



Yfoundations
Annual Report
2022/23

Acknowledgements



In the spirit of reconciliation, **Yfoundations** acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of country throughout Australia and their connections to land, sea and community. We pay our respect to their elders past and present and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples today.



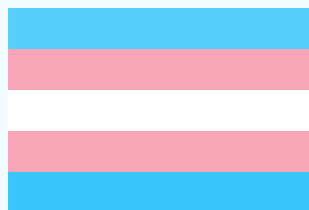
We celebrate diversity in all forms and believe diversity amongst our staff makes **Yfoundations** a more effective organisation.

We are a proud member of ACON's Welcome Here Project. As a member, we agree to support three project commitments:

- > We welcome Lesbian, Gay, Bi, Trans, Intersex, Queer, Questioning, Asexual and other gender or sexuality diverse people.
- > We publicly demonstrate support for the LGBTIQ+ community.
- > We actively promote a prejudice and discrimination-free space.



Yfoundations acknowledges that our efforts towards inclusivity and solidarity must be ongoing and always evolving. We always welcome feedback from the sector and community members.



Thank you to all the workers striving to create a future without youth homelessness.



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About us



Yfoundations is the NSW peak body advocating for children and young people at risk of and experiencing homelessness, and the services that provide direct support to them. We are proudly a membership-based organisation with a network of over 50 organisations across NSW and strong connections with organisations across Australia. Yfoundations aims to create a future without child and youth homelessness by providing a voice for children and young people at risk of, experiencing or who have previously experienced homelessness.

For over 40 years, Yfoundations has been an authority on youth homelessness, working collaboratively with members, NGOs (non-government organisations), government departments and community members to provide advocacy, sector development, policy advice, health projects and training, research, and services for children and young people.

With a focus on working closely with young people with a lived experience of homelessness, we are helping to bridge the gap between the private and not-for-profit sectors. Our Youth Homelessness Representative Council (YHRC) is a group of 10 to 15 young people (aged 18-25 years) with lived experiences of homelessness and a passion to improve young people's lives. They meet quarterly to discuss and act on issues affecting children and young people at risk of or experiencing homelessness. The overall aim of the YHRC is to engage with young people in decision making around issues that affect young people experiencing homelessness, by providing them with a platform to voice concerns on issues that matter to them.

Yfoundations advises the government on areas to prioritise, including highlighting funding gaps, leading and promoting projects to gain insights and understanding, and filling potential knowledge and service gaps. We also work to keep our members informed and up to date on government policies, evaluations and changes that directly impact the sector.

Our advocacy includes representations to governments and ministers. We are currently calling on the Australian Government to develop a dedicated National Child and Youth Homelessness and Housing Plan that responds to the diversity and complexity of children and young people at risk of or experiencing homelessness. This plan will provide a roadmap for a collaborative and integrated whole-of-government and whole-of-community response towards preventing youth homelessness, intervening early before young people become entrenched in homelessness and disadvantage, and providing evidenced-based good practice responses to children and young people experiencing homelessness.

Yfoundations also works to raise awareness in the community and increase support and understanding of child and youth homelessness, including work to reduce stigma and educate the community about false assumptions and misleading narratives. Youth Homelessness Matters Day is our key annual national campaign, which we promote in collaboration with youth homelessness services and other relevant and interested organisations.

Yfoundations presents at conferences, forums and events to raise awareness of our work, child and youth homelessness, and what we can do to end it. Yfoundations is also regularly called on by media outlets to speak about youth homelessness, including ABC News, ABC Radio National, 7 News, and many more.

We celebrate diversity in all forms and believe diversity among our staff and Board makes Yfoundations a more effective and inclusive organisation. We always welcome feedback from the sector and community members on our work and efforts towards inclusivity and solidarity. We acknowledge that this work is ongoing and must continuously evolve.

As a proud member of ACON's Welcome Here Project, Yfoundations welcomes and celebrates lesbian, gay, bi, trans, intersex, queer, questioning, asexual and other gender or sexuality diverse people. Yfoundations publicly demonstrates its support for the LGBTIQ+ community and actively promotes a prejudice-free and discrimination-free space.

The name 'Yfoundations' reflects the fundamental principle on which our work is based. We believe an essential key to ending youth homelessness is supporting the growth and development of all children and young people through the following five foundations: safety and stability, home and place, health and wellness, connections and participation, and education and employment. Each foundation represents an important component of a child's and young person's developmental process.

Our Vision

To be the peak body responding to youth homelessness in Australia.

Our Values



Teamwork

Actively collaborate to bring out the best in each other to achieve common goals.



Gratitude

Recognise and acknowledge people's contributions and efforts.



Fun

We take our work seriously whilst adopting an attitude of creativity.



Communication

We listen to diverse voices and respond in a clear and respectful manner.



Integrity

We honour our word. We act in line with our shared values.

Organisational Strategy



Vision: That Yfoundations is the peak body responding to youth homelessness in Australia. Yfoundations will continue to be the strong NSW peak body leading change to end youth homelessness in NSW.



Activating Expertise

Yfoundations will:

- > Activate the expertise of the membership to inform and enhance the work of Yfoundations
- > Promote the lived experience voice of young people
- > Develop a recognised and respected youth homelessness research program, including partnerships with research partners
- > Advocate for change across government and the community to end youth homelessness

Organisational Excellence

Yfoundations will:

- > Deliver good governance and organisational excellence
- > Diversify funding and income streams
- > Look for opportunities to collaborate and increase stakeholder engagement
- > Be dedicated to quality improvement and accreditation

Connected & Informed Sector

Yfoundations will:

- > Represent the voices of the sector
- > Build a strong, diverse membership
- > Develop and promote research and training opportunities
- > Provide a strong resource hub for services to access support and information

Strong State & National Presence

Yfoundations will:

- > Provide a strong youth homelessness voice through collaborative partnerships and practices
- > Raise awareness of youth homelessness
- > Build a strong marketing and media presence that communicates our values and purpose

President's Report



As the President of Yfoundations, I am pleased to deliver the President's report for the financial year 2022-2023.

This year has been one of reassessment and growth for Yfoundations as we finally emerged from the previous years of the COVID-19 pandemic and its effects on youth homelessness services, the sector workforce, service delivery, vulnerable children and young people, and our own organisation.

That's not to say we are no longer dealing with crises and significant challenges. The current housing and cost of living crises are posing increasing economic, social and political challenges to already vulnerable people and communities right across the country, exacerbating the devastating impacts on communities hit by severe flooding in northern NSW in the last few months of the previous financial year, and parts of Sydney, central-western and north-western NSW in the first half of this. These impacts also flow through to our member service providers who are overstretched and consistently having to meet increased demands without additional funding.

With changes also taking place within Yfoundations and Trish Connolly taking on the helm as our new CEO, we heightened our focus on advocacy for our members and on the issues of child and youth homelessness, particularly around the increasing incidences and impacts of domestic and family violence on young people. We kept members informed and up to date on work with the Department of Communities and Justice on the core and cluster funding for DFV services, SHS Unit Costing and the evaluation of the SHS system.

This advocacy has also extended into increased presentations at conferences and forums around the state and beyond, resulting in an increase in the profile of Yfoundations as a respected and credible authority on child and youth homelessness, and relationships being forged and strengthened with service providers, academics and NGOs statewide and across Australia.

Changes in both federal and state governments have also meant reinvigorated communications with relevant new ministers to ensure child and youth homelessness is high on the political agenda and that they hear and understand our call for a standalone National Child and Youth Homelessness and Housing Plan.

In terms of our communications and engagement with members and supporters, outside of our regular monthly newsletters, general meetings and webinars, Yfoundations completed the work started last year on the CRM, rebuilding our website and creating member-only portals (the Member Directory and Forum) through which we can further engage on important issues and events. Our rebranding of Youth Homelessness Matters Day (YHMD) and the range of resources provided to promote both YHMD and the issue of youth homelessness were also an outstanding success. You'll be able to read about all this and more in this Annual Report for 2022-23.

As always, I'll end by thanking Yfoundations' Directors and staff for their ongoing commitment, support and dedication to ending child and youth homelessness throughout the year.

Nerida Ackerman
President
Yfoundations



CEO's Report



I am delighted to present the Yfoundations 2022–23 Annual Report, my first as CEO. Over the last 12 months, the Yfoundations team has been working tirelessly to ensure children and young people experiencing homelessness, and the services that support them, are on the agenda of any policy, practice and program that impacts them.

I have been in the role of CEO for a year now and during this time Yfoundations has made significant strides across our policy, advocacy, campaigning, health promotion, and training work at both a state and national level. Notable achievements include our consultations with regional NSW youth specialist homelessness services and their clients in September 2022, the findings and insights of which informed our Regional Youth Homelessness Forum Consultation Report.

Given the data and on-the-ground reports from our members on the prevalence of young people experiencing homelessness and domestic and family violence (DFV), we amplified our voice in the DFV space. Our advocacy efforts that are aimed to ensure unaccompanied children and young people are acknowledged and considered in any actions emerging from National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children, will continue. Of note, our webinar held in November, 'Young, in love and in danger', highlighting the intersections of youth homelessness and DFV, garnered significant interest and attendance nationally.

We engaged extensively with state and federal ministers throughout the year through submissions, conferences, meetings and events. Of great importance was Youth Homelessness Matters Day (YHMD), held in April. This was the second YHMD that Yfoundations has led, and my first as CEO. Our team worked hard to build on the efforts of last year's campaign by constructing a new campaign kit, updating our resources and solidifying our call to action.

This year, we used the day to call on the Australian Government to develop a standalone National Child and Youth Homelessness and Housing Plan. There was an abundance of both sector and public support, with events held across the country, and intensified social media advocacy and interest. As a result, our petition for the standalone Plan collected 8,765 signatures. The campaign caught the attention of ministers and the media, and was a huge success overall. YHMD 2024 is going to be even more special and I can't wait to see unaccompanied child and youth homelessness get the attention it deserves.

I have been fortunate to travel both locally and interstate to speak with and alongside colleagues, sector workers, academics and ministers on the realities and barriers for unaccompanied children and young people experiencing homelessness, as well as the responses necessary to address this. Conferences such as the Homelessness and Housing Forum in Darwin presented a significant opportunity to present and establish our policy position and to put unaccompanied child and youth homelessness into the spotlight.

I also had the opportunity to speak at the Regional Child, Youth and Families Conference organised by New England Family Support Service in Armidale and intend on getting out to see more of our regional members and stakeholders over the next year. We know regional and rural areas need more funding to plug the gaps of vital services for unaccompanied children and young people who often have to travel hundreds of kilometres to get the support they need. We will continue to support their call for appropriate funding and resources.

I have had the good fortune to be working on a national level as part of the Coalition to Call for a National Standalone Child and Youth Homelessness Strategy, which comprises esteemed and inspiring colleagues in the youth homelessness space across Australia who are focused on getting the message out about child and youth homelessness and the need for a national standalone plan.

We have reinvigorated our Youth Homeless Representative Council with seven (and counting) new members, each of whom has a lived experience/expertise in homelessness or housing instability. I am endlessly impressed by the drive of these young people who have already spoken at conferences, attended events and informed our submissions.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our members for their ongoing support and dedication to the cause. We would not have made the progress we've made without you. A massive thank you to the Yfoundations board, which has provided relentless guidance and support to me since I began this role. I also thank my team for their passion and values that shape our work and our voice – it's been an absolute pleasure working alongside you.

I would lastly like to thank everyone who has supported our call for a standalone National Plan. We will not stop until children and young people experiencing homelessness get the recognition and support they need.



A. Connolly

Trish Connolly
Chief Executive Officer
Yfoundations

Youth Homelessness Representative Council



The Youth Homelessness Representative Council (YHRC) has moved through a couple of stages this year. The group of wonderful young people who worked alongside us at the beginning of the financial year have all moved into new and exciting phases in their lives. They participated in the YHRC incredibly well throughout their time with us. Some of them were able to attend interstate conferences, others helped to support the health resources work, and many had opportunities to promote in the media the voices and lived experiences of young people experiencing or at risk of homelessness. We are forever thankful for their contributions.



In recent months, Yfoundations has focused on reinvigorating our YHRC with some new faces and more, committed and passionate young people. We led a recent recruitment drive to invite new members to the council and are so excited about the incredible group of young people who have joined us so far. We are looking forward to interviewing more potential candidates over the coming months.

Throughout this recruitment period, we have also explored ways in which we can expand the potential of the YHRC and best support this new council. One part of this has seen us refining our onboarding process for each recruit. This included creating a new 'Welcome Pack' which outlines the YHRC's key principles, objectives and conduct, as well as clarifying information on attendance, opportunities and more.

For our YHRC members who have moved on, we also wanted to create a clear pathway through which these young people could continue their work in advocacy should they wish to. We are delighted to have established this pathway with Streetcare, a branch of the Public Interest Advocacy Centre (PIAC) that works within the advocacy space for people with lived experience of homelessness. We are thrilled they were eager to open their doors to the four 'aged-out' members who were excited to continue their advocacy work with Streetcare, and we are looking forward to future collaborations with them for all our members.

Our new recruits have had the opportunity to meet each other and most of the Yfoundations team in their first meeting together. We were also lucky enough to be

invited by the Australian Theatre for Young People (ATYP) to one of their final performances of CUSP, a play exploring the turbulent lives of three emerging adults in the Top End as they swim against the tide of irrevocable change.

Even though the YHRC started the new year a tad quieter, the new financial year has started off with a bang. But we will share that with you in next year's annual report. In the meantime, if you work with a young person who would be keen to be a part of the YHRC, please reach out to YHRC@yfoundations.org.au for further information and an application form.

Advocacy and Policy



This year has been incredibly busy with a focus on advocacy and increasing the profile of child and youth homelessness issues. We hosted regular webinars and monthly general meetings for members, keeping the youth homelessness service sector informed and up to date on all programs and potential policy changes that may impact them. We ensured the sector's concerns were fed back to government Ministers, departments and consultations.

Submissions

In 2022-23, Yfoundations Policy and Research Team made the following submissions to government:

- NSW Pre-Budget Submission 2022-23
- National Housing Legislative Package Submission
- Federal Pre-Budget Submission 2023-24
- Housing and Mental Health Agreement 2022 (HMHA22) Consultation.

Yfoundations' HMHA22 submission highlighted the absence of any youth-specific homelessness, housing or mental health organisations on the HMHA 22 State Steering Committee, the governance structure at the state level responsible for facilitating improvements to state-wide service planning, commissioning, access and outcomes under the agreement. Ministry for Health met with Yfoundations, extending an invitation to us to sit on the State Steering Committee. A YHRC representative was also invited to join the HMHA 22 Lived Experience Advisory Committee.

Across all submissions, our recommendations to address the growing issue of child and youth homelessness included:

- the absence of the breadth of responses for unaccompanied children and young people experiencing homelessness, in all government strategies and plans both national and state based
- identifying unaccompanied young people as a cohort with acute housing needs in the Housing Australia Future Fund Bill 2023 to ensure they are considered in future reviews, funding and allocation provisions, e.g. crisis accommodation; specialist domestic, family and sexual violence accommodation;

medium-term accommodation; Youth Foyers; and youth social housing

- increasing income support and Commonwealth Rent Assistance to accurately reflect both the cost-of-living and current housing crises
- investment in medium-term housing and support for 16 to 18-year-olds experiencing homelessness
- investment to end the incarceration of children and young people experiencing homelessness and to reduce homelessness among children and young people involved with youth justice
- funding the design and delivery of an engagement plan to inform the future National Child and Youth Homelessness and Housing Plan
- recognising and responding to unaccompanied children and young people experiencing domestic, family and sexual violence within Action Plans under the National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children
- commitment to fund the SACS-Equal Remuneration Order (ERO) and review indexation to ensure funding keeps pace with the real costs of homelessness service delivery.

We prepared these submissions with in-depth research, policy analysis, and consultations with SHS workers and young people with lived experience of homelessness. We also gathered data from a range of sources, including the ABS Census and the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) reports.

Other Advocacy Activities and Campaigns

Our advocacy included briefings with government departments, regular monthly general consultations and information sessions with the sector, and feeding back the interests and concerns of sector members to respective federal and state governments on the:

- NSW Treasury's Follow the Dollar reform
- Department of Community and Justice (DCJ) proposed reconfiguration of the Homeless Youth Assistance Program (HYAP) model
- Commonwealth SACS-ERO and indexation payments for SHS sector workers
- proposed principles for Physical and Sexual Abuse Indemnity Insurance for the sector
- DCJ's draft Client Outcomes survey
- DCJ's SHS Unit Costing project and surveys
- evaluation of the NSW Homelessness Strategy 2018-2023
- status of the DCJ Domestic and Family Violence (DFV) Core and Cluster program
- evaluation of the Specialist Homelessness Services Program in NSW
- NSW Ombudsman's reports: *Specialist homelessness services: helping people with high or complex needs* (Aug 2022) and *More Than Shelter - outstanding actions to improve the response to children presenting alone to homelessness services* (May 2023).

NSW Treasury's Follow the Dollar (FTD) reform proposed expanding the mandate of the NSW Auditor-General to empower it to carry out performance audits of non-public

sector entities that receive public money from the government, e.g. specialist homelessness services. At the DCJ meeting in August advising us that FTD was coming our way, Yfoundations requested a further meeting with Treasury, which took place the following week. Treasury undertook a meagre three-week consultation, precluding the opportunity for a broad and considered engagement process with those sectors impacted by FTD - particularly concerning given the excessive reporting burdens these proposed audits would place on our already overstretched sector. Yfoundations reflected this sentiment in our briefing submission, offering to support any proposed consultations with our member organisations if Treasury agreed to extend the consultation timeframe. This offer was not taken up.

The Ombudsman report on SHS helping people with high or complex needs explores the barriers people face in accessing SHS and in receiving a 'wrap-around' response. While most of the recommendations are directed to DCJ, they will obviously impact the SHS sector. DCJ has advised it is in the process of developing an implementation plan to respond to the recommendations, and peaks will be advised when this has been finalised.

Yfoundations conducted a consultation with HYAP providers to seek their concerns and feedback on the HYAP service model reconfiguration. Negotiations had taken place in June 2022 with DCJ to adjust their proposed new model to be more realistic about staff qualifications and requirements to meet face-to-face with clients a couple of times per week, for example. DCJ adjusted the model accordingly but it was evident some of their CPOs were still using the old service model in negotiations with HYAP providers. We agreed to start compiling information/evidence about how providers see the HYAP model going forward and to provide this detail to DCJ.

Yfoundations also facilitated a number of online drop-in sessions for members throughout February to April to discuss the DCJ-FACSIAR SHS Unit Costing project and surveys, implications for service providers,

how to navigate the various surveys, expectations from the department, and preliminary findings. We also provided extensive feedback on the draft surveys developed by FACSIAR prior to distribution to service providers and on the preliminary findings from the surveys.

In March, Yfoundations joined over 200 organisations in signing an open letter from Homelessness Australia, National Shelter, the Community Housing Industry Association and the Australian Council of Social Service, calling on the Federal Government to reverse the \$65 million cuts to housing and homelessness services arising from its failure to include homelessness services funded under the National Housing and Homelessness Agreement (NHHA) when it committed \$560 million to commonwealth-funded community services to meet the ongoing costs of the Equal Remuneration Order.



Given the delay in renewing the NHHA, which was due to expire at the end of June 2023 and extended for a further year, we also advocated on the need to advise SHS and HYAP service providers on the status of their contracts beyond the coming financial year. Minister Rose Jackson's announcement to extend SHS and HYAP contracts for a further two years to 30 June 2026 shows this advocacy was heard and provides some breathing space for service providers across the state.

It is important to note that the Minister's announcement indicated a 'need for reform and urgent issues in the provision of homelessness services that need to be explored to design future services.' The Minister also indicated she wanted to hear about changes that could be made to existing services to get better outcomes within the two-year extension. The Minister suggested a service redesign/change could have a

greater impact considering most of the models were implemented a decade ago. Yfoundations will be keeping abreast of any work relating to the proposed changes identified by the Minister to avoid any recurrence of the Going Home Staying Home reforms over a decade ago.

Our campaigning throughout the year also included social media, producing and contributing to media releases, and keeping members and stakeholders informed through our regular monthly Yfoundations newsletters and website. More on this in our Communications and Media report.

Research activities and reports

Regional Youth Homelessness Forum Consultation Report

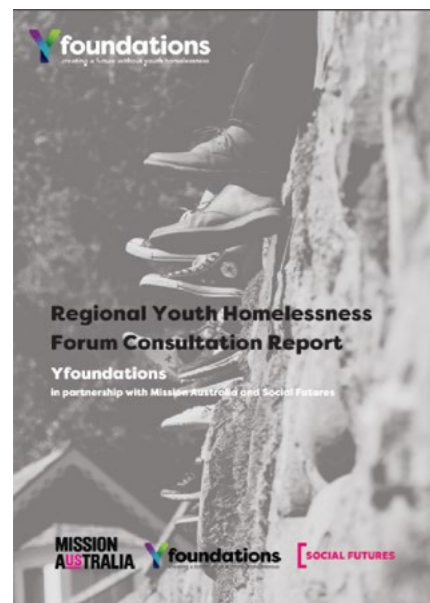
Yfoundations worked alongside Mission Australia and Social Futures to facilitate regional forums during Homelessness Week 2022 to shine a spotlight on child and youth homelessness in NSW regions. Two forums were held, one in partnership with Social Futures in Ballina in the Northern Rivers, and one with Yfoundations in partnership with Mission Australia in Wagga Wagga and Dubbo in the Riverina and Orana regions respectively.

The final report produced by Yfoundations encapsulated the discussions and framed the recommendations from the Regional Youth Homelessness Forum across four key themes:

- Regional housing crisis
- Service system gaps
- Domestic, family and sexual violence
- Couch surfing.

It describes key learnings and includes six key recommendations as well as four supplementary recommendations, including:

- investment in a needs analysis of and funding for the SHS system to deliver additional youth crisis refuges and Foyer models in regional NSW
- the NSW Government allocating over \$5 million for new medium-term accommodation sites across regional, country and remote NSW



Yfoundations, which informs how we can improve our advocacy and impact, and better engage with members.

This year, our survey was distributed on 16 August through our newsletter and social media platforms. The survey closed on 31 August and yielded 67 responses. We saw a similar profile of respondents to last year's survey, spread across a wide range of areas within NSW, with an increase in responses from the Mid North Coast district.

The findings from this survey were generally optimistic and also provide constructive feedback to inform our work over the coming financial year.

Regarding performance, we saw high levels of trust from our members and other stakeholders. As representing organisations in the sector is a central component of our work, this result is encouraging. It was also encouraging to see that our members are aware of all our campaigns, events and/or services.

In saying that, the responses demonstrated a need for increased consultation, communication and engagement with our members and relevant stakeholders to ensure the work we produce is relevant and reflective of their needs.

Aftershock: addressing the economic and social costs of the pandemic and natural disasters on the people of NSW

Yfoundations contributed funding for this research series exploring the impacts of the pandemic and natural disasters across four key domains of well-being: mental health, domestic violence, housing security, and child wellbeing and development.

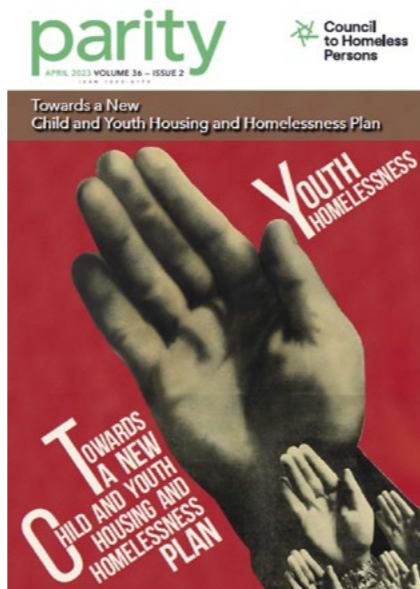
Drawing on research and data to highlight the impacts of the pandemic, fires and floods over the previous two and a half years, the reports were prepared for the NSW Council of Social Services (NCOSS) and a coalition of peak bodies (including Yfoundations), and released in August 2022. The series is available on the NCOSS website at www.ncoss.org.au.

- considerable attention being given to the experiences and needs of unaccompanied children and young people in any state or national strategy geared towards responding to homelessness or DFSV to ensure integrated, client-centred responses are available for this cohort, particularly regional children and young people, and the services that support them.

A copy of the report is available on the Yfoundations website. The Yfoundations website at www.yfoundations.org.au

2021-22 Annual Members Survey

Each year, we survey our membership and other stakeholders about the issues they believe are affecting young people at risk of or experiencing homelessness. This helps inform our projects and activities in the coming year. We also ask how they perceive the work of



Articles and written output

Our research activities this year were focused on producing frequent and well-researched articles and pieces to highlight the range of child and youth homelessness issues and solutions to address these.

CEO Trish Connolly co-wrote with Dr Catherine Robinson (University of Tasmania) and Shorna Moore (Melbourne City Mission) a piece for the October 2022 edition of *Parity*, 'Towards a New National Homelessness Strategy'. The article discussed the urgent need for a standalone national child and youth homelessness strategy in light of the failure of governments to address in national plans, strategies and programs the ever-increasing issue of children and young people who are at risk of or experiencing homelessness on their own, and the devastating consequences for their futures.

Discussing the relationship between adolescent homelessness, incarceration and violence, Alice Taylor and Jessie Adlidge from our Policy team produced 'Locked Up and Locked Out: The Intersections of Youth Justice, Violence and Homelessness' for the December 2022 edition of *Parity*. The article launched Yfoundations' Youth Justice SHS Capacity Building project and included analysis of the NSW Bail Act and the Bail and Accommodation Support Service (BASS).

Alice and Jessie also co-wrote another *Parity* piece for the April 2023 special edition of *Parity*, 'Towards a

Locked Up and Locked Out: The Intersections of Youth Justice, Violence and Homelessness

Alice Taylor, Senior Research and Policy Officer, Yfoundations, Jessie Adlidge, Research and Policy Assistant, Yfoundations



New Child and Youth Housing and Homelessness Plan'. Their article, 'Reimagining a Housing System for Young People,' urged the Australian Government to reimagine what a housing service system for young people should look like, calling for increased income support and investment in a range of youth-specific housing models. In that same edition, CEO Trish Connolly wrote an opinion piece further elaborating on our call for a standalone National Child and Youth Homelessness and Housing Plan. She highlighted the need for governments to address the systemic failures that perpetuate child and youth homelessness, exploring the concept of, 'If it takes a village to raise a child then what will it take before governments act to stop our children and young people falling into homelessness and setting up them for a future not of their making?'

Trish Connolly

Chief Executive Officer, Yfoundations



Presentations, Webinars and Conferences

Trish and the Policy team, Alice and Jessie, attended the Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute (AHURI) and Homelessness Australia: Homelessness Conference 2022 in Canberra (August 2022). Trish spoke on a panel, 'Hidden Homelessness - unaccompanied children', which was facilitated by Dr Catherine Robinson, alongside panelists Dr Justin Barker, Simon Byrnes, Cheryl Lierston and Zoe Robinson.

At the SHS Networking events organised by Homelessness NSW in November and May, Trish presented on the work of Yfoundations and priority issues in child and youth homelessness. These events provided a great opportunity for face-to-face networking with sector organisations, service providers and members from around the state.

In early-November, Trish also participated in a panel discussion on youth homelessness organised by Youth Development Australia at the launch of the National Home Truths Exhibition as part of the Head On Photo Festival. Home Truths is a series of works and archival images of Australian young people experiencing homelessness. It highlights how little progress has been made in addressing youth homelessness over 25 years and seeks to engage a broad public audience through artistic advocacy.

Later that month, Yfoundations, alongside Dr Carmel Hobbs (University of Tasmania) and Dr Catherine Robinson (Anglicare Tasmania) hosted a successful webinar, 'Young, in love and in danger: Teens experiences of domestic violence and abuse in their own intimate partner relationships.' Dr Carmel Hobbs presented her new research into the prevalence and nature of intimate partner violence (IPV) among teenage girls. She was joined by Dr Robinson and Trish Connolly who discussed the intersection of IPV with homelessness. Over 300 people registered to attend, with around 190 in attendance.

During the second half of the year, CEO Trish Connolly presented at and/or participated in a number of forums and webinars, including:



- the Western Sydney Nepean Blue Mountains District Homelessness Reconnect Network forum where she participated in a panel discussion with Homelessness NSW CEO, Trina Jones, and DCJ regional staff, and talked about the work of Yfoundations and our call for a national standalone plan for unaccompanied children and young people
- the national *Parity* launch hosted by Homelessness Australia to which CEO Yfoundations was invited to present the paper that she co-authored with Dr Catherine Robinson (University of Tasmania), and Shorna Moore (Melbourne City Mission)
- Homelessness Australia's webinar, 'Gender, age and culture - understanding difference to end homelessness,' where she presented on children and young people
- Uniting's sector consultation on the key issues facing young people leaving care in NSW.

Leading up to the NSW State Election, Yfoundations co-hosted Youth Action's NSW Election Forum in February along with the Australian



Theatre for Young People and Multicultural Youth Affairs Network who make up the newly formed NSW Youth Alliance. The forum included a panel of representatives from each of the major political parties and a panel of young people who expressed their priorities and aspirations for young people in NSW. Each co-host organisation also presented, focusing on maximising outcomes for young people in the upcoming NSW election. It was insightful and inspiring to hear from young people and the organisations supporting them.

CEO Trish Connolly was invited to present at the Regional Child, Youth and Families Conference organised by New England Family Support Service and held in Armidale in March. She spoke about supporting young people experiencing homelessness and met with service providers who were at their wits end because of the increased demand for and lack of available services in regional areas for children and young people experiencing homelessness.

The first day of the 5th National Housing and Homelessness Forum in Darwin held in May focused on child and youth homelessness, and Trish delivered the first presentation of the day. She presented on why unaccompanied children and young people need a standalone national plan, examining the unique experience of homelessness for unaccompanied children and young people, and the most prevalent and hidden forms of homelessness for this cohort. She also sat on a panel with Associate Professor David Mackenzie, discussing homelessness prevention and early intervention models for young people.

Alice Taylor also presented at the conference and demonstrated how the national domestic, family and sexual violence policy fails to recognise unaccompanied children and young people experiencing DFV as a unique cohort who require specialised support. She spoke about the need for recognition and funding of responses for this group within the National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children.

A key focus of Yfoundations' advocacy during the year was on highlighting the experiences and needs of children



and young people experiencing domestic, family and sexual violence; the impact of this on them; the particular needs of children and young people presenting alone to SHS due to DFSV; and the impact on services providing support to them. This advocacy included:

- Youth Resolutions' DFV and Youth Homelessness webinar where our CEO spoke about the impact of domestic, family and sexual violence on children and young people, and its intersections with homelessness
- the DFSV Sector meeting hosted by DCJ – a forum for sharing information on DCJ and sector priorities, updates about key areas of work from the sector and DCJ, and issues or concerns impacting the sector and service delivery



- participation in the DVNSW Sector Development Member Advisory Committee
- DCJ DFV Workforce Strategy consultations conducted by Cultural Perspectives where our CEO was interviewed to inform this work, and our Policy team participated in the consultation workshop on Key Strategic Themes for 10 Year DFV Workforce Development Strategy.



Partnerships, Networks and Committees

Partnerships and networks

Throughout the year, in addition to strengthening consultations and communications with our membership base, we increased our emphasis on advocating and collaborating with other key organisations and people to ensure children and young people experiencing or at risk of homelessness are recognised and prioritised in forthcoming political events, programs and policy.

To this end, in the lead up to the NSW State Election, we collaborated with Youth Action, Multicultural Youth Affairs Network (MYAN) and the Australian Theatre for Young People (ATYP) to create the NSW Youth Alliance. We created this alliance to advance our collective work for the rights of young people across the state.

Please see our 10 asks for young people in NSW. Such an important and urgent call for the next NSW Government



We joined and have worked closely with the Coalition to Call for a National Standalone Child and Youth Homelessness Strategy, which drives advocacy for a national standalone child and youth homelessness plan, and joined response for the upcoming National Housing and Homelessness Plan consultation process. Membership includes Dr Catherine Robinson (University of Tasmania), Shorna Moore (Melbourne

City Mission), Dr Justin Barker (CEO, ACT Youth Action), Pam Barker (CEO, Brisbane Youth Service), Cheryl Lierton (Senior Manager, Uniting Community South Australia), Kate Colvin (Everybody's Home Campaign), Liz Cameron-Smith (CEO, Foyer Foundation), and Keith Bryant (CEO, Youth Development Australia).

We were also approached to work with Youth Accountability Project, a new philanthropic organisation that is committed to:

- enabling youth leadership
- engaging in ongoing learning
- creating and investing in 10-year spaces for change
- harnessing the time, talent, money and networks of innovative social change agents and philanthropists
- investing in powerful coalitions that strive to change problematic conditions impacting 7-17 year olds.

This organisation is focusing on 7-17 year olds in NSW in the first instance, with a view to expanding to other states/territories in the future.

Trish Connolly met with the CEO of Queensland Youth Housing (the only other state-based youth homelessness peak body in Australia) and was invited by QShelter to a networking event with Queensland Housing and Homelessness Peaks Partnership CEOs and Leaders.

We also continued to collaborate and strengthen our work and relationships with people and organisations individually within these alliances and coalitions, and with other key organisations, including:

- ACWA
- Advocate for Children and Young People
- Create NSW
- DVNSW
- Homelessness NSW
- NADA Youth AOD Network
- National Raise the Age Campaign
- NCOSS
- Shelter NSW.

Committees

As part of our advocacy on child and youth homelessness and the services that support them, Yfoundations has representation on the following committees:

Housing and Homelessness Strategy Steering Committee

Yfoundations was invited to sit on this committee, which considers strategic issues that cut across the sector, and operational impacts; identifies links to specific programs; and makes referrals for action to other governance groups and/or forms sub-groups for deeper analysis on issues, as required. The committee operates under DCJ with membership of senior government executives across multiple departments including: Department of Planning, Industry and Environment; NSW Treasury; Ministry of Health; and Department of Premier and Cabinet. CEOs of ACHIA and CHIA NSW have also been invited to join the committee.

Housing and Mental Health Agreement 22 (HMHA22) State Steering Committee

Following our submission to the HMHA22 Consultation, Yfoundations was invited on to this committee, which is a sub-committee of the NSW Mental Health Taskforce. This steering committee is the state tier of governance that focuses on system stewardship and overseeing state-wide implementation, resolving issues escalated from districts, and ensuring ongoing functioning of the district level. This committee includes government (DCJ, Health, Planning and Environment, and NDIA) and peak body members, with escalation pathways to DCJ and NSW Health Secretaries.

A representative from our YHRC rep has also been invited on to the HMHA 22 Lived Experience Advisory Committee), which ensures the voices of people with mental health issues and experience of the social housing and/or homelessness systems are heard by decision makers and service providers, to lead and influence systemic change in services and systems.



National Steering Group for the National Youth Homelessness Conference

This steering group advises on direction for the National Youth Homelessness Conference (scheduled for July 2023), which aims to bring together a coalition of people and organisations seeking commitment from the Australian Government to carve out a national plan to address child and youth homelessness. The steering group is also heavily promoting the conference to reach a wide audience and encourage people to attend.

Youth Action Youth Justice Throughcare Steering Committee

Youth Action's Youth Justice Throughcare Initiative aims to improve support and services for young people before, during and after detention.

The activities of the initiative are informed by the steering committee, comprising representatives from a diverse range of services in the NSW youth sector. The committee was brought together to determine advocacy and public campaigning solutions for increasing knowledge

and funding for the issue of throughcare for young people in conflict with the law. This included roundtables with the youth sector and government, which sought feedback from the sector on what young people are experiencing and about key recommendations and reforms.

Our CEO also sits on the Boards of:

- End Street Sleeping Collaboration
- Homelessness Australia
- My Foundations.

Health Projects and Training

This has been a very productive year for the Health and Training arm of Yfoundations. We saw the return of face-to-face Sticky Stuff sessions, presented at multiple conferences, and created a range of awesome resources as well as new opportunities for the coming year.

Sticky Stuff sessions were facilitated in a webinar format, along with the return of face-to-face sessions. Up to 695 workers in youth-facing positions attended a Sticky Stuff session this year, upskilling themselves and preparing to engage in super-important conversations with young people. Our face-to-face sessions went far and wide across the state from Broken Hill to Lismore and back to Penrith in Sydney. We also conducted sessions in Coffs Harbour, Kempsey and North Sydney, trying to reach as many areas of the state as we could this financial year.

For those who preferred a little self-paced learning opportunity, Sticky Stuff Online and Because You Care online learning modules catered perfectly to this need, seeing 258 individuals register and work through either one or both of the two learning options. By the end of the financial year, these two modules had a completion rate of 87% of participants. Almost everyone who registered had worked their way through these free, self-paced learning modules.

Through the middle of the year, we released the sexual health video, 'Are you ready to talk about sex?', as part of our aim to support frontline workers by providing valuable tools to assist in their work with young people. The video sets out to demystify a few commonly held myths and misunderstandings young people have around consent, contraception and STIs. The young people on screen speak from their own knowledge and what they have learned along the way – the only scripted part was the questions. We couldn't be prouder of this amazing group who braved it in front of the camera.

We also produced a range of fact sheets to support the video on the same three topic areas. The video and fact sheets are available **on our website** for use with young people.

We have been working closely throughout the year with Play Safe Programs on their important work. The SHAPE (Sexual Health and Peer Education) project is up and running in multiple tertiary settings, targeting international students and seeking to bridge cultural differences around sexual health. The aim of this work is to upskill peer educators to have important conversations with their peers around sex, consent and harm minimisation when partying, etc. Students and staff within these university settings are very pleased with the work that has been conducted. The SHAPE co-leaders also received good news just prior to the end of the financial year. An abstract we submitted was accepted as a poster at the Australasian Sexual and Reproductive Health Conference 2023, to be held in September.

In addition to the poster success, the other Play Safe Program we work on, the Youth Services project, also submitted a successful abstract, with this project being accepted for an oral presentation at the same conference. It is wonderful to see the work we contribute to being recognised and acknowledged in this way.

The Youth Services project produced an interim report this year following the completion of the first stage of this project. We are working with specialist homelessness services and their local HARP teams to upskill frontline staff in sexual health conversations, where to find resources, and local referral pathways, etc. We are about to wrap up in the Far West; however, we are just starting in the Southern NSW and Murrumbidgee LHDs. Exciting work is just around the corner.

In addition to all these achievements and work throughout the year, Megan Hall had some wonderful opportunities. She attended Splendour in the Grass 2022 (aka Splendour in the Mud) and, along

sticky
stuff



with the Northern NSW and Mid North Coast LHDs, and some wonderful local service providers, promoted safe sex, looking out for your mates, and harm minimisation when partying. She also co-presented with Angie, CEO of Consent Labs, at the Youth Work Conference hosted by Youth Action. This breakout session was all about sexual health and consent, and was provided to workers in the youth space.

Megan wrote a Sticky Stuff blog post for the Caddyshack Project website and newsletter that was published in February. And recently, she was a workshop presenter at the PASH (Positive Adolescent Sexual Health) conference where she presented over two days on the topic of 'Let's talk about sex', being joined by Dr Melissa Kang on the second day. At the conference, she also participated in a community forum on e-safety and its impact on young people.

As you can see, lots of wonderful work has been done this year to support young people and workers alike. We can't wait to see where the coming year takes us.

Youth Homelessness Matters Day

Youth Homelessness Matters Day (YHMD) was on Wednesday 19 April. It was a major success, with a bigger and stronger presence and reach than in recent years. A key focus of our work was to ensure youth homelessness continues to have a national spotlight, supporting organisations and individuals across the country wishing to highlight this issue with the information and resources to do so.

