



ALBANY  
YOUTH SUPPORT  
ASSOCIATION

# ANNUAL REPORT

2019/20



## *Acknowledgement*

Albany Youth Support Association acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and the Menang People of the Great Southern as traditional custodians of Country throughout Australia. We pay respect to their cultures, elders past, present and emerging and we commit to working together for our shared future.



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# OUR IDENTITY

Albany Youth Support Association is the leading youth homelessness service and outreach group servicing Albany and the Great Southern.

AYSA today, builds on a strong history of care and support for homeless and 'at risk' youth. The Association emerged to provide support for disadvantaged young people faced with significant needs. This is made possible by the commitment and talent of people who share our guiding organisational vision, core values and the trauma-informed model that we embrace.

AYSA's origins date back to 1982 when the local community rallied to support the increasing number of people who were sleeping rough or in their cars. There was a concern for the safety of people who found themselves homeless and 'at risk'. Young House was established with the support of State Government funding and an eight bed extension was added to the house at 12 Young Street to accommodate homeless young people. In the period between 1982 and today a number of Outreach Programs have been added to the services.

In March 2020 all AYSA staff moved to work from home, when the COVID-19 pandemic hit. A skeleton staff were identified to work for Young House through the months that we were in lockdown. Issues with young people only increased through this period and it became mission critical to ensure AYSA were able to continue services.

AYSA exists within a strong and courageous group of talented people who are committed to providing the strategic direction and operational support to meet the needs of homeless and 'at risk' youth.

The staff who work in AYSA comprise a diversity of people who share in common an aspiration of wanting to make a difference and understand that kindness and patient perseverance are the foundations of this support.

## PURPOSE

To provide safe spaces, support and services to marginalised young people and their families.

## VISION

Young people live independent, fulfilling lives within their chosen community.

# SERVICE PRINCIPLES

AYSA believes that children and young people are fully entitled to respect for their human rights as described in the convention within society based on their political, economic, social and developmental status. AYSA will be guided by social justice principles of access, equity, rights and participation in providing services to young people.

AYSA services are based on the principles of:



**ADVOCACY** Advocacy is taking action to help people say what they want, secure their rights, represent their interests and obtain services they need. AYSA staff, as advocates, work in partnership with the people they support, to ensure their voices are heard in the issues that impact on their lives. AYSA advocacy promotes social inclusion equality and social justice.



**EMPOWERMENT** AYSA is committed to facilitating attitudinal, structural and cultural processes whereby young people, families and significant others gain the ability, authority and agency to make decisions and implement change in their own lives.



**HOLISTIC APPROACH** AYSA considers the young person within the contexts of the domains of family, community, school, education, employment (primary ecological context) plus their critical needs: cultural, health and wellness, local environment, economic and democratic participation.



**COMMUNITY BASED** When working with young people and families we encourage them to engage with and utilise the strengths of the community that already exists to support them.



**YOUTH FOCUSED** The young person is the primary client and the centre of the case management process



**STRENGTHS BASED** Our work emphasizes a young person's self-determination and resilience. We support young people to identify and utilise their own strengths and problem solving abilities to address problems or crises. Support is client led with the focus on outcomes.



**ADAPTIVENESS** As an organisation, we continually explore best practice through reflection, training and supervision, research, clear communication with young people and networking. AYSA seeks creative and evidence based ways to identify gaps in services and effectively support young people in the community. We build on community capacity through education and providing information.



**COMMUNICATION** We communicate with clients, colleagues and the broader community in ways that are respectful, transparent and empowering.

# CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

We could never have imagined that the 2019-20 year would present such incredible challenges. Like most organisations through the COVID-19 lockdown crisis, AYSA was under extraordinary pressures in endeavouring to maintain outreach services and provide emergency accommodation for homeless young people in a time of immense uncertainty.

It is testament to the dedication of the entire AYSA team, and their commitment to young people that AYSA services were maintained through the lockdown period and ongoing, although conditions dictated that the way these services were delivered was different. AYSA ensured that the high quality support and service to young people at risk of disengagement and homelessness was maintained.

In early 2020, a decision was taken to seek alternative accommodation for our Outreach and Open Access programs, to better accommodate the need for a dedicated place and the space for our young clients. 4 Sanford Road, Albany was identified and leased and is in the process of being renovated and refurbished. This new venture will enable us to once again operate our Outreach and Art programs from a dedicated centre for the young people we serve, and give AYSA capacity to further expand and develop new programs to respond to the needs of young people at risk. By far the largest hurdle we face at this time, is the need for additional financial resources to enable these programs to not only function but flourish to create a safe place for young people 'at risk'.

There are a number of exciting projects and programs currently being evaluated by the Board and I am confident that what started as a small residential home for homeless young people over 30 years ago will continue to push boundaries; grow and develop outreach programs to support the growing number of disempowered young people and to be a powerful voice for young people in Albany and the Great Southern.

I would like to acknowledge the hardworking and extraordinary contribution of AYSA Board Members, Levi Wheatcroft, Simon London, Ian Clarke, Sharmin Hardy, Julie de Jong and new Board Member, Steve Cowley who provided strong and enduring support throughout the year.

The CEO, Ricky Burges, Outreach Services Manager, Chrystie Flint and Residential Services Manager, Kiri Floyd did an outstanding job during a difficult and complex year. I would like to acknowledge their hard work and efforts in what has been an extremely challenging time.

Finally, I once again want to take the opportunity to thank the passionate and committed staff of AYSA who continue to provide the consistent support and service to homeless and 'at risk' young people. They do a truly remarkable job and I thank them on behalf of the Board.

## CHAIRPERSON



*Andrew Wenzel*

# CEO'S REPORT

I've noticed through tough times that some people rise to the occasion and do great things and some find it difficult to do the simplest things. The team at AYSA rose to the occasion. Through the toughest year ever, the team at AYSA were extraordinary. Through their dedication and creativity, service levels were maintained. Through the COVID lock down months staff worked from home and looked for creative ways to engage their young clients. Young House remained open 24/7, although during lock down with a reduced number of rooms. The Finance and Administration team ensured that all staff were set up in home offices, with the appropriate equipment to ensure that service was seamless. Great Southern Police provided some excess lap tops for staff and the Great Southern Development Commission provided some excess lap tops for youth.

COVID 19 had a profound effect on youth, staff and operations. The AYSA management team discussed a rudimentary pandemic safety plan prior to March as it started to play out overseas and nationally. The COVID procedure manual was developed based on as much reputable evidence as possible and endorsed by the Board of Management.

Communication during this time became particularly important as changes and restrictions were implemented frequently. There is a strong sense that all of these precautions and plans have placed the Association in good stead should we face any new threat.

The Outreach Youth Workers moved out of Prior Street in the second half of the year and have worked under ongoing difficulty as we wait for the renovations to the new home for AYSA Outreach and Open Access to be completed. Although it has been extremely challenging moving from site to site to run Open Access, through extraordinary efforts the team have ensured that it was always available for their young clients, although it is evident that mental health issues with young people have significantly increased.

There are a number of reasons for this, the major one being inadequate, inappropriate and lack of accommodation being available. This has increased by 92% over the previous year.

The most significant achievements for the 2019/2020 year are that - Young House remained open for homeless youth and outreach clients during COVID 19. Outreach Youth Workers maintained service throughout the lock down period and all staff remained employed while many others around Australia lost their jobs. AYSA identified a property in Sanford Road which is currently being renovated so that Outreach Workers have a base to work from and, most importantly Open Access has a permanent home. It has been a tedious process getting to this point and there is much excitement and anticipation of the day we can open the doors at 4 Sanford Road.

A Letter of Intent was signed with our partner Advance Housing during the year to work with them to develop a business case to seek funds to renovate and refurbish Norman House. If successful, the intention is to create a further 7 to 8 rooms for transitional housing for young people who might graduate from Young House to Norman House, where they could live more independently.



**CHIEF  
EXECUTIVE  
OFFICER**

*Ricky Burges*

# HIGHLIGHTS



## ACCOMMODATION

**52** young people provided with crisis accommodation

## GENDER RATIO

**59** ♀  
59% Female

♂ **41**  
41% Male

## CLIENTS



**21**%  
Indigenous

## OPEN



**24**

**7**



Young House is open 24 hours, 7 days a week

## SHOT

**36** INDEPENDENT ACCOMMODATION



young people supported to seek or maintain independent accommodation through SHOT

## AY

## CLIENTS

**48**



Case managed clients

identified as 'extreme risk'



**47.9**%

## NAVIG8

## SUPPORT



**40**

clients supported in first half of the year.  
**39** clients supported in second half of the year.

