

# Practice Hour

## Youth Participation



Home  
Stretch  
WA

### **Date:**

Thursday 16th May

### **Name of Facilitators:**

**Lived Experience Presenter:** Kathleen Martawan, Tyler McKenna, Bailey Heuvinc, Averil Reilley

**Learned Experience:** Andrew Kazim, Vanessa Msapenda

# 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.

# Creating A Safe Space for Lived Experience

## **Safety, Choice, and Control:**

- Respect the rights of people to own their own story.
- Only share what you are given permission to share (but share the Insights and your response).
- Avoid referencing names and districts.

## **Maintain Respectful Boundaries:**

- Stories are shared to guide, inform and educate, not to be unpacked, compared or evaluated.
- Only engage with the parts of the story shared – unless directly invited to ask questions. Don't go digging...
- Don't give advice, solutions, or seek practice advice.

# Explore Youth Participation...

- Understanding of Youth Participation and how it's measured.
- An overview of Young People Involvement in Home Stretch WA.
- Young People's role in the future of Home Stretch WA.

**Next Practice Hour**



# Lived Experience

Lived experience work together as part of the Home Stretch WA - Community of Practice team by bringing expertise in youth advocacy, youth participation and the integration of relevant lived experience, into the ongoing design, development and delivery of the Home Stretch WA model.

Home Stretch WA recognises young people as equal partners in this work and values their lived experience, alongside the learned experience of experts and policy makers.



# Lived Experience Consultants



**Chris Duschka**

- Home Stretch Trial
- Staying On Practice
- Disability Pathways
- Feedback & Complaints
- YAG Events



**Darcey Garrett**

- Home Stretch Trial
- Youth Engagement Plan
- Training
- Feedback & Complaints
- Governance Structure
- Model Health Checks
- Media



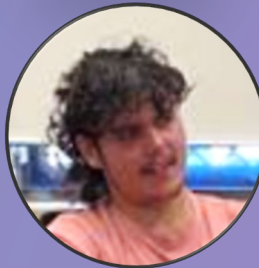
**Brayden Redfern**

- YAG Events
- Youth Justice Pathways
- Model Health Checks



**Shelley Farmer**

- Home Stretch Trial
- Youth Engagement Plan
- Home Stretch YAG
- Training
- Evaluation Sessions
- Cultural Practice Framework



**Jett Higgins**

- YAG events
- Media
- Establishment workshops
- Youth Advocacy Panels & Conferences

**Introducing today's lived experience consultants!**

- What is your name
- How you got involved in Home Stretch WA?
- What the some of things you have been part of in your role?
- Why is having a say in how things work important to you?





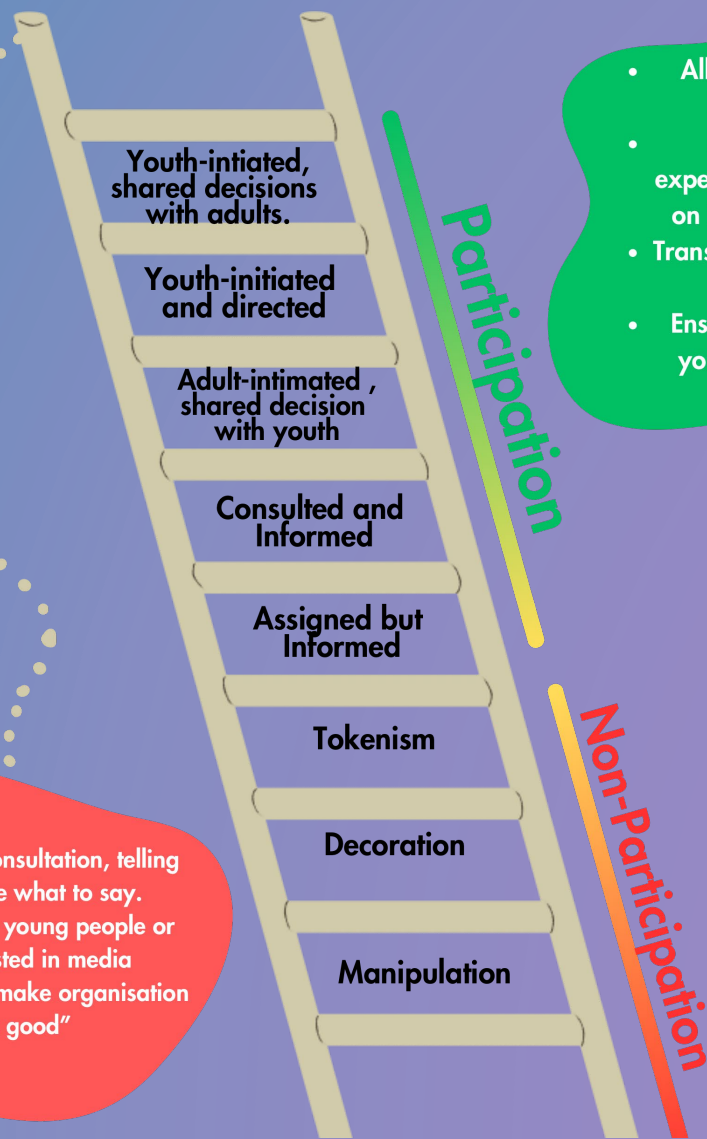
# Youth Participation

Participation is a fundamental right. It is one of the guiding principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights that has been reiterated in many other Conventions and Declarations. **Through active participation, young people are empowered to play a vital role in their own development as well as in that of their communities, helping them to learn vital life-skills, develop knowledge on human rights and citizenship and to promote positive civic action.** To participate effectively, young people must be given the proper tools, such as information, education about and access to their civil rights.

