



Youth Foyers

Creating thriving futures

What is a Youth Foyer?

Youth Foyers provide young people aged 16-24 years with a safe and stable home for up to two years, integrated with education, employment and life skills support, all under one roof. Youth Foyers offer residents holistic, on-site support from youth coaches who embed an aspirational, goal-oriented approach called **Advantaged Thinking**.



Youth Foyer features

Youth Foyers are a place based response to youth homelessness, so they can vary in how they look and how many young people live there. To become an accredited Youth Foyer, however, they must share common features that are core to the Foyer approach. Youth Foyers:

- Support young people typically aged 16 to 24 experiencing or at risk of homelessness
- Are transitional in nature, offering up to two years of support with the goal of progressing towards independent living
- Provide 15 to 40 self-contained, single-occupancy units, with access to communal spaces and 24/7 support
- Are located close to amenities and essential services, for example public transport, access to education
- Use an Advantaged Thinking approach, focusing on young people's talents, strengths, and aspirations.
- Provide support to young people to achieve their goals, expressed in a 'Deal'; a guiding agreement that outlines the partnership and mutual responsibilities between the young person and the Foyer
- Support young people across 7 service offers – Education, Work, Health, Connection, Financial Capability, Housing and Independence
- Commit to upholding the Australian Foyer Foundation Accreditation quality standards

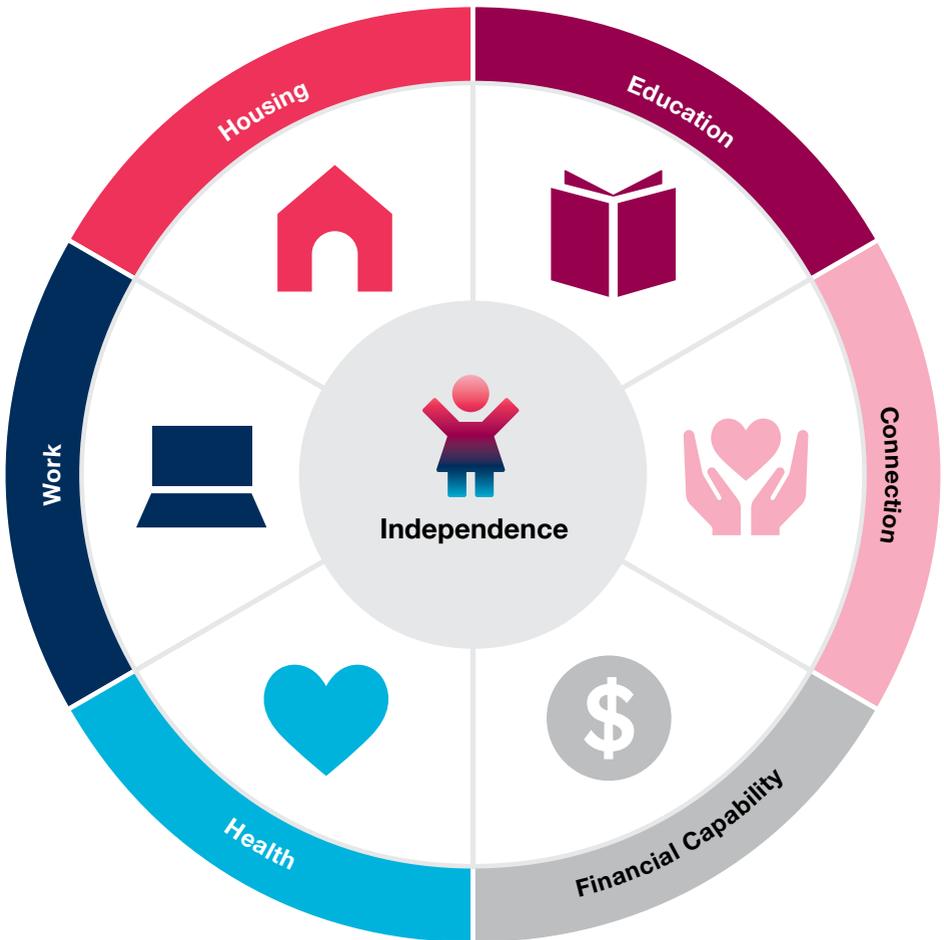
Townsville Youth Foyer



Youth Foyer supports – seven service offers

Youth Foyers provide coaching, education, and guidance across seven services areas to foster young people’s personal growth and successful transition to independence

These are delivered through individualised coaching, informal mentorship, structured workshops, and engaging group activities to foster young people’s personal growth and successful transition to independence.





Independence

Supporting the development of life skills necessary for independent living through coaching and mentoring, workshops and leadership opportunities



Housing

Providing stable and secure accommodation and skills like managing a tenancy, budgeting and understanding rental rights to build a thriving life



Education

Facilitating access to educational opportunities and support like tutoring and homework clubs to enhance learning outcomes for young people



Work

Connecting young people with employment opportunities and job readiness training to foster career development



Connection

Building strong, supportive networks and community ties through social and cultural activities and access to community networks



Health

Ensuring access to health services and promoting holistic well-being through things like service information and referral, mental wellbeing workshops, creative expression and sports activities



Financial Capability

Teaching financial literacy and management skills through access to financial counseling, budgeting tools, and workshops on topics like saving, debt management, and financial goal setting to foster economic independence

