

# Practice Hour

## Invest in Me



Home  
Stretch  
WA

Date:

Thursday 13th July 2023

Name of Facilitators:

Hayley McKenzie & Ben Dancey

# Acknowledgement of Country

Home  
Stretch  
WA



*Ngaala kaaditj Noongar moort  
Keyen kaadak nidja boodja*

We respectfully acknowledge the Whadjuk people of the Noongar Nation as the Traditional Custodians of the land we are presenting from today, and all the countries where people are located. We pay our respects to their strength, cultural resilience and the Elders past and present.

# Housekeeping & Rules of Engagement

## Rules of engagement:

- Safe, secure, confidential space
- De-identify your examples (*including case managers & District offices*)
- Not supervision (*but can be arranged!*)

## Teams Etiquette:

- Cameras on
- Mic on mute
- Raise your hand (*virtually or give us a wave!*)
- One person per camera is best



**Is everyone ok with it being recorded?**

# Who is here today?



**In 1 minute or less**

- What is your name?
- Which agency do you work with?
- What is your role?
- What was your first significant purchase?

## By the end of this session...

- Know the process for young people accessing Invest in Me funding
- Understand the reasons for and principle of Chipping-In
- Have witnessed the awesome spectacle that is the Decision Matrix slide (and know about the Decision Matrix)

### **Next Practice Hour:**

Ethical Dilemmas (Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> July 9:30 – 10:30am)

## What is Invest in Me funding?

*"A visible and secure financial safety net that ensures access to resources to support them towards their aspirations and goals, as well as relief in times of crisis."*

*"This funding provides support with timely access to goods and services, whilst encouraging them to become self-reliant."*

# Home Stretch WA Model



Young people are at centre of support.  
Everyone is treated as an individual



Support or connection is offered in  
all areas of life



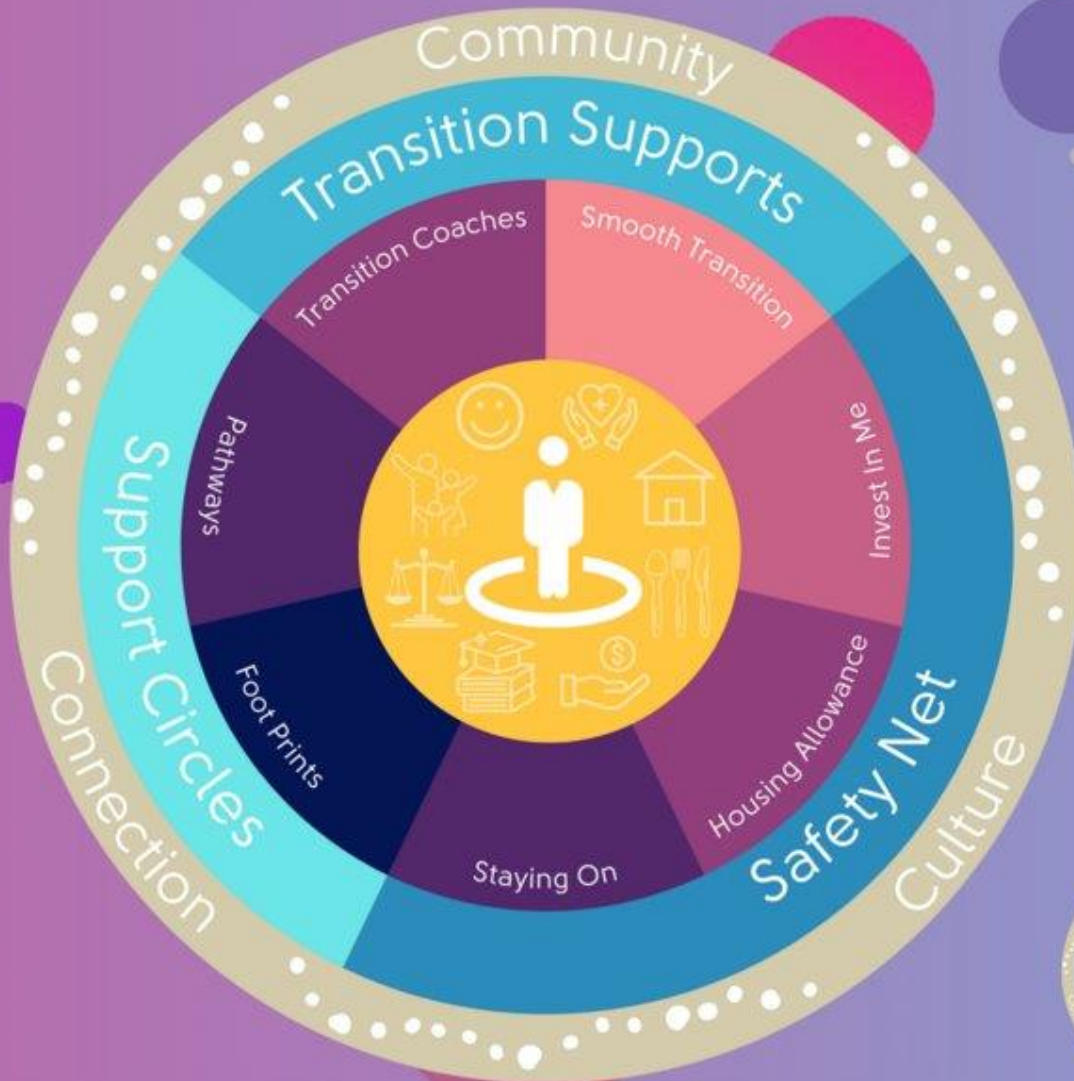
Support is delivered in specific  
ways [Practice Approaches] that  
work for young people



Home Stretch WA focuses on 3  
key elements of support



Home Stretch WA greater purpose is to  
connect young people with their  
community and culture.





# Practice Principles

## **A RELIABLE SOURCE OF SUPPORT IS YOUR RIGHT**

It's your choice to join and you can choose to come and go.

## **"Chipping In" is about young people taking charge**

This means that young people are asked to invest in themselves - building their skills, knowledge and capacity



## **Your coach will be consistent & persistent but not intrusive**

"Like a text message, not a knock on the door"



## **You are the expert in your life, you deserve the freedom and respect to make your own choices**

Our support is unconditional



## **Important moments & transition points in your life are acknowledged & celebrated**





# Chipping-in

- Empowering
- Learning
- Capacity building
- Problem solving
- Planning
- Connection
- Delayed gratification



# Leaving Care Funding and Invest-in-Me

Essentially the same pot of money but accessed in different ways

## Leaving Care Funding

- Available from 18 – 25 years old  
(21 – 25 if with Home Stretch\*)
- Discretionary
- Can be sought through any District Office
- Might be listed in care plan - might not

## Invest in Me funding

- Available from 18 – 21 years old
- Managed by Home Stretch provider
- Less barriers to access
- Application and Decision Matrix process
- Coaches have an up-to-date contextual perspective
- Emphasis on Chipping-in



\*big ticket items planned with Department can be accessed as LCF

# Applying for Invest in Me

- Payments under \$100 can be made at the Coach's discretion.
- Requests over \$100 involve an application process requiring coordinator approval.
- Share requests amongst the team.
- Applications can be done with a Coach or young people might email or complete an online form.
- The application process may be negated in times of crisis.
- Applications can be pre-approved.



# Under \$100 Examples

Cleaning  
Supplies for rent  
inspection

Birthday and  
Christmas gifts

Prescription  
Glasses

Stationary  
supplies for a  
course

Smartriders

Phone Credit

Birth Certificate

Fuel Voucher

Grocery  
Voucher

Engagement  
costs

Work boots

Urgent  
Ambulance  
Cover

Essential  
clothing items

Uber/Taxi Rides

Housewarming  
gifts



# Applying for Invest in Me

Things to consider in the application:

- Alternate funding sources and barriers to accessing them.
- How it would help attain goals.
- The impact of not getting funding.
- Strategies to prepare for or avoid future costs.
- The young person chipping-in.

**"Invest in Me" Funding Application**

**Home Stretch WA**

Note: The form is for amounts over \$100 which requires Coordinator approval

Name  DOB

Phone

Email

Transition Coach

**What are you requesting the funding for?**

☐ Housing/accommodation  
☐ Health - physical, emotional (including self-esteem), mental, sexual and dental  
☐ Education and training, employment or other suitable activity  
☐ Financial security  
☐ Social relationships and support networks  
☐ Life (and after care) skills  
☐ Identity and culture  
☐ Legal matters

Details:  Amount: \$

Date payment is required:

Is it urgent? If yes, why?  
Yes ☐ No ☐

**Have you tried to source this money elsewhere? What else have you tried?**

Alternate funding options/resources investigated	Outcomes/barriers
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Date

# Alternative Funding Sources

- Young person's income
- Savings
- Job Network providers
- Medicare
- Centrelink
- NILS (No Interest Loan Scheme)
- Emergency Relief providers
- TILA – Towards Independent Living Allowance
- Natural networks – Can they borrow the money from a friend/family?
- Formal supports – What can other services offer?



# Chipping-in

- Empowering
- Learning
- Capacity building
- Problem solving
- Planning
- Connection
- Delayed gratification





# THE DECISION MATRIX



# The Decision Matrix

Designed as a tool to make ILM decision outcomes consistent, equitable and transparent.



Decisions are made based on young people's individual circumstances.

Will become an internalised process for coaches.

Explores the **what**, **why** and **how** of funding requests from young people.

# The Decision Matrix

Funding Criteria Why would we fund the item/request?

Are one or more of these true?

Impact	Funding Source
Has a +ve impact on one of their life domains.	There is no alternative funding source.
Leads to a successful outcome of one of their goals.	It is an emergency. [there is <b>immediate</b> risk to the young person's safety or health.]
Reduces risk.	The young person does not have capacity to pay some or all cost.
Decreases disadvantage.	There is no other alternative option. eg. Car vs public transport
Increases health and wellbeing.	There is no other alternative service or support. [ Legal Aid, Medicare, Uni support etc.]
Increases the YP capacity. (skills and Knowledge)	An unplanned event in the person's life requires a timely response.
Encourages and increases interdependence	Is it a large cost that has been committed to previously in Leaving Care Plan
Design Principles	

**The Right to Support** - not 'deserving and 'non deserving.'  
**Builds Capacity** - develops knowledge, skills & confidence to access mainstream resources beyond those available through the Department of Child Protection.

**Responsive** - timely & responsive to short term hiccups that can have long term circumstances.  
**Does not duplicate existing resources** - funds that can be met elsewhere should be met elsewhere (mainstream resources, public services, rapid response).

## Process How can this help develop interdependence?

Plan is likely to be approved if young person demonstrates high skills and capacity [pink] in the plan. When the young person requires some support [grey] this should be included in the plan. Plan needs to include support and skills development for criteria identified in the purple section. First request could be a learning opportunity and plan may be exempt in case of emergencies.

Indicates young person's skills and capacity.

**High** – Requires little to no support from the coach.

**Medium** – Requires some support & planning with coach.

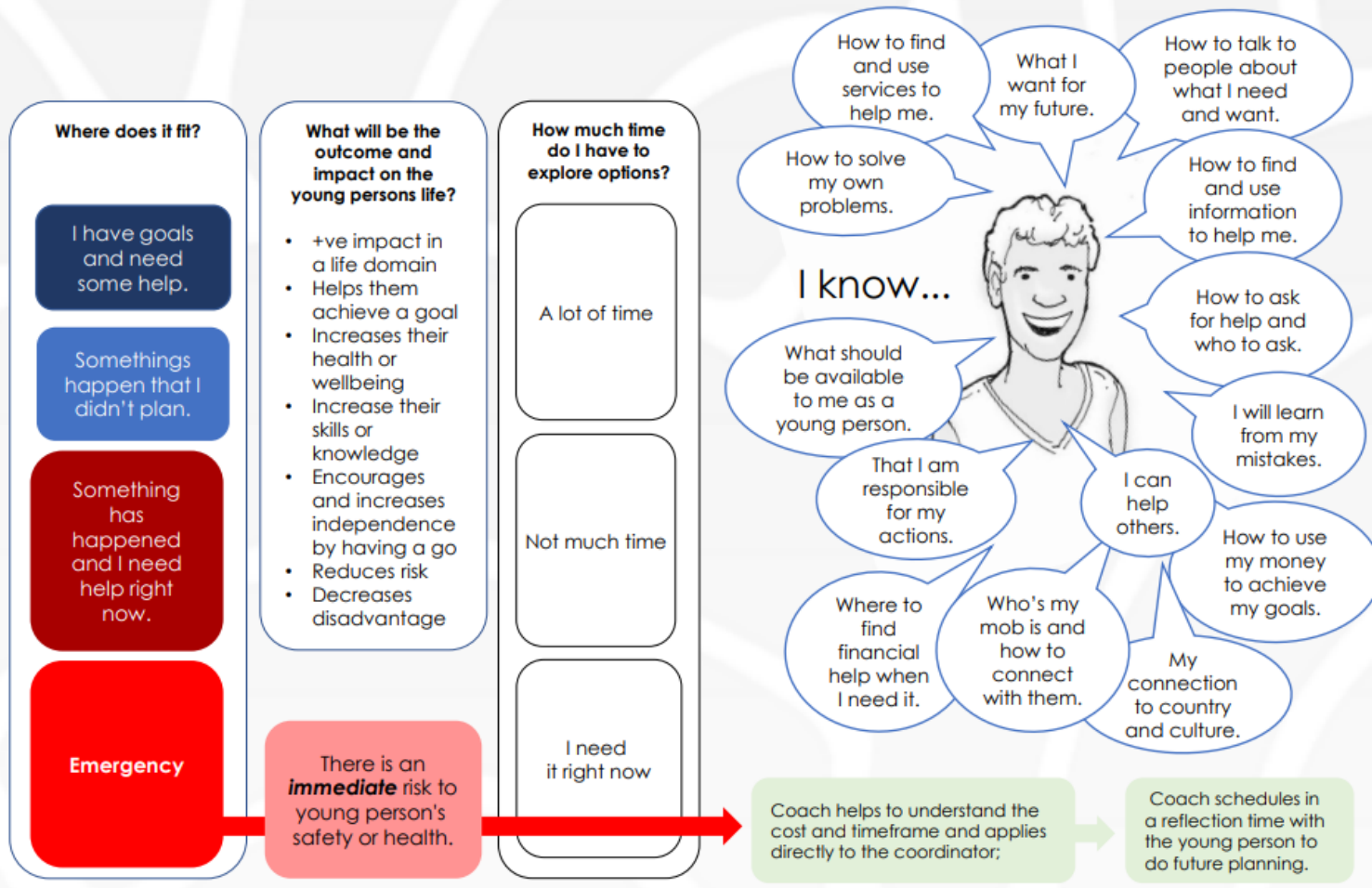
**Low** – Will require support and planning with the coach.

Decision making	Self advocate	Chipping in	Future Planning	Problem solving	Self-reflection	Comms Skills
The young person is fully independent in their decision making.	The young person can advocate for their needs.	The young person can and will chip in financially .	The young person has the capacity to maintain the thing or activity.	The young person has demonstrated problem solving to find a solution.	The young person understands their role, responsibility, rights in the situation and demonstrates self-reflection and learning.	The young person has appropriate communication skills (verbal, written, numeracy).
The young person requires some assistance in their decision making.	The young person requires some support to advocate for their needs.	The young person can and is willing to contribute in ways other than financial.	The young person will need support to plan how to maintain the thing or activity.	The young person needs some support to research, compare and decide upon a solution.	The young person requires some support to understand their role, responsibility and rights in the situation. The young person is guided through being self-reflective.	The young person has limited capacity and requires support in one or more communication area/skills.
The young person's decision-making capacity in this 'area' is limited.	The young person requires assistance to advocate for their needs.	The young person cannot or does not want to chip in.	The young person has limited ability at this time to maintain the thing or activity.	The young person needs support to research, compare and decide upon a solution.	The young person demonstrates low understanding of their role, responsibility, rights in the situation, is externalising responsibility and is not self-reflective.	The young person requires support in all communication areas/skills.

# The Decision Matrix

## Invest in Me

Helping you to achieve your goals, take a chance, explore new things, build confidence and skills, provide help when it is needed.





# Practice Examples

Request	Chipping In	Impact
\$500.00 to purchase a bike to get to work after losing their licence.	<p>\$150.00 Arranged to pay in installments</p> <p>YP arranged repayment plan for fines to get license back.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Young person was able to start new job.</li> <li>• Avoid being tempted to drive while suspended.</li> <li>• More sustainable than Ubers</li> </ul>
\$190.00 – Half the cost of a dental check up and clean.	<p>\$190.00 – Half the cost of the appointment.</p> <p>YP phoned around and obtained quotes.</p> <p>YP booked and attended the appointment herself.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• YP was able to access medical treatment.</li> </ul>
\$184.00 – Purchase a mattress and linen for child's bed and foam tiles for flooring.	<p>YP purchased bed frame from Facebook marketplace – did not realize that Ikea bed did not fit standard mattress.</p> <p>Used savings to cover other costs of moving into new property.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supported YP and child to settle into new property.</li> <li>• Increases safety and wellbeing of child.</li> </ul>
\$590.00 – 10 hours of Driving Lessons.	<p>YP to arrange and attend lessons herself.</p> <p>YP to sign up for RYDE Program – fund Assessment and sessions herself</p> <p>Access funding to complete Practical Test from Parents Next</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lessons are available when YP is ready to start – natural network unreliable.</li> <li>• Increase independence and access.</li> </ul>

## Invest in Me Recap

- Funding is managed through Home Stretch provider
- Explore alternate funding sources
- Use the IIM application and Decision Matrix
- Focus on capacity building
- Young people should Chip-In
- Talk to your team about IIM



# Questions & Comments?





## More Information & Resources



Links to Resources & Documents on the website

- Invest In Me Flowchart
- Invest In Me Practice Guidelines
- Invest In Me Young Person Factsheet
- Invest In Me Application over 100
- Invest In Me Decision Matrix



[www.homestretchwa.org.au](http://www.homestretchwa.org.au)

# Contact Us

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