## DRIVING ASSESSMENTS

**5**

passed Learner Driver assessments



**4**

passed Practical Driving assessment now on P Plates

## RESEARCH

Group have engaged with Curtin University on a Research Project



## CONFERENCE

**4**



amazing young people selected to attend the **Create National Voices in Action** Conference

## EDUCATION

**6**

young people graduated from TAFE



**2**

young people have enrolled in University

# RECONNECT

## SUPPORT

12  'at risk' youth & their families received support

Assisted a young person who was couch surfing to crisis accommodation at Young House. This young person was misusing substances such as alcohol and cannabis in an attempt to cope with their ongoing mental health issues, namely suicide ideation and anxiety. With ongoing support from a Reconnect Youth Worker they have gained independent accommodation and a full time traineeship, further AYSA were able to source additional funding to provide this young person with a scooter so they can transport themselves to their employment.

Assisted and encouraged a client who has been resistant to engage in formal counselling to address their extensive substance misuse and anxiety which effected their ability to emotionally regulate themselves. As a result the young person has maintained independent stable accommodation, gained part time employment and most recently completed a Diploma in Music.

## DYO

Established and oriented new worker to the DYO role and developed strong connections within the Denmark community, Shire and High School.

Successfully assisted with the reunification of a highly at-risk client with his long-term estranged Mother. This also involved the client relocating to a new town and new school.

Assisted a client through the difficult process of a CPFS intervention in their household. Supported client through an initial foster care placement and then through a challenging but successful reunification with parent.

Networked and improved the local communities understanding of AYSA and the DYO program.

Worked in close collaboration with the Denmark Police to identify problem behaviours among some at-risk youth and in doing so helped remove the need for criminal charges.

## ALBANY YOUTH OUTREACH

# 8 WORKSHOPS

Muay Thai sessions delivered during School Holidays to



# YOUNG PEOPLE 14

AYSA collaborated with Lovett Muay Thai who delivered 8 workshops over the school holidays to 14 young people. The program consisted of general fitness, Muay Thai based exercise routines, boxing and group discussions around general health and wellbeing. The AYO Worker saw this was a fantastic opportunity for young people linked with AYSA to be provided an opportunity to access community based programs. As a result the young people involved reported they felt more confident in their ability to socially interact with others and given the opportunity would like to attend Muay Thai sessions on a regular basis.

Co-ordinated and facilitated 8 x Bike Riding sessions were held with 6 young people who were referred to AYO purely for social engagement and interaction. The initiative was developed to try and reduce the case management load of the AYO worker to allow for more referrals as well as providing opportunity for these young people to develop their skills and confidence.

The AYO Worker attends Headspace one day a week and has supported activities such as their "Try It Tuesdays" and "Health and Fitness" Program within this reporting period. The aim is to provide a seamless transition for young people being supported by AYO to access mental health support should they require. Providing an interactive, fun way of engaging the young person with Headspace staff helps break down the stigma of accessing mental health services and normalises it.

## SCHOOL PROGRAMS

The Department of Education partnered with AYSA to provide Youth support to Albany Senior High School (ASHS) and North Albany Senior High School (NASHS)

We have seen a significant number of students referred through this program from both schools. The Youth Worker at ASHS supports the breakfast club which consists of 50 young people along with the Dare To Shine Girls Group. NASHS have a Leadership Group for year 10 students which the Youth Worker facilitates and both Youth Workers provide one on one support to students.

The challenges we are seeing young people presenting with range from mental health such as depression and anxiety, family conflicts and domestic violence, substance misuse, low self-confidence/body image, disruptive behaviour and suspensions.

## RESIDENTIAL SERVICES MANAGER REPORT

In 2020, Young House had 169 young people make contact for support:

- 52 were accommodated at Young House crisis refuge
- 36 were assisted through the SHOT program to seek or maintain independent accommodation
- 32 came from other AYSA programs and were provided ad hoc assistance
- 68 other youth from the community were also provided with ad hoc assistance
- 58% were females
- 42% were males
- 21% were Indigenous

Without doubt the impact of COVID-19 had a profound effect on youth, staff and operations. As the situation developed everything possible was done with the aim of keeping the facility open to homeless youth, and staff secure in their jobs. The Federal Government and W.A. Health Department suggestions were considered and the following were implemented.

- The COVID procedure manual was developed based on as much reputable evidence as possible and endorsed by the Board of Management. This manual was updated weekly as more information came to light.
- Strict hygiene regimes were implemented.
- Social distancing boundaries were put in place.
- Bed availability was reduced from eight to four to ensure each resident had their own bathroom.
- Young House was locked down.
- The front gate and signage about entrance protocols were installed.
- Staff were offered isolation options of work, home or hotel for a 14-day period. Staff choose to isolate at home.
- A staff member from our team was nominated as IT support to help outreach staff set up home offices.
- Protocols were put in place for transporting youth.

*... collaborating with,  
& empowering youth  
to make their own  
choices...*



- Communication protocols were implemented with staff.
- Online meeting platforms were used for refuge handovers and meetings.
- There were significant changes in shift rosters.

The safety and mental health of residents was a concern during COVID-19 and some of the strategies implemented were unconventional. Decisions were made in the best interest of youth and in collaboration with the CEO, Manager, Safety Representative and the youth workers on-site. Young House also held concerns for vulnerable youth who had disengaged from the service. Regular safety checks were done with as many of these young people as possible.

During this period staff were able to continually develop and stay abreast of contemporary youth issues by; Suicide Prevention Training for Indigenous People, Mental Health First Aid, Youth Mental Health

First Aid, Elephant in the Room Trauma training, Bid Writing, Senior First Aid, FASD Yarning Workshop, Nuts and Bolts Sexual Health, Specialist Homelessness Information Platform training, and the Compassionate Communities forum.

Without the unfailing commitment, flexibility and dedication of staff, and the willingness of AYSA senior staff to take on board the seriousness of the situation, Young House would not have been able to remain functioning to keep young people safe during what can be described as an exceptional year.

Kiri Floyd

Residential Services Manager



## OUTREACH SERVICES MANAGER'S REPORT

To say that 2019-2020 has been challenging is an understatement. Outreach Services has been through an enormous amount of change and yet, not at any time has it impacted on the young people we work with or the quality of service delivery our clientele have received. I can only attribute that to the staff's immense passion and dedication for the young people of Albany, alongside their resilience as workers and connectedness as a team.

I commenced employment as the new Outreach Services Manager in November 2019 and was welcomed into a team of staff who I could see had been through some massive organizational changes, yet were still open to embracing me and the potential for more change.

One year on and I can honestly say I am privileged to manage such an incredible team of staff who are seriously dedicated and experienced in the youth work field, and show passion and resilience in everything they do.

Challenges in this last year have included:

- Comet Care School and AYSA Outreach Services deciding to part ways operating at the same venue, as both agencies numbers continued to grow, the space was no longer appropriate to house everyone.
- Packing Open Access and the Outreach Services up in amongst COVID restrictions and lock down and placing everything in storage
- Setting up all staff and Outreach Services to work remotely not only through COVID but also until our new venue is ready, whilst still maintaining quality service delivery and supports for the young people
- Sourcing an appropriate venue central to town for young people to access, big enough to house Outreach Services and Open Access as well as to deliver a safe "drop in" space for young people
- Maintaining service delivery whilst awaiting the completion of renovation works at our new building soon to be 4 Sanford Rd, Albany
- Delivering Open Access out of temporary venues, yet ensuring engagement of young people and accessibility remains.

- Commencing the Schools Pilot Project, delivering Youth Workers one day a week to support the young people of both Albany Senior High School (ASHS) and North Albany Senior High School (NASHS)
- Transitioning out of the Tracks Program funded under the Youth Severe Funding through WA Primary Health Alliance (WAPHA) which was delivering psycho-social support to the most vulnerable young people throughout the Central Great Southern and particularly within the Indigenous Communities. This transition saw quite a few disappointments along the way with staff losing employment, clients having to fit service delivery previously inappropriate for them and many Indigenous families feeling disillusioned. However we continue to support a couple of the most vulnerable within the region and towns until another service becomes available and is allocated the funding
- Several staff changes within the organization as a whole have effected Outreach Services. This has required current staff on Outreach Programs to expand their current skill set and step in to help fill the gaps showing their flexibility as workers, and willingness to support their fellow colleagues

I am sincerely blessed to have such an amazing team of staff who have pulled together to ensure we continue all program delivery and quality of service throughout this past year with it's challenges, whilst ensuring the young people of Albany continue to receive the best supports possible. All staff and young people are eagerly awaiting our new venue at 4 Sanford Rd, and look forward to the opportunities that will open up for all of us including staff with the opportunity to use their varying skill sets, increased programs for young people, the provision of a safe space and the ability to access supports without requiring an appointment etc. the possibilities are endless. Here's to a much more positive and less challenging 2020-2021.

Chrystie Flint

## YOUNG HOUSE

Young House provides supported crisis accommodation for young people aged 15 to 25 years who are homeless. Priority is given to accommodating young people under 20 years of age. Accommodation can be provided for up to 8 young people, 4 beds are allocated to females and 4 to males.

Young House operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week - ensuring the service is accessible and available to young people in crisis situations. Youth Workers encourage young people to develop independent living, skills, connect with education and employment opportunities and move toward a return home wherever possible or alternatively, to independent living. In order to achieve these outcomes, Young House staff work within a therapeutic, trauma informed, intensive case management model. A plan is developed in collaboration with youth to identify their needs and strategies for attaining their goals. Support focuses on personal growth, resilience and skills development of residents.

Referrals of homeless young people are accepted from agencies and individuals.

This year, Young House provided 52 young people

crisis accommodation and support. The main reasons youth presented were; relationship or family breakdown, inadequate or inappropriate dwelling conditions, their previous accommodation had ended, family and domestic violence, housing crisis, time out from family, lack of family and or community support.



## SUPPORTED HOUSING OUTREACH AND TENANCY

Young people are supported to seek and maintain accommodation and develop the living skills necessary as they transition into independent living. The SHOT youth worker assists young people to access community housing or private rental options. The therapeutic and trauma informed case management model used, endeavours to help youth work towards independent living as well as encouraging them to engage in education, employment and training to improve their financial independence. Young parents are also supported to enhance parenting skills.

This year, the SHOT program assisted 36 young people, 14 secured community housing units, 3 accessed private rentals, and 2 young mothers were supported.

*Forums we  
participated in:*

Compassion Forum  
Homelessness Forum  
Domestic Violence Forum  
Suicide Prevention Forum



## ALBANY YOUTH OUTREACH

Albany Youth Outreach (AYO) provided a range of support to young people who have been identified at risk or in need of early intervention. Individuals can be self-referred or referred from agencies.

The diverse support that is provided to young people will vary dependent on their needs. The challenges young people are faced with, present in a range of complexities such as substance misuse, family conflicts including family domestic violence, justice involvement, disengaged from education, lack of stable accommodation and mental health concerns including depression, anxiety and self-harm.

An Outreach Worker will work closely with the young person to establish their needs and formulate a case management plan to best support the individual. Facilitation of family relationship building, connection to activities and community events are also a part of the Youth Workers role.

55 young people case managed 56.36% were identified at “extreme risk”

Having great rapport and taking the time to form positive relationships with the young people our support is key to successful case management and outcomes for young people and their families

Our outreach team continuously strive to address and support the complex needs of our clients. Staff actively liaise with key stakeholders within the community which allows us to deliver our programs in a trauma informed manner.



**55** young people  
case-managed



**56%** identified at  
“extreme risk”



## RECONNECT

During the previous 12 months AYSA provided service to 63 at-risk youth, their families and other supports in the Albany and Lower Great Southern area through the Reconnect Program. The dedicated team of Reconnect Outreach Youth Workers travel great distances to enable the provision of this service to those in need aged 12-18 years who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

The Reconnect Program works from a Strength Based, Person Centred Approach to engage at-risk youth. This approach enables the Youth Workers to achieve the outcomes that work best for the young person in their time, whilst navigating their way through their often turbulent lives.

Through the Reconnect Program Youth Workers assist the young person to build and sustain relationships within their family units and the wider community through the collaboration of strong relationships that have been built with education facilities, Corrective Services, youth and other healthcare providers including headspace.

Challenges for Reconnect have been Covid 19 yet our client numbers are only 12 less than last year, this does not include the group session numbers that Reconnect co-facilitate.

In Term 2 of 2020, Reconnect started co-facilitating with the Aboriginal Health weekly group sessions at Mount Barker Community College (MBCC) for at risk indigenous students. In these groups we have engaged and worked on body image and healthy relationships, these groups have been highly successful in engaging with male and female at risk young people. Reconnect continues to work with Aboriginal Health and The Education Department strengthening our community relationships.