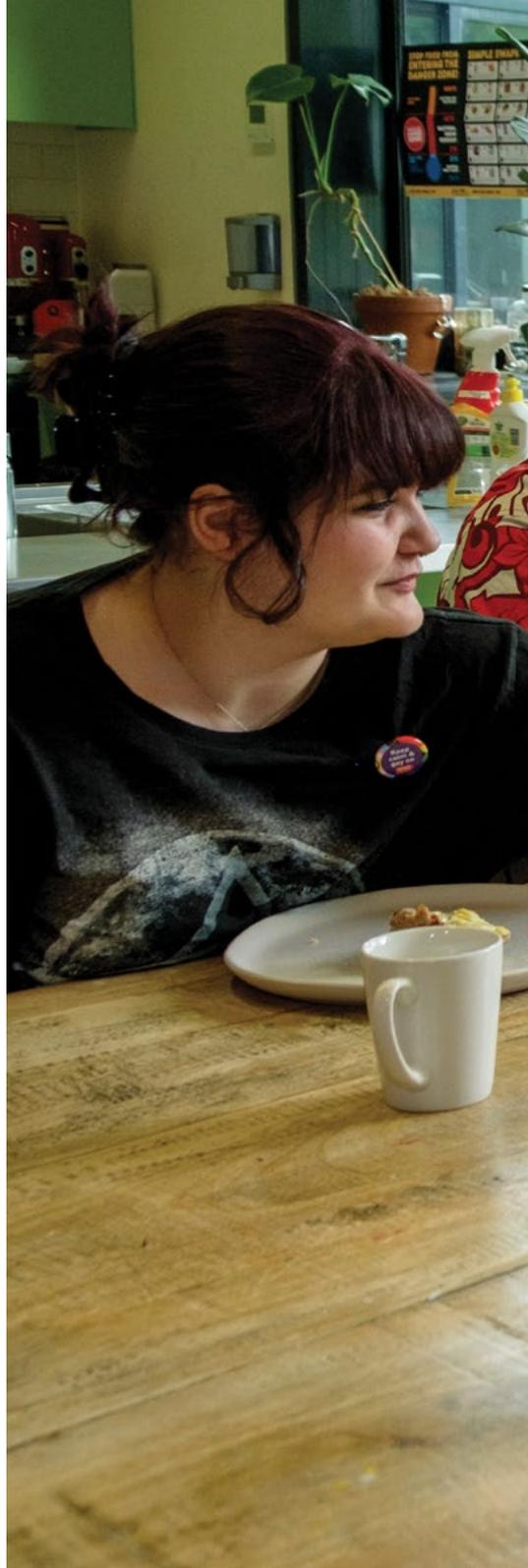
The Youth Foyer difference

Advantaged Thinking

Advantaged Thinking refers to an approach and practical set of principles that focuses on people's strengths, skills and talents. Established by Colin Falconer, founder of the Foyer movement in the UK, it understands that working towards people's aspirations and dreams is just as important as meeting their immediate needs.

Youth Foyers embed Advantaged Thinking in all that they do, to support young people to identify, develop and invest in building their skills, capabilities and assets to achieve independence. It recognises young people as contributors, not just beneficiaries, and sets them up to thrive and become active members of their community.

Former Broadmeadows Education
First Youth Foyer residents





Advantaged Thinking

Advantaged Thinking comes alive across five practice areas, shaping how Foyers are designed, where they are located, who they employ, and how they work with young people and others.



People

Youth Foyers employ coaches from diverse backgrounds and connect young people with the broader community to build sustainable networks as they move to independence.



Place

Youth Foyers are welcoming and safe environments with good connections to the local community and amenities (i.e. public transport) to help young people connect.



Opportunities

Youth Foyers broker opportunities, such as work placements, mentors, and community experiences for young people to develop their skills and reach their potential.



The Deal

The belief in young people at the core of Advantaged Thinking is expressed in a 'Deal', a reciprocal agreement between the young person and the Youth Foyer to work collaboratively towards independence goals. It promotes mutual accountability, reciprocity and trust.



The Campaign

Foyers are committed to promoting Advantaged Thinking beyond the Foyer, seeking to change community perceptions and the system to unlock the potential of young people.



"Foyer Central provided me with the support and resources for me to achieve my dreams and aspirations. During my time at Foyer Central, I felt that all YDC's and staff believed in me. They invested so much time in me that it was only fair that I did the same. Their determination to support me inspired me to be the best version of myself".

Tyrah, former Foyer Central resident and Foyer Foundation Youth ambassador

How does my community get a Foyer?

1

Understand your community's needs and Foyer suitability. Consider things like the level and nature of youth homelessness, the current service landscape and the needs and opportunities for young people in the community.

2

Identify potential partners. Foyers are usually delivered by a registered Community Housing Provider and a Foyer operator (sometimes one organisation). Other local partners might include a TAFE/education provider, local council and Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations.

3

Identify a location that meets the space and connectivity requirements. This might be a greenfield site or an existing building that is suitable for refurbishment. Local councils sometimes make land available.

4

Develop plans for the site. Using the Foyer design guidelines, engage a quality designer to develop plans for the site that will meet the requirements for an accredited Foyer and the needs of the community. Bring your local community along through consultations. You may want to make a Development Application to get your site ready for investment.

5

Secure capital and operational funding. The Foyer Foundation works with providers wanting a Foyer to help them secure funding and can provide advice on funding requirements.

6

Prepare to open your Foyer. Once funding is secured, and you are almost ready to open, the Foyer Foundation can support you to set up your Foyer, train staff and get ready to welcome young people.





Gold Coast Youth Foyer

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