



Yfoundations

Annual Report

2023/24

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 among our staff makes **Yfoundations** a more effective organisation.

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

- > We **welcome** and include LGBTQ+ people.
- > We **create** positive change in our local community.
- > We **celebrate** LGBTQ+ diversity.



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 nearly 60 organisations across NSW and the rest of 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 on their own.

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 13 young people (aged 18–25 years) with lived experiences of homelessness and a passion to improve young people's lives. They meet regularly 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 provide them with a platform to voice concerns on issues that matter to them from their experiences of homelessness.

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 continue to call 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 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, SBS, 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 LGBTQIA+ 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 Yfoundations Annual Report for the financial year 2023–2024.

This year has been pivotal in setting a strategic direction for Yfoundations, especially amid significant developments at both national and state levels in the homelessness sector. The ongoing housing and cost of living crises have severely impacted young people, yet government attention on this issue remains insufficient. Addressing these gaps in policy and funding for young Australians at risk of or experiencing homelessness has never been more critical.

Youth Homelessness Matters Day 2024 was one of our most impactful campaigns to date, raising both the profile and public awareness of youth homelessness across Australia. As we look to 2025, we aim to elevate the conversation even further, with the goal of making 2025 a landmark year for increasing national attention and action.

Yfoundations CEO Trish Connolly and the Yfoundations team have been instrumental in ensuring Yfoundations continues to be a leading voice in the youth homelessness space, both in NSW and nationally. Trish's relentless advocacy has sharpened our focus on the critical issues facing young people, especially the growing incidence of young people experiencing domestic and family violence. The team has worked tirelessly to highlight these challenges and to drive meaningful change that benefits both our member services and young people experiencing homelessness.

Looking ahead, Yfoundations will continue that advocacy for our members and ensure heightened focus on the issues of child and youth homelessness, particularly around the increasing incidences and impacts of domestic and family violence on children and young people.

Yfoundations has kept members informed and up to date on work with the Department of Communities and Justice and the newly established Homes NSW, which now manages the youth homelessness portfolio for the NSW Government. Our 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. Thank you, Trish and the Yfoundations team for your dedication and ongoing work.

It was with great sadness that we acknowledge the passing of Dr Michael Coffey. Michael was the former CEO of Yfoundations for 15 years and involved in the organisation for 15 years before that. His dedication to addressing youth homelessness left an indelible mark on both Yfoundations and the broader community, and his leadership, compassion and commitment to advocating for vulnerable young people helped shape Yfoundations into a pivotal force in supporting at-risk youth across Australia.

Dr Coffey's legacy is one of profound empathy and transformative action, leaving behind a strong foundation for the ongoing work of addressing child and youth homelessness and ensuring brighter futures for young people. His passing is a great loss, and he is deeply missed by all who knew him.

I'd like to acknowledge and thank the directors who sit on the Yfoundations board. Serving on boards plays a crucial role in the governance and strategic direction of organisations, particularly in the non-profit sector. As volunteers, board members often dedicate significant time and energy without financial compensation, demonstrating a commitment to the community and the cause they serve.

Yfoundations' directors bring diverse expertise, perspectives and passion to the table, contributing to informed decision-making and ensuring the organisation stays true to its mission. Their leadership and oversight help guide the organisation's sustainability, accountability and effectiveness, fostering trust with stakeholders and enhancing the organisation's overall impact.



Nerida Ackerman
President
Yfoundations



CEO's Report

I am delighted to present the Yfoundations 2023–24 Annual Report. Over the last 12 months, Yfoundations has worked hard to raise the issue of unaccompanied child and youth homelessness, not just in NSW but across Australia.

This hasn't come easy. We have worked tirelessly, presenting at conferences, being present at relevant stakeholder engagements, and developing policy positions and submissions.

My proudest achievement during this period is our submission to the Australian Government's consultation process for the National Housing and Homelessness Plan where we called on the government to develop a standalone national child and youth homelessness plan. The submission was thorough, concise and evidence based. Unfortunately, the summary consultation report that the government released subsequent to the consultation process completely overlooked what many of us were saying at the consultations and within our submissions. Children were excluded in the summary report – there was no mention of them – and young people were only mentioned in relation to rental subsidies, home ownership and Foyer Models (which is an important service model and is included in our proposed service continuum response).

The recruitment drive to reinvigorate the Youth Homelessness Representative Council (YHRC) has seen enormous success. We now have 13 new members who have a lived experience of homelessness and who advocate and inform based on this experience. See the YHRC section for more details about their work and their own achievements over the year.

Our strong presence at the National Child and Youth Homelessness Conference in Melbourne was also another proud moment. Yfoundations and the YHRC were strong on the agenda, and I stepped in at the last moment to replace the conference organiser CEO due to illness. It was a 'fly by the seat of my pants' moment, which I relished. I was proud that Yfoundations was considered first to represent such an important issue on a national stage. I was also fortunate to sit on and facilitate panels and give presentations at multiple events in Sydney, and in Perth (online), Darwin and Armidale.

We were thrilled when NSW Minister for Homelessness, Housing and Youth, Minister Rose Jackson, publicly announced in 2023 that the NSW Government would commit to a Youth Homelessness Action Plan, particularly given it was the only state or territory in Australia to make such a commitment. However, we still haven't seen anything concrete about that plan or whether there is any funding allocated to it. The state budget handed down in June was silent on this.

We will continue to seek answers from the NSW Government and hope it will release the plan with funding

in 2024. The rest of the states and territories were looking to NSW as a success story where the government finally listened and understood the needs of unaccompanied children and young people, so we genuinely hope there will be something to report on in the next couple of months. If not, Yfoundations will continue to advocate for a considered and genuine focus on unaccompanied children and young people.

Youth Homelessness Matters Day (YHMD) 2024 was a great success and our efforts have culminated into an amazing opportunity for 2025 where significant pro-bono contributions will boost this national campaign significantly. We will be promoting the campaign for the remainder of 2024 to ensure members and key stakeholders are fully informed and involved for what is shaping up to be a massive fundraising and awareness raising YHMD.

I would like to acknowledge the sad passing of our former CEO, Michael Coffey. I had a bit to do with Michael when I was in government and on the board of Yfoundations during his tenure. The loss of Michael has been felt considerably across the youth homelessness sector and, like so many, I was extremely sad when I heard the news.

The ongoing support of our members, their unwavering dedication to supporting children and young people experiencing homelessness, and their determination to end child and youth homelessness are intrinsic to the progress we have made over the year. We could not have done this without you and, on behalf of all of us here at Yfoundations, I thank you.

Thank you also to the Yfoundations board, and my team for their ongoing passion, work and strong values that shape and inform our impact and our voice.



A. Connolly

Trish Connolly
Chief Executive Officer
Yfoundations



Youth Homelessness Representative Council

The Youth Homelessness Representative Council (YHRC) was reinvigorated with a recruitment drive that brought in new proactive and passionate young people who bring crucial lived experience insights and voices into youth homelessness advocacy and policy.

Yfoundations also engaged a Lived Experience Coordinator, Simon Byrnes, who has taken on the role of coordinating YHRC activities. Simon brings to this position a history of involvement and advocacy in the YHRC, being an active member of the YHRC from 2016 to 2020.

This year, the YHRC has reached new levels of engagement and impact in its mission to end child and youth homelessness in NSW. The YHRC gained unprecedented access to senior ministers and stakeholders, securing a genuine seat at the table to contribute meaningfully to policy and decision-making.

The council's strategic approach has been clear from the start – carefully planning their goals and ensuring every step taken is purposeful. This approach highlights the YHRC's commitment to co-designed, high-quality work, and positions the council as a vital support to the broader sector in embracing necessary change.

The most consistent feedback from our young people was their desire to do even more, with resources to meet more often and work with other specialists within the organisation. The energy and expertise within the YHRC are immense. There is no shortage of passion or commitment from these young leaders – only the need for the tools to match their vision.

YHRC's work

The YHRC met three times over the year, once face-to-face and twice online. Overall, the YHRC committed around 210 hours in 13 consultations, including:

- the Youth Forum for the newly-formed Homes NSW
- Advocate for Children and Young People (ACYP) Special Inquiry into Children and Young People in Alternative Care Arrangements

- Reconnect Expert Advisory Group
- Give Me Shelter Youth Report, 'Leave No Young Australian Behind', authored by SGS Economics and Planning for Housing All Australians
- Taking Action, Creating Change – Together (TACCT) project run by Youth Off The Streets in partnership with Youth Action NSW
- the NSW Government's Youth Week Reference Group
- Cabinet Office NSW Diversity in NSW Government Appointments.

Events that YHRC members were invited to participate in include:

- Change Makers, organised by the Property Industry Foundation's Future Leaders Committee, bringing together upcoming leaders from across the property and construction industry
- Justice Fellowships Launch (March 2024)
- Homelessness NSW Specialist Homelessness Services Network Meeting (June 2024): Breakout Session on Lived Experience – Where to Start? Breaking the Cycle Together
- Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Program (WDVCAP) Forum, panel presentation preparation
- Project Youth's Strategy Day.

