

Staying On

**Home
Stretch**
WA

Date:

Name of Facilitators:

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 this land.
We pay our respects to their strength,
cultural resilience and the Elders past
and present.

Housekeeping & Rules of Engagement

**Home
Stretch**

WA



Who is in the Room?



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

Safe, Strong and Together

A range of factors can affect the safety and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people in care:

- institutional racism, discrimination and unconscious bias
- entrenched disadvantage, political exclusion and intergenerational trauma
- limited recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander child-rearing practices and strengths
- culturally unsafe services and systems, including a lack of community-led responses and community-controlled service provision.



Aboriginal Child Placement Principals

Identification

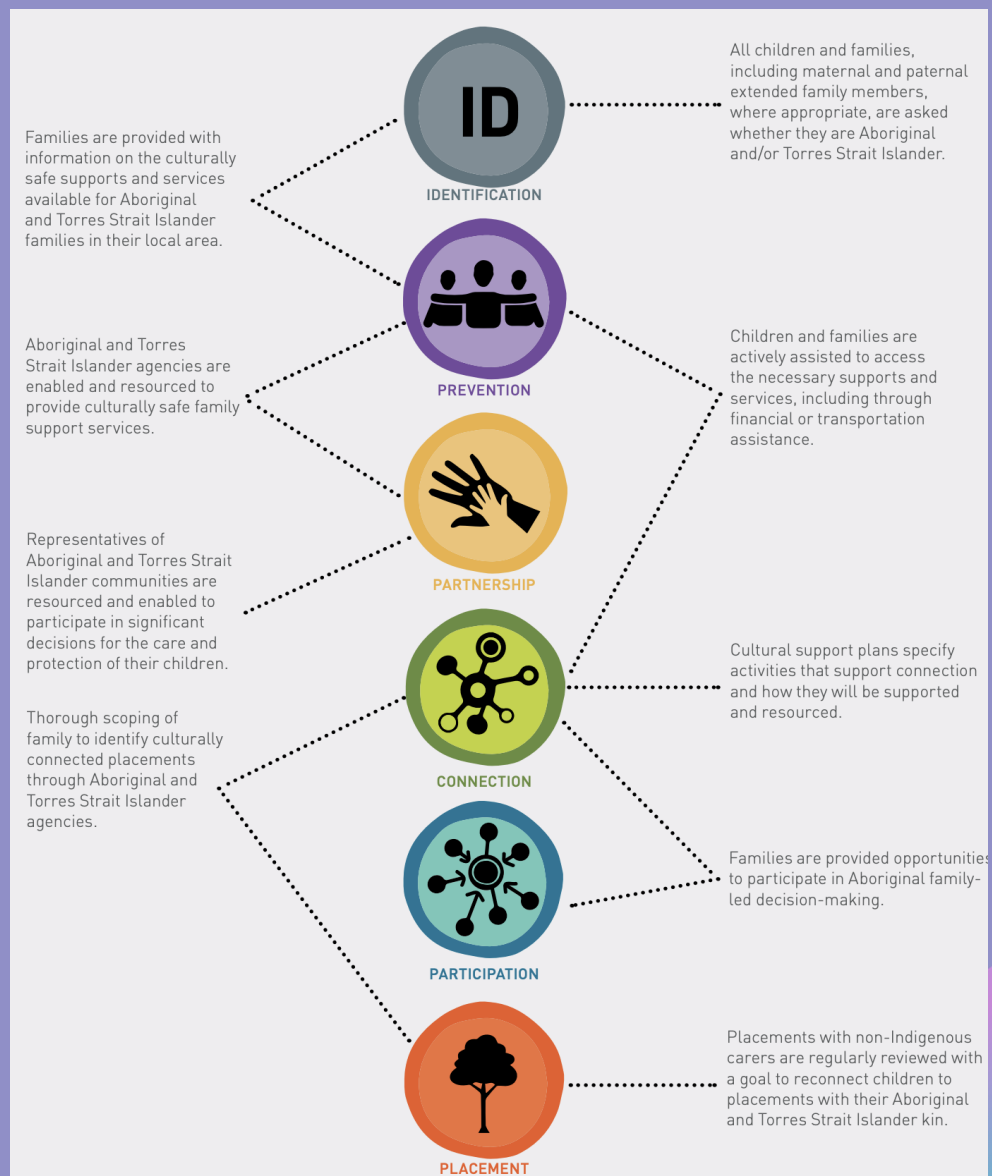
Prevention

Partnership

Connection

Participation

Placement



Strengths of Aboriginal Families

Aboriginal kinship relations reflect a complex and dynamic system that is not captured by existing non-Indigenous definitions of family.

Emerging evidence supports some of the strengths of traditional Aboriginal culture in family functioning and raising children, yet conventional academic wisdom can be incompatible with traditional Aboriginal knowledge systems.

The strengths of Aboriginal cultural traditions, as they apply to family life and raising children, revolve around four interrelated themes.



Theme 1: A collective community focus on child rearing helps children

The values of interdependence, group cohesion and community loyalty are key features of Aboriginal family and community life, where raising children is considered to be a shared responsibility of all community members.



Theme 2: Children need the freedom to explore and experience the world

Aboriginal communities offer their children every opportunity to explore the world around them, to help them develop the necessary skills to successfully negotiate their pathways to adulthood.



Theme 3: Elderly family members are important to family functioning

The elderly are highly respected for their contributions to family life in Aboriginal communities, particularly in helping children to understand the practical aspects of life and society.



Theme 4: Spirituality helps families cope with challenges

Families and communities who engage in spiritual practices benefit from a greater sense of identity, and individuals are more likely to connect with, support and help protect one another.

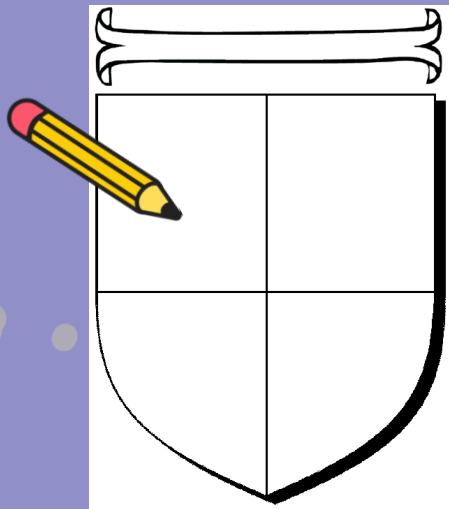
Creating a Family Crest

Activity – 15 mins - In Pairs or Groups of Three

Each person will take 5 minutes to draw out their own personal family crest using images to represent the things that reflect their family's strengths or perhaps important stories family history.

You define which 'family' you wish to represent

Share your crests with another pair.



- You can write down or draw anything in your crest!
- Don't think about it too much!
- Be mindful of your own and other's trauma when talking about families.

Reflection - Strengths of Families

Did everyone define family in the same way?

What images or ideas did people use to represent their strengths?

Where there any common features or symbols or words?

What was most different or unique? Why?

Foster Families in WA – Background

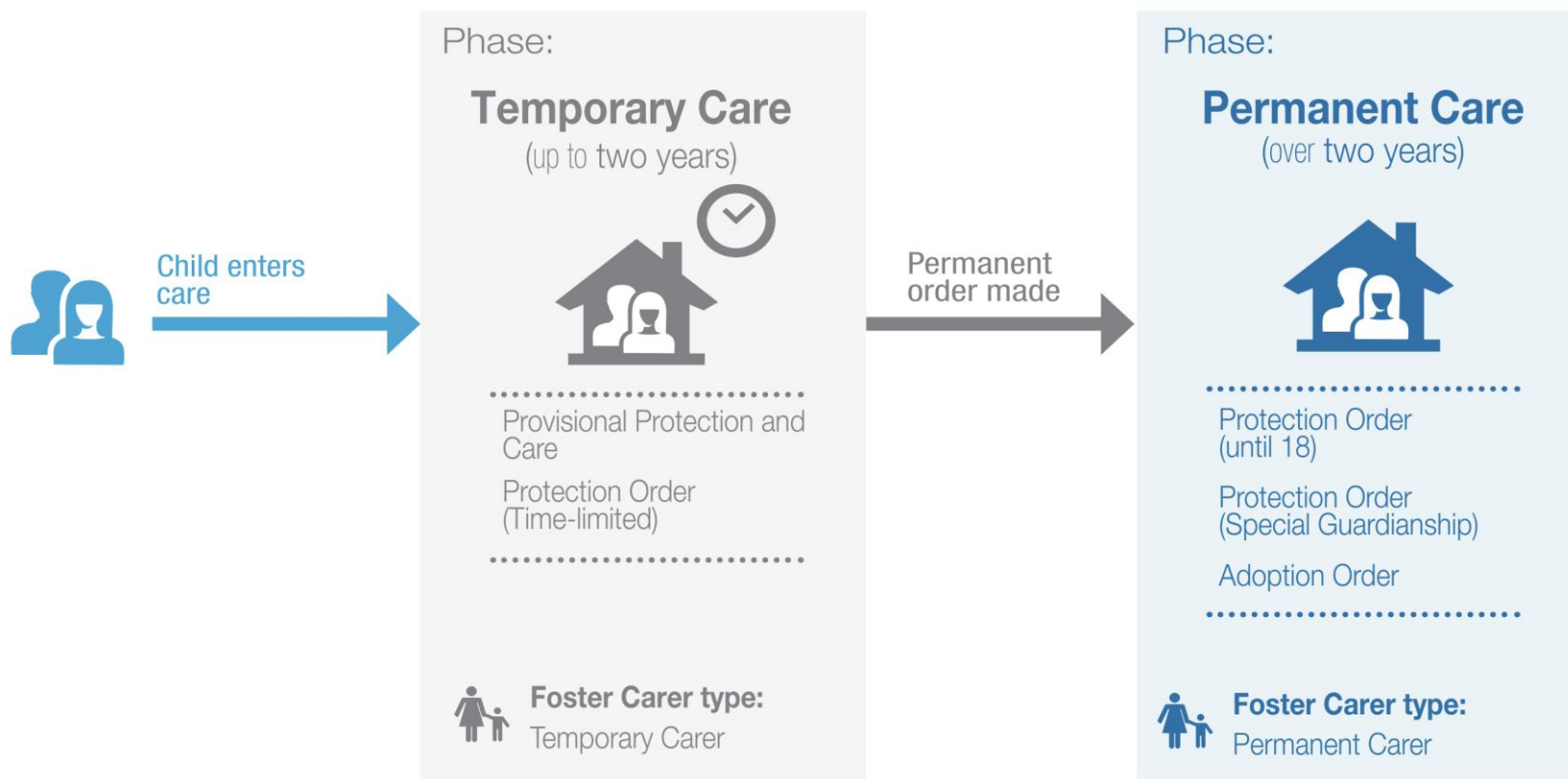
Foster care is a planned and time limited alternative living arrangement for children whose parents are unable to care for them at home for a period of time.

