

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.

Home Stretch 101



Date: 16-01-23

Name of Facilitators:

Darcy Garrett
Young Consultant – Community of
Practice
Andy Kazim
Manager Community of Practice

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

In places like the Kimberley and the Pilbara, almost 100% of the Children and Young People are Aboriginal

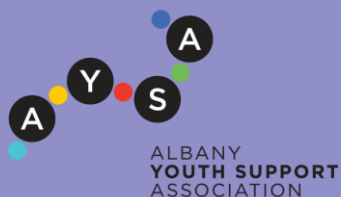
Housekeeping & Rules of Engagement

**Home
Stretch**

WA



Home Stretch WA Providers



Home Stretch WA Ice Breaker

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

How do you identify yourself

Who are you representing

Job role

Why Home Stretch?



Happy 18th Birthday?

Case management support

Foster Carer Subsidies

Placement Funding

Legal Guarantee of Care and Protection

Preparation

[From 15]

Transition

[From 17]

After Care

[From 18]

Leaving Care to
Independence
in WA

3 Phases of
Practice

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



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 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

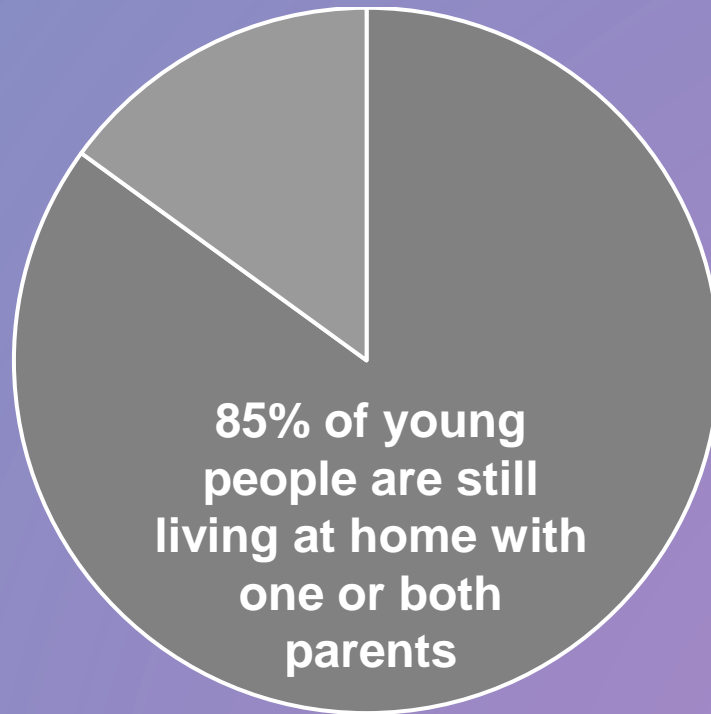
They gave me a huge file and that was it...

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.

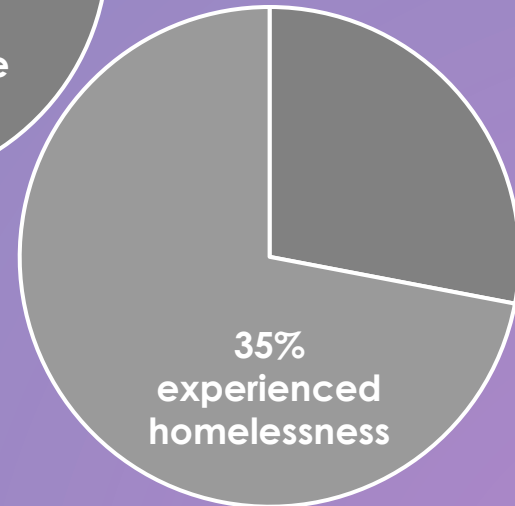
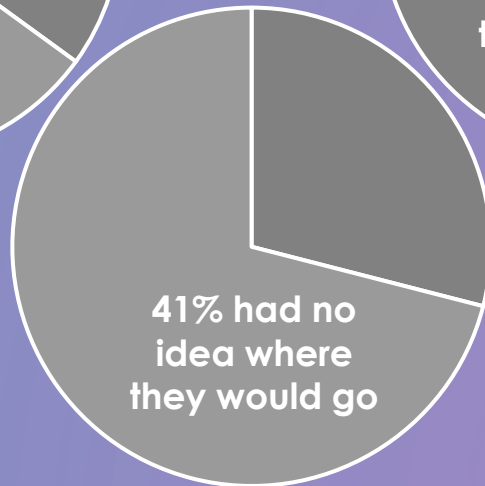
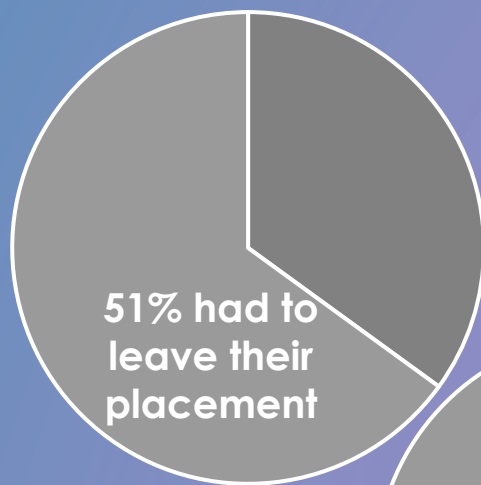
I didn't leave care, care left me!

I had to leave care the same week as my ATAR

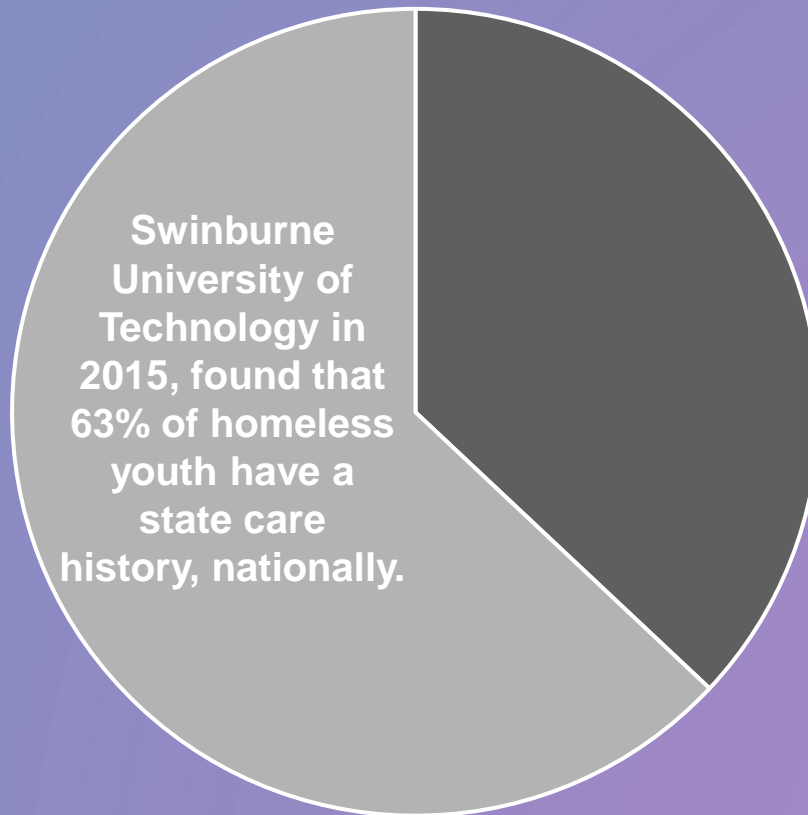
85% of 18 – 21 year olds in Australia are still at home (HILDA)



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



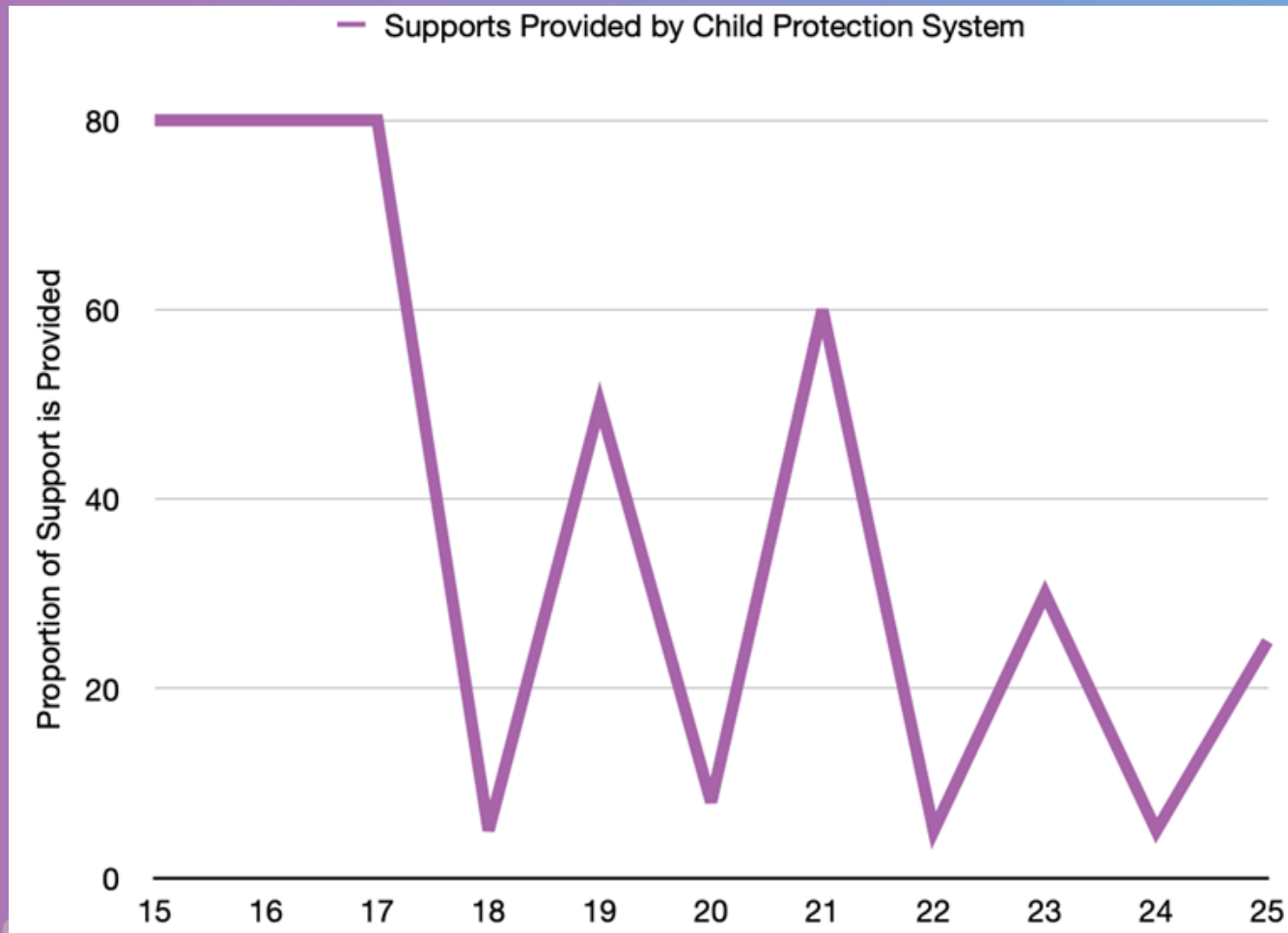
Two thirds of homeless youth come from Out of Home Care



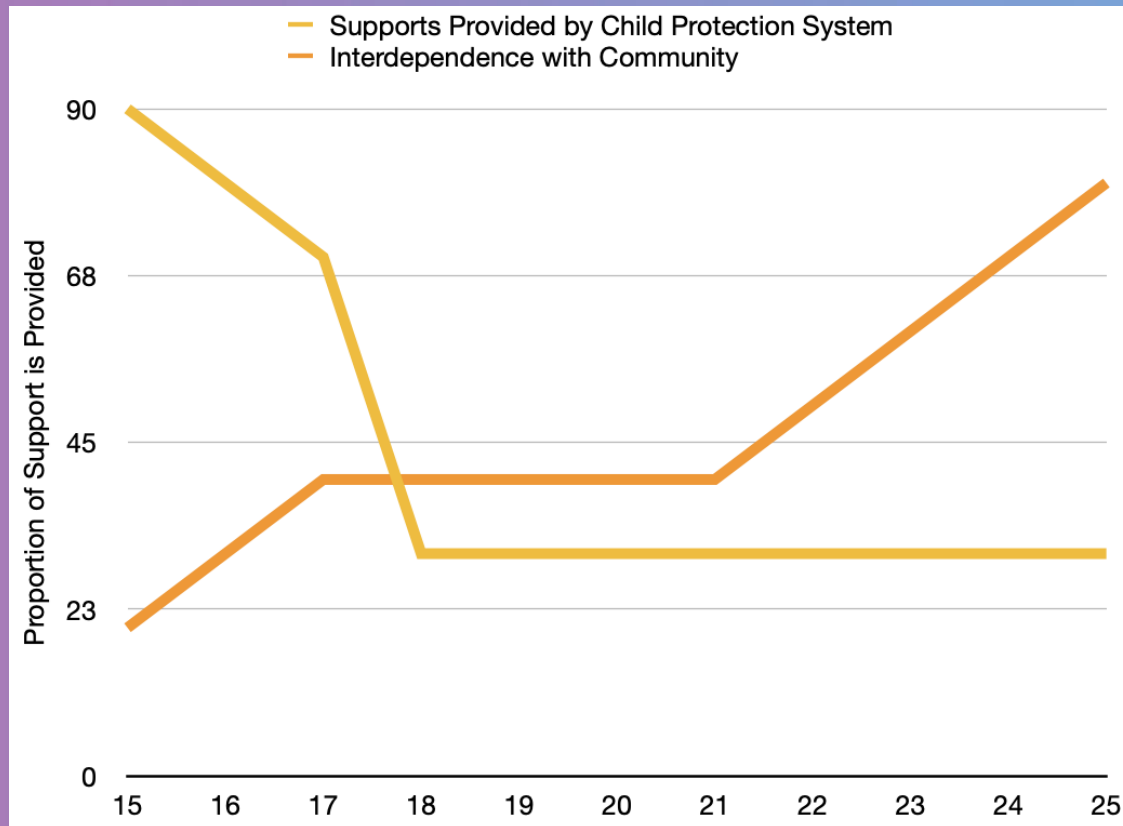
Lego and Systems Thinking



Experiences of Leaving Care in the Old System



Leaving Care System Without Home Stretch WA



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

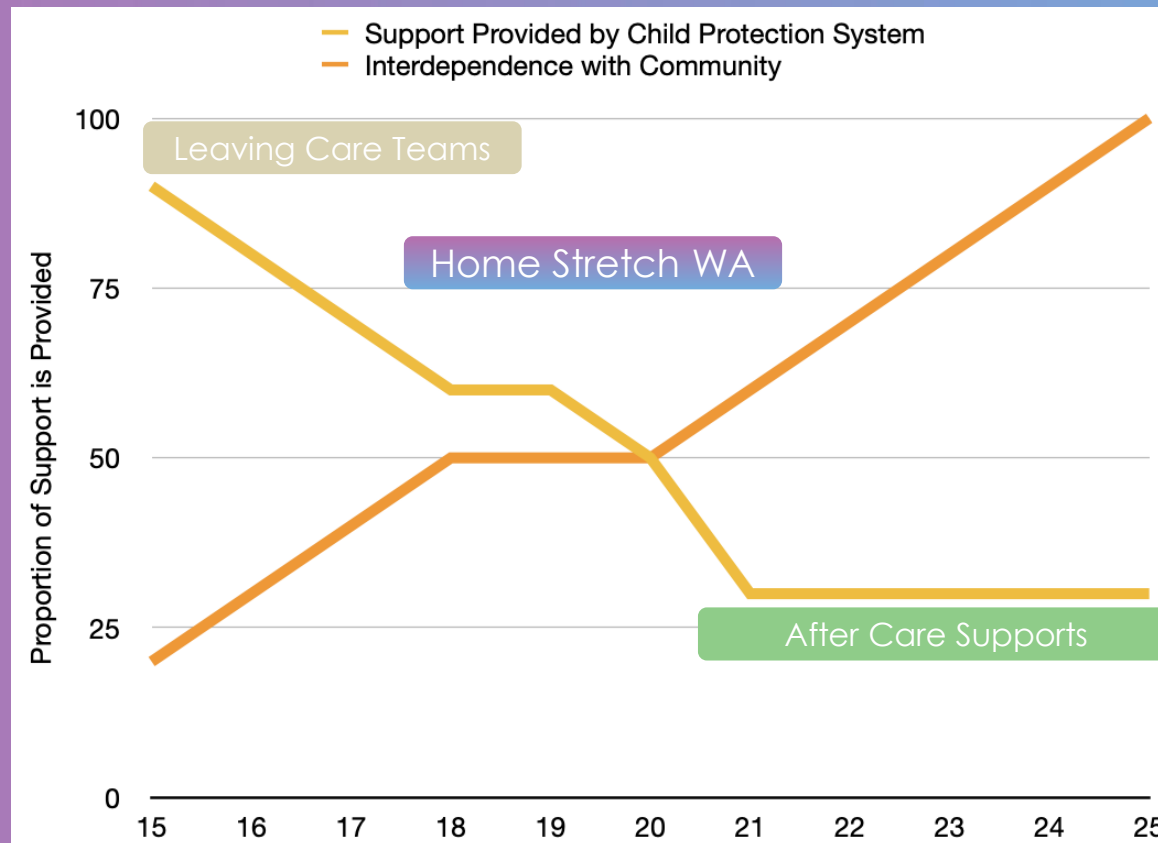
A Youth Advisory Group help lead the design and review of the model

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

A Smooth Transition Under Home Stretch



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.

Home-stretch is a choice

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 do you believe is the greatest benefit a Young Person can gain from opting into the Homestretch WA program?

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.



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

How does this kind of reform help Young People?

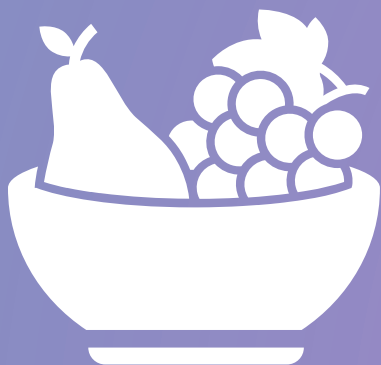




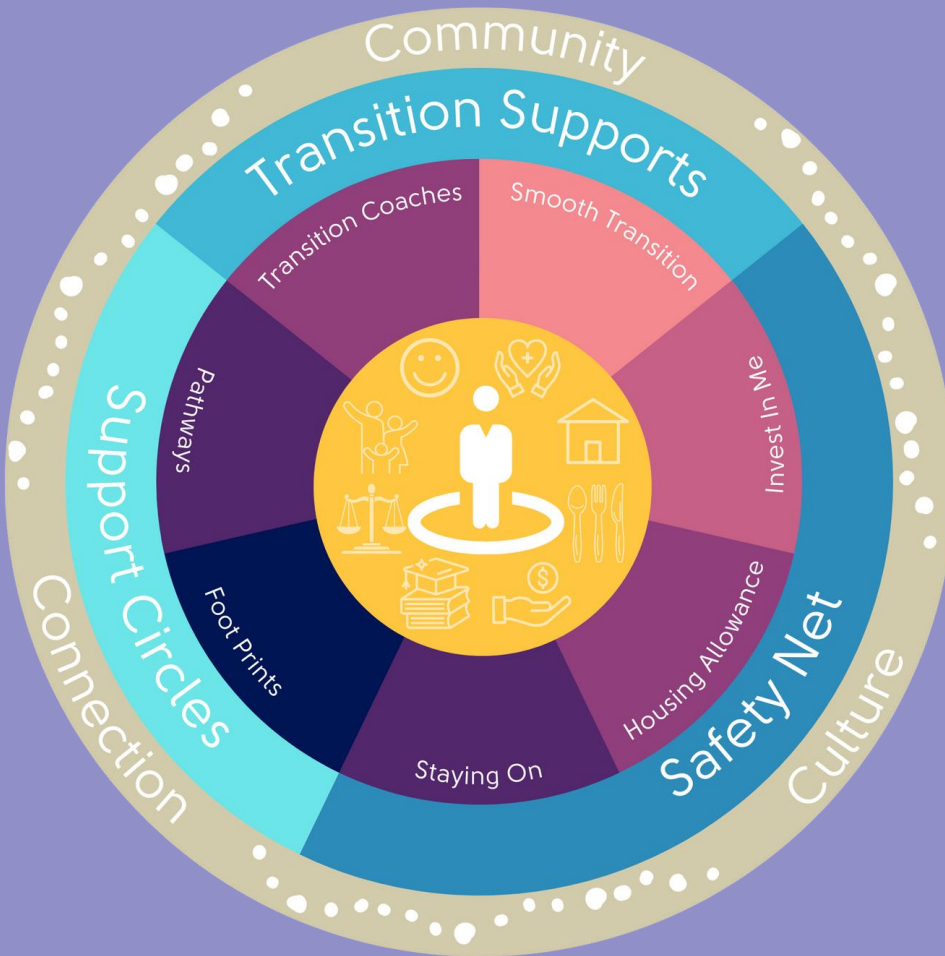
Using the resources provided please build the Homestretch WA model from memory (no cheating), this is done in groups of three.

Yarn Time

Home
Stretch
WA



Home Stretch WA Model



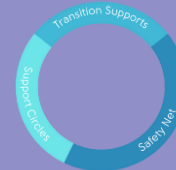
Young people are at center of support.
Everyone is treated as an individual



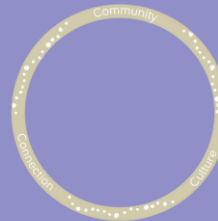
Support or connection is offered
in all areas of life



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.

Home Stretch Practice Principles

Activity – In Groups of 3

Using the practice principles;
work through each of the brief
case examples.

What principles are relevant?
How might they inform your
response?



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



Someone from a resi service you used to work with calls you up and tells you that there is a young person turning 18 soon who would really benefit from Home Stretch and is worried that they will miss out because they keep rejecting the referral and the program is filling up quickly.

They ask you to hold a place for them and find a way to onboard onto the program without them having to consent to a referral so that they don't miss out.



A young person you have been working with for a while decides that he is going to leave their family and move into a shared house with his older boyfriend.

You know their boyfriend has been asking for money and you are suspicious that moving out of their home is just a way to get more money



A young person calls you up and ask for you to pay for a laptop and a TAFE course.

They demand you sort it out and pay for it all because it's their right. When you tell them about the application process they threaten to call your manager and the district office if you don't just cover the full costs.

They lost the last laptop that was bought for them 12 months earlier.



A young person you had built a solid connection with starts to disengage after about 18 months, and cancels your last 2 meetings.

You know they have started a new job, and have moved into a shared house with a person from their **HEY!** work who they look up to.



You get a call from a young person's Aunt who is also their Staying On Carer.

The Aunt tells you that she needs you to talk the young person out of moving in with her biological mother because of the drug use in the house.



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 until the age of 21 years.

It's also about young people having complete informed consent, giving them the honest truth 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.

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?

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.

What do you think the main differences are between a Transition Coach and a Case Manager?



Transition Coach - Case study

Case Study

Jasmin is 18.5 years old. She has just been released from Prison. You have been engaging with her for the past 12 weeks. She is homeless and has a history of substance abuse. She wants to get stable so that she can do a course at TAFE and be inter-dependent.

You have not heard from her for five weeks. She is no longer engaging with you via calls, email or text message.

The last time you spoke to Jasmin she mentioned she would like to return to country to be with her mob.

What will you do next?

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 Home Stretch WA Housing Allowance that can assist them to afford a broader range of living arrangements and includes an emphasis on providing them the skills and supports they need to secure and maintain safe and stable housing.

Transition Coaches work with young people to make a plan for housing and 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?

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.



Staying On Subsidy

A Young Person turns 18 and their Carer doesn't believe that they need a Staying on agreement to stay with them, 8 months later you get a call and asked to mediate and draw up a staying on agreement as the Young Person isn't able to pay bond and the situation is deteriorating quickly, both sides agree to the Staying On agreement, what types of things do you think may have to be included in the agreement to avoid further deterioration? How much is the Carer entitled to in the staying on agreement

Invest In Me

(\$2,500 per young person per year) gives young people the 'right' to a visible and secure financial safety net for resources to support them towards their aspirations and goals, or for crisis relief.

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.



Invest In Me

Discretionary funding is difficult, and although Home Stretch requires workers to follow a practice approach, sometimes it isn't straightforward.

Do you think funding \$2500 per person per year is a fair amount?

A Young Person asks for a \$3000 computer because they need to be able to fulfill their dream of becoming a famous youtuber. Do you think this is a worthwhile use of their Invest in me? What will you do?

Do you need managerial approval to buy a coffee for you and the young person?



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

Support Circles Approach

Do an Eco map of your relationships with not only people in your life but services that you use in your personal life, ie centrelink, therapy services ect.

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?

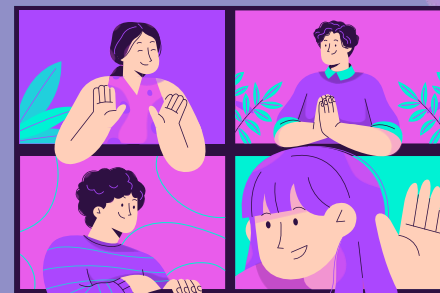
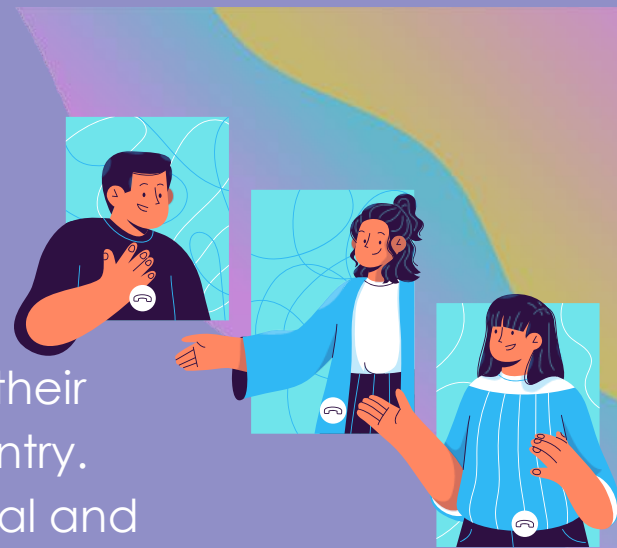


Pathways

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?





Access to Resources



www.homestretchwa.org.au

How to Contact Us



homestretch@anglicarewa.org.au



Andy
Vanessa
Renaë
Jess

0413 207 096
0447 784 128
0479 067 474
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

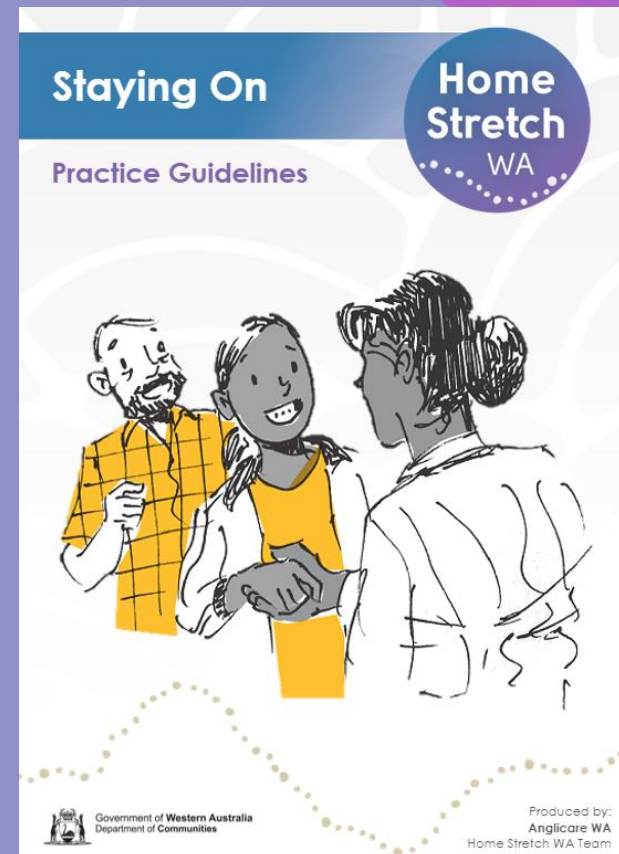
This application is to approve the Staying On Subsidy payments to foster and family carers who will continue to support a young person staying on in the living arrangement after age 18 years. This includes funded community service organisation managed carers.

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

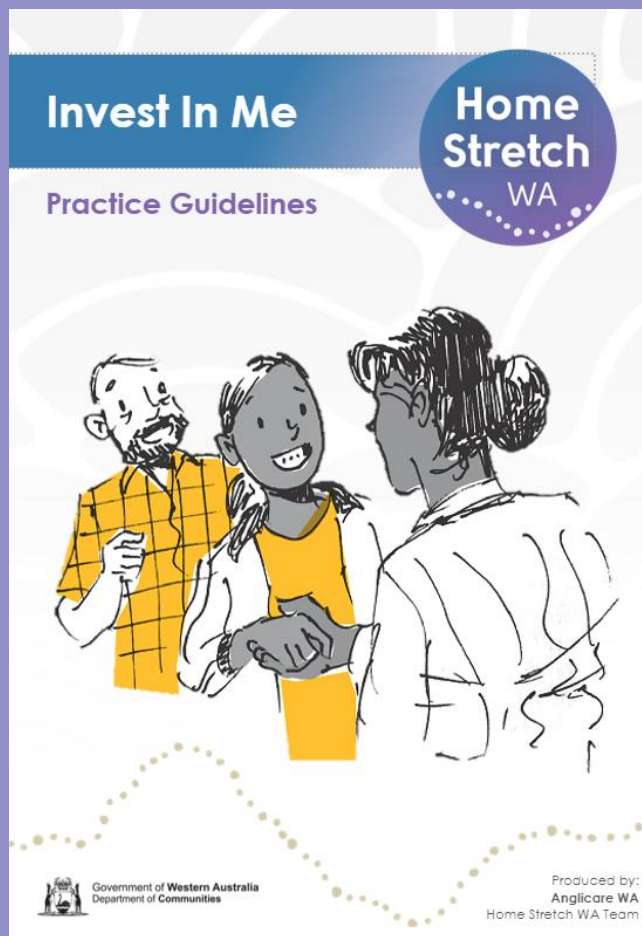
The Housing Pathway Planning session provides a space for the Transition Coach to support the young person to explore where they would like to live and start preparing all the documents to support their application. Finding a suitable place to live can feel like a daunting task, so it may be helpful 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



Home Stretch WA

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