

Youth Foyers[®]: Unlocking the potential of 1,800 young people in Western Australia

November 2025 | Pre-Budget Submission

FoyerInvest



Oxford Foyer Youth Development Coach, Nas with Resident, Abbie (Anglicare WA)

Thousands of young people in Western Australia are not able to reach their full potential

Young people need pathways out of homelessness

Young people make up 15% of those experiencing homelessness each year in Western Australia. Most aren't in education or employment and repeatedly access overstretched Specialist Homelessness Services that are frequently unable to provide medium or longer term support. Half are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people and up to 60% have been in out of home care. These young people need affordable housing options and support programs that meet their unique needs as they transition to independence.

Youth Foyers are a crucial part of the solution, supporting young people into education, jobs and stable housing.

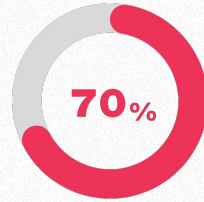
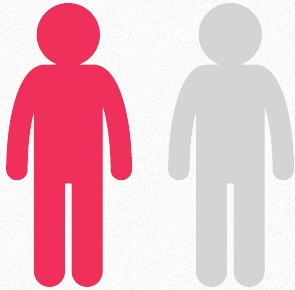
Scaling this proven solution would unlock thriving, productive futures for over 1,800 young people in WA over a decade and save State Government \$100m in lifetime benefits. Alongside investment in youth tenancies and other preventative support programs, especially for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people and those leaving care - we can unlock thriving, productive future for young Australians.

Together we can create the future that young people deserve.

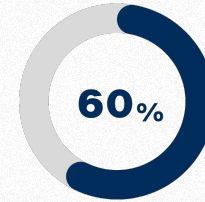
Over 2,500 young people present to homelessness services alone each year in Western Australia

1 in 2

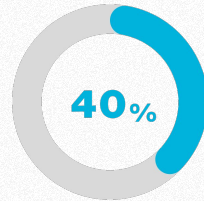
Are young Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people



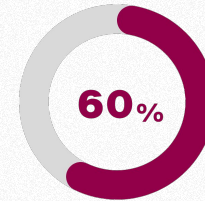
Not enrolled in education¹



Up to 60% of young people experiencing homelessness have experience in the care system³



Experienced mental health issues²



Are repeated users of homelessness services²

Youth Foyers are a critical part of the solution, intervening early to prevent adult homelessness

Youth Foyers provide 16-24 year olds with a safe and stable home, integrated with education, employment and life skills support.

Each Youth Foyer includes self-contained, single-occupancy units, with access to communal spaces and 24/7 support.

Wraparound supports to build independent living skills, navigate education pathways and prepare for the world of work are provided by youth coaches. Coaches bring an Advantaged Thinking mindset, focusing on the skills, talent and potential of each person, establishing a deal with every young person detailing their goals for independence and the mutual commitments needed to achieve them.



Communal backyard at Foyer Oxford (Anglicare WA)

Youth Foyers provide a pathway to independence

80%

Exit into education, employment or both

80%

Exit into safe, stable accommodation

87%

Believe they can reach long term goals

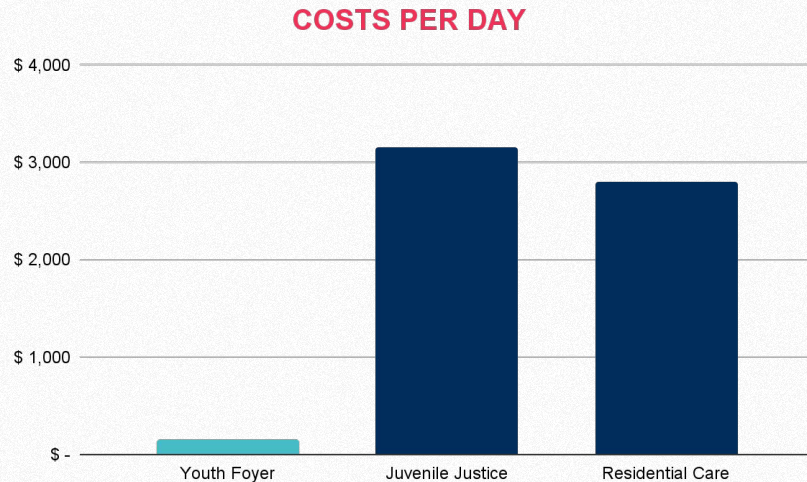
“Foyer has given me somewhere safe to stay long term where **I can prioritise my goals and what I want to achieve.** I was able to graduate, and I'm about to start my diploma in community services.”

Abbie, Current resident, Youth Foyer Oxford (Anglicare WA)



Oxford Foyer Resident, Abbie (Anglicare WA)

Youth Foyers are a cost-effective solution, delivering a strong return on investment



Source: Report on Government Services (2025) 2023/24 Table 16A.37, Table 17A.20

Youth Foyers are a cost effective solution, providing crucial wrap-around supports that help young people build the skills for a thriving future at a cost well below some of the alternative options.

The WA government has an opportunity to unlock Commonwealth capital funding (through the National Housing Infrastructure Facility Crisis and Transitional and Housing Australia's Future Fund) for Youth Foyers by providing operating funds for these Foyers.

For an investment of less than \$50,000 per young person per year in operating funds, we can unlock thriving futures for 1,800 young people including up to 900 First Nations young people over 10 years by investing in three new Youth Foyers.

Compared to \$1,021,270 to support a child in residential care and \$1,152,000 per young person in youth detention in WA last year, this is a modest investment in a young person's future.

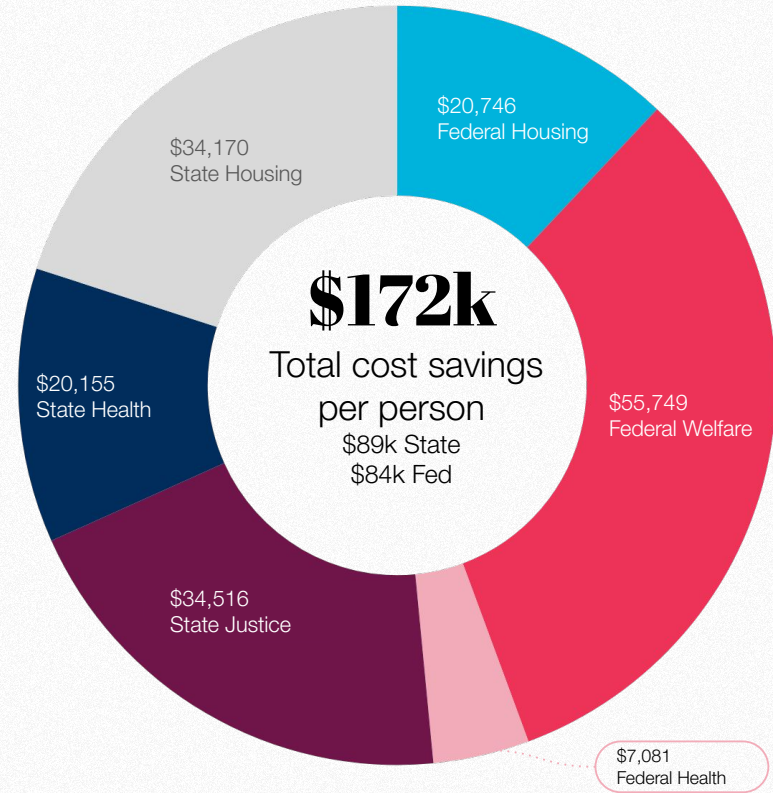
Investing in Foyers now will save the WA Government \$100m over the next 40 years

6:1

For every additional \$1 of investment, Foyers deliver \$6 in benefits to governments. Youth Foyers create net benefits by reducing government costs from services across housing, health, welfare and justice over 40 years. Foyers also create individual and societal value.