Reconnect have also been working collaboratively with Palmerston, Aboriginal Health

and other stakeholders to organise the Female Bush Classroom. Female Bush Classroom's held their first classroom 26/10/2020 at The Noongar Centre. This was a great success with up to 12 adult females and two children attending.

Female Bush Classroom's will run every Monday from 10am -2pm with Reconnect AYSA assisting with transport (AYSA Transit Bus), meeting at The Noongar Centre, involving- yarning, art, outings, woman's health, budgeting, cooking and other supports. A Female Bush Camp is scheduled for 2021.

Even though we have had challenges with Covid 19 in the past year, and working without an office home base, Reconnect has strengthened relationships within the community, with clients, at risk groups and stakeholders. It has maintained quality of service and consistent delivery, despite the many challenges. We are hopeful for a better 2021 for all our young people and stakeholders who continue to work in partnership with us, to ensure together, we achieve the best possible outcomes for our clients.



## NAVIG8 PROGRAM

Navig8 is a partnership between AYSA and Mission Australia providing case management and transitional support to young people between 14 – 25 years of age who are leaving or have left the care of the Department of Communities, Child Protection.

Navig8 provides practical support and advice with developing life skills, career planning, job seeking, further education and/or training, access to legal and financial supports, home establishment, physical and mental health supports, relationship building and assistance with other collaboratively identified needs of the young person.

Navig8 provides support before, during and after transition from care by way of direct support, advocacy or referral towards independence.

This last year has seen 39 clients supported through transition for the first six months and 40 clients in the second half of the year. These numbers reflect a continuing period of stability of client numbers in the fourth year of the program being provided through AYSA.

Achievements of the last year include our first two University enrolments and one young person receiving an Achievement Award from the Dept of Communities. Five young people have passed their Driving learners permits. Four young people have passed their practical driving assessments and now have probationary licenses. Thirteen young people have attended TAFE, six young people graduated from Year 12 with another three studying year 12 this year and two young people living remotely have accessed online training. Fourteen young people have been assisted to access their TILA (transfer to independent living allowance) for the purpose of home establishment. The number of young people employed has increased from twelve in the first six month period to fifteen in the latter part of the year.

Navig8 has a group of young people engaged with a research program at Curtin University on transitioning out of care who are enthusiastic about being heard on issues of relevance to them and others leaving care.

Navig8 had four young people attend the CREATE conference in Melbourne at the end of 2019, as a result, the young people involved are very keen to develop a Leaving Care Support Group in the Great Southern. We have had initial planning meetings and one social event before the COVID pandemic situation arose. We are now in the planning stage of resurrecting this group in 2021 and look forward to seeing these young people grow as leaders and establishing a much needed support group for their peers with lived experiences of care.

*The **NAVIG8 PROGRAM** continues to successfully provide support to young people in need.*

## DENMARK YOUTH OUTREACH

The past year has seen a change in staffing in the DYO role. The new DYO worker has managed to establish himself within the role and has forged new relationships and strengthened existing community connections and organisational relationships. The DYO program continues to run in close collaboration with the Denmark Shire, Denmark Senior High School, Denmark Police and other community organisations.

DYO is based at the Denmark Senior High School and from here provides outreach services throughout the greater Denmark area. Around three quarters of young people seen are engaged directly through the school usually through referral from the Student Support Team, with the remaining young people supported being from community-based referrals. It is anticipated that as the awareness and profile of the DYO program continues to improve within the local community there will be an increase in the proportion of community-based clients and community generated referrals.

One clear trend during this period is the increasing proportion of male clients seeking support. While this is partly driven by an increase in males needing and seeking support it is considered that this trend is occurring primarily due to the new DYO worker being male and the desire to connect young males with a positive older male role model. It is also important to note that all other members of the DSHS Student Support team are female.

The DYO program managed to successfully retain contact with all clients over Covid. The Program will reach client-load capacity during the final months of 2020 and remain at capacity into 2021 and beyond.

### DYO Achievements:

- Established and oriented new worker to the DYO role and who has successfully developed strong connections within the Denmark community, Shire and High School.
- Successfully assisted reunification of a highly at-risk client with his long-term estranged mother. This also involved the client relocating to a new town and new school.
- Assisted a client through the difficult process of a CPFS intervention in their household. Supported client through an initial foster care placement and then through a challenging but successful reunification with parent.
- Networked and improved the local communities understanding of AYSA and the DYO program.
- Worked in close collaboration with the Denmark Police to identify problem behaviours among some at-risk youth and in doing so helped remove the need for criminal charges.



## DRUG AWARE OPEN ACCESS YOUTH ARTS STUDIO

The Drug Aware Youth Arts Studio has continued to run for another successful year of creativity and engagement for young people despite the many challenges we have faced. The studio provides a safe, inclusive and supportive space for young people aged 12-22 to express themselves through a range of arts activities and events, while enhancing social connectedness for the participants. The program aims to empower young people, enhance resilience, create pathways between young people and services,

and improve the mental health of the participants while using the arts as a means of engagement. The program creates opportunities for young people to share their creative talents with the wider community and be seen in a positive light, increasing their sense of belonging to something bigger than them and their struggles. This past year has seen 1140 contacts at Open Access and close to 6292 people in total exposed to the Drug Aware message via community events.

## SCHOOLS PILOT PROJECT

2020 saw the introduction of an exciting new initiative between the Education Department and AYSA to pilot a 6 month project placing qualified Youth Workers within Albany's local high schools; Albany Senior High School (ASHS) and North Albany Senior High School (NASHS) for one day a week. There was uncertainty as to what the placement of one day a week within the schools might look like initially, however this allowed for a lot of flexibility and creativity in creating what the position could entail.

Having Youth Workers in the schools supports those already there currently providing assistance to the most vulnerable young people and assists in closing the gap between current service delivery from Chaplains and School Psychologists and the young people currently not accessing those services. Both schools and

Student Services teams have openly embraced the initiative and provided a very welcoming and supportive environment to work in.

There has been a wide range of participation through a variety of programs within the schools including a Breakfast Club, Girls Group for the most disengaged young people within the school, one on one case management and support, outreach support to various appointments and referrals to other agencies, as well as several events.

Over 30 young people between ASHS and NASHS have received regular supports from the Youth Workers Pilot Project within the past 6 months with a variety of issues and we are excited to see where the potential for this project may lead us.



# COLLABORATIONS + AFFILIATIONS

## COLLABORATIONS

Aboriginal Health	Fletchers International	Palmerston
Aboriginal Legal Service	Foodbank WA	Parklands School
Advance Housing	Forrest Personnel	PCYC
ALAC	FORM	Pioneer Health
Albany Community Foundation	Great Southern Grammar	Pivot
Albany Community Legal Centre	Great Southern Police	Population Health
Albany Halfway House Association	GWN7	Rainbow Coast Neighbourhood Centre
Albany Senior High School	headspace Albany	Relationships Australia
Albany Step Up Step Down Service (Neami)	Hillside Family Practice	Richmond Fellowship – Fellowship House
Alta-1	Jan Bignell	RUAH
Amity Health	Katanning Community Resource Centre	Rural Link
Anglicare	Katanning Regional Emergency Accommodation Centre	Salvation Army
Anglicare Women's Centre	KDS Building Services	Shalom House
APM	Legal Aid	Share the Dignity
ATC Worksmart	Lions Club	Skill Hire
At Work Australia	Local Care Coordinators	Soroptimist International of Albany
Chorus Albany	Lower Great Southern Community Mental Health Service	Southern Aboriginal Corporation
City of Albany	Max Employment	South Regional TAFE
Comet Care School Albany	Men's Resource Centre	St Vincent de Paul
Denmark Senior High School	Mount Barker Community College	WA Country Health Service
Department of Communities – Disability Services; Child Protection and Family Support; Housing	Mount Barker Community Resource Centre	Wanslea Family Services
Department of Education	North Albany Senior High School	WA Police
Department of Human Services	Oyster Harbour Silver Needles	Worklink
Department of Justice		Youth Focus
The Esther Foundation		Youth Futures
		YMCA

## **PEAK BODIES + MEMBERSHIPS**

Shelter WA

WACOSS

Wanslea Family Services – CEWA

Youth Affairs Council WA

## **FUNDING PARTNERS**

Country Arts/Healthway Drug Aware Y Culture

Chris O’Keefe Consulting

Department of Communities

Department of Communities

Department of Social Services

Great Southern Development Commission

H & H Architects

Keston Technologies

Lotterywest

Shire of Denmark

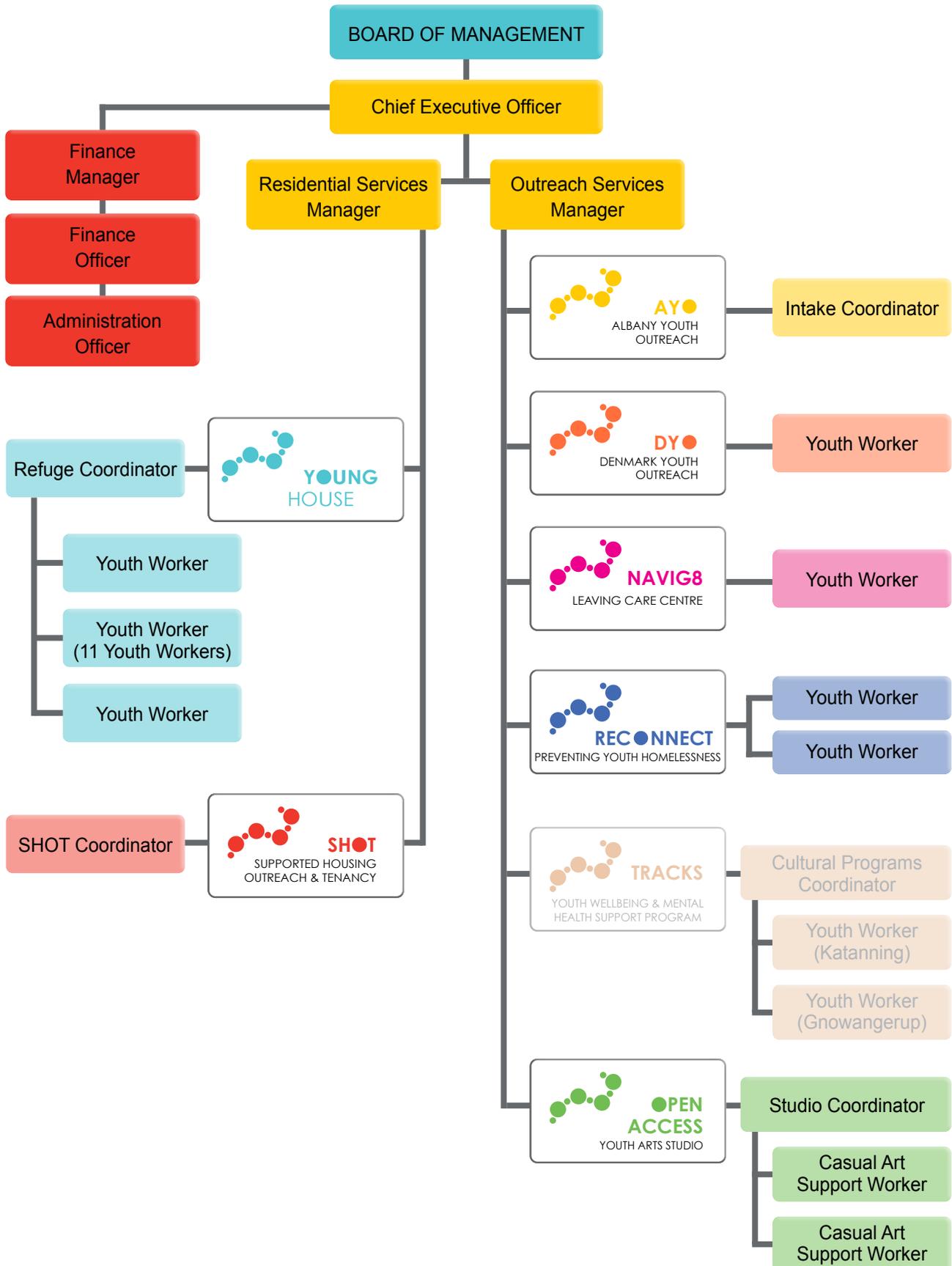
Mission Australia

WA Primary Health Alliance

Healthway Drug Aware



# OUR STRUCTURE



## OUR STAFF



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ALBANY  
**YOUTH SUPPORT**  
ASSOCIATION

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