Placement with relatives is considered as a first option. Where this is not possible, a foster family unrelated to the child, but especially suited to the child's needs and circumstances, may be selected.

The usual plan is for the child to return home. If it is not possible for the children to return home, children are then considered as a longer term placement.

Foster Care in WA – Background

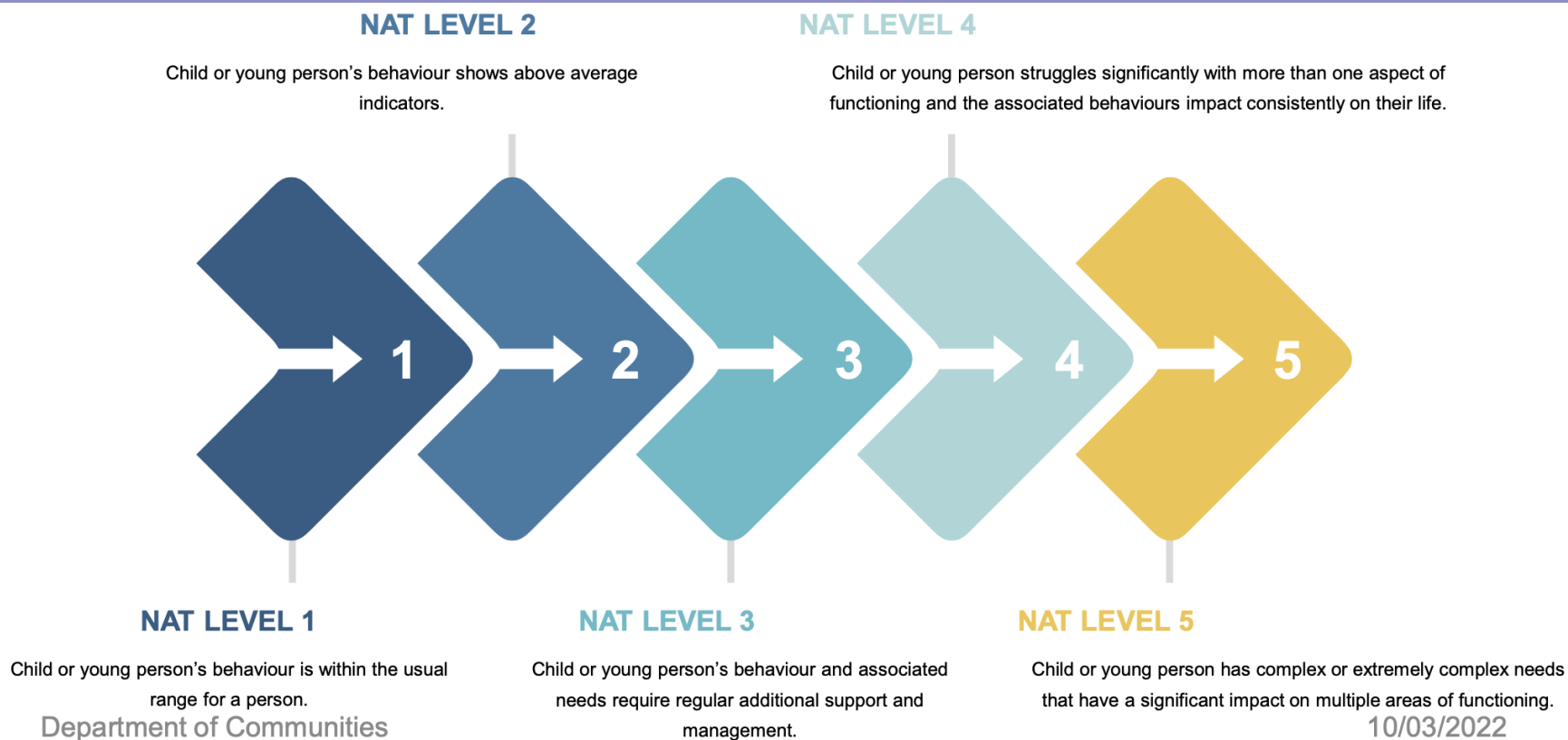
Figure 6 – Permanency phases



Foster Care in WA – Types of Foster Care

- **Special Guardianship or Long Term Protection Order**
- **General Foster Care [Department of Communities]**
- **General Foster Care [Community Service Organisation]**
- **Residential/Group Homes**
- **Family Care [Kinship Care]**
- **Specialised Foster Care**

Needs Assessment Tool - Levels



Needs Assessment Tool - Levels

Funding analysis

CASC levels of need by services



SERVICES (i.e. ASSUMED)	NAT 1	NAT 2	NAT 3	NAT 4	NAT 5
ALLIED HEALTH SUPPORT (ONGOING SESSIONS)	\$411		\$3,026		\$3,311
CARER SUPPORT		\$4,302	\$27,667	\$63,818	\$264,659
THERAPEUTIC COUNSELLING				\$5,555	\$8,768
TRANSPORT (EXCESSIVE REQUIRED)	\$2,278	\$2,351			
OTHER SERVICES	\$730	\$4,437	\$10,263	\$15,225	\$11,507
	\$3,420/PA	\$11,090/PA	\$40,958/PA	\$84,598/PA	\$288,245/PA

Child Protection in WA – How Much Does it Cost?

Funding analysis assumed price per care type



FEATURES AND ASSUMPTIONS		Short Term Care \$652k* Price per house	Group Care \$633k* Price per house	Foster Care \$64k* Price per care	Complex Care \$643k* Price per care
Placement Administration Costs (PAC)	Numerous	\$638k	\$619k	\$46k	\$639k
-Staffing	SalaryOne	\$417k	\$417k	0	\$463k
-House operational	Communities	\$89k	\$89k	0	\$65k
-Placement Costs	PwC	\$132k	\$113k	\$46k	\$111k
Child Support Costs (CSC)	Communities	\$14k	\$14k	\$2k	\$4k
Caring Allowance (CA)	Professor Paul Henman	No	No	\$16k	No
CASC	PwC	No	Yes	Yes	No
Assets	BDO	Department provided	Department provided	Not department provided	Not department provided

Department of Communities

* Not including regional loading

10/03/2022

Move Around Time

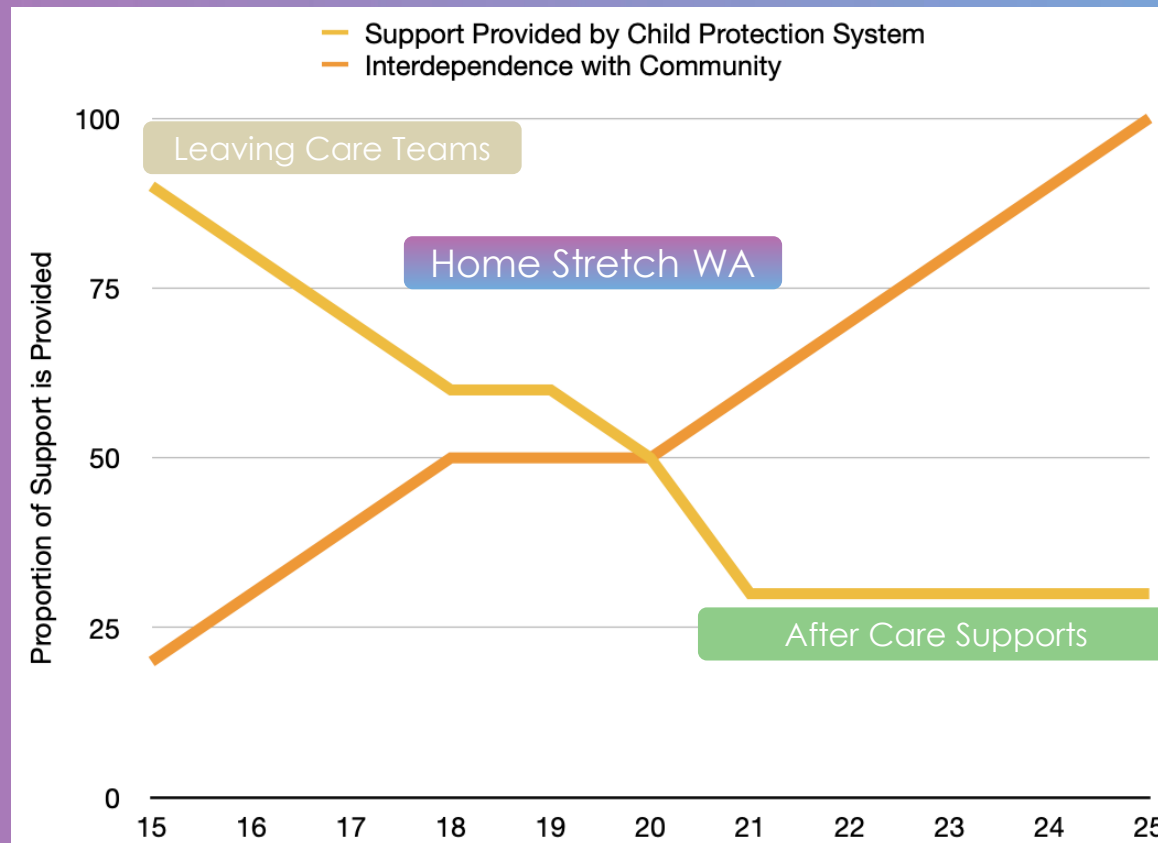


What are the strengths of foster and kinship families?

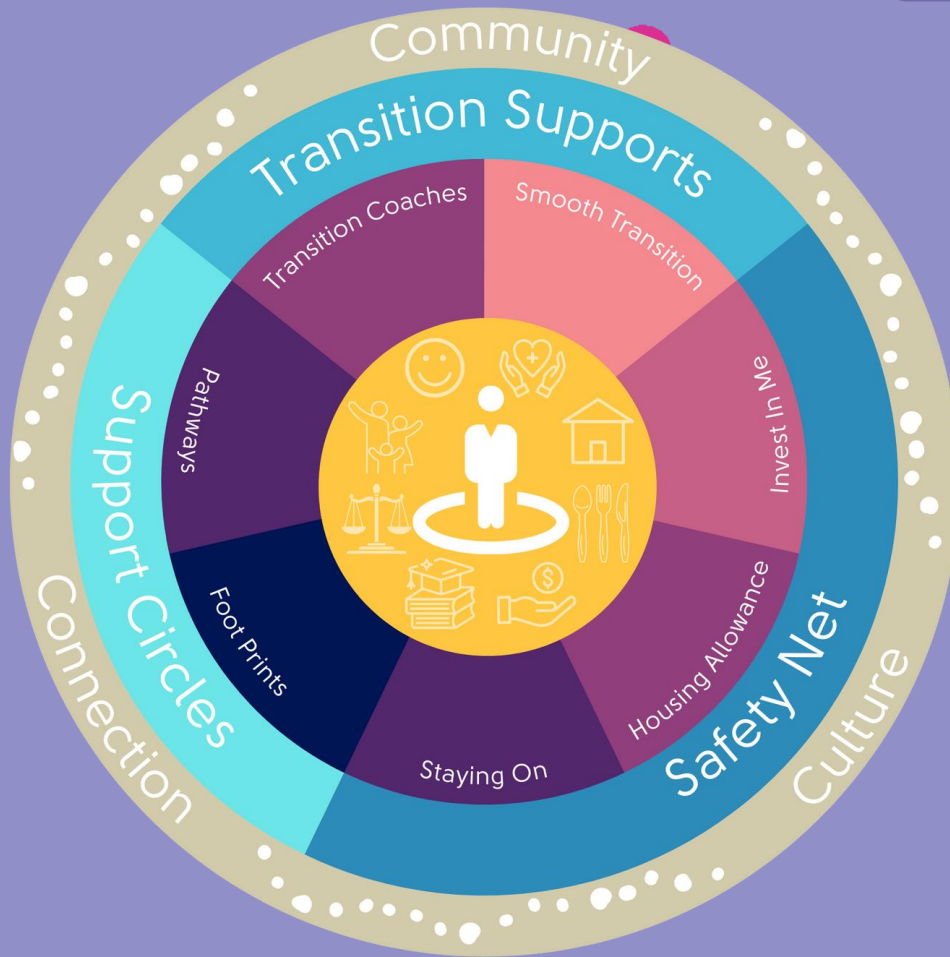
What makes foster and kinship families strong?



A Smooth Transition Under Home Stretch



Home Stretch WA Model



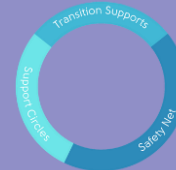
Young people are at center of support.
Everyone is treated as an individual



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

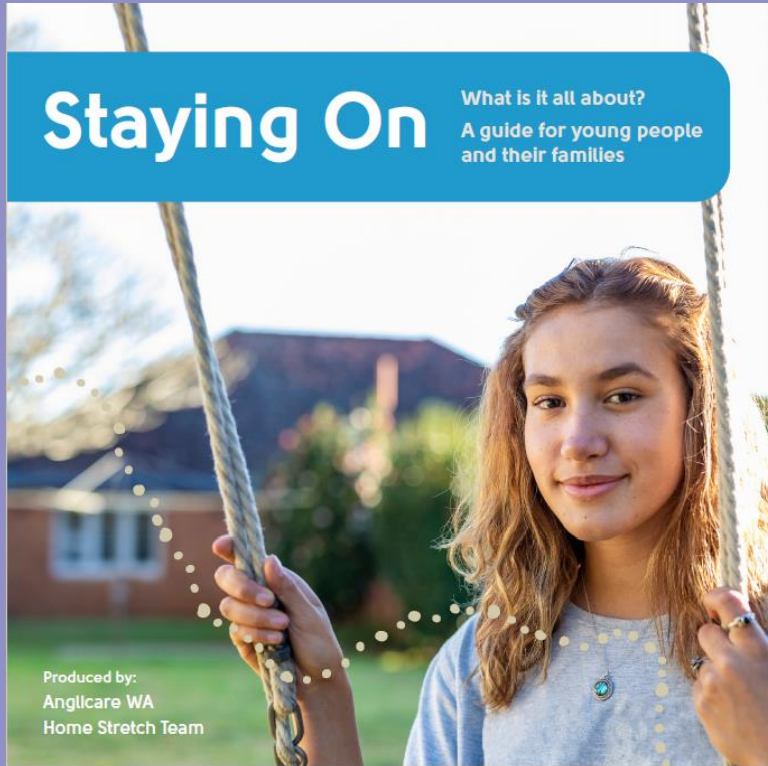


Support is delivered in specific ways [Practice Approaches] that were co-designed with young people

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

Training will be provided in each of these.

Staying On



- Supporting young people to Stay On with a carer until age 21.
- **'Staying On Agreement'** between the Carer and Young Person
- **Staying On Subsidy** to support the living arrangement & young person encouraged to **'chip in'**
- **Focus on the Young Person**
- **Support** available through the Home Stretch Team- Transition Coach & Staying On Facilitator

Staying On Subsidy

Fortnightly Payment directly to the carer by the Department of Communities.

The payments are reviewed every 12 months and the subsidy amount will reduce to 75% in the second year and 50% in the third year.

Age	Current Maximum Rate
18	\$450
19	\$337.50
20	\$225

Staying On Eligibility

Eligible for Home Stretch WA

General Family or Foster Placements.

Young People and Carer have consented to the Living Arrangement

Staying On cannot be a substitute or an additional payment for an NDIS package that provides a carer subsidy.

*Historic Placements where the family were approved carers and the placement didn't end due to issues related to the carers.

Co-Creating “Staying On”

Young People from the Youth Advisory Group





What is a Staying On Agreement?

Date 14/07/2020

Staying On Agreement

What is working well?

Suzie & Barb get along well and have well established house rules in place as they have been living together for the past 2 years.
Suzie currently pays board- \$75 per fortnight and this will increase when she turns 18 and has more income.
Barb is happy to have Suzie stay in the arrangement until she is ready to venture off on her own.

What are our plans to make it work? (Agreed House Rules/Expectations)

Suzie already helps around the house and does the chores.
6pm Curfew works well.
Dealing with conflict- have a general discussion around this and try and resolve it.

Barb has general concerns for Suzie and when she turns 18 about going clubbing- this will be something they will need to work through together.

Visitors- happy to have visitors but no boys in the bedroom.

Finances

- How much is the Subsidy?
- How will the young person contribute?
- What will the Staying On Subsidy be used for?

Here you should list what the subsidy will be used to pay for and how the money will be distributed.

You can use the "Staying On Subsidy Factsheet" as a guide.

Agreed amount- \$462 per fortnight.

This amount was negotiated based on Suzie contributing \$75 per fortnight and deducting this from the previous subsidy amount.

Staying On Subsidy will be used to cover costs of rent, bills and household expenses.

Suzie is currently contributing \$75 per fortnight towards costs and will work towards contributing more in the future and when on a higher income.

What is the housing pathway plan? How will Staying On in this arrangement help to achieve that?

Discuss how long the arrangement is for and what happens if the young person wants to end the arrangement.

Suzie is on the Department of Housing Waitlist.
Barb is happy to have Suzie stay as long as she wants to.

Review- What will we do if we have any issues?

Discuss what each party will do if they are not happy with the agreement, someone is not meeting their side of the agreement or if there are any issues.
This can include talking to Home Stretch Team (Coach & Coordinator).

If there are any issues Suzie & Barb will discuss these.

Agreed to have a review meeting in 4 weeks' time and 3 months' time to check in on the living arrangement and review the Staying On Agreement.

How will we end the agreement?

Here you should list the agreement about when one person wants to end.

This should also include how much notice is needed to be given to end the agreement.

Barb & Suzie to talk about this together.

Roles & Responsibilities

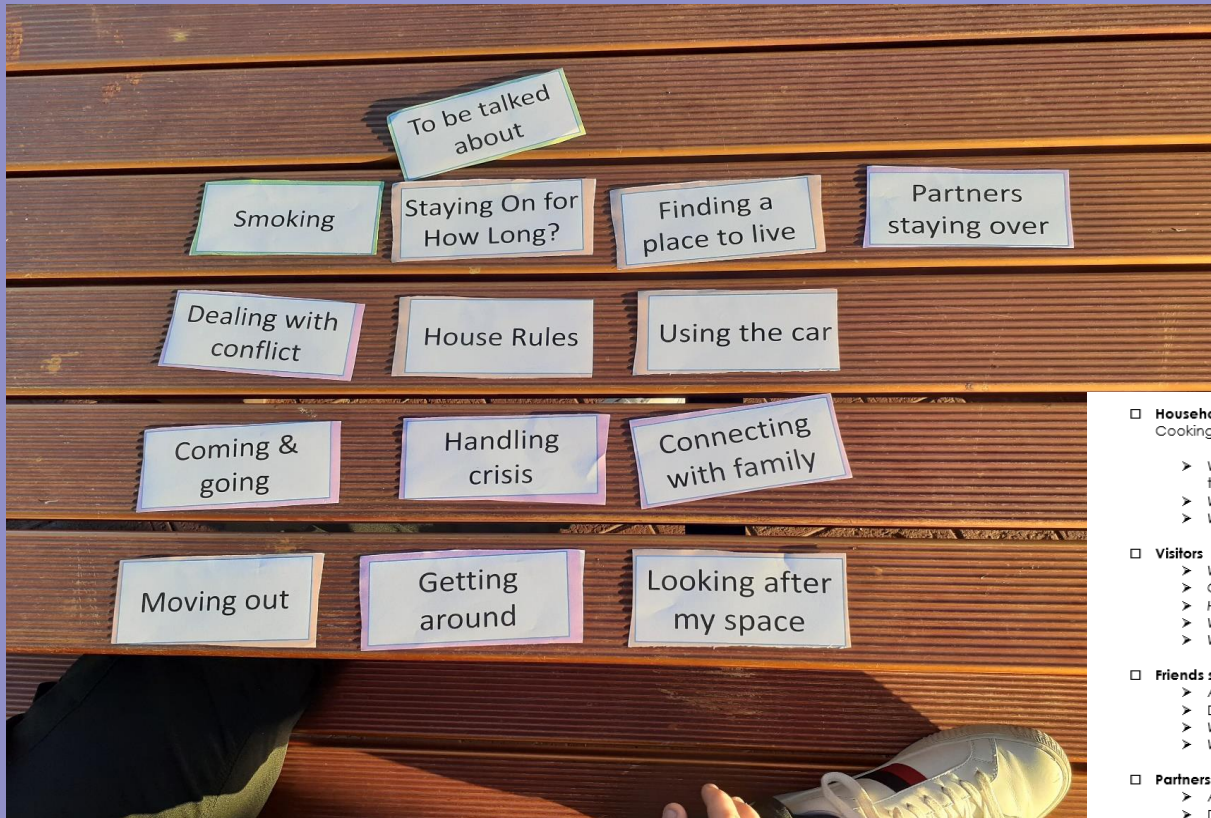
Carer/Family

- Support & encourage the young person with their transition to independence, including contribution to costs.
- Notify Home Stretch as soon as the young person leaves the living arrangement, to avoid liability for overpayment.
- Inform Home Stretch of any changes to the agreement or to discuss any issues or concerns.
- Participate in reviews of the living arrangement with Home Stretch

Young Person

- Meet with Home Stretch Coach to work towards identified goals and transition to independence.
- Contribute to costs of the living arrangement once receiving an income.
- Notify Home Stretch if any issues or concerns with the current living arrangement.
- Notify Home Stretch if you are no longer living in the living arrangement.
- Participate in reviews of the living arrangement with Home Stretch

Practice tools to create an agreement



- ☐ **Household tasks/chores**
Cooking meals, Cleaning the house, cleaning room, laundry, shopping, other chores
 - Who does the cooking? Cleaning? Shopping? Washing? What time is dinner? Is there a schedule?
 - What are the expectations?
 - What is the agreement?
- ☐ **Visitors**
 - What are the rules about having friends or visitors over?
 - Can they visit during the day? How often & what time?
 - How many visitors are allowed?
 - What are the expectations?
 - What is the agreement?
- ☐ **Friends staying over**
 - Are friends allowed to stay over? How many? How often?
 - Do you need to ask for permission?
 - What are the expectations?
 - What is the agreement?
- ☐ **Partners staying over**
 - Are partners allowed to stay over?
 - Do you need to ask for permission? How often can they stay over?
 - What are the expectations?
 - What is the agreement?
- ☐ **Going out /Curfew**
 - Is there a curfew? Do we need to let each other know if we are going out?
 - What if you are home later than agreed?
 - Do we need to set rules around this?
 - What are the expectations?
 - What is the agreement?
- ☐ **Going away**
 - What happens if you want to go away for a long period of time?
 - Do we need to communicate about this?
 - What are the expectations?

1. Matt, Caleb & Pam

Date • 9/18/2021

Staying On Agreement

- Explain what a Staying On Agreement is & why it's important.
 - A written agreement that the young person and family develop together to come up with the expectations of living together and how the staying on subsidy will be spent.
 - Everyone has different expectations of living together so it's important to be clear about what is expected of each other in the living arrangement and how you may compromise based on that.
- Explain difference between Foster Care & "Staying On" (give brochure)
- See the Staying On discussion guide, read out articles, or hand checklist to help discuss the topics and fill out the agreement
- Once completed attach this agreement to the Staying On Subsidy Application Form.

What is working well?

Write a discussion about what's going well in the current arrangement. This can be done separately or as a group and the discussion guide, could act as a checklist to decide around topics areas.

Been living together now 8 years + get along well.
learned out kinks.
already helps out with cleaning
+ good arrangement in place for house
rules + tasks.

Everything goes well in house.

+ Now have a safety plan in place for health + appointments + communicate about health concerns

What are the things that we would like to discuss?

Discuss what is important to the young person and caregiver in the living arrangement and what could be changed in time.
You can use the Staying On Agreement discussion guide or come out & do activity.
Use that as a guide or do activity to come up with a list of topics to discuss.
Write down the key points the discussion that come up.

Young Person

Important

- coming home
- drinking at home
- exposing culture
- staying on - eventually but not ready.

House Rules

- Dealing with conflict
- finding a place to live
- looking after my sp 20
- staying healthy

All these things are important but have been discussed + caregiver

It's important to know where - is at most times - open communication
good house rules in place already.

OK paying for insurance

+ I - get along really well.

29th August - celebrate being together.

1st December - important family celebration to remember

2. Kati, Bob & Joy

Date 22/03/2021

Staying On Agreement

What is working well?

- Katie is a humorous person and enjoys cracking jokes
- Katie is very kind hearted and cares about everyone, especially her nieces and nephews.
- Katie helps out Mum when she is unwell.
- Katie has a job through summit homes and has been working here since February
- Katie completed year 12 last year and graduated
- Katie is motivated to live independently and learn new skills
- Katie enjoys living with Mum and Dad but would like to work towards living independently.
- Katie has savings in place

What are our plans to make it work? (House Rules/Expectations)

Young Person

- Katie prefers not to be judged for smoking
- Katie to work towards cooking some meals in the house
- Katie to work towards paying for own medication and managing this herself
- Katie to work towards paying rent at \$260 per fortnight to prepare her for moving out
- Katie is planning to move out by 18 ½ and may move out before hand, Katie will work with Hayley on different housing options
- Katie would like to continue to have family contact if she does move out

Caregiver

- Agreed that everyone should respect each other and each others property
- Katie agrees to "not touch people's stuff that isn't mine".
- Mum and Dad are planning to go on a holiday in the future and Katie might need somewhere to stay when they are away.

House Rules:

Katie, Mum & Dad already have agreed house rules in place and everyone knows what these are. These include;

- No smoking in the house
- No doing drugs
- Katie to let parents know where she is going if she goes out.
- No swearing at people.

Finances - What will the Staying On Subsidy be used for?

How will the young person contribute?

Katie will pay \$260 per fortnight to start preparing her for rent costs of living in her own place.

The subsidy currently pays for;

- Medication
- Doctors bills
- Clothes
- Haircuts
- General expenses for Katie
- General household costs

The new subsidy amount will be \$290.

Katie to work towards paying for some of her own costs and on budgeting with Hayley to get ready for moving out.

What is the housing pathway plan? How will Staying On in this arrangement help to achieve that?

Katie plans to move out by the time she is 18 and a half.

Katie is looking at accommodation options with Hayley- one of these options is Foyer Oxford.

Mum & Dad will support Katie with moving out and will still visit and catchup regularly.

Roles & Responsibilities

Carer/Family

- Support & encourage the young person with their transition to independence, including contribution to costs.
- Notify Home Stretch as soon as the young person leaves the living arrangement, to avoid liability for overpayment.
- Inform Home Stretch of any changes to the agreement or to discuss any issues or concerns.
- Participate in reviews of the living arrangement with Home Stretch

Young Person

- Meet with Home Stretch Coach to work towards identified goals and transition to independence.
- Contribute to costs of the living arrangement once receiving an income.
- Notify Home Stretch if any issues or concerns with the current living arrangement.
- Notify Home Stretch if you are no longer living in the living arrangement.
- Participate in reviews of the living arrangement with Home Stretch.

Home Stretch Coach

3. James, Jeff & Georgia

Staying On Agreement

Supporting Documents:

- Fact Sheet for Carers
- Fact Sheet for Young People
- Rights & Responsibilities for Young Person & Carers
- Staying on subsidy- payment fact sheet
- Staying On Agreement Guide



What is working well?

- ■■■ & ■■■ are happy for ■■■ to stay living with them ongoing as he has been with them since he was a baby.
- ■■■'s behaviours have improved over the last few weeks and medication has been helping with ■■■'s mood.
- ■■■ "loves" staying at home with mum and dad (■■■ and ■■■) and can't think of anything he'd change. They "give him shelter" and "take care of him" (feed him, make sure there's lots of drinks, take him places and pick him up.)
- ■■■ would like to stay living where he is until he is around 23.

What did we discuss?

- FINANCES:**
- ■■■ receives income from his employment at City of Cockburn for 8 hours per week (\$336) and Centrelink Allowance (\$397 fin)
 - ■■■ & ■■■ have ■■■'s bank card and manage his finances when he gets paid, they withdraw money at the ATM and then leave ■■■ with money for the online game and purchase him cigarettes and phone credit. ■■■ is aware of this.
 - ■■■ has his bank card connected to his online gaming account and all of his pay goes towards gaming if ■■■ & ■■■ do not withdraw it beforehand.
 - ■■■ & ■■■ are of the opinion that ■■■ is not capable of managing his own finances as will spend all income on the game if he has access to it all.
 - ■■■ & ■■■ are considering setting up a separate bank account for ■■■ for savings that he cannot access and so this money can be used for ■■■ to work towards getting his licence.

WORK:

- ■■■ works two days per week at City of Cockburn.
- ■■■ & ■■■ wake ■■■ up and transport him to work
- ■■■ was linked into his work through Fislink (Disability employment service)
- ■■■ has previously done work experience at Native Ark Wildlife Park

HOBBIES/INTERESTS

- ■■■'s Current focus is gaming 24/7 (Fortnite)
- Uses Facebook and Messenger
- Previously enjoyed fishing, the outdoors, bushrangers at school
- Has a cat and a rescue dog
- Would like to get licence but has some anxiety around this

FAMILY

- ■■■ & ■■■ expressed concerns that ■■■'s family use alcohol or drugs and may take advantage of him

CONFLICT:

- Caused by the game when ■■■ loses or not able to play
- ■■■ uses language when upset and takes it out by smashing things (TV's/ electronic devices etc)

GOING OUT/AWAY

- ■■■ doesn't go out often, occasionally to visit some friends down the street.

- ■■■ & ■■■ used to take ■■■ on family holidays to Gold Coast/Busselton but he doesn't want to go out anymore as plays game majority of the time
- ■■■ said she used to spend a lot more time with ■■■, but this doesn't happen that often now

CLEANING

- ■■■ does not help with cleaning at all
- ■■■ & ■■■ would like ■■■ to assist with this at some point but may need additional support to make this happen

DRINKING/SMOKING

- ■■■ sometimes has 1 or 2 beers
- ■■■ has recently taken up smoking with some friends down the street.
- ■■■ & ■■■ use part of ■■■'s income to pay for cigarettes

STAYING ON

- ■■■ & ■■■ happy to keep ■■■ living there as has been living with them since he was a baby
- ■■■ & ■■■ have concerns about whether ■■■ would be able to live independently but this may be something to work towards in the future.

What are our plans to make it work?..

CHORES & CLEANING

- ■■■ to clean his room every day
- ■■■ to put plates in dishwasher after eating in his room.
- ■■■ to shower every day.
- ■■■ to wash his hands when he leaves the house and comes back.
- When ■■■ goes back to work to set his own alarm and start waking up for work.

FINANCES/ PAYING FOR THINGS

- ■■■ and ■■■ to set up a savings account that ■■■ can't touch. ■■■ to decide what he wants to save the money for.
- ■■■ & ■■■ to leave \$100 fortnight for ■■■ to play Fortnite.
- If ■■■ wants more money ■■■ & ■■■ can negotiate about how ■■■ can get more money. He may have to do chores to get more money..
- ■■■ to work towards buying own cigarettes once he turns 18.

Actions to be completed by Home Stretch

- Ben (coach) to share Home Stretch Messenger details with ■■■ and ■■■ and begin making contact with ■■■ through Messenger.

Date

09/04/20

We ■■■ and ■■■ & ■■■ agree to enter this 'Staying On Agreement'

- We understand that this living arrangement is voluntary and can continue until the young adult turns 21.
- We agree to respect each other and follow any agreed 'house rules.'
- _____ weeks notice to end this Staying On Agreement will be given by either the caregiver or young adult.
- The Living Arrangement Agreement will be reviewed on 6th May 2020 then every 3 months.
- A formal review of the payment will occur at 12 months.
- We agree to contact Home Stretch if this agreement is not working or we would like to call for a review meeting.

Agreement

Name: ■■■

8/4/2020

Name: ■■■

8/4/2020

Name: ■■■

8/4/2020



The Experience of Carers

What is like for carers, as a young person nears their 18th birthday?

The Experience of Young People

What was it like leading up to your 18th birthday as a young person in care in a foster placement?



The Experience of a Carer

**Tell us about your experiences
of Staying On?**

Nitja Nop Yorga Ngulla Mia – System Design

Our focus was to understand support circles for Aboriginal Young People and their Families, using an Aboriginal worldview as a starting point.

Together we developed a card sort activity and interview guide, and then individually met with young people, practice experts, families and carers.

We interviewed young people who were thriving, and those who had struggled for a long time.

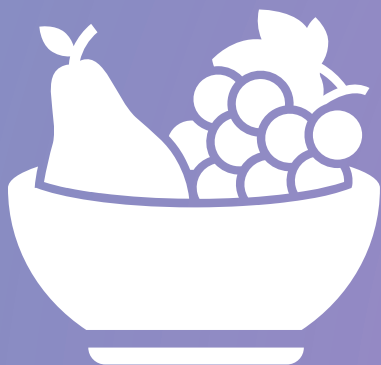
Take 5 minutes looking at the System Principles [Black Cards]

How might these principles have informed the development of Staying On?



Break Time

**Home
Stretch**
WA



Roles in Home Stretch Team

The quality of a Home Stretch WA service is intrinsically linked to the quality and capability of the team, and the staff employed in each of the key roles.

The roles in a Home Stretch WA Team include:

- **Coordinator**
 - **Transition Coach**
 - **Transition Coach (50D)/Cultural Practice Advisor**
 - **Staying On Facilitator**
 - **Administrative Support**
- 

Transition Coach

What they do: Provide 1:1 support to young people

Caseload: Up to 12 Young People + 2 Secondary Support



1:1 Transition Coaching aligned with Practice Principles

- Primary access to Home Stretch WA offer
 - Smooth Transition
 - Housing Allowance/Staying On
 - Support Circles
 - Invest In Me
- Direct administration of Invest in Me Fund access
- Supports young person in Staying On
- Collects and monitors outcomes
- Records and tracks individual work with young people

Staying On Facilitator



Staying On Facilitators enjoy working with families and family systems, and provide a different perspective and skill set to a team that is mostly focused on empowering young people. They primarily work with carers, but can play an additional role in supporting young people to reconnect with biological family as needed.

What they do: Broker and Support Staying On Agreements

Caseload: Up to 35 Staying On Living Arrangements

Work within **Staying On Practice Framework**

Practice/Program


- Primary contact and support for carers/families
- Establishes, coordinates and reviews Staying On Agreements
- Facilitates intervention to manage conflict/issues in relation to the living arrangement
- Manages signposting and warm referrals for ongoing therapeutic work (including NDIS)
- Provides support for Housing Allowance Agreements and applications (Host Homes/Family Agreements)
- Administration & management of subsidies and reviews

Roles in Staying On

How might a Staying On Facilitator work differently to the Transition Coach?

Might there be tension sometimes in the different ways of working?

How might we ensure that families and young people get the best of both approaches and skill sets?

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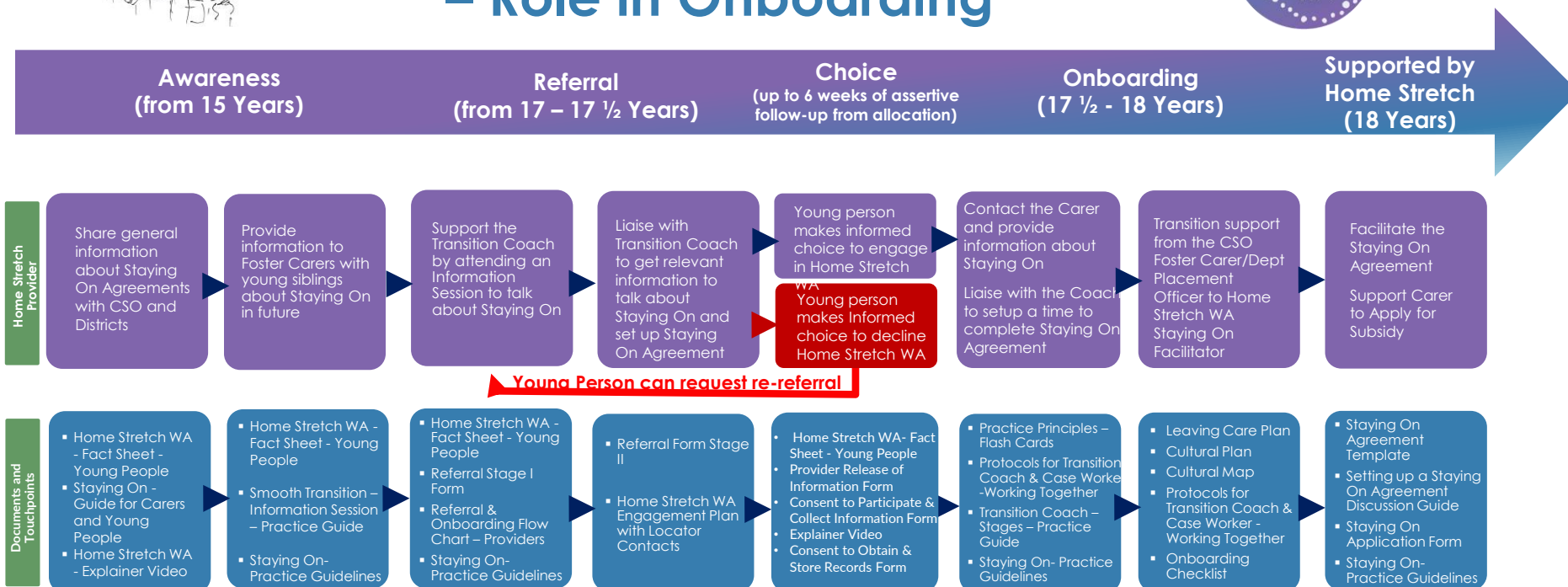
Support Circles Approach

Traditional youth work approaches are often built around seeing the young person as the primary client and working with them as an individual.


A Support Circles approach means seeing the young person as contributing to and being a critical part of their community, using every opportunity to work with them to strengthen, broaden and build their connection to community and natural networks.



Staying On Facilitator – Role in Onboarding



Awareness - 15

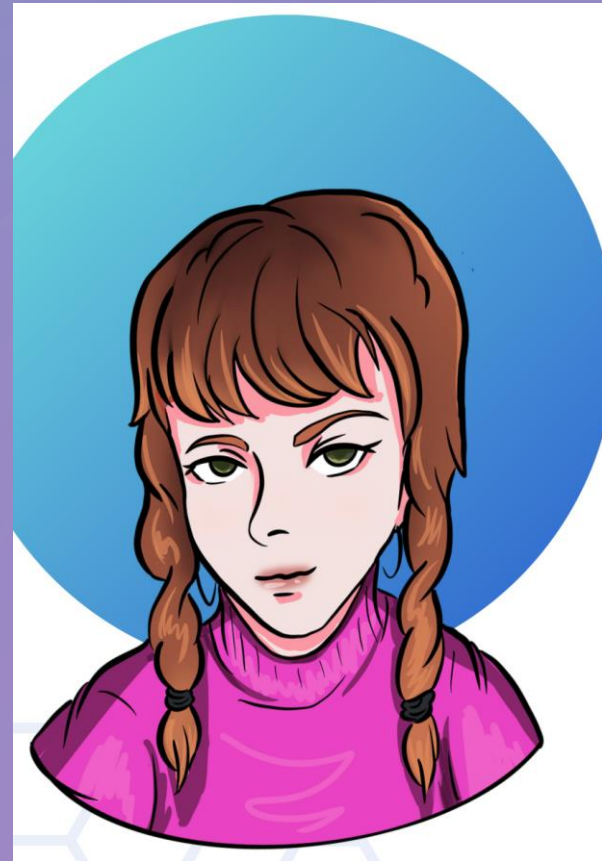
Identify Young People	 <p>Case Worker/s identify young people in stable & safe living arrangements who are leaving care in the next 6 months</p>
Timeframe	<p>Leaving Care planning prior to 17 ½</p>
Who	Actions
<p>Dept Case Worker/Leaving Care Team</p>	<p>As part of leaving care planning, explores opportunities for stable and safe placements to be extended</p>
<p>Foster Carer Supports</p>	<p>Provide information to foster carers about the option of Staying On when a young person turns 18</p>
<p>Young Person</p>	<p>Contact your Department of Communities Case Worker if they have not contacted you before you turn 17 ½</p>
<p>Family</p>	<p>Contact the Department Of Communities Case Worker if Staying On is an option they would like to explore</p>
<p>Home Stretch WA Coordinator</p>	<p>Provides information to Department Case Workers about eligibility</p>
<p>Documents</p>	<p>Home Stretch WA Staying On Guide for Young People and Carers</p>

Persona - Katie

Katie has been living with her Carers for most of her life but there had been large amounts of conflict leading up to her 18th birthday.

The carer is really worried about Katie's behaviour and the impact it has on others in the home as she was stealing, lying and lashing out with violence that communicated the trauma she had lived through in ways that were difficult for others to understand.

The placement had been unstable for years, and Katie has been kicked out on multiple occasions.



Persona – Matt and Caleb

Matt and Caleb are two young Aboriginal men who had been living with their Foster Carer Pam since they were babies. Pam had been a Foster Carer for over 20 years with our partner Yorganop. Pam is an amazing woman who has raised many children, helping them grown up strong and connected to culture and family



Awareness - 15

What do foster carers' want to know when leaving care planning starts?

What would Pam need to know at 15 to best support Matt and Caleb?

What resources/mechanisms do we have that you can use to meet that need?

How is Staying On different to a placement?

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.

How is this different from a foster placement for a young person?

Foster Care

The young person is under 18 years old and looked after (i.e., in care).

The young person may be placed in a foster care arrangement.

A care plan sets out the young person's care needs and how they are going to be supported in the care arrangement.

The Department of Communities is the young person's guardian and the main support.

The Department of Communities pays a subsidy to the carer (foster care subsidy) for the care of the young person and assists with the costs of other things.

A foster carer receives additional money to assist the young person in care to cover other expenses such as clothing and education expenses not covered by the subsidy.

The young person does not need a Working with Children Check.

Staying On

The young person is an adult (over 18) and has left care.

The young person has left care, it is a Staying On Agreement.

The young person and carer create a Staying On Agreement with the help of the caseworker to agree on how things should work.

The Department of Communities is no longer the guardian, and the young person does not have a caseworker. They can access support from the Department until 25 years of age.

The young person has an income and contributes to the costs of Staying On. The Department of Communities helps by paying a Staying On Subsidy to the Staying On carer.

As the young person has left care, they are responsible for their expenses. They have access to support from the Department of Communities until 25 and the Home Stretch WA Transition Coach (where a provider is in place in the region) to access the Invest in Me Fund for certain expenses.

The young person may need a Working with Children Check if the Staying On carer is fostering other children.

Referral & Allocation - 17

Staying On Facilitators should be allocated to support a Transition Coach to connect with the family and offer the Home Stretch WA service.

The Staying On Facilitator is responsible for creating a Smooth Transition of supports for a carer.

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



Staying On Facilitator – Role in Onboarding



Awareness
(from 15 Years)

Referral
(from 17 – 17 ½ Years)

Choice
(up to 6 weeks of assertive
follow-up from allocation)

Onboarding
(17 ½ - 18 Years)

**Supported by
Home Stretch
(18 Years)**

Home Stretch
Provider

Share general
information
about Staying
On Agreements
with CSO and
Districts

Provide
information to
Foster Carers with
young siblings
about Staying On
in future

Support the
Transition Coach
by attending an
Information
Session to talk
about Staying On

Liaise with
Transition Coach
to get relevant
information to
talk about
Staying On and
set up Staying
On Agreement

Young person
makes informed
choice to engage
in Home Stretch

WA
Young person
makes Informed
choice to decline
Home Stretch WA

Contact the Carer
and provide
information about
Staying On

Liaise with the Coach
to setup a time to
complete Staying On
Agreement

Transition support
from the CSO
Foster Carer/Dept
Placement
Officer to Home
Stretch WA
Staying On
Facilitator

Facilitate the
Staying On
Agreement

Support Carer
to Apply for
Subsidy

Young Person can request re-referral

Documents and
Touchpoints

- Home Stretch WA - Fact Sheet - Young People
- Staying On - Guide for Carers and Young People
- Home Stretch WA - Explainer Video

- Home Stretch WA - Fact Sheet - Young People
- Smooth Transition – Information Session – Practice Guide
- Staying On- Practice Guidelines

- Home Stretch WA - Fact Sheet - Young People
- Referral Stage I Form
- Referral & Onboarding Flow Chart – Providers
- Staying On- Practice Guidelines

- Referral Form Stage II
- Home Stretch WA Engagement Plan with Locator Contacts

- Home Stretch WA- Fact Sheet - Young People
- Provider Release of Information Form
- Consent to Participate & Collect Information Form
- Explainer Video
- Consent to Obtain & Store Records Form

- Practice Principles – Flash Cards
- Protocols for Transition Coach & Case Worker -Working Together
- Transition Coach – Stages – Practice Guide
- Staying On- Practice Guidelines

- Leaving Care Plan
- Cultural Plan
- Cultural Map
- Protocols for Transition Coach & Case Worker - Working Together
- Onboarding Checklist

- Staying On Agreement Template
- Setting up a Staying On Agreement Discussion Guide
- Staying On Application Form
- Staying On- Practice Guidelines

Stage II – Preparing for Info Session

Transition Coach takes the lead in engaging the young person.

Staying On Facilitator should focus on engaging the carer.

Working together is critical

CURRENT LIVING ARRANGEMENT & CARER/S OR SIGNIFICANT FAMILY MEMBER DETAILS			
If the young person is living with a carer or significant family member, are they aware of and supportive of the referral?			
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA			
Carer/Family Member		Relationship	
Email		Phone	
FOSTER PLACEMENT DETAILS (If applicable)			
Address			
How long have they been living in the placement?			
How many people in the living arrangement?			
Are there other young people or children in the placement?			
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes – pls provide details <input type="checkbox"/> No			
How many, ages & relationship to young person:			
Are there any other supports involved for the carer or significant family member?			
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes – pls provide details <input type="checkbox"/> No			
Details:			
Does the young person have a WWCC?		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Are there any concerns with the young person Staying On in this living arrangement?			
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes – pls provide details <input type="checkbox"/> No			
Details:			
FOSTER CARE AGENCY DETAILS			
Agency Name		Worker's Name	
Address			
Email		Phone	

Referral - 17

Staying On Facilitators should be allocated to support a Transition Coach to connect with the family and offer the Home Stretch WA service.

The Staying On Facilitator is responsible for creating a Smooth Transition of supports for a carer.



Info Session for Carer Supports

TRANSITION PLAN FOR CARER SUPPORTS

What would be the best way to introduce and transition support to the Home Stretch WA Staying On Facilitator? (i.e. best location to meet, times, dates, joint sessions, key people)

Carers have a broad range of experiences of the child protection system.

What would you need to know before you met with a carer and young person for the first time to offer Home Stretch?

Pulse Check

Rate out of 10 how well you understand how Staying On fits into the Home Stretch WA Model?

What questions do you need answered to move from your number to one higher?



Joint Info Session - Staying On

Activity 10 mins

You have planned an info session to include Pam, Matt and Caleb. The foster care support worker from Yorganop will come too.

In Groups of 3 – Using the Practice Guidelines

Take Turns describing the offer of Staying On as if you are talking to the family.

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

Persona – Matt and Caleb

Matt and Caleb are two young Aboriginal men who had been living with their Foster Carer Pam since they were babies. Pam had been a Foster Carer for over 20 years with our partner Yorganop. Pam is an amazing woman who has raised many children, helping them grown up strong and connected to culture and family. They are supported by Yorganop but the boys don't have much contact with either the Department or the Yorganop Support Worker.



Staying On Agreements

A simple intervention, designed to improve communication and assist families to understand each other and how to deal with issues that arise



So you are coming into my family and telling me I need to sign a contract with my child about how things work in my house and how we should live together?



Making an Agreement

MAKING AN AGREEMENT

Working out how Staying On works for you

Prepare an Agreement



The Transition Coach supports the young person to work out how things might be different after 18, the Home Stretch WA Staying on Facilitator supports the carer to do the same

Timeframe	1 week
Who	Actions
Young Person	Speaks to the Transition Coach about Staying On
Family	Receive a call from the Staying On Facilitator to discuss the Staying On Agreement and make time to meet
Home Stretch WA Coach	Supports the young person to understand their rights and responsibilities in Staying On. Helps them identify things they would like to work out and agree with their carer.
Staying On Facilitator	Supports the carer to understand how Staying On is different to a foster placement and their rights and responsibilities in a Staying On Agreement. Assists them to identify any 'house rules' or expectations they might have in the agreement.
Documents	Home Stretch WA - Staying On Guide for Young People and Carers Home Stretch WA - Setting up a Staying On Agreement Discussion Guide

"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.



Young People
are at the Centre

Chipping In

An important principal, but can be difficult to introduce at first and implement in Staying On.

Family Values and Attitudes towards finances are often quite fixed.

How might you describe Chipping In to a family?



Making an Agreement

Whole Group Activity: Card Sort

As a group imagine you are the Staying On Facilitator, and you are meeting with Katie and her carer to negotiate the agreement.

Using the cards – help unpack what things need to be raised from Katie's perspective.



Persona - Katie

James is an 18-year-old young man with complex behavioural issues who was living with a disability and required the support of the NDIS.

The Staying On Agreement will allow James to continue to live with his Carers while they navigated the complex NDIS process with support from the Home Stretch Team.

This will include regular contact and advocacy between the Transition Coach, Staying On Facilitator, James and his Carers and the NDIS providers.



Making an Agreement

Staying On Agreement



Young person & carer are supported to negotiate a Staying On Agreement, the Home Stretch WA Staying On Facilitator facilitates the process

Timeframe	1 meeting (2 hours)
Who	Actions
Young person	Listens to the expectations and ideas of the family or carer. Discusses what's important to them in the living arrangement and comes up with an agreement to make it work.
Family	Listens to the expectations and ideas of the young person. Discusses what's important to them in the living arrangement and comes up with an agreement to make it work.
Home Stretch WA Coach	Supports the young person in the discussion to identify and explore issues that are important to them.
Staying On Facilitator	Facilitates a solutions focused discussion to develop the Staying On Agreement. Supports the family or carer to identify and explore issues important to them.
Documents	Home Stretch WA - Staying On Agreement Template Home Stretch WA - Setting up a Staying On Agreement Discussion Guide Home Stretch WA - Staying On Subsidy Application Form Home Stretch WA - Staying On Agreement Card Sort Tool

Facilitating the Discussion

Staying On Agreement



Date:

- ☐ **Explain what a Staying On Agreement is and why it is important**
 - o A written agreement the young person and carer family develop together to outline the expectations of living together
 - o Everyone has different expectations of living together so it is important to be clear about what is expected of each other and how you overcome issues if they arise
- ☐ **Use the 'Setting Up a Staying On Agreement Discussion Guide' to fill out this agreement**
- ☐ **Once completed, attach the agreement to the Staying On Subsidy Application Form**

What is working well?

Discuss what is going well in the current arrangement, this can be done separately or as a group using the Discussion Guide for different topic areas.

Setting Up a Staying On Agreement



Purpose

The 'Staying On Agreement' is formed between the young person and the carer and family, so everyone is clear about the living arrangement. It clearly establishes the house rules, expectations and how the subsidy payment is used for the duration of the stay.

People Involved

Young person, carer/family, Home Stretch WA Transition Coach, Home Stretch WA Staying On Facilitator, Child Protection Worker (where relevant), Foster Care Supports (where relevant).

Process

- The Transition Coach or Staying On Facilitator explains to the carer and young person why a Staying On Agreement is important, a copy of 'Staying On Guide for Young People and Carers' can be provided
- The Staying On discussion guide below; card sort or topic list activity can be used to bring up items for discussion to put into the agreement
- The Staying On Facilitator supports the young person and their carer to come to an agreement about the different topics and how to make the living arrangement work
- Discuss essential house rules and non-negotiables
- Discuss how the subsidy payment is going to be used by referring to the 'Staying On Guide for Young People and Carers'
- Discuss when the agreement is reviewed and what to do if the agreement isn't working
- Complete the Staying On Agreement and have the young person and carer sign
- Complete the Staying On Subsidy Application Form

Staying On Discussion Guide

The Guide can be used to discuss and explore what is important in the living arrangement, expectations from both the carer and young person around house rules and finances, to come up with an agreement that works for everyone.

If the young person and carer have been living together for a while, these things may be in place so not much may need to change. For families who have not had a living arrangement discussion, the guide can be helpful to set some basic expectations of each other in the living arrangement and talk about what's important.

It is also helpful for the young person to have these discussions, particularly for when they get their own place or live with housemates. The young person can practice negotiating agreements with others and see how it is a part of being independent.

Group Activity: Make an Agreement

Read the Discussion Guide and Practice Guide

Imagine you are collectively going to facilitate an agreement with a young person and carer.

One person will be the young person, the other the carer.

Work through the Agreement

A decorative dotted line in a light yellow color, consisting of three distinct wave-like curves, positioned at the bottom right of the slide.