On average, 52% of the benefits of Foyer go to the state and 48% to the federal government. On a per-person basis, Foyers create \$89,000 in benefits for State governments through the avoided social housing, health and justice costs and \$84,000 in benefits for the Federal government across taxation uplifts, welfare and federal health savings.

This additional investment in medium-term youth homelessness services, alongside well-resourced crisis and transitional homelessness services, is essential to ensure a strong system that supports all young people facing homelessness.



Avoided government costs per person in Foyer, per individual, \$AUD, 2021, NPV, 40 years

Source: *Under One Roof*, 2022

Investment in Youth Foyers can also support the WA Government to achieve a range of priorities, beyond housing and homelessness



HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS

Foyers reduce pressure on crisis services and social housing by creating pathways out of homelessness. 86% young people exit Youth Foyers to secure housing.



YOUTH JUSTICE

Foyer residents are 60% less likely to engage with the justice system.



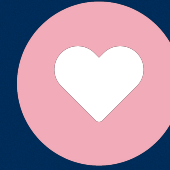
FAMILY VIOLENCE

Family violence is one of the main drivers of youth homelessness. Foyers provide a safe place for young people, most of whom have experience family violence.



EDUCATION & TRAINING

Foyers support young people to develop the skills they need to succeed, with almost 60% of young people exiting Foyers with a Year 12/Cert III qualification or above.



LEAVING CARE

Youth Foyers provide a pathway to independence for young people who exit the system from 18.



CLOSING THE GAP

With over 20% of young people in Foyers identifying as First Nations, and an ambition for a First Nations led Foyer in Broome, this investment can help meet Closing the Gap targets (5, 6, 7, 8, 9)

We call on the WA government to support 3 new Youth Foyers in WA

	FY26/27	FY27/28	FY28/29	FY29/30
<p>ALBANY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50 unit Foyer plus a 10-bed crisis refuge. • Land is secured, concept designs developed, community engaged and Federal grant submitted. 	<p>WA Endorsement of Housing Australia NHIF CT grant for \$43.6m construction costs (total)</p>		<p>\$1.85m recurrent operational funding</p>	<p>\$1.85m recurrent operational funding</p>
<p>BAYSWATER</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100 units, close to transport, employment & training. • Site identified and DA application ready, with a supportive local council and strong support from philanthropic partners. 		<p>\$200k service implementation funding</p>	<p>Estimated \$3.5m recurrent operational funding</p>	<p>Estimated \$3.5m recurrent operational funding</p>
<p>BROOME</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-design process to design a Foyer in 2020 • Strong interest from the community remains and further work is needed to identify a new site and conduct further consultation with local partners. 	<p>\$100k revised business case and community re-consultation</p>		<p>\$300,000 project implementation</p>	<p>\$2.5m recurrent operational funding</p>

Let's prevent cycles of homelessness by setting young people up for the thriving futures they deserve

We call on the Cook Government to ensure young people in WA who are unable to live at home get the support they need to navigate a pathway to a thriving future.



1

Commit to a pipeline of **three more Youth Foyers** in 10 years, unlocking positive housing, employment and education outcomes for more than **1,800 young people**, including up to **900 First Nations young people**, over the next decade.



2

Support proposals made under NHIF CT for **Foyers in Albany and Bayswater**, providing operational funding from FY28/29 to ensure young people access the support they need to transition to independence.



3

Support the joint sector *Ending Child and Youth Homelessness* submission and call for **targeted investment in a diverse range of housing models and prevention initiatives, and sector capacity.**

FoyerInvest

This is submitted by Co-Chairs of Foyerinvest WA Working Group, on behalf of FoyerInvest WA including Anglicare WA, Shelter WA, Advance Housing, Albany Youth Support Association, Foundation Housing, Youth Affairs Council of WA and the Foyer Foundation.

Together we aim to reach 3 new Foyers in WA and provide more young Australians with the transformative opportunity of safe, supported accommodation with integrated education, training, employment and life skills support.

For more information, please contact Foyer Foundation Co-CEOs:

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This submission is supported by the following organisations:

