

TOTAL YOUNG PEOPLE SUPPORTED

39% + 59% + 2%
MALES FEMALES OTHER

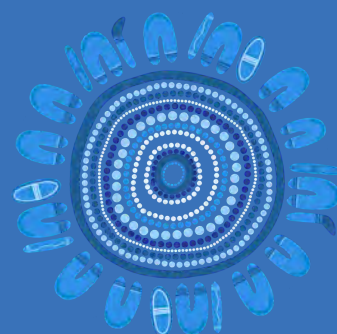
TOTAL = 1,163



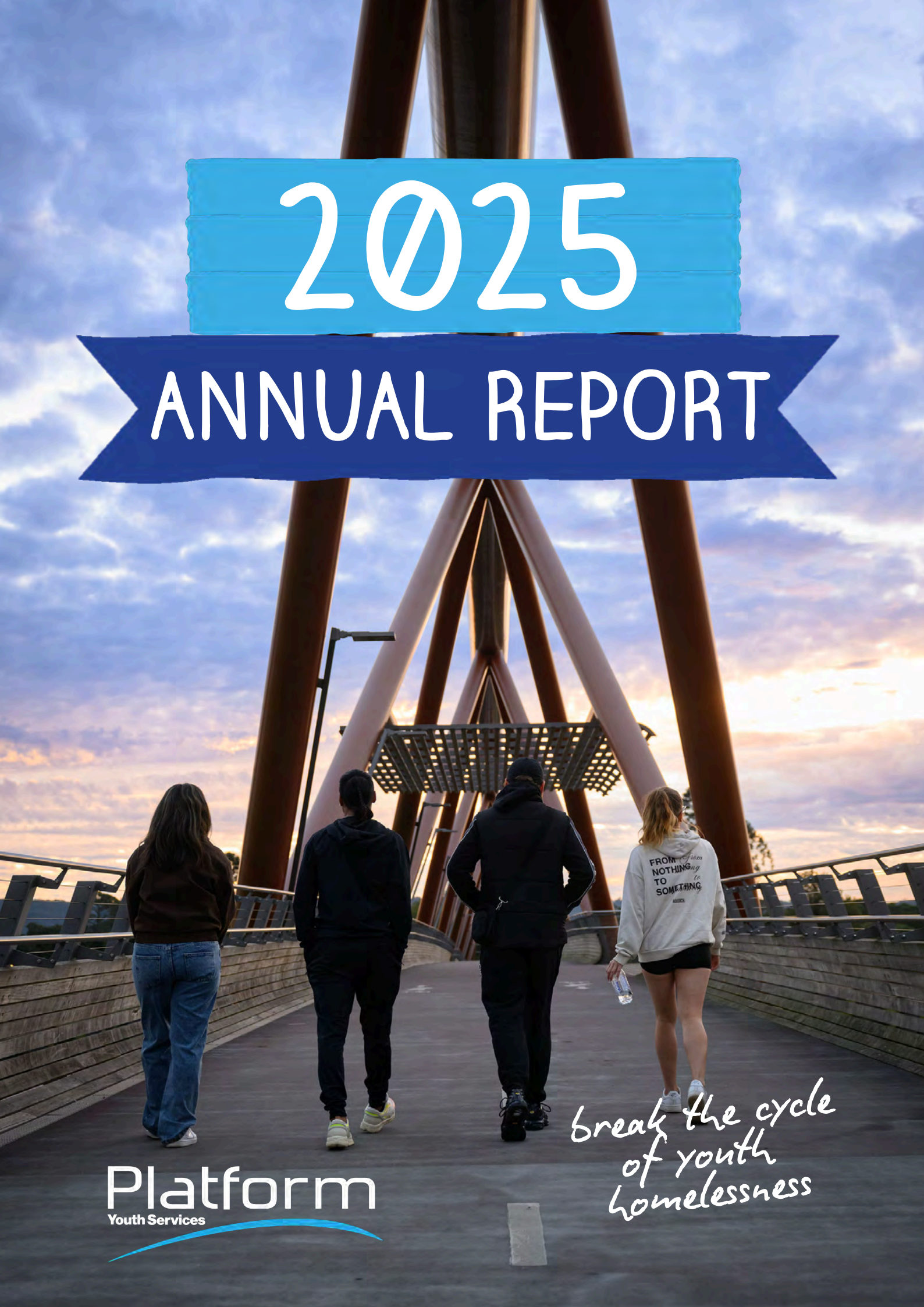
IDENTIFIED AS ABORIGINAL
OR TORRES STRAIT
ISLANDER



IDENTIFIED AS
CULTURALLY &
LINGUISTICALLY DIVERSE



- 61% EXITED INTO STABLE HOUSING AT THE END OF SUPPORT PERIOD
- 51% ENGAGED IN EMPLOYMENT AND EDUCATION UPON EXIT
- 35% RETURNED TO FAMILY
- 100% EDUCATION FIRST CLIENTS EXITED INTO INDEPENDENT LIVING
- 254 CLIENTS SUPPORTED THROUGH THE ASSERTIVE OUTREACH TEAM INCLUDING 98 EXITING FROM TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION

A photograph of four young people walking away from the camera on a modern bridge with a distinctive triangular steel structure. The scene is set at sunset, with a colorful sky of orange, pink, and blue. The people are dressed in casual attire; one person on the right wears a white hoodie with the text 'FROM NOTHING TO SOMETHING' and 'MADISON' on the back. The bridge has a wooden railing and a metal grate walkway ahead.

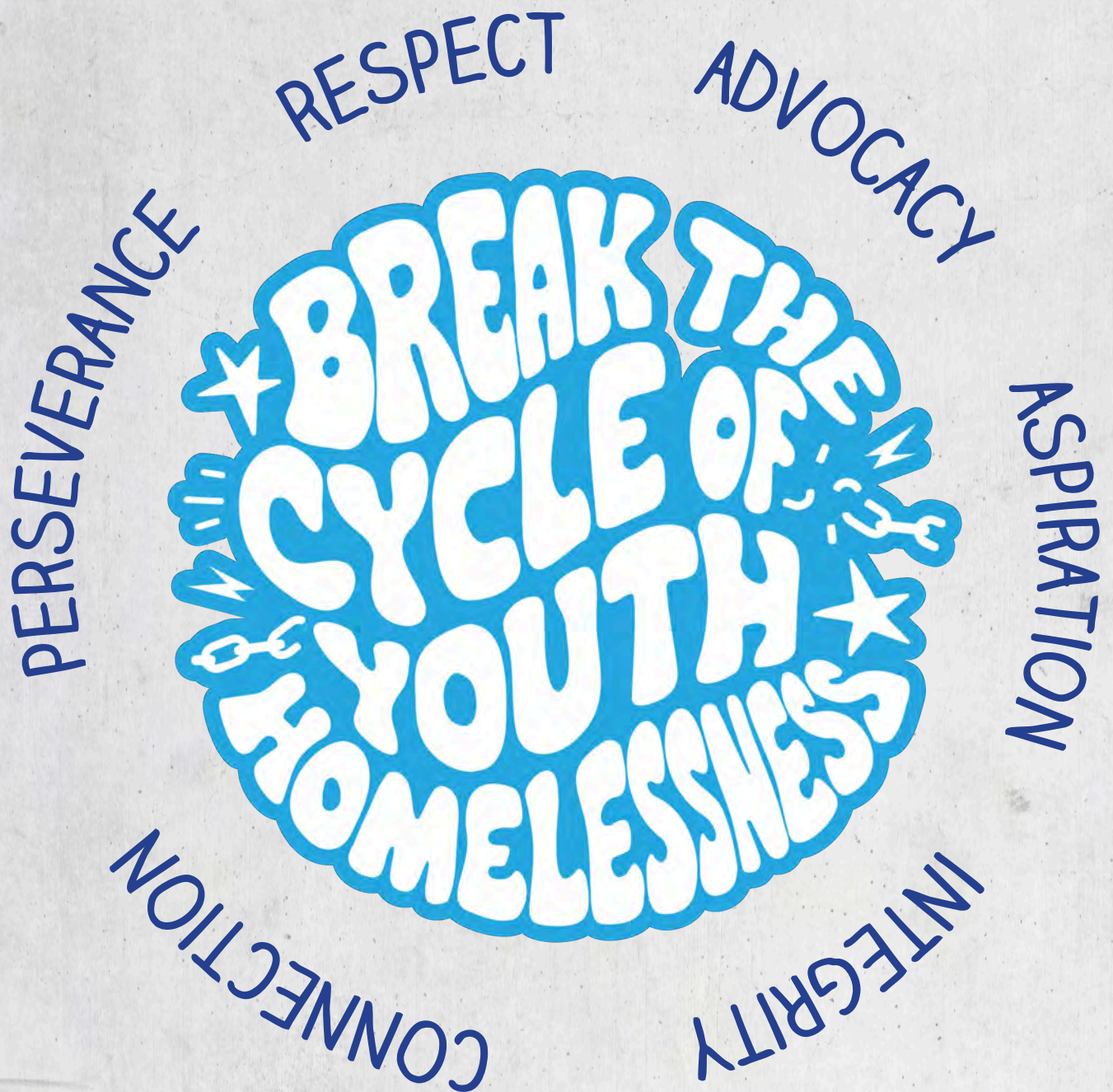
2025

ANNUAL REPORT

Platform
Youth Services

*break the cycle
of youth
homelessness*

MISSION & VALUES



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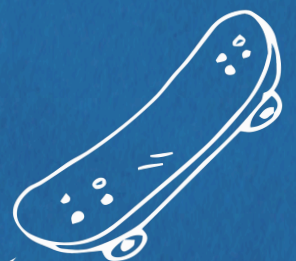
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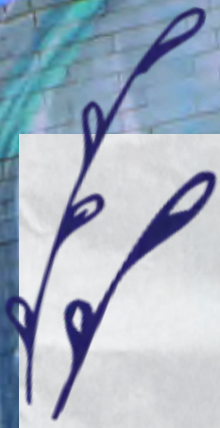


CHAIRPERSONS REPORT



Anna Wernyss





Integrity, Aspiration, Respect, Advocacy, Connection, Perseverance — these are the values we uphold in our work. Platform has successfully integrated these values with our Mission Statement into daily operations. In 2025, as in previous years, we have continued to uphold them.

We are fortunate to have a dedicated staff who, armed with knowledge, passion, and commitment, work tirelessly to support vulnerable young people. They often face challenging situations but, thanks to their training and determination, achieve significant positive outcomes.

Looking at the 2024–2025 data, Platform assisted 1,163 young people, well above our set targets. While this is commendable and reflects Platform’s strong management and ethical standards, we must take measures to reduce the strain on staff. Platform has grown significantly in recent years, and we must balance this growth with staff health and wellbeing. From our CEO to corporate and frontline staff, the workload has at times been barely sustainable. A recent restructure will help streamline and strengthen our services and, hopefully, ease some of this burden in the future.

