

DAY 1 ACCO STATEWIDE GATHERING

WEDNESDAY 20TH
NOVEMBER 2024

ESPLANADE WALYALUP
RYDGES HOTEL

Home Stretch WA

Regional and metro ACCO frontline Coordinators, Managers, Transition Coaches & Practice Leads came together to connect from across all over WA.

This was a significant milestone in Home Stretch WA, having so many ACCOs and cultural and practice wisdom in the room, and a chance to reflect and discuss working together as a collective supporting young people in Home Stretch WA.



THE DAY RUNTHROUGH

ACCOS coming together across the State for the first in person meet up since Home Stretch began. SWAMS, MG Corp, Jungarni, Broome Youth & Families Hub, Streeties, Goldfields Indigenous Housing, Bloodwood Tree, Karla Kuliny and Yorganop all attended. The day started with connecting to each other and with mob as well as sharing common vision and aspirations for Home Stretch. Attendees also participated in a self care bush pharmacy workshop, followed by yarns with APLS in the districts and talking about cultural care plans - sharing practice on how each agency does this and how we can do it better. The day wrapped up by discussing Aboriginal Ways of Working in Home Stretch and goals for ACCO led leadership in the future.

WALKING TOGETHER

Everyone contributed to the collective art work that represents all the ACCO's delivering Home Stretch in WA and working together across the state.



A special thanks to Sharon Wood Kennedy for Acknowledging of Country and providing the Bush Pharmacy for both Day 1&2 attendees.

SESSION 1:

CULTURAL PLANNING SESSION

CULTURAL PLANS | DISCUSSIONS | TOOLS



The cultural planning session started with sharing introductions and what are our hopes for young people and working together and why we all do the work we do. There was then a yarn with APL's from Department of Communities.

The session discussed examples of where cultural planning has been done and what makes it work, how does it work when it works well.

There was a discussion on Aboriginal Worldview and attendees then worked in groups to talk explore:

- How does their organisation do cultural planning ?
- What does a good cultural care plan look like?
- How can we do cultural planning with our organization or work with the Department to support strong cultural planning for young people?

SESSION 2:

ABORIGINAL WAYS OF WORKING

ABORIGINAL WAYS OF WORKING | KNOWLEDGE HUB | GOVERNANCE & NEXT STEPS

Paige shared a presentation on the knowledge hub, talked about practice, knowledge sharing, connecting, incorporation of symbols and a skeleton tree activity. The purpose of the session and the hub to share cultural insights, foster learning, and support implementation.

Collaborating with ACCOs

Partnership Focus: Highlighting the integral role of Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOS) in embedding culturally strong approaches into Home Stretch WA practice.

Key Contributions: Showcasing how ACCOs have woven Aboriginal Ways of Working into service delivery to empower young people and communities.

The Journey

•Listening to Community: Engaged with ACCOS, young people, and stakeholders to ensure an inclusive process.

Navigating Challenges: Balanced Western frameworks with Aboriginal perspectives to create meaningful outcomes.

Empowerment through Collaboration: Built strong partnerships to amplify the voices of Aboriginal communities.

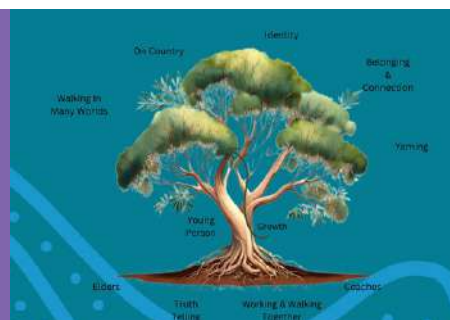
Gained insights into:

- The value of having Aboriginal staff as part of Home Stretch teams.
- Highlighted the critical role of ACCOs in delivering cultural support.
- The importance of cultural ways of working in creating safe, inclusive, and empowering spaces.
- The strengths ACCOs bring to supporting young people through culturally grounded practices.



KNOWLEDGE HUB

- Encouraging wider adoption of Aboriginal Ways of Working
- Continuing to advocate for culturally safe and responsive care for Aboriginal youth.
- To share stories, insights, and approaches that reflect Aboriginal Ways of Working,



END OF DAY REFLECTIONS

- How we have been working together as ACCOS?
- What do we want our work to look like together?
- What have we done well so far?
- What do we want to continue doing?
- How will we do it/next steps?



PHOTO GALLERY





DAY 2 STATEWIDE GATHERING

THURSDAY 21ST
NOVEMBER 2024

ESPLANADE WALYALUP
RYDGES HOTEL

Home
Stretch
WA

Home Stretch WA Community of Practice met for a Home Stretch Gathering to connect and share practice wisdom and reflect on the next steps as a community supporting young people across the state! Regional Home Stretch providers, metro Home Stretch providers, Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOS) Community Service Organisations, Department of Communities Staff, Lived Experience Consultants, Community of Practice Backbone Team and some special guests from the sector attended. The conference was MC'd by Lived Experience Consultants Kat and Bailey!



THE DAY RUNTHROUGH

Acknowledging of Country Together with Sharon and Paige Wood-Kenney. We then did Home Stretch bingo, discussed walking and working together, housing solutions, best practice in supporting young people, the importance of elevating the voice of young people, WHY we all do what we do and our hopes for the future. We also contributed to a collective art piece that represents everyone walking together to support young people leaving out-of-home care.



453

Young people across
Western Australia are
currently receiving
Home Stretch WA!

WALKING TOGETHER

We are hopeful for the community that will be supporting young people and grateful for everyone that has been on this journey together. A theme for many of the discussion during the day was working together, especially in the context of the future structure of Home Stretch and maintaining its integrity.

A special thanks to Sharon Wood Kennedy for Acknowledging of Country and providing the Bush Pharmacy for both Day 1&2 attendees.





SESSION 1:

HOUSING SOLUTIONS

HOUSING ALLOWANCE / STATE OF SYSTEM / TINY HOMES / HOST HOMES / COMMUNITY HOUSING

The housing solutions forum kicked off by discussing the Housing Allowance - why it is the way it is, data and what it means for young people. Lived Experience Consultant Averil shared some of her story and the impact of home stretch on her life and the benefits of housing allowance, this was followed by Donna Chung from Curtin university talking about the research into care leavers through Navigating Through Life, housing solutions, the impact of home stretch model and lived experience voices being central.

After was a conversation with David Wee at rotary Tiny Homes which Lived Experience Consultant Tyler helped facilitate and shared his experiences. Tyler and Averil then discussed benefit of Tiny homes along with sharing a funny video consultants Jett, Tyler and Averil made. Lots of discussion and interest generated.

The last speaker for the forum was Gill from Wanslea delivering a Host Homes presentation with a call to action for everyone to work together to explore this innovative housing option.

The last segment for the forum was table topic discussions around exploring solutions together and sharing and discussing practice tools.

HOUSING ALLOWANCE

While the Housing Allowance approach is relatively new in Western Australia (WA), it has drawn heavily from the learnings and evidence base of similar programs including Youth Rent Choice (NSW), Host Homes (USA), Foyer Foundation (UK and Australia), Housing First for Youth (Canada), Supported Rental Pathways Pilot (WA), Danjoo Darbalung (WA) and the LIFT Program (WA).

- Codesign of Housing Allowance identified housing supply would be a challenge at scale.
- Intended to be flexible.
- Explore opportunities - submit proposal?

Housing Allowance was designed to support Host Homes as an option. However, some current limitations include:

- Young people must already know the host and there is no support or training available.
- Home Stretch WA Host Homes have both tax and centrelink payments impacted by the housing allowance.



HOST HOMES (PROGRAM)

Host homes are a growing, global, short-term housing intervention. The model has been well established in different parts of Canada, US and has its origins in services in the UK. Host Homes recruit, train and support individuals in the community to offer young people experiencing housing instability with affirming, stable, short-term housing for up to 6 months.





HEADLEASING & SHARED HOUSING

Head Leasing involves a service provider or organization leasing a property from a private landlord or housing provider and then subleasing it to a young person in need of housing. This arrangement allows the organization to manage the tenancy and provide support to the young person, ensuring stability and appropriate living conditions. The housing allowance helps cover the rental costs, additional support costs, and the costs of the organization overseeing the lease.



VILLAGE 21

Village 21, developed by Kids Under Cover and Anglicare Victoria, offers accommodation and support for young people transitioning from out-of-home care to independent living. It provides a safe, shared living space for six young people aged 18-21, with two live-in mentors and a Key Practitioner who helps them access services, education, and employment opportunities. Each resident has a private studio, while communal areas foster social interaction and shared activities. Village 21 focuses on building life skills, employment guidance, and educational pathways to ensure a successful transition to independence.



TINY HOMES

Rotary Club Trial for Home Stretch (more info to come).

The Rotary Club of Perth are driving this project which aims to utilise refurbished portable accommodation units, dongas, donated by mining companies, set up in small villages to provide transitional accommodation (3 to 5 years) for young people. There will be a focus on improving residents' skills, empowerment, and community engagement. It will be funded as a social enterprise with private investors, and will leave the community with an asset. This project is in its infancy but is progressing rapidly.

Housing Pathway Planning practice tools that were sent via email after the gathering as requested.

There are also links and copies to all the example tools on the bottom of the Housing Allowance Page on the CoP website if you scroll down past the core documents.

There are also some tools in the "plan" section of the Transition Coaching Page .

The roofs for Youths – Tenancy Education package is also available Here if you would like to develop your own tenancy education courses or facilitate sessions or workshops with young people using the resources (scroll down to the bottom)- YACWA has given Home Stretch Providers permission to use the resources.





SESSION 2:

HOME STRETCH WA CELEBRATION

ACHIEVEMENTS | UPDATES | IMPACTS | REFLECTING | NEXT STEPS

WHAT IS YOUR HOME
STRETCH WIN?

DO YOU WANT TO
BE PART OF A
COMMUNITY OF
PRACTICE?

WHAT DRIVES YOU TO
DO HOME STRETCH?

Before session 2 started we had a lunch break where people mingled and had the opportunity to make their gift bags as part of the self care bush pharmacy workshop and immerse in the senses and healing remedies.

After lunch was a celebration of the home stretch wins from the bingo to reflect on the impact and reason we (collectively) do Home Stretch.



Paige then recapped the ACCO day and shared some of the stories captured through Aboriginal Ways of Working and the beautiful art piece that everyone had opportunity to contribute too and discussed plans for the knowledge hub.

It was then handed over to Andy talked about the journey of home stretch how we got here and asked everyone to reflect on what they think should happen next and what "world " they come from and want to contribute too for the next phase of the community of practice. There were some open floor discussions about:

- Knowledge Hub (e.g Job, Name, Speciality)
- Collaboration, CoP, Collective Impact and Connecting
- Inperson Practice Hours
- YAGs
- Model Integrity



This led nicely into the young persons activity, everyone mixed into groups and reflected on the stories from young people on what they meant for them, they then chose a story to share back and why it was important and these were all added to the wall to align with the practice principles and the importance of keeping young people at the centre, then everyone contributed again to the art pieces, people lingered to network and most of the teams went to a pub for a beer afterwards! Lots of great reflections and sharing and positive feedback about everyone wanting to commit to finding ways to coming together moving forward.

WHAT IS YOUR HOME STRETCH WIN?

helped some young people to get cultural healing

Having an amazing team of passionate workers.

that it's state wide

5 staff in first 3 months

Having a full team & being able to connect with new people.

have TC end on at capacity

Almost at full capacity

Supporting over 100 people this

YP. picks up new keys for new home tomorrow

first onboarding down by self.

Getting funding

Supporting a young person from Stages to housing allowance to independent living

Cooking class with young person

YP transfer to new house over 40 stay on program

My incredible team

got more funding

Helped YP who was homeless into housing

Working on reunification

Seeing YP achieve goals

Teaching young person how to cook

Supporting a YP through legal system v. sex charges.

started to cover wheatbelt YP

engaged with 6 out of 12 YP already

getting some SOA + A in East Kimberley

Supporting powerful young people

YP - SOA & HA & how independent in Nany

getting HS return

Having staff in NDIS housing

Supporting YP with goals

Employment

Low returning into YP

Appreciated by youth

at outcomes achieved so far

TC with 4 young person into mainstream

State wide YP space

employment for YP

helping client w/ transitioning w/ new job

50% clients are employed!!!

YP in new houses!

P. PLACES FOR YP.

YP move into foundation housing.

YP doing really well

Helped YP cultural healing & felt sense of belonging

Supporting YP getting best of prison.

having a good team

Expanded to wheat belt

Having Homestretch

Hearing peoples stories & celebrating

Working alongside YP.

Working in wheatbelt

has doing SOA for YP who is program

YP studying nursing

YP on country 2 1/2 days

Over 60 SOA

Partnership w/ SWABS

Young Mums - kept babies.

one year getting 1 more placement people in

453 YP being supported in

knowing YP have support once leaving dept.

got a FT coach on contracted YP

doubled team - 156 YP

Getting more money for program

Expanded the team

Got the job!!

Been here a week

50% case load ex employer

Getting 50 agreement for new young parent and babies

Almost all YP working or studying

Target contract numbers and we have a coach

Supporting reaches to help

appreciated by YP

It is a win

Seeing our kids supported from adulthood

having beautiful conversations.

YP accommodation after being excited

Escorted to regional game to play footy

making Govt reps cry with speech at 1 yr anniversary of Hstretch

Helping YP recover 2 1/2 day min 2 pop

See a transition coach to be TC

Support YP to R/Country for sorry business in 3 days

love celebrating small wins with YP

almost at capacity

organising a legal name change for interstate YP

Statewide service completed

helping YP return to country unsupport

Hit 100+ YP - huge milestone

called out to state - over 550 YP

first onboarding last week.

6 engagements out of 12 YP

full time coach and Big Connect

Young People of 12

Winning more funding for Home stretch.

transition coach wks 5 YP -> independent

watching TC support YP with goals & independence

Doubting team and being other support from young people

helping YP navigate justice system & not get into serious trouble.

staying on agreement being approved, now in NDIS

- Building a good team.

Seeing the consultants lead today

name change for YP that has been waiting for years

Getting Staying U. agreement done for 1st time in our region

Amazing Team L & LING GILES

Having homestretch.

opportunity for cultural healing.

Made data Reprod platform work

Helped YP who was homeless into housing and doing Cent.

Teaching young person how to cook.

Moving a YP into a NDIS property.

found accommodation for her YP

working.

Seeing YP be supported past 18

Managing full caseload

YP didn't want to work with male but chose to work with Brandon.

YP Return to country Fitzroy all on her own.

YP - Moved into new home on Friday

HS statewide to support more YP

Knowing our kids have someone

New - already got name change for YP

Team - amazing really good team hearing feedback from YP.

Being able to connect with young people no one else had

PHOTO GALLERY





