

2024

ANNUAL REPORT

*"Break the
cycle of
homelessness"*

Platform
Youth Services

Our vision:

"WE EXIST TO

BREAK THE CYCLE

OF HOMELESSNESS"

We value:

INTEGRITY

#Accepting anything
less limits us

ADVOCACY

#Not speaking up limits
possibilities

ASPIRATION

#Low expectations
limit us

CONNECTION

#Working alone or in
silos limits us

RESPECT

#One-way conversations
limit us

PERSEVERANCE

#To give up limits
opportunities



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Thank you

CHAIRPERSONS Report



"WE EXIST TO HELP VULNERABLE YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE OPPORTUNITIES, SKILLS AND SUPPORT THEY NEED TO ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE IN THEIR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC COMMUNITIES. WE ARE FULLY COMMITTED TO THIS STATEMENT AS IS EVIDENCED ACROSS ALL OUR PROGRAMS."

This year, we provided tailored support to over 1,000 young people, that goes beyond just finding a roof over their heads. Our dedicated team has helped young people access education, job opportunities and essential resources, ensuring they have the tools to build brighter futures. With the help of Link Wentworth and a successful Social Innovation Grant, we have increased our property portfolio by purchasing a large property in Penrith with a view to extending our Education First program. We have also established a new Aboriginal Engagement Team supporting Aboriginal young people with cultural care and have built crucial pathways out of crisis into independence for all young people.

Community engagement has been at the forefront of our efforts. By partnering with local businesses, schools and various organisations, we have been able to create initiatives that not only raise awareness about youth homelessness but also empower young people to thrive. We really do appreciate every service and individual who have assisted us delivering quality support. Our wonderful partnerships with RuffTRACK, The Y, Youth InSearch and Richmond High School through the year and our events showcase our passionate supporters who believe in our cause and uniting our community in action.

Advocacy has also played a crucial role in our work this year. We've participated in campaigns that highlight the systemic issues surrounding youth homelessness, using our platforms to amplify their voices.

This brings me to the reasons for our success- it's the contribution of our team. Their unwavering dedication brings warmth and compassion to everything we do. I never cease to be amazed at their dedication, commitment and sheer hard work and we are all immensely grateful for their contribution in creating such a profound difference to our youth.

A team does not function to the best of its ability without a strong leader and that person in our organisation is our CEO Stephanie Oatley. Steph displays all the attributes of an excellent leader- authenticity, creativity empathy, adaptability, resilience and most importantly, leading by example. Her care and concern is not only towards our young people but extends to her team. She is aware of the need to adapt to our rapidly changing world, and she

ensures that our staff are helped to adjust as well. Her contribution as a leader is one of the main reasons that Platform continues to grow, adapt and be successful in our sector.

The Board of Platform Youth Service also makes a huge contribution to the growth and continued achievements of Platform. Our Board consists of eight individuals who, while from varied backgrounds and expertise, come together with the same purpose. They use their varied skills to steer and support the growth of Platform. As a Board, we are always conscious of the need to continue to extend our knowledge of the sector. To this end, we have undertaken further training and attendance at relevant conferences- the most recent one being the Homelessness Conference in Adelaide. We are also in the process of acquiring the services of a Board coach. We have continued our reporting from our managers in order to deepen our knowledge of our service. As well, in order to streamline our meetings so that we will have more time for discussion, we have introduced a Consent Agenda to operate.

Looking ahead, we are excited to explore new opportunities, in particular increasing our housing options and working towards Foyer Accreditation and continue to adapt to meet the cultural needs of the young people. As well, developing pipelines for building careers for our staff and providing upskilling opportunities for our Board members.

Thank you for your ongoing support, your belief in our mission and your dedication to making a difference. I am so proud that together we are creating lasting change in the lives of young people and I look forward to what we will achieve in the coming year.

With gratitude,

Anna Wemyss
Chairperson of Platform Youth Services

CEO'S Report



"TOGETHER, WE ARE TRANSFORMING LIVES."

It is with immense pride and gratitude that I share our 2023-2024 Annual Report. This year has been one of growth, resilience, and innovation as we continue our vision of breaking the cycle of homelessness through housing, employment, and education initiatives.

Our impact has been profound, helping over 1000 young people across 13 programs. We've made significant strides in supporting young homeless people, expanding our reach and capacity to deliver sustainable, life-changing solutions. Highlights include receiving ASES accreditation at the award level, launching new programs like the Aboriginal Engagement Team, supporting RuffTRACK to deliver day programs to vulnerable youth and expanding medium-term housing options.

This year, we also saw developments in our governance, staff culture, and overall organisational growth. From strengthening our practice frameworks to deepening our focus on cultural connections and inclusivity, we are ensuring that every young person receives the tailored, supportive services they need.

At the heart of all we do is our incredible team. We've invested in staff development, launched new leadership programs, and prioritized wellbeing, ensuring that our people are empowered to do their best work. These collective efforts have allowed us to expand, innovate, and continue to make a meaningful difference in the lives of young people. I wish to express my appreciation and gratitude to the staff team at Platform. Our achievements would not be possible without the integrity, perseverance and passion they have for their work whether this be for the direct support of young people or the essential behind-the-scenes work, each member of the team has played a vital role in our success. Thank you for being the heart of Platform.

I also wish to acknowledge Platform's Board and a special acknowledgement to our Chairperson, Anna Wemyss, who have committed to delivering exceptional governance and unwavering support. As individuals and as a board, they inspire me with their expertise, professionalism and their connection to our vision.

Looking ahead, we remain focused on our three strategic pillars: Impact, Growth, and People. I am excited about

what we will achieve together as we build brighter futures for those we serve.

Together, we are transforming lives.

Warm regards,

Stephanie Oatley
CEO, Platform

Our
IMPACT
has been
PROFOUND

HELPING OVER
1000
YOUNG PEOPLE ACROSS
13
PROGRAMS!

ANNUAL REPORT 2023 - 2024

It is with immense pride and a deep sense of responsibility that we present the Annual Report for 2023-2024. This past year has been one of growth, innovation, and resilience, as we continued to empower young people through our housing, employment, and education initiatives. We've sharpened our focus on expanding opportunities and addressing critical challenges to ensure that every young person we support has the chance to build a future full of promise and potential.

Our impact this year has been profound. We have supported 1046 young people through 13 programs and have worked tirelessly to deliver on our core mission: **to break the cycle of homelessness**. Underpinning our mission we have strengthened our frameworks and our partnerships increasing our impact across our strategic goals.

This strengthening of frameworks saw us uplift our ASES accreditation to award level in 2023 which, along with our Community Housing Registration has formed the backbone for Policy reviews and enhancements, including the focus areas of cyber security and business continuity (disaster management).

2023-2024 was also a year of growth, as we expanded the reach of our programs and enhanced our capacity to deliver sustainable, life-changing solutions. This was evident in the purchase of new capital, the reallocation of resources, the success of grant applications and the creation of a new team with the Aboriginal Engagement Team.

At the core of Platform's success is our people. This year has seen significant improvements in governance, staff development, and organisational culture—ensuring that teams are empowered to do their best work in supporting young people. This has included the embedding of our revised organisational values, established in consultation with all staff - **Integrity, Aspiration, Respect, Advocacy, Connection and Perseverance**.

We have invested substantial energy into moving into a new strategic cycle working towards 2027 and focussing on our three strategic pillars are Impact, Growth and People.



REFLECTING ON 2023 - 2024

Key achievements for each pillar include:



IMPACT

1. Practice Framework

We successfully implemented a comprehensive practice framework that ensures meaningful client outcomes through four framework quadrants ensuring an evidenced backed, culturally sensitive and consistent service delivery across our programs. Platform's framework guides our staff in their daily work and has been crucial in making sure programs are tailored to the needs of each young person.

2. Data Reporting

2023 marked a turning point for Platform with data being a key focus area, supported by new systems and a dedicated position. We now better track our progress, evaluate effectiveness of programs, and make data-driven decisions that will enhance transparency with stakeholders to improve resource allocation, and strengthen partnerships.

3. Cultural Connections

In our ongoing commitment to honouring First Nations communities, we've deepened our focus on cultural awareness and reconciliation. We launched an Aboriginal People and Place Strategy, established an Aboriginal Engagement Team, and celebrated the significance of Reconciliation with the opening of our Yarning Circle. These initiatives ensure that culturally appropriate services are woven into the fabric of Platform.

4. LGBTQIA+ Frameworks

Inclusivity is at the heart of Platform. We have further embedded LGBTQIA+ frameworks into our policies and practices, ensuring that young people from these communities feel safe, supported, and celebrated. Through our Pride Committee and ongoing events, we are fostering an environment of learning and inclusivity at all levels within the organisation.



GROWTH

1. Medium-Term Housing Options

We expanded into offering medium-term (12 month+) housing options by repurposing existing properties and adding new ones, including the acquisition of a 6-room property in Penrith through a partnership with Link Wentworth Housing. These developments have provided stability and support for a growing number of young people.

2. Employment First

Our Employment First initiative has been instrumental in helping young people secure jobs and apprenticeships, providing not only housing but also a supportive environment to develop their careers. We have successfully housed 13 young people through this program, offering them a pathway to independence.

3. Expanded Education First

Education remains a cornerstone of our strategy. **Education = Employment = Housing.** This year, we expanded our Education First program, adding new properties and we look forward to opening another dedicated education first facility in Penrith in partnership with Link Wentworth in late 2024. These spaces are purpose-built and have helped 18 at-risk youth achieve their educational goals, whilst receiving affordable and safe housing.

4. Aboriginal Engagement Team

With the over representation of Aboriginal young people in need of housing and support, we responded by establishing an Aboriginal Engagement Team, which became operational in February. The team has already made a difference, supporting 62 Aboriginal young people in its first 6 months. Moving forward, this team will continue to lead our People and Place Strategy, known as 'Pearls Plan' further increasing our cultural safety, credibility and reliability with our local Aboriginal community and embed culturally safe practices into Platform.

5. Family Domestic Sexual Violence (FDSV)

Through a successful grant, we have employed a dedicated position to support victim-survivors of FDSV. Based in the Hawkesbury region, this role will assist building capacity within Platform and strengthening partnerships with specialised services to better address the needs of young people at risk.

6. Partnerships

Collaboration is essential to our success. We are proud to have expanded our partnerships this year, working alongside organisations such as the Property Industry Foundation, Youth Insearch, LendLease, RuffTRACK, the schools' partnership and The Y. Through these partnerships, we have delivered a range of programs, from early intervention and school support to employment support, ensuring that no young person is left behind.

7. Building Independence

Our commitment to fostering independence for young people experiencing homelessness has never been stronger. This year, a record number of young people – 76% of all clients supported - moved into stable housing, and our independent living options have continued to expand. Whether through Rent Choice Youth, MyFoundations or general outreach, we are providing pathways to long-term stability and self-reliance.



PEOPLE

1. Governance Systems

In 2023-2024, we successfully implemented recommendations from our 2022 Governance Board Review, enhancing governance practices across the organisation. New reporting tools, subcommittees, site tours, and increased transparency have made a measurable difference in how we operate and make decisions.

2. Staff Communications and Culture

Fostering a positive, collaborative work environment has been a key priority this year. We have rolled out several initiatives to improve staff communications and morale, from regular team-building activities and newsletters to a staff council and feedback systems. According to our staff engagement survey, 65% of staff are committed to staying with Platform for 3+ years.

3. Induction, Learning and Development Frameworks

We have also enhanced our performance and development frame works, with the introduction of an annual individual staff goal setting tool (Performance Development Plan), with links to our revised values, strategic plan and the SHS Capability Framework. This ensures we all remain focused on our purpose and keeps us all headed in the right direction, but with the flexibility for staff to focus on and receive individualized support in line with their individual strengths and aspirations. We have placed significant focus on managing our talent, including the development of individualized succession plans for identified staff and creation of pipelines and pathways for inducting new staff into Platform, through the revival of our student placement program and revised orientation program. Recognizing and investing in emerging leaders led to the implementation of a customized 9 month Aspiring Leadership Program, which includes a mix of individual and group coaching and workshops.

4. Corporate Supports

Platform took steps towards streamlining corporate support functions and ensuring that Platform remains compliant and supportive with workplace reforms introduced over the past year (e.g. secure jobs, better pay, protection of worker entitlements and closing of loopholes).

With this streamlining we have been redesigning and transforming our Corporate Services team to move to a Business Partner Model to better support the organisation in achieving its objectives, and allowing for succession planning.

5. Wellbeing and Capacity Building

In continuing to enhance our organisational culture, diversity and inclusion, connectedness and wellbeing, we have held a number of all staff team building days, including our inaugural Family picnic day, a fun day of outdoor activities at the Y camp, a carnival inspired canvas painting event for PRIDE month and our yarning circle opening ceremony, just to name a few. Staff wellbeing remains a top priority, and we have seen increased participation in our wellbeing programs, leading to improved retention and job satisfaction. We are also making strides in building cultural literacy within our leadership and staff, ensuring that our teams are equipped to navigate the diverse cultural contexts in which we operate.

LOOKING AHEAD:

As we look toward the future, our focus remains clear: to provide young people with the stability, support, and resources they need to break the cycle of homelessness. The coming year will bring new opportunities to expand our housing solutions, deepen our cultural connections, and continue building partnerships that strengthen our impact. We will also prioritize refining our practice frameworks, increasing data-driven decision-making, and enhancing our commitment to inclusivity and diversity across all levels of the organisation.

“WE ARE IMMENSELY PROUD OF WHAT WE HAVE ACHIEVED THIS YEAR, AND WE ARE EVEN MORE EXCITED ABOUT THE FUTURE. THANK YOU TO OUR INCREDIBLE STAFF, BOARD MEMBERS, PARTNERS, AND SUPPORTERS WHO MAKE THIS WORK POSSIBLE. TOGETHER, WE ARE CREATING BRIGHTER FUTURES FOR THE YOUNG PEOPLE WE SERVE.”

PROGRAMS

24/7 RESIDENTIAL ACCOMMODATION UNITS:

8-12 weeks short term 24/7 supported accommodation providing wrap around case management support, information & advice, supported referrals, living skills development, assistance with obtaining and or maintaining education &/or employment.

HOMELESS YOUTH ASSISTANCE PROGRAM:

8-12 weeks short term 24/7 supported accommodation and support to young people aged 12- 15 years aiming to reconnect young people with their families or where this is not possible to facilitate transitions to appropriate long-term supported accommodation.

BAIL ACCOMMODATION SUPPORT SERVICE (BASS)

Platform provides short term accommodation for a period of up to 28 days to young offenders supporting them with family restoration where possible or assisting them into longer terms secure accommodation options

GENERAL OUTREACH

Providing case management support, including early intervention in schools and the community, practical support, food, computers, opal cards and transport, tenancy support and access to financial support. As well as more intensive support including advocacy, referrals to specialist services using a strength based, trauma informed and client focused approach, to ensure that each young person can achieve their goals.

TENANCY SUPPORT

Platform provides tenancy support and assistance to young people aged 17-24 years who are at risk of homelessness, eviction, and tenancy related issues to support maintaining tenancies.

TRANSITIONAL HOUSING:

Up to 12-months independent accommodation with a Residential Tenancy Agreement supported by Case Workers providing case management and accommodation assistance, information & advice, assessment & supported referral as well and support with skills development, maintaining education &/or employment assistance.

Young people can access a mix of transitional and longer-term housing options via partnerships with Platform, Mission Australia Housing and Link Wentworth Housing.

YOUTH INITIATIVE

Provides support and accommodation assistance to young people leaving statutory out-of-home care (OOHC), who are identified as being at risk of homelessness on exit from care. The program aims to build the long-term capacity and resilience of young people to permanently divert them from the homelessness service system. The program is in partnership with Mission Australia and Link Wentworth.

BROKERAGE

Brokerage provides emergency financial assistance to support young people with a range of needs including EAPA vouchers for utility bills, food hampers, and other emergencies support agencies. Platform has limited funds to support young people in emergencies such as education, employment and housing needs related to their case plans.

ASSERTIVE OUTREACH TEAM

Provides street-based services to young people who are accessing Temporary Accommodation, sleeping rough or couch surfing, using a deliberate targeted approach working to assess needs, and assisting young people to overcome barriers which are preventing them from accessing support and housing.

RAPID REHOUSING

Provides short term accommodation and intensive case management support for 18 – 24-year-olds to fast-track young people into safe accommodation options for young people with independent living capacity.

STEPPING OUT/ MEDIUM TERM HOUSING:

12 months accommodation in shared living with case management and daily support to further develop independent skills to secure independent accommodation on exit, including access to transitional housing.

EMPLOYMENT FIRST

12 months accommodation to young people in shared living environment with case management support focusing on low-income earners to maintain employment.

EDUCATION FIRST:

Provides 2-year accommodation to young people in shared living environment with case management support focusing on young people engaged in education. Focus is on young people achieving their education aspirations whilst developing living skills, independence, and employment opportunities.

ABORIGINAL ENGAGEMENT TEAM

Supports Cultural Safety and Community Connection for Aboriginal Young people through a targeted approach building capacity and creating safe spaces for Aboriginal Community members.

PARTNERSHIPS:

Platform offers the above programs with the assistance of our partnership with Link Wentworth Housing, Mission Australia and BASS.





Corporate

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT



Platform Youth Services Limited is committed to maintaining high standards of corporate governance to ensure the organisation achieves its stated objectives in ways that are transparent, accountable and effective. Corporate governance arrangements are reviewed annually by the Board. The Board's conduct is governed by Platform's constitution.

THE BOARD IS RESPONSIBLE FOR:

- Setting and monitoring the strategic direction of the organisation
- Approving and monitoring financial reporting including financial budgeting and forecasting
- Establishing policies and guidelines to ensure accurate and timely financial and operational reporting
- Establishing policies on risk oversight and management
- Establishing guidelines for levels of delegation of authority
- Promoting ethical and responsible decision-making
- Appointing, nurturing and measuring the performance of the Chief Executive Officer and the organisation
- Ensuring that the Board is and remains appropriately skilled to discharge its responsibilities and duties, and to meet the changing needs of the organisation and sector

- Ensuring that Platform complies with Corporations Law and all other relevant legislation
- Providing guidance on and overseeing the performance of other key aspects of Platform's operation

COMMITTEES

The Board has established the following committees to assist the Board with governance:

- Governance and Planning
- Asset and Risk

Each committee has terms of reference that set out its role, responsibilities, composition and structure. The terms of reference are reviewed annually. Committees report regularly to the Board and minutes of meetings are provided.

ETHICAL STANDARDS

The Board promotes practices that are transparent and uphold the principles of good citizenship. All Directors and staff sign a code of ethical conduct and register of interests. Directors are required to disclose any potential conflict of interest at the start of all Board meetings, when the Board determines an appropriate response which may require a Director to remove themselves from discussions, decisions or votes. In the case of staff, any actual or perceived conflict of interest must be declared to management in accordance with policy. The Board has

a policy and a code of conduct to guide compliance with legal, statutory and other obligations to all stakeholders.

BOARD PERFORMANCE REVIEW

The performance of the Board and its committees and Directors is reviewed regularly to ensure that Directors and the Board work effectively and efficiently to maintain high standards of governance and fulfil their functions set out in the Board charter. The performance review covers areas including the Board's role, strategic directions, oversight of service delivery, legal and regulatory framework, financial and risk management, knowledge of the community housing sector and relationship with the Chief Executive Officer.

BOARD COMPOSITION & RENEWAL

The Board considers that individually and collectively the Directors bring an appropriate mix of skills, experience and expertise. Information about Directors and their skills and experience can be found in this report.

The Board regularly reviews and evaluates its succession planning process. A Board skills matrix identifies the skills and experience of current Directors and the skills and experience that the Board considers necessary and desirable for the future. This matrix will help guide renewal and recruitment.



22 COMMUNITY AND SCHOOL EVENTS

182

TEAM MEETINGS FACILITATED

OVER 20,000 PANCAKES FLIPPED



PUTTING the



1

GENERATOR TO SUPPORT A YOUTH SOCIAL ENTERPRISE



OVER \$150,000 DOLLARS WORTH OF



GOODS DONATED WITH 114 FLAT PACKS BUILT

OVER 100 DRIVING LESSONS PROVIDED



FRIDGES AND WASHING MACHINES PURCHASED FOR YOUNG PEOPLE TO LIVE INDEPENDENTLY

53



COMPUTERS PURCHASED TO SUPPORT YOUNG PEOPLE IN EDUCATION

PLATFORM

(what makes Platform, Platform)

30



PAIRS OF WORK BOOTS PURCHASED TO KEEP YOUNG PEOPLE SAFE

10 BAGS OF DOG TREATS



DIRECTORS' REPORT

Platform Youth Services Ltd is registered as a company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital under the provisions of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012. The Directors present the financial report on Platform Youth Services Ltd for the year ended 30 June 2024 and report as follows:

DIRECTORS

The names of the Directors in office at any time during or since the end of the year are:



ANNA WEMYSS

Bachelor of Arts, Dip Ed

Chairperson; Chair Governance and Planning Committee, Remuneration Committee
Year appointed: August 2015

Anna joined Platform Youth Services in November 2013. Anna is a Probus Club Member and a local to the Blue Mountains district. Being a retired High School Teacher specialising in English, she yields over 30 years' experience in working with young people. Anna has also successfully owned and run a catering business.



COLIN LENTON

B.Bus – Accounting, FAICD

Treasurer; Audit and Risk Committee, Remuneration Committee
Year Appointed: June 2015

Colin joined Blue Mountains Youth Accommodation and Support Services in 2008. Colin has several current Board positions in Government, Banking, Health, Education and Not-for-Profits. He has owned and operated a hotel and guesthouse- conference centre in the upper Blue Mountains. Colin continues to work toward his goal in streamlining and improving businesses and their structures through Board Corporate Governance.



GEORGE RABIE OAM

Audit and Risk Committee
Year Appointed: August 2015

Initially joined Nepean Youth Accommodation Services in 2009. George operated Little and

Rabie Betta Home Living, an electrical appliance retail store that he started in 1974. He has served on the Boards of Betta stores for four years and Retravision for some 17 years. George is on the Board of Nepean Business Alliance, formally a Director for Nepean Medical Research Foundation (Medical Research Funding) and Rotary Club of Penrith Valley. George has been a Member of Penrith Chamber of Commerce for 40 years. In 2014, George was awarded OAM for his service to the Community.



RICHARD SARGENT

MBA, FCCA

Chair Audit and Risk Committee
Year Appointed: October 2018

Richard joined Platform in 2018.

Richard has held senior executive positions in Finance and Transformation with large multinationals for over 20 years. He was Head of Finance for Castrol Australia for over 6 years. Richard has worked in Australia, the UK and Singapore. He was a director of a manufacturing JV between BP and Caltex for 3 years. Richard held the treasurer role for a school charity in the UK in 2015/2016.



SIMONE ANGUS-CARR

Board Secretary, Audit and Risk Committee, Remuneration Committee

Year Appointed: February 2016

Simone joined Platform Youth Services in 2014 after being on the Turning Point Youth Accommodation Service Board. Simone is local to the Penrith area and has worked in youth accommodation and outreach. Simone previously worked for the Nepean Youth Drug and Alcohol Service since 2005 across Nepean Blue Mountains, Western Sydney and Southwest Sydney. Simone currently manages programs for the Ted Noffs Foundation.



CASSANDRA MULLER

Bachelor of Science, Masters Human Resources and Industrial Relations

Board Secretary: Governance and Planning Committee,

Remuneration Committee

Year Appointed: August 2021

Cassie worked at NAB for 2 years in the role of Chief People Officer for Digital, Data and Technology, prior to this she worked with the Woolworths Group for over 10 years in a variety of HR and Transformation roles. Cassie is a commercial, outcome focused, senior executive with extensive strategic and operational HR and IR experience.



DERYK LEARMONTH

Bachelor of Laws, DipLaw (LPAB)

Governance and Planning Committee
Year Appointed: October 2018

Deryk is a principal of Williamson + Learmonth Solicitors. Deryk studied at Dundee University in Scotland, and the Legal Profession Admission Board in Sydney. Deryk practices in the areas of Family Law, Civil & Criminal Litigation, and Wills and Estates. Deryk is well known to the Penrith Community having advised local people and businesses since 2014.



ADAM SMITH

Bachelor of International Business, Masters in Finance.

Audit and Risk Committee.
Year Appointed: 25 October 2023

Adam joined Platform in 2023. Adam has over 20 years of experience in the banking and finance industry. Adam has been with ANZ Bank for over ten years in a variety of finance leadership positions specialising in financial control and decision support. Adam was previously with Merrill Lynch in Australia and the United Kingdom for 6 years.



REBECCA EVANS

Bachelor of Teaching - Early Childhood, Cert IV Training and Assessment

Governance and Planning Committee Year Appointed: October 2018

Rebecca a proud Aniawan Country woman joined Platform in 2021. Rebecca has lived and worked on Darug Country for 30 years with her passion of education leading her to teaching. Rebecca has held various roles through TAFE in areas largely focused on Youth and Community. Rebecca currently works with students in years 7- 10 with low literacy and numeracy and disengaged from education, along with focusing on student wellbeing ensuring students have their basic needs for a positive school experience.





PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY

The principal activity of the company during the financial year was the provision of a range of services for vulnerable young people. The services include the provision of accommodation, early intervention services, transitional housing and outreach, community programs within the private and public housing sectors.

There was no significant change in the nature of those activities during the year.

OPERATING RESULT

The net surplus for the 2024 financial year was \$57,317; a decrease of 70% on the 2023 FY surplus of \$191,418. The company is a not-for-profit entity and is exempt from the payment of income tax.

REVIEW OF OPERATIONS

Total income was \$7,089,238 (2023: \$6,785,090). Operating expenses for the 2024 FY was \$7,031,921 (2023: \$6,593,672) which also increased in line with the growth in income.

Critical to our success, has been the financial support provided by our funders, NSW Department of Communities and Justice, Wentworth Community Housing, Penrith City Council, Hawkesbury City Council, Odyssey House, Western Sydney Community Forum and our collaborative partnership with Mission Australia.

SHORT-TERM OBJECTIVES

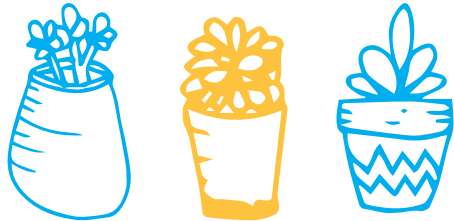
The company's short-term objectives are to:

- Offer vulnerable young people a range of support services that develop wellbeing, resilience and transferable life skills so they can actively participate in their social and economic communities
- Support vulnerable young people aged 12-25 by engaging all sectors of our local communities in ongoing partnerships and support programs
- Be a recognised leader in the provision of youth support services as evidenced by the success of our programs

LONG-TERM OBJECTIVES

The company's long-term objectives are to:

- Establish and maintain relationships that foster social inclusion and community reconnection for vulnerable young people
- Be sustainable and strive for continuous improvement so as to offer the best possible outcomes for the vulnerable young people requiring our assistance



STRATEGY FOR ACHIEVING SHORT AND LONG-TERM OBJECTIVES

To achieve these objectives, the company had adopted the following strategies:

- The company strives to attract and retain quality staff and volunteers who are committed to working with vulnerable young people in need. The company believes that attracting and retaining quality staff and volunteers will assist with the success of the company in both the short and long term
- Staff and volunteers work in partnership with a range of community stakeholders, and this is evidenced by the ongoing support of the company's projects and initiatives. The company ensures community stakeholders understand and are committed to the objectives of the group through ongoing education for the projects to succeed
- Staff and volunteers are committed to creating new and maintaining existing programs in support of the underprivileged people. Committed staff and volunteers allow the entity the ability to engage in continuous improvement
- The company's staff and volunteers strive to meet consistent standards of best practice and provide clear expectations of professional accountabilities and responsibilities to all stakeholders. This is evidenced by the performance of staff and volunteers, being assessed based on these accountabilities, and ensures staff are operating in the best interests of the underprivileged people and the group

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

The company will continue to participate in the provision of youth services to help vulnerable young people have the opportunities, skills and support they need to participate actively in their social and economic communities.



MEETINGS OF DIRECTORS

The number of meetings held during the year, and the number of meetings attended by each Director are as follows in the table

Director	Eligible Meetings	Attended Meetings
Anna Wemyss	7	7
Colin Lenton	7	6
George Rabie**	4	4
Simone Angus-Carr	7	6
Richard Sargent	7	6
Deryk Learmonth	7	6
Cassandra Muller	7	7
Rebecca Evans	7	5
Adam Smith*	4	4

*appointed during the year

**resigned during the year

AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION

The auditors' independence declaration for the year ended 30 June 2024 has been received and can be found on the following page.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Directors:

Anna Wemyss
Director

14 October 2024

Colin Lenton
Director

PLATFORM YOUTH SERVICES LTD
ABN 57 734 571 056

FINANCIAL REPORT - 30 JUNE 2024

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE DIRECTORS OF
PLATFORM YOUTH SERVICES LTD

Opinion

We have audited the financial report of Platform Youth Services Ltd which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2024, the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, the statement of changes in funds and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, notes comprising a summary of accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the Directors' Declaration.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report of Platform Youth Services Ltd is in accordance with the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, including:

- giving a true and fair view of the company's financial position as at 30 June 2024 and of its financial performance for the year then ended, and
- complying with *Australian Accounting Standards - Simplified Disclosures* and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulations 2022*.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibility for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of our report. We are independent of the company in accordance with the auditor independence requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* and the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We confirm that the independence declaration required by the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, which has been given to the Directors of the company, would be in the same terms if given to the Directors as at the time of this auditor's report.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Directors' Responsibility for the Financial Report

The Directors of the company are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with *Australian Accounting Standards - Simplified Disclosures* and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* and for such internal control as the Directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of a financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the Directors are responsible for assessing the company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Directors either intend to liquidate the company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

The Directors are responsible for overseeing the company's financial reporting process.

PLATFORM YOUTH SERVICES LTD
ABN 57 734 571 056

FINANCIAL REPORT - 30 JUNE 2024

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE DIRECTORS OF
PLATFORM YOUTH SERVICES LTD

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial report is located at *The Auditing and Assurance Standards Board* and the website address is <http://www.auasb.gov.au/Home.aspx>

We communicate with the Directors regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Report on the requirements of the New South Wales Charitable Fundraising Act 1991 and the New South Wales Charitable Fundraising Regulations 2021

We have audited the financial report as required by Section 24 of the *New South Wales Charitable Fundraising Act 1991*. Our procedures included obtaining an understanding of the internal control structure for fundraising appeal activities and examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting compliance with the accounting and associated record keeping requirements for fundraising appeal activities pursuant to the *New South Wales Charitable Fundraising Act 1991* and the *New South Wales Charitable Fundraising Regulations 2021*.

Because of the inherent limitations of any assurance engagement, it is possible that fraud, error or non-compliance may occur and not be detected. An audit is not designed to detect all instances of non-compliance with the requirements described in the above-mentioned Act and Regulations as an audit is not performed continuously throughout the period and the audit procedures performed in respect of compliance with these requirements are undertaken on a test basis. The audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

PLATFORM YOUTH SERVICES LTD
ABN 57 734 571 056

FINANCIAL REPORT - 30 JUNE 2024

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE DIRECTORS OF
PLATFORM YOUTH SERVICES LTD

Opinion

In our opinion:

- a) The financial report of the company has been properly drawn up and associated records have been properly kept during the financial year ended 30 June 2024, in all material respects, in accordance with:
- i. Sections 20(1), 22(1-2), 24(1) of the New South Wales *Charitable Fundraising Act 1991*; and
 - ii. Section 17 of the New South Wales *Charitable Fundraising Regulations 2021*.
- b) The money received as a result of fundraising appeals conducted by the company during the financial year ended 30 June 2024 has been properly accounted for and applied, in all material respects, in accordance with the above-mentioned Act and Regulations.


Stewart Brown
Chartered Accountants


Justin Weiner
Partner

14 October 2024

Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation

Statement of Financial Position

AS AT 30 JUNE 2024

	Note	2024 \$	2023 \$
ASSETS			
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	6	3,608,229	3,555,298
Trade and other receivables	7	58,334	113,428
<i>Total current assets</i>		3,666,573	3,668,726
Non-current assets			
Capital work in progress	8	15,909	13,160
Property, plant and equipment	9	3,633,507	3,455,919
<i>Total non-current assets</i>		3,649,416	3,469,079
TOTAL ASSETS		7,315,989	7,137,805
LIABILITIES			
Current liabilities			
Trade and other payables	10	432,130	322,162
Employee benefits	11	637,423	644,598
<i>Total current liabilities</i>		1,069,553	966,760
Non-current liabilities			
Employee benefits	11	198,347	180,273
<i>Total non-current liabilities</i>		198,347	180,273
TOTAL LIABILITIES		1,267,900	1,147,033
NET ASSETS		6,048,089	5,990,772
FUNDS			
Accumulated funds		5,767,872	5,710,555
Reserves	12	280,217	280,217
TOTAL FUNDS		6,048,089	5,990,772
The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements			

Statement of Profit or Loss

AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

	Note	2024 \$	2023 \$
Revenue	4	7,032,060	6,782,539
Other income	4	57,178	2,551
		7,089,238	6,785,090
Expenses			
Administration expenses		(200,696)	(324,240)
Depreciation expenses	5	(121,437)	(179,846)
Employee benefits expense		(4,793,919)	(4,386,034)
Insurance expenses		(307,579)	(157,937)
Program expenses		(1,385,909)	(1,355,775)
Property and lease expenses		(222,381)	(189,840)
		(7,031,921)	(6,593,672)
Surplus before income tax		57,317	191,418
Income tax expense		-	-
Surplus for the year		57,317	191,418
Other comprehensive income		-	-
Total comprehensive income for the year		57,317	191,418

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

Statement of Changes in Funds

AS AT 30 JUNE 2024

	Accumulated Funds \$	Asset Revaluation Reserve \$	Total \$
Balance at 1 July 2022	5,519,137	280,217	5,799,354
Comprehensive income			
Surplus for the year	191,418	-	191,418
Other comprehensive income	-	-	-
Total comprehensive income for the year	191,418	-	191,418
Balance at 30 June 2023	5,710,555	280,217	5,990,772
Balance at 1 July 2023	5,710,555	280,217	5,990,772
Comprehensive income			
Surplus for the year	57,317	-	57,317
Other comprehensive income	-	-	-
Total comprehensive income for the year	57,317	-	57,317
Balance at 30 June 2024	5,767,872	280,217	6,048,089

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

Statement of Cash Flows

AS AT 30 JUNE 2024

	Note	2024 \$	2023 \$
Cash flows from operating activities			
Receipts from customers and government		1,020,676	922,848
Payments to suppliers and employees		(7,432,113)	(6,971,100)
Donations and fundraising income		3,814	2,875
Government grants received		6,566,806	6,291,045
Interest received		138,344	95,459
<i>Net cash flows from operating activities</i>		297,527	341,127
Cash flows from investing activities			
Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment		82,273	5,000
Purchase of capital work in progress		(26,938)	(13,160)
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		(299,931)	(999,502)
<i>Net cash flows from investing activities</i>		(244,596)	(1,007,662)
Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		52,931	(666,535)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the financial year		3,555,298	4,221,833
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the financial year	6	3,608,229	3,555,298
The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements			

Director's Declaration

The Directors of the Platform Youth Services Ltd declare that:

1. The financial statements, which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2024, and the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, statement of changes in funds and statement of cash flows for the year ended on that date, a summary of accounting policies and other explanatory notes are in accordance with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 and:

(a) comply with Australian Accounting Standards - Simplified Disclosures (including Australian Accounting Interpretations) and Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulations 2022; and

(b) give a true and fair view of the financial position as at 30 June 2024 and of the performance for the year ended on that date of the company.

2. In the opinion of the Directors, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the company will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

This declaration is made in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Directors.



Anna Wemyss
Director



Colin Lenton
Director

14 October 2024

Director's Declaration

UNDER THE CHARITABLE FUNDRAISING ACT 1991

In the opinion of the Directors of Platform Youth Services Ltd:

- (i) The financial statements and notes thereto give a true and fair view of all income and expenditure with respect to fundraising appeals conducted by the organisation for the year ended 30 June 2024;
- (ii) The statement of financial position as at 30 June 2024 gives a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company with respect to fundraising appeals conducted by the organisation;
- (iii) The provisions of the Charitable Fundraising Act 1991, the regulations under that Act, and the conditions attached to the authority to fundraise have been complied with by the organisation; and
- (iv) The internal controls exercised by the company are appropriate and effective in accounting for all income received and applied by the organisation from any of its fundraising appeals.

This declaration is made in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Directors.

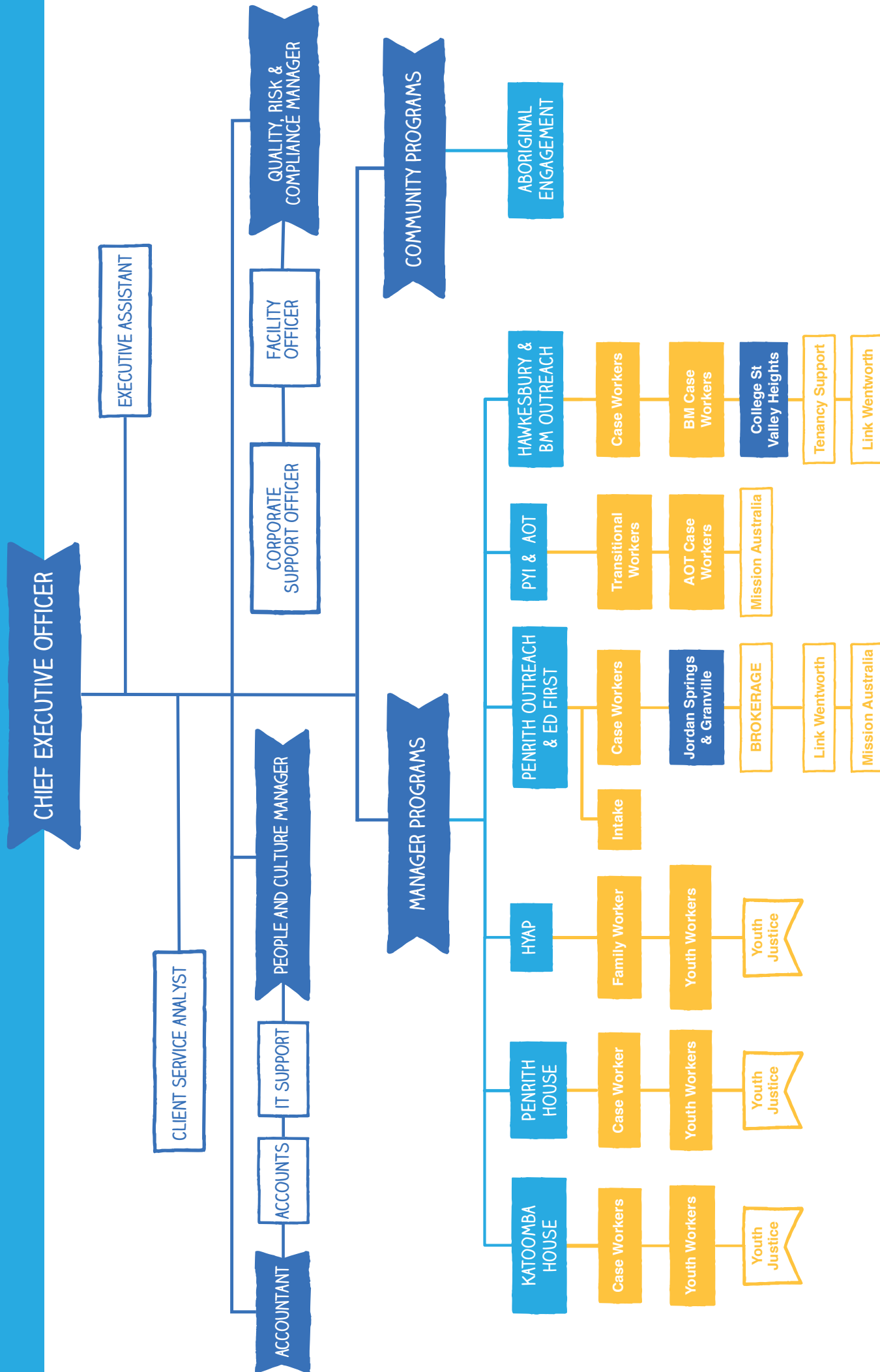


Anna Wemyss
Director



Colin Lenton
Director

14 October 2024



THANK YOU TO OUR FINANCIAL SUPPORTERS
you are a big part of our success!

- Department of Communities and Justice
 - Homes NSW
- Bail Accommodation and Support Service
- Link Wentworth Housing
 - Mission Australia
- Property Industry Foundation
 - Ausbao
 - LendLease
 - Ikea
- Panthers North Richmond
 - MyFoundations
- Hawkesbury City Council
 - Penrith City Council
 - Community Cares
 - Richmond Lions
- Country Womens Association
 - Mura Mittigar
 - Share the Dignity
 - Thread IT
 - Castrol
- Daniel Embleton and friends
- CPB Contractors (Metro Airport)
 - Transport NSW

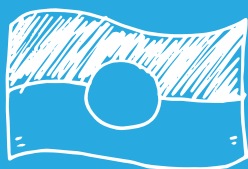


TOTAL *young people* SUPPORTED

41% + 56% + 2%

MALES FEMALES OTHER

→ TOTAL 1,046 ←



26%

IDENTIFIED AS
ABORIGINAL OR
TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER

6%

IDENTIFIED AS
CULTURALLY AND
LINGUISTIC DIVERSE

84%

ABORIGINAL YOUNG
PEOPLE HAVE A
CULTURAL SAFETY PLAN

- 76% EXITED INTO STABLE HOUSING AT END OF SUPPORT PERIOD
- 63% ENGAGED IN EMPLOYMENT & EDUCATION ON EXIT
- 71% RETURNED TO FAMILY • 100% EXITED INTO INDEPENDENT LIVING
- 209 CLIENTS SUPPORTED THROUGH THE ASSERTIVE OUTREACH TEAM INCLUDING 90 EXITING FROM TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION