



Contents

	INTRODUCTION		CHILDREN'S SERVICES	
	Who we are	4	Power of inspired young people	17
	Report from the President	6	Early learning centres	18
			Transforming the ELC experience	19
	YOUTH			
	Mic drop!	8	CORPORATE	
	Parliament in session	9	Retreat moves online	20
	Fun, music, new skills	10	YACWA awards	20
	New model for Y HQ	12	Not your everyday heroes	21
	Win for YChats	13	National award for films	21
			Inspiring bright young minds	22
	COMMUNITY		How we're structured	23
	Staying strong	14	Our governance model	23
	NAIDOC youth ball	14	The Y WA Board	23
			Services and staff numbers	24
	RECREATION		Our partners and sponsors	25
	Even more fun at the Rec	15	Federal and State Government funding partners	25
	New voice for youth	16		
	Splish-splash for safety	16	Community partners	25







The challenges of the global pandemic showed just how adaptable and agile we can be in responding to change over the past 12 months.

Report from

It also delivered some important lessons that shaped our thinking and strengthened our resolve to ensure the Y WA remains resourceful and relevant.

Working our way through the everchanging pandemic landscape reminded us of our cultural hallmarks:

- Listen to, champion, and elevate the voices of young people
- Be unwavering in the pursuit of impact for young people
- Keep children and young people safe

We also uncovered a need to be more intentional in putting young people at the centre of everything we do.

As young people around the globe led by example and showed us how to remain positive in the face of uncertainty, it reinforced our belief in the power of inspired young people.

TODAY, THE Y WA IS MORE RELEVANT THAN **EVER WHEN IT COMES TO GIVING YOUNG** PEOPLE A VOICE IN OUR CHANGING WORLD.

This was highlighted at our 2021 Youth Parliament. Now in its 25th year, this hugely popular event is a prime example of how the Y WA fills an important need, providing unique platforms and programs for thriving young people who want to be heard. It's a clear measure of our success in delivering programs, learning and leadership opportunities, support, and mentorship.

Emerging from the initial COVID-19 crisis, the adaptability and intentionality of our staff shone through, from finding new venues and taking events online, to navigating interstate border restrictions.

As well as driving us to be extra flexible, inventive, and resourceful, the pandemic also served to reinforce our strategy and belief in our goals.

Making an impact in communities across the vast geographical area that is Western Australia, we're proud to say 2020/21 was another year of highlights, from the inaugural NAIDOC Youth Ball, TEDx@Perth 2021, podcasts and YLab, to music gigs, workshops, community fun days, new youth committees and award wins.

We also shifted towards a more customer-centric focus, began construction on three new Early Learning Centres, opened two new Outside School Hours Care services and completed intensive planning and development work for the new Vocational School due to open in Mirrabooka in November 2021.

2020/21 SIGNALLED CHANGE IN OUR **LEADERSHIP TEAM**

Ross Kyrwood, whose visionary leadership as CEO helped steer the Y WA for almost a decade, has moved into the role of Executive Director Strategic Projects at Y Australia.

Stepping into the role when the organisation needed a renewed focus and energy, Ross was instrumental in driving the changes necessary to make us the sustainable social enterprise we are today.

Ross's experience in working with young people along with his genuine passion, helped us become a recognised leader in contemporary youth work, and he set the foundation for our approach to measuring impact across the YWA.

We thank Ross for his amazing contribution and are delighted we're not losing him entirely.

Our new CEO, Dr Tim McDonald, is a strategic leader and recognised innovator with more than 20 years' experience leading change in education systems and the philanthropic sector.

Tim not only clearly understands our mission, but he also provides invaluable insights into the education system and how to engage and encourage young people to get the best possible outcomes.

With an extensive external network and the ability to build deep and impactful relationships, Tim is committed to driving partnerships that will help us continue to deliver meaningful impact for young people right cross Western Australia.

We warmly welcome Tim to the Y WA and share his unwavering belief that if we help young people make strong and powerful transitions from the early years into school, and from school years into adulthood, the Y will be here for many years to come.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

As we look ahead to the coming year, my fifth and final year as President draws to a close.

While there have been many highlights during my presidency, the distance we have travelled and the journey we took to grow the Y WA's enterprise and mission has been the standout.

To end the financial year with a commitment to invest \$1M of trading surplus into a fund to kickstart a vocational school strategy was a proud achievement.

I want to thank the Board, Ross Kyrwood, and his executive team for their efforts in turning an aspirational vision into reality.

I also want to thank the dedicated staff for their contribution to building the YWA into sustainable social enterprise focussed on outcomes for young people and their communities.

Now it's time to hand over the reins to Alinta Energy General Manager, Chris Campbell, as its new President.

Chris joined our Board in June 2019, and he is a strong advocate for young people and a firm believer in the power of building happy, healthy communities.

I may no longer be on the Board, but I will continue to champion the Y WA as the leading organisation that stands for young people in our vast State.

With strong leadership at the helm, a solid financial foundation, and a committed and insightful staff, I am excited to see what the next five years will bring for this incredible organisation and the young people of Western Australia.

6 // the Y WA 2021 Annual Report the Y WA 2021 Annual Report // 7



Parliament in session

Climate change, coercive control, intergenerational education and mandatory sentencing reform were on the agenda at the 2020 Y Youth Parliament in September.

Thanks to the hard work, persistence and determination of the volunteer taskforce led by the Y's Taylor Watson, this year's young parliamentarians were able to debate their Bills at the Constitutional Centre of Western Australia.

Navigating COVID restrictions and a rescheduled date, the team ensured the eagerly-awaited camp could still go ahead, giving participants a safe, supportive, empowering and fun environment in which to gain leadership skills and self-confidence, participate in the parliamentary process and express their views.

After months of online communication, a pre-camp quiz night enabled everyone to meet in-person for the first time while testing their general knowledge skills.









Commun



Belonging



66

"Absolutely astonishing, creative and informative."

"A fantastic program. Highly recommend."

"An invaluable experience that allowed me to cement and flourish my passion for community-based issues at a State level."

"I didn't feel I was unimportant due to my age."

"One of the greatest personal development experiences of my life."

| really grew | as a person"



the YWA 2021 Annual Report // 9



Fun, music, new skills

The Base@Belmont and the Y HQ in Leederville both provide support for young people through a variety of activities and programs. These include the Youth Committee, an initiative to empower young people and give them a voice in the decision-making process within their local community.

PROJECT Y FROM THE BASE@BELMONT

Project Y's Fab Fun Day Out helped break down the barriers young people experience, enabling them to engage with their local community in a fun, free and safe environment.

The Project Y Committee and the team from the Base@Belmont were excited to see more than 400

people from the local community come together for the fun and activities as part of Youth Week.

PRAISE FOR PROJECT Y

"Youth Week is a great opportunity for our Project Y Committee to plan and deliver a whole community event," says Caroline Smith, Youth Services Coordinator at the Base@Belmont.

"Project Y worked extremely hard planning and coordinating. They spent the day on the food station engaging with members of the community and were extremely polite and friendly handing out popcorn and fairy floss."

THE Y YOUTH SQUAD @ HQ

The first Y Youth Squad gig at HQ Leederville was declared a great success, with members planning every aspect of the event, from marketing to band selection and the running sheet for the show.

Humming, Scatterback and Mia June supported headline act Lakesider and an up-and-coming music photographer, Harrison Hainsworth, captured all the magic moments for everyone to look back on with pride.

The free gig was packed, which also gave Y Youth Squad members an opportunity to learn customer service, and sound and stage management skills on the night.

MEET THE MAYOR

Project Y went behind the scenes at the City of Belmont after a meet and greet with the Mayor.

The young attendees all reported they'd learned a lot about the work of the Council and enjoyed the opportunity to raise issues facing young people, such as safety, the environment and employment.









The Y HQ is WA's only all ages drugs-and-alcohol-free venue. It continues to provide all the great programs, youth arts performances and gigs it's famous for.

Results show that case-managed young people have more stable resilience and

(Jan-June 2021, YTime, the Base@Belmont and Y HQ)



On average, 42% of young people who attend the Y youth services feel they have a voice in their community all or most of the time compared with an average of 34.3% for young people in Australia.

(Oct 2020-June 2021)

SOME FEEDBACK FROM OUR SURVEY...

"I am always talking about the Y to my friends and I enjoy coming here."

"The Y really helped me to have more self-esteem and allowed me to be more confident. I believe they can help many with all sorts of different problems."

"Feels like it helps you to be more aware of personal wellbeing and growth."



We're so excited about the award. It goes to show we're making a difference for young people in Australia and engaging with topics and issues they genuinely care about.

YChats podcast host Alana Christidis

 Listen to YChats on Spotify, Apple Podcasts and Libsyn



Win for YChats

Named the Marketer's Best Not-For-Profit Campaign for 2020, our popular YChats podcast is now in its third season – and it's gone national!

Winning praise for its dedicated audience and awareness among young people, YChats was also applauded for the important, topical messages it highlights and the issues discussed.

Hosted by the Y WA's own Alana Christidis, it's a fortnightly mix of real-life stories from people across WA, along with high-profile personalities, experts and professional speakers offering practical support and advice.

A PODCAST FOR YOUNG PEOPLE BY YOUNG PEOPLE.

Episode #1 this year looked at gender equality. Featuring former University of WA Guild President and women's officer Bre Shanahan, the discussions touched on how issues such as the gender pay gap and sexual assault are impacting young women today.

Body image, data security and technology, and selfstigma in LGBTQIA+ young people have also been discussion topics.

Y teams across Australia have been busy sharing the podcast with their audiences, making our YChats a national success.

Community

Developing confidence, self-esteem and health awareness.

Staying strong

Offering something different to other programs in Newman, Stay Strong not only supports Martu young people, but it also engages with their families. This is a huge point of difference.

The Remote School Attendance Strategy (RSAS) has developed the program in collaboration with Save the

After much planning, around 120 high

kind in Newman.

school students enjoyed the first event of its

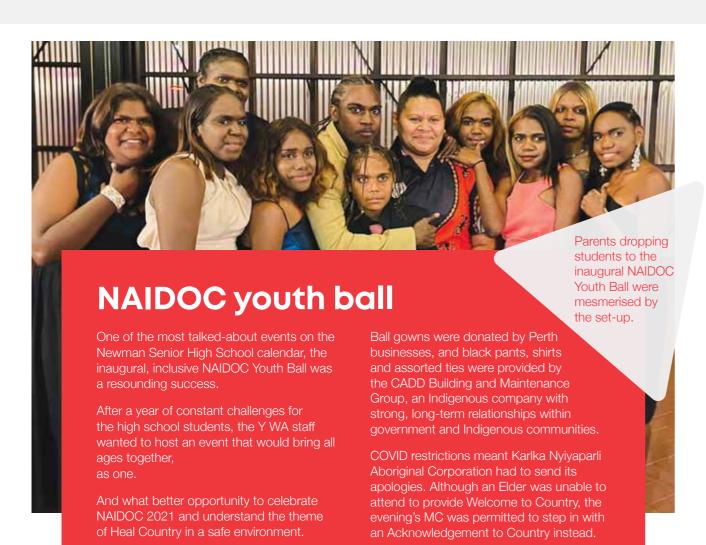
Children and the Australian non-profit organisation, Headspace.

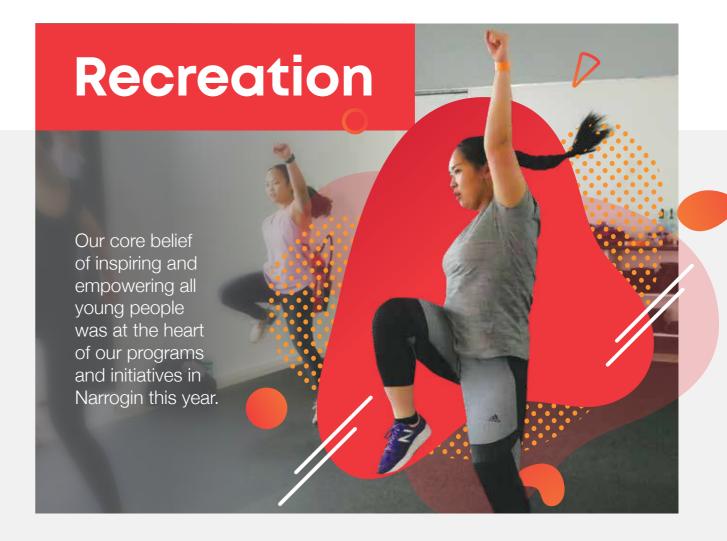
Local Elders have been heavily involved, providing valuable input as to how the Stay Strong program can best make a difference.

The evening was a huge success and the

Newman's young adults have a great time.

Y WA team says it was so great to see





Even more fun at the Rec

With lots of new activities on offer and growing partnerships with local sports and community organisations, Narrogin Regional Leisure Centre is well on its way to becoming a community hub.

Giving the centre wider appeal to engage young people who aren't necessarily interested in sports, the Y WA has acquired:

- An aquatic inflatable obstacle course
- Kindy gym equipment for the school holidays
- A screen for community outdoor movies, complete with comfy beanbags
- Equipment to run silent discos

The silent disco equipment will be made available for school events. We know silent discos are especially popular with children with autism.

The growing picture of community fun and activity at Narrogin Regional Leisure Centre includes local organisations such as Avon Community Services,

Southern Aboriginal Corporation, Narrogin Primary Health and the Stephen Michael Foundation, which use the leisure space for a variety of programs benefitting local young people.

The centre also continues to work closely with Upper Great Southern Hockey Association, Narrogin Squash Club and Narrogin Amateur Swimming Club.





New voice for youth

Young people in Narrogin said they wanted more of a say in their local community, so it was with great pleasure the Y helped set up their new youth committee this year.

Established in conjunction with Narrogin Regional Leisure Centre, the new committee is recruiting 10 young people from the area to provide input into what's happening in and around the shire.

The YAG is being accompanied by a YIG, a Youth Interagency Group made up of agencies who support young people.

A service matrix will make it easy to see which agencies provide which services.

- High School

Splish-splash for safety

Teaching children to swim is especially important when they spend lots of time around dams, lakes and rivers. The new Koolang Dolphins Dreaming swim school is being developed to help keep local Aboriginal children safer around water. Koolang is a Noongar word for child.

The Y is looking at ways to make it affordable for families to send their children to the swim school, which will also increase parents awareness of water safety.

Narrogin Regional Leisure Centre is developing the swim school project, working with local Aboriginal Elders and the Southern Aboriginal Service.

Children's Services

Power of inspired young people

We believe in the power of inspired young people, so we're delighted that our second annual Y WA Inspired Young Person Award attracted even more inspiring nominations.

The award acknowledges children from our Outside School Hours Care (OSHC) services who aspire, have reached achievements (great or small) and most importantly, inspire.

After the success of the inaugural awards we decided to make this year's awards program even bigger, with a winner selected from each service and then a grand winner from these finalists.

This year's winner was Year 3 student Sophie Haswell from our Mosman Park OSHC who has been learning Australian sign language (Auslan), so she can communicate with the hearing-impaired children who attend the OSHC service from the neighbouring deaf

Sophie can already finger-spell and understand some

The Y WA Board Member and award judge Eva Lin

All award nominees received a certificate. Sophie received a \$100 aift voucher and each of the finalists received a \$25 gift voucher.



16 // the Y WA 2021 Annual Report the Y WA 2021 Annual Report // 17



Early learning centres

SOME FACTS AND FIGURES



Significant benefit to two-year-old children who attend ELCs in all outcome areas. Based on 53 days attendance in a semester.



Jan - Jun '21

69% of twoyear-old children who attended at least 53 days in a semester demonstrated age-appropriate outcomes for all indicators.

(Compared to

attended less

than 53 days.)

46% who



year-old children who attended at least 53 days in a semester demonstrated age-appropriate outcomes for all indicators. (Compared to 46% who attended less

than 53 days.)



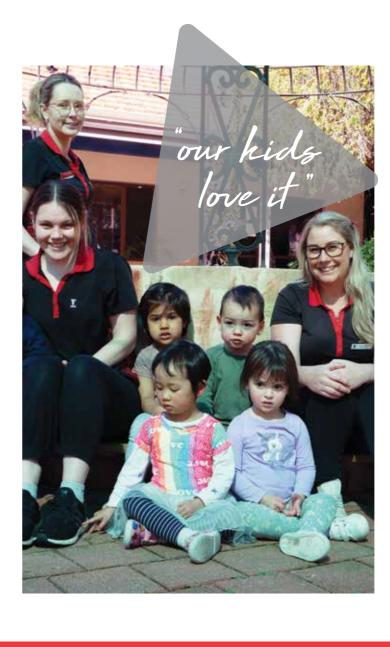
Jul '20 - Jun '21

63% of two-95% of children across all ages who attended at least 53 days inn a semester demonstrated appropriate key development indicators for feeling safe, secure and supported.



Jul '20 - Jun '21

94% of children across all ages who attended at least 53 days in a semester demonstrated appropriate key developmental indicators for taking responsibility for their own health and physical wellbeing.



Early learning centres

WHAT OUR CUSTOMERS ARE SAYING...

"Great staff who maintain a clean, friendly, educational and welcoming atmosphere where children feel safe and have fun!"

"Lovely down-to-earth organisation that easily meets the children's and parents' needs."

"We love it, our kids love it and the environment is amazing."

"Safe, friendly, excellent care, excellent food, child-centred learning focus. Great facilities. My daughter loves attending."

"Dedicated, caring and always approachable educators have gone above and beyond to ensure my son has settled into the centre."

"The carers are truly invested in the kids and are clearly caring and competent."

"I feel very comfortable leaving my little one. We are both always greeted in a welcoming manner. The activities they do with him are endless. I feel they go above and beyond for him and us as a family."

Transforming the ELC experience

Our Early Learning Centres (ELCs) are leading the way in our journey to become more customer-centric.

We're asking ourselves:

- How can we always have the needs of children and their families at the heart of what we do?
- Based on feedback and the needs of our customers, how can we tweak and redesign our processes to make our **good** service delivery **GREAT?**

Our Approach to Learning is based on the core belief that our work is founded on high-quality, evidenceinformed practice and this informs our quality improvement plans.

The Y WA wants to continuously improve the experience for customers.

- We want to apply customer-centric strategies and improve the way we use customer data and feedback to inform the improvement planning for our ELCs.
- We want to provide a gold-star customer experience to all families at all centres.
- We want to ensure our staff feel empowered and supported, with the right tools and information to deliver.

Once in place in the ELCs, our more customer-centric approach will be rolled out to other Y WA services.

18 // the Y WA 2021 Annual Report the Y WA 2021 Annual Report // 19



Retreat moves online

A pandemic and interstate border restrictions weren't going to stop our annual National Youth Retreat. We simply moved this year's event online.

Not only did this ensure everyone had the opportunity to attend but opening it up to more young people across the country meant we also had our highest number of participants ever. Sessions were run over two weeks, with more than 130 people across the Y coming together. This year was also the first time we opened up the retreat to champions of young people, regardless of age.

CEO Ross Kyrwood, Board Director Kendal Moss and National CEO Melinda Crole were among the Y executives taking part.

YACWA awards

There was an impressive list of shortlisted nominations for Y WA staff at the Youth Affairs Council of WA (YACWA) 2021 Youth Awards in April.

Laura Dunlop (Youth Services Manager): Outstanding contribution to her local community.

Taylor Watson (2020 WA Youth Parliament Program Coordinator): Individual with outstanding leadership qualities who has taken action to empower and educate others.

YChats podcast: Outstanding contribution to the community and inspiring others to participate actively in community life.

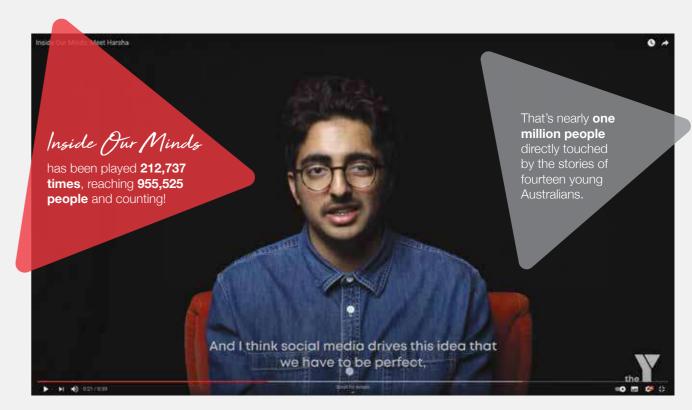
Staff from the Y were finalists across many award categories, including the Minister for Youth's Most Outstanding Youth Worker Award and the ECU Community Leadership Award.

Not your everyday heroes

Heroes stepped up across the Y again this year, with our WA Children's Services Team going that extra mile to win the special National 2020 Hero Award.

The team were celebrated for being heroic, creative and nurturing – all traits proudly associated with the Y brand.





National award for films

The Y Australia's 2020 Power of Inspired Young People Award went to former Y WA Change Agent Martin Johnson for his outstanding work on his series of short films titled **Inside Our Minds.**

The national award is recognition for the passion project Martin started in 2019 to raise awareness of Mental Health Week.

Driven by personal experience and a passionate interest in mental health, Martin sat down with seven young Australians to discuss their mental health experiences, personal challenges and reducing the stigma surrounding mental health.

Inside Our Minds is the series of short films that resulted. Shown at Yagan Square, at many universities and TAFES and on Y social media platforms across Australia, the films let other young people know they aren't alone; that there is help available to them.

Leadership. Advocacy.

Courage. Inspiration.



Inspired by young minds

Taking part in the inaugural TEDxYouth@Perth was a fantastic opportunity for the Y WA to learn more about the issues that concern young people.

We surveyed participants and found their concerns commonly revolve around:

- Climate change
- Equality and discrimination
- Mental health

The insights we gained have helped inform the topics for our award-winning YChats podcast, with episodes on:

- Gender equality
- Self-stigma in LGBTQIA+ young people
- Body image
- Stamping out sexual violence

TEDxYouth@Perth perfectly aligns with our goal to amplify the voice of young people; to empower, platform and work to inspire and educate young people.

We're looking forward to joining forces again with TEDxYouth@Perth in the future.

WHAT IS TEDXYOUTH@PERTH?

Young thinkers, innovators, entrepreneurs, campaigners and changemakers came together at the State Theatre of WA in March 2021 to celebrate ideas worth spreading and strive for a better future.

Featuring nine remarkable speakers, performers, short films and interactive installations, the event was an opportunity for young people to meet more than 300 like-minded peers.

This year's theme was: The young people of Perth responding to unprecedented challenges with passion and originality.

Speakers included Melissa Cristina Marquez, a marine biologist studying human-wildlife conflict, and Cougar Morrison, an identity superhero passionate about making drag accessible to everyone and championing all the unique things that make us different.

60

IN THE WORDS OF Y WA REPRESENTATIVE HOLLI HATHERLEY

"It was such awesome opportunity to be part of TEDxYouth@Perth 2021 and having a part in directly supporting, inspiring and empowering young people!

There wasn't a phone in sight – something you don't often see among a group of young people.

There was a genuine eagerness to learn and engage in discussions about everything from climate change to technology, space, and robots

As a representative from the Y, I had so many other young people asking me what we were about, the services we offer and how they could get involved.

