

Young People and Aboriginal Community Have Been at the Centre of the Design, Development and Implementation of Home Stretch



To date this has focused on Noongar Community and Broader Research/Evidence about the experiences of Aboriginal Communities and what works for Aboriginal Young People.

We must continue that journey across WA

Home Stretch 101

The logo for Home Stretch WA is a circular emblem with a blue-to-purple gradient. The words "Home Stretch" are written in a bold, white, sans-serif font, with "Home" on the top line and "Stretch" on the bottom line. Below "Stretch", the letters "WA" are written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font. A series of white dots forms a curved path along the bottom edge of the circle.

**Home
Stretch**
WA

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57% of children and young people in Out of Home Care in WA are Aboriginal

In the Kimberley and the Pilbara, 100% of the Children and Young People in care are Aboriginal


Empowering Aboriginal Community



Home Stretch WA should be delivered through a strong cultural framework, and in a way that is appropriate for Aboriginal Transition Coaches and community organisations.

As a partner in the Community of Practice, Yorganop is developing a Cultural Practice Framework for Noongar Country.

We will share this work with Aboriginal Organisations to understand and learn together about what works in each region, ensuring local country, culture and community are at the heart of the delivery of Home Stretch WA services.



Home Stretch WA Ice Breaker

<https://sway.office.com/WAn0IE1cgvGbDED5?ref=Link>

Who are you?

Who do you represent?

Job role?

Why Home Stretch?



Housekeeping & Rules of Engagement

**Home
Stretch**

WA



Home Stretch WA Providers



MISSION
AUSTRALIA



Government of Western Australia
Department of Communities



Preparation

[From 15]

Transition

[From 17]

After Care

[From 18]

Leaving Care to
Independence
in WA

3 Phases of
Practice

Happy 18th Birthday?

Case management support

Foster Carer Subsidies

Placement Funding

Legal Guarantee of Care and Protection

What's on the mind of young people who are leaving care?



What young people said about leaving care before Home Stretch was introduced in WA.

No - one ever said it to me directly, but there was also the idea that I had to leave before I turned 18 to make room for the young children.

"I thought the only point of the plan was to provide and assist me with furniture. Was not aware they were able to help with other things"
Young person interviewed in Pilbara

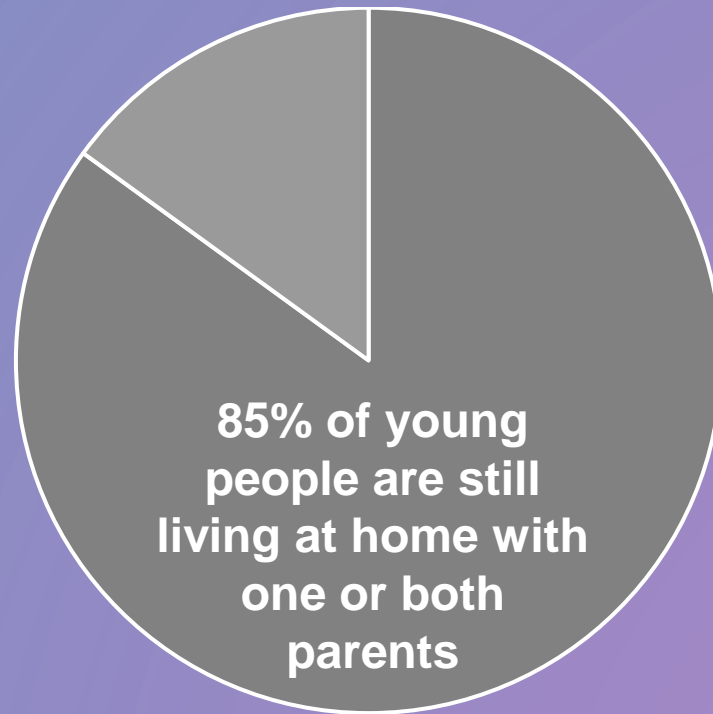
They gave me a huge file and that was it...

I was doing fine until I turned 19 and my share house fell apart. All the other students just went back home. I couldn't do that. Then things really went downhill.

I didn't leave care, care left me!

I had to leave care the same week as my ATAR

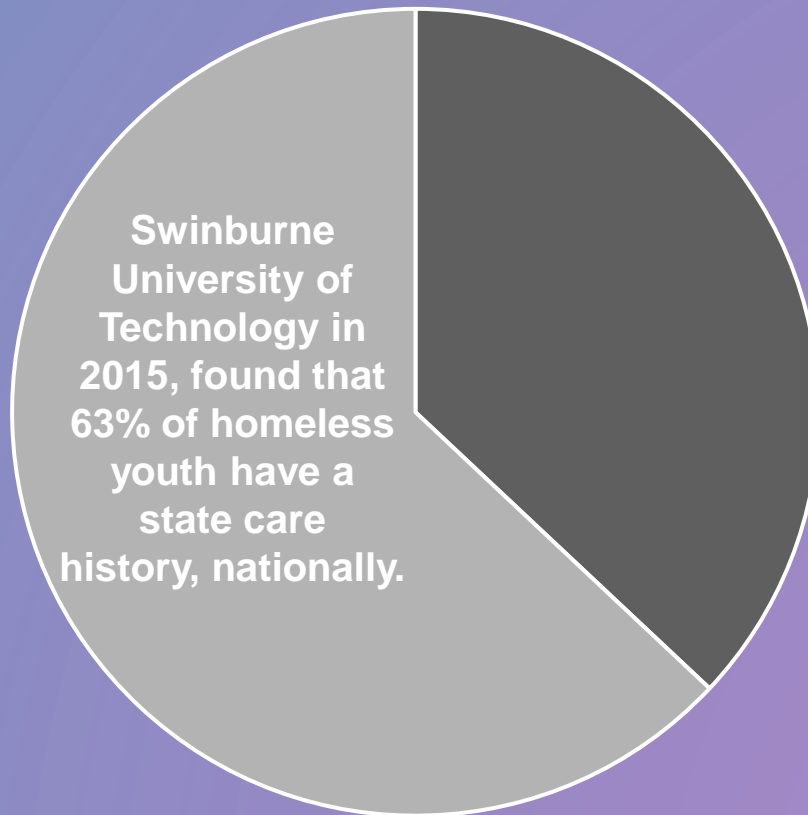
85% of 18 – 21 year olds in Australia are still at home (HILDA)



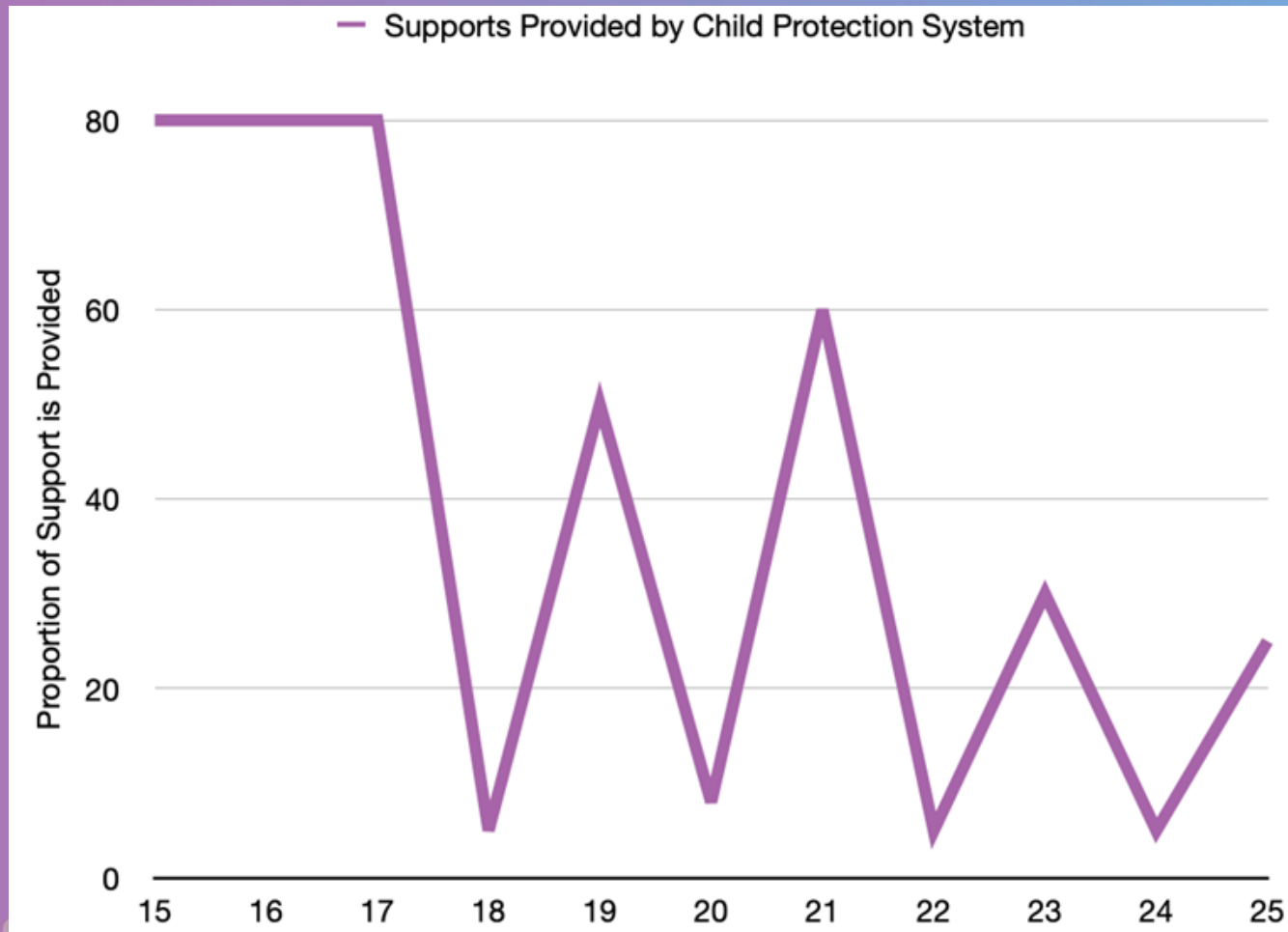
What happens to young people leaving care in the first 12 months?



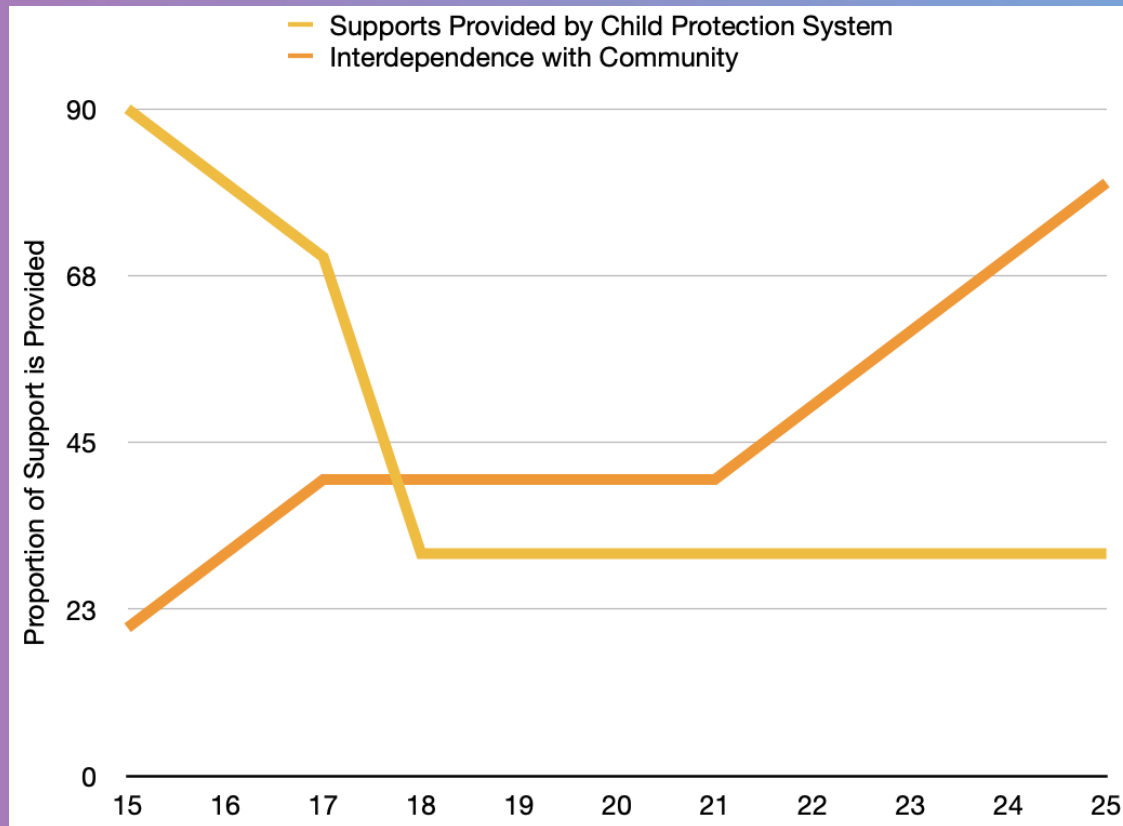
Two thirds of young people experiencing homelessness come from Out of Home Care



Experiences of Leaving Care in the Old System



Leaving Care System Without Home Stretch WA



What's on the mind of young people who are leaving care in the Kimberley?



Lego and Systems Thinking



Co-Creating with Young People



Testing and Developing Home Stretch in WA

A combination of "Lived" and "Learned" experience!

Over 137 Young People have been consulted or involved in design.

37 Young People and their support circles were part of the Home Stretch Trial, contributing ideas and testing to refine the model

A Youth Advisory Group help lead the design and review of the model

Front Line Practice Experts from with the Department and Community Service Sector

Literate Review of Research and Best Practice from across the world

In 2021 Over 120 Stakeholders from the sector and broader community reviewed and provided feedback into the model

Nitja Nop Yorga Ngulla Mia – System Design

We sought permission. We co-created our approach. We listened deeply and respectfully. We made sense of it together.

We were Aboriginal Young People, Families, Community, Elders and Practice Experts

We co-created a set of principles to guide Home Stretch in WA.

These principles have guided the development of the Home Stretch WA Model.

These principles have guided the plan for the future.



What is Home Stretch WA?

The logo for Home Stretch WA is a circular emblem. It features the words "Home Stretch" in a bold, white, sans-serif font, with "WA" in a smaller font below it. A series of white dots forms a curved path around the bottom and sides of the text.

**Home
Stretch**
WA

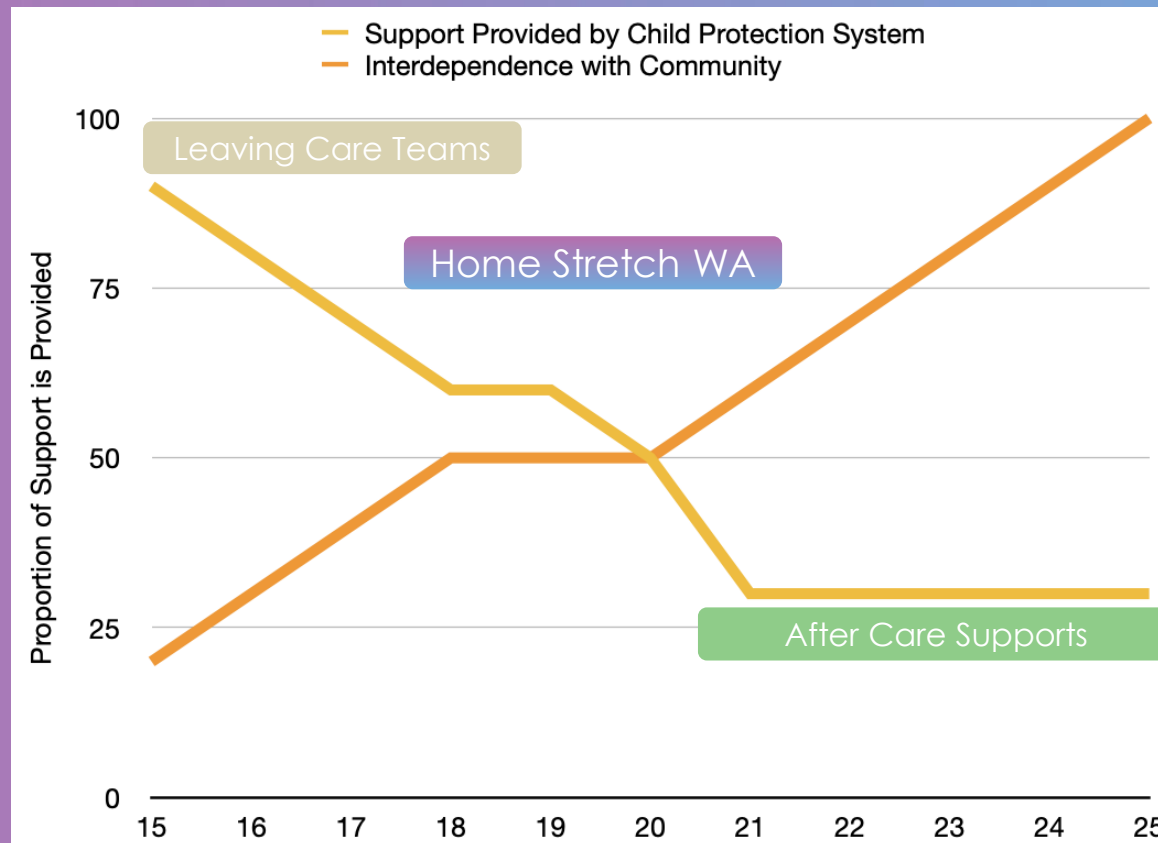
Home Stretch offers young people the choice to access higher levels of support until they reach the age of 21 in an opt in opt out program

It extends the supports from the care system, without meaning young people must stay 'in care', promoting interdependence.

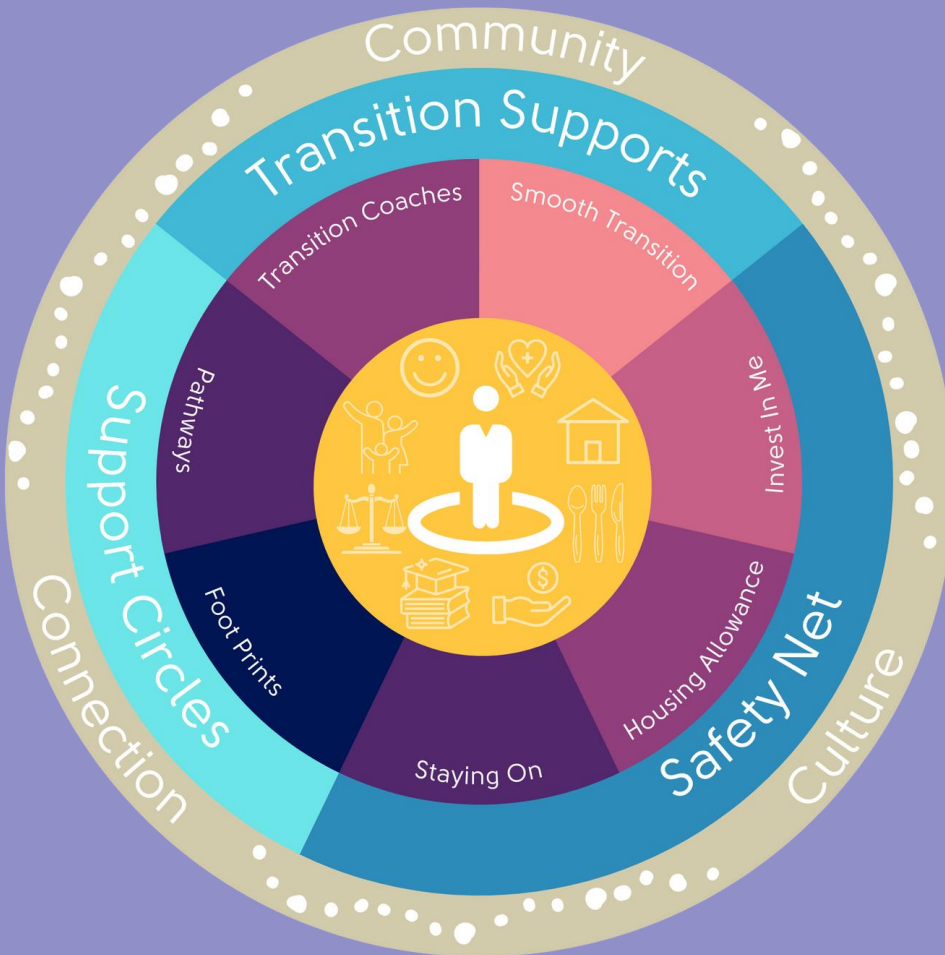
Explore how the old leaving care system and the Homestretch WA model differ.

A decorative graphic consisting of a series of small, light-colored dots arranged in a wavy, undulating line that spans the bottom of the slide.

A Smooth Transition Under Home Stretch



Home Stretch WA Model



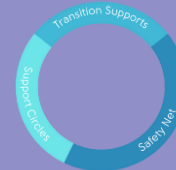
Young people are at center of support.
Everyone is treated as an individual



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.

Home Stretch WA – Practice Frameworks



Young people's rights to access support is delivered in specific ways [Practice Approaches] that were co-designed with young people

Each of these practice approaches has guidelines, and a range of tools and resources to help workers deliver the Home Stretch service.

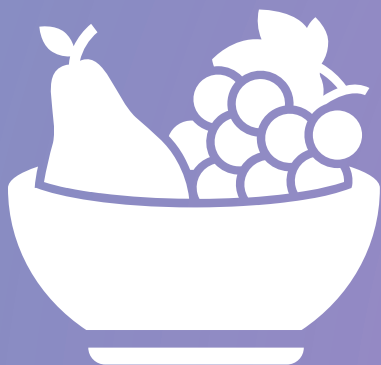
In regions these approaches will need to be adapted.



Home Stretch WA gives young people the right to continuity in support and 'care' to the age of 21.

Yarn Time

Home
Stretch
WA



Home Stretch Practice Principles

The Home Stretch WA Practice Principles were developed by young people and every Home Stretch WA provider will work from these principles.

Young People
are at the Centre



Home Stretch WA - Transition Support

Transition Support is a key element of the Home Stretch program. Flexible, one-to-one support focused on encouraging towards interdependence

This support is offered through two practice approaches

Smooth Transition

Transition Coaches

A Smooth Transition

Working together with a young person and their support circle from age of 17.5 years to ensure a smooth transition into the Home Stretch WA program and a seamless continuation of support

It's also about young people having complete informed consent, giving them a clear understanding of what Homestretch WA can and can't provide.



The Culture of Home Stretch – Working Together

Smooth Transition Protocols for Transition Coach & Case Worker **Working Together Protocols**



Who is the guide for?

The guide is to support both a Transition Coach and a Child Protection Worker to understand how best to approach working together. It can also be used to help explain to a young person and their support circles how things work during the working together period from 17 ½ and 18 years of age.

Working together occurs once a young person has made an informed choice to be part of Home Stretch WA and completed the Consent to Participate form with the Transition Coach they are going to be working with.

The guide is a work in progress and is updated by the Home Stretch WA CoP District Office Working Group. If you have ideas or suggestions please contact Andrew.Kazim@anglicarewa.org.au or Colleen.Host@communities.wa.gov.au or speak to the Home Stretch WA Champion in your district office.

Transition Coaches

A consistent, persistent and skilled youth worker who works with young people to provide flexible, one to one support focused on coaching towards independence.



The Transition Coach works from a set of practice principles ensuring support provided is consistent and focused on building a young person's self reliance, skills, capacity and connection to community, culture and country.



Making it Make Sense for Your Communities

**Home
Stretch**
WA

Tell us about the young people and families in your part of the Kimberley.

How would you ensure they can make a choice about Home Stretch?

How will you build trust in your service with the young people and their support circles?

Home Stretch WA - Safety Net

The right to a visible, accessible and secure financial safety net that ensures access to housing, foster care, health, education and life skills.

This is provided through three different Home Stretch WA service offers...

Housing Allowance

Invest In Me

Staying On Agreement

Housing Allowance

Young people can be supported to access a Housing Allowance.

The Housing Allowance can be used to fund a broad range of living options.

Transition Coaches work with young people to make a plan for housing and then apply to access financial support to make it affordable.



Housing Allowance

The Housing Allowance and/or Staying On Subsidy offer young people financial support.

What else will young people need in order to maintain safe and stable housing?

Will a financial subsidy alone ensure young people have safe and stable housing?

How do you think you can approach a Young Person if you believe a housing arrangement is unsafe?

Staying On Agreement

Young people can be supported to continue 'staying on' with a carer to ensure they have a stable living arrangement until age of 21 years.

This includes a continuation of payments and support to foster and family carers with an expectation that a young person will contribute to their living expenses from their independent income.

The focus of Staying On agreements is to support the young person's emerging independence. A Home Stretch Staying On Facilitator works with each family to setup an agreement about how things work after 18. These payments are administered by Communities.



Making it Make Sense for Your Communities

**Home
Stretch**
WA

Tell us about foster care in the Kimberley, and the challenges of housing?

What might be the best way to use a Housing Allowance for young people?

Are there other things we might use the funding for?

Invest In Me

\$2,500 average funding per young person per year

The 'right' to a visible and secure financial safety net.

Support towards their aspirations and goals, or deal with crisis.

Invest in Me funding is provided through the coaching relationship and administered by Home Stretch WA service providers.

It provides young people with fast access to financial assistance without having to return to a District Office.



What Can Invest In Me Pay For?



Invest In Me is about

Building Self-Reliance, Financial Literacy and Skills in Problem Solving

Growing Confidence and Interdependence on community, and mainstream services

Empowering young people with knowledge of their rights and an ability to independently access resources from 21.

Making it Make Sense for Your Communities

**Home
Stretch**
WA

Tell us about the things young people might need financial support for?

What are the critical resources and supports young people can access in your community?

Support Circles Approach

Support Circles are at the center of all of the support provided by Home Stretch WA. Transition Coaches are focused on supporting young people to grow and maintain lasting connections to the people, places and things that are important to them. This support also include the offer of assistance to map out the past and to help reconnect with family and historic relationships.

The importance of support circles can be seen in every service offer of the Home Stretch WA program. Though it is the specific focus of two areas of support...

Footprints

Pathways

Footprints

Walking alongside young people to help them understand and explore the people, places and connections that are important to them.

Mapping out the footprints and parts of their life story, we hope to find opportunities for them to build new connections or revisit old ones.

Who was the last person you engaged with that made you feel safe and heard?

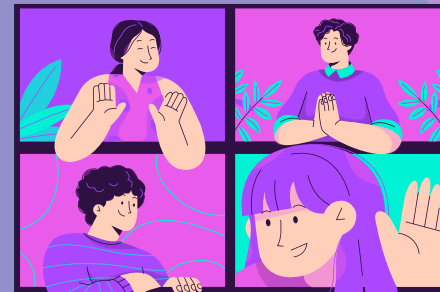
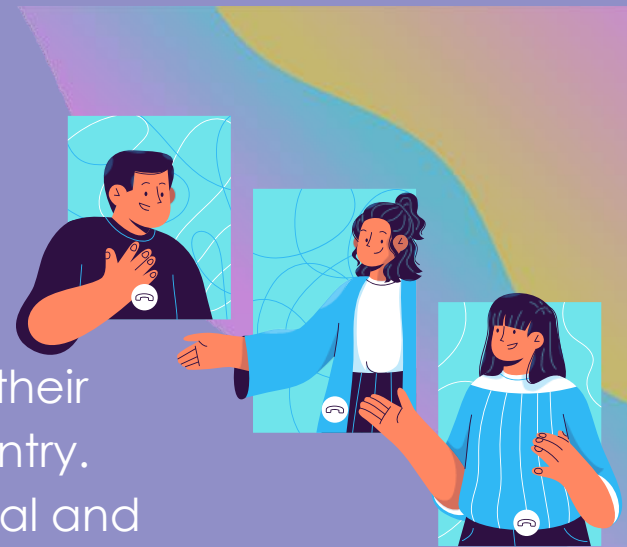


Pathways

Walking alongside young people as they navigate their connections to family, community, culture and country. Providing the resources and supports they need to heal and connect when they are ready

Coaching young people in the skills and knowledge they need to build their support circles, encouraging them to explore pathways to reconnect and providing a safety net for them if things don't work out how they had first intended.

Who or what contributes to your safety net?



Making it Make Sense for Your Communities

**Home
Stretch**
WA

Tell us about the young people and families in your part of the Kimberley.

What are their stories and experiences? What happens from 17 – 21 for these young people?

What do you believe will be the most useful part of the Home Stretch WA service offer?

The Culture of Home Stretch – Working Together

Young people are working together with the Department of Communities, community service organisations and Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations to deliver Home Stretch across WA.

Young people are equal partners. The Department is not the enemy, we share responsibilities.

Why is important that we continue to work this way together?

What might get in the way?



Access to Resources



www.homestretchwa.org.au

How to Contact Us



homestretch@anglicarewa.org.au



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0486 041 786

Home Stretch WA Community of Practice

The 5 Pillars – CoP Functions and Activities

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

- Provide training and workshops
- Develop practice resources
- Create a digital knowledge hub and policy library
- Facilitate group reflective practice

ABORIGINAL CULTURE AND COMMUNITY

- Support ACCO service provision
- Community engagement
- Cultural practice
- Develop an Aboriginal Cultural Framework based on the principles of Nitja Nop Yorga Ngulla Mia

YOUTH PARTICIPATION

- Co-design
- Consultation
- Co-facilitation
- Youth led recruitment
- Youth developed communications and media

CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

- Ongoing model development and refinement
- Model Integrity Framework
- Regional & cohort contextualisation
- Further co-design to address emerging issues

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

- Provide training and support on data collection
- Develop and maintain a data dashboard
- Co-design of a Monitoring and Evaluation Framework

A Smooth Transition – Example Resources

Referral Stage II Form



Awareness and Informed Choice

The Transition Coach collects information from the individual best placed to support a smooth transition. It supports the plan to engage and connect the young person with the Home Stretch WA Offer and allow them to make an informed choice about the service.

This section can be completed via phone call, in person or via email to relevant worker.

YOUNG PERSON'S DETAILS	
First Name	Last Name
Preferred Name	
Cultural Identity	<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal <input type="checkbox"/> Torres Strait Islander <input type="checkbox"/> Belong to another cultural group - pls specify:
Street Address, Suburb & Postcode	
Are there any outreach safety concerns?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes - pls specify: <input type="checkbox"/> No
Phone 1	Phone's owner
Phone 2	Phone's owner
Alternative Contact (email/messenger)	
Information provided to the young person about Home Stretch WA	
HEALTH/DISABILITY	
Any medical issues or physical, cognitive, developmental or mental health challenges?	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes - pls detail below <input type="checkbox"/> No Name of the condition/s, informal/formal diagnosis:	
Is there an NDIS Plan?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
NDIS service or person supporting them?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes - pls detail below <input type="checkbox"/> No
Name of Person &/or Agency:	
Address:	
Email:	
EDUCATION/EMPLOYMENT	
<input type="checkbox"/> Studying Full time	<input type="checkbox"/> Studying part-time
<input type="checkbox"/> Not in education	<input type="checkbox"/> Working full time
<input type="checkbox"/> Working casually	<input type="checkbox"/> Not currently employed
<input type="checkbox"/> Completing a short course	
<input type="checkbox"/> Working part-time	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other:	
Current education level completed?	

What does Home Stretch WA offer?



We provide you with extended support and resources from 18-21 years of age.



Transition Coach

A Transition Coach supports and connects you with the resources you need and are entitled to under Home Stretch WA and as a young person leaving care.

The Transition Coach is a consistent and reliable youth worker who can meet regularly in your community. They help figure out what you want your life to look like, how to get there, and deal with anything that might get in the way.



How could you benefit?

Home Stretch WA provides resources and funding you have the right to access, as part of helping you to become independent.

We help with education, training, health, wellbeing, living skills, culture and other areas you identify to need assistance with. You benefit by having a safety net fund to help deal with short term issues and avoid long term problems.

Where do you want to live?

There is a choice to be supported to Stay On in your current placement, if it works for you and your carer up to the time you turn 21.

The other choice is to access to a Housing Allowance to help you afford other housing options.

What about other supports?

Your Transition Coach helps you to:

- Create a map of the people and places important to you
 - Explore/develop new connections
 - Revisit and reconnect with people and places from the past
- A Support Circle builds a stronger connection to trusted people in your life.

It's Your Choice

It is your right to access continued support to 21, and your choice about the kinds of support you would like to receive. Home Stretch WA is not automatically referred to when you turn 18. Talk about your options with your case worker, they can support you to connect with us when you turn 17 and find out more.

Staying On - Example Resources

Home Stretch WA – Staying On Subsidy Application Form

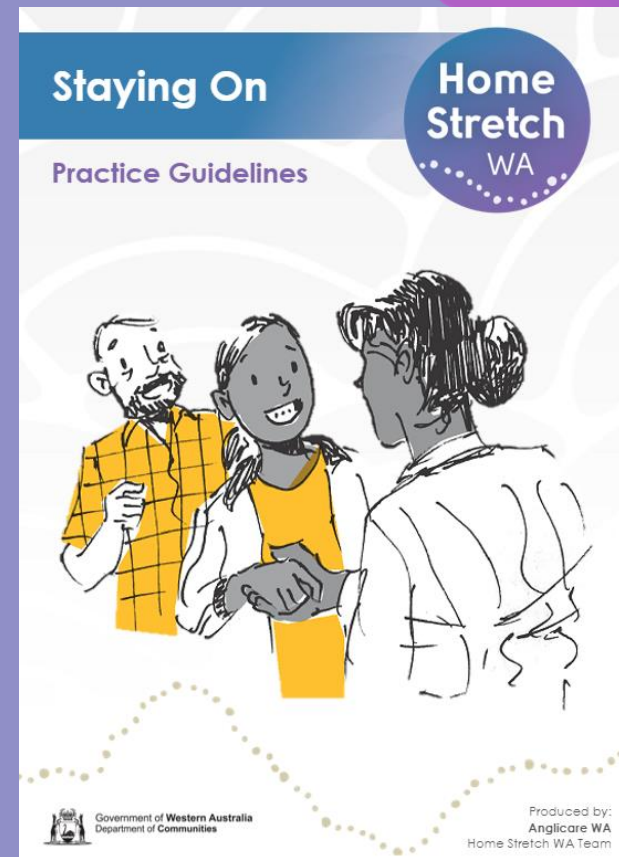
This application is to approve the Staying On Subsidy payments to foster and family carers who will continue to support a young person staying on in the living arrangement after age 18 years. This includes funded community service organisation managed carers.

This form must be endorsed by a Home Stretch WA Provider and sent via email to the Home Stretch Service Team at homestretchserviceteam@communities.wa.gov.au

Please allow two weeks for processing of the first Staying On Subsidy payment to the staying on carer.

Contact Details – Young Person

Name		DOB	
Assist ID			
Address			
Phone			



Housing Allowance example resources

APPLICATION Applying for Housing Allowance	
Housing Allowance Application	 Coach helps young person application paperwork for approval
Timeframe	Text
Who	Actions
Young Person	Completes the Housing Allowance - Application Form with the Transition Coach Young person has landlord/payee sign Housing Allowance agreement and completes payee details
Landlord/ payee	Signs Housing Allowance Agreement and completes payee details
Transition Coach	Helps the Young Person complete the Housing Allowance - Application Form and emails to Home Stretch Staying On Facilitator for approval
Home Stretch Coordinator	Assesses application and informs Transition Coach of the outcome. If successful; emails completed Housing Allowance - Application Form to Department of Communities Subsidies Processing Unit Advises Transition Coach of the outcome of the future review date.
Department of Communities Subsidies Processing Unit	Receive Housing Allowance Application Form and begin processing.
Documents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home Stretch WA - Housing Allowance - Application Form • Budget Form • Landlord/Payee Details Form • Lease Agreement (where appropriate)

Housing Pathway Plan Session – Practice Guide

Brief Summary of the session

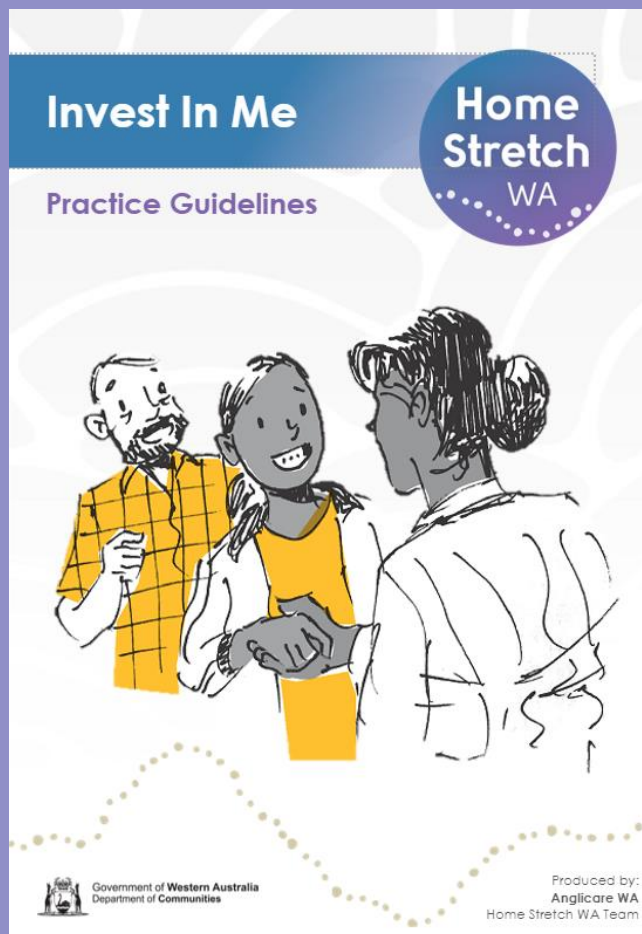
The Housing Pathway Planning session provides a space for the Transition Coach to support the young person to explore where they would like to live and start preparing all the documents to support their application. Finding a suitable place to live can feel like a daunting task, so it may be helpful to acknowledge the potential feelings of overwhelm, but also reassuring the young person that they will have support (from you) throughout each step of the journey.

What Practice or System Principles are Relevant for the coach?

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



Invest In Me - Example Resource



Transition Coach - Example Resources



Stages of Transition Coaching



Contact Us:

Email: homestretchwa@communities.wa.gov.au

Home Stretch WA FAQ Sheet:

<https://www.wa.gov.au/organisation/department-of-communities/home-stretch-wa-roll-out>

You can also ask us for a copy of the presentation! We can email it to you.



@homestretchwa



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