

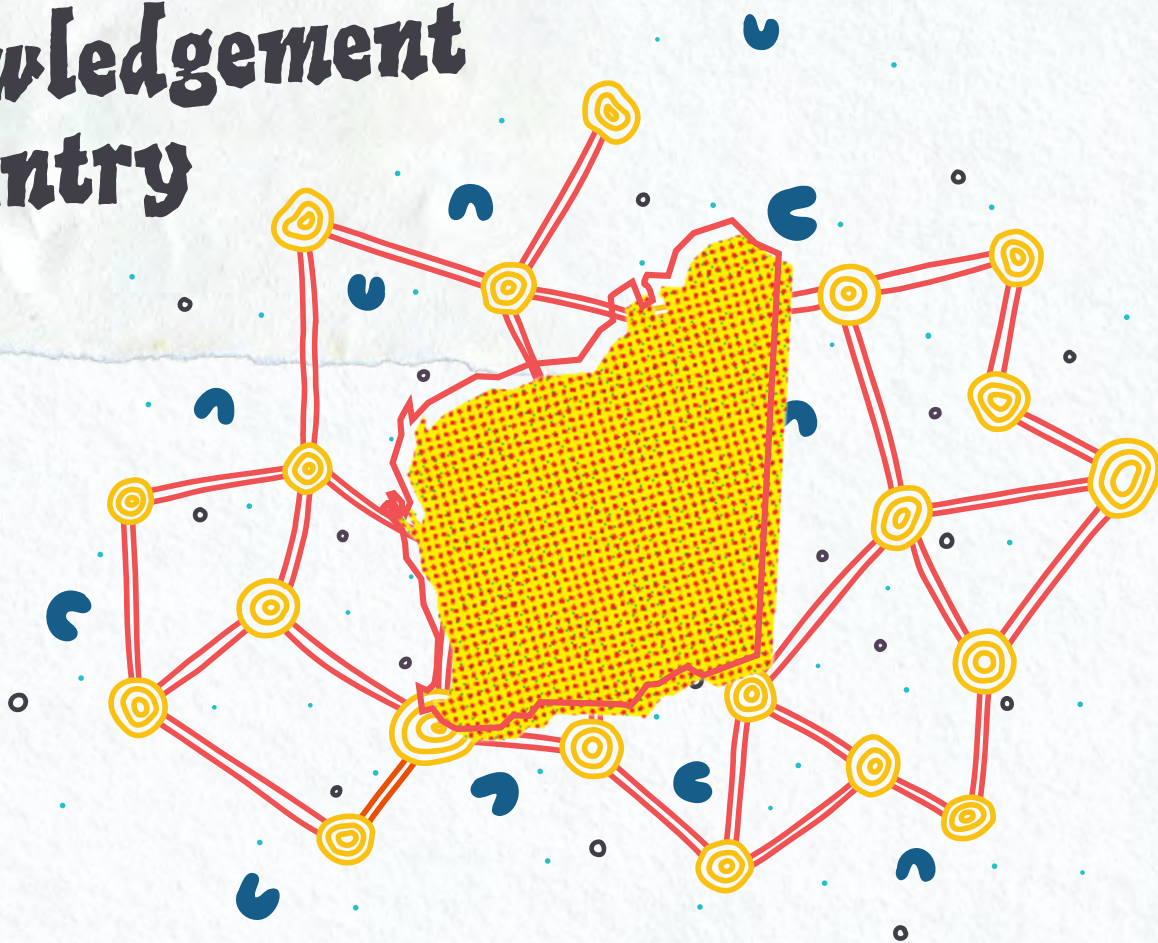


# WA YOUTH Action Plan 2024-2027

**Koorlangka Bidi**  
"Young people's path"



# Acknowledgement of Country

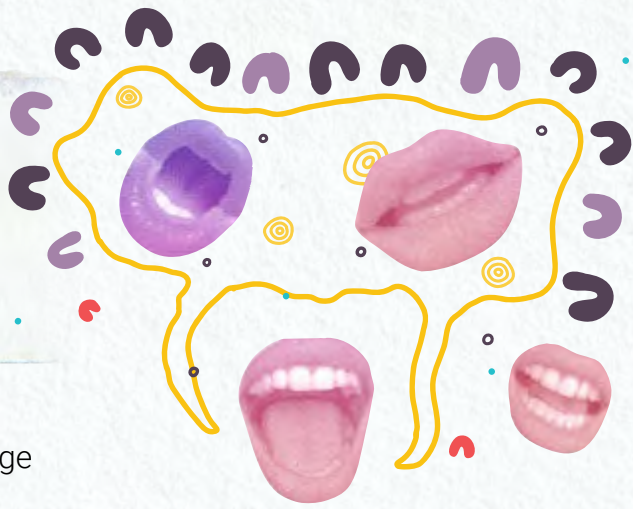


The Western Australian Government (WA Government) is proud to acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of Country and recognises their continuing connection to lands, families, and Community. We pay our respects to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders past and present, and recognise the strength and resilience of First Nations people, and the richness of their diverse cultures.

We also acknowledge the young and emerging Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders and support their journeys to becoming role models within their families and Community and thriving to achieve their goals.

The first step in working with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community is establishing and strengthening respectful relationships. Crucial to these respectful relationships is acknowledging, understanding and confronting the history and recognising the importance of connection to family, culture, and Country.

# Language



Language is important and can often change over time. Words can also have different meanings for different people.

During consultations, young people were invited to share name ideas for this Action Plan, with more than 428 submissions received from across Western Australia (WA). The name voted as the favourite by young people was Koorlangka Bidi which translates to 'young people's path' in Noongar language.

The young person who named this Action Plan resides on Noongar Country. However, we recognise the diversity of Aboriginal and

Torres Strait Island peoples, communities and culture throughout Western Australia and would like to acknowledge the many other languages and dialects.

The words 'our' and 'we' in this document refer to the WA Government.

Throughout this Action Plan, the Department of Communities uses the term 'Aboriginal' respectfully to refer to both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

# Thank you



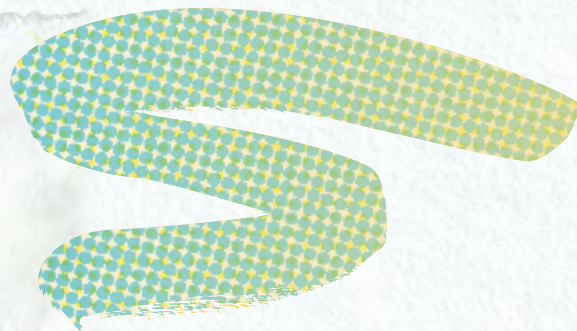
Thank you to the thousands of amazing young people, including the Ministerial Youth Advisory Council, who played a vital role in shaping this Action Plan.

Each of you brought something special to the table, from bravely pitching ideas in front of peers to sharing your creative talents, you have helped make an impact by advocating for what matters most to young people across WA. We are so grateful for your courage and passion.

A glimpse into the wealth of insights and ideas you have shared with us can be found on the [Department of Communities website](#).

Thank you also to WA's youth sector for their ongoing contribution to supporting and empowering young Western Australians for sharing their expertises.

# Meet the Artists



## Erin Puccinelli

My name is Erin Puccinelli, and I am the creator of the Action Plan cover. My inspiration was the culture of zines – a style of self-published magazine usually made from collages of images and historically a symbol for self-expression by young people.

I wanted to create something approachable and fun to spark the interest of all types of young people.

Interested in graphic design from a young age, I grew up drawing all the time and going to art galleries. Although I tried just about everything after high school, design seemed to spark the most interest. I'd love to own my own design business one day.

## Jarni McGuire

My name is Jarni McGuire and I'm a Whadjuk, Ballardong and Yued Noongar artist.

My creative journey spans various art forms, from sculptures to canvas paintings and digital works.

Each project is unique and therefore time and care are always taken with these projects.

My artwork is my heart and culture and I love sharing it with everyone.

As an artist, I find joy in sharing my creations with the world. But it's more than just art – it's a bridge between our rich traditional stories and the contemporary landscape.

My inspiration is found in my culture. I listen to my mob, absorbing their narratives and experiences. I ask questions, seeking deeper understanding, and I honour Noongar protocol in every brushstroke.



I look forward to many more years of weaving creativity, tradition, and innovation through my business, Jarni Creative.

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# Messages

## Hon. Hannah Beazley MLA, Minister for Youth

It's often said that young people are the leaders of tomorrow, but the truth is, young people are leading right now – in schools, workplaces, homes, and communities across WA.

Young people are engaged and eager to make WA a stronger, healthier, more inclusive, and sustainable place to live.

Young people are driven to make a difference, and they make massive contributions to WA's social, cultural, and economic life.

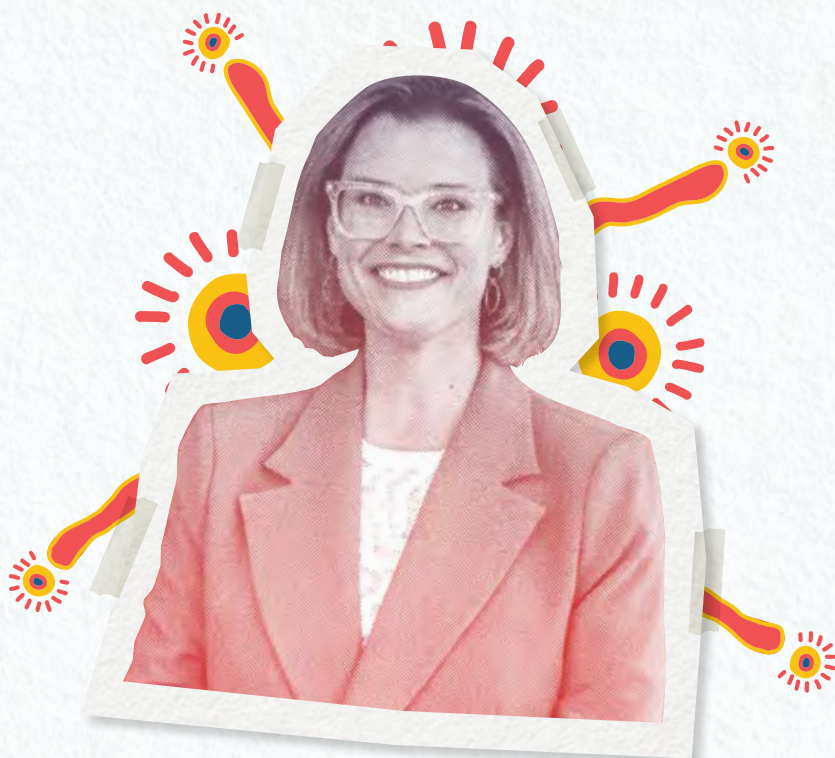
I am incredibly privileged to have had the opportunity to hear the voices of so many young people.

Your courage in sharing your views has been nothing short of remarkable, and I want to extend my thanks to each and every one of you for speaking up to make WA an even better place to live.

It's clear that young people want to have a say in policies, services and initiatives that affect them and seek to develop the skills they need to navigate life with confidence.

I understand the importance of providing access to opportunities that empower young people to achieve their goals and address challenges such as the cost of living and climate change impacts.

The WA Government has come together to consider what has been shared by young people and to act on what we have heard. This Action Plan is a reflection of your voices, guiding our work.



Our vision for WA is one where

all young people feel valued and included, supported to achieve their goals, empowered to shape the world they live in, and lead meaningful and fulfilling lives.

Achieving this vision will require a collective effort, with actions delivered by many WA Government agencies. We also recognise the vital role that Local Governments and the Australian Government play in supporting the diverse needs of young people and empowering them to thrive and confidently strive into adulthood.

I am excited to see where this Action Plan takes us and to continue making WA a great place for young people.

A special thank you to the young people whose ideas and feedback have helped shape this Plan. It exists for you and it is better because of you. We look forward to continuing to work with you as we implement our new Action Plan.



## Ministerial Youth Advisory Council

The young people of WA matter and they deserve to be heard, supported and empowered. We recognise the challenges of being young; balancing education, work, sports, family commitments, and the impact that all of this can have on wellbeing.

Through the Ministerial Youth Advisory Council (MYAC), we are honoured to have a direct voice to the Minister for Youth on issues that matter most to young people across WA.

We're thankful for the opportunity to provide substantial input into all aspects of the Action Plan, to identify both challenges and tangible actions.

As MYAC members, we were privileged to support the consultation workshops held across the State, connecting with peers from diverse backgrounds, amplifying their voices, and exploring these challenges.

Throughout the consultation process, young people were more than just heard—they were empowered to propose solutions and tangible support measures to remove obstacles, overcome challenges, and help us thrive.

It is crucial that government listens to young voices and includes them in decisions that affect them.

Representing young West Australians is a responsibility we take seriously. To all young people reading this Action Plan, we hope you feel a sense of pride in what you see, and experience the positive impacts of this Action Plan over the next three years and beyond.

# Western Australia's young people at a glance<sup>1</sup>

Young people make up

# 19.5%

of WA's population (10–25 years), a total of **517,557 young people** in WA.

This has increased by **21,000 people** since 2016 (**4.2%**).



# 265,950

are **10 to 17** years old

# 251,607

are **18 to 25** years old



# 51.3%

are male

# 48.7%

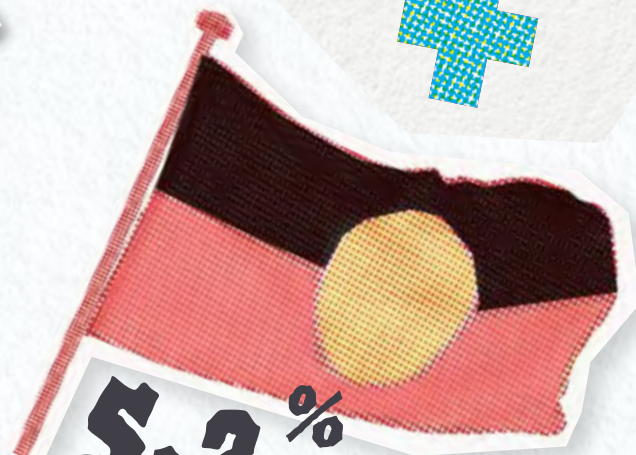
are female



Up to **11 in 100** Australians may have a diverse sexual orientation, sex or gender identity<sup>2</sup>

# 5.2%

of young people in WA are Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

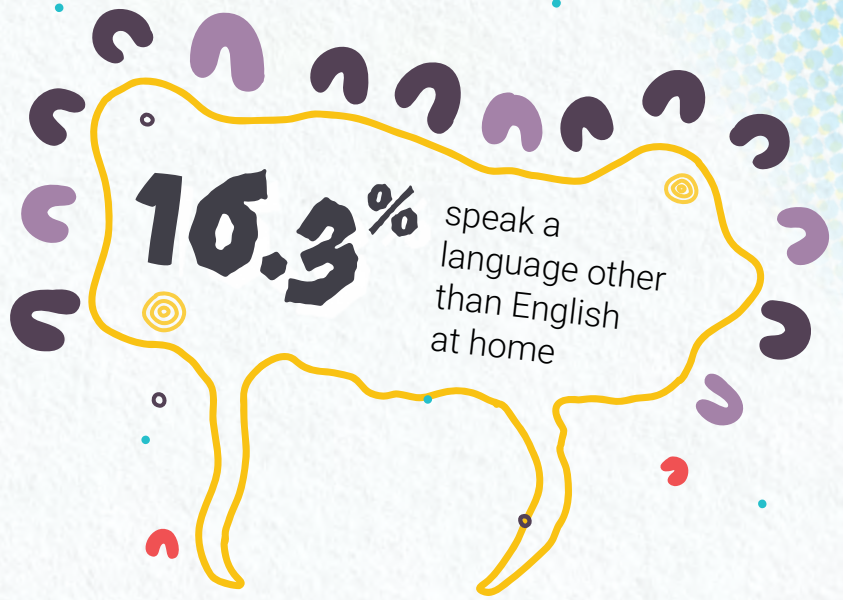






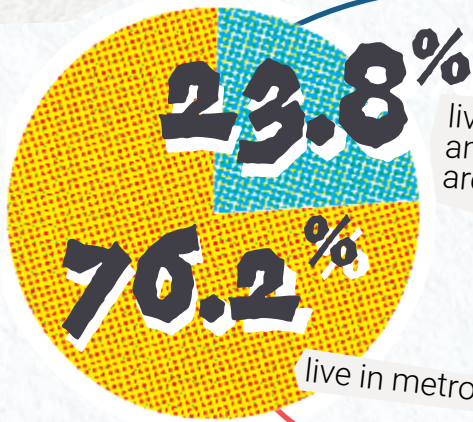
**21.3%**

of young people in WA were born overseas



**16.3%**

of young people in WA speak a language other than English at home

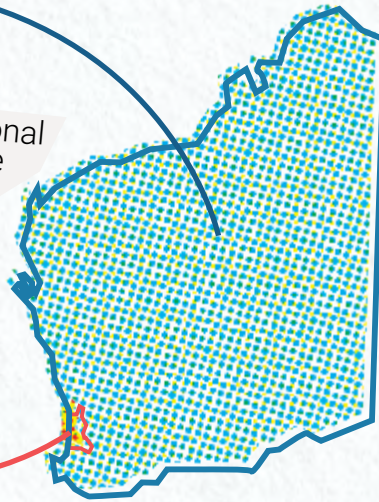


**23.8%**

live in regional and remote areas

**76.2%**

live in metro areas

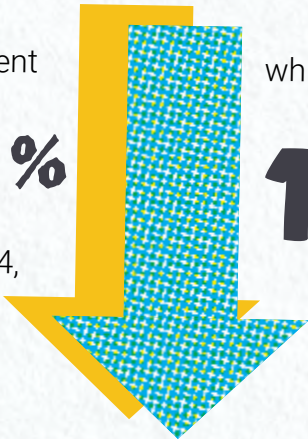


**2.9%**

of young people in WA live with a disability and need assistance with core activities



Youth unemployment was **10.1%** in April 2024,



which is significantly lower than the **15.9%** in 2017.

Over the same period, youth employment has increased by **23.5%**



or more than **45,000 jobs.**



# Listening to Western Australia's young people



## How young people have shaped the Action Plan

Consultation was crucial in shaping this Action Plan and provided a platform for young people aged 10 to 25 to have their say on the issues that matter most to them.

From August 2023 to March 2024, we embarked on an incredible journey covering 20,325 km – equivalent to cycling around Rottnest Island 923 times! During this time, we engaged with more than 2,271 young people, from Fitzroy Crossing to Albany through –

- more than 50 'Building Tomorrow: Have Your Say' workshops reaching every region in WA and a sell out Ignite & Innovate Networking event attended by 1,408 young people;
- 703 survey submissions;
- 29 written submissions;
- 47 'Drop us a comment' and organisation submissions; and
- 113 young people engaged in the UN Youth Voice Public Speaking Competition.

We connected with young people in the spaces they felt most comfortable and asked them to share their thoughts through online surveys, workshops, community events and a consultation paper. This included young people with diverse backgrounds and lived experiences including Aboriginal young people; lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, asexual plus (LGBTQIA+) young people; young people living with disability; culturally and linguistically diverse young people, young carers and young people who live in regional, rural and remote areas of Western Australia.

During consultation, we heard a range of innovative solutions and creative ideas from young people. These engagements have informed the development of this Action Plan which aims to improve outcomes for young people aged 10 to 25 years old.

Young Western Australians have also played a central role in co-designing the consultation workshops and elements of the Action Plan, ensuring that all aspects were developed with young people as active participants.

## What matters most to young people

Young people across WA have shared what is most important to them. Mental health and wellbeing, cost of living pressures, climate change and environment, connection to others, getting and/or holding onto a job and transitioning to adulthood (learning life skills) were among the top issues.

But these issues aren't isolated – they are deeply connected. This connectedness is evident in the Consultation Report available on Communities website. For example, meaningful employment positively impacts wellbeing, while climate change can result in anxiety. Access to transport also plays a crucial role across young people's lives whether it is accessing education and job opportunities through to meeting up with family and friends. These issues resonate universally for young people.

A common theme raised by young people was the pressure they feel as they navigate life and make decisions about their future.



Young adulthood is a period of exploration and growth, marked by significant transitions such as leaving education, finding employment, navigating relationships and, for some, leaving home. While these transitions can be exciting, they can also bring uncertainty and challenges.

The focus areas of the Action Plan are directly informed by the voices and experiences of young people, reflecting their aspirations and needs. Through a collaborative whole-of-government effort and targeted initiatives, the Action Plan aims to improve outcomes for young people in WA by supporting their daily lives and their journey to adulthood, supporting them to overcome challenges and achieve their goals.

The common issues and themes from the consultations informed the following six focus areas:



Amplifying young voices



Cost of living



Climate action



Supporting wellbeing



Achieving goals



Embracing diversity and inclusion

## Our approach

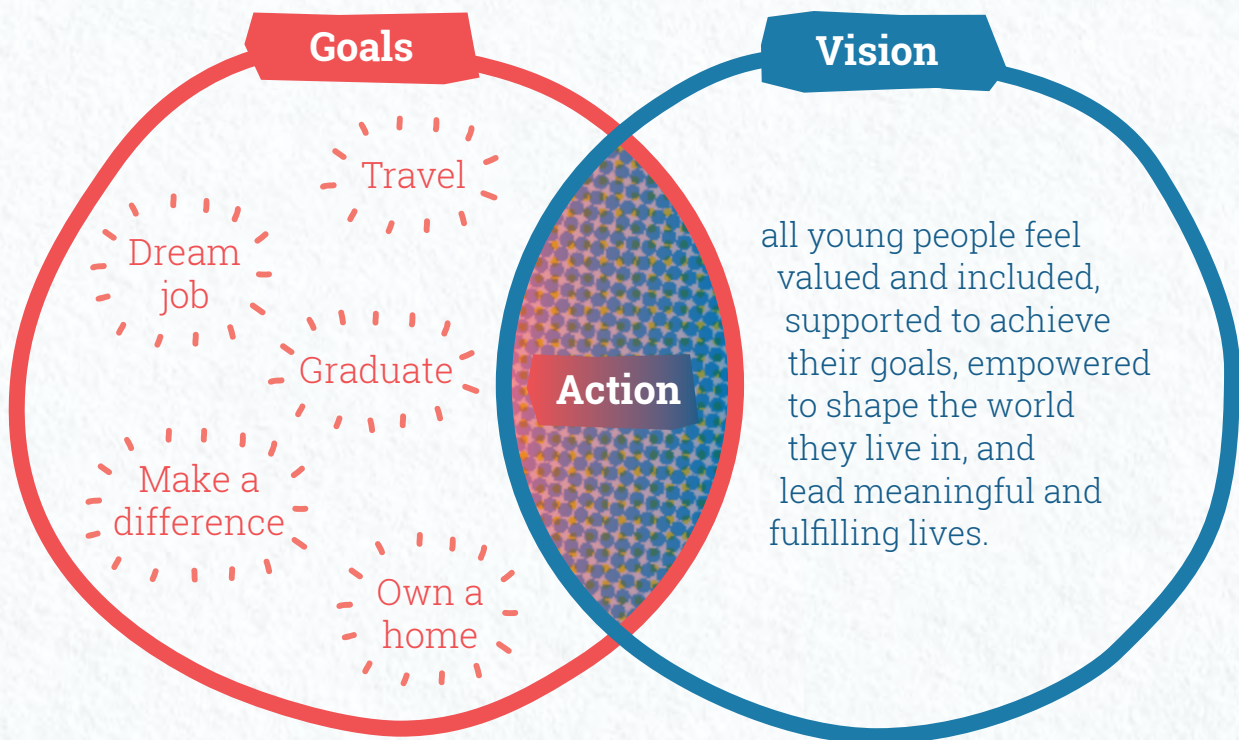
The Action Plan will drive initiatives across six focus areas aligned with what matters most to young people in WA.

Guiding our actions is a vision for:

A Western Australia where all young people matter, and feel and are valued and included, supported to achieve their goals, empowered to shape the world they live in, and lead meaningful and fulfilling lives.

Across the WA Government, many agencies are working hard to meet the needs of young people. The needs of young people cannot be met by any single agency in isolation. As a result, the Action Plan reflects the collaboration of a range of actions across a wide range of government agencies.

Charting the course to achieving young people's goals: Vision ignites aspirations, and actions pave the way for young people to achieve their goals.





## Principles

To help achieve the vision of the Action Plan the WA Government is committed to following principles, which will guide us in our work with and for young people:

- **Youth focused** – young people and their voices, needs and aspirations are at the centre of our work
- **Adaptive** – we learn from what we do and feedback
- **Outcomes focused** – we want young people to be able to access opportunities that support them now and into the future
- **Collaborative** – we acknowledge the power of partnerships and the important role of young people, youth service providers, local government, the Australian Government, business and communities
- **Strengths based** – we recognise existing strengths in young people, government and community services, programs and facilities, our economy and business sector and local communities which provide a strong platform for the future. We recognise the commitment of staff across WA and, critically, we acknowledge the strength of young people seeking to achieve their goals, shape the world in which they live and lead meaningful and fulfilling lives.



# Amplifying young voices



**Outcome:** Young people have a voice that is heard, shaping their world, while feeling valued, recognised, and celebrated for their invaluable contributions.

## What we heard

- Amplifying the voices of young people is about hearing what they have to say and valuing and acting upon their insights. This means creating spaces where young people feel safe to speak their minds and offering opportunities for meaningful involvement.
- There was unanimous desire among young people to be included in the conversation in ways that resonate with them. They advocated for more relatable, transparent and inclusive engagement between decision-makers and young people.

They also called for lowering the voting age and actively seeking input from a wide range of young voices – to foster, welcome and value diverse perspectives.

Young people seek to be taken seriously, to have their ideas given due consideration in significant decisions, and to have opportunities to lead. This includes through mentorship and training.

I feel like young people get looked down on by people think we're not knowledgeable enough etc. I wish we have more representation and say on matters that will affect us now in the future.

12-18 years old, Perth

Make sure they know that they will make change - regional kids often feel uninspired because nothing ever happens for them.

Young person, Online Forum

Listen to us and do something with it. Sometimes I feel like we aren't heard even when we are asked.

14-17 years old, Fremantle



## What we are doing



### The Ministerial Youth Advisory Council

The Ministerial Youth Advisory Council (MYAC) was created in 2017 and provides advice to the Minister for Youth on topics most important to young people in WA. Its members are aged 15 to 25 years old and draw upon their knowledge, experience, skills and passions to advocate for the issues that are important to young people in WA.

### Youth Week WA

Youth Week is WA's largest annual celebration of young people (10–25 years), providing young people with the opportunity to express their ideas, raise important issues, make decisions, create entertainment and celebrate young people's contribution to the community. Each year, Youth Week WA Ambassadors are appointed to represent young people in WA and ensure young voices are heard and embedded in all things Youth Week WA from start to finish.



Youth Week WA 2024 Ambassadors

### Youth Parliament

The Youth Parliament program, supported by the WA Government, is a unique opportunity for young people aged 15 to 25 years to have their voice heard by policy makers, and create the change they want to see. In Youth Parliament, participants act as 'youth members' representing a state electorate in Parliament and prepare and debate bills which are based on the interests and concerns of young people in WA.



### Supporting the Youth Affairs Council of WA as the peak body of the youth sector

The WA Government provides recurrent annual funding to the non-government peak body for the youth sector, Youth Affairs Council of WA, to deliver a range of community services that connect and build the capability of young people, the sector and communities. The key elements of this service model include: sector support and development; policy advise and information; and interagency collaboration.

### Established the Nation's first LGBTQIA+ youth advocacy body

The Youth Pride Network established and funded by the WA Government, carries out an important advocacy role for LGBTQIA+ young people. Youth Pride Network provides resources, workshops, information, and education for the LGBTQIA+ community and their allies, while working to raise public awareness around the needs and aspirations of LGBTQIA+ young people.



### WA Multicultural Awards

The annual WA Multicultural Awards recognise individuals and organisations for their outstanding contributions to multiculturalism and culturally and linguistically diverse (CaLD) communities. The Awards include a Youth category that recognises CaLD young people under 25 who demonstrate leadership and promote social inclusion and intercultural understanding.

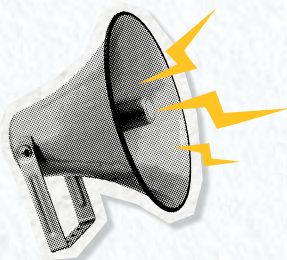
### WA Training Awards and WorldSkills Competition

The annual WA Training Awards celebrate the achievements of individuals and organisations who have excelled through vocational training and are following skilled career pathways. Winners at the State event progress through to the Australian Training Awards and are ambassadors for the sector. The WA Training Awards include categories for individuals undertaking vocational education and training (VET) at school and post-school.

WorldSkills competitions test practical skills in over 50 skills areas, with a focus on youth. Regional competitions across the State are held biennially and eligible winners aged under 24 progress to the National Championships as members of TeamWA, showcasing their skills and networking with industry peers.

Top performers may earn the opportunity to represent Australia internationally in their respective skill areas.

WA Training Awards and WorldSkills winners are also profiled as ambassadors for the VET sector across social media platforms and at live events to showcase the sector.



### Department of Fire and Emergency Services Awards

The Department of Fire and Emergency Services has a range of awards that celebrate young Western Australians, including the Western Australia Fire and Emergency Services awards, which includes three youth achievement awards, and the Strategic Volunteer and Youth Programs Youth Awards held every two years to acknowledge and celebrate the achievements of young people as emergency services cadets.

The department also nominates individuals, groups and schools who have contributed to raising the disaster resilience of young people and their communities for WA's Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience 'Resilient Australia Awards'.

### Premier's Science Awards

The Premier's Science Awards recognise and celebrate the outstanding scientific research and engagement taking place in Western Australia. There are categories for Research Student of the Year and Aboriginal STEM Student of the Year.

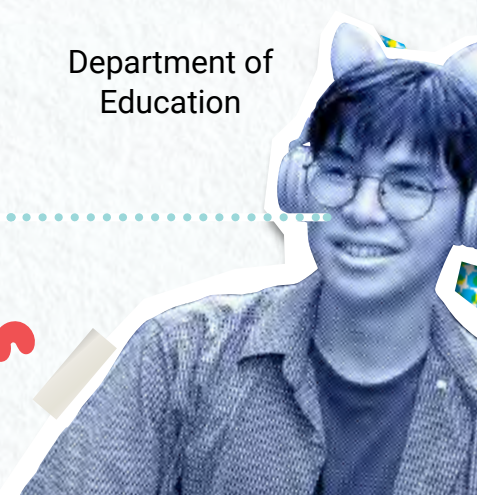
### Statement of Commitment to Child Safety and Wellbeing

The WA Government has released a [Statement of Commitment to Child Safety and Wellbeing](#) which outlines the shared commitment and responsibility of government agencies involved in supporting all children and young people to be safe within organisations.

Together we are committed to the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people and are guided by the [National Principles for Child Safe Organisations](#) (National Principles) in line with the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. A number of the National Principles are directly relevant to the six focus areas.

## What we will do

Action		Agency
1.1	<b>National Youth Forum</b> The department will support two young people to attend the annual National Youth Forum, advocating for the perspectives of young Western Australians.	Department of Communities
1.2	<b>Supporting Youth Advisory Councils and Youth Action Plans</b> The department will provide funding and resources for local governments, not-for-profits, and community groups to establish Youth Advisory Councils and develop local Youth Action Plans.	Department of Communities
1.3	<b>Updating the Youth Participation Kit</b> The department will update the Youth Participation Kit with best practice resources for government and organisations who wish to engage with young people.	Department of Communities
1.4	<b>Recognising and giving young carers a voice</b> Young carers will gain a voice through representation on the Carers Advisory Council. Supporting this, the department will raise awareness for and celebrate young carers as a part of National Carers Week.	Department of Communities
1.5	<b>Celebrating young volunteers</b> New categories in WA Volunteer Service Awards mean that young people can now be celebrated for the amazing work they do in the community.	Department of Communities
1.6	<b>More opportunities for school students to have a say</b> The WA Student Council will engage with other advisory groups, such as the National Student Voice Council, to amplify the views of students on issues that are important to them.	Department of Education





Action		Agency
<p><b>1.7</b></p>	<p><b>Creating a Youth in Emergency Services (YES) Cadet Advisory Committee</b></p> <p>The department will create a cadet advisory committee of young people under the age of 18 years to inform DFES of strategies to promote engagement of young people in the emergency services and the movement of young people from youth programs to adult volunteering.</p>	<p>Department of Fire and Emergency Services</p>
<p><b>1.8</b></p>	<p><b>Amplifying the voices of young consumers</b></p> <p>The department will work to include or involve young people on Consumer Protection committees, such as the Consumer Advisory Committee.</p>	<p>Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety</p>
<p><b>1.9</b></p>	<p><b>Giving young people a voice on maritime issues</b></p> <p>Young people will be given the opportunity to have a say on maritime matters through consultation focus groups.</p>	<p>Department of Transport</p>
<p><b>1.10</b></p>	<p><b>Listening to young people</b></p> <p>The Commission will continue to seek to involve young people in its regular state-wide research to track key attitudinal and behavioural trends in the areas of alcohol, drugs and mental health (attitudinal surveys).</p>	<p>Mental Health Commission</p>
<p><b>1.11</b></p>	<p><b>Sharing community success stories</b></p> <p>The Western Australian Community Impact Hub will showcase positive outcomes for young people and share insights, tools and learning opportunities.</p>	<p>Lotterywest</p>
<p><b>1.12</b></p>	<p><b>Supporting young people's voices</b></p> <p>Lotterywest will consider grants for initiatives that amplify the voices of young people in their local community and provide them with an opportunity to have a say on decisions that impact them.</p>	<p>Lotterywest</p>



# Climate action

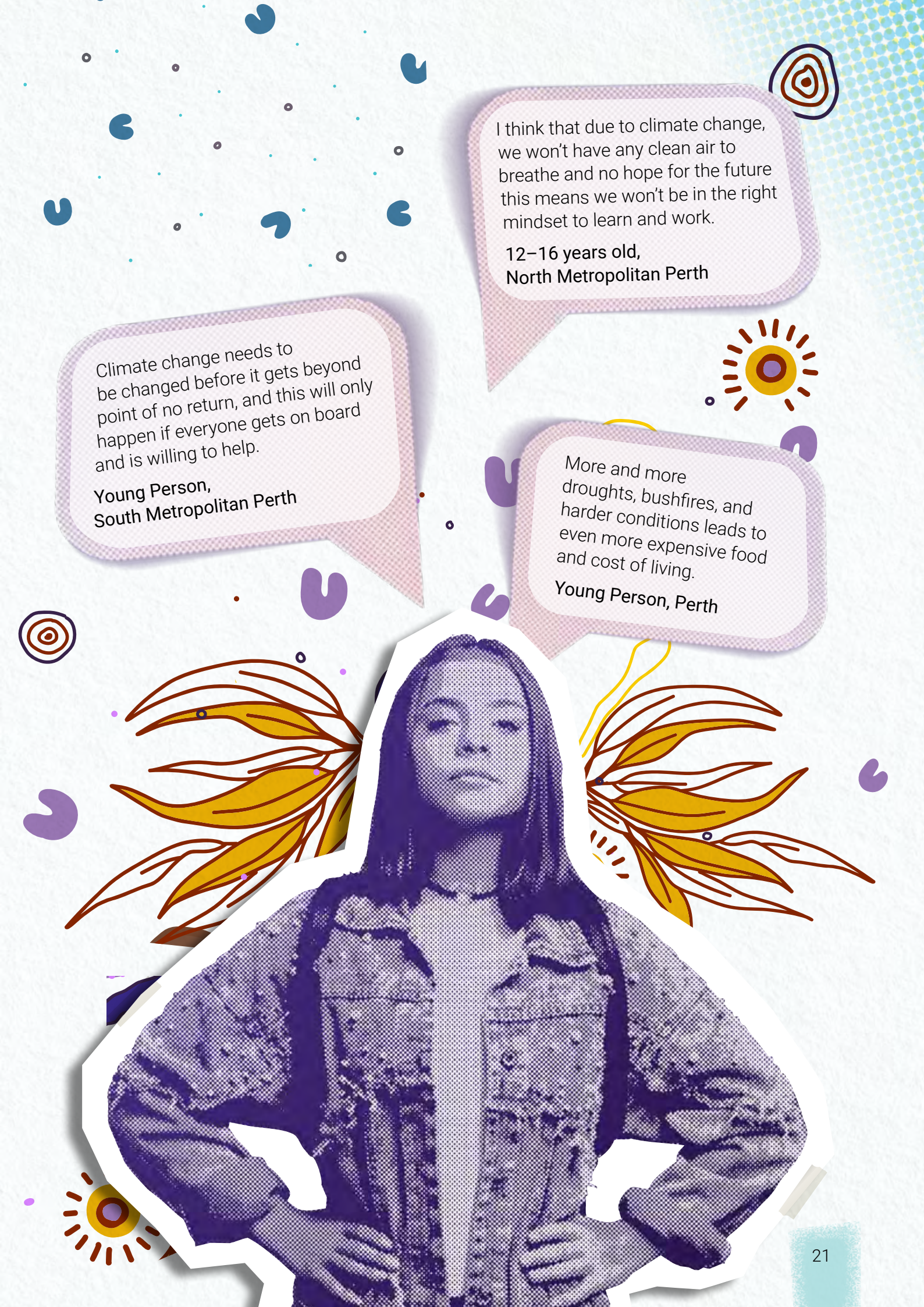


**Outcome:** Move towards achieving net zero emissions, support climate adaptation and protect WA's unique environment for present and future generations. Equip young people with the knowledge, resources, and infrastructure needed to lead climate action, drive sustainable environmental practices and adapt to and mitigate climate change.

## What we heard

Climate change impacts everyone and addressing it is a shared responsibility of by all governments, business, communities and individuals. Young people shared their concerns about climate change and the environment, with many reporting being most concerned about the loss of biodiversity and the extreme weather changes. Some also shared that climate anxiety is making it challenging to focus on education and professional aspirations.

Young people advocated for actionable solutions to mitigate climate change impacts and urged for action on plastic pollution, more clean energy and incentivising sustainable practices such as affordable electric vehicles and eco-friendly options for businesses. They championed initiatives that promote meaningful employment opportunities in environmental sectors and sought for more educational programs to support the community to make more sustainable choices.



I think that due to climate change, we won't have any clean air to breathe and no hope for the future this means we won't be in the right mindset to learn and work.

12–16 years old,  
North Metropolitan Perth

Climate change needs to be changed before it gets beyond point of no return, and this will only happen if everyone gets on board and is willing to help.

Young Person,  
South Metropolitan Perth

More and more droughts, bushfires, and harder conditions leads to even more expensive food and cost of living.

Young Person, Perth

## What we are doing

### Reel It In Campaign

Each year, thousands of marine birds, mammals and fish are killed or injured due to discarded fishing line and tackle causing them to drown, lose limbs, starve or develop life-threatening infections. Specially designed collection bins made of 100% recycled plastic are making a difference by significantly reducing the amount of fishing line and other waste making its way into the river and coastal systems.

Made of 100 per cent recycled materials, the Reel It In bins were designed to provide a safe and easy way to dispose of unwanted fishing line and tackle. They were also designed so that animals and weather couldn't pull the rubbish back out.

There are 74 Reel It In bins installed at popular fishing locations across the Swan Canning Riverpark. The bins have collected more than 222 kms of fishing line, 36,000 hooks and sinkers, 21,000 plastic bait bags and 95,000 pieces of general rubbish and prevented these from ending up in our precious rivers where they pose a significant threat to wildlife. In addition, there are 102 Reel It In bins installed at popular coastal fishing locations spanning from Broome down to Albany, and across to Rottnest Island.

### Get involved – Adopt-a-Bin

Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions has a dedicated group of Reel It In volunteers who empty their local fishing line bins on a weekly basis. Volunteers are provided with training and equipment and are registered with the Parks and Wildlife Service volunteer program.

There are currently 90 volunteers that help empty Reel It In bins across the State. This group includes students from John Tonkin College in Mandurah who have adopted some local bins, and other young people that have joined the project independently and want to do their part to help protect the environment.

Keep an eye on the River Guardians website at [www.riverguardians.com](http://www.riverguardians.com) and social media pages to see if there's a bin available for 'adoption' near you. For other information, and to register your interest, please email [community@dbca.wa.gov.au](mailto:community@dbca.wa.gov.au).





### Emission reduction targets

The WA Government has set a target to reduce its 2030 greenhouse gas emissions to 80 per cent below 2020 levels. This applies to emissions from all WA Government agencies, including emissions generated by Government Trading Enterprises. The Water Corporation has also committed to achieving net zero emissions across all operations by 2035.

### The Department of Education's Sustainability Framework

This framework aims to create positive outcomes for sustainability, now and into the future, driving change across the focus areas of Infrastructure, Operations and Curriculum. Professional learning for teachers has been developed to support schools to engage with the 'Caring for Country Together – Our sustainability framework' and embed sustainability into curriculum delivery.

### Rebates for purchasing zero emission vehicles

The Zero Emission Vehicle Rebate scheme provides a \$3,500 rebate to people who purchase an eligible zero emission vehicle as part of the Government's Clean Energy Car Fund.

### Bush classrooms initiative

This Department of Education initiative supports schools to use and/or develop areas of natural bushland on school grounds to support their teaching and learning programs.

### Department of Fire and Emergency Services climate adaption and disaster resilience

Recognising that climate-induced disasters are increasing in frequency and intensity with many communities across Australia threatened, disrupted and/or displaced, the department is undertaking work to support communities to better understand disaster resilience, climate change and how communities (including young people) can adapt in order to better respond to disasters. This work includes advocating for disaster resilience to be recognised by schools as a part of climate adaptation.

In 2024, the department has presented to 130 new teachers moving to regional and remote WA to increase their awareness of disasters and to encourage them to work with students to better prepare their communities for bushfire, cyclone, earthquake, and flood.

### Climate Adaptation Strategy

WA is already experiencing the impacts of climate change, including more frequent and severe droughts, heatwaves, high-risk bushfire weather, extreme rainfall events and rising sea levels. The WA Government's Climate Adaptation Strategy sets out four directions and 37 actions to help ensure WA can adapt and is prepared for the climate of the future and that the cost of climate impacts is reduced.



## WasteSorted Schools

The program supports schools across WA in promoting responsible waste management behaviours, with a focus on waste avoidance and resource recovery. It also develops positive environmental values in students and the whole school community. Many schools find these activities provide meaningful, hands-on learning experiences that are linked to the Western Australian Curriculum.

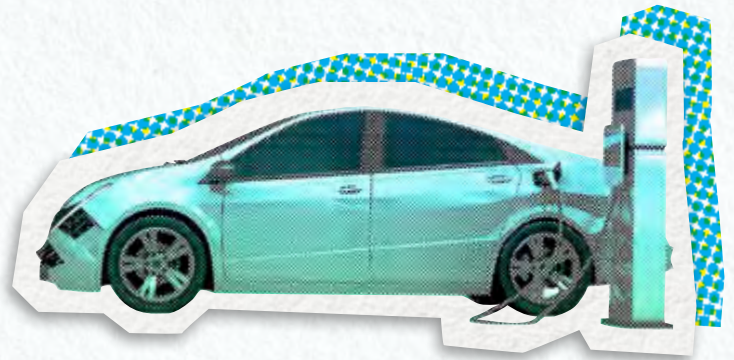
## WA's Waste Strategy

WA's Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy 2030 (Waste Strategy) contains a vision for WA to become a sustainable, low waste, circular economy in which public health and the environment are protected from the impacts of waste. The Waste Authority has commenced a review of the Waste Strategy to identify what is working and what can be improved going forward.

## Transition to green power infrastructure

Synergy, the WA Government-owned energy provider, will transition out of coal-fired power generation by 2030. An estimated \$3.8 billion will be invested, through Synergy, in new green power infrastructure in the South West Interconnected System, including wind generation and storage, to ensure emissions reduction, continued stability and affordability. The WA Government has also committed to not building any new natural gas-fired power stations on the South West Interconnected System after 2030.

The Water Corporation, the water utility owned by the WA Government, has also committed to secure up to 400 megawatts of additional renewable wind energy to satisfy the power requirements of all its operations, including its two existing desalination plants, with another planned for 2028.



## State Electric Vehicle Strategy

In 2020, the WA Government released an Electric Vehicle Strategy to prepare for the transition to low and zero emission electric vehicles and maximise benefits to our state. As part of the Sectoral Emissions Reduction Strategy announced in December 2023 the government has also committed to developing an EV Infrastructure Strategy to further support the uptake of electric vehicles.

## Bush Rangers and River Rangers Cadets

Bush Rangers and River Rangers Cadets engage in on-ground conservation works and sustainable living projects.







### Dirk Hartog Island National Park Return to 1616 ecological restoration project

The Return to 1616 project is restoring the island's ecology to resemble that experienced by Dutch sailor Dirk Hartog when he first explored the area more than four centuries ago. An education package for schools from Kindergarten to Year 10 has been developed and addresses environmental sustainability, climate change, and ecological restoration.

### Nearer to Nature and River Guardians

Nearer to Nature and River Guardians community programs provide activities during school holidays for young people and their families to clean up the environment with targeted activities.

### WA's energy transition to a Brighter Energy Future

WA's energy transition to a Brighter Energy Future includes large scale grid-decarbonisation to integration of distributed energy resources (for example, rooftop solar) and Electric Vehicles.

Energy Policy WA provides Energy tips for households that may assist young people to save power.

### Keep Australia Beautiful Clean Schools program

The Keep Australia Beautiful Clean Schools program supports schools across WA to tackle litter and protect their local environment.



### Containers for Change

Containers for Change has saved over three billion eligible 10-cent containers from landfill and resulted in \$10.8 million of refunds being donated to schools, charities, and community groups by everyday Western Australians.

Currently, 1089 schools are registered with Containers for Change.



## Coastal management and climate change

The Department of Transport provides coastal engineering, planning and scientific services to manage coastal land and nearshore waters. These services rely on the acquisition, analysis, management and presentation of scientific information and geospatial data. The Coast Capture WA data acquisition program provide valuable elevation and depth data to inform planning and climate change adaptation. Climate change adaptation plans considers coastal hazards such as erosion and inundation which is exacerbated by climate change as rising sea levels and more frequent and intense storms increase the risk to coastal areas. The department researches and prepares strategic plans and detailed designs for land and water based maritime infrastructure, provides expert advice on coastal management issues, administers the grant program for coastal adaptation projects and manages the data acquisition and delivery which also helps inform climate change action plans.

## Create new and expanded parks for Western Australia

The Government will continue to deliver Plan for Our Parks, a whole-of-government initiative that is creating more opportunities for nature-based and cultural tourism and providing enhanced biodiversity conservation in Western Australia.

## Plastic Free Riverpark program

The Plastic Free Riverpark program offers grant funding and education to help riverfront venues, schools, sporting clubs, commercial operators and local governments to reduce single-use plastic products from the Swan Canning Riverpark. The program facilitates opportunities for young people in regional and metropolitan schools to participate in scientific research and monitoring in the field, supporting the curriculum and demonstrating career pathways in conservation. The program has already removed 3.2 million single use plastic products from Riverpark businesses and events.





What we will do

Action		Agency
2.1	<p><b>Marine turtle conservation resources</b></p> <p>The department will develop lessons and resources to teach school students about climate change, ecology and environmental impacts relating to marine turtle conservation.</p>	<p>Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions</p>
2.2	<p><b>Sustainability in schools</b></p> <p>Schools will be supported to engage with the 'Caring for Country Together – Our Sustainability Framework' and to embed sustainability as a part of the curriculum.</p>	<p>Department of Education</p>
2.3	<p><b>Disaster resilience education in targeted schools</b></p> <p>The department will target regional and remote schools to deliver disaster resilience education, tailored specifically to the demographic of the region, and the hazards they face in the community.</p>	<p>Department of Fire and Emergency Services</p>
2.4	<p><b>Engage young people outside of schools in disaster risk reduction and resilience building</b></p> <p>The department will engage local government Youth Advisory Groups and other youth networks/groups to codesign resources and develop a communication plan by and for young people.</p>	<p>Department of Fire and Emergency Services</p>
2.5	<p><b>Health Sector Adaptation Plan</b></p> <p>A Health Sector Adaptation Plan will be developed, to ensure that health services across WA are aware of the impacts of climate change on the sector, and have the capacity to adapt to the impacts of climate change.</p>	<p>Department of Health</p>

**Action**

**Agency**

2.6

**Science and Technology Plan to support climate resilience**

The 10 Year Science and Technology Plan will support climate resilience in WA, particularly relating to decarbonisation, developing clean energy, protecting the natural environment, and promoting sustainable practices.

Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation

2.7

**Net Zero for the Public Transport Authority**

The Public Transport Authority will develop a Net Zero Transition Plan.

Public Transport Authority

2.8

**Electric buses**

Eighteen new electric buses will be added to the State's public transport fleet.

Public Transport Authority

2.9

**Solar power for the Public Transport Authority**

The Public Transport Authority will increase its solar generation capacity by 30 per cent.

Public Transport Authority

2.10

**New climate change laws**

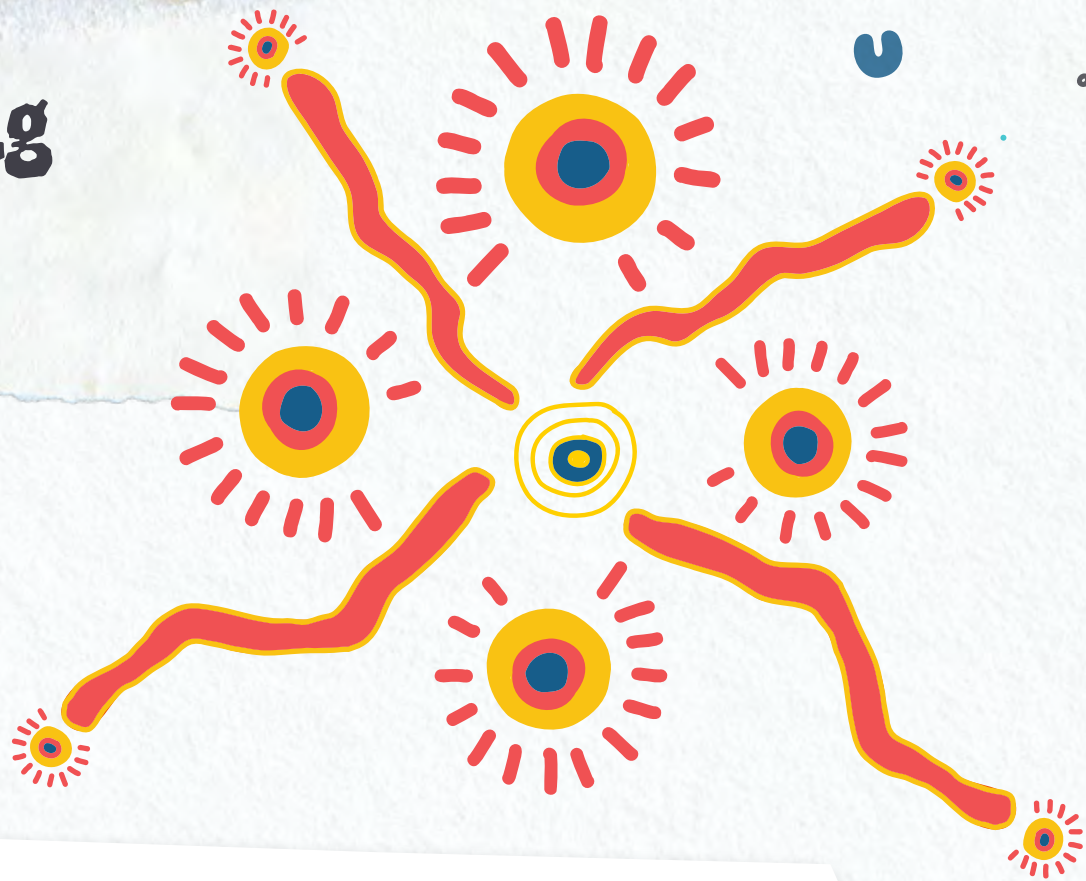
The Climate Change Bill 2023, introduced to Parliament on 30 November 2023, will ensure WA Government accountability on climate change, formalise long-term emissions reduction targets, and provide certainty of our state's enduring commitment to climate action for present and future generations.

Department of Water and Environmental Regulation



Action		Agency
<p><b>2.11</b></p>	<p><b>Reducing Western Australia's emissions</b></p> <p>The Sectoral Emissions Reduction Strategy has forty new actions to support the WA Government's target of net zero emissions by 2050, including actions to ensure a just transition for all Western Australians.</p>	<p>Department of Water and Environmental Regulation</p>
<p><b>2.12</b></p>	<p><b>WA Plan for Plastics</b></p> <p>The Plan for Plastics initiative has already diverted 430 million single-use plastics from landfill or litter every year. Stage 2 bans are expected to divert an additional 700 million single-use items annually from WA landfill.</p>	<p>Department of Water and Environmental Regulation</p>
<p><b>2.13</b></p>	<p><b>Perth and Peel Urban Greening Strategy</b></p> <p>The State Government is developing an urban greening strategy to promote and enhance tree canopy and greening across the Perth and Peel regions.</p>	<p>Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage</p>
<p><b>2.14</b></p>	<p><b>Planning for climate change along the WA coastline</b></p> <p>The department will engage with students studying science and technology and provide work experience to contribute towards the climate action plans, and provision and management of supporting data.</p>	<p>Department of Transport, Maritime</p>
<p><b>2.15</b></p>	<p><b>Funding for initiatives relating to climate change and the environment</b></p> <p>Lotterywest will consider grants for initiatives that relate to climate adaptation, protecting the environment and supporting WA's diverse ecosystems.</p>	<p>Lotterywest</p>
<p><b>2.16</b></p>	<p><b>Clean Energy Skills</b></p> <p>The Clean Energy Skills National Centre of Excellence will expand access to clean energy skills training opportunities at TAFE campuses around the State. A hub and spoke model will harness and develop the capability of WA TAFEs and training providers for thousands of Western Australians to skill up for our clean energy future.</p> <p>The Clean Energy Skills Centre of Excellence will also promote the careers and job opportunities available to young people as the economy transitions to net zero.</p>	<p>Department of Training and Workforce Development</p>

# Achieving goals



**Outcome:** Young people will gain a better understanding of post-school pathways and crucial life skills to achieve their goals and/or pursue purpose-driven careers.

## What we heard

The majority of young people shared that their goal was to land their dream job – one that's purpose-driven and makes a positive impact on the environment or their community.

In classes, young people sought mentors who understand them and engaging learning experiences. Young people also shared their eagerness for support in figuring out options after school including available post-school pathways. They emphasised the importance of exposure to a diverse range of career pathways from an early age and support services that cater to their individual needs and aspirations.

When it comes to jobs, young people advocated the need to protect their

employment rights and ensure fair wages. Young people also sought opportunities for meaningful work, career advancement, accessible training programs and pathways to secure stable employment in fields they're passionate about.

Young people identified that discrimination in the workplace and financial barriers can hinder young people's ability to pursue their desired goals. To address these challenges, young people sought financial supports (such as scholarships), increased access to information on career pathways, life skills education, practical work experiences (such as internships and work placements) and personalised career counselling.

I 100% agree especially due to the fact that young adults are not learning key skills that are important about being an adult. Especially keeping a job and working hard to achieve career goals and how important it is not to just do a job because it's available but to find something that they are interested in to have more career goals and work towards these.

22-25 years old, Kimberley

More opportunity for wage growth, upskilling support and more employment opportunities. Typically, in rural and regional areas, wage growth is stagnated and there are less opportunities to 'job hop' and find a workplace which aligns with your skills, interests and needs.

22-25 years old, Wheatbelt

In school we are told we have to pick a career for the rest of our lives at like 17, with little to no experience. I think that by having like a workshop class where we can discover different careers and different adult life skills would be useful, like learning taxes and house buying and other skills would be useful.

15-17 years old,  
South Metropolitan Perth

I really want to become a lawyer or a paramedic. I also just want to be an inspiration for the younger generation growing up and I want kids to aspire to be more persistent in everything they do they may not have to like what they do but just to.

12-14 years old, Gascoyne





## What we are doing

### Quality Teaching Strategy (Strategy)

The Strategy drives improvement in the quality of teaching across the system. It helps to build a shared understanding of what good teaching looks like, and consistency of delivery, to ensure every student benefits from what happens in public school classrooms. The Strategy maintains that effective teachers provide opportunities for student agency and voice.

### Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) in schools

The Department of Education promotes STEM interest and skills through various initiatives: the Secondary School Science and STEM program enhances science facilities for secondary students. The Primary School Science program establishes science

classrooms for primary students. The Einstein First research project collaborates with educators to advance science education, including the Quantum Girls Project to boost female students' STEM interest. The Digital Technologies Challenges Program, funded by the Department and supported by industry, improves students' automation, data science, and coding skills.

### Industry-relevant training for school students

The Department of Education offers in-school Vocational Education and Training places for Year 11 and 12 students. Increased training places for school students are being offered to engage students in quality, industry-relevant training, with options to attain a WACE, while enhancing their post-school employment, education, and training opportunities. The Specialised Career Practitioner project embeds career learning in the curriculum and facilitates industry connections. In addition, the department offers in-school Vocational Education and Training places for Year 11 and 12 students.

### Gifted and talented programs

The Department of Education provides gifted and talented programs offering important opportunities for the most academically, linguistically and artistically able students to fulfil their potential.

### Life skills in the Western Australian Curriculum

The Western Australian Curriculum supports the development of life skills through the general capabilities: literacy; numeracy; information and communication technology capability; critical and creative thinking; personal and social capability; ethical understanding; and intercultural understanding.







### **Sharing eSafety Commissioner's resources**

The eSafety Commissioner is Australia's national independent regulator for online safety, providing resources to educate young people, parents, and educators on various topics, including online self-protection, handling challenging situations, self-identity, and community engagement. The Department of Education is promoting these resources, including the eSafety Schools' Hub, which offers safety materials such as planning tools, factsheets, posters, flyers, and social media content to convey crucial online safety messages within school communities.

### **Department of Fire and Emergency Services Cadets**

The annual Senior Cadet Leadership Camp and cadet participation in the Mining Emergency Response Competition aim to develop and showcase leadership skills among young cadets involved in emergency services volunteering. The Youth in Emergency Services (YES) program further empowers young cadets by providing hands-on training and knowledge to respond effectively to local emergencies, fostering community networks, resilience, and active citizenship among youth.

### **Digital Inclusion Blueprint**

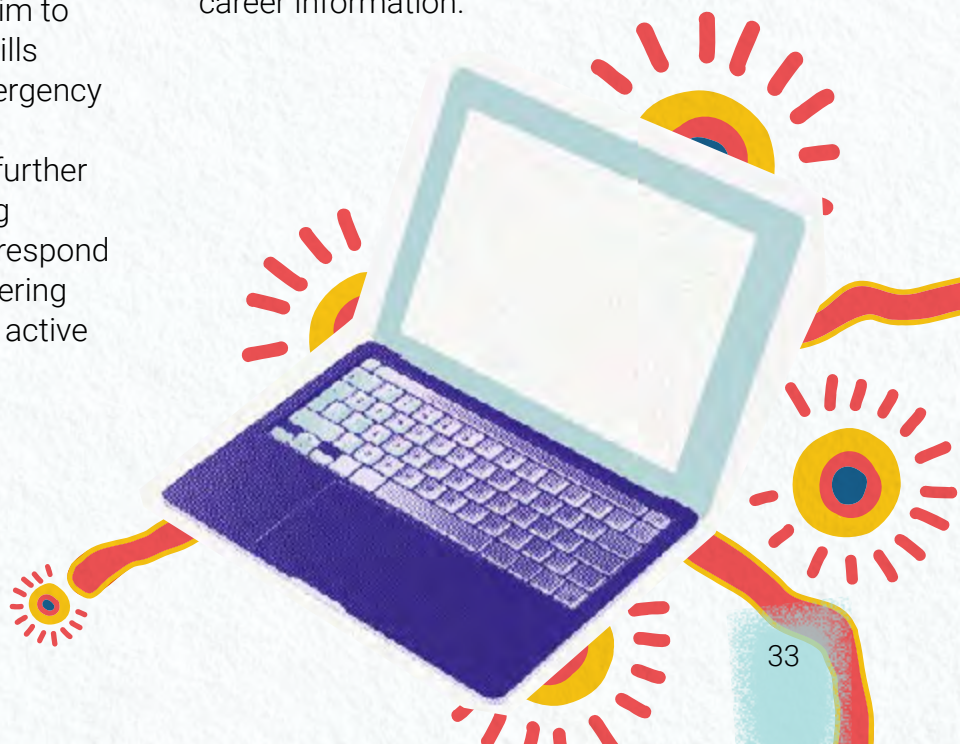
The Digital Inclusion in WA Blueprint (the Blueprint) focusses on more than being able to physically connect to the internet. It's also about having the know-how needed to connect, being able to afford those connections, and having access to technology.

### **Jobs and Skills Centres**

The Jobs and Skills Centres provide career and training information and support to jobseekers and young people through individual appointments and school-based career workshops. This includes support to identify career aspirations, explore options and training and education pathways. They are located across metropolitan and regional TAFE campuses with additional outreach locations for regional areas.

### **Year 9 Career Taster Program**

The Career Taster Program gives Year 9 students the opportunity to explore their aspirations and gain a taste of the world of work through practical industry experiences that are designed to spark their 'career curiosity'. The program is supported by an online Career Taster Portal making it easy to browse events, activities, resources and career information.



## Job Ready programs

These free programs deliver short and relevant training and a work placement, to ensure people are equipped to meet entry-level job opportunities in a range of industries. The programs are open to jobseekers, including young people not attending full-time school. They include training and wrap-around services to support the transition into an apprenticeship, traineeship, further training or employment.

## Foundation skills courses and Equity courses

Foundation Skills and Equity Courses provide support to develop the skills needed to be successful in study and employment. There are around 30 foundation skills courses focussed on developing language, literacy and numeracy, and employability skills such as teamwork, problem solving, self-management, digital literacy and using technology. Equity courses support people with disability and people seeking courses that are aligned with their culture. Approximately 99 per cent of the course costs are subsidised by the WA Government.

## Apprenticeships and traineeships

Apprenticeships and traineeships combine training with work and are available across a range of industries. They are available to anyone of working age, and some can begin while at school.

The Jobs and Skills Centres provide advice on choosing an apprenticeship or traineeship and steps to getting started, including:

- completing a pre-apprenticeship or traineeship at school or post-school;
- applying for a position directly with an employer; and
- applying to a Group Training Organisations (GTO). GTOs employ apprentices and trainees and hire them to other businesses, referred to as host employers, to undertake the on-the-job training component. GTOs can service a particular industry or cater for an entire region and cover many industries. Some specialise in providing Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people or people with disability with support to gain and complete an apprenticeship or traineeship.

The Department of Training and Workforce Development's Apprenticeship Office provides advice and support to people employed as an apprentice or trainee. It has multiple channels for young people to make contact and receive advice.



### Aboriginal School-based training program

The Department of Training and Workforce Development's Aboriginal School-based training program is for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students in Years 10 to 12. The Program supports students to gain the skills to keep studying after school or get a job aligned to career aspirations. Students can study for a nationally recognised qualification with a registered training organisation or undertake a school-based apprenticeship or traineeship.

### Aboriginal Employment Enabling Program grants

The Department of Training and Workforce Development's Aboriginal Employment Enabling Program supports organisations to deliver targeted and practical training and employment support to Aboriginal people in the Kimberley and Goldfields-

Esperance regions during 2024 and 2025.

### Jina: Western Australian Aboriginal Tourism Action Plan 2021–2025

Tourism WA works with the WA Indigenous Tourism Operators Council (WAITOC), other government agencies and WA's Aboriginal tourism industry to deliver the [Jina: Western Australian Aboriginal Tourism Action Plan 2021–2025](#) (Jina Plan). One of the key focus areas of the Jina Plan is to build the capacity for Aboriginal people to enter the tourism sector. Tourism WA has partnered with WAITOC, Aboriginal organisations/tourism operators, training and education partners and other government departments to deliver training opportunities to enable young Aboriginal people to secure skills and job pathways within the sector.



### Perth Zoo training and career programs

The Perth Zoo Aboriginal Trainee Program is a collaborative workplace program with students from Clontarf Aboriginal College. Students work, alongside the zoo's experts, towards obtaining a Certificate II qualification in Conservation and Ecosystem Management.

Perth Zoo, in partnership with Taronga Training Institute, also offers an on-site study for the Certificate III in Wildlife and Exhibited animal Care. Perth Zoo also runs school holiday programs, Keeper Careers and Wild Vets for students in years 9–12. Participants spend a day behind the scenes with a Perth Zoo veterinarian or zookeeper.

## **Bush Rangers WA**

The Bush Rangers WA cadet program is a voluntary nature conservation program for secondary school students aged between 12–17 years. Bush Ranger cadets can receive Western Australian Certificate of Education points towards their high school graduation when they participate in conservation programs.

## **Horticulture traineeships at Kings Park**

This traineeship enables students to work alongside qualified and experienced staff at Kings Park whilst studying at TAFE for qualifications in horticulture, arboriculture, turf management or conservation and land management.



## **State STEM Skills Strategy: Mission Update**

The mission update, Future State, future skills: Accelerating STEM skills for Western Australia, builds upon the first State STEM skills strategy. It aims to ensure young people have STEM skills for the jobs of the future, reskill the current workforce with the STEM skills required to embrace a technological future, and break down barriers and ensure that everyone has the opportunity to participate in a STEM future.

## **Tourism Workforce Development Program**

The Tourism Workforce Development Program 2024–26, delivered by Tourism WA, will implement a series of initiatives to develop a skilled workforce for WA's tourism and hospitality industry, including career information programs and regional initiatives that inspire and educate young West Australians about career opportunities in the sector.

## **Resources for young employees**

A range of resources are available through the Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety to teach young people about their employment rights, including information on wage theft, safety tips, and other employment related issues.

## **Girls in Engineering Tomorrow Program**

The Department of Transport partners with Curtin University for the Girls in Engineering Tomorrow Program which provides a pathway to help female graduates transition into engineering.



### **Dedicated tourism and hospitality industry jobs and career portal**

The dedicated and free industry portal, [westernaustralia.jobs](http://westernaustralia.jobs), offers job seekers and career seekers information on jobs, training, and career pathways in WA's tourism and hospitality sectors, and connects them directly to industry employers. It also provides teachers and career advisors with resources to support young people interested in pursuing careers in these fields.

### **Cadets WA**

There are 186 Cadets WA units across the State, currently engaging over 9,000 young people. Cadets WA programs support young people to develop their knowledge, confidence and skills to support personal development and assist in the transition to adulthood.

### **On water education program**

Department of Transport, Maritime offers a range of marine safety courses designed for primary and secondary schools and vocational training at the Marine Education Boatshed in Fremantle. The program provides a range of free resources, including lesson plans, worksheets, logbook, and certificates of completion. The program covers: safe use of boats, advanced boat handling, sailing, coastal navigation, radio procedure, survival swimming techniques, marine safety trip preparation, as well as recreational skippers ticket qualification.



## What we will do

### Action

### Agency

#### Aboriginal Ranger Program funding

3.1

The department provides ranger program funding for Aboriginal organisations to connect with and support career pathways for young Aboriginal people. In 2024, specific funding is available through Round 8 for ranger activities that support young people, climate action or cultural tourism.

Department of  
Biodiversity,  
Conservation  
and Attractions

#### Empowering young people with real-world life skills

3.2

The department will provide funding through the Youth Engagement Grants to organisations to deliver life skills education to young people, empowering them to confidently transition to adulthood equipped with the skills and knowledge they need to thrive and achieve their goals.

Department of  
Communities

#### Connecting science and Aboriginal knowledge

3.3

The Two-Way Science Initiative will be expanded to more schools and will help schools work with local Aboriginal communities to make learning programs that connect the WA Science Curriculum with Aboriginal knowledge, culture and history.

Department of  
Education



## Action

## Agency

### Measuring success at school

3.4

The department is exploring the use of new secondary student achievement measures which will demonstrate whether students are being appropriately challenged and help ensure that they are as well-prepared as possible for the opportunities of their future. The new metrics will also strengthen individual pathway planning.

Department of Education

### Supporting students into post-school studies

3.5

Secondary students will be supported with access to Vocational Education and Training such as school-based apprenticeships and traineeships, which will support them to be equipped to participate in workplaces of the future, and skill shortage areas.

Department of Education

### Improving post-school pathways

3.6

All Western Australian students will be supported to reach their full potential through their post-school study, training, or employment pursuits following the Pathways to Post-School Success review.

Department of Education

Refreshments to the Western Australian Certificate of Education will maximise its value for students as they move into further education, training and employment.

### Teachers in the regions

3.7

The department will implement regional attraction and retention initiatives to attract more teachers to regional and remote secondary schools.

Department of Education



### Funding for district high schools

3.8

WA's district high schools will receive a funding boost to improve curriculum delivery, expand access to specialist student support services, and to help schools to provide the best education to students in multi-age classes.

Department of  
Education

### Life skills in Health and Physical Education Curriculum

3.9

Updated Health and Physical Education Curriculum will be implemented from 2025, supporting students to develop life skills relating to their safety, wellbeing and physical activity, civic participation, making decisions, strengthening self, building resilience, managing risk and building meaningful and respectful relationships.

Department of  
Education

### Western Australian Robotics Playoffs (WARP)

3.10

The department will support the Western Australian Robotics Playoffs, supporting students to expand their innovation, teamwork and technical skills, challenging them to solve real-world problems and inspiring them to pursue robotics and technology careers in primary industries.

Department  
of Primary  
Industries  
and Regional  
Development





Action		Agency
3.11	<p><b>Information on career pathways in the Primary Industries</b></p> <p>The department will review and update resources that educate young people on career pathways, study and training opportunities and the diverse career options in the primary industries.</p>	<p>Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development</p>
3.12	<p><b>Develop a Youth in Emergency Services (YES) training pathway for young people to transition to adult volunteering</b></p> <p>The department will create learning pathways for cadets in core firefighting and hazard management skills. The Department will offer young people emergency services training that is DFES recognised and endorsed.</p>	<p>Department of Fire and Emergency Services</p>
3.13	<p><b>Raising awareness of employment rights for young people</b></p> <p>The department will deliver a proactive education campaign focussing on the key issues of when young people can work and where they can access support and information on their employment rights.</p>	<p>Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety</p>
3.14	<p><b>Science and Technology Plan to enhance STEM pathways</b></p> <p>The mission update will be underpinned by an action plan detailing initiatives to optimise pathways into STEM careers and industries for young people.</p>	<p>Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation</p>
3.15	<p><b>Tourism and hospitality opportunities for young Aboriginal people</b></p> <p>Through the Jina Plan (2021–2025) Tourism WA will work with WAITOC, Aboriginal organisations/operators, training and education partners and other government departments to support training and mentoring programs that enable young Aboriginal people to secure skills and job pathways within the tourism and hospitality industries.</p>	<p>Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation (Tourism WA)</p>



**Action**

**Agency**

**3.16**

**Information on career pathways in the tourism and hospitality industry**

Tourism WA will highlight career options and pathways available in the tourism and hospitality industry for young people through attendance at Perth and regional career expos, in-school career presentations, participation in school career and parent information sessions, providing interactive cooking demonstrations by qualified apprentice chefs, and hosting teacher professional development events.

Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation (Tourism WA)

**3.17**

**Career resources for the tourism and hospitality industry**

Tourism WA will provide resources, including a Careers Guide and career vignettes, to equip young people with information and inspiration to pursue careers in the tourism and hospitality industry, and tools to assist educators and career advisors. The resources are free to access and hosted on the dedicated industry jobs and careers portal [westernaustralia.jobs](http://westernaustralia.jobs).

Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation (Tourism WA)

**3.18**

**Regional Arts and Cultural Investment Program**

Continue the Regional Arts and Cultural Investment Program providing fellowships for young artists aged 18 to 26 years old to help young people in developing their skills and careers through mentorships and connections.

Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries

**3.19**

**Coaching and Officiating Grants**

Young people will be provided with opportunities to gain leadership skills and qualifications in coaching and sport officiating through the delivery of the Coaching and Officiating Grant program.

Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries



## Action

## Agency

3.20

### **Career pathways in the recreational outdoors sector**

The department will provide work experience placements for young people at the department's camps, ensuring that young people have pathways into careers in the recreational outdoors sector.

Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries

3.21

### **Geospatial science and technology intern graduate program**

The department will establish an intern-graduate program, with an initial focus on technical and scientific roles in a maritime setting. Study areas will cover spatial science, data and information technology, coastal engineering, oceanography, and hydrographic surveying. To help address the critical shortage in these specialised skills, the department is working with educational institutions to promote relevant career paths and providing meaningful work experience. Insight to these specialised roles through information sessions and opportunity to do work experience will help guide students to suitable study options and exciting career paths and in an effort to address the shortage in certain qualifications.

Department of Transport

3.22


### **Funding for initiatives that support young people to achieve their goals**

Lotterywest will consider grants for initiatives that will support young people with the skills and opportunities they need to achieve their goals.

Lotterywest



# Cost of living



**Outcome:** Young people have access to supports that assist them with cost of living pressures, and access to safe and affordable transport to get to the places they need to.

## What we heard

Young people have highlighted the impacts of cost of living expenses and access to transport. For many young people, financial assistance was identified as pivotal in achieving their educational aspirations, particularly with the significant portion of their income needed for housing expenses. Young people shared that this can impact their access to job opportunities and also impedes participation in recreational activities essential for their overall wellbeing. Additionally, financial strain contributes to stress and anxiety, and concerns about future financial stability.

More access to transport  
in country towns.  
12-18 years old,  
Morawa

The cost-of-living crisis makes me scared for the future as I do not think that I will be able to reach the same milestones my parents did as easily, or ever.

18–21 years old, Wheatbelt

In order to afford housing and living expenses, I have to juggle work with study. I feel I would do better if I was able to devote more time to studying instead of having to juggle 4 days of work on top of a full time study load.

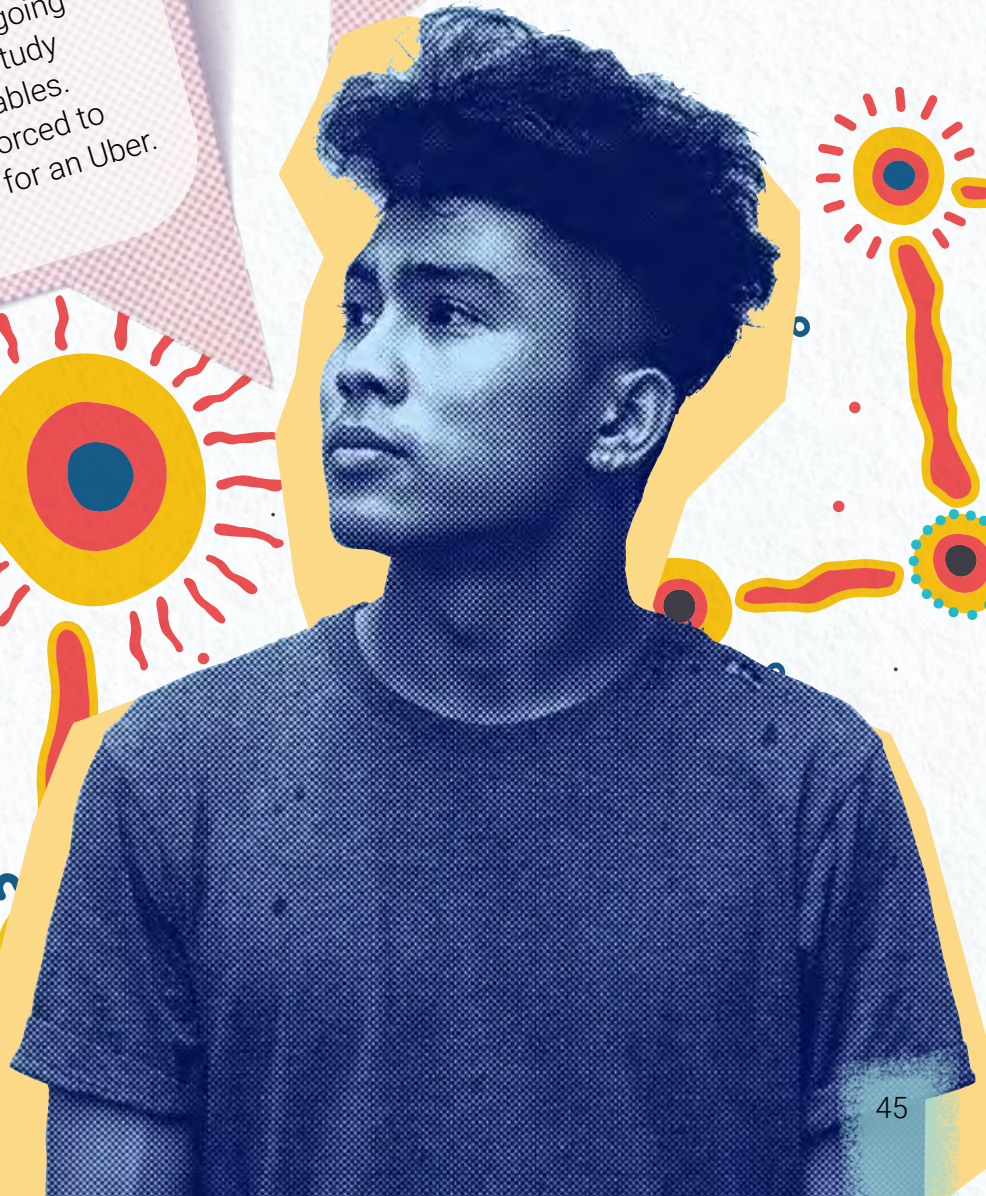
22–25 years old, Maylands

Public transport needs to run more often, especially on weekends, and have more diverse routes. I can't afford a car, so I am often constrained from going to campus/a mate's house for study or relaxing by Transperth timetables. Especially on weekends, I am forced to just stay home or fork out \$30 for an Uber.

22–25 years old, Kewdale

My parents can't always afford to buy me certain school supplies or go on excursions or do sport because of this, and it makes me really frustrated that I can't always do the same things as everyone else. It's not like we are poor, I just feel like it's affecting me and my family.

12–17 years old, Busselton



## What we are doing

### Cost of living

#### WA Rent Relief Program

The WA Government is providing a \$24.4 million package to fund the WA Rent Relief Program in partnership with community services organisations. The Program will provide one-off rent relief payments to help eligible tenants who are at risk of eviction because their rent is in arrears, and assist tenants to negotiate with their landlord to extend their tenancy.

#### Free and low fee training

Under the Fee Free TAFE initiative, there are over 130 qualifications and skillsets in priority industry areas. In addition, the Lower Fees, Local Skills initiative covers 160 courses, with fees reduced by up to 72%. Course fees are capped for selected qualifications to \$400 annually for concession holders and young people aged 15–24.

#### KidSport Program

KidSport enables eligible Western Australian children aged 5–18 years to participate in community sport by offering them financial assistance of up to \$300 per financial year towards club fees.

#### Resources for making purchases and other financial decisions

Consumer Protection provides resources to educate young people about their consumer rights, including about buying things for themselves, including a motor vehicle, or renting a home.

#### Support for regional students on placements

The Department of Training and Workforce Development's Western Australian Nurses Stipend and Travel and Accommodation Allowance provides a travel subsidy to regional Diploma of Nursing students who need to travel to their work placement, as well as an \$350 per week allowance to help with the cost of living while they are away from home.

#### WA Student Assistance Payment

The WA Student Assistance Payment helps ease the cost-of-living pressures associated with attending school. All Western Australian school students in Kindergarten to Year 12, with a valid WA student number, are eligible.





### Transport

#### Free public transport for school students and Sundays

The Ride to School Free Program is for travel to and from school Monday to Friday during the gazetted school year for a specified period and is available to those who hold a valid Student SmartRider card. The Fare Free Sundays is available to everyone in WA with a valid SmartRider card.

#### Active travel for young people

The Department of Transport is supporting active travel (using a bike, walking or scooting) for young people through the WA Active Travel Strategy, the Active Travel to School 10 Year Roadmap and by investing in the State's bicycle network.

#### Armadale Line Active Travel Project Bike Rescue Program

Armadale Line Active Travel Project Bike Rescue Program supports the goal of encouraging uptake of active travel modes by offering students the opportunity to develop bike mechanic skills from skilled instructors, providing a journey planning activity including trips by bike, and increasing access to active travel options by building charity bikes for local primary school students as well as for their own use.

## What we will do



### Action

### Agency

4.1

#### Helping young people buy homes

The department will support Keystart's commitment to providing an affordable pathway into home ownership through low deposit home loans. This will provide a clear pathway for eligible young people entering the home loan market.

Department of  
Communities

4.2

#### Supporting affordable housing opportunities

The department will ensure that pathways are available for the Community Housing and not-for profit sectors to deliver Affordable Housing Opportunities for people with housing needs, for example the Call for Submissions process.

Department of  
Communities

4.3

#### Supporting the rights of young renters

The *Residential Tenancies Act 1987* (WA) is being updated to strengthen the protections and improve rights for renters, and to also make dispute resolution processes simpler. The changes will begin in stages starting from May 2024.

Department of  
Energy, Mines,  
Industry Regulation  
and Safety

4.4

#### Discounted licence renewal for P Plate drivers

P Plate drivers who remain free of traffic offences in their first year of driving will be rewarded with a free licence renewal for one year.

Department of  
Transport

4.5

#### Improving processes for getting a driver's licence

The Learner Driver Strategy will improve the learner driver experience to support the development of safe, skilled and confident drivers entering the licencing system within the WA community.

Department of  
Transport

4.6

#### Removing barriers to getting a driver's licence

The department will develop a strategy to expand the reach of the Driving Access and Equity Program, which supports young people with improved access to a vehicle, supervisor/instructor/mentor and assistance with licensing costs.

Department of  
Transport

4.7

#### Making it easier to pay for public transport

New SmartRider and add value machines are being installed to make it easier to pay for public transport.

Public Transport  
Authority



	Action	Agency
4.8	<p><b>Making travel easier for regional school students</b></p> <p>Increasing the financial support for regional families getting kids to and from school, with the Student Transport Conveyance Allowance more than doubling from 25.24 c per kilometre to 55.6 c per kilometre.</p>	Public Transport Authority
4.9	<p><b>Connecting Schools Grant</b></p> <p>Connecting Schools grants are available to help schools to improve bicycle access, skills and infrastructure.</p>	Department of Transport
4.10	<p><b>The Western Australian Bicycle Network Grants Program</b></p> <p>The Western Australian Bicycle Network Grants Program provides funding to local governments to help create infrastructure and initiatives to encourage people of all ages and abilities to ride more often.</p>	Department of Transport
4.11	<p><b>Youth Active Travel Trial</b></p> <p>Youth Active Travel Trial aims to explore opportunities to increase walking to school in year 7 to 10 female-identifying young people. Based on a student informed design process, the trial will encourage the social aspect of active travel and will include incentives to help motivate young people to be more active and walk to school.</p>	Department of Transport
4.12	<p><b>Funding initiatives to support young people navigate cost of living</b></p> <p>Lotterywest will consider grants for initiatives that support young people to access transport and navigate cost of living.</p>	Lotterywest



# Supporting wellbeing



**Outcome:** Young people have access to resources, education, and programs supporting mental wellbeing, healthy lifestyles, and connections with family, friends, and community.

## What we heard

Ensuring access to mental health support is essential, with young people advocating for expanding services in schools and communities. This included addressing stigma so people can more easily come forward to seek help and ensure young people get the help they need when they need it.

Initiatives focused on promoting physical health and wellness, including efforts to reduce vaping among young people and encourage healthy lifestyle choices, were also reported as key importance.

Recognising the value of accessible and affordable recreation and sporting activities, particularly in low-income and regional areas, also highlights the importance of creating environments where young people can flourish and feel empowered.

To support Western Australians to connect, we could implement more social events so that people can connect with others and have more opportunities to do so. Frequent events make our connections grow deeper and creates a strong environment and community.

14–17 years old,  
South Metropolitan Perth

Normalise mental health as something that is just as important as physical health.

12–17 years old,  
South Metropolitan Perth

More diverse “sports”: rock climbing, aerial skills, axe throwing. The regions tend to only have mainstream sport.

Young person, Bunbury

Mental health plans aren't very accessible for people in remote areas. Furthermore, services like headspace, once you turn 25, you are on your own – continuing support.

Young person, Online Forum



## What we are doing

### **Suicide prevention training for teachers and students**

The Department of Education provides training for school staff in suicide prevention and for school students to encourage help-seeking and to reduce the stigma of mental health problems.

### **Young People’s Mental Health and Alcohol and Other Drug Use: Priorities for Action 2020–2025**

The Young People’s Mental Health and Alcohol and Other Drug Use: Priorities for Action 2020–2025 guides the State Government, Mental Health Commission, other agencies, and stakeholders across the community in supporting and responding to the mental health and AOD needs of young people aged 12 to 24 years.

### **Western Australian Mental Wellbeing Guide 2023–2025**

The Mental Health Commission developed the Western Australian Mental Wellbeing Guide 2023–2025 (the Guide) which provides best-practice strategies for organisations that implement mental wellbeing initiatives to support Western Australians to increase or maintain their optimal level of mental wellbeing. The Guide adopts a life stages approach, and considers experiences of different life stages, including children and young people, to explore protective and risk factors, settings, influencers and evidence-based programs or strategies that can have an impact on mental wellbeing.

### **Youth Mental Health First Aid Training**

The Department of Fire and Emergency Services delivers Youth Mental Health First Aid Training and a Refresher course for cadet instructors and cadet parents. This equips those working with young people with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to recognise, understand and respond to a young person experiencing a mental health problem.

### **Sexual health and blood-borne viruses resources**

These initiatives include “Get the Facts,” a website offering information on sexual health, relationships, and blood-borne viruses for individuals aged 13–17, aimed at providing accurate resources, advice, and referrals. Another resource, “Could I have it,” offers credible information on sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and blood-borne viruses, featuring an STI risk assessment quiz, clinic locator, and a confidential question service answered by sexual health nurses within 48 hours.



### **Creative Learning Program**

The Creative Learning Program aims to make arts, cultural and creative activities accessible for young people, particularly those who may not be able to afford to join these types of programs normally or who live in the regions. A key aim of the Program is to improve young people's health and wellbeing (mental, social, and/or physical) by giving them the chance to express themselves, make friends with like-minded people and do fun activities.

### **True Sport**

True Sport offers a comprehensive, all-sport strategy to harmonise values, culture, and practices in sports delivery throughout WA, enhancing the experience for all, particularly young people. Initiatives encompass bettering sideline conduct, fostering positive game day atmospheres for all ages, including youth, and aiding State Sport Associations in establishing safe environments for children and young individuals, in accordance with the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations.

### **School chaplaincy services**

The School Chaplaincy Program contributes to the Department of Education's overall pastoral care provision in schools, supporting young people's wellbeing.

### **School psychology service**

All public schools have access to school psychologists, who provide specialist services and advice for behaviour, mental health, and wellbeing, learning support, and emergency and critical incident response.



### **Teaching young people the risks of vaping**

The WA Schools Anti-Vaping Toolkit contains information on strategies to minimise vaping among students and how vaping can be addressed in the curriculum.

### **Reducing Alcohol and Other Drug harm at Leavers**

Leavers WA is a State Government harm minimisation and crime prevention strategy overseen by the WA Police Force working in partnership with key stakeholders. A key focus of the Leavers WA Strategy is to prevent and reduce alcohol and other drugs use and harm among young adults aged 16 to 18 years old at the annual week-long Leavers event.



### **‘Find Your Way to Okay’ public education campaign**

This digital-led campaign encourages young adults to discover new ways to increase and maintain their mental wellbeing, with the tagline ‘find your way to okay’. The campaign was developed with extensive consultation with young people aged 18 to 24 years old.

### **Specialist urgent telehealth mental health support**

Continue the expanded CAMHS Crisis Connect service, providing specialist telehealth urgent mental health support for children and adolescents (under the age of 18), and their families and carers.

### **WA Country Health Service (WACHS) Brief Crisis Intervention**

Continue the WACHS Brief Crisis Intervention (BCI) Service for children and adolescents. BCI will provide on-call 24/7 mental health support and expertise to clinicians in rural and remote regions to better manage and support children and adolescents presenting to rural and remote emergency departments (EDs), along with virtual follow-up to children, adolescents and their families/carers.

### **Grants for community sporting and recreation facilities**

The Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Fund and Club Night Lights Program provide funding to community groups and local government authorities to develop infrastructure for sport and recreation to increase participation in sport and recreational activities, with an emphasis on physical activity.

### **Investing in Community Youth Centres**

The WA Government is investing \$3 million in the Madeley-Darch Youth Centre and \$9 million in the Dalyellup Multipurpose Community and Youth Facility development.



What we will do

	Action	Agency
5.1	<b>Reducing vaping, tobacco and e-cigarettes use in young people</b> The department will educate and raise awareness about the risks and consequences of vaping, including supporting campaigns, school-based resources and services to support vaping cessation.	Department of Health
5.2	<b>Implementing National Principles for Child Safe Organisations to keep young people safe</b> The department will continue to collaborate with government agencies and sectors to strengthen implementation of the National Principles across the State.	Department of Communities
5.3	<b>SmartMove Mining training</b> The department will develop "SmartMove Mining" – a custom training package for high school leavers and young workers in mining that will deliver guidance and resources on work health and safety in mining and support their mental health and wellbeing.	Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety



## Action

## Agency

5.4

### 'You have a right to safe and ethical mental health support' campaign

The Digital Health and Disability Services Complaints Office will deliver a campaign educating young people on their right to safe and ethical mental health support.

Digital Health and Disability Services Complaints Office

5.5

### Active Recreation Participation Grants

Ensure that young people have access to outdoor recreation activities through the delivery of the outdoor Active Recreation Participation Grant program.

Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries

5.6

### Creative Learning Funding Program

Provide artistic opportunities to enhance young people's creative learning and overall engagement and health and wellbeing in schools through the Creative Learning Funding Program.

Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries

5.7

### Youth Transitional Housing and Support Program

The Commission is establishing this program in the metropolitan area, which will offer 20 packages for young people aged 16 to 24 years with mental health issues, with or without co-occurring alcohol and other drug issues, to access accommodation alongside coordinated clinical, psychosocial supports.

Mental Health Commission

5.8

### Rapid response support for mental health crisis

Extend the existing east metropolitan Acute Care Response Teams (ACRT) and establish three new teams in the north and south metropolitan areas and the Great Southern region. Teams will provide rapid response to support children and adolescents (under the age of 18) experiencing a mental health crisis, as well as their families and carers.

Mental Health Commission





Action

Agency

**Making it easier for young people to enjoy Western Australia's great outdoors**

5.9

The Outdoor Adventure Tourism package will provide new and upgraded boating facilities, campgrounds, hiking and cycle trails and tourist attractions across Western Australia. This will make it easier for people of all ages to enjoy Western Australia's great outdoors and participate in outdoor recreation activities.

Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation

**Funding for programs that improve health and wellbeing**

5.10

Healthway will fund initiatives to improve the health and wellbeing of young people, such as building social and emotional wellbeing through the arts or increasing mental health and wellbeing through community sport.

Healthway

**Support for health and mental health projects and campaigns**

5.11

Healthway will fund health promotion projects and campaigns that promote good mental health and encourage healthy living among young people.

Healthway

**Funding for research on mental health and healthy living**

5.12

Healthway will fund innovative and collaborative mental health research and public health research focussing on healthy living that has the potential to inform policy, programs, and/or practice in WA that will improve mental health outcomes for young people.

Healthway



# Embracing diversity and inclusion



**Outcome:** Young people are actively engaged in community life, included, valued and celebrated for their diversity; fostering a strong sense of belonging and connection.

## What we heard

Inclusion and celebrating diversity play integral roles in supporting young people's wellbeing and empowering them to thrive and contribute to their communities.

- Young people shared that this involves creating welcoming environments where they feel safe to express their whole self and where their cultural diversity is celebrated.

- Young people also emphasised the importance of addressing bullying and discrimination directly; and promoting inclusion, kindness and respect through education programs. With many young people sharing their experiences of discrimination and advocating for initiatives aimed at breaking down the barriers to intersectionality.

"Fostering a connection between young people and their communities requires creating inclusive, engaging, and meaningful opportunities for interaction and participation. It's about building environments where young people feel heard, valued, and integral to the community fabric. This connection not only benefits the youth by providing them with support and a sense of belonging but also enriches the community as a whole by incorporating fresh perspectives and energy. By addressing these challenges and implementing these solutions, communities can create a more cohesive, dynamic, and supportive environment for young people."

Young Person from the UN Youth WA Voice Public Speaking Competition

I think education amongst schools and work organisations about indigenous Australians in a way that's culturally appropriate can support a sense of belonging. For example on country trips, cultural awareness and bridging the gap.

**Young person, Broome**

Australia is a very diverse country and we want to ensure that everyone is included. This can be done by having programs that include all cultures, religions and people from similar backgrounds to recognise cultures and feel accepted/welcome.

**15-17 years old,  
South Metropolitan Perth**

Safe spaces for young people to connect and hangout where they can be wholly themselves and supported can make such a difference! Youth centres, safe hangout spaces etc.

**Young person,  
South Metropolitan Perth**

I have seen people discriminate people of LGBTQIA+ and purposely outcast them. I feel this needs to change through some sort of group action.

**14-17 years old, South  
Metropolitan Perth**

My culture makes me feel connected to others. As well as my community and family. I am Indian, so going to garba and festivals, wearing my traditional clothes makes me feel so happy and connected.

**12-16 years old,  
North Metropolitan Perth**



## What we are doing

### The Awesome Festival

The Awesome Festival is an international arts festival presented annually in the Perth Cultural Centre. The festival delivers opportunities for young people to be engaged in creative learning and overcome barriers to participation. The festival showcases a spectacular array of events including theatre, creative workshops, ballet, music, exhibitions, and a whole range of free activities.

### Aboriginal culture and two-way learning

The Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions on Country trips in the Goldfields provided opportunities for students to interact with Aboriginal rangers in contemporary science and cultural knowledge activities to collect data and learn about Country. Young people received cultural lessons and information passed down by their Elders in this exciting and innovative program.

### King's Park's Noongar Boodja Six Seasons program

King's Park's Noongar Boodja Six Seasons program raises awareness of Aboriginal people, their culture and heritage and ways of caring for Country. Noongar presenters share their knowledge of the six seasons and traditional life through interactive activities, dance, storytelling and art.

### Supporting Carers WA

The Department of Communities provides funding to Carers WA to provide services and support to young carers including information and advice, wellbeing support, and support to maintain connections outside of their caring responsibilities.

### Supporting gender and sexual diversity in schools

The Department of Education has developed professional learning on Creating supportive and inclusive environments for gender-diverse students. The course provides separate modules that have been tailored to school leaders, teachers, school psychologists and support staff to help them develop an understanding of the unique experiences and challenges faced by gender-diverse students.

### New Equal Opportunity Laws

The WA Government is drafting new Equal Opportunity laws to strengthen protections for LGBTQIA+ students in religious schools, extend anti-discrimination safeguards to ensure trans, gender-diverse and non-binary people are protected on the basis of their gender-related identity, and implement a substantive provision for measures intended to achieve equality for groups of people, such as young people.





### **Banning LGBTQIA+ conversion practices**

LGBTQIA+ young people are particularly vulnerable to conversion practices which seek to change or suppress a person's sexual orientation or gender identity. The WA Government is acting to protect young people by drafting new laws to criminalise such practices and introducing a civil response scheme to provide a response mechanism for allegations that do not meet the criminal threshold for harm.

### **Stronger Together: WA's Plan for Gender Equality (Stronger Together)**

Stronger Together is a whole-of-government plan to drive gender equality and ensure women's full social and economic participation. The achievement of gender equality outcomes for women will also achieve gender equality outcomes for girls. The goals, actions and desired outcomes are set out under four priority areas: health and wellbeing, safety and justice, economic independence and leadership and are established through two action plans: First Action Plan 2020–2021 and Second Action Plan 2021–2025.

### **Free period products in public schools**

The WA Government provides secondary students at all public schools and TAFE colleges with free access to period products in an initiative designed to keep students engaged in their learning. This will be extended to all WA public primary schools, as part of an ongoing commitment to supporting student health and wellbeing.

### **Safety resources for young women in the workplace**

The Women's Workplace Safety Information and Resources Hub provides a range of information, including support for employees who experience sexual harassment in the workplace.

### **Aboriginal Social and Emotional Wellbeing**

Continue Social and Emotional Wellbeing programs, including youth-specific programs, to deliver improved outcomes in the Kimberley, Pilbara, Goldfields, Midwest and South West regions.

## What we will do

	Action	Agency
6.1	<p><b>Celebrating multiculturalism in schools</b></p> <p>The 'Countering Racism' and 'A World of Difference' resources will be reviewed and updated to help schools promote multiculturalism and anti-racism education.</p>	Department of Education
6.2	<p><b>Strengthening accessibility and inclusion for students with disability</b></p> <p>The <i>School Education Act 1999</i> will be reviewed to identify opportunities to strengthen access and inclusion for students with disability.</p> <p>New Complex Behaviour Support Coordinators will help to address the needs of students with complex behaviours.</p>	Department of Education
6.3	<p><b>Respectful Relationships education in schools</b></p> <p>Expand support and initiatives for respectful relationships education in schools that aim to impact long-term cultural change.</p>	Department of Education
6.4	<p><b>Aboriginal voice in education</b></p> <p>A newly established Aboriginal Advisory Body will advise on the department's progress towards reconciliation and creating a culturally responsive education system.</p>	Department of Education





Action

Agency

6.5

**Making hospitals more inclusive for LGBTQIA+ young people**

Hospitals will update data systems to collect additional data for LGBTQIA+ people and include options for people to provide their gender, pronouns and preferred name.

Department of Health

6.6

**Sex and gender recognition reforms**

The Government is progressing legislation to repeal the *Gender Reassignment Act 2000 (WA)* and abolish the Gender Reassignment Board. Under the reforms, applicants will no longer have to demonstrate that they have undertaken a surgical or medical reassignment procedure to change their sex or gender on their birth certificate. The reforms will also introduce a new streamlined administrative process for sex and gender recognition through the Registry of Births, Deaths, and Marriages.

Department of Justice

6.7

**Grants to support and empower young girls and women**

Women's Grants for a Stronger Future gives community groups up to \$10,000 each year to help women and girls. This funding can be used for things like health and wellbeing, safety, leadership, and economic independence.

Department of Communities

6.8

**New LGBTQIA+ inclusion strategy to promote equality**

The WA Government will develop a strategy to drive inclusiveness for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, asexual plus (LGBTQIA+) Western Australians

Department of Communities

## Action

## Agency

### Strong Spirit Strong Mind Youth Project

6.9

This project aims to improve the Social and Emotional Wellbeing of young Aboriginal people aged 12 to 25 years old across WA and prevent or delay the early uptake of alcohol and other drugs use through education and prevention programs. These include a public education campaign, community grants program and a Youth Community Outreach program.

Mental Health  
Commission

### Supporting inclusion in community programs

6.10

The Nearer to Nature programs will be reviewed to promote accessibility for neurodiverse young people.

Department of  
Biodiversity,  
Conservation and  
Attractions

### Safer Venues Festival

6.11

Extend the Safer Venues initiative to a 'Safer Venues Festival', ensuring that contemporary music festivals have access to the research, findings and training opportunities applied to music venues.

Department of  
Local Government,  
Sport and Cultural  
Industries







Action

Agency

6.12

**Community Languages Program**

The department will ensure the availability of language schools across the Metropolitan area to teach language other than English for young people out of school hours through the Community Languages Program.

Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries

6.13

**Intergenerational Learning on Country**

The department will provide funding through the Connecting to Country Program for Aboriginal people and organisations to undertake the on-Country activities, which aim to support the intergenerational transfer of knowledge, to strengthen culture identity and communities.

Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries

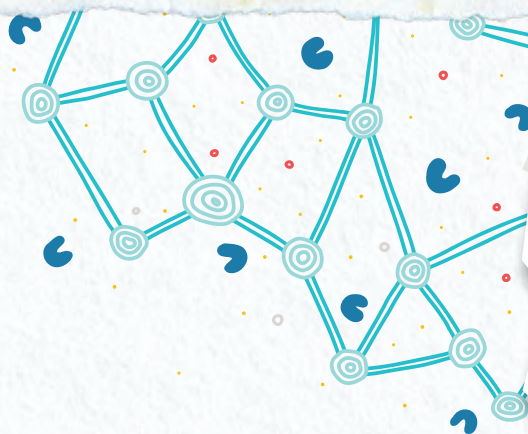
6.14

**Funding to support inclusive, thriving communities**

Lotterywest will consider grants for initiatives that create or enhance inclusive and thriving communities and connection for young people.

Lotterywest

# Empowering young leaders: Shaping the future of Public Sector employment



As the largest employer in the state, the WA Government is paving the way for young people to find meaningful employment opportunities.

With the launch of the Youth Action Plan to Improve WA Public Sector Employment Outcomes 2020–2025, we're on a mission to **increase the representation of young people in our workforce to 5.8 per cent** while fostering inclusive work environments.

But we're not just offering jobs—we're empowering young voices and involving them as leaders in shaping government decisions, especially on pressing issues like climate change. Our goal is to build a public sector where young people feel valued, connected, and actively contribute to making a difference in their communities.

To **amplify young voices** and support engagement and future success, various government agencies are taking action to:

- Establish employee-led Young Professionals networks for knowledge sharing, support and to feel connected.
- Conduct consultations with youth and young professionals.
- Host events such as Hackathons to allow young people to contribute to department-wide initiatives, such as climate resilience.

## Policy Hackathon – Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development

Each year, the department celebrates Youth Week. Recognising and providing young people with opportunities to share their ideas and perspective is crucial for cultivating a culture where they feel valued and accepted. The department celebrated Youth Week 2024 by organising a hackathon event, offering participants the chance to simulate the grants assessment process with a focus on climate resilience. As part of this event, participants assumed the role of a grants assessment panel, allocating funding to projects addressing climate change topics. Facilitated by one of the department's graduates, the event provided opportunities for young people



to network, collaborate, gain insight into the real-world challenges encountered by the department, and cultivate perspectives on its significance and their impact on climate resilience and the broader community.

## Youth at Finance Working Group – Department of Finance

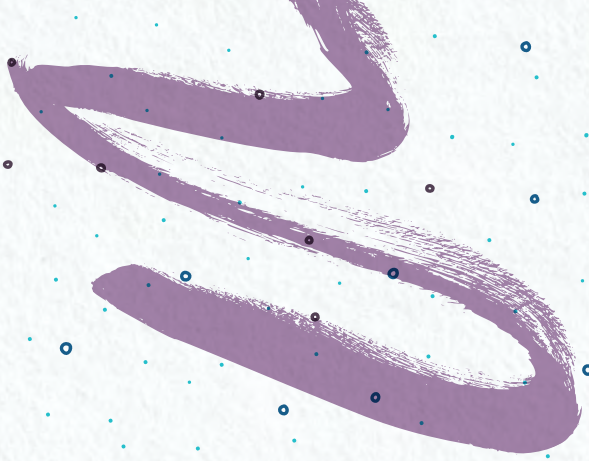
Young people have a dedicated voice at the Department of Finance (Finance). As part of Finance's commitment to diversity and inclusion, a Youth Working Group (YWG) was introduced to represent youth and provide a collaborative space for young professionals to voice ideas, concerns, and opinions on all things Finance.

The YWG has promoted three areas to uplift the youth employment experience:

- a buddy system to connect new recruits with people from different areas of Finance
- an information pack for new recruits that will ease the transition into life at Finance and everything our workplace has to offer
- publishing internal content that advocates for youth and raises awareness to unconscious bias.

The YWG has been successful in providing a supportive and more inclusive environment for youth at Finance. The YWG also promotes ongoing interagency networking and professional development events. Creating a group like this is recognised as a key factor to attract and retain youth employment in the Western Australian Public Sector and supports the aspirational youth employment targets.





To protect your future and promote climate action:

- Implementing Green Star capital works projects to ensure environmental standards in infrastructure.
- Offering Carbon Literacy Training to staff to promote sustainability knowledge.
- Implementing waste management and recycling initiatives.

### **Sustainability in healthcare scholarship program – Department of Health**

The Sustainability in Healthcare Scholarship Program funds several recipients from across WA Health to complete the University of Notre Dame's Environmental Sustainability and Health Care Systems unit. The scholarship recipients identify opportunities within their work environment to design sustainability projects. Previous recipients' projects included:

- Surveying staff commute and assessing the associated emissions and opportunities to encourage more sustainable transport methods,
- Evaluating the use of biodegradable products to reduce waste compared to current processes, and
- Investigating opportunities to change existing clinical processes to more sustainable alternatives.

To help young people achieve their goals:

- Offering various entry-level pathways, including traineeship programs and internships.
- Developing programs like the Graduate Development Program to support graduates in regional and fire management roles.
- Providing internship programs to strengthen partnerships with universities and build talent pipelines.
- Exploring paid work experience opportunities for high school students.

### **School Based Traineeship Program – Public Sector Commission**

This school based traineeship program is a fantastic opportunity for students heading into Year 11 who are looking to start a great career in the public sector. Over 18 months, trainees gain real experience working part time in a government agency, learning valuable workplace skills and being paid while finishing Years 11 and 12.

### **Launch – Public Sector Commission**

Launch is a 10 month development program for staff new to the WA public sector who have recently completed tertiary qualifications.

Aditi Chaturvedi, a graduate from the 2023 DEMIRS-JTSI Graduate Program, has a Master of Laws and has been admitted as a lawyer. She is an investigator in Consumer Protection at the Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, and has participated in Launch.

“Launch is perfect when you’re at the beginning of your career in the public sector.”

Staff new to the WA public sector who completed a tertiary qualification in the last two years can apply to join Launch.

### **Solid Futures – Public Sector Commission**

The Solid Futures Aboriginal traineeship program gives Aboriginal people formal training, paid employment and support to complete a Certificate III in Government, and helps agencies to build diverse, talented and inclusive workforces.

The Public Sector Commission pays salary and training costs for trainees, and their Aboriginal Employment team works with agencies to support trainees to succeed.



**Launch participant, Aditi Chaturvedi**



# Endnotes



- 1 WA young people population data was sourced from the Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2021 Census.
- 2 WA Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex Health Strategy 2019–2024

# Notes



Register with the [Young People Connect WA](#) to find out about opportunities for young people and organisations to get involved in, upcoming youth events, feedback and consultation opportunities, and more!





Department of Communities

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**Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS) – Telephone:**

13 14 50

If you are deaf, or have a hearing or speech impairment,  
contact us through the National Relay Service.  
For more information visit:

[www.accesshub.gov.au/about-the-nrs](http://www.accesshub.gov.au/about-the-nrs)

