and graphic designer based in Perth, WA. With a love for playful storytelling, she brings illustrations to life with hand-drawn details, creating work that feels vibrant and expressive.

Quotes from young people and staff featured throughout this annual report are drawn from client surveys, feedback forms and interviews conducted in 2025-26. All quotes are presented anonymously to respect privacy.

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CEO and Chair Message

It has been an incredible twelve months for Youth Focus. Following three years of thoughtful planning and deliberate decision-making to expand our reach and evolve our services, we are beginning to see our vision take shape. We are making meaningful progress towards a world where a young person's mental health does not stand in the way of becoming who they want to be, and where every young person has the opportunity, support and confidence to realise their potential.

This year, we've brought to life a number of significant projects that have been years in the making. A key focus has been creating the spaces and infrastructure needed to support our continued growth, providing a strong foundation from which to expand and evolve our services and reach more young people who need our support.

Our Geraldton Youth Mental Health Hub was completed in late 2025, bringing together our headspace Geraldton and Youth Focus Midwest teams with MOST, WAAC, Helping Minds and STAY Hub, with Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) to move in in 2027. Relocating an entire service and building a new co-located space is not an easy thing to do, and we were able to transition between spaces with only minimal impact on the young people we support in the region. We are incredibly grateful to our teams in Geraldton, the local building companies, and the young people and their families for their support during this period.

After more than a decade of working in the Southwest region, we opened headspace Manjimup in July 2026, just after this reporting period. The support we have received from the local community in establishing the centre has been outstanding, and this new centre will deliver services to young people across the Warren-Blackwood region that just haven't been available on this level before. Our special thanks go to the headspace Manjimup Consortium who advocated for years for the need for a centre, and who provided such valuable insight and expertise during the establishment stage.

We've also been planning what our service might look like when we co-locate to a purpose-built facility in Dalyellup with Foodbank WA and Financial Wellbeing Collective in early 2027.



OUR NEW APPROACH TO INTAKE MEANS THAT WE CAN PROVIDE SUPPORT TO A YOUNG PERSON SOONER, SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCING THE WAIT TIMES AND INCREASING THE NUMBER OF YOUNG PEOPLE WE CAN SUPPORT.



Image: CEO Derry Simpson and Board Chair Rod Jones

Over the past year, we have gone from the planning to completion of Perth's first Youth Mental Health Hub at 28 Troode Street, West Perth. Thanks to our transformational partners – Lotterywest, The Channel 7 Telethon Trust and The Stan Perron Charitable Foundation – we have been able to create a place where young people can feel safe and supported, where services are seamless and where there is no wrong door. We are incredibly proud of what has been created, and by the time this goes to print, we will have welcomed our first clients to the Perth Youth Mental Health Hub. Through the centre, we will be providing wrap-around support, making services more accessible, and encouraging greater collaboration and sharing of knowledge and expertise across service providers. We believe this new approach will change how mental health services are delivered for young people, now and for generations to come.

Alongside building safe and accessible spaces, we've also looked at how our services are delivered to ensure that we can continue to support young people in the best way we can. This has included reviewing our intake process at our Perth and Geraldton sites. Our new approach to intake means that we can provide support to a young person sooner, significantly reducing the wait times and increasing the number of young people we can support.

Our commitment to continually growing and evolving our services and approach is a consistent theme throughout this annual report. Every step we take is guided by a deliberate focus on ensuring our services are high-quality, safe and responsive to the needs of the young people we support, while extending our reach so that more young people can access support within their own communities.

We haven't achieved this alone. We are privileged to work alongside an incredible network of people and organisations in the communities where we live and work. From the young people and families we support, Aboriginal Elders and communities, sector partners, schools and government, to our passionate Hawaiian Ride for Youth community and generous philanthropic and corporate supporters, each plays a valued role in helping us realise our vision.

These relationships are built on trust and a shared purpose and commitment to improving the mental health and wellbeing of young people. We are incredibly proud of what we have achieved together over the past year, and deeply grateful to everyone who continues to walk alongside us, contributing their time, expertise, generosity and belief in what is possible for young people.

It goes without saying that the progress and achievements outlined in this report would not have been possible without the commitment, expertise and passion of our people. We are truly thankful to each of our 172 staff for all they have brought to their work during the past year.

Our workforce has grown considerably over recent years, as have the ways in which our people work. While many of our people are based in one of our nine centres across the State, a large number also spend their days working in communities and schools, often travelling long distances to meet young people where they are.

This year has seen additional demands on our people, with significant projects being introduced and delivered across a number of our sites. We are particularly grateful to the teams who have gone above and beyond to bring these initiatives to life, balancing the additional demands of this work alongside their ongoing roles and responsibilities. Their commitment, flexibility and dedication have been instrumental in making these projects a reality.

IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING THAT THE PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENTS OUTLINED IN THIS REPORT WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE WITHOUT THE COMMITMENT, EXPERTISE AND PASSION OF OUR PEOPLE. WE ARE TRULY THANKFUL TO EACH OF OUR 172 STAFF FOR ALL THEY HAVE BROUGHT TO THEIR WORK DURING THE PAST YEAR.

A special mention to our Executive Leadership Team, who have carried an extraordinary amount of additional responsibility and capacity over the past twelve months. We have admired and respected the way they have championed and led these projects, and done so with kindness and grace.

Our Board of Directors has also played a pivotal role in guiding us through this period of growth and transformation. We are immensely proud of and grateful for their ongoing support and expertise in helping us shape and deliver a new approach to youth mental health services. Towards the end of the financial year, we welcomed two new Directors – Dr Lesley Bennett and Alex Nicol. Their extensive experience working in the youth mental health sector in WA will further strengthen the capacity of our Board.

As we look ahead, it is clear that the work we have undertaken over the past year, indeed the past three years, has created the building blocks we need to turn our ambitions into reality. While there is still more to do, we are entering this next chapter with greater clarity, capability and confidence, well positioned to build on the progress we have made and seize the opportunities ahead. The focus now is on bringing these elements together, building momentum and translating the work of today into meaningful, lasting impact.

Derry Simpson
CEO, Youth Focus

Rod Jones
Chair, Board of Directors, Youth Focus



Image: Board Director Dr Peter Wynn Owen and CEO Derry Simpson with Health Minister the Hon Meredith Hammat outside our new Perth Youth Mental Health Hub

Our People

ONE OF THE GREATEST STRENGTHS OF YOUTH FOCUS IS OUR PEOPLE.

Our Values

Compassion

WE SHOW HEART

We are passionate about our cause and commitment to the wellbeing of our clients, teammates, and communities.

Dynamic

WE ARE DYNAMIC

We are adaptable, open to change and evolution, holding focus on our work through the transitions we face.

Quality

WE HAVE A REAL, MEANINGFUL IMPACT

We remain focused on our organisation's purpose. It drives us to be and do our best.

Collaboration

WE COLLABORATE

We are motivated towards a common goal knowing that ordinary people can do extraordinary things when they work together.

Integrity

WE CAN BE COUNTED ON

We are clear, honest, and authentic when we communicate. Those around us have trust and confidence in who we are and what we do.



Image: The lift in the Geraldton Youth Mental Health Hub painted by Phil and Beau

One of the greatest strengths of Youth Focus is our people. Our people are passionate, experienced and driven to make a difference. Through their roles and capacity, they are advocates, changemakers and leaders – personifying our purpose of championing the mental health needs of young people in WA.

A year of building together towards something bright

Over the past twelve months, the foundations we've built over previous years across our sites and systems have started to translate into real momentum.

There have been some big projects cross the finish line. In late 2025, we completed the new Geraldton Youth Mental Health Hub, which involved relocating the headspace Geraldton team twice while refurbishment works were completed, recruiting for the new YES Program and outreach roles, and managing the co-location with other external service providers.

With the establishment of headspace Manjimup, we recruited an entire team over a six-month period. There has also been significant recruitment and transition planning this year ahead of our move to our new Perth Youth Mental Health Hub in late 2026.

We have witnessed and appreciated the resilience and strength of our people as they have taken the continuous change in their stride, and as part of this journey are growing with us.

With teams now across nine very different locations and communities, we continue to focus on strengthening the way we support our people, including how we leverage the varied skillsets of our people and invest in our culture. Collaboration is a key part of how we do this.



Albany team at the 2025 Mad Hatter Tea Party, official launch event for WA Mental Health Week

We're growing – and supporting our people to grow.

Our workforce grew for another consecutive year, reaching 172 people in June 2026 – a 38% increase in three years (14% growth in the last 12 months). This year there were 33 internal appointment/promotion opportunities allowing our staff to 'step-up' in both short-term and permanent opportunities. At the same time, the proportion of people with more than four years' tenure continues to rise, from 25% two years ago to over 33% today.

Our people continue to tell us they feel positive about where they work.

Our staff survey showed strong levels of satisfaction and belonging, with 90% saying people in their team treat each other with respect, 89% satisfied with their job and 84% saying they have the flexibility they need to balance work and other commitments. Once again, we were proudly identified as an Inclusive Employer by the Diversity Council of Australia.

Our workforce continues to reflect a rich diversity of backgrounds, experiences and perspectives.

In 2025, 27% of our people identified as having a disability, 26% as LGBTQIA+, 50% as carers and 26% were under 30 – all higher than survey results two years prior and significantly above comparable not-for-profit workforce benchmarks.

78%
LEADERSHIP POSITIONS ARE HELD BY WOMEN



Youth Focus Burswood team at the 2025 Walk for Reconciliation

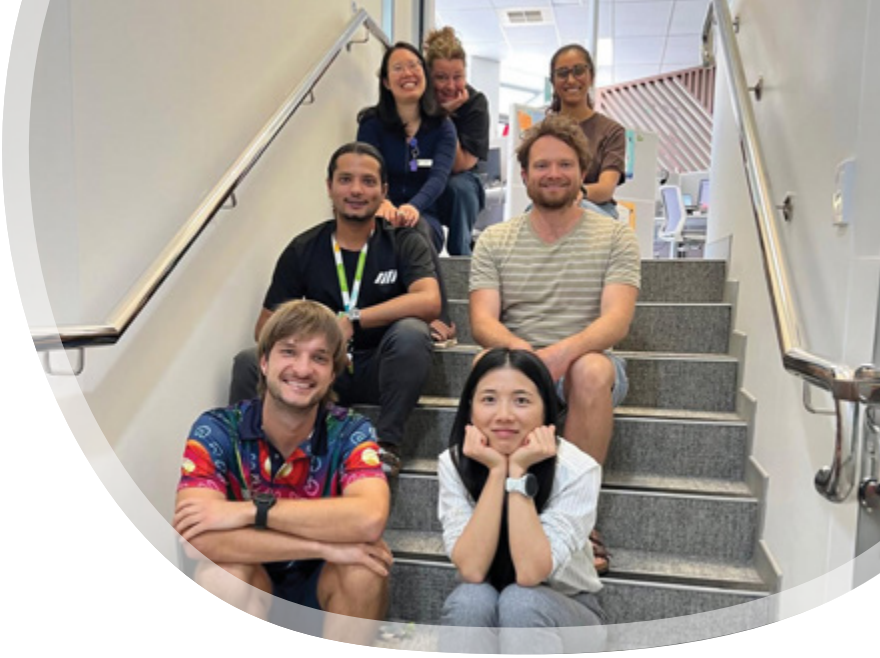


Image: Some of our Great Southern team who support young people in Albany

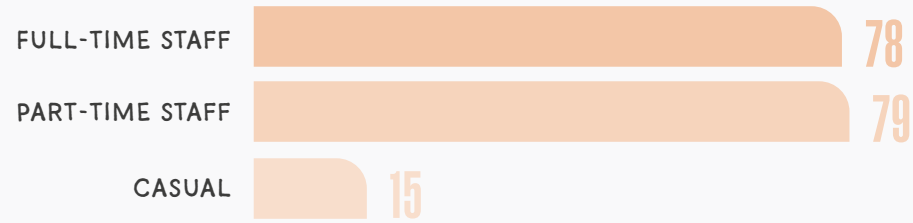
We continued to strengthen our people practices through equitable pay, good policy and good partnerships.

This year, we:

- Reached a significant milestone in our gender pay journey thanks to ongoing investment in equity efforts, achieving pay equity across all categories, with a gender pay gap of just 0.1%.
- Launched a new Code of Conduct and Diversity and Inclusion Policy that better reflects who we are today.
- Transitioned to a new Employee Assistance Provider, bringing employee and manager support together through a more accessible, holistic model and single point of entry application.
- Launched a cross-organisational working group to shape the future of cultural learning, ensuring this work continues to be guided by the people and perspectives across our organisation.

About Our People

172 STAFF



26% UNDER THE AGE OF 30

26% IDENTIFY AS LGBTQIA+

3% FIRST NATIONS PEOPLES

36% LIVE IN REGIONAL AND REMOTE WA

27% LIVE WITH A DISABILITY

23% MULTILINGUAL

32% BORN OVERSEAS

50% HAVE CARING RESPONSIBILITIES

Our Services

SUPPORTING YOUNG PEOPLE TO BE WHO THEY ARE

Our Purpose

Trusted to champion the mental health needs of young people in WA, supporting them to thrive in their community.

Our Vision

A world where a young person's mental health does not get in the way of them being who they want to be.

"I'VE LEARNT THAT WITH THE RIGHT GUIDANCE, SUPPORT, TIME AND PATIENCE, THERE IS LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL, FEELINGS AND EMOTIONS CAN BE AMPLIFIED WHEN YOU'RE FEELING LOST, BUT IT IS NEVER THE END OF THE WORLD."

Young Person



3,794
YOUNG PEOPLE SUPPORTED

21,581
SESSIONS

67
SCHOOLS WE SUPPORTED WITH COUNSELLING SERVICES

We understand that every young person's journey is different, and so are their needs.

We work with each young person to ensure they feel in control of their mental health journey and focus on what they want to achieve. Our range of professional, safe and confidential services for young people are delivered by qualified mental health professionals, and include:

- Counselling – at our locations, online, in schools, and in community
- Work & Study Support
- Group programs
- Mentoring
- Mental health education programs, such as Mental Notes, for students, families, teachers and community groups
- Community engagement, including participating in events, expos and initiatives at schools and in the community
- headspace Early Psychosis Support
- Eating disorders program
- Postvention supports in communities following suicides and other crises.

MANY OF OUR SERVICES FOCUS ON EARLY INTERVENTION. BY WORKING WITH YOUNG PEOPLE AT THE BEGINNING OF THEIR MENTAL HEALTH JOURNEY, WHEN THINGS DON'T FEEL QUITE RIGHT, WE CAN REDUCE THE LIKELIHOOD OF A MENTAL HEALTH CHALLENGE DEVELOPING INTO A BIGGER, LONG-TERM PROBLEM.



Work & Study Support

169
YOUNG PEOPLE SUPPORTED

61
YOUNG PEOPLE SECURED EMPLOYMENT

25
YOUNG PEOPLE STARTED STUDY

headspace Early Psychosis Support

90
YOUNG PEOPLE SUPPORTED

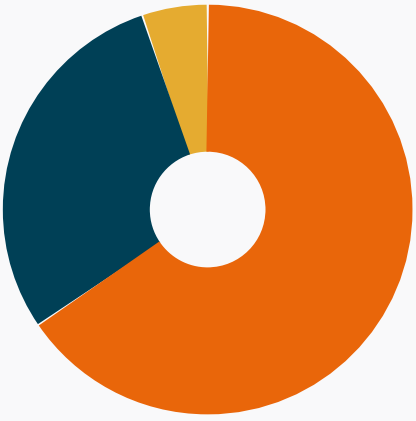
3,599
SESSIONS

Mental Health Education

5,197
PEOPLE PARTICIPATED

52
SESSIONS

About the Young People We Support



59% FEMALE

27% MALE

5% GENDER DIVERSE

19% LGBTQIA+

11% FIRST NATIONS PEOPLES

42% LIVE IN PERTH METRO AREA

53% LIVE IN REGIONAL AND REMOTE WA

"I HAVE LEARNT THAT MY MENTAL HEALTH CHALLENGES DON'T MAKE ME WHO I AM AND I AM CAPABLE OF MANY OTHER THINGS."

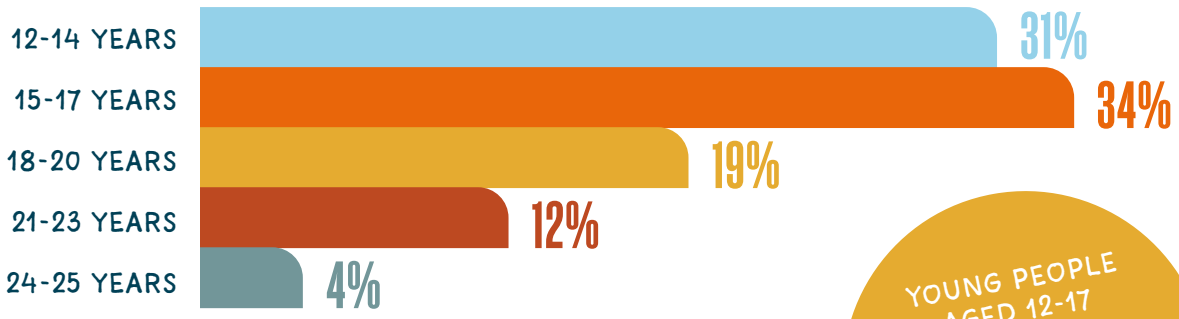
Young Person

Most Common Reasons Young People Access Our Services

- Anxiety
- Emotional regulation
- Depression
- Family conflict
- Body image or disordered eating
- Stress
- Suicidal thoughts or behaviour
- Anger issues
- Adjustment disorder



Average Age of Clients



YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 12-17 MAKE UP **65%** OF OUR CLIENTS.

Note: 1% of clients are aged under 12 years or over 25 years

Our Strategic Pillars

ACHIEVING WHAT WE'VE SET OUT TO DO

Our Strategic Pillars help guide what we do and how we do it. They keep us focused on what matters most, shape our decisions and ensure our day-to-day work supports our bigger goals.

This section provides an overview of some of the ways in which we have delivered against our Strategic Pillars over the past financial year, and demonstrates how we are progressing against the objectives we set out to achieve in our 2023–2026 Strategic Plan.

- IMPACT
- ACCESSIBILITY
- PARTNERSHIPS
- SUSTAINABILITY

"EVERY YOUNG PERSON HAS A STORY, STRENGTHS AND POTENTIAL, AND I AM GRATEFUL TO BE PART OF A TEAM THAT HELPS THEM RECOGNISE THOSE THINGS IN THEMSELVES. THE PRIVILEGE OF WALKING ALONGSIDE YOUNG PEOPLE AS THEY NAVIGATE LIFE CHALLENGES AND CHANGE IS WHAT I LOVE MOST ABOUT WORKING AT YOUTH FOCUS."

Youth Counsellor



headspace Northam's 'Smash the Stigma' community activation



Celebrating NAIDOC Week
with the Northam community

"I HAVE LEARNT THAT IT'S OKAY TO FEEL EMOTIONS AND ASK FOR HELP PROCESSING THEM."

Young Person

IMPACT

WE WILL MAKE A MEASURABLE DIFFERENCE. WE ARE COMMITTED TO DEMONSTRATING THE CREDIBILITY, VALUE AND MEANINGFUL IMPACT OF OUR SERVICES.

We want to have impact and ensure that what we are doing, and how we are doing it, makes a difference, not only for the young people we support and their families and the communities in which we work, but that our approach also takes steps towards improving the way youth mental health services are developed and delivered across the sector.

In 2025, we introduced our Outcome and Impact Model to measure and evaluate how well we are tracking against our vision that a young person's mental health doesn't get in the way of them being who they want to be. This will be the first full year we have been able to report against some of the measures in our Outcome and Impact Model, as can be seen in the data provided on these pages. This annual collection and evaluation of data will help us build our evidence base, allowing us to track our impact over consecutive years.

Mental Notes

48 SESSIONS TO **5,012** STUDENTS

3 SESSIONS TO **85** TEACHERS

1 SESSION TO **100** CARERS

In measuring the impact of our services, the data only tells part of the story. What 'success' looks like will be different for each person – for some it will be learning new skills to manage their mental health, for others it might be finding a job or simply feeling better. Listening to the young people we support, learning from the voices of lived experience, yarning with our communities and sharing knowledge and expertise within our teams and across the sector all contribute to the way we deliver our services.

Supporting young people towards positive experiences of help seeking

92% OF YOUNG PEOPLE FEEL HEARD, UNDERSTOOD AND RESPECTED.

82% OF YOUNG PEOPLE FEEL THEY ARE MAKING PROGRESS ADDRESSING THEIR GOALS.

Community Engagement

466 EVENTS TO **23,555** ATTENDEES

"SOMETIMES I WONDER WHAT WOULD HAVE HAPPENED IF I DIDN'T HEAR ABOUT YOUTH FOCUS."

Young Person

Reduced Psychological Distress



Ability To Engage In Day-To-Day Life



Supporting young people to reduce the effect of their mental health challenges

79%
OF YOUNG PEOPLE UNDERSTAND THEIR MENTAL HEALTH BETTER AFTER THEIR SESSION.

80%
OF YOUNG PEOPLE LEARNED SOMETHING IN THEIR SESSION THAT WILL HELP THEM SUPPORT THEIR MENTAL HEALTH.

"WITH MANY BREAKTHROUGH SESSIONS THIS YEAR, IT HAS FELT LIKE THE PIECES OF THE PUZZLE ARE STARTING TO COME TOGETHER."

Young Person



Image: headspace Midland Youth Reference Group

IMPACT

Lili's story

I wasn't doing great after I left school in year 10. It was like my friends were moving on, but I felt stuck and was feeling pretty lonely and anxious.

I wanted to work, and sent out lots of applications. When I did get an interview, they didn't go very well because I didn't know how I was meant to act or what I was meant to say.

After joining the headspace Midland Youth Reference Group, someone suggested I try the Work & Study Support Program. I thought I could find a job on my own and didn't need any help, but with their encouragement, it was worth a try.

I first met Joe from the Work & Study Support Team in March 2025. We talked through what I wanted to do, which was get a trade, or FIFO work. These jobs weren't an option though as I was only 17 at the time and didn't have my driver's licence, so instead we looked at retail jobs, and Bunnings was the obvious choice!

Joe helped me prepare for the interview, making me feel much less anxious and giving me the skills and confidence I needed. Just two months after first meeting with Joe, I got a job at Bunnings managing click and collect orders – my first full-time job. Even after I started working, Joe would still keep checking in each week, then each fortnight and later monthly, and that really helped as it was a big adjustment working full-time. Sometimes there were situations I didn't know how to handle, didn't know what to do, and Joe was always there to give advice.

I loved working at Bunnings. It gave me a sense of belonging, kept me in a routine, taught me how to handle problems, and helped me mature and grow up a bit. It was a very supportive and diverse workforce, with people from all different cultural backgrounds, and I made some great friends.

While I was working at Bunnings, I was also becoming more involved with the Youth Reference Group. I was going to community events, and helping to organise youth activities, and realised how much I liked doing that. I've really appreciated the support I've received from headspace Midland, and I wanted to do that for other people.

Joe was there to help me again. I wanted to study, and Joe helped me find out what courses were available, and then apply to TAFE to do a Cert 3 in Community Services. I started at TAFE at the beginning of 2026, and am loving it. I've almost finished my Cert 3, and then I'll enrol in the Cert 4, and eventually get my Diploma in Community Services. I really want to work as a Youth Worker or Community Engagement Officer.

The support I have received through headspace Midland has given me my confidence back, and opened up new opportunities, they make me feel like I can do anything. Things are looking good!



headspace Midland's Early Psychosis Program

headspace Midland's Early Psychosis Program (hEP) offers young people experiencing an early episode of psychosis – or at risk of developing psychosis – holistic, early-intervention support. Led by a specialist case manager who offers guidance, support options and information, the young person and their support network develop an individual treatment plan aimed at reducing the impact of psychosis.

Over the past year, the hEP team at headspace Midland has supported 90 young people over more than 3,500 sessions. Psychosis can affect many aspects of a young person's life, from an acute sense of loss of control to challenges maintaining a healthy headspace.

The Early Psychosis Program helps young people manage their symptoms so they have less impact on day-to-day life, supporting them in navigating work or school, building supportive relationships, and becoming more independent.

The program provides not only specialist clinical support, but also sessions with young people who have had similar experiences, and working with each young person's family and network to offer support, information and education about psychosis so they can best support their young person.

For 15 year old Noongar man, T, being involved in the Early Psychosis Program has been life-changing, not only for him but also his family. Over 12 months, T and his hEP team at headspace Midland worked together in a culturally inclusive way to minimise the impact of psychosis on his life.

In July 2025, T presented at the Psychosis Australia Conference in Brisbane, speaking on understanding psychosis from a lived-experience perspective. Supported by the team to write his presentation and prepare for the conference, T travelled to Brisbane with his mum and his hEP consultant psychiatrist, who was also presenting a mini-symposium at the conference on recovery-oriented care.

T's presentation was extremely well received, with positive feedback from audience members who recognised and appreciated the courage he showed in sharing his story.

T's presentation was an incredible milestone for him, his family, and his hEP team – representing the significant growth and progress he has made in navigating his experience of psychosis.

IMPACT

Have Your Say

In late 2025, we invited young people accessing counselling services across our locations to complete a survey so we could hear from them about how they experience our service, where we could do things differently, and what is important to them.

The inaugural *Have Your Say* survey was designed to create a space for young people to share their thoughts on their satisfaction with our services, medium to long-term outcomes, and ideas for improvement. Its development was informed by Youth Focus' Outcomes and Impact Model, focusing on our two outcome areas for young people – 'Young people have positive experiences of help seeking' and 'Mental health challenges have a reduced effect on young people's lives'.

Young people from our Perth and Albany youth reference group co-designed the survey and contributed to the analysis and recommendations that followed.

Almost 130 young people responded to the survey. An overwhelming number of the young people who responded were very satisfied with the support provided by Youth Focus, both in terms of the quality of the service, and the impact of the service on their wellbeing. They also told us that they felt a sense of control in their treatment journey and safety in speaking openly.

In providing the open-ended responses, the young people described how their sessions helped them develop greater emotional intelligence, learn effective coping strategies for stress and anxiety, and gain validation for their feelings and experiences. They also reported practical outcomes, including improved grounding techniques, better self-understanding, and reduced stigma around seeking help.

The survey responses identified areas for improvement, including around wait times and out-of-session communication. As a result of this feedback, we reviewed our intake process and implemented a new approach across our Perth and Geraldton locations (see page 31). We also added in the reception phone number to reminder texts as young people didn't know who to contact when they were running late for an appointment.

The data from the *Have Your Say* survey was reviewed and analysed by both young people, through the dedicated youth reference group, and clinicians.

The *Have Your Say* survey, which will be conducted annually across our locations, is one way we can measure the impact of our services and build our evidence base. It also allows young people to contribute their experiences, and see their reflections and feedback inform and shape how we deliver services to other young people.



"YOUTH FOCUS GAVE ME CONTROL IN MY TREATMENT, WHICH I HAD NOT FULLY FELT PREVIOUSLY. I FEEL SAFE TO SPEAK OPENLY, TO BOTH GIVE FEEDBACK, AND RECEIVE IT."

Young Person

Image: Community events showcased at headspace National Forum



Our Voice

One of the ways we can contribute to our goal of a more effective mental health system in WA is by lending our voice, experience and expertise to conversations around mental health. During 2025-26, our people have been involved in a number of committees, advisory groups and presentations.

- Derry Simpson, Chief Executive Officer, appointed to the Board of the WA Council of Social Services (WACOSS)
- Mark Barrett-Lennard, Regional Manager – Southwest, member of Schools Working Group on Suicide Prevention.
- Leanne Lange, Clinical Coordinator – Southwest, and Mark Barrett-Lennard contributed to the Bindjareb Mental Health Collective and Wandjoo Gateway project.
- Sarah Groves, Clinical Coordinator headspace Geraldton, member headspace National Clinical Lead Advisory Group.
- Emily Richards, Clinical Excellence Lead, Burswood, participated in a panel discussion exploring anti-racism in everyday practice at the headspace National Forum.
- Sarah Groves presented on how headspace centres can use data for service improvement at the headspace National Forum.
- headspace Northam showcased two of their community engagement initiatives – their youth 'On Country' excursions and the annual Youth Week celebration – at the headspace National Forum.
- Casey Moller, Community Engagement Officer headspace Midland, presented at ECU's "Digital and Sexual Citizenship in an Age of Social Media Bans: Interrogating the Rights of Children and Young People" conference, adding young people's perspectives on social media.
- Beckie Houwen, Administration Officer headspace Geraldton, member of the Youth Mental Health Forum working group.
- The Our Place Youth Committee presented to Members of Parliament on the importance of third spaces, shining a light on peer-led social programs for LGBTQIA+ young people in WA.
- Andrew Wenzel, Regional Manager – Great Southern, Chair of the Great Southern Suicide Postvention Committee.

ACCESSIBILITY

WE WILL DELIVER A HIGH-QUALITY, SAFE AND CONSISTENT SERVICE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE, ACROSS OUR LOCATIONS AND TAILORED TO COMMUNITY NEEDS.

When we talk about accessibility, making it easier for young people to access our services is just one part of what we mean. Accessibility is also about providing spaces and places where young people feel safe, welcome and included to be who they want to be. It's about breaking down the barriers to accessing support, whether that's reducing stigma around mental health, providing support in different ways to meet different needs, reducing wait times or providing services at no or low cost. It's about making it easier for young people to navigate complex systems. It's about meeting young people where they're at.

Over the past twelve months, we've continued to focus on how we can deliver a high-quality, safe and consistent service for young people, across our locations and tailored to community needs.

This included:

- Participating in 466 events in the communities in which we live and work in, including headspace Albany's Mad Hatter Tea Party which officially launched Mental Health Week 2025, the Mental Health Clash between the Pinjarra Tigers and Waroona Demons Football clubs, the City of Greater Geraldton's 'Back to School Party', Youth Week Community Day in Northam, the Cherry Harmony festival in Manjimup, 2025 NAIDOC Week celebrations and 2026 Reconciliation Week events.
- Delivering the AFL's *Ahead of the Game* program to football teams across the Great Southern, Southwest, Northam and Midwest regions. The interactive workshops use sport to teach young players how to talk about mental health, exploring practical tools that help young people face challenges both on and off the field.
- Providing On Country experiences for young people in Meekatharra and Northam, walking alongside local Aboriginal leaders and community groups.
- Establishing and completing the Social and Emotional Wellbeing Drone Group in Meekatharra, enabling young people to learn how to safely operate drones and capture footage of Country, and build new skills, confidence and connection to Country.
- Continuing to deliver online and in-person counselling services into grain growing communities through a long-term partnership with CBH through their *Regional Mental Health* program. The online counselling services are hosted from our Peel centre and provide support through schools and community groups to support young people who are regionally located – often in locations too isolated to access local support services and too distant to easily travel to services provided by our Albany, Geraldton and Northam centres.



Ahead of the Game delivered to football clubs throughout WA

- Launching the sixth year of M8D8 in May 2026 – a campaign, supported by Alcoa Australia, that celebrates mateship, and encourages real, honest conversations about mental health. The campaign features videos of young men in the Peel region sharing their perspectives on why conversations with mates are so important.
- Piloting a Multicultural Youth Space event in October 2025 for young people and their families, created and organised by our headspace Midland team in response to the identified need to create opportunities for young people from culturally diverse backgrounds to meet and connect with others in a similar situation.



Image: The Geraldton Youth Mental Health Hub

Building safe and welcoming spaces

During 2025-26, we undertook a number of capital works projects across our locations to make it easier for young people to access support in their own communities:

- Thanks to $1.4 million in funding from Lotterywest, work was completed on our new **Geraldton Youth Mental Health Hub** late in 2025. This welcoming, purpose-built space has been designed to support young people and families in the region by bringing a range of mental health and wellbeing services and support together under one roof. Our headspace Geraldton and Youth Enhanced Service Program teams (read more on page 32) are co-located with MOST, WAAC, Helping Minds and STAY Hub, with Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services moving in 2027. This new facility will help us expand and extend our support across the Midwest.
- The fit-out of the **Perth Youth Mental Health Hub** in Troode Street, West Perth began in March 2026 and is expected to be completed in late 2026 (read more on page 27).
- Planning for the **co-location of Youth Focus with Foodbank WA and Financial Wellbeing Collective** at a new facility in Dalyellup (read more on page 26).
- Establishing the **new headspace Manjimup** (read more on page 28).
- We've been planning for a **new home for headspace Northam** to better meet the needs of the local community. We're hoping to deliver services from the new space, located just down the road from the existing headspace Northam, in early 2027.

ACCESSIBILITY

Making it easier to access support in regional WA

There is no 'one-size-fits-all' approach to supporting the mental health of young people. This is particularly true in regional WA, where young people face additional barriers to accessing services as a result of where they live, including limited services and having to travel long distances to attend appointments, which is both costly and time-consuming.

In the past financial year, we've introduced three new regional programs to help young people access the support services they need, when and where they need it.

In the Great Southern we have increased outreach services to an increasing number of towns in the region, to expand face-to-face specialist mental health support services for young people in the region.

Supported by Rio Tinto and Telethon, an Albany-based mental health practitioner travels throughout the region to work with young people and their families.

The free service is available to young people living in the local government authorities of Albany; Broomehill-Tambellup; Cranbrook; Gnowangerup; Jerramungup; Katanning; Kent; Kojonup; Plantagenet; and Woodanilling; and Walpole.

Young people in Denmark now have access to community based support in their town, thanks to the support of Denmark Community Foundation.

Additionally, our team in Albany has been working with schools and community groups in Gnowangerup, Jerramungup, Katanning and Mt Barker providing young people with another way of getting support in addition to telehealth services which are also provided in the region.

Thanks to the generous support of The Stan Perron Charitable Foundation, we have been able to provide counsellors who visit schools and communities in the Midwest, including Dongara, Kalbarri and Northampton. This has greatly increased accessibility for young people who can now access mental health support in a place where they already feel connected, without the need to travel.

These new programs are part of the outreach services we deliver, via telehealth and in person, in schools and communities across our locations, including the Peel and Southwest, across grain-growing regions in the Wheatbelt, through the Perth metropolitan area, and as far away as Cocos and Christmas Islands.



Image: Albany Youth Counsellors support young people out of the Denmark Community Resource Centre



headspace Midland's Amongst the Stars, Pride Prom

PRIDE!

Creating safe, inclusive spaces where young people can be who they want to be is an important part of supporting their mental health.

This is particularly so for LGBTQIA+ young people, who often are exposed to challenging and discriminatory experiences because of their gender identity. Research has found that 75% of LGBTQIA+ people experience a mental disorder at some time in their life, compared with 42% of heterosexual people.

Across a number of our locations, we have LGBTQIA+ groups who coordinate activities, provide peer support and advocate for their community, including Spectrum in Albany, Our Place in Midland, The Space in Geraldton, and Proud Peers, which has recently been established in Northam.

These groups hold regular drop-in sessions throughout the year, and are supported by our headspace teams. During 2025-26:

- The Our Place Youth Committee, supported by Richard Lockwood and Family, headspace Midland, Youth Focus and the City of Swan, attended Parliament in May 2026 to present to Members around the importance of third spaces. The presentation focused on peer-led social programs for LGBTQIA+ youth in WA, highlighting why mainstream Youth Programs aren't reaching LGBTQIA+ communities and the importance of co-designing with young people in the space to create effective programs.
- Recognising the need for a dedicated LGBTQIA+ space for young people in Northam and surrounds, headspace Northam worked with a small group of young people and community members during 2026 to establish Proud Peers. Proud Peers held their first drop-in session in August 2026, just beyond this reporting period.
- The Our Place Youth Committee, the headspace Midland Youth Reference Group, and the headspace Midland team organised another successful Pride Prom in November. *Amongst the Stars* brought together young people, local service providers, and staff from both headspace and Youth Focus for an incredible evening with live performances by young people, dancing, art activities, games and prizes.
- As part of the 10th anniversary of Albany Pride, our Albany team participated in activities, including Pride Fairday and the Great Southern Football League Women's Pride Round.
- Our Youth Focus Burswood team held a stall at the PrideFest Fairday in Perth in November 2026, engaging with young people, parents and the broader community.

PARTNERSHIPS

OUR IMPACT IS GREATER WHEN WE COLLABORATE WITH OTHERS. WITH MUTUAL RESPECT, WE PARTNER TO ACHIEVE THE BEST POSSIBLE OUTCOMES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE.

Partnerships and collaboration are central to everything we do, because lasting change is built through relationships, trust and a shared commitment to making a difference.

We listen to and learn from young people and their communities, and work alongside government, service organisations, sector partners, schools, corporate partners, philanthropists and communities to bring different perspectives, experiences and strengths together, recognising that we all have a role to play in supporting young people across the State.

Over the past financial year, we've worked with a wide range of partners on projects that will deliver real outcomes for young people. Some examples include:

- **Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP)**

  In November 2025, we released our Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan which outlines our vision for reconciliation, how we will create culturally safe and secure services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people, and walk alongside Elders, young people, families and communities. The relationships we have with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in our different communities, as well as the Elders in our Aboriginal Governance Group, are a privilege that strengthens our work, and deepens our organisational and individual cultural understanding. We are grateful for their wisdom, guidance and trust through the development of our Innovate RAP.

- **Co-locating with Foodbank WA and Financial Wellbeing Collective in Dalyellup**

  In September 2025, it was announced that we would be co-locating with Foodbank WA and the Financial Wellbeing Collective in a new community hub in Dalyellup, near Bunbury. The new facility will bring together food relief, youth mental health services, and financial counselling under one roof. Through this collaboration, those seeking food relief or financial support will also have access to timely mental health services, and young people engaging with mental health support can be connected to other services in turn. We've been working closely with Foodbank WA and the Financial Wellbeing Collective throughout the planning and construction of the new facility, and look forward to the hub opening in early 2027.

"ONE OF THE MOST SIGNIFICANT ASPECTS OF HAVING THE YOUTH FOCUS COUNSELLOR IN OUR SCHOOL HAS BEEN HER ABILITY TO ENGAGE STUDENTS WHO MAY OTHERWISE BE RELUCTANT TO ACCESS SUPPORT SERVICES."

School Student Services Coordinator



Image: Katie Llewell, IPS Coordinator, and Patrick McGorry at 20th Anniversary celebrations of the IPS program in Australia

Celebrating 20 years of the Individual Placement and Support (IPS) program in Australia

In November 2025, we came together with key partners including headspace, Orygen, the Department of Social Services, and a range of national and international service providers, including the IPS Asia Pacific Learning Community (of which we are a founding member), to celebrate 20 years of IPS in Australia. As part of the event, we participated in a workshop focused on creating federal policy to support the continued growth and sustainability of IPS across the region. This work will help guide governments on how to embed IPS programs and concepts into more mental health systems, while expanding funding pathways and ensuring IPS remains a core evidence-based model that is used well for the next 20 years and beyond.

Miner V Wild

For the second year, we were proud to be involved in Miner V Wild, a five-day gruelling trek through the Kimberley where participants challenge themselves and in the process, raise money for Youth Focus. Organised by LiveMine, the event has raised more than $211,000 over the past two years, supporting our Work & Study, and Mentoring programs.

Perth Youth Mental Health Hub

In late 2026, we will open Perth's first Youth Mental Health Hub at 28 Troode Street, West Perth.

As well as offering young people our free, evidence-based mental health services like counselling, work and study support, and group therapy, we'll connect young people with other support services they might need, and provide access to on-site medical care.

Our long-held vision to create the Perth Youth Mental Health Hub has been realised thanks to the incredible generosity of our philanthropic partners – The Stan Perron Charitable Foundation, Channel 7 Telethon Trust, and Lotterywest.

This transformational partnership has enabled us to create a place where young people can feel safe and supported, where services are seamless and where there is no wrong door.

We are also deeply grateful for the generosity of Wen Giving, the McCusker Charitable Foundation, and Rod and Carol Jones for their support in acquiring the building.

The Perth Youth Mental Health Hub will be a significant step towards changing the face of mental health services for young people in WA, and it has been made possible thanks to the shared ambition and unwavering support of our partners. We look forward to celebrating their contributions when we officially open our doors in December 2026.

PARTNERSHIPS



headspace Manjimup

The establishment of the new headspace Manjimup is an example of what can happen when we work together with others to achieve the best possible outcomes for young people.

Youth Focus has been delivering services in the Warren–Blackwood region for more than a decade, and together with other community partners like Blackwood Youth Action (BYA), we recognised the gap in mental health services for young people in the Southwest who often needed to travel outside their communities to access mental health support.

In September 2025 we were awarded the tender to establish headspace Manjimup on the main strip in Giblett Street.

From the outset, headspace Manjimup was shaped by the community.

Over six months, we engaged with the local community through workshops, consultations, presentations and events to understand what they wanted to see from the service. We worked closely with individuals and groups like the Shire of Manjimup, Blackwood Youth Action, Manjimup Senior High School, whose ideas and feedback informed the design and fitout of the building.

One of the features of headspace Manjimup is the inclusion of GP support within the centre. Medical practices from all the towns in the region contributed their support, from Nannup to Pemberton, and up to Boyup Brook to help shape this service, with Dr Sarah Youngson from Bridgetown Medical Centre and Dr Robyn McIntyre providing a GP service within the centre. Only half of the headspace centres nationally have GPs delivering services in centre, so to start with this support at establishment is a huge asset to the service, and a great base to develop from.

During the fitout of the building, we also established the headspace Manjimup consortium and headspace Manjimup Advisory Group (hMAG) to ensure our work in the region continues to be informed and guided by the community. The headspace Manjimup consortium includes representation from a diverse range of organisations. The inaugural hMAG is being led by an incredible group of young people who are ensuring young voices are part of all that we do.

headspace Manjimup officially opened in July 2026, and the positive early response from the community is testament to what can be achieved when organisations and communities work together to improve access to mental health services for young people living in regional WA. Within hours of the doors opening, a parent visited the centre to book an appointment for her daughter, expressing relief that they would no longer need to travel 1.5 hours each way to access support.

Image: Connecting with community at the 2025 Manjimup Cherry Harmony Festival

Delivering Services in Schools

More than half of the young people we support access counselling at their school, and our counsellors provided support in 67 schools this year.

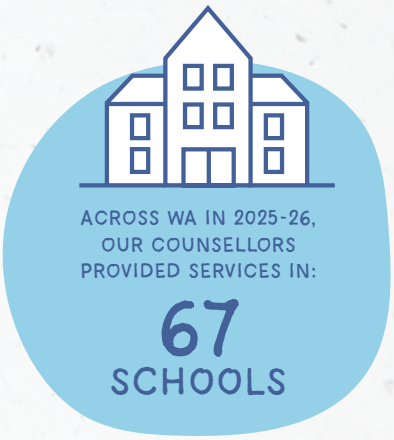
In 2025-26, with support from Telethon and The Stan Perron Charitable Foundation, Youth Focus expanded the number of schools we support, with an additional seven schools across the metro area, and three new schools in the Midwest – Dongara District High School, Northampton District High School and Kalbarri District High School.

Having counsellors in schools means a young person can access support in a place where they already feel connected, without the need to travel.

It also increases opportunities to work alongside families and carers, student support services and school psychologists to build a strong support network around the young person. This integrated approach means no single person or organisation is working in isolation.

Our work in schools extends beyond counselling. We also deliver evidence-based mental health education to students, teachers and families to help create a shared understanding of mental health, and reduce the stigma around seeking support. We also provide postvention services to schools when the school community has been impacted by a significant event, including death by suicide, natural disaster or other crises.

These school-based services demonstrate the importance of partnership in breaking down barriers to accessing support and improving youth mental health outcomes.



By working alongside schools and their communities, Youth Focus can extend its reach, strengthen local support networks and make mental health care more accessible for young people.

We are incredibly grateful to our partners who support our work in schools across the State including Telethon in the metropolitan and Southwest regions, The Stan Perron Charitable Foundation in the metropolitan and Midwest regions, Alcoa in the Peel region, and CBH through their Regional Mental Health program which allows us to provide online services to schools in grain growing regions.

"THE BEST OUTCOMES HAPPEN WHEN EVERYONE WORKS TOGETHER WITH THE YOUNG PERSON AT THE CENTRE. SCHOOLS PROVIDE INVALUABLE INSIGHT INTO HOW A YOUNG PERSON IS FUNCTIONING DAY-TO-DAY, WHILE FAMILIES BRING AN UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT'S HAPPENING AT HOME. BY WORKING COLLABORATIVELY, WE'RE ABLE TO CREATE A CONSISTENT SUPPORT NETWORK AROUND THE YOUNG PERSON AND HELP THEM BUILD THE SKILLS AND CONFIDENCE THEY NEED TO NAVIGATE CHALLENGES."

School-based Youth Counsellor



Visiting Como Secondary College, one of the 67 schools we supported with counselling services

SUSTAINABILITY

WE WILL CONTINUE TO BUILD OUR CAPACITY – IN OUR PEOPLE, PRACTICE AND RESOURCES – SO WE CAN DELIVER ON OUR PURPOSE NOW AND INTO THE FUTURE.

To us, sustainability is about building the strength and capacity to make a lasting difference. It means investing in our people, continually strengthening and adapting our services, and making thoughtful use of the resources we have so we can continue to meet the changing needs of young people and communities.

During the financial year, this included:

- Investing in a new finance system to improve our processes.
- Upgrading our cyber security measures.
- Launching a new website to make it easier for young people and their support networks to navigate, learn and access help in the simplest way possible.
- Refreshing our brand to better reflect the young people we represent, and our growth as an organisation.
- Meeting with Members of Parliament to increase awareness of our role and approach in delivering youth mental health services in Western Australia.
- Providing opportunities for staff to work across teams and locations, encouraging knowledge sharing and professional development.
- Building our community fundraising capacity, with the introduction of a new online platform to support individuals and organisations raising awareness and funds for Youth Focus.
- Planning for the 25th Hawaiian Ride for Youth in 2027, including how we will commemorate and celebrate this outstanding event which has raised more than $38 million to support youth mental health.



Image: Youth Focus Burswood team at an On Country day in 2025



New Intake Model

In preparation for our move to the Perth Youth Mental Health Hub, the clinical team undertook a review of the intake process for young people following a referral or first contact.

The aim was to introduce a sustainable model that would support future growth so more young people would have access to the right support as soon as they reach out for help.

The previous model included an extensive screening process that was completed by a small intake team. Our review found that the process was time intensive and with limited resources, often struggled to keep up with demand.

This resulted in a wait between a young person's first contact with Youth Focus and their first counselling session, so their needs were often different by the time support began.

In January 2026 we re-directed the intake process to our team of qualified Youth Counsellors (on a rotational basis), so young people would receive support from a counsellor at the very first contact. This resulted in shorter wait times and better mental health outcomes for young people.

In the six months since implementing the new intake model (January to June 2026), 525 young people accessed counselling at one of our Perth metro locations – a 47 per cent increase when compared to the same period in 2025.

Despite a significant increase in demand, Youth Counsellors have reported a noticeable difference in outcomes for young people since the new intake model was introduced.

This approach has also been adapted to improve the intake process across our Geraldton and Midwest services.

"YOUNG PEOPLE RECEIVE MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT AS SOON AS THEY REACH OUT FOR HELP, SENDING THE MESSAGE THAT THEY ARE NOT ALONE – THAT THERE IS HELP AVAILABLE TO THEM. AS CLINICIANS WE GET AN UNDERSTANDING OF WHERE A YOUNG PERSON IS AT MUCH SOONER, WHICH GIVES US TIME TO CONSIDER WHAT, IF ANY, ADDITIONAL WRAP-AROUND SERVICES THEY NEED TO ENSURE THE BEST POSSIBLE OUTCOME."

Youth Counsellor

SUSTAINABILITY

Youth Enhanced Service (YES) Program

With young people increasingly experiencing more complex mental health challenges, we have expanded our programs so we can deliver services that best support a young person, depending on what they need at the time.

In September 2025, we introduced the Youth Enhanced Service (YES) program in Geraldton. The YES program, funded through the WA Primary Health Alliance, provides intensive, wrap-around clinical support for young people for up to 12 months, including psychological interventions, cultural input, functional recovery support, assessment and diagnostic clarification, and pharmacotherapy.

The YES team includes staff from Youth Focus and WA Country Health Service (WACHS), working together with a multidisciplinary care team including allied health professionals, psychiatry, peer support, and an Aboriginal Health Worker.

The aim is to have a more coordinated, collaborative approach so that a young person can be referred between services depending on what their needs are, and to create a strong understanding and connections between services to enable a more seamless, integrated experience for the young person.

The YES program is part of our new Geraldton Youth Mental Health Hub, which we established to support young people and families in the region by bringing a range of mental health and wellbeing services and support together under one roof. When a young person walks through the doors, they might begin receiving support from headspace Geraldton, be referred to the YES program as their needs change, go back to headspace Geraldton when they are feeling better, or be referred to Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) if they require more acute services.

In its first year, the YES program has seen significant uptake and is already supporting 83 young people in Geraldton who are experiencing moderate to high levels of mental health challenges.

With headspace Geraldton providing support for emerging mental health challenges, the YES program for more intensive wrap-around support, and CAMHS services for young people with acute needs, young people in the Midwest region now have more access to the services they need, when and where they need it.

THE YES PROGRAM IS PART OF OUR NEW GERALDTON YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH HUB, WHICH WE ESTABLISHED TO SUPPORT YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES IN THE REGION BY BRINGING A RANGE OF MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING SERVICES AND SUPPORT TOGETHER UNDER ONE ROOF.





Our team from across WA together at the headspace National Forum

headspace National Forum

With the theme of *Growing Together*, this year's headspace National Forum felt very much aligned to what we have been doing at Youth Focus over the past twelve months.

Held over three days in Brisbane in June 2026, the Forum was an opportunity for more than 20 people from our Albany, Manjimup, Midland, Northam and Geraldton headspace centres and Youth Focus teams to connect with people from other headspace organisations across Australia.

Through breakout sessions, panel discussions, keynote presentations and lots of networking, our teams came back with new ideas, shared learnings, expanded understanding of research and issues impacting youth mental health, and reflections on how this knowledge could inform their work in their own communities.

Some of our staff also shared their experience and expertise during the Forum. headspace Northam showcased two community engagement initiatives – their 'On Country' excursions and annual Youth Week celebration – that have had an incredible impact on the young people living in the region.

Using their experience at headspace Geraldton, Clinical Lead Sarah Groves presented on how headspace centres can use data for service improvement.

Emily Richards, Clinical Advisor at headspace Midland, was invited to participate in a panel discussion exploring anti-racism in everyday practice. With a room of over 250 people and more than 50 questions raised during the Q&A, it was clear this conversation struck a chord – and we are proud to have our team contributing to the discussion on these important conversations.

The Forum is also an opportunity to recognise headspace staff from across Australia for the incredible work they do for young people in their locations. Connie Ruffo, Vocational Specialist at headspace Albany, was awarded Excellence in Reflective Practice.

Events like the headspace National Forum provide an opportunity for our people to learn, connect and bring fresh ideas back to our organisation, helping us grow our collective knowledge, make the most of our resources and strengthen the way we support young people and communities.

Our Locations

MEETING YOUNG PEOPLE WHERE THEY ARE

Youth Focus provides services from nine metropolitan and regional offices across Western Australia in Burswood, Mandurah, Geraldton, Bunbury, Albany and Meekatharra, and as the lead agency for headspace centres in Albany, Geraldton, Midland, Manjimup and Northam.

It's so important for young people to be able to access services within their own communities. Young people face different concerns, challenges, and barriers depending on where they live, with young people living in rural, regional and remote communities more likely to experience higher rates of poor mental health and psychological distress than young people living in metropolitan areas.

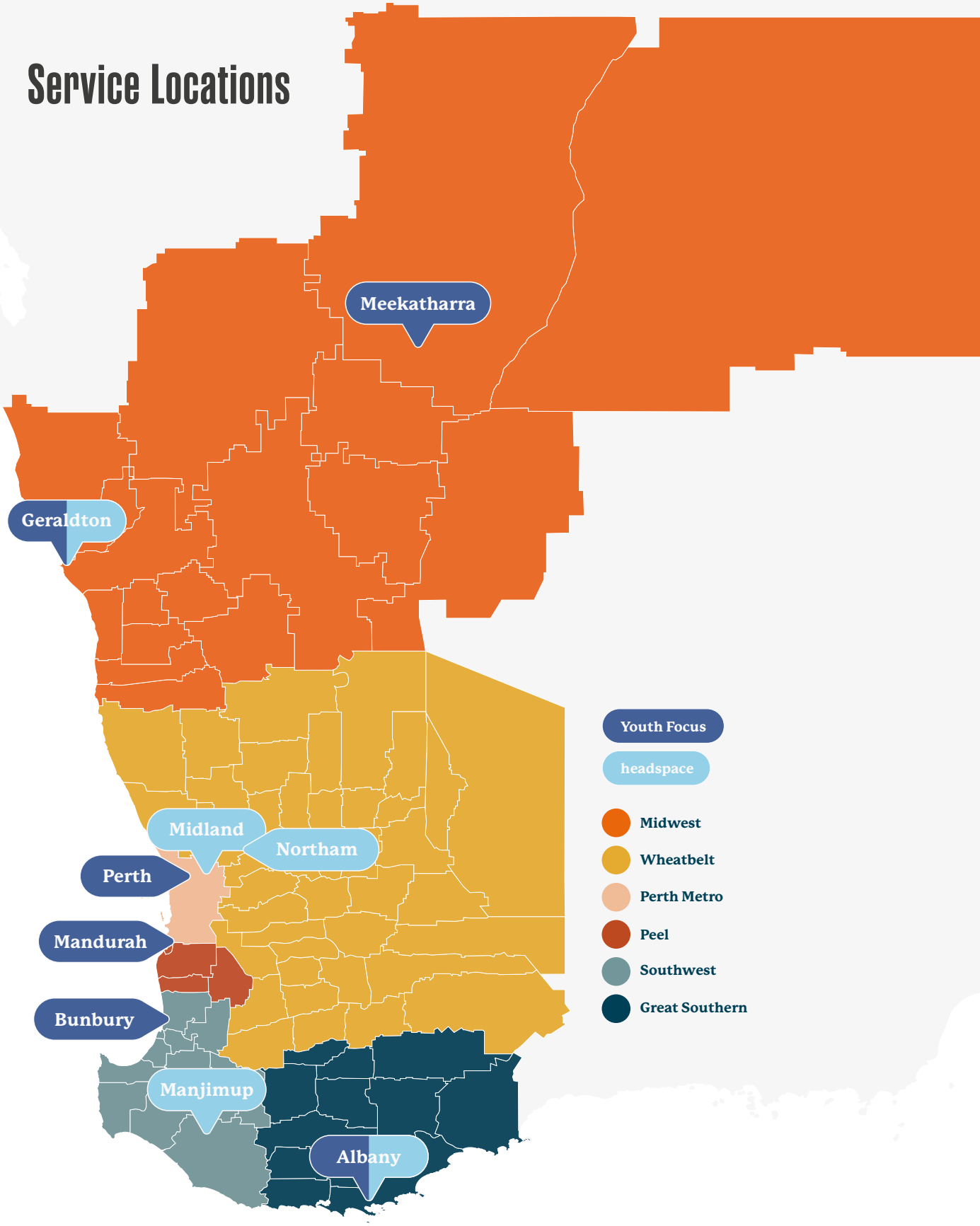


"I LOVE THAT OUR SERVICES ARE FLEXIBLE AND RESPONSIVE TO THE NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY AND THE YOUNG PEOPLE WE SUPPORT."

Youth Counsellor

Northam On-Country Excursion

Service Locations



Youth Focus Great Southern & headspace Albany

On Menang Noongar Boodja

657
YOUNG PEOPLE SUPPORTED

3,375
SESSIONS

5
SCHOOLS WE SUPPORTED WITH COUNSELLING SERVICES

Services

- Mental Health Services
- Doctor (GP)
- Work & Study Support
- Group Programs
- Sexual Health Services
- Alcohol & Drug Services
- Dietitian (requires GP referral)
- Psychiatrist – Telehealth Consultations
- Youth Reference Group
- Suicide Prevention Support (SuPS)

About The Young People We Support

9% FIRST NATIONS PEOPLES

5.6% CULTURALLY AND LINGUISTICALLY DIVERSE

23% LGBTQIA+

Our Community Partners

WE WORKED WITH OVER 20 GOVERNMENT, LOCAL AND SECTOR ORGANISATIONS, SCHOOLS AND BUSINESSES, INCLUDING:
Amity Health, Dr Tania Botha, Dr Paula Nascimento, Kadadjiny Aboriginal Corporation, Albany Youth Support Association, Palmerston, Department of Education, Denmark Community Foundation, Albany Community Foundation and Southern Aboriginal Corporation.



Image: Connecting with young people at school for Harmony Week

"I LIKE WORKING AS PART OF A COLLABORATIVE TEAM THAT ALL SHARE A COMMON GOAL – MAKING THINGS BETTER FOR YOUNG PEOPLE."

Youth Counsellor

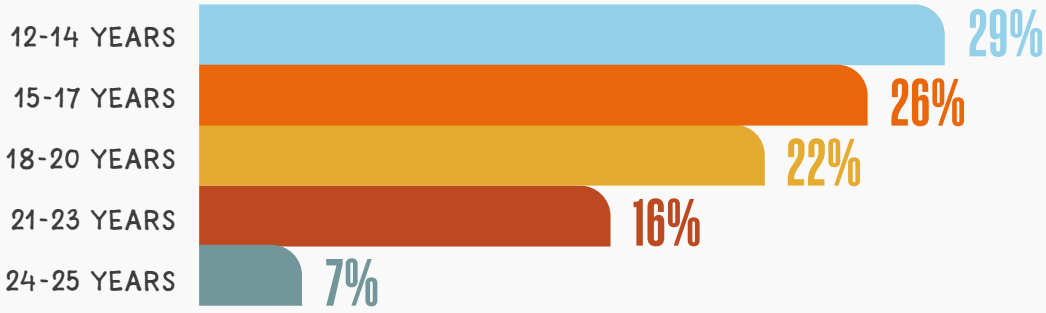


Albany team at the first night celebrations for the Hawaiian Ride for Youth

Work & Study Support

259	47	9	12
SESSIONS	YOUNG PEOPLE SUPPORTED	GAINED EMPLOYMENT	BEGAN STUDY

Average Age Of Clients



What Our Youth Counsellors Are Seeing More Of

- HOUSING INSECURITY
- CO-EXISTING CONDITIONS
- NEURODIVERSITY
- INCREASE IN ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUG USE

Youth Focus Peel & Southwest

On Bindjareb, Wardandi, Pibelmen, Kaniyang Noongar Boodja

770 YOUNG PEOPLE SUPPORTED

3,364 SESSIONS

33 SCHOOLS WE SUPPORTED WITH COUNSELLING SERVICES

Services

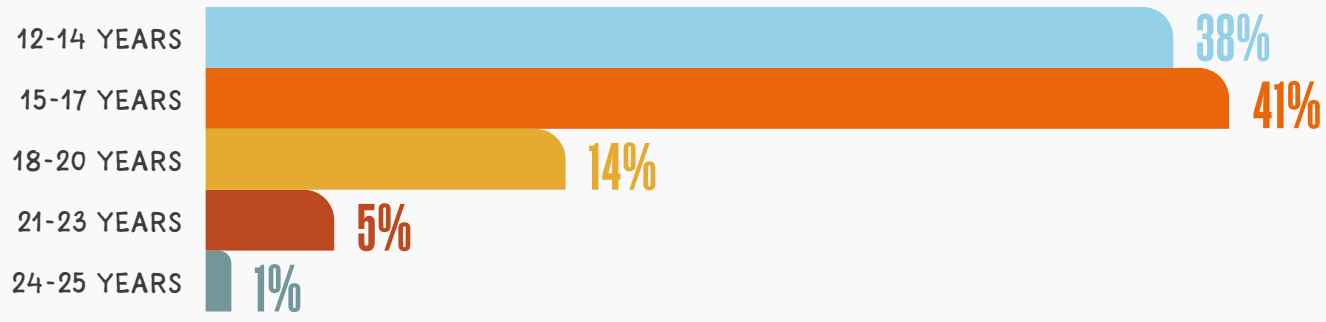
- Mental Health Counselling
- Online & Telehealth Counselling
- Suicide Prevention
- Work & Study Support
- Mental Health Education & Workshops
- Community Mental Health Promotion
- Care Navigator (Capel and Harvey)

About The Young People We Support

11% FIRST NATIONS PEOPLES

23% LGBTQIA+

Average Age Of Clients





Filming with Alcoa apprentices in Pinjarra for M8D8

"YOUTH FOCUS GIVES ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO PROVIDE TELE-COUNSELLING SUPPORT TO YOUNG PEOPLE ACROSS THE WHEATBELT WHO MAY NOT OTHERWISE HAVE ACCESS TO MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES AND RESOURCES.