This year, Platform achieved three significant areas of growth. The first was the acquisition of a purpose-built six-bedroom property in Penrith CBD, now part of our Education First – Longer Term Housing program. Funded through a major Link Wentworth Social Innovation Grant and a \$464,872 contribution from Platform’s reserves, this purchase replaced the delayed Lemongrove development and delivered an excellent outcome for our programs and young people. The second was the opening of our Crisis Hub on High Street, Penrith, providing additional resources and space for our crisis teams to be more accessible to young people in need. Lastly, we piloted a 24/7 medium-term accommodation unit in Platform-owned Lemongrove property, a crucial step in strengthening our continuum of care and housing support.

It would be impossible to discuss our staff without praising our CEO, Stephanie Oatley. Steph is the backbone of our service and wholly committed to Platform’s mission. She consistently goes above and beyond her designated hours, prioritising the needs of clients and staff. Her dedication, strategic thinking, and knowledge are evident in every aspect of her leadership. Steph ensures open communication with the Board, often reaching out after long days to discuss important matters. Her annual appraisal reflects her exceptional drive and capabilities.

Our Board of Directors also deserves recognition. Comprised of individuals with diverse expertise, the Board shares Platform’s mission and purpose, offering invaluable support, particularly during difficult decisions. In 2025, at the Board’s request, we completed a Board Review with a consultant from Affirm, thoroughly examining our governance practices. While many areas were rated highly, we continue to reassess and strengthen governance to ensure ongoing excellence.

Our recent Audit and Financial Report confirms that Platform manages its finances prudently. This financial probity allows us to continue supporting vulnerable young people effectively. It is through these sound practices, our committed staff, and careful planning that Platform Youth Services upholds its values. We are proud of our achievements and look forward to a strong and impactful future.

With gratitude,

Anna Wemyss
Chairperson of Platform Youth Services



CEO REPORT

Stephanie Catley



It is with celebration and deep appreciation that I present the achievements of Platform Youth Services over the past year, as we continue to pursue our mission: “Breaking the Cycle of Youth Homelessness.”

Young people experiencing, or at risk of, homelessness remain at the centre of everything we do. Youth homelessness continues to be an increasing and pressing issue in Australia, driven by factors such as family breakdown, domestic violence, and housing affordability, the demand for services remains high. Platform is responding by continuing to provide focused programs and developing innovative solutions to increase young people's access to safe and affordable housing, as well as providing vital individual support to assist each young person's transition to independence.

Recent AIHW data highlights the scale of demand for homelessness support services. Almost one in three people seeking support from a specialist homelessness service in NSW are under 18 which saw 22,286 children and young people access youth homelessness services across the state, including 6,108 aged just 12 to 17. In 2024-2025 Platform supported 1,163 young people, an increase on the previous year and 25% above our contracted targets.

These numbers reflect both the growing demand and Platform's proven ability to deliver responsive, high-quality services on a scale. Yet behind every statistic is a child or young person with a story, and hopes, each deserving to feel safe and to be supported with the opportunity to thrive. This cannot happen without access to housing. This is where Platform staff who are the most dedicated, committed, and passionate, work their hardest in a challenging environment to secure safe and stable housing, resulting in 60% young people exiting to stable accommodation.

Whilst Platform's core work has been delivering crisis short term 24/7 accommodation, in which we have three, Penrith House, Katoomba House and HYAP together supporting 14 beds, there has been a shift over the last 10 years with the focus moving to increase transitional and longer-term options operating 93 beds across 42 properties. This was increased in 2024-2025 with the addition of Castlereagh Street and Lemongrove House reverting to residential. Castlereagh Street is a purpose-built six-room property made possible through the generous donation from Link Wentworth through the Social Innovation Grant (2021) and a contribution of \$464,872 from Platform's reserves.

Lemongrove House is a Platform owned property in Penrith repurposed from office, together these two properties add 12 new beds to our service capacity.

"Behind every statistic is a young person with a story."

For a comprehensive overview of Platform's achievements over the past 12 months, please refer to the **Annual Report**.

Highlights include the launch of Lemongrove House, a new 24/7 medium, term accommodation service co-funded by Platform and the Homelessness Innovation Fund; the opening of 688 High Street Crisis Hub, providing immediate and safe crisis support; and the donation of a purpose-built six-bedroom, seven-bathroom property in central Penrith through a \$1.8 million donation from Link Wentworth Housing via the Social Innovation Fund, ensuring young people entering tertiary education have stable, supportive housing. Philanthropic partnerships with Temple & Webster, the Property Industry Foundation, and IKEA enabled the creation of warm, home-like environments that enhance dignity and wellbeing for residents, while a restructuring of corporate support functions strengthened efficiency, sustainability, and organisational readiness for the future.

Our work is grounded in partnerships - with the community, service providers, and government, to ensure that resources and programs are well designed, well placed, and responsive to the needs of children and young people. I would like to specifically mention our housing partners, Link Wentworth, My Foundations, and Mission Australia, who we are deeply grateful to for providing tenancy management support.

Platform has a strong commitment to Governance highlighted through a successful Board external review in 2025 reflecting the Board's dedication to guiding the organisation with integrity and transparency, ensuring that Platform continues to deliver sustainable high-quality services to young people experiencing homelessness. I extend my sincere appreciation, on behalf of the Platform team, to the Board of Directors for their unwavering commitment, strategic guidance, and stewardship over the past year. Their insight and expertise have been invaluable in shaping Platform's direction and ensuring robust governance. In particular, I acknowledge the Chair, Anna Wemyss, and the A&R Chair, Richard Sargent, whose leadership and support has been instrumental for me to drive Platform forward.

This leaves me to the entire staff team, from those working at the front line providing direct support to young people, to the corporate team ensuring the organisation runs smoothly and meets our legal and financial obligations. Platform's teams have continued to deliver on our mission of breaking the cycle of youth homelessness, expanding services, strengthening partnerships, and creating safe, supportive pathways for young people. The team at Platform, and their aspiration, integrity, respect, perseverance, connection and advocacy make the real difference, and I am blessed and sincerely appreciative of them for supporting Platform and my leadership. I would also like to give special recognition to my Executive Assistants, Jerri and Nikita, whose unwavering support, insight, and efficiency make an immeasurable contribution to my leadership of Platform.

As we move into 2025 and beyond, Platform remains committed to investing in Impact, Growth, and People. Initiatives such as Home Sweet 2025 and the continued development of Lemongrove House will allow us to strengthen services, expand reach, and transform even more lives. Together, with our staff, Board, partners, supporters, and community, we are not just providing services. We are building pathways, hope, and opportunity. Together, we are breaking the cycle of youth homelessness.

Warm regards



Stephanie Oatley
CEO, Platform Youth Services





HIGHLIGHTS

2024 - 2025

This year marked a transformative chapter for Platform Youth Services, finalising our next Strategic Plan and aligning our goals across our three pillars: Invest in Impact, Invest in Growth, and Invest in People. In 2025, we saw significant growth across these pillars, with a number of key initiatives driving our progress.

GROWTH

CAPITAL DONATION

Platform's growth was supported by the acquisition of a new property donated in Penrith. The purpose-built six-bedroom shared housing property in the CBD will join our Education First, Longer Term Housing program. A major grant from Link Wentworth, originally part of the 2021 Social Innovation Grant for a new build at Lemongrove, enabled this acquisition. With delays in the Development Application, we sourced this property from the market, contributing \$464,872 from Platform's reserves. This outcome has been highly beneficial for our programs and young people.

24/7 MEDIUM TERM

Through a new HomesNSW initiative, Platform received Homelessness Innovation Funding to pilot a 24/7 medium term accommodation unit. This provides essential round-the-clock support for young people who are no longer in crisis but still require supervision as they work towards traditional or independent living options. Platform co-contributed the capital for 12 months, and in January, we proudly reopened Lemongrove House, offering stability and longer-term support closely linked with Outreach Case Workers.

CRISIS HUB

Alongside this, Platform took a risk and invested in accessing private rental for office space opening 688 High Street (Penrith) as a crisis response hub, providing outreach, intake and immediate care. This is returning to our pre-covid vision of enhancing our Assertive Outreach's capacity to support young people in crisis with dedicated space and resourcing.

FAMILY DOMESTIC SEXUAL VIOLENCE (FDSV)

A second successful grant was received to allow us to employ a dedicated full time 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 as well as provided much needed case management support to young people.

PROPERTY PORTFOLIO

With the addition of the new property, in Penrith, Platform has 5 properties in our portfolio. These have been a great addition to our services providing an additional 22 beds which - in an environment where housing is our prime challenge - is a game changer however they do come at a cost and Platform will need to consider not only consider case management resources but also maintenance and compliance costs with any future capital purchases.



IMPACT

KEY FIGURES

2024-25 continued with data being a key focus area, supported by new systems and a dedicated position. Platform is confident that new have robust data collection to support both our outcomes and the unmet demand of our district.

Platform supported 1163 young people across 5 key contract areas.

SHS is shared between Residential and Outreach. Through our two crisis accommodation units we supported 88 young people aged 16–18 while a further 110 were turned away due to no vacancies. Through Outreach we supported 110 young people with transitional housing and a further 400 young people with general outreach. Support included case management, food, transport, tenancy and NDIS advocacy, and access to allied health assessments. In addition, 25 young people accessed Rent Choice Youth, securing stable housing whilst engaged in education and employment.

Platforms HYAP services continues to provide short term accommodation and family restoration to young people 12-15years. We accommodated 39 young people and we continue to advocate for greater resources for the 12–15 age group as 66 young people were unable to access beds, 33 of which were not eligible for the HYAP program.

In partnership with Youth Justice' BASS program, Platform provided crisis accommodation to 18 young people across three Bail Beds, providing safe accommodation so young people could be released on bail when the lack of a stable home was the only barrier.

BROKERAGE

Platform supported 209 applications with financial support for young people at risk, this included white goods, education course costs, rental arrears and rent up front, covering the cost of driving license and tests, supporting transport to return to family interstate, household items and other set up costs and mobiles for young people to remain engaged. Platform also allocated a separate brokerage program to support young people seeking specialist mental health support to support young people's recovery journeys and enhance independence.

COMMITMENT TO QUALITY

Platform has a commitment to ensuring Quality services which is supported with Accreditation, robust Policy and Procedures, Risk monitoring and registers and checklists and training for all staff. We are maintaining our Award Level ASES Accreditation (Australian Service Excellence Standards) and are actively working towards renewal in 2026, which, along with our Community Housing Registration, confirms the quality and impact of the services we deliver.

A key policy in 2025 was the introduction of an Access, Eviction and Withdrawal Policy ensuring that Platform delivers fair, transparent and consistent support for young people navigating our programs. Another important step was Platform's acceptance into the Redress Scheme, reinforcing our commitment to accountability and the safety and wellbeing of young people accessing our services.

We recognise that the resources and costs required to maintain compliance and quality standards have continued to increase over the past year, with no additional funding, however we remain committed to meeting compliance requirements and upholding quality standards across our services.



IMPACT

CULTURAL CONNECTIONS

Cultural leadership remains central to our journey as we are committed to ensuring our Aboriginal clients (28%) are supported with culture at centre. Platform continues to support staff learning with cultural awareness training and initiatives, we celebrated NAIDOC, reconciliation week and the opening our second Yarning Circle and we ensure cultural safety is not only a principle but a lived experience across Platform through our spaces incorporating cultural art and resources.

Cultural safety has also remained at the forefront of our practice. Guided by Pearl's Plan and our Aboriginal Engagement Team, we continued to implement cultural care plans for Aboriginal young people, who represent a significant proportion of those accessing our services. A recent review confirmed that a case management approach remains best practice in achieving sustainable outcomes in this space.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Platform continues to be an active presence across the Hawkesbury, Nepean and Blue Mountains districts, engaging young people and the wider community through a variety of events, hubs and school-based activities. Highlights included participation in events for Youth Week, RUOK?, Reclaim the Night, Wear it Purple, Youth Homelessness Matters Day, Hawkesbury Winter Sleepout as well as participation at regular Homelessness Community Hubs, and Wellbeing and Suicide Prevention events. Our stalls and activities—from pancake breakfasts to temporary tattoos and bead bracelet and badge making—help create spaces for connection, and conversations. A particularly meaningful collaboration was with the Lions Club Richmond Stamp Foundation, where young people contributed by preparing stamps for resale, raising funds for children who require wheelchairs.

The generosity of partners and our community has been vital in expanding our reach and impact. Local City Councils, The Creative Fringe - TOTS, the Country Women's Association, Christ Mission Possible, Mama Lana's, Thread Together, YouthSafe, and YES Program provided funding and in-kind support, enabling handy skills programs and backyard garden projects. Platform also received generous contributions from Share the Dignity, Community Cares Penrith, and Solace of the Lord to provide Christmas hampers and presents for over 200 young people.

Platform values our partnerships with organisations like Hawkesbury High Schools, the Y, Hawkesbury Helping Hands, Bligh Park Youth Centre, Women's Cottage, and Ted Noffs to provide co-case management, targeted group work, and specialist responses to young people at risk of homelessness or experiencing family and domestic violence.

Our Leadership Team continued to represent Platform at NSW and local sector networks, advocating strongly on homelessness, housing, mental health, First Nations, and youth issues, ensuring the voices and needs of vulnerable young people remain at the centre of sector reform and community planning.

PRIDE EVALUATION

Platform undertook an evaluation of our Pride Project. Key findings demonstrated that Platform is a champion in this sector for true inclusivity evident in our service delivery, our LGBTQIA+ projects and our overall staff awareness. In 2026 we will look to consolidate the three core components into an Annual Platform Pride Strategy and finding way to ensure our work in this space is maintained.

INTAKE EVALUATION

Following client and staff feedback Platform engaged research students to evaluate Platform's intake process and to make recommendations for improvements to the client journey and to reduce duplication. We have experienced changes to the role through covid and the closing of our High Street Hub and are looking to what would be good practice in the future. The evaluation made several recommendations that will be implemented in 2025-2026.

PEOPLE

Our people remain at the heart of Platform. These initiatives have driven stronger engagement, retention and wellbeing across the organisation. Fostering a positive, collaborative work environment remains a priority with a stronger commitment to staff communications and team building including regular team engagement activities, feedback opportunities and team building events including the family picnic day, end of year event, Reconciliation week.

In addition to our own initiatives to attract, develop, retain, and support our staff, Platform has actively advocated for and contributed to key industry initiatives this year, including the Homelessness Industry Workplace Wellbeing Survey, the review of the sector's Capability Framework and tools, and the proposal for the Community Service Portable Long Service Leave Scheme. These achievements highlight our commitment to strengthening both our people and the broader sector.

GOVERNANCE REVIEW

The Governance Board engaged an independent coach to review and strengthen Platform's governance practices. The review confirmed that the Board is performing strongly, with particular strengths in governance, structure and composition, strategic direction, and reporting. Demonstrating its commitment to continuous improvement, the Board has reintroduced a Governance Sub-Committee to support ongoing performance monitoring and succession planning.

STAFF COMMUNICATIONS AND CULTURE

Platform's 2024 Climate and Culture Survey shows Platform has maintained a highly skilled workforce, with 83% of staff holding a diploma or higher qualification. The survey also highlights that over 70% of staff are attracted to Platform because of the clients we serve and the work we do and more than 60% can see themselves staying with Platform for at least 3+ years. These results reflect the strength of our people, their commitment to our mission, and the opportunities we continue to build together.

PATHWAYS TO PRACTICE

In 2024, we introduced Pathways to Practice, a dynamic new orientation program that fast-tracks new staff through Platform's vision, key policies, and essential organisational knowledge. Designed to complement on-site and role-specific induction, it equips team members from day one to contribute confidently and effectively, supporting a smooth and successful start in their roles.

LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORKS

Our leadership team completed a nine-month Aspiring Leadership Program, a key investment in building the capability and confidence of our leaders – current and emerging. To sustain ongoing development, we have also invested in ongoing external monthly coaching, and will be looking to broaden this out in 2026. Other training areas were Cultural Training, Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence (DHSV), Cyber security and Workplace Culture.

COMMITMENT TO BRAND

Working with our partner in graphic design and marketing – Debbie O, we strengthened both our external profile and internal communications. A new brand profile was developed to ensure our digital marketing is consistent and professional. Design training was delivered to our coordinator team, enabling them to express their programs on brand and with confidence. Our crisis housing welcome packs were transitioned into a digital format, giving young people immediate access to program resources and expectations on their devices from the get-go.

We moved all staff monthly newsletter communications to a digital system, boosting engagement and providing valuable insights through monitoring tools. Together, these initiatives have enhanced accessibility, improved communication, and built lasting capability.



PROGRAMS

24/7 RESIDENTIAL

8- 12 weeks short-term 24/7 supported accommodation for young people aged 16- 18 yrs, providing wrap-around case management support, information and advice, assisted referrals, living skills development, with a focus on readiness for independence, as well as assistance with accessing or maintaining education and/or employment.

HOMELESS YOUTH ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (HYAP)

8-12 weeks short-term 24/7 supported accommodation for young people aged 12- 15yrs. The program aims to reconnect young people with their families where possible, or to facilitate transitions into appropriate long-term supported accommodation.

BAIL ACCOMMODATION SUPPORT SERVICE (BASS)

Short-term accommodation for up to 28 days for young offenders. Support includes family restoration where possible, or assistance into longer-term secure accommodation options.

GENERAL OUTREACH

Case management support delivered in schools, the community, and directly to young people aged 16- 24 yrs. Support includes practical assistance (food, transport, Opal cards, access to technology), tenancy support, financial assistance, and intensive support such as advocacy and referrals. A strengths-based, trauma-informed and client-focused approach ensures young people are supported to achieve their goals.

TENANCY SUPPORT

Assistance for young people aged 17–24yrs at risk of eviction or tenancy breakdown. Support focuses on sustaining tenancies and preventing homelessness.



TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

Up to 12 months of independent accommodation with a Residential Tenancy Agreement. Supported by case workers providing case management and support, information and advice, referrals, skills development, and assistance with maintaining education and/or employment. Housing options are provided in partnership with Mission Australia and Link Wentworth Housing.

YOUTH INITIATIVE

Support and accommodation assistance for young people leaving statutory Out-of-Home Care (OOHC) who are at risk of homelessness on exit. The program builds long-term capacity and resilience to divert young people from the homelessness system. Delivered in partnership with Mission Australia and Link Wentworth.

BROKERAGE

Emergency financial assistance to address immediate needs, including utility bills (EAPA vouchers), food hampers, and support from emergency relief agencies. Limited funds are available to support education, employment, and housing needs aligned with case plans.

ASSERTIVE OUTREACH TEAM

Street-based services for young people who are sleeping rough, couch surfing, or in Temporary Accommodation. The team uses a targeted approach to assess needs and support young people to overcome barriers to accessing housing and services.



PROGRAMS^{CONT.}

STEPPING OUT / MEDIUM TRANSITION PROGRAM

Up to 12 months of shared accommodation with case management and daily support. The focus is on developing independent living skills and securing long-term housing on exit, including access to transitional housing.

EMPLOYMENT FIRST

12 months of shared accommodation with case management support for young people in low-income employment, helping them maintain work and housing stability.

EDUCATION FIRST

Provides 2-year accommodation for young people in a shared living environment, with case management support tailored to those engaged in education. The program supports young people in achieving their educational goals while 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.

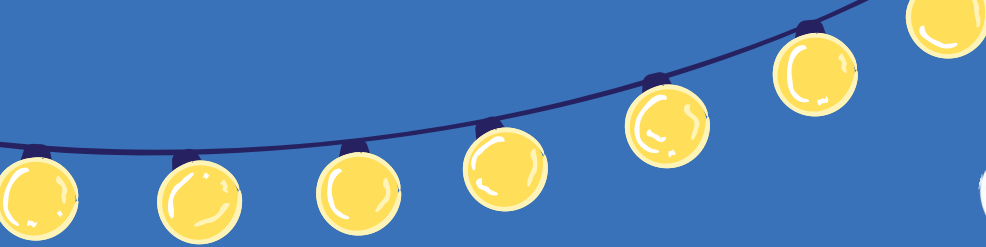
PARTNERSHIPS

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

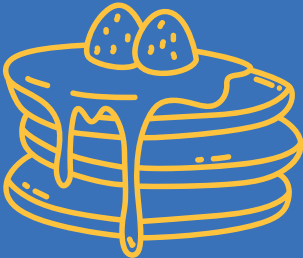


We don't just provide
shelter, we create
pathways to brighter
futures.





OVER 21,000
PANCAKES
FLIPPED



208
YOUNG PEOPLE RECEIVED
IKEA
SET-UP PACKS



YOUNG PEOPLE
GAINED
EMPLOYMENT
OPPORTUNITIES



MOBILE
PHONES
FOR STAYING
CONNECTED WHEN
IT MATTERS MOST



PUTTING



HEA

PLATE



143 TEAM M



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IN

FORM

EETINGS FACILITATED



195 BROKERAGE
SUPPORTS FOR
HOUSING, TENANCY, EDUCATION,
COMMUNITY & FAMILY CONNECTION



YOUNG PEOPLE
SUPPORTED
INTO STABLE
ACCOMMODATION

FRIDGES AND
WASHING MACHINES
PURCHASED FOR
YOUNG PEOPLE TO
LIVE INDEPENDENTLY



YOUNG PEOPLE
STAYED ON
TRACK WITH
THEIR
EDUCATION
GOALS

PARTNERSHIPS

Partnerships, alongside government funding and Platform's own investments, highlight the importance of collaboration and sustainability in addressing youth homelessness. Platform values our partners, not just our formal ones but every partner we work with to assist young people reaching their goals.

LINK WENTWORTH

Platform has partnered with Link Wentworth for nearly 30 years to bring homelessness and housing together across our district and together we advocate for more housing and support responses. This resulted in the purchase of a new property in Penrith (see above) and the ongoing leadership in applying for a Development Application on our property for future building growth.

Link Wentworth are our transitional housing and property managers, as well as subcontracting tenancy support (young people) to us. Through the tenancy support partnership 51 young people (aged 17–24) achieved a 92% success rate in sustaining housing through case management, advocacy, and brokerage.

Looking ahead, we're preparing for Home Sweet 2025, a Link Wentworth sleepout fundraiser with a goal of raising \$200,000 to support young people experiencing homelessness.

MISSION AUSTRALIA

Through our subcontracted programs with Mission Australia, The Grove and Youth Initiative, we continue with a long-lasting commitment to support young people in the Nepean. Together we provided housing and case work support to 52 young people through transitional housing (The Grove) and 38 young people exiting care arrangements (Youth Initiative) with over 70% of these young people in secured accommodation on exit.

PROPERTY INDUSTRY FOUNDATION

Platform has received support from PIF to refurbish Lemongrove House, returning it to youth accommodation with the provision of furniture and household items through a big working bee. PIF has also committed to upgrades to our Valley Heights property including the bathroom and loft space to make a 4th bedroom in 2025-2026.

AUSBAO AND LENDLEASE

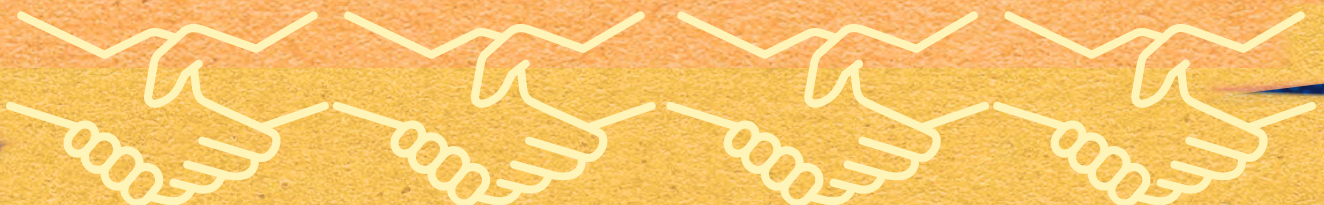
Ausbao continues to provide Granville House property, where we have supported six young people engaged in training and employment. Lendlease provided housing at Jordan Springs for a number of years which wrapped up late last year when the young people transitioned over to Castlereagh.

CORPORATE PARTNERSHIPS

IKEA donated over 200 household items worth \$65,000, helping young people set up transitional and private rentals. Temple & Webster furnished the new Castlereagh property with over \$30,000 of items and hosted a working bee, transforming the house into a welcoming home for young residents.

SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIPS

Working alongside the Y we were able to deliver a Schools Partnership in the Hawkesbury. The partnership provided early intervention support to Richmond High School and young people at risk of homelessness and disengagement. 20 young people were supported to strengthen their connections to community and foster positive relationships with family.





FUTURE



Platform's priorities for the future are clear. We will continue to strengthen case management by directing resources to priority areas, while also pursuing capital grants to progress the DA and build at Lemongrove. We are excited to be part of Link Wentworth's Home Sweet fundraising later this year, which will further boost our brokerage efforts. Advocacy remains central to our work, including seeking five-year program funding in line with government contracts and exploring opportunities to expand into a hub model with drop-in availability.

As demand continues to exceed targets, we face rising pressure on case management hours and limited housing options, alongside the challenges of static funding and increased compliance costs. These realities mean we must realign our programs—improving efficiency, reducing duplication, and ensuring resources are directed where they are most needed—while remaining competitive for future opportunities. With strong partnerships, clear priorities, and the dedication of our staff—our greatest asset—Platform is well-positioned to face these challenges and continue breaking the cycle of youth homelessness.

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
- Remuneration

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.

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 2025 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
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
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.



RICHARD SARGENT

MBA, FCCA
Chair Audit and Risk Committee
Year Appointed: October 2018

Richard provides CFO services to SMEs through the CFO Centre. Richard has over 20 years of experience in senior executive roles in Finance and Transformation at

large multinationals. He served as Head of Finance for Castrol Australia for more than six years and has worked in Australia, the UK, and Singapore. Additionally, Richard was a director of a manufacturing joint venture between BP and Caltex for three years. In 2015/2016, he held the position of treasurer for a school charity in the UK.



SIMONE ANGUS-CARR

Bachelor of Community Welfare, Graduate Diploma Counselling, Masters Public Health Service Management, Masters Social Work.
Board Secretary, Audit & Risk Committee
Year Appointed: February 2016

Simone joined Platform Youth Services Board 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. Since 2005, Simone has worked for Drug Health Service across Nepean Blue Mountains, Western Sydney. From 2018 Simone moved over to the NGO sector remaining in the Youth Drug and Alcohol space currently working for the Ted Noffs Foundation as National Outclient Director.



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.



REBECCA EVANS

Bachelor of Teaching - Early Childhood, Cert IV Training and Assessment
Governance and Planning Committee
Year Appointed: October 2021

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 focused on Youth and Community. Rebecca currently works with students in years 7-10 whom are disengaged from education, she focusses on wellbeing ensuring students have their basic needs for a positive school experience.



CASSANDRA MULLER

Bachelor of Science, Masters Human Resources and Industrial Relations.
Board Secretary: Governance & Planning Committee, Remuneration Committee
Year Appointed: August 2021

Cassie joined GrainCorp as the Chief People Officer 2024, Cassie leads both the People and

Culture and Health, Safety and Environment functions. Cassie worked at NAB in the role of Chief People Officer for Digital, Data and Technology. Prior to this, Cassie was with the Woolworths Group for over 10 years in both HR and Transformation roles. Cassie has also worked at Dubai Ports World and Coles Myer in a variety of HR positions.



ADAM SMITH

Bachelor of International Business, Masters in Finance.
Audit and Risk Committee.
Year Appointed: 25 October 2023

Adam brings over 20 years of experience across banking, investment management, and strategic finance leadership. He is currently the Group

Strategic Delivery Lead in Enterprise Finance at ANZ Bank. Prior to ANZ, Adam worked in investment management in London as Lead Portfolio Manager at Spearpoint Limited and as Senior Associate at Arch Group managing private finance and equity funds. He also held senior finance roles with Merrill Lynch in both London and Sydney.

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 and 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 year was \$1,601,804 (2024: surplus of \$57,317). The company is a not-for-profit entity and is exempt from the payment of income tax.

REVIEW OF OPERATIONS

Total income was \$9,332,996 (2024: 7,089,238). Operating expenses for the 2025 FY was \$7,731,192 (2024: \$7,031,921).

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, Hawksbury 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 15-25 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.

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
Simone Angus-Carr	7	5
Richard Sargent	7	6
Deryk Learmonth	7	6
Cassandra Muller	7	6
Rebecca Evans	7	5
Adam Smith	7	7

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.

DECLARATION

The auditors' independence declaration for the year ended 30 June 2025 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



Colin Lenton
Director

PLATFORM YOUTH SERVICES LTD
ABN 57 734 571 056

FINANCIAL REPORT - 30 JUNE 2025

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 2025, 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, and notes to the financial statements, including material accounting policy 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:

- a) giving a true and fair view of the company's financial position as at 30 June 2025 and of its financial performance for the year then ended, and
- b) 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 2025

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 2025

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 2025, 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 2025 has been properly accounted for and applied, in all material respects, in accordance with the above-mentioned Act and Regulations.

StewartBrown

StewartBrown
Chartered Accountants

Justin Weiner

Justin Weiner
Partner

15 October 2025

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

AS OF 30 JUNE 2025

	Note	2025 \$	2024 \$
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	6	3,627,454	3,608,229
Trade and other receivables	7	219,492	58,344
<i>Total current assets</i>		3,846,946	3,666,573
Non-current assets			
Capital work in progress	8	-	15,909
Property, plant and equipment	9	5,924,861	3,633,507
<i>Total non-current assets</i>		5,924,861	3,649,416
TOTAL ASSETS		9,771,807	7,315,989
LIABILITIES			
Current liabilities			
Trade and other payables	10	1,247,424	432,130
Employee benefits	11	681,805	637,423
<i>Total current liabilities</i>		1,929,229	1,069,553
Non-current liabilities			
Employee benefits	11	192,685	198,347
<i>Total non-current liabilities</i>		192,685	198,347
TOTAL LIABILITIES		2,121,914	1,267,900
NET ASSETS		7,649,893	6,048,089
FUNDS			
Accumulated funds		7,369,676	5,767,872
Reserves	12	280,217	280,217
TOTAL FUNDS		7,649,893	6,048,089

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

STATEMENT OF PROFIT & LOSS

AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

	Note	2025 \$	2024 \$
Revenue	4	9,278,759	7,032,060
Other income	4	54,237	57,178
		9,332,996	7,089,238
Expenses			
Administration expenses		(259,565)	(200,696)
Depreciation expenses	5	(209,153)	(121,437)
Employee benefits expense		(5,038,399)	(4,793,919)
Insurance expenses		(620,958)	(307,579)
Program expenses		(1,363,305)	(1,385,909)
Property and lease expenses		(239,812)	(222,381)
		(7,731,192)	(7,031,921)
Surplus before income tax		1,601,804	57,317
Income tax expense		-	-
Surplus for the year		1,601,804	57,317
Other comprehensive income		-	-
Total comprehensive income for the year		1,601,804	57,317

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

STATEMENT OF CHANGE IN FUNDS

AS OF 30 JUNE 2025

	Accumulated Funds	Asset Revaluation Reserve	Total
	\$	\$	\$
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	0	57,317
Balance at 30 June 2024	5,767,872	280,217	6,048,089
Balance at 1 July 2024	5,767,872	280,217	6,048,089
Comprehensive income			
Surplus for the year	1,601,804	-	1,601,804
Other comprehensive income			
Total comprehensive income for the year	1,601,804	0	1,601,804
Balance at 30 