Youth Homelessness Matters Day (YHMD) was on Wednesday 19 April and was a major success, with a bigger and stronger presence and reach than in recent years. A key focus of our work was to ensure youth homelessness continues to have a national spotlight, supporting organisations and individuals across the country wishing to highlight this issue with the information and resources to do so.

As part of our commitment to gaining wide traction for YHMD this year, Yfoundations made a significant investment in the redevelopment of YHMD's web presence (www.yfoundations.org.au/yhmd-2023), branding and campaign materials, including a campaign kit, T-shirts (550 designed and printed for national distribution to organisations coordinating events), a factsheet, event posters and social media tiles with data and infographics, which were available free to Yfoundations members, and organisations and individuals organising events and/or social media to promote YHMD and the issue of child and youth homelessness.

We also encouraged organisations to register their events with us for promotion on the Yfoundations website, which served as a one-stop information resource for people wanting to know about YHMD events in their area.



YOUTH HOMELESSNESS MATTERS DAY 2023

Our YHMD campaign focus was on intensifying our call on the Australian Government to develop a standalone National Child and Youth Homelessness and Housing Plan. We developed and promoted a new online petition which, at 30 June, had 8,765 signatures from supporters around the country, demonstrating the strong backing for our call.

YHMD was a huge success and saw so many organisations both state and nationwide promoting the day using our resources, which were widely shared on social media, published on websites and used in events held across Australia. Rose Jackson, the newly-elected NSW Minister for Housing, Homelessness, Youth and Mental Health, David Pocock, Independent ACT Federal Senator, and Kylea Tink, Independent Federal Member for North Sydney, wore YHMD shirts, posted about the day on social media and signposted followers to our resources and petition. Our own promotion of the day included ongoing promotion in the Yfoundations newsletters, social media posts and stories on all social media platforms, including the YHMD Facebook page.

Yfoundations also collaborated on an event with Oasis Youth Support Services at their youth refuge in Surry Hills, which was attended by Minister Rose Jackson who did a walkthrough of the refuge and met with the Yfoundations CEO and team as well as Oasis staff members. We were honoured to have the opportunity to welcome her into her new role, discuss opportunities for collaboration, and continue our discussions with her about child and youth homelessness in NSW.

YHMD and the growing issue of youth homelessness was also covered extensively in print, radio and TV media outlets, including ABC's The Drum, ABC TV News, ABC Radio National, National Indigenous Times, 7 News, Sky News, and other large,

smaller and local media outlets across the country.

It was amazing to see so many people come together for YHMD, and we're incredibly proud of what we achieved under the guidance of the YHMD Advisory Committee, which met six times to plan and support the YHMD2023 campaign.

The success of this campaign highlighted that child and youth homelessness is an issue that many people across Australia care about.

List of YHMD Advisory Committee members (to June 2023)

- **Michelle Ackerman**, Acting Director, Youth Support Services, Youth Off The Streets (NSW)
- **Nerida Ackerman**, President, Yfoundations
- **Dr Justin Barker**, Executive Director, Youth Coalition of the ACT
- **Pam Barker**, CEO, Brisbane Youth Service (QLD)
- **Ojisi Charlie**, Alice Springs Youth Accommodation & Support Services Inc. (NT)
- **Michael Coffey**, Executive Officer, Catholic Social Services NSW/ACT
- **Marissa Cotter**, Community Impact Coordinator, Coongan (WA)
- **Lorraine Dupree**, Executive Director, Queensland Youth Housing Coalition
- **Jason Juretic**, CEO, Stepping Stone House (NSW)
- **Sandy McKiernan**, CEO, Youth Affairs Council of Western Australia
- **Kate Mills**, CEO, Property Industry Foundation (National)
- **Stephen Nash**, CEO, Kids Under Cover (VIC)
- **Dr Catherine Robinson**, University of Tasmania (TAS)
- **Trish Connolly**, CEO, Yfoundations.

Youth Justice SHS Capacity Building Project

Yfoundations and Youth Justice NSW are working in partnership to build the capacity of youth specialist homelessness services (SHS) to support young people who use violence in the home. Too often, young people remain in custody because they are unable to return to the family home because of their use of violence.



Youth Justice NSW funds the Bail and Accommodation Support Service (BASS), an after-hours phone service that accepts referrals for young people in police custody. In 2021, 60 of the 90 young people (66%) who were diverted from custody by BASS into a youth SHS had been charged with a domestic and family violence (DFV) related offence at the time of their referral.

The Youth Justice SHS Capacity Building Project will develop training for BASS providers to increase their confidence and expertise in working with young people who are charged with a DFV offence. The BASS providers support these young people who would otherwise be remanded because they are unable to return home because of the violence.

The BASS providers Yfoundations has worked in partnership with to develop the training include:

- Coast Shelter
- Taldumande Youth Services
- Platform Youth Services
- Youth Off The Streets
- Veritas House
- Southern Youth and Family Services
- CASPA
- Marist180
- Mission Australia.

Yfoundations engaged Shayne Hood, Director of Words and Wisdom, to develop the training. Shayne's approach to developing the training for the capacity building project is to look at what has happened to the young person and why they are using violence. He aims to build self-determination in the young person through coaching practices, a trauma-informed and strengths-based approach. Ultimately, Shayne's

training seeks to help the young person lead a more meaningful and purposeful life in their future.

Yfoundations appreciates the opportunity Youth Justice NSW has provided to develop DFV resources specifically for young people because their experiences and needs are different to those of adults.

Yfoundations held two workshops with the BASS providers and Youth Justice NSW (both comprising the Project Control Group) to co-design the training with Shayne to ensure it embedded their expertise and met their needs and the needs of the young people.

The work and outcomes of this project are underpinned by the Youth Justice Domestic and Family Violence Strategy 2019-2022.

Communications and Media



This year Yfoundations focused on utilising our social media channels to amplify our advocacy, increase our profile, and reach out to potential stakeholders, supporters and members of the public outside of our regular communications channels (members webinars and newsletters). We continued to highlight child and youth homelessness issues, events and activities; and provide updates on sector news and the work of Yfoundations.

We also continued to produce media releases and contribute to joint media releases, and kept members and stakeholders informed through our regular monthly Yfoundations newsletters and redesigned website.

Our media releases and social media included:

- Joint Peaks Media Release on the AIHW 2021-22 SHS Annual Report data release
- Media release: 'The 2021 Census homelessness data tells us it's time to make children and young people a priority - Yfoundations response to the 2021 Census data on homelessness'
- Social media welcoming the Australian Government's \$67.5 million boost to homelessness funding to states and territories over the next year to fund their portion of the Equal Remuneration Order (ERO)
- Media release announcing YHMD23: 'Don't turn away from the turn aways - Youth Homelessness Matters Day 2023'
- Social media advocacy calling on the Federal Government to reverse the \$65 million cuts to housing and homelessness services
- Youth Homelessness Matters Day 2023 (YHMD23) Campaign
 - > ongoing social media advocacy, newsletters and letters to ministers
 - > call to action: sign our online petition calling for a standalone National Child and Youth Homelessness and Housing Strategy (see YHMD report)
- Social media welcoming Minister Jackson's announcement to extend SHS and HYAP contracts to 30 June 2026.

Social media

Yfoundations posted regular updates and shared news of our events, resources, advocacy work and members' activities. We enjoyed a steady rise in our social media presence, including solid increases in follower numbers and engagements for the reporting period. Across our three key platforms - LinkedIn, Facebook and Instagram - our page and profile visits increased significantly with an increase of 146% Facebook visits and 82% to Instagram. Our LinkedIn follower numbers increased by 109% with over 1,700 reactions to posts throughout the year. Our Instagram reach went up by over 49%.

Our activities and achievements in these spaces include:

- regular posting, sharing resources, updates, sector information, advocacy work and members' activities
- regular posting for Health and Training Coordinator's KPI's (Sticky Stuff Online and Because You Care training promotion, one each month alternating)
- Youth Homelessness Matters Day, which gained a lot of attention for Yfoundations (followers, engagement and impressions) across all platforms, evident from the spike in our analytics around 19 April.

Members and sector communications

Yfoundations kept our members and supporters up to date with our news, activities and events as well as news and events from the broader homelessness sector throughout the year via:

- the Yfoundations Newsletter (sent out towards the end of every month)
- general and annual general meeting invitations (general

member meetings are held every month)

- media releases (via CCHP alerts)
- event invitations and alerts.

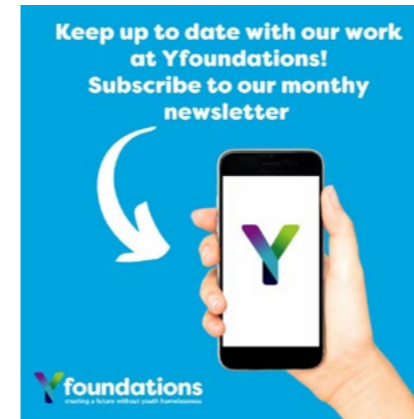
We also produced a Mailbox round-up for the first three months. This was a weekly email summarising news related to the homelessness/housing/youth sector. We received great feedback and it was very popular but due to changing priorities and increasing demands on staff time and resources, we suspended production.

Website reconfiguration and new member features

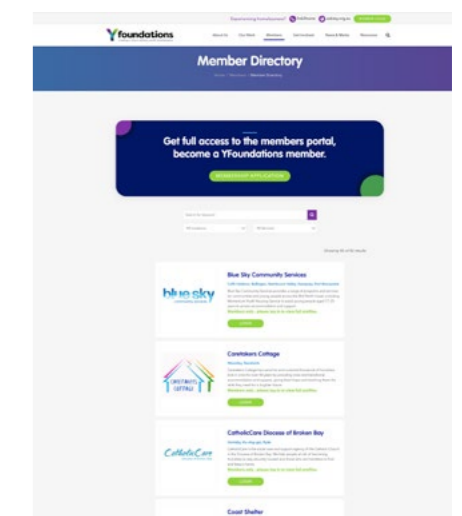
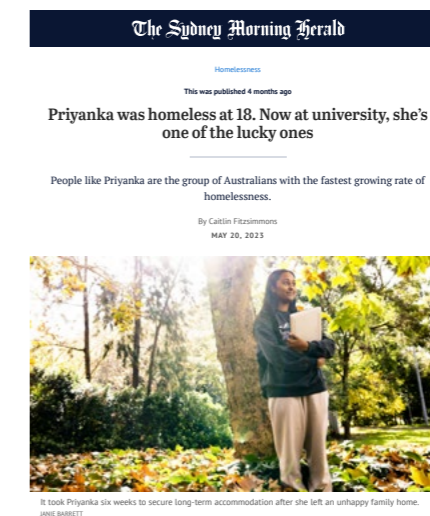
Following on from the launch of our new website and branding in 2021, we undertook further work on our website, reconfiguring and redesigning pages, and redeveloping content for a more intuitive and user-friendly experience. We also streamlined our resources hub to better locate and increase access to Yfoundations resources (reports, submissions, factsheets, research, etc.).

This was all in preparation for the completion of work on our long-awaited members portal, which went live in February and includes a Member Directory and Forum, sourced from our Client Relationship Management (CRM) system. The portal is designed to entice collaboration, foster community, and strengthen relationships and advocacy efforts across NSW.

From the landing page of the Member Directory, members are able to activate and sign into their member accounts, update or change their bios, and make use of the networking opportunities the member portal provides. In the Member Forum, we can seek feedback on priority issues or canvass ideas for our campaigns, submissions and other work.



Our website analytics start from 15 September when work on rebuilding the site began. From that time to the end of the financial year, there were over 10,700 users. This includes over 3,300 users who came to the Youth Homelessness Matters Day landing page, over 1,000 who went to our Resources, over 900 who went to the YHMD Campaign pack and 865 to the Health pages. This is particularly encouraging given the amount of time that went into the website rebuild overall and particularly the rebranding and rebuild of the YHMD pages and campaign resources.



Yfoundations in the News/media coverage:

Perth Now	'Cost-of-living concerns driving NSW youth to ballot box' Trish Connolly quoted, 23 February 2023
Property Industry Foundation	'Spotlight on: YHMD 2023' Interview with Trish Connolly, 19 March 2023
The National Tribune	'Don't turn away the turn aways - Youth Homelessness Matters Day 2023' Yfoundations media release reposted, 17 April 2023
ABC	'Calls for youth homelessness strategy' Interview with Trish Connolly, 19 April 2023
7 NEWS	'Alana was homeless at age 15. Here's what she wants you to know' Interview with Yfoundations youth homelessness representative council member Alana, 24 April 2023
National Youth Commission Australia	'Youth homelessness peak body Yfoundations calls for a standalone national strategy to end child and youth homelessness' Interview with Trish Connolly, 27 April 2023
Sydney Morning Herald	'Priyanka was homeless at 18. Now at university, she's one of the lucky ones' Trish Connolly quoted, 20 May 2023



Our Team



Trish Connolly
CEO



Alice Taylor
Senior Research
and Policy Officer



Megan Hall
Health Promotion and Training
Coordinator



Jessie Adlide
Policy and Research Assistant



Lauren Kiernan
Office Manager



Anna Schinella
Executive Officer



We said goodbye to the following staff members:

Kate Pockley
Marketing and
Communications Officer

Anneliese Apps
Project Officer

Thank you for your service and commitment to supporting vulnerable children and young people of NSW.



Our Board



Nerida Ackerman
President



Eleonore Johansson
Treasurer, Illawarra
Representative
Southern Youth
and Family Services



Alan Brennan
Secretary, Hunter New
England Representative
Pathfinders



Michelle Ackerman
Metropolitan
Representative
Youth Off The Streets



Richard Ayoub
Nepean Blue Mountains
Representative
Platform Youth Service



Kellie Checkley
Education and Training
Specialist Delegate
SYC Ltd



Meena Johnson
Northern NSW
Representative
Wesley Mission



Laurie Matthews
South Eastern Sydney
Representative
Caretakers Cottage



Nigel Parker
South Eastern Sydney
Representative
St Laurence House



Jody Pearce
Western NSW
Representative
Veritas House



Shannon Thorne
First Nations Representative
Marist180

We said goodbye to the following board members:

Lex Lutherborrow
Secretary
Sydney Representative
Youth Off The Streets

Lisa Graham
Metropolitan Delegate
Taldumande House

Daniel Roy
First Nations
Representative
headspace Orange

Thank you for your service and commitment to supporting vulnerable children and young people of NSW.

Financial Overview



Treasurer's Report

Dear Members,

I am pleased to present the Treasurer's Report for the financial year 2022-2023.

Overall, the current financial position and reserves of Yfoundations continue to be strong. All projects and grants were fully expended, and all legal accruals and entitlements were provided for.

In 2022-2023, Yfoundations received funding from DCJ for the State Peaks Program/Research and Policy Team, and the Youth Justice SHS Capacity Building Project. We also received a grant from NSW Health for Sticky Stuff Training. We are incredibly proud of our work this year and the increased profile this has brought for Yfoundations

Thank you to our member services for contributing nearly \$11,944 in membership fees, and a special thank you to the members that support Yfoundations by allowing the time for their staff to participate on the Yfoundations Board. I would also like to thank our external advisers who provide specialist financial support including our auditors Stewart Brown, and Purpose Accounting.

As I reflect on another year, I am aware of the importance of good governance and financial management, and how fortunate we are to enjoy both from our experienced, skilled and effective board.

I also recognise and applaud the value we derive from our experienced staff team led by our CEO, Trish Connolly. Thank you, Trish, for your unwavering leadership and contribution to the invaluable work of Yfoundations.

Eleonore Johansson
Treasurer



Statement of Financial Position



for the year ended 30 June 2023

Yfoundations. ABN 20 512 756 029

	2023	2022
Assets		
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$1,212,632	\$1,082,892
Trade and other receivables	\$7,491	\$46,112
Total Current Assets	\$1,220,123	\$1,129,004
Non-current Assets		
Property, plant and equipment	\$23,515	\$22,023
Right-of-use assets	-	\$51,173
Total Non-Current Assets	\$23,515	\$73,196
Total Assets	\$1,243,638	\$1,202,200
Liabilities		
Current liabilities		
Trade and other payables	\$120,618	\$61,938
Lease liability	-	\$59,369
Provisions	\$30,410	\$18,368
Total Current Liabilities	\$151,028	\$139,675
Non-current Liabilities		
Provisions	\$16,529	\$15,644
Total Non-Current Liabilities	\$16,529	\$15,644
Total Liabilities	\$167,557	\$155,319
Net assets	\$1,076,081	\$1,046,881
Total Accumulated Funds	\$1,076,081	\$1,046,881

Audited Accounts

The abridged Statement of Financial Position and Statement of Profit and Loss and other Comprehensive Income should be read in conjunction with the full notes on accounts attached to the comprehensive Audited Accounts.

The Company's external auditor, Stuart Brown Chartered Accountants, gave the accounts for the year an unqualified audit report.

Board Members certify that funding has been expended in accordance with the conditions of funding agreements and guidelines.

A full set of audited accounts can be obtained on request to:

The Secretary

Yfoundations
PO Box 3115
Eora Nation
Redfern NSW 2016

Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income

for the year ended 30 June 2023

	2023	2022
Income		
Revenue	\$1,024,951	\$1,013,197
Other Income	\$29,879	-
Total Income	\$1,054,830	\$1,013,197
Expenses		
Administration and other expenses	(\$18,534)	(\$29,159)
Conferences, events and workshops	(\$18,181)	(\$17,699)
Depreciation	(\$62,581)	(\$59,596)
Finance costs: lease liability	(\$1,093)	(\$3,158)
Occupancy	(\$10,014)	(\$8,416)
Office expenses	(\$45,384)	(\$32,060)
Professional fees and insurances	(\$82,997)	(\$68,559)
Project Expenses	(\$58,209)	(\$167,597)
Salaries and employee benefits	(\$673,062)	(\$565,603)
Telecommunication	(\$24,582)	(\$27,246)
Travel	(\$30,993)	(\$17,960)
Total expenses	(\$1,025,630)	(\$997,053)
Surplus for the year	\$29,200	\$16,144

Thank you



A sincere thanks to all our members and funders

Blue Sky Community Services
 Caretakers Cottage
 CatholicCare Diocese of Broken Bay
 Coast Shelter
 Detour House / The Girl's Refuge
 Domestic Violence NSW (DVNSW)
 Eleonore Johansson
 Jewish House
 Kids Under Cover
 Launchpad Youth Community
 Lillian's (Lillian Howell Project Inc.)
 Marist180
 Mission Australia Canterbury-Bankstown Youth Service
 Moree Family Support
 Pathfinders
 Phoenix House Youth Services

Platform Youth Services
 Port Stephens Family and Neighbourhood Services
 Project Youth
 Relationships Australia NSW
 Samaritans Maitland
 Settlement Services International (SSI)
 Shelter NSW
 Simon Byrnes
 Social Futures
 South East Women and Children's Services (SEWACS)
 Southern Youth and Family Services
 St Laurence House
 Stepping Stone House
 SYC Limited
 Taldumande Youth Services

The Burdekin Association
 The Family Centre (St Joseph's Youth Service)
 The Salvation Army – Oasis Youth Support
 Twenty10
 Uniting Dubbo
 Veritas House
 Vinnies Reconnect
 Wesley Mission
 Women's Community Shelters
 YES Youth and Family Services
 Youth Action
 Youth Off The Streets
 Youth Rezolutions
 YWCA

Community partnerships

We are exceptionally grateful to the following organisations and people who have supported our work during the year. This work has supported our sector as well as children and young people.

Comms for Change: Carolin Wenzel – supporting Yfoundations with communications and media advice, leads and materials.

Miscible Co: Molly Patton – supporting Yfoundations with our design work.

Thrive International: Andrew Johnson – supporting Yfoundations with training on Campaigning Effectively and The Rights of the Child, and providing mentorship.

Zavesky Consulting: Sonia Zavesky – supporting Yfoundations CEO with media training.

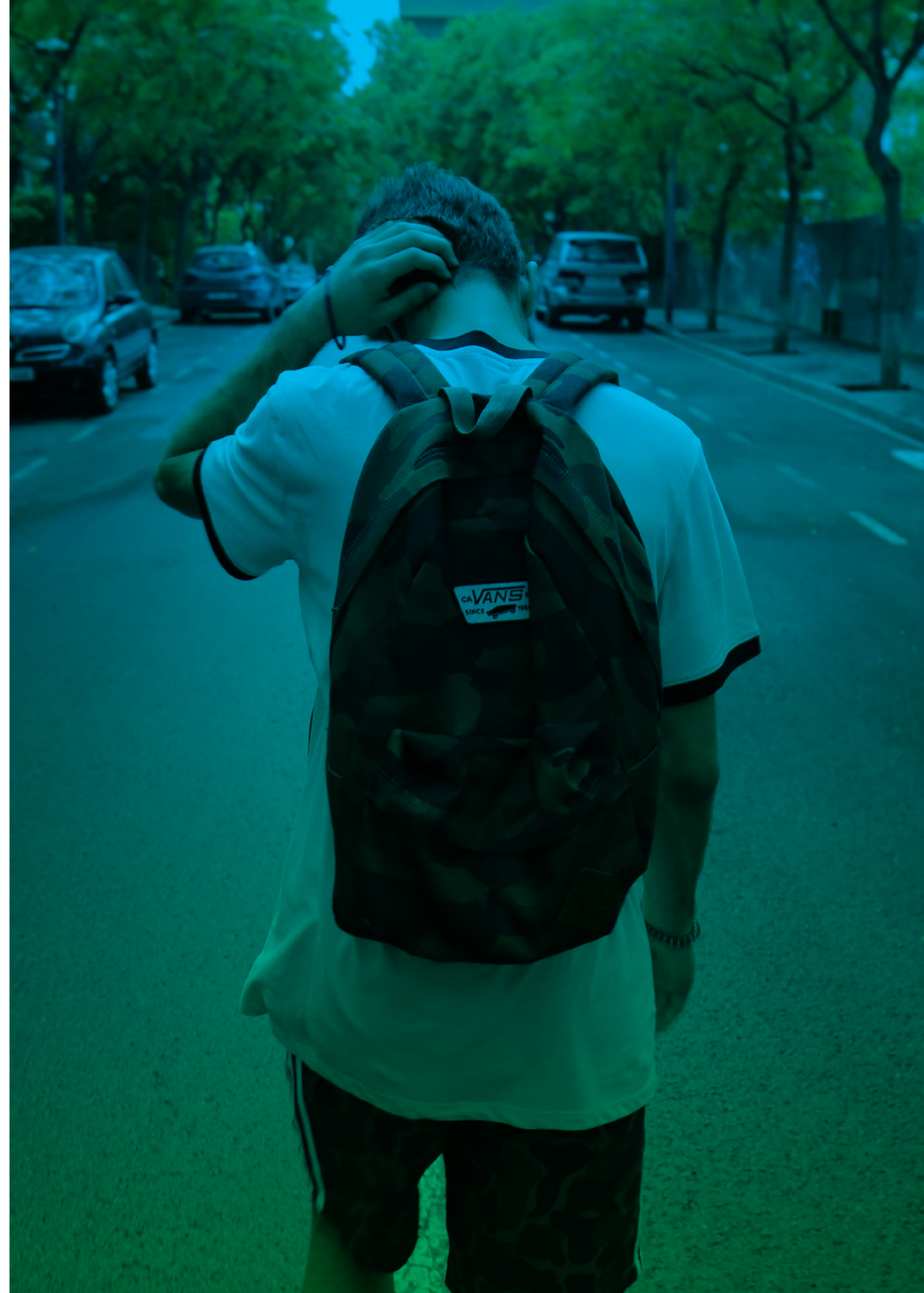
Government partners

NSW Department of Communities and Justice

NSW Ministry of Health

Charity tick

Yfoundations is proud to be a registered charity with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission, and has the highest commitment to transparency, accountability and governance.





Yfoundations
ACN 144 613 543

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Eora Nation, Redfern NSW 2016
(02) 8306 7901

admin@yfoundations.org.au
yfoundations.org.au