I REALLY VALUE BEING ABLE TO BRIDGE THAT GAP AND ENSURE THAT YOUNG PEOPLE IN REGIONAL AND REMOTE COMMUNITIES HAVE ACCESS TO A SAFE, SUPPORTIVE AND NON-JUDGMENTAL SPACE WHERE THEY CAN TALK OPENLY ABOUT MENTAL HEALTH AND THE UNIQUE CHALLENGES THEY FACE."

Youth Counsellor



Image: Pinjarra Tigers vs. Waroona Demons Mental Health Clash community fundraiser

Our Community Partners

WE WORKED WITH OVER 70 GOVERNMENT, LOCAL AND SECTOR ORGANISATIONS, SCHOOLS AND BUSINESSES, INCLUDING:

Foodbank, headspace, City of Rockingham, City of Kwinana, Oseca Bunbury, Infant, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service, Department of Education, Association of Independent Schools of Western Australia, Catholic Education Western Australia, St John of God Social Outreach South West, NEAMI and local suicide prevention coordinators, WA Football/AFL, Shire of Manjimup, Shire of Harvey, Shire of Boyanup, Shire of Donnybrook, Shire of Capel, Broadwater Resort, Peel Mental Health Taskforce, Allambee, YouthReach, South and South Metro Area Health Service, Blackwood Youth Action, WA Country Health Service South West, Jobs South West and Anglicare.

What Our Youth Counsellors Are Seeing More Of

- NEURO-DIVERSITY
- LONELINESS AND SOCIAL ISOLATION
- SUICIDE BEREAVEMENT OR SUDDEN TRAUMATIC LOSS
- INCREASE IN ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUG USE
- FAMILY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
- DISENGAGEMENT FROM SCHOOL

Youth Focus Burswood

On Whadjuk Noongar Boodja

882
YOUNG PEOPLE SUPPORTED

4,148
SESSIONS

27
SCHOOLS WE SUPPORTED WITH COUNSELLING SERVICES

Services

- Counselling (including family sessions)
- Group Programs
- Work & Study Support (Individual Placement Support)
- Mentoring
- Youth Reference Group
- Mental Health Education
- Community Engagement

Our Community Partners

WE WORKED WITH OVER 70 GOVERNMENT, LOCAL AND SECTOR ORGANISATIONS, SCHOOLS AND BUSINESSES INCLUDING:
Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service, Youth Community Assessment and Treatment Team, Perth Children's Hospital, Neami, MercyCare, Holyoake, Anglicare, Uniting WA, Town of Victoria Park, City of Vincent, City of Perth and City of Wanneroo.

"WE SIT WITH YOUNG PEOPLE AS THEY NAVIGATE THE MOST CHALLENGING CHAPTERS OF THEIR LIVES, CELEBRATE THEIR GREATEST ACHIEVEMENTS, PONDER THE IN-BETWEENS, OR TELL US THE LATEST ABOUT THEIR PET FISH. IRRESPECTIVE OF WHERE THEY ARE AT, IT FEELS LIKE AN IMMENSE PRIVILEGE TO BE ABLE TO OFFER AN EXPERIENCE OF FEELING MORE UNDERSTOOD, MORE CAPABLE AND MORE HOPEFUL."

Youth Counsellor



Image: Connecting with young people at Pride Prom

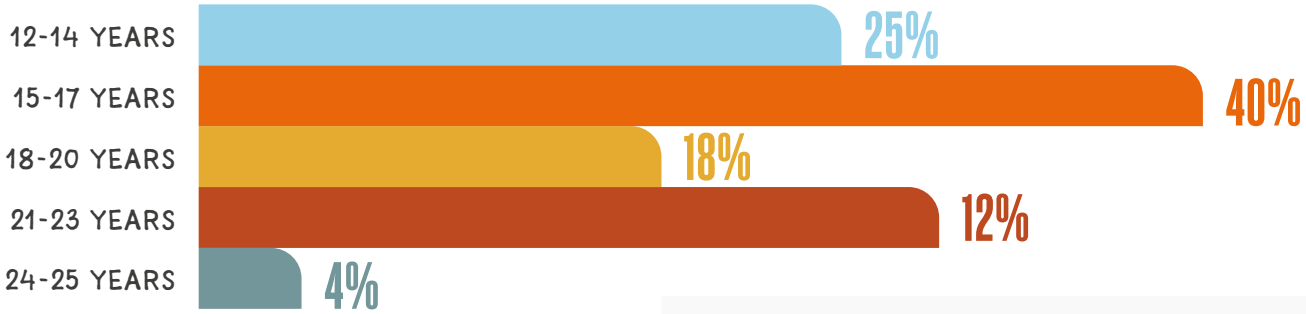


Counselling team deliver care packs for young people at Parkerville

What Our Youth Counsellors Are Seeing More Of

- EARLY DISCHARGE FROM HIGHER INTENSITY MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES
- USING AI TO SELF-MANAGE MENTAL HEALTH CONCERNS
- LONELINESS AND SOCIAL ISOLATION
- ANXIETY AROUND FUTURE LIFE OPPORTUNITIES
- COST OF LIVING

Average Age Of Clients



About The Young People We Support

- 6% FIRST NATIONS PEOPLES
- 15% LGBTQIA+

Work & Study Support

144 SESSIONS	36 YOUNG PEOPLE SUPPORTED
17 GAINED EMPLOYMENT	2 BEGAN STUDY

headspace Midland

On Whadjuk Noongar Boodja

809
YOUNG PEOPLE SUPPORTED

3,401
SESSIONS

About The Young People We Support

9.5% FIRST NATIONS PEOPLES

8.2% CULTURALLY AND LINGUISTICALLY DIVERSE

27.6% LGBTQIA+

Services

- Youth Counselling
- Psychology
- Art Therapy
- Work & Study Support
- Early Psychosis
- Youth Programs
- Alcohol & Drug Services
- Youth Reference Group
- Our Place – LGBTQIA+ drop-in (in conjunction with City of Swan)
- Community Engagement



Image: Speaking up for safe spaces: Our Place Youth Committee takes their message to Parliament



Image: Youth Reference Group members hosting *Lyrics and Lines* for 2026 Youth Week

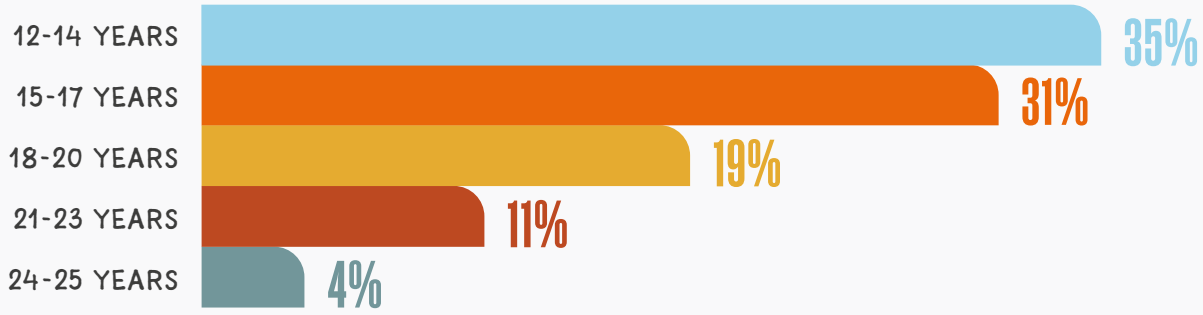
What Our Youth Counsellors Are Seeing More Of

- DISORDERED EATING
- SOCIAL WELFARE ISSUES
- HOUSING INSECURITY

Work & Study Support

517	56	30	8
SESSIONS	YOUNG PEOPLE SUPPORTED	GAINED EMPLOYMENT	BEGAN STUDY

Average Age Of Clients



Our Community Partners

WE WORKED WITH OVER 60 GOVERNMENT, LOCAL AND SECTOR ORGANISATIONS, SCHOOLS AND BUSINESSES, INCLUDING:

City of Swan, Koya, Midland Learning Academy, Holyoake, Helping Minds, Carers WA, Midvale Parenting Hub, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service Midland, Youth Axis, Youth Community Assessment and Treatment Team, St John of God Hospital, Black Swan Health and Spear Foundation.

About Our Early Psychosis Support

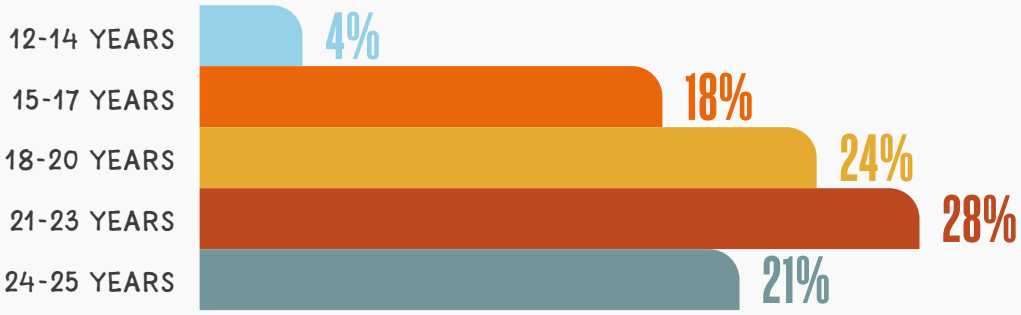
90
YOUNG PEOPLE SUPPORTED

3,599
SESSIONS

16.7% FIRST NATIONS PEOPLES

22.2% CULTURALLY AND LINGUISTICALLY DIVERSE

5.6% LGBTQIA+



4% ARE OLDER THAN 25

"I WAS ABLE TO GET SUPPORT FROM PEOPLE WHO ACTUALLY UNDERSTOOD WHAT I WAS EXPERIENCING AND DIDN'T MAKE ME FEEL LIKE I WAS CRAZY OR BROKEN. I LEARNT THAT I CAN ACTUALLY GET BETTER, WHICH WHEN I WAS AT MY WORST, SEEMED IMPOSSIBLE."

Young person supported by headspace Midland's Early Psychosis team

"LOTS OF DIFFERENT PEOPLE BOTTLE UP THEIR EMOTIONS BUT I THINK WE SHOULD ALL LEARN TO BE VULNERABLE WHEN IT COMES TO MENTAL HEALTH BECAUSE BEING HONEST AND BEING ABLE TO TELL PEOPLE THAT THINGS AREN'T FINE IS BEING STRONGER."

Young Person



headspace Northam

On Ballardong Noongar Boodja

136
YOUNG PEOPLE SUPPORTED

612
SESSIONS

Services

- Counselling & other Mental Health Services
- Community Engagement including psychoeducation workshops, community events
- Youth Reference Group
- Connecting to Alcohol & Drug, & Sexual Health Services



About The Young People We Support

15.9% FIRST NATIONS PEOPLES

8.5% CULTURALLY AND LINGUISTICALLY DIVERSE

27% LGBTQIA+

Our Community Partners

WE WORKED WITH OVER 10 GOVERNMENT, LOCAL AND SECTOR ORGANISATIONS, SCHOOLS AND BUSINESSES, INCLUDING:
Avon Communities, Avon Youth Services, APM Employment Services, Amity Health, Department of Creative Industries, Tourism and Sport, Cunderdin Agricultural College, Holyoake, PCYC and Uplyft.

Image: Celebrating headspace Day with colourful chalk murals



Image: Supporting LGBTQIA+ young people in Northam

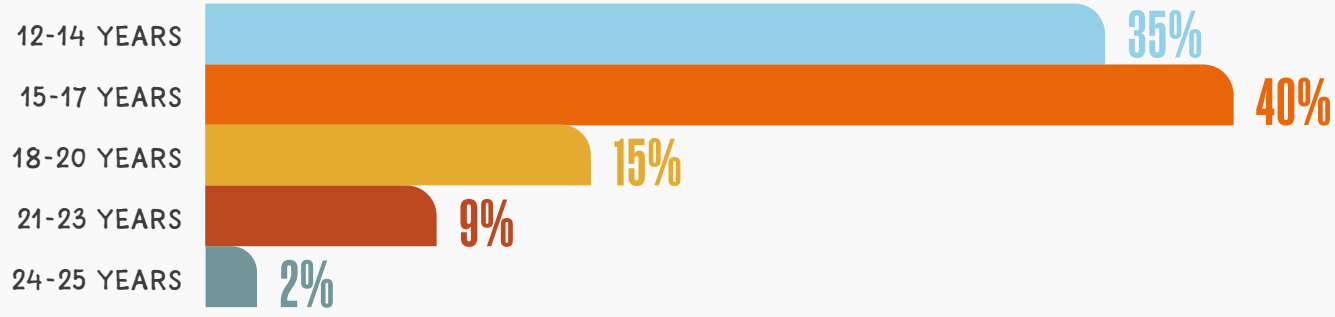
"BEING ABLE TO PROVIDE A SAFE SPACE WHERE YOUNG PEOPLE FEEL LISTENED TO, SUPPORTED AND UNDERSTOOD IS IMPORTANT. I VALUE BEING ABLE TO BUILD THOSE RELATIONSHIPS AND WORK ALONGSIDE YOUNG PEOPLE AND THE BROADER COMMUNITY TO SUPPORT THEM THROUGH WHAT CAN BE DIFFICULT EXPERIENCES."

Youth Counsellor

What Our Youth Counsellors Are Seeing More Of

- TRAUMA
- MENTAL HEALTH AND EMOTIONAL WELLBEING
- RELATIONSHIP CHALLENGES
- DISENGAGEMENT FROM SCHOOLS
- NEURODIVERSITY

Average Age Of Clients



Youth Focus Midwest & headspace Geraldton

On Yamatji Boodja

418 YOUNG PEOPLE SUPPORTED

1,974 SESSIONS

3 SCHOOLS WE SUPPORTED WITH COUNSELLING SERVICES

Services

- Mental Health Services
- Work & Study Support
- Alcohol & Drug Services
- Youth Enhanced Service (YES) Program
- Community Engagement

About The Young People We Support

24% FIRST NATIONS PEOPLES

10.7% CULTURALLY AND LINGUISTICALLY DIVERSE

27% LGBTQIA+



Image Right: Beau and Chloe with artwork created by young people at the NAIDOC Champion Bay community event

Far Right: 2025 headspace Day

"I FEEL VERY PRIVILEGED TO WORK IN AN ORGANISATION THAT ALLOWS US TO HEAR AND HOLD THE PRECIOUS STORIES OF YOUNG PEOPLE. EVEN THOUGH I'M IN A LEADERSHIP POSITION, THE FAVOURITE PARTS OF MY DAY ARE WHEN I GET TO SPEAK WITH YOUNG PEOPLE AND THEIR FAMILIES ABOUT HOW WE CAN BEST SUPPORT THEM AND TO ASSURE THEM THAT WE'RE BY THEIR SIDE FOR THIS PART OF THE JOURNEY."

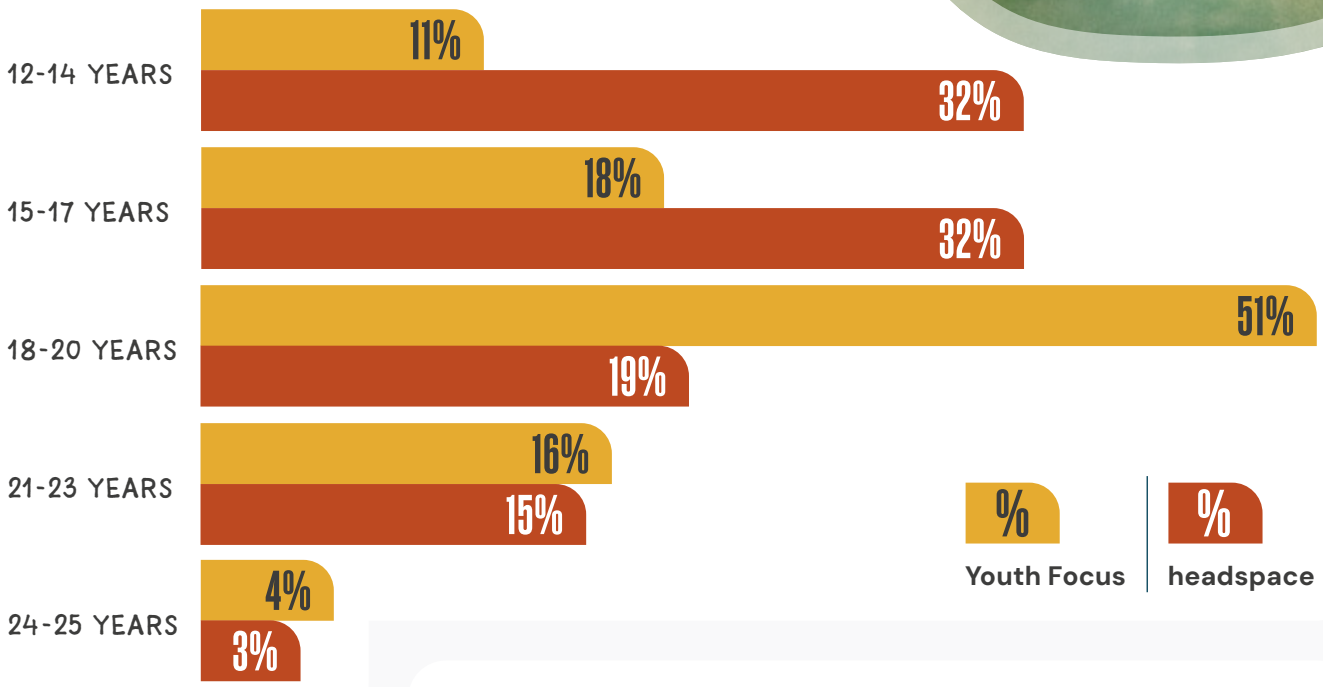
Centre Manager

Work & Study Support

110	30	5	3
SESSIONS	YOUNG PEOPLE SUPPORTED	GAINED EMPLOYMENT	BEGAN STUDY



Average Age Of Clients



Our Community Partners

WE WORKED WITH OVER 50 GOVERNMENT, LOCAL AND SECTOR ORGANISATIONS, SCHOOLS AND BUSINESSES, INCLUDING:
Geraldton Sporting Aboriginal Corporation, Geraldton Regional Aboriginal Medical Service, PCYC, City of Greater Geraldton, Real Futures, STAY, Helping Minds, Hope, JK Foundation, Ngala, Shooting Stars and Greenough Prison.

What Our Youth Counsellors Are Seeing More Of

- ANXIETY
- HOUSING INSECURITY
- ANGER REGULATION
- NEURODIVERSITY
- DISORDERED EATING
- DISENGAGEMENT FROM SCHOOL

Youth Focus Meekatharra

On Yamatji Boodja

38
YOUNG PEOPLE SUPPORTED

78
SESSIONS

Services

- Face-to-Face Counselling
- Mental Health Support Groups
- Art Therapy
- Narrative Therapy
- First Nations Support
- Support for Court Matters
- Job Seeking Support
- Men's Group
- Women's Group
- Safe Hang-Out Space
- Social and Emotional Wellbeing (SEWB) model, with a whole of family approach

Our Community Partners

WE WORKED WITH OVER 10 GOVERNMENT, LOCAL AND SECTOR ORGANISATIONS, SCHOOLS AND BUSINESSES, INCLUDING:

Mission Australia, Shooting Stars, Shire of Meekatharra Youth Services and Meekatharra District High School.



Image: Community colour run in Meekatharra

What Our Youth Counsellors Are Seeing More Of

INCREASE IN ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUG USE

INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE

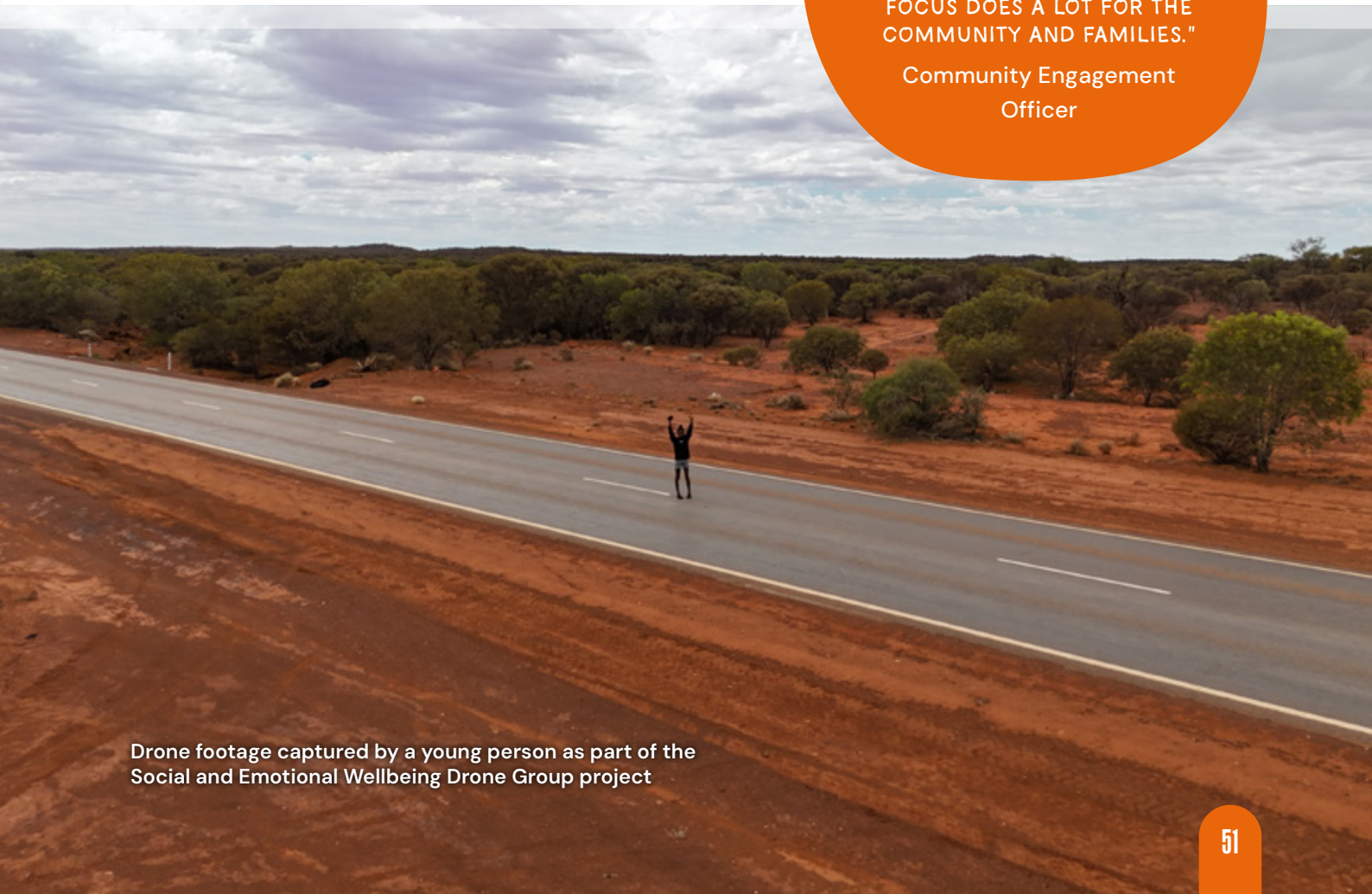
FOOD INSECURITY

About The Young People We Support

100% FIRST NATIONS YOUNG PEOPLE SUPPORTED

"I REALLY ENJOY WORKING FOR YOUTH FOCUS. I LOVE BEING HERE AND LIKE THE WAY WE SUPPORT THE COMMUNITY. YOUTH FOCUS DOES A LOT FOR THE COMMUNITY AND FAMILIES."

Community Engagement Officer



Drone footage captured by a young person as part of the Social and Emotional Wellbeing Drone Group project

2026 Hawaiian Ride for Youth

The 2026 Hawaiian Ride for Youth brought together 170 riders and support crew to complete the 700km ride from Albany to Perth, and once again the impact of this event was extraordinary.

Throughout the journey, from launch to training to Ride Week, each and every Rider put their heart and soul into raising funds and awareness for youth mental health.

Ride Week, from 24 to 28 March 2026, was filled with hundreds of kilometres of cycling, school visits and a number of community events, including a visit to the new headspace Manjimup and a memorable community welcome event in Albany.

As the pelotons travelled through communities across the Great Southern, Wheatbelt and Southwest, they shared stories, had important conversations and made connections with young people, locals and each other.

TOGETHER, THIS INCREDIBLE COMMUNITY RAISED MORE THAN $2.1 MILLION IN 2026, BRINGING THE TOTAL FUNDS RAISED OVER THE RIDE'S 24-YEAR HISTORY TO $38 MILLION.



Celebrating the completion of the 2026 Hawaiian Ride for Youth

This year, faced with Cyclone Narelle, the peloton demonstrated incredible resilience and adaptability. Despite challenging weather conditions and swift changes of plans – including the cancellation of the 2 Day Ride, and the pelotons walking into the Welcome Home Ceremony for the first time in the event's history – the spirit of the Ride remained as strong as ever.

We are so grateful to the riders, 2 Day Challengers, and support crew, as well as our sponsors, whose dedication and support reflect their deep commitment to raise vital funds for Youth Focus, and help tackle the stigma surrounding mental health.

"LOOKING BACK ON THIS YEAR'S HAWAIIAN RIDE FOR YOUTH, IT'S SAFE TO SAY THAT WE ALL FELT THE MAGIC OF WHAT MAKES THIS EVENT SO SPECIAL. TOGETHER YOU ARE HELPING TO CREATE A COMMUNITY THAT'S KINDER FOR YOUNG PEOPLE, WHERE YOUTH FOCUS CAN BE THERE FOR THEM WITH SUPPORT WHEN THEY NEED IT."

Derry Simpson, CEO Youth Focus

NUMBER OF RIDERS:
124

NUMBER OF SUPPORT CREW:
45

FUNDS RAISED:
$2.1 million



Image: Amber Cartwright and Noelle Goodier on the Inland Peloton



COASTAL

Albany | Denmark | Walpole
Pemberton | Busselton
Australind | Mandurah | Perth

INLAND

Albany | Mt Barker | Denmark
Manjimup | Collie | Harvey
Pinjarra | Mandurah | Perth

WHEATBELT

Albany | Gnowangerup | Katanning
Kojonup | Narrogin | Pinjarra
Mandurah | Perth

Schools visited

We visited 16 schools and engaged with around 2,000 young people. This year, Youth Focus staff also presented content from our education program, Mental Notes, which is designed to help young people recognise when they may need extra support and how to support friends who may be going through a tough time.

COASTAL

- North Albany SHS
- Denmark SHS
- Pemberton District HS
- Georgiana Molloy Anglican School
- Cape Naturalist College
- Australind SHS

INLAND

- Mount Barker CC
- Manjimup SHS
- Collie SHS
- Harvey SHS
- Coastal Lakes College

WHEATBELT

- Great Southern Grammar
- Kojonup District HS
- Katanning SHS
- Narrogin SHS
- The Western Australian College of Agriculture Narrogin



Wheatbelt Peloton at Horsepower Highway

36 FIRST YEAR RIDERS

13 RIDERS UNDER 30

32 FEMALE RIDERS

8 LONG-TERM RIDERS (OVER 10 YEARS)

25 RIDERS FROM SPONSOR ORGANISATIONS

Event Sponsors

Aqualyte
Avoca
Azure Capital
Birdhouse
Blue Diamond
Broadwater Resort
Budget
Business News (WA)
Buswest
Capital Partners
Cash Converters
Collie Ridge Motel
Freight Lines Group
Goldfields Transport
Good Times Cycling Crew
Hawaiian
Hesperia
HPH Solutions
JohnStaff
Kimberley Experiences
KPMG
Linneys Jewellery
MACA
Office National
oOh!media
Pedal Mafia
Resource Capital Funds
Rustlers Steakhouse & Grill
Shadforth Financial Group
Sodali & Co
Trench Health & Fitness
WAPHA
WestCycle



Image: School presentation

Thank You

WE COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU!

A huge thank you to the individuals, businesses, corporations and organisations who have financially supported us in 2025-26. Your generosity and support are greatly appreciated and enables us to support thousands of young people across WA with their mental health.

OUR TRANSFORMATIONAL PARTNERS

Hawaiian | Lotterywest | McCusker Charitable Foundation | Mental Health Commission | Rod & Carol Jones | Telethon 7 | Wen Giving

OUR PRINCIPAL PARTNERS

Alcoa | LAVAN | Miner Wild | Mineral Resources | Rio Tinto

OUR CORPORATE PARTNERS

cash converters | CBH Group

Allens | Bendigo Community Bank Geraldton | City of Greater Geraldton | Hesperia
John Hughes Group | Midwest Development Commission | Mid West Ports Authority
Shadforth Financial Group | Westgold

OUR PHILANTHROPIC SUPPORTERS

Ali & Sam Little | Denmark Community Foundation | Michelle Collica – In Memory of Hollie Brown
Mimi & Willy Packer | Richard Lockwood and Family | The Neil Feakes Foundation

OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Meredith Eddington – Shenton College Designer Sale | Tim Mahony – Royal Freshwater Bay Yacht Club

OUR SERVICE PARTNERS

Ahead of the Game | AFL | Australian Government Department of Social Services | Department of Communities | Department of Education | headspace National Youth Mental Health Foundation | Royal Flying Doctor Service | WA Primary Health Alliance Better health, together



Board Director Sam Retallack and Chief Marketing Officer
Jill Downard at the 2026 Telethon Beneficiaries Breakfast

Our Governance

LEADING WITH PURPOSE

Our Board

We have been deliberate in our recruitment of talented, committed and passionate Directors, who each bring with them not just corporate acumen and commercial experience, but also an understanding and alliance with our organisational values.



Rod Jones

Chair & Director



Derry Simpson

CEO & Managing Director



Alex Nicol

Director (from June 2026)



Professor Ashleigh Lin

Director & Chair of Quality, Safety, Clinical Governance Committee



Billy Meston

Director & Chair of Finance, Risk, Audit & Governance Committee



Christina Matthews AM

Director



Framy Anne Browne

Director



Dr Lesley Bennett

Director (from June 2026)



Dr Peter Wynn Owen

Director



Phil Renshaw

Director



Russell Gibbs

Director



Sam Retallack

Director

Individual profiles of our Board Directors are available on our website.

Our Executive



Derry Simpson

Chief Executive Officer



Angela Wright

Chief Operating Officer



Nicole Houtby

Chief Financial Officer



Jill Downard

Chief Marketing Officer



Erin Hall

Executive Manager, Culture and Capability

"I'M PASSIONATE ABOUT MAKING SYSTEMS THAT REALLY WORK FOR YOUNG PEOPLE, AND YOUTH FOCUS ARE DOING GREAT THINGS IN THIS SPACE. I'M PROUD TO BE PART OF THE BOARD, AND CONTRIBUTE MY EXPERIENCE AND KNOWLEDGE OF YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH DURING A TIME OF EXCITING GROWTH FOR THE ORGANISATION."

Alex Nicol

Individual profiles of our Executive team are available on our website.

Our Financials

INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE

As an organisation working to support the mental health of young people in our community, we are deeply committed to ensuring that we use our resources and assets in the most efficient, effective way – so we can deliver on our purpose now and into the future.

This financial year saw us invest significantly in our places and spaces, with the refurbishment of our new Perth Youth Mental Health Hub, as well as the fit-out of the new headspace centre in Manjimup, and the completion of works at our Geraldton Youth Mental Health Hub.

We were also able to significantly expand our services and outreach programs in many of our regions, including the Great Southern, the Midwest, and Perth, thanks to generous support from our corporate and philanthropic partners – enabling us to offer a broader range of services, and to place counsellors in more community and school locations.

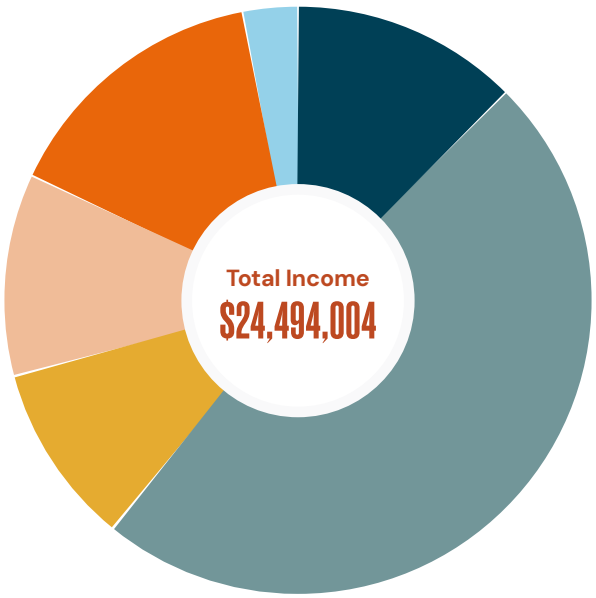
Total income for the year was $24.5 million, a slight reduction compared to the previous year, which is a result of additional funds raised to acquire the new location in West Perth in 2024. Youth Focus remained in a strong financial position and continued to invest in both infrastructure and service delivery. Total expenditure during 2025-26 was $20.8 million, which reflects the expanded scale of service delivery and continued investment in programs and support services across Western Australia.

The greatest proportion of our investment continues to be in our people, which accounts for 75% of our overall expenditure, primarily for client-facing staff. We continue to responsibly invest in our fundraising programs and initiatives, to sustainably grow and diversify our income so that we can continue to expand our capacity to meet the increasing needs of young people in Western Australia.



Activity with school students for NAIDOC Week in Geraldton

Income



13% Capital Projects
(Donations & Grants)

48% Federal Government Funding

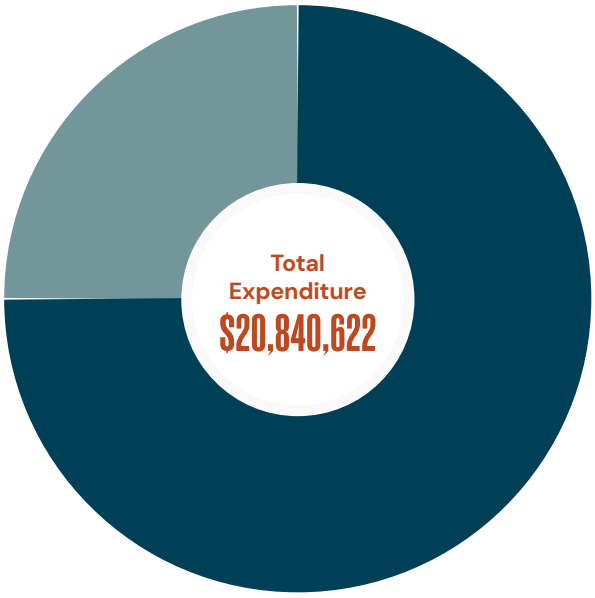
10% State Government Funding

11% Fundraising, Donations and Events

15% Grant Income
(Non-government)

3% Other Income
(Interest & Investments)

Expenditure



75% Salaries & Workforce Expenses

25% Other Operating Expenses

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