Application for the Subsidy

APPLICATION Applying for the Staying On Subsidy

Subsidy Application



Coach helps the young person & carer submit the subsidy application paperwork for approval

Timeframe	1 meeting (Can be completed in the same meeting as the Staying On Agreement)
Who	Actions
Young Person	Completes the Staying on Subsidy Application Form with the Coach
Family	Completes the Staying on Subsidy Application Form with the Coach
Transition Coach	Helps the young person and carer complete the Staying On Subsidy Application Form and emails to Home Stretch WA Staying On Facilitator for approval
Staying On Facilitator	Emails completed Staying On Subsidy Application Form to Department of Communities Subsidies Processing Unit
Dept of Communities Subsidies Processing Unit	Receive Staying on Subsidy Application Form and begin processing
Documents	Home Stretch WA - Staying On Subsidy Application Form Home Stretch WA - Staying On Agreement Template

Application for the Subsidy

Subsidy Approval



Carer & young person receive call/email /SMS notification of Staying On Subsidy approval

Timeframe	1 week from application submission
Who	Actions
Young person	Receives an email/text notifying on Staying On Subsidy approval
Family	Receives an email/text notifying on Staying On Subsidy approval
Transition Coach	Receives an email/text notifying on Staying On Subsidy approval
Staying On Facilitator	Receives an email/text notifying on Staying On Subsidy approval
Dept of Communities Subsidies Processing Unit	Notify Home Stretch WA Staying On <u>Facilitator</u> , Home Stretch WA Coach, Young Person & Carer via email or text that the Staying On Subsidy has been approved
Documents	Home Stretch WA - Staying On Subsidy Application Form

Application for the Subsidy

This forms a contract between the Department of Communities and the Carer.

The Home Stretch WA Provider MUST manage the living arrangement and notify of any changes



Government of Western Australia
Department of Communities



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			
District office			
Communities Case Manager or other child protection worker	Name: Email: Phone:		

Application for the Subsidy

Currently Subsidies can only be approved from the date they are received by the Department of Communities

What does this mean for planning out when to complete a Staying On Agreement?

What pressure might this place on young people in Living Arrangements?

How might we respond?



Informal Review

A Review meeting after 4 Weeks is an important opportunity to check in on how things are working.

It also helps create an ongoing connection and set some expectations for carers and young people around how much support and involvement they will have with a Staying On Facilitator.



Informal Review

REVIEW Ongoing to make sure things are still OK, report changes, review the agreement & subsidy

Check in
(Ongoing)



Young person meets with the Transition Coach monthly to report any changes, they also offer more intensive support to the young person

Staying On Facilitator checks in every 3 months or as agreed with the carer

Timeframe	As agreed by the young person and coach (min once per month)
Who	Actions
Young person	Meets with the Coach for support and continues working towards their goals; and raise any concerns about the Staying On arrangement or plans to move on
Transition Coach	Regularly meet with the young person to work towards a housing pathway plan and other agreed goals as needed; and supports them with things the Staying On carer may not have capacity or resources to assist with
Staying On Facilitator	Checks in with the carer every 3 months or more, based on the Staying On Agreement; and supports the Transition Coach with any issues in the living arrangement and contacts the carer if needed
Documents	Home Stretch WA - Transition Coaching Housing Pathway Plan & Budget Home Stretch WA - Transition Coaching Practice Guide Home Stretch WA - Staying On Agreement Review Template

Supporting Living Arrangements

The Staying On Facilitator and Transition Coach should work together to ensure that the family feels supported.

What level of support can the Staying On Facilitator provide to a family?

What level of support and involvement would a coach have with a carer?



Responding to Families

What can go wrong in Staying On?

Conflict over Subsidy

Boundaries and Expectations of Young People

Trauma – Young Persons

Trauma - Carers



Responding to Families

What makes families Strong?



Responding to Families

Trauma Informed Practice

Advice, Information and Referral to Therapeutic Services

- Parenting a young adult
- Relationship services
- Therapeutic Services around trauma

Home Stretch WA Transition Coach Practice Principles



Report Changes

Report changes



The young person lets the Transition Coach know if things change, the carer can call the Staying On Facilitator to let them know how things are going

Timeframe	Ongoing or as required
Who	Actions
Young person	Reports any issues to the Home Stretch WA Transition Coach or if they want to move on
Family	Reports any issues to the Home Stretch WA Staying On Facilitator
Transition Coach	Supports the young person to address arrangement issues or with moving on
Staying On Facilitator	Available to assist the carer to access living arrangement support or resources; and notify Subsidies Processing Unit if the living arrangement ends
Documents	Home Stretch WA - Staying On Agreement Review Template

Ending an Agreement

Sometimes the living arrangement doesn't work

Young People can be supported to find alternative housing options, and be supported under a housing allowance.

Young people also have the right to return to the Staying On if that works for both them and the carer.



Reviewing an Agreement

Subsidy payments reduce each year.

How might we work with families to prepare them for the change?



Reviewing an Agreement

Subsidy Review




The young person & carer meet with the Staying On Facilitator & Coach to review the subsidy agreement 3 months before it ends, they check the long-term plan & make sure the family is prepared for the reduced payment

Timeframe	9 months after the commencement of Staying On Subsidy
Who	Actions
Young person	Discuss contributions towards living arrangement and longer-term housing plans with Coach
Family	Supports young person to discuss contributions towards living arrangement and longer-term housing options
Transition Coach	Supports young person with budgeting and longer-term housing plan for after 21
Staying On Facilitator	Organises a review meeting and facilitates discussion with family, young person and Coach to review agreement, long term plans and advise of subsidy payment reduction for the following year; and notifies Subsidies Unit of any reductions in payment
Dept of Communities Subsidies Processing Unit	Notify Home Stretch WA of 12-month review date
Documents	Home Stretch WA - Staying On Agreement Review Template Home Stretch WA - Staying On Subsidy Application Form

Reviewing an Agreement

Staying On Agreement Review



Name:

Review Date:

☐ Year 2

☐ Year 3

☐ Other:

**What has worked well over the length of the Staying On Agreement?
What are the good things that have happened as a result of Staying On?**

What have been the challenges to living together? Are there any barriers to overcome?

Finances - How has the young person contributed to expenses? Is the young person ready to increase their contribution for the next Staying On Agreement period?

Has the young person completed a budget?

How much more can the young person contribute to the next agreement?

How much is the Staying On Subsidy?

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	<input type="text"/>	DOB	<input type="text"/>
Assist ID	<input type="text"/>		
Address	<input type="text"/>		
Phone	<input type="text"/>		

Ending an Agreement

EXIT Young person turns 21 or decides to move on

Final Review



When they turn 20, the young person and carer meet with the Staying on Facilitator & Coach to work out what happens after 21

Timeframe	Age 20 or prior to 21
Who	Actions
Young person	Discuss with Coach and Staying On Facilitator, long-term housing options and prepare for subsidy payment to end
Family	Discuss with Coach and Staying On Facilitator, long-term housing options and prepare for subsidy payment to end
Transition Coach	Support the young person to plan for long-term housing options after 21 and prepare for the subsidy payment to end
Staying On Facilitator	Facilitate discussion with family, young person and Coach around long term plans and prepare for subsidy to cease when the young person turns 21
Documents	Home Stretch WA- Staying On Agreement Review Template



Access to Resources



www.homestretchwa.org.au

How to Contact Us



homestretch@anglicarewa.org.au



Andy

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Vanessa

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Renae

0479 067 474

Jess

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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 Practice Principles

A reliable source of support is your right!
It's your choice to join and you can choose to
come and go.



Young People
are at the Centre



Home Stretch Practice Principles

You are the expert in your life, you deserve the freedom and respect to make your own choices.
Our support is unconditional.



Young People
are at the Centre

"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.



Young People
are at the Centre

Home Stretch Practice Principles

You can make an informed choice about the support you receive from Home Stretch WA.

There are no shocks for you or the important people in your life.



Young People
are at the Centre

Home Stretch Practice Principles

Your coach will be consistent & persistent but not intrusive.

“Like a text message, not a knock on the door”.



Young People
are at the Centre

Important moments & transition points
in your life are acknowledged &
celebrated.



Young People
are at the Centre

Culturally Safe.

Your supports recognize Aboriginal, and CALD young people must navigate between two worlds.



Young People
are at the Centre

Home Stretch Practice Principles

Know your mob to know your culture.

When you're ready we will help you find ways to build
your connection to family and culture.



Young People
are at the Centre

Home Stretch Practice Principles

Your Relationships are important.

The important people in your life can be part of your Home Stretch WA experience and we can support you to build new connections



Young People
are at the Centre

Home Stretch Practice Principles

Home Stretch will help you heal and
connect.

When you are ready.



Young People
are at the Centre

Discuss in small groups

- Think back and discuss a time when you made a choice and then changed your mind. How do you think this relates to the opt-in and opt-out model of Homestretch WA?
- What Homestretch WA principle resonates with you most?
 - Explore how the old leaving care system and the Homestretch WA model differ.
- What do you believe is the greatest benefit a Young Person can gain from opting into the Homestretch WA program?



Access to Resources



www.homestretchwa.org.au

How to Contact Us



homestretch@anglicarewa.org.au



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Renae

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Jess

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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



Home Stretch WA

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Stretch WA information!

Agencies involved in Homestretch WA



Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Communities**