Featured events

The standout event for the YHRC in 2023 was the National Children and Youth Homelessness Conference held in Melbourne in July. Two YHRC members, Dominique and Ari, made a significant impact at this pivotal event and their articulate voices were a beacon of hope at the conference.

Ari spoke on a panel discussing re-imagining social housing for young people, emphasising the necessity of

not just crisis housing but transitional housing, especially for marginalised communities like LGBTQIA+ youth. Dominique participated in a panel that explored the challenges of responding to 12-16-year-olds experiencing homelessness and family violence, contributing her perspectives based on her experiences of family violence and living in crisis accommodation.

YHRC members, Maja and Korrine, attended the Homelessness NSW Conference 2024: Changing the System Together, held in Newcastle in March, and their contributions were widely commended. Korrine participated in workshops and added invaluable perspectives on what it means to be a young person experiencing homelessness. Maja gave a powerful presentation in a plenary session on Empowering Voices: Harnessing Lived Experience in Homelessness, which received a standing ovation.

NSW Minister for Homelessness and Youth, the Hon Rose Jackson MP, met with the YHRC in a roundtable to mark Youth Homelessness Matters Day in April. The YHRC members shared powerful insights into what it means to be a young person experiencing homelessness. The minister was impressed with the young people at the roundtable and provided positive feedback.

YHRC member, Zaw, attended the National Multicultural Youth Conference, 'Navigating Journeys, Empowering Voices', in Canberra in November, organised by Multicultural Youth Action Network (MYAN). This event brought together experienced advocates and leaders working across diverse sectors, and provided a platform for meaningful conversations and collaborative solutions to support the successful settlement and active participation of young people from migrant and refugee backgrounds.

Youth Homelessness Representative Council (continued)

Media and news

- ABC AM Radio News: 'Young turned away from shelters', featured interview with Gypsy, along with Trish Connolly and Jodie Darge, CEO Project Youth. 16 April 2024
- Canberra Times: 'Homeless, pregnant, alone: Gypsy now helps others find a home', featured Gypsy's and Maja's personal stories. 17 April 2024
- ABC Radio Canberra Afternoon Show: featured interviews with Maja and Trish Connolly, with Maja sharing her personal journey from homelessness to stability and emphasising the importance of support services. 17 April 2024
- RiotACT (the-riotact.com): 'Marija wants to end youth homelessness in Canberra for good', featured Maja's homelessness journey and advocacy to end youth homelessness in Canberra. 21 April 2024



YHRC members

- **Ari Kallistos** – completed his second year in stable accommodation and works as a member of a NSW Health Peer Education and Youth Advisory committee doing youth outreach, helping educate peers about sexual health and alcohol and other drugs, and advising SESLHD about ways to make their services and resources more accessible for young people, including LGBTQI+ young people.
- **Dominique Rose** – was appointed to the Youth Advisory Board of the Matilda Centre for Research in Mental Health and Substance Use, and as an Advocate and Health Consumer Consultant with the Royal Australasian College of Physicians.
- **Gypsy McHugh** – celebrated her baby boy's 5th birthday, graduated from the Community Housing Industry Association NSW Cadetship Program, and is now employed in community housing.
- **Hope Kyd** – is in the final throes of completing her nursing degree.
- **James Cady** – started his Bachelor degree in Entertainment



- Business Management at JMC Academy.
- **Jordan 'Jae' Valencia** – is in stable accommodation, completed her social work studies, and is ready to become a youth worker after her placement.
- **Korrine-Lee Hellier-Bartholomew** – is in her second year of her Diploma of Youth Work at TAFE NSW.
- **Kylan Orcher** – completed his Rotary Youth Leadership Award scholarship and was appointed to the Ministry of Health's Mental Health Youth Advisory Group representing Aboriginal/First Nations young people.

- **Marija 'Maja' Rathouski** – bought her first apartment, started a new role as a Tenancy Manager at YWCA Canberra, and was 2023 ACT Vocational Student of Year Winner and 2023 Australian Vocational Student of Year runner up.
- **Mischa Browne** – celebrated 12 months of sobriety, is now in stable accommodation with his partner, and has just welcomed a baby girl into the world.
- **Natasha Ransford** – is completing her work as café manager at Project Youth's social enterprise, Café Y and transitioning to become a peer support worker at Project Youth's young people led drop-in centre, and received the Young Woman of the Year Award in the Sutherland Shire for her work at Café Y and overcoming addiction and homelessness.
- **Nick Barker** – got his first independent social housing apartment, adopted a cat and started his Bachelor of Health Sciences at University of Canberra.
- **Zaw Ye Htike** – got his bridging visa, has stable accommodation and is now studying to be a childcare worker.



Advocacy and Policy

With a strong emphasis on increasing the profile of child and youth homelessness issues at the state and national levels, Yfoundations engaged in a wide range of advocacy and policy activities this year. We kept the youth homelessness services sector informed and up to date on all policy and advocacy issues, holding regular general meetings with our members, publishing our work and advocating for child and youth homelessness issues in a broad range of forums and public engagements.



Submissions and representations to government

In 2023–24, Yfoundations made the following submissions to government:

- National Housing and Homelessness Plan consultation
- Advocate for Children and Young People's Special Inquiry into Children and Young People in Alternative Care Arrangements
- Federal Pre-Budget Submission 2024–25
- NSW Pre-Budget Submission 2024–25.

Informed by ongoing discussions and consultations with our members, a core focus of our submissions to government has been the ongoing call for a standalone National Child and Youth Homelessness and Housing Plan. The need for investment in a child- and youth-specific approach to addressing homelessness was clearly articulated in the submission to the Federal Government's National Housing and Homelessness Plan consultation, detailing the:

- reasons child and youth homelessness are different to adult homelessness and require a different response
- multi-systemic nature of the current gaps in service systems through which children and young people are at risk of and fall into homelessness
- core components of the service system that are required to prevent and respond to child and youth homelessness
- need for a 'care first' response to child and youth homelessness
- need for and core requirements of housing responses fit for purpose for unaccompanied children and young people.
- meeting with the NSW Minister for Housing, Homelessness and Youth, the Hon Rose Jackson, MP
- facilitating a roundtable with members of the Youth Homelessness Representative Council and Minister Jackson
- individual and joint-peaks correspondence to the NSW Treasurer, urging the provision of adequate indexation on grants to the specialist homelessness services sector
- meeting with federal ministers, members of parliament and senators to seek their support for a standalone National Child and Youth Homelessness and Housing Plan.

Our submissions to government identified the need, and made recommendations, for:

- a commitment from all levels of government to set ambitious targets to end child and youth homelessness
- funding certainty for and increased investment in youth specialist homelessness services
- adequate indexation and ongoing funding of the Equal Remuneration Order (ERO) for SHS workers
- increased investment in youth-specific housing models that enable young people to transition out of crisis accommodation
- increased income support and private rental assistance products that can support young people to live independently, with interventions into the private rental market to protect young renters from unsustainable rent increases.

In addition to these formal submissions, we made various other representations to government, including:

In September, CEO Trish Connolly visited Parliament House in Canberra with Dr Catherine Robinson from the University of Tasmania, an Associate Professor in Communities and Social Justice, and committed public intellectual and community leader in the areas of homelessness, mental ill-health and child and youth well-being. The purpose of the visit was to advocate for unaccompanied children and young people to be thoroughly considered in the forthcoming National Housing and Homelessness Plan. Trish and Catherine spoke to a range of



Advocacy and Policy (continued)

politicians, including independent Senator for the ACT, David Pocock. The following day, David Pocock spoke in the senate, continuing the conversation on unaccompanied child and youth homelessness.

While recognising that greater investment is required to end child and youth homelessness, Yfoundations has been encouraged by some of the commitments made by governments this year. These include:

- a commitment from the NSW Government to develop a Child and Youth Homelessness and Housing Action Plan
- the new National Agreement on Social Housing and Homelessness, which preserves funding for the sector over the next five years and includes commonwealth funding for the ERO
- additional commonwealth funding for crisis and transitional accommodation for young people
- new funding for social housing and homelessness in the NSW State Budget
- a commitment by the NSW Government to fund the shortfall between the state and commonwealth rates of indexation on grants to the sector.

As we continue to advocate for a standalone National Child and Youth Homelessness and Housing Plan, holding governments accountable for the effective implementation of these commitments and making the case for increased investment in child and youth homelessness remain high priorities for Yfoundations.

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 government at the federal and state levels.

Yfoundations actively participated in consultations conducted by the Australian Government Department of Social Services on the National



Housing and Homelessness Plan where we strongly advocated for the need for a standalone National Child and Youth Homelessness and Housing Plan in addition to the broader plan.

Yfoundations also participated in multiple roundtable consultations to inform the NSW Homelessness Strategy, which is yet to be released. The roundtables focused on young people and the commitment by the NSW Government to develop a dedicated youth homelessness plan, place-based responses and Housing First.

Yfoundations is a coalition supporter of the National 'Home Time' campaign, focused on unlocking Australia's housing system for children and young people with nowhere to live. Throughout 2023–24, we contributed to the activities of this important national campaign, including writing to various members of Federal Parliament.

At the state level, we met with the NSW Ombudsman's Office to help inform their focus on the needs of children and young people in out-of-home care (OOHC) and discuss the operation of the Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) Unaccompanied Children 12–15 Years Accessing Specialist Homelessness Services Policy. This discussion was informed by our ongoing consultations with Homelessness Youth Assistance Program (HYAP) providers about the implementation of the policy.

This year also saw the establishment of Homes NSW within DCJ and the transfer to this new body of many of

Fix housing for
young people in
Australia

Home
Time.

the departmental functions directly related to youth homelessness. Yfoundations has worked closely with DCJ and the CEO of Homes NSW, Rebecca Pinkstone, to establish effective relationships and ensure child and youth homelessness issues are front and centre on the forward agenda. In May 2024, Ms Pinkstone attended our general meeting where she discussed the priorities for Homes NSW with the Yfoundations membership.

Following our advocacy to the department during 2023–24 on the need for specific investment in the youth SHS sector workforce, we have secured funding under the Industry and Workforce Development Program for a range of sector development activities to be delivered in 2024–25.

Our bi-monthly general meetings provided an important forum throughout the year to share information with and obtain the views of our members on our policy and advocacy activities, which were also communicated through our monthly newsletters. We published our submissions to government on the Yfoundations website along with media releases on alternative care arrangements for children and young people in OOHC, the release of the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare Specialist Homelessness Services 2022–23 annual report data, and the outcomes of a national poll conducted by Essential Media as part of the Youth Homelessness Matters Day (YHMD) campaign.

The Essential Media poll found that across Australia, most participants agree that child and youth



homelessness is unacceptable, with 82% of respondents agreeing that no young person in Australia should have to be homeless. Similarly, 80% believe the necessary accommodation should be available for any child or young person in need. Around 78% believe governments were not doing enough to end child and youth homelessness in Australia, with over 70% agreeing it would be entirely preventable if the right services were available.

Research activities and reports

2022–23 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 our stakeholders how they perceive Yfoundations, which informs how we can improve our advocacy and impact, and better engage with members.

This year, we distributed the survey on 23 October 2023 and promoted it through emails, our newsletter and social media platforms. The survey closed on 14 November 2023 and yielded 43 completed responses from across the state. Over 60% of



respondents worked in the youth homelessness sector, around 12% worked for a youth service, and another 12% worked in the broader homelessness sector. While a large proportion of the responses received were from youth and community workers, there was also a good response from CEO's and managers. We also received a small number of responses from young people with lived experience, an improvement on the previous year.

The findings from the survey were generally optimistic and provide constructive feedback to inform our work over the coming financial year. Consistent with our advocacy, respondents identified the unaffordable private rental market, lack of medium-term accommodation, and high demand for crisis accommodation as priority issues for attention. The survey also identified the most prevalent challenges faced by children and young people at risk of and experiencing homelessness, including mental health issues, couch surfing, and experiences of domestic and family violence. Linked to our focus on industry and workforce development, respondents identified their priorities for training into the future.

Over 67% of respondents were satisfied or very satisfied with our engagement with members, with no respondents indicating they were dissatisfied or very dissatisfied. Over 90% of respondents indicated they had utilised resources we made available to them during the year. Pleasingly, there was a 20% increase in the level of satisfaction with our engagement with members as compared to the previous year. Respondents also told us how we can support them better, helping us set goals for the coming year with a commitment to continuous improvement.

Under-16s Policy survey

Informed by ongoing discussions with our members, in May and June this year we conducted a survey of services funded under the Homeless Youth Assistance Program (HYAP) on the implementation of the government's Unaccompanied Children 12–15 Years Accessing Specialist Homelessness Services Policy. The survey responses

provided vital and detailed information focused on opportunities for improvements in the way unaccompanied children access SHS, particularly by DCJ staff. These results have been summarised in a detailed report provided to DCJ and Homes NSW. We look forward to facilitating further discussion between our members and DCJ on how to achieve improved outcomes for unaccompanied children in the homelessness service system.



Articles and written output

Yfoundations CEO Trish Connolly was the guest editor of the April 2024 edition of *Parity*, 'Going it Alone: Unaccompanied Child and Youth Homelessness – Pathways into and out of Homelessness'. The role included developing a comprehensive call for submissions document to ensure the quality and relevance of articles published in the edition.

This *Parity* edition included articles from recognised experts across Australia and covered a broad range of issues, including learning from lived experience, pathways into and out of child and youth homelessness, multidisciplinary responses, and housing responses.

Trish also wrote the opening article, identifying the need for a standalone National Child and Youth Homelessness Plan, and calling on the Australian Government to invest

Advocacy and Policy (continued)

in it. The article clearly and succinctly explained what needs to be included in this plan, setting the context for the edition that strongly builds on the evidence base for child and youth homelessness, and steps to achieve a future without it.

Introduction

Trish Connolly, Chief Executive Officer, Yfoundations and Guest Editor



The calls from the Australian Government for a national homelessness plan for children and young people experiencing or at risk of homelessness have been growing. Many of these have been included in this issue the last fortnight. I really address in our 2023 and 2024 goals to continue to understand that unaccompanied and separated children and young people are a different set of adults and require different support and care. It's a really good question!

For Yfoundations and I, I'm sure, many of our members and colleagues, Youth Homelessness Matters Day is a yearly reminder that we still have so much to do to shift the dial to prevent and respond to unaccompanied child and youth homelessness. For those who are new to the sector, when we say 'unaccompanied' we are talking about children and young people who are at risk of experiencing homelessness on their own, without their parents or caregivers.

Consequently, as a youth homelessness peak body, Yfoundations has increasingly needed to include advocacy or unaccompanied children in the work we do because they are fast becoming a significant emerging homelessness cohort.

Historically, the out of foster care and child protection systems are still taking these children and they are faced with having to remove themselves from situations or violent homes to keep themselves safe. However, these children can become even more vulnerable and put themselves in danger if not seen — dangerous situations in an effort to stay safe. Some children might have the knowledge and capacity to access

Presentations and conferences

Yfoundations was an active member of the National Steering Group for the National Youth Homelessness Conference, which advised on the direction for the National Children and Youth Homelessness Conference that took place in Melbourne in July 2023.

The conference was successful in its aim of bringing 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. It featured an outstanding presentation from Professor Brian Burdekin, AO, the Human Rights Commissioner who delivered the 1989 Report of the National Inquiry into Youth Homelessness – a presentation that received a standing ovation and brought many to tears.

Trish Connolly presented in the first plenary session, 'Is there a case for a national plan to address child and youth homelessness?', and another on 'Stepping up? Federal leadership on child and youth homelessness in Australia'. She was also MC for sessions on the nature of the demand on frontline services, Foyer Models, and the intersection between family and domestic violence and child and youth homelessness.

In early September, Trish and Dr Catherine Robinson presented in a webinar hosted by Homelessness

Australia to discuss the ideal service system for unaccompanied children and young people at risk of or experiencing homelessness, to inform the upcoming submissions for the National Housing and Homelessness Plan. This event highlighted the unique challenges and specific needs of unaccompanied children and young people navigating the service system, one that often presents barriers and overlooks them.

Later that week, Trish conducted an additional webinar session for Yfoundations members to consult about our submission and generate input from our member services.

Youth Action held its 2023 Learn, Act, Celebrate NSW Youth Work Conference and Awards in October at the Australian Theatre for Children and Young People (ATYP). The conference was an opportunity to hear from various members of the youth sector about their movements, goals, aspirations and ideas, as well as celebrate their hard work and dedication to and for young people. Topics of discussion ranged from mental health to rights-based approaches, and Trish spoke on a panel about what a National Child and Youth Homelessness Plan could look like. She also facilitated a session with Lauren Treganowan and Kristen Day from Southern Youth and Family Services, and Peta McAlister from the Office for Regional Youth, on what innovation in youth homelessness services looks like.

Yfoundations Lived Experience Coordinator, Simon Byrnes, contributed an article, 'Why Lived Experience is Lived Expertise', providing national guidance on effectively engaging young people with lived experience in service system design and implementation.

Why Lived Experience is Lived Expertise

Simon Byrnes, Lived Expertise Coordinator, Yfoundations



In the quest to solve child and youth homelessness the most crucial element is often overlooked: those who've lived it. Our experiences and stories, for as long as we've been on the planet, are the bedrock of understanding and the compass guiding all of our actions. It's not just about the facts and figures of homelessness; it's about the lived experience of those who have walked through the streets and the consequences of these decisions and policies. Our stories and wisdom are in the very foundation and fabric of the work you do. They are the most authentic compass to guide us all to a future where child and youth homelessness does not exist.

Advocating the expertise and lived experiences of children and young people in largely policy-driven, more effective outcomes. Landmark cases like the 1992 High Court ruling in Australia, which legally recognised Indigenous land rights through the

...less advocacy of Eddie Mabo and generations of storytelling and the 2008 national apology to the Stolen Generations demonstrate the transformative power of listening to the voices of those who have lived through deep trauma, and advocating for healing and change. These examples make it clear that policymakers must integrate lived experiences into their decision-making for any significant progress to be achieved.

As a young child growing up in a household riddled with family and domestic violence, child neglect and physical and sexual abuse, it's hardly surprising that I landed up on the street at 15. However, what often surprises me is the reaction I get when I tell people about one of the most empowering steps that I took to break my cycle of abuse and homelessness — sharing and telling my story to people about what it means to experience homelessness. What my friends and I were going through was not just a story, and we deserved better.

This all crystallised in 2016 when I recognised the need to create a genuine space to engage with young people at risk of or experiencing homelessness. I established Yfoundations and they agreed to start the Youth Homelessness Representative Council (YHRC) which has recently been reintegrated to become a strong advocacy platform.

In the early days of my advocacy journey before the YHRC, I always felt there was a strong sense that we were just there to tick a box. Whenever I would share my lived experience, a common response was one of these things: "You're just saying what you're being told to say and I can't be your sponsor" or "Why are you talking about this, shouldn't you move on with your life?"

One of the biggest hurdles about sharing my lived experience was hearing the shame preached by people who weren't ready to listen to what I had to say or didn't feel I should have a platform for my voice.

When we talk about what it means to have a lived experience, it isn't just about whether we should share our experiences but also about whether the people with whom we're sharing them can be trusted with — and deserve to hear — our stories.

Looking back on my 15-plus years of advocacy in the child and youth homelessness space, I often think about the conversation that started it all.

After a particularly hard night of rough sleeping a case worker asked me, "What's wrong?" I said, "I'm so angry that no one cares about me — that I could die tomorrow and people wouldn't notice me gone. I'm so frustrated that every time I try my best and work hard, I'm always left

PLENARY SESSIONS | WORKSHOPS | SPEAKERS

Join a movement of people and agencies seeking a national plan to address child and youth homelessness. Speak to your manager today about backing you to attend the National Children and Youth Homelessness Conference.

WWW.YOUTHHOMELESSNESSCONFERENCE.ORG.AU/TICKETS



NATIONAL CHILDREN & YOUTH HOMELESSNESS CONFERENCE

MELBOURNE, 24-25 JULY 2023
PRESENTED BY YOUTH DEVELOPMENT AUSTRALIA

IT'S TIME



In March, Yfoundations presented at the Homelessness NSW 2024 Conference in Newcastle, which brought together over 350 homelessness sector attendees for connection and learning. The plenary session, ‘Empowering Voices: Harnessing lived experience in ending homelessness’, featuring a presentation by YHRC member, Maja, and Lived Experience Coordinator Simon Byrnes, was one of the highlights of the conference.

In early April, Trish presented at an online Youth Leadership Forum hosted by YMCA NSW for young people to listen to industry experts about issues facing young people in NSW. Attendees included young people engaged in the Y’s Youth Parliament program who are passionate about youth homelessness and were preparing a Youth Bill. Trish also gave a mentor session for the Youth Parliament to provide feedback on their draft Out-of-Home Care Transition Bill 2024.

On the eve of YHMD in April, Trish Connolly, My Foundations CEO Rebecca Mullins, and Director of Youth Support Services at Youth Off The Streets, Michelle Ackerman, held a webinar discussing why we are still calling for a standalone plan. This webinar was in response to the absence of children and young people in the summary papers from the Australian Government’s National Housing and Homelessness Plan consultation process.

On YHMD, Trish and Dr Catherine Robinson presented in a webinar to around 550 departmental officers and staff in the Department of Social Services about the complexities of child and youth homelessness, particularly unaccompanied children experiencing homelessness.

The 6th National Housing and Homelessness Forum took place in Darwin in May, where Trish facilitated a compelling panel discussion with Dr Catherine Robinson, My Foundations CEO Rebecca Mullins and Youth Action CEO Kate Munro on the importance of an integrated, multidisciplinary approach for unaccompanied children and young people facing homelessness, and the crucial role youth SHS play in facilitating access to multiple support services. Trish also presented on the National Housing and

Homelessness Plan, highlighting the glaring omission of children and young people from the plan’s consultation summary papers.

Our CEO also spoke and sat on several panels at the Regional Youth Conference, Young People Doing It Tough, in Armidale in May. With a broad focus on youth issues in regional NSW, Trish contributed a critical perspective on the needs of children and young people at risk of and experiencing homelessness. The conference provided an excellent opportunity to talk about the challenges for young people in regional locations and discuss opportunities for collaboration and engaging young people in place-based approaches to address those challenges, including child and youth homelessness.



Partnerships, Networks and Committees



Throughout the year, in addition to our commitment to consultation and communications with our members, Yfoundations continued to build on advocating and collaborating with other organisations and people to ensure children and young people at risk of and experiencing homelessness are recognised and prioritised in political events, programs and policy.

Partnerships and networks

A strong focus of our work has been on fostering collaborative relationships with our colleagues in the other NSW homelessness peak bodies. To this end, in June 2024 Yfoundations presented an update at the Homelessness NSW Sector Forum on our current work and forward priorities.

With the formation of Homes NSW this year, we have established effective relationships with key government staff to ensure child and youth homelessness issues are represented in planning and service delivery processes.

We continued to welcome opportunities to work collaboratively with partners in the non-government sector, including from within our membership.

Our CEO Trish Connolly participated in an expert advisory group established by Youth Off The Streets for their Taking Action, Creating Change – Together (TACCT) project to develop resources for Youth SHS to support children and young people experiencing DFV.

Trish also participated in Mission Australia's workshop to inform their draft Homelessness Solutions Paper, along with the CEOs of Homelessness NSW and Shelter NSW. The paper was developed by Mission Australia jointly with Professor Paul Flatau,

Director of the Centre for Social Impact, University of Western Australia, to develop a Homelessness Solutions Model Framework. Yfoundations also collaborated with Mission Australia to promote their Annual Youth Survey to our members and networks.

Yfoundations stands proudly in the partner network of the Raise the Age NSW campaign, focused on raising the age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 14 years in NSW. The campaign is led by a coalition of legal, First Nations and human rights organisations, peak bodies and unions that have come together to call on the NSW Government to raise the age to 14 years.

Yfoundations is also a member of and participates in regular meetings of the NCOSS-led Forum of Non-Government Agencies (FONGA).

At the national level, Yfoundations was an active member of the National Steering Group for the National Youth Homelessness Conference, which advised on the direction for the National Children and Youth Homelessness Conference that took place in Melbourne in July 2023. The Yfoundations team also assisted in final preparations for the event.

We also continued to collaborate and strengthen our work and relationships with other key organisations, including:

- ACWA
- Advocate for Children and Young People
- Domestic Violence NSW
- Foyer Foundation
- Homelessness NSW
- My Foundations Youth Housing
- NCOSS
- Shelter NSW
- Youth Action.

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 Homeless Peaks Committee

Yfoundations has actively participated in all meetings of this important committee, which includes all peak bodies involved in housing and homelessness in NSW. The committee is one of the primary mechanisms for discussion between the government and non-government sectors on the priorities to address homelessness in NSW. Management of the committee was transferred from DCJ to Homes NSW in 2024. We continued to strongly advocate for and represent the interests of children and young people and the services that support them at these meetings, and to keep our members informed of developments through our regular General Meetings.

Housing and Mental Health Agreement (HMA) State Steering Committee

This committee is a sub-committee of the NSW Mental Health Taskforce focused on ensuring effective relationships between mental health and housing service providers. It is the state-wide tier of governance for system stewardship, overseeing implementation and resolving issues escalated from Districts. The committee includes senior government officials and peak body members, with escalation pathways to the DCJ and NSW Health Secretaries. In the context of the growing prevalence of mental health issues experienced by children and young people seeking assistance from the SHS system, Yfoundations' membership of this committee



#RaiseTheAge
New South Wales

provides an important connection between mental health and child and youth homelessness issues.

Housing and Homelessness Strategy Steering Committee

Yfoundations sits on this committee, which operates under DCJ, with membership of senior government executives across multiple NSW government departments. The committee 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. Our CEO attended committee meetings throughout the year, with the final meeting being in June 2024.

Trish Connolly was also invited to participate as member of the Expert Advisory Group to review the

commonwealth-funded program Reconnect. Trish participated in three advisory group meetings over the course of the year.

Our CEO also sits on the boards of:

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

Health Projects and Training

The Health and Training arm of Yfoundations delivered our popular Sticky Stuff sexual health training in webinar formats and face-to-face sessions across the state this year, highlighting the continued demand for this important training. We also had the opportunity to showcase our work in this space over the years.



Up to 650 workers in youth-facing positions attended a Sticky Stuff session this year, upskilling themselves and preparing to engage in important conversations with young people.

Our face-to-face sessions went far and wide across the state from Dubbo to Moree to Orange and many other regional and metropolitan locations.

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 nearly 300 individuals register and work through either one or both of

these free learning options. Almost everyone who registered completed the modules.

In September, Yfoundations Health Promotion and Training Coordinator, Megan Hall, attended and presented at the three-day Australasian Sexual and Reproductive Health Conference in Manly.

Megan's presentation, 'Meeting vulnerable young people where they are – Engaging Specialist Homelessness Services in sexual health promotion', showcased all our work in this field over the years. Yfoundations has been involved in sexual health promotion since its inception, and it was amazing to have our hard work over the years recognised.

Our poster, 'Sexual Health and Peer Education – SHAPE-ing peer conversations about sexual health', also showcased the long-term SHAPE project Yfoundations had been involved with, and its evaluation. The poster was on display to all conference participants from across Australasia for the three days.

We were proud to highlight the work our staff have participated in over the years. A big congratulations to all.



Sadly, our funding from NSW Health ceased this financial year. However, we did see Sticky Stuff ramp up by offering it to external stakeholders across NSW. We are working out how we can continue to offer this fantastic and important training for frontline providers.

We also farewelled our Health Promotion and Training Coordinator, Megan Hall, during this period, but she has stayed in the youth homelessness sector, which is great.



Youth Homelessness Matters Day

YOUTH HOMELESSNESS MATTERS DAY 2024

Youth Homelessness Matters Day (YHMD) took place on Wednesday, 17 April this year and was a major success, with an even stronger presence and increased media focus than in previous campaigns, and increased campaign materials and resources.

The purpose of YHMD is to raise national awareness and advocate for solutions to end child and youth homelessness, with Yfoundations playing a key role in organising, promoting and driving the campaign's impact.

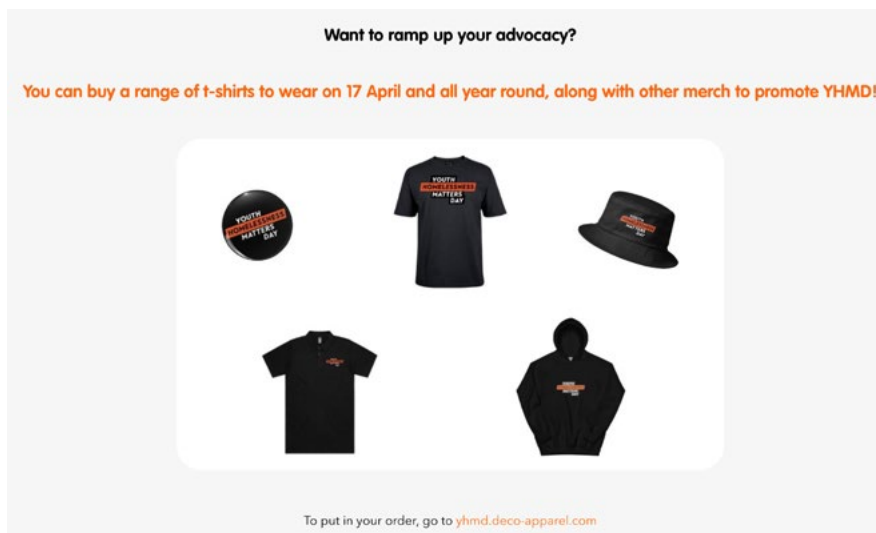
Our campaign highlighted the critical need for a dedicated approach to address the unique needs of children and young people at risk of or experiencing homelessness. We also continued our call for the Australian Government to develop a standalone National Child and Youth Homelessness and Housing Plan and urged both federal and state governments to commit adequate funding for effective solutions.

YHMD 2024 amplified these messages through a broad array of events and resources, furthering our mission to bring child and youth homelessness to the forefront of national attention.

Our goals for YHMD 2024 were to double our media coverage, shift the narrative to focus on children and young people – who make up over 40% of those experiencing homelessness nationally – and integrate young people's experiences into the campaign in a safe and supportive way. We aimed to navigate the range of priorities within the sector, balancing the urgency to fight for change with the need to maintain positive relationships with government and stakeholders.

Our key message emphasised the unacceptable rates at which children and young people are turned away from services, urging the government that we have the knowledge, people and commitment to end child and youth homelessness, and calling for real action and funding to implement solutions.

The main objectives of YHMD 2024 were to unify all stakeholders around a consistent message, 'We can



end child and youth homelessness', addressing the challenge of varied and conflicting solutions that can dilute the focus on the greater issue.

Additionally, a key objective was to streamline our operations, particularly by launching an online merchandise store, which significantly reduced the workload on our team and allowed us to focus on critical campaign activities.

We created new online resources to support grassroots movements across the country, enabling local services to raise awareness within their communities while also appealing to those focused on the broader national picture. Our new campaign materials were available

on our website and included social media tiles, an updated factsheet, event posters and a supporter placard. We also expanded our range of YHMD merchandise to include a YHMD cap, hoodie, polo shirt and badge, along with our YHMD t-shirt.

Yfoundations encouraged everyone across Australia and beyond to organise and participate in YHMD activities for 17 April. We invited them to register their event on the YHMD website for promotion there and on our socials. We also encouraged them to feature information, posts and pics on their socials and other media.



We featured 17 registered events from around the country on our website, with one from as far afield as the city of Gallup in New Mexico, USA. With our campaign materials and merchandise, we supported and are aware of over 32 events nationwide, including:

- Sharing Little Nussy Packs – Salvation Army Youth Services Peninsula, Victoria
- Five-a-Side & Bubble Soccer Tournament – Homelessness SA
- Does youth homelessness matter in Tasmania? Couch conversations on Youth Homelessness Matters Day – Colony 47, Hobart
- Darwin Annual Couch Surfing Event – Anglicare NT
- YHMD Colour Bomb – YP Space MNC, NSW
- Couch Surfing Race – Port Stephens Family and Neighborhood Services, NSW
- Young People & Storytelling: A Gold Coast Perspective – Gold Coast Youth Service, QLD.

This year, our campaign included YHMD youth ambassadors, Maja Rathouski, Gypsy McHugh and Ari Kallistos, members of our YHRC who each played a significant role in the campaign, with Maja and Gypsy doing media interviews, Ari telling his story in a storytelling session in the park, Gypsy walking around Tamworth encouraging people to sign and support the petition, and Maja co-running a Barnardos YHMD event in Canberra.

YHMD 2024 garnered significant media attention across various platforms, including television, radio, online publications, and community papers. This coverage focused on raising awareness about the crisis of youth homelessness in Australia, emphasising the urgent need for a standalone National Child and Youth Homelessness and Housing Plan.

The media coverage was instrumental in amplifying the voices of young people and advocates, highlighting the gaps in the current support system, and calling for government action. The comprehensive coverage of YHMD 2024 is a testament to the growing awareness and support for ending youth homelessness in Australia.

Details of this coverage are included in our Communications and Media report.

The impact of the YHMD campaign and our activities was further amplified by the overwhelming support we received online, with over 600 new signatures on our ongoing petition calling for the government to develop a standalone National Child and Youth Housing and Homelessness Plan collected on the day alone. At 30 June 2024, the petition had 10,829 signatures.

YHMD 2024 campaign materials are still available on our website, and we continue to sell YHMD merchandise. We have also received multiple enquiries from the media and community members who still wish to be engaged with the campaign.



We continue to be amazed at the overwhelming support and advocacy for YHMD 2024, with so many people wearing our shirts, hosting important conversations, organising events in their communities, and posting on their socials. We're also incredibly proud of what we achieved under the guidance of the YHMD Advisory Committee, which met four times to plan and support the YHMD 2024 campaign.

Yfoundations' key YHMD events and activities

In the lead-up to YHMD, Yfoundations partnered with Essential Media to poll public sentiment on ending child and youth homelessness. The report of the poll, embargoed for release on 17 April, revealed that 82% of participants agreed that no young person in Australia should be homeless, with 76% identifying access to safe, long-term accommodation as a top priority. Despite bipartisan support for action, 78% of all respondents felt that governments are not doing enough, especially in Victoria, NSW and Queensland, with 80% believing in the need for available accommodation for any child or young person in need. These insights helped us amplify media coverage and engage a broader audience in the conversation.

On the eve of YHMD, Yfoundations CEO Trish Connolly, My Foundations Youth Housing CEO Rebecca Mullins, and Director of Youth Support Services at Youth Off The Streets, Michelle Ackerman, held a webinar to discuss why we are still calling for a standalone plan.

Yfoundations had the privilege of collaborating in a breakfast at Detour House on the morning of

Youth Homeless Matters Day (continued)

YHMD, joined by Minister Rose Jackson, MP for Balmain Kobi Shetty, the Advocate for Children and Young People Zoe Robinson, My Foundations CEO Rebecca Mullins, and dedicated Detour House staff. We were joined by some of the young girls from the refuge, bravely sharing their stories and sparking important conversations about the urgency of this issue.

Yfoundations ran a free Sticky Stuff session for the sector. This was led by Megan Hall and was a sold-out session with a waiting list of 30 people. Some of our YHRC members also attended this training, so it was a really interactive session.

Trish Connolly, alongside Dr Catherine Robinson presented a webinar to around 550 Department of Social Services staff about the complexities of child and youth homelessness, particularly unaccompanied children experiencing homelessness, which requires an understanding of the intricacies of their challenges and how they are addressed.

To wrap up the YHMD activities, our YHRC had a roundtable meeting at Parliament House with Minister Rose Jackson, where they had the opportunity to share their personal stories and perspectives on what they want to see change. Yfoundations was able to showcase

our focus on centering lived experience at the heart of our work and putting young people's voices at the forefront of our work, and it was formidable hearing what our powerful group of young people had to say and share.

YHMD Advisory Committee members (to June 2024)

- Michelle Ackerman, 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

The last 12 months have produced significant and exciting outcomes in the development of the Bail and Accommodation Support Services (BASS) frontline worker training package: two intensive two-day workshops facilitated by trainers with specific expertise in DFV, and the filming of Jeff Amatto, a First Nations Wiradjuri man with a lived experience who is passionate in his quest to keep young First Nations people out of the criminal justice system.

Following a period of extensive consultation between the project's working group (which comprised trainer Shayne Hood from Wounds and Wisdom, a representative from all Bail and Accommodation Support Services, and several sector experts and First Nations consultants) the project moved into live action phase in September 2023.

A two-day workshop was held at Yasmar Training Facility at Haberfield in Sydney, facilitated by Shayne Hood and attended by 13 BASS frontline workers (seven in person, six online). Post workshop survey feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with most attendees saying they would recommend the course to peers and colleagues. Shayne was subsequently filmed delivering key elements of his workshop by filmmaker Suzie Wicks and this content will be included in the online training modules.

The second workshop, also held at Yasmar Training Facility in May 2024, was facilitated by Ken McMaster, an internationally recognised authority in the field of adolescent domestic and family violence. The workshop was attended by 13 BASS workers and was extensive in its

scope, informative in its content, and interactive and enjoyable in its delivery. Again, participant feedback was extremely positive and there are plans to include parts of Ken's workshop in the online training modules.

Then, in June 2024, Suzie Wicks travelled to Wellington in NSW to film Jeff Amatto, who was engaged at the commencement of the project

to provide cultural advice. Jeff is a proud Wiradjuri man and co-founder of Brothers 4 Recovery Drug and Alcohol Awareness who has spent more than half his life in correctional facilities. Jeff is committed to keeping young First Nations people out of the criminal justice system, and his contribution to the training package will be invaluable.

We have also extended our partnership with LMS (learning management system) provider e-Creators to include hosting the e-learning training package for the SHS Capacity Building Project. Yfoundations previously worked with e-Creators to produce the Sticky Stuff health training package.

In summary, the project is on track to meet the December 2024 deadline with the launch date set to align with 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, a global campaign led annually by UN Women, which runs every year from 25 November to 10 December (Human Rights Day).



Shayne Hood



Jeff Amatto's Dancing Circle, Wellington

Good Practice Guidelines

Yfoundations has been developing Good Practice Guidelines for Youth Homelessness Services as a key project in 2024. These guidelines will set out the practice principles, policies, processes and systems that define quality practice in the delivery of youth homelessness services and youth supported housing.



We established a working group in February to provide guidance and expert advice to support the development of guidelines. The working group comprises the following eight services – a mix of metro and regional services:

- Coast Shelter – Central Coast
- Oasis/Salvation Army – Inner City Sydney
- Social Futures – Statewide
- Southern Youth and Family Services – Illawarra
- St Laurence House – Eastern Sydney
- Stepping Stone House – Sydney
- Uniting – Statewide
- YP Space – Mid North Coast.

Approach

Guided by the working group, we are developing modules focused on the journey of working with young people from intake to exit.

There will also be complementary modules on building relationships with young people and supporting young people to build confidence and independence.

We are proposing to develop our guidelines as a series of online modules covering key service delivery areas and activities relevant to youth specialist homelessness service delivery.

Our vision is for the guidelines to be clear and simple to use by adopting a range of mediums to share practice and motivate learning across the industry. These include:

- model tools and templates
- digital storytelling as a different way to present information
- interviews with service providers and young people with lived experience providing their perspectives and advice
- industry webinars

- dos and don'ts of practice as advised by young people with lived experience
- links to key research/ tools developed by other organisations.

The practice guidelines in each module would be designed to also be printed for those who prefer to have a physical booklet to refer to.

Current status

We are currently developing the draft content for the modules.

The content will be reviewed in a series of face-to-face workshops with our working group.

Following feedback from working group members and further refinement, we will be bringing the draft guidelines to members for further consultation.



Communications and Media

Yfoundations' media releases, social media and representations to the media in 2023–24 focused on key areas of our advocacy, policy and campaign work, including our submissions, Youth Homelessness Matters Day, responses to key reports and government releases, and our work with other organisations advocating for children and young people.

Our media releases and social media posts articulated our positions on a range of key reports and data releases highlighting the experiences of children and young people, and calling for action:

- Social media posts calling on the NSW Government to fund a dedicated Child and Youth Action Plan in the lead up to the NSW State Budget 2024–25.
- Media release, '8 in 10 people believe no child or young person should be homeless in Australia', and social media posts announcing the results of a new national poll by Essential Media in the lead up to Youth Homelessness Matters Day 2024.
- Media release, 'New national data shows we need urgent action to reduce homelessness of children and young people', on the alarming scale and spread of child and youth homelessness in Australia revealed in the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare's specialist homelessness services annual report 2022–23



MEDIA RELEASE

Monday 20 November 2023

Alternative Care Arrangements (ACAs) are an expensive, damaging symptom of a broken system

Yfoundations has told the [special inquiry](#) of the NSW Advocate for Children and Young People that putting vulnerable homeless children and young people into 'Alternative Care Arrangements' like hotels, motels, caravan parks and serviced apartments, often in isolated and unsuitable locations, produce terrible outcomes, can cause lasting harm and are extremely expensive.



12 December 2023

New national data shows we need urgent action to reduce homelessness of children and young people

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare Specialist Homelessness Services (SHS) data 2022-23 released today paints an alarming picture of the scale and spread of child and youth homelessness in Australia, says peak organisation Yfoundations

The capacity of homelessness services has fallen by almost 17,000 clients a year in recent times and services face a \$73 million funding shortfall from June 2024.

YOUTH HOMELESSNESS MATTERS DAY

MEDIA RELEASE

Wednesday 17 April 2024

8 in 10 people believe no child or young person should be homeless in Australia

A new national poll by Essential Media finds that across Australia and all age groups, 80 percent of people agree that child and youth homelessness is unacceptable and that all levels of government must do more to tackle the issue.

Today on Youth Homelessness Matters Day community organisations are joining with young people to urge Federal and State governments to commit to ending child and youth homelessness – to develop a national stand-alone Child & Youth Homelessness Strategy with adequate funding.

"So many children and young people in Australia live in unsafe home environments, couch-surf or sleep rough. Frontline services know what needs to be done, they just need more funding to provide the children and young people who come to them with crucial support," said Trish Connolly, national coordinator of Youth Homelessness Matters Day and Yfoundations CEO.

Key facts:

- 40 percent of people experiencing homelessness are under 24.
- Last year 28,300 children and young people (15-24 years old) presented alone needing support from a Specialist Homelessness Service (SHS).
 - 17,240 of them needed a crisis bed – but only 1 in 2 got it. This resulted in 8,450 children and young people being turned away.
- Currently HALF of the children and young people in desperate need of a crisis bed for the night don't get it.
- Frontline services tell us that nearly 90% of the children and young people who come to them are escaping violence.

"We are particularly concerned that when children and young people turn up to a specialist youth homelessness service, one half can get the crisis bed and support they need, the rest are turned away," said Ms Connolly.

data; and social media posts calling for bold, decisive steps to address this.

- Social media posts on the Rental Affordability Index report, which revealed renters in all Australian capital cities were worse off than before the pandemic, with Sydney retaining its position as the least affordable city after a 13% decline in affordability.
- Media release, 'Alternative Care Arrangements (ACAs) are an expensive, damaging symptom of a broken system', announcing Yfoundations submission to the ACYP special inquiry into children and young people in ACAs.

Social media

Yfoundations utilised our social media channels frequently and consistently throughout the year to communicate our work and advocate for the needs of children and young people at risk of and experiencing homelessness.

We posted regular updates, sharing news of our events, resources, advocacy work and activities, and members' activities, across our three key platforms – Linked In, Facebook and Instagram.

Our posts also highlighted and promoted our:

- ongoing advocacy about unaccompanied children and young people presenting to

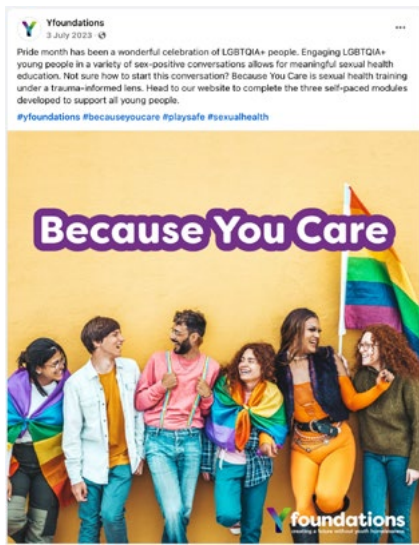
Communications and Media (continued)

- SHS and as victims/survivors of domestic, family and sexual violence
- pre-budget 2024-25 submission setting out the actions we think the Federal Government should take to address child and youth homelessness
- concerns about the absence of children and young people in the Australian Government's consultations summary report for the National Housing and Homelessness Plan

- concerns about the failures of the child protection and out-of-home care systems and how these heavily impact youth specialist homelessness services
- our stand with the YES vote for the referendum on whether an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice to parliament would be enshrined in the Australian Constitution
- 2023 Annual Members survey
- YHRC recruitment drive
- Because You Care and Sticky Stuff sexual health training.

We also used our social media to support campaigns with and promote the work of key organisations focused on children and young people. These included:

- Youth Action's 'Fair go for young people' campaign, launched off the back of their report of the same name containing a comprehensive set of practical recommendations to assist young people to get a fair go, particularly young people in conflict with the law. The campaign asked the general public to support greater investment in young people by posting a thumbs up photo.
- the Home Time campaign, in which Yfoundations joined with over 120 groups to write to federal, state and territory ministers urging immediate action to address Australia's housing crisis for children and young people aged 16-24 experiencing homelessness
- the ACYP report on how children and young people are impacted by and responding to the rising cost of living in NSW
- the National Children and Youth Homelessness Conference in Melbourne.



Fair go for young people 👍

Take action

Share the recommendations with your networks

- Allocate at least an additional \$52 million to expand youth service delivery in early intervention and youth development programs and services aimed at increasing engagement, confidence and participation of young people.
- Investment in setting up 5 new youth hubs and give further support to an additional 10 current hubs.
- Aboriginal owned and controlled solutions must be a matter of first principle in working with Aboriginal young people and any increase in investment must prioritise Aboriginal young people and Aboriginal community-controlled organisations.
- Fund the establishment of a state-wide interdepartmental and non-government organisations working group on young people doing it tough, particularly those made vulnerable by poverty, the out of home care system, and in conflict with the law and homelessness.

Invest in young people because the consequences aren't minor

Members and sector communications

Yfoundations continued to keep our members and supporters informed and 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 monthly newsletter
- bi-monthly general member meetings and annual general meeting invitations
- event invitations and alerts.

Our general member meetings provided an important forum throughout the year to share information with and obtain the views of our members on our policy and advocacy activities, which were also communicated through our monthly newsletters.

YHMD 2024 media coverage

Our YHMD 2024 campaign garnered significant media attention across various platforms, including television, radio, online publications and community newspapers. This coverage focused on raising awareness about the crisis of youth homelessness in Australia, emphasising the urgent need for a standalone National Child and Youth Homelessness and Housing Plan.

The media coverage was extensive, reaching diverse audiences across Australia and effectively communicating the severity of the youth homelessness crisis, highlighting the gaps and inadequacies in the current support systems, and the urgent need for tailored government interventions.

The coverage was instrumental in amplifying the voices of young people and advocates calling for government action. Personal stories shared by our YHRC members, like Maja and Gypsy, added a powerful human element to the advocacy, making the issue more relatable and pressing to the public and policymakers alike.

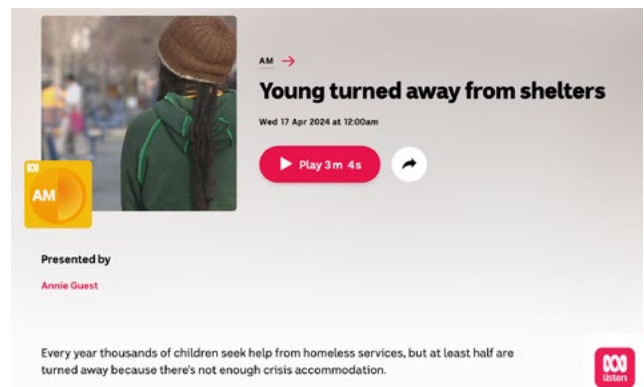
This broad media engagement is expected to strengthen Yfoundations’ advocacy efforts, as it amplifies the call for a standalone National Child and Youth Homelessness and Housing Plan that addresses the unique needs of young people. This coverage also helped mobilise public support, as evidenced by increased signatures on our petition and greater community involvement in YHMD events across the country.



Communications and Media (continued)

Yfoundations in the News/media coverage:

The Daily Telegraph	'Group hardest hit by rental crisis revealed' Trish Connolly interviewed, 9 August 2023
Pedestrian TV	'1 in 2 Young People are being Turned Away from Accessing Crisis Housing Accommodation' Trish Connolly interviewed, 10 August 2023
MirageNews.com	'Urgent Action Needed to Curb Youth Homelessness: National Data' Trish Connolly quoted, 12 December 2023
ABC AM News	'Young turned away from shelters' Interviews with Trish Connolly, Gypsy (young person with lived experience, YHRC member), and Jodie Darge (Project Youth CEO), 16 April 2024
Canberra Times (& over 100 other Australian community newspapers)	'Homeless, pregnant, alone: Gypsy now helps others find a home' Featured stories from YHRC members Maja Rathouski and Gypsy; Trish Connolly quoted, 17 April 2024
Channel 10 Midday News	Interview with Lived Experience Coordinator Simon Byrnes Highlighted the alarming statistics of youth homelessness and the need for a government commitment to a standalone plan, 17 April 2024
ABC Canberra Afternoon Show	Interviews with Trish Connolly and Maja Rathouski Featured Maja's journey from homelessness to stability, and Trish Connolly advocating for specialised responses for young people experiencing homelessness, 17 April 2024
MirageNews.com	'80% Australians Believe Youth Shouldn't Face Homelessness' Trish Connolly quoted, 17 April 2024
RiotACT (the-riotact.com)	'Marija wants to end youth homelessness in Canberra for good' Featured Maja's homelessness journey and advocacy to end youth homelessness in Canberra; Trish Connolly quoted, 21 April 2024
Pittwater Online News	'Standalone Child and Youth Homelessness Housing Plan Called for: Youth Homelessness Matters Day 2024 - over 8,000 young people turned away from crisis accommodation' Trish Connolly quoted, 21-27 April 2024



Homeless, pregnant, alone: Gypsy now helps others find a home



By Emily Anderson

Updated April 18 2024 - 7:45am, first published April 17 2024 - 8:17am

1 Comment



Almost 40,000 children and young people presented to homelessness services in 2023, of the 17,000 needing a bed, only half got one.

Half of the homeless children and young people who turn up in need of a

ADVERTISEMENT

Join our Home Care team

Apply now →

Group hardest hit by rental crisis revealed

The critical impact of the rental crisis on one particular group of Aussies has been laid bare.



Fiona Killman

@FionaKillman 3 min read August 9, 2023 - 2:15PM

Daily Telegraph





Our Team



Trish Connolly
Chief Executive Officer



John Macmillan
Head of Policy and Advocacy



Jessie Adlide
Policy and Research Assistant



Simon Byrnes
Lived Experience Coordinator



Nicola O'Hanlon
Youth Justice Project Officer



Nicole Booth
Office Manager

We said goodbye to the following staff members:

Alice Taylor

Senior Research
and Policy Officer

Lauren Kiernan

Office Manager

Hannah Thomas

Senior Research
and Policy Officer

Megan Hall

Health Promotion
and Training
Coordinator

Thank you for your service and commitment to supporting vulnerable children and young people in 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



Lisa Graham
Northern Sydney
Representative
Taldumande Youth
Services



Laurie Matthews
South Eastern Sydney
Representative
Caretakers Cottage



Jody Pearce
Western NSW
Representative
Veritas House



Meena Johnson
Northern NSW
Representative
Wesley Mission



Vivian Stavis
Metropolitan
Representative
Lillian Howell Project

We said goodbye to the following board members:

Kellie Checkley
Education and Training
Specialist Delegate
SYC Ltd

Nigel Parker
South Eastern Sydney
Representative
St Laurence House

Shannon Thorne
First Nations
Representative
Marist 180

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



Michael Coffey in Memorium

Yfoundations, the Board and our members were deeply saddened by the passing of Dr Michael Coffey in May this year.

As the longest serving CEO of Yfoundations, having held the role for 15 years from 2002 (when we were the Youth Accommodation Association (YAA)) through to 2017, Michael's accomplishments throughout this period were significant, bringing the issue of youth homelessness in NSW to the fore. He also put YAA and the NSW homelessness sector on the international agenda when he spoke and presented at various conferences overseas.

Michael was critical in the development of the Youth Social Justice Strategy. He supported our members through the various evaluations and redevelopments of the Supported Accommodation Assistance Program – SAAP I, II, III, and IV – and led a campaign to improve the department's system of payment to services. He also consistently raised the issue of unaccompanied under-16s in homelessness services and sought better ways to support young people.

Michael was heavily involved in the lobbying that led to the National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness (NPAH). He was also active in advocating for the Foyer model and involved with Australia's first Foyer, Miller Live 'N' Learn.

Michael led the organisation through the relaunch from YAA to Yfoundations in 2010, which included a move from a focus on accommodation to the current Five Foundations perspective that encompasses the broader needs of young people, enabling us to reframe some of the policy debate around youth homelessness and more clearly articulate our message.

In his latter years with Yfoundations, Michael played a significant role in the formation of the My Foundations Youth Housing Company, instigated the ReCHARGE Youth Homelessness Sector Conferences, and was part of the lobbying to win full funding for 24/7 supervised crisis youth accommodation services.

Rebecca Mullins, CEO MyFoundations, who worked closely with Michael over the years, paid tribute to Michael and his positive influence.

'Michael was a giant of the youth homelessness sector. When I first joined Bondi Youth Accommodation, having come from community housing, I used to attend every YAA/Yfoundations meeting, mostly to listen and learn from Michael. Whether he knew it or not, he quickly became somewhat of a mentor to me.

'His quiet demeanour, friendly nature, cheeky grin and sharp intellect, coupled with his passion for helping young people, combined to make him an extremely effective advocate, respected across the sector and government.



I learnt so much from him and will always be grateful for how generous he was with his time and knowledge.

'He was always willing to do something out of the box if he thought it was good for young people, and his advocacy and support was essential in setting up My Foundations Youth Housing. It couldn't have been done without his support and I was thrilled to have him as one of our inaugural Directors, guiding us through our early years.

'Vale Michael, much love.'

In addition to his work in youth homelessness, Michael (under the moniker 'Michael Tee') co-founded the post-punk record label, M Squared, in 1979 and was a founding member of legendary indie bands Scattered Order, A Cloakroom Assembly (ACRA) and Ya Ya Choral, making an indelible mark on the inner-city Sydney music scene in the 80s.

While his leadership of Yfoundations lasted 15 years, Michael's involvement in the various manifestations of Yfoundations spanned 30 years, and our success in many areas can be largely attributed to his work, guidance and advocacy.

The sector has lost a kind, intelligent, humble, talented advocate and he will not be forgotten, least not by the young people and service providers he supported during his time as CEO of Yfoundations.

Vale Dr Michael Coffey.



Financial Overview

Treasurer's Report

Dear Members,

Continuing the tradition of previous years, I am pleased to present the Treasurer's Report for the financial year 2023-2024.

Overall, the current financial position and reserves of Yfoundations are healthy and all legal accruals and entitlements were provided for.

In 2023-2024, Yfoundations continued to receive funding from DCJ for the State Peaks Program/Research and Policy Team, and we continued our work on the Youth Justice SHS Capacity Building Project, meeting our commitment for grant funding carried over from the previous financial year.

Unfortunately, NSW Health funding for our Sticky Stuff Training ceased this financial year. We are responding to this challenge by exploring viable ways to continue offering this popular training for frontline providers.

On the upside, following our advocacy to DCJ during the year on the need for specific investment in the youth SHS sector workforce, we have secured funding under the Industry and Workforce Development Program for a range of sector development activities to be delivered in 2024-25.

Thanks again to our member services for contributing \$12,835 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 also thank our external advisers who have provided another year of valued specialist financial support -

our auditors Stewart Brown Chartered Accountants, and Purpose Accounting.

We are fortunate that our board comprises skilled and knowledgeable organisational leaders and managers who bring to Yfoundations years of invaluable experience, ensuring good governance, financial management and informed direction.

I also appreciate the value our experienced staff team, led by our CEO Trish Connolly, bring to Yfoundations and to the sector as a whole. Thank you, Trish, for another year of leadership and your firm commitment to the invaluable work of Yfoundations.



Eleonore Johansson
Treasurer



Surplus of
\$48,953
(2023: \$29,200)



member services
have contributed
\$12,835
in membership fees



Statement of Financial Position

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Yfoundations ABN 20 512 756 029

	2024	2023
Assets		
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$1,324,915	\$1,212,632
Trade and other receivables	\$36,692	\$7,491
Total current assets	\$1,361,607	\$1,220,123
Non-current assets		
Property, plant and equipment	\$14,401	\$23,515
Right-of-use assets	\$60,728	-
Total non-current assets	\$75,129	\$23,515
Total Assets	\$1,436,736	\$1,243,638
Liabilities		
Current liabilities		
Trade and other payables	\$210,967	\$120,618
Lease liability	\$63,180	-
Provisions	\$20,602	\$30,410
Total current liabilities	\$294,749	\$151,028
Non-current liabilities		
Provisions	\$16,953	\$16,529
Total non-current liabilities	\$16,953	\$16,529
Total Liabilities	\$311,702	\$167,557
Net Assets	\$1,125,034	\$1,076,081
Total Accumulated Funds	\$1,125,034	\$1,076,081

Audited Accounts

The abridged Statement of Financial Position and Statement of Profit or 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 2024

	2024	2023
Income		
Revenue	\$1,097,361	\$1,024,951
Other Income	-	\$29,879
Total Income	\$1,097,361	\$1,054,830
Expenses		
Administration and other expenses	(\$6,285)	(\$18,534)
Conferences, events and workshops	(\$19,650)	(\$18,181)
Depreciation	(\$72,463)	(\$62,581)
Finance costs: lease liability	(\$3,528)	(\$1,093)
Occupancy	(\$8,132)	(\$10,014)
Office expenses	(\$45,063)	(\$45,384)
Professional fees and insurances	(\$91,736)	(\$82,997)
Project expenses	(\$187,544)	(\$58,209)
Salaries and employee benefits	(\$521,146)	(\$673,062)
Telecommunication	(\$49,533)	(\$24,582)
Travel	(\$43,328)	(\$30,993)
Total Expenses	(\$1,048,408)	(\$1,025,630)
Surplus for the year	48,953	\$29,200



Thank you

A sincere thanks to all our members and funders

A & D In Home Care
 Blue Sky Community Services
 Caretakers Cottage
 CatholicCare Diocese of Broken Bay
 CatholicCare Wilcannia-Forbes
 Coast Shelter
 Community Restorative Centre (CRC)
 Detour House / The Girl's Refuge
 Domestic Violence NSW (DVNSW)
 Eleonore Johansson
 Fabian Webber
 Jewish House
 Kellie Checkley
 Kids Under Cover
 Launchpad Youth Community
 Lex Lutherborrow
 Lillian's (Lillian Howell Project Inc.)
 Marist180
 Mercy Care (Perth)
 Mission Australia

Mission Australia Canterbury-Bankstown Youth Service
 Moree Family Support
 NCOSS
 Pathfinders
 Phoenix House Youth Services
 Platform Youth Services
 Port Stephens Family and Neighbourhood Services
 Project Youth
 Property Industry Foundation
 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
 Uniting Dubbo
 Veritas House
 Vinnies Reconnect
 Wesley Mission
 YES Youth and Family Services
 Youth Action
 Youth Off The Streets
 Youth Rezolutions
 YP Space MNC
 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.

Beyond Black & White: Anna Schinella – supporting Yfoundations with content development, editing, research and web content management.

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

For Purpose: supporting Yfoundations with digital tools and website design and development.

Framework Consulting: Renee Wirth – supporting Yfoundations with strategic planning facilitation and the development of Good Practice Guidelines.

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

Government partners

Homes NSW
 NSW Department of Communities and Justice
 NSW Ministry of Health
 Department of Social Security

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.



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Contents page photo courtesy of Freepik

Youth Justice report photos courtesy of Suzie Wicks

Good Practice Guidelines report group photo by Dean Drobot on Freepik

Full page photo on page 30 by Engin Akyurt on Unsplash

Inner back cover photo by Pavel Pjatakov on Unsplash





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yfoundations