- United Nations



# Hart's Ladder of Youth Participation



- Disingenuous consultation, telling young people what to say.
- Not listening to young people or only interested in media opportunities to make organisation "look good"

- Allowing youth to sit at all levels of governance.
- Spaces to share lived experience to drive and advise on important social change.
- Transparent conversations with young people.
- Ensuring employed roles for youth voices to inform and collaborate!

Reflection moment:

*How do you ensure youth participation?*

*Where do you measure on the ladder?*

*Why is youth participation important?*





# Youth Engagement

Youth engagement refers to a wider scope of activities, which empower young people by involving them in their communities.

While **youth participation** is focused on action taken by young people themselves, youth engagement also incorporates activities provided to young people in community settings.

**Youth engagement** can also lead to empowerment of young people, and may be a good stepping stone for young people into youth participation activities.

- *Government of Western Australia*

How does Home Stretch WA support this?



# Youth Engagement Plan



Government of Western Australia  
Department of Communities

## Home Stretch WA Rollout

### Youth Engagement Plan - Equal Partners

Version date: December 2022

This Youth Engagement Plan (the Plan) has been co-authored by Lived Experience Consultants (Consultants) from the Home Stretch WA Community of Practice, led by Anglicare WA, and provides a platform for ensuring that young people remain as the centre of planning and implementation of Home Stretch in Western Australia (WA).

The purpose of the Plan is to make sure all stakeholders understand how young people will be involved in the Home Stretch WA rollout. It details how young people will contribute to and shape the program as it rolls out across the state.

The Plan is a living document and will adapt over time to ensure input and direction is coming from a diverse group of young people with lived experience of the care system, so it is current and credible.

The Plan will be developed and maintained by members of the Community of Practice under the guidance of the Consultants and young people participating in the Youth Advisory Group.

The Plan will be shared between the Department of Communities (Communities), young people working in the Community of Practice, young people involved in Home Stretch WA governance groups, and those being supported by Home Stretch WA providers.

## Home Stretch WA Youth Engagement Plan

Below is a snapshot from the Home Stretch WA- Youth Engagement Plan & example activities and roles for Lived Experience Consultants.



### Communicate Home Stretch to Young People



- Create engaging and funny content for social media
- Create youth friendly resources to communicate Home Stretch - Flyers, videos, social media, animations, website, blogs etc
- Create a calendar of events and activities for young people in Home Stretch to be involved in

### Continuous Improvement

- Consult other young people in Home Stretch about what is working/ not working!
- Help young people communicate feedback to improve the Home Stretch Model
- Support young people in regional areas to work out how Home Stretch works for them and their community!

### Workforce Development



- Co-facilitate training and participate in workshops with Home Stretch Providers and share lived experience perspectives
- Support the recruitment of Home Stretch Staff members- Coordinators, Transition Coaches, Staying On Facilitators

### Youth Participation

- Facilitate or support the Youth Advisory Group to capture the voices of young people, share ideas and feedback and provide guidance for group members.
- Develop a Feedback & Complaints process for young people in Home Stretch
- Represent young people's voice at Governance groups for the roll out of the model
- Share own Lived Experience to help Home Stretch Providers understand what works for young people
- Support other young people to share their Lived Experience in safe and supportive way

### Monitoring & Evaluation



- Help ensure Home Stretch is delivered the way it was designed by young people
- Create a tool for Home Stretch teams to reflect on their service and how they are involving young people
- Interview Home Stretch Teams about how they are involving young people
- Help the Evaluation team evaluate what success looks like for young people in Home Stretch
- Capture and share the stories from young people about what's working for them

### Aboriginal Culture & Community

- Ensure young Aboriginal people are represented and their voices and knowledge is heard for the roll out.
- Develop and review the Aboriginal Cultural Framework/Guidelines for Home Stretch
- Help adapt the model to better support Aboriginal families and communities



# Core Values of Youth Engagement

**Empowerment** - Home Stretch WA recognizes young people as equal partners in this work and values their lived experience, alongside the learned experience of experts and policy makers.

**Accountability** - Home Stretch WA delivers on its promises and will continuously improve with the voice of young people

**Transparency** - Young people are informed and have access to information about Home Stretch WA and the rollout

**This should be honoured as part of the commitment by the Home Stretch WA Youth Engagement Plan and Working Together agreement!**

# Youth Participation Activity

## Instructions:

We will now go into break out rooms for 30 minutes and have a yarn around youth participation and the future of lived experience in Home Stretch WA!

In the spirit of the practice session these will be facilitated by the consultants and want to hear from you, the providers!

There are discussion prompts to help guide the conversation!

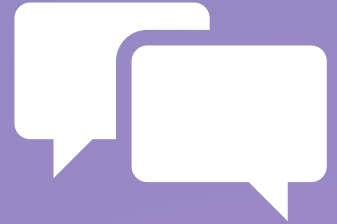
For the last 10 minutes we will meet and share our great insights and answer any questions.



# Discussion



- *Should young people be employed in Lived Experience roles to keep shaping the system?*
- *Who should be employed? Where and by who?*
- *How are you making sure young people are being asked what important to them in Home Stretch?*
- *What events or activities can you run or can we run together to encourage more young people to be involved?*
- *How can we better connect with young parents and get their voice heard?*



# Discussion





# Questions & Comments?



## More Information & Resources



Links to Resources & Documents on the website

Youth Engagement Plan- Equal Partners  
Harts Ladder of participation  
Home Stretch Youth Advisory Group



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

# Contact Us

Community of Practice



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