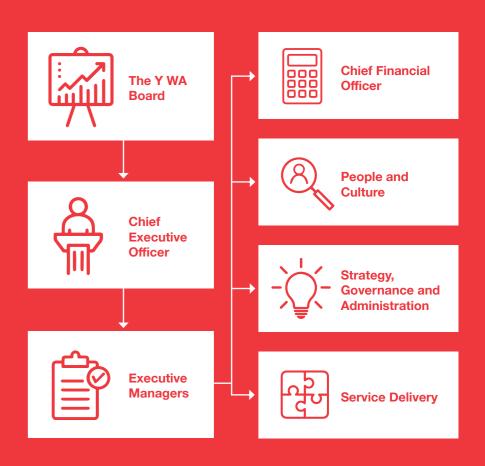
I've never met a more proactive, keen bunch of young people and I won't be surprised when they're our future leaders.

How we're structured

The primary role of the Y WA Board is to provide the good governance we need to deliver on our mission and vision.

The Board provides good governance by:

- Determining purpose and strategy formulation
- Creating policy
- Monitoring organisational performance
- Ensuring accountability, including legal compliance and audit review



Our governance model

- Maintaining a skilled and diverse Board committed to professional development.
- Providing access and support to strong governance resources that enhance the both the Board and management's ability to provide effective leadership.
- Robust legal, regulatory and compliance standards to promote good governance and the achievement of the organisational mission.
- Developing a fully engaged membership.

YMCA Community Services WA has public benevolent status, allowing it to also hold Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) endorsement.

The Y WA Board

Membership as at 30 June 2021

President Justin Eve

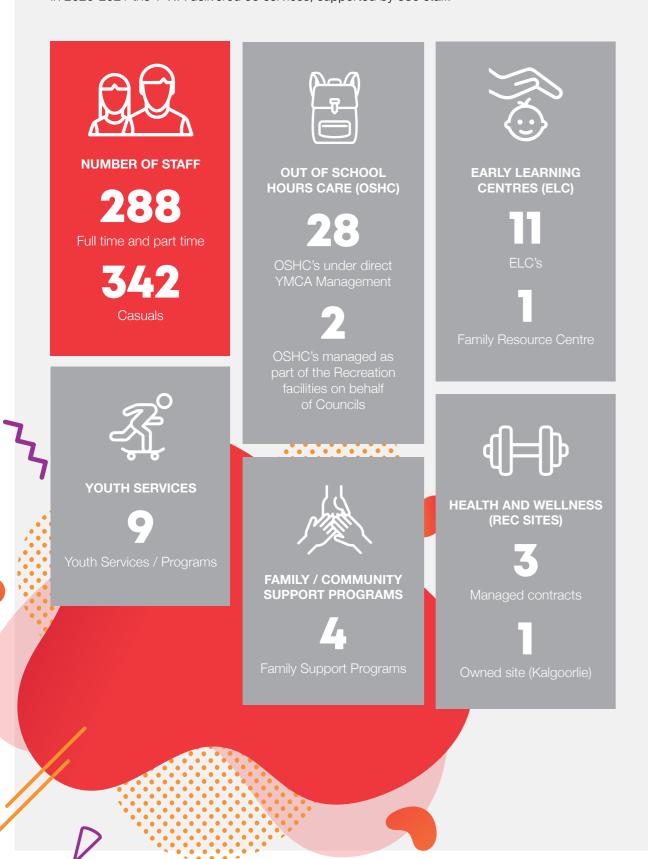
Vice President Chris Campbell

Treasurer Kendal Moss

Directors
Sheila McHale
Bruce Porter
Ben Rosser
Eva Lin
Jon Bilson
David Taylor
Tegan Chick

Services and staff numbers

In 2020-2021 the Y WA delivered 59 services, supported by 630 staff.



Our partners and sponsors

The Y gratefully acknowledges our partners and major supporters for 2020-2021. The passion and spirit of collaboration of our partner organisations allows us to have a positive impact on the communities in which we jointly operate and for this our gratitude can never be overstated.



















































Federal and State Government funding partners

Department of Local Government, Department of Social Services

Community partners

RLSSWA

World Vision

24 // the YWA 2021 Annual Report the Y WA 2021 Annual Report // 25

the Y WA

201 Star Street Welshpool | Western Australia 6106 PO Box 2155 Carlisle | Western Australia 6101 Telephone (08) 9473 8400 | Facsimile (08) 9472 7522 Email enquiries@ymcawa.org.au

www.ymcawa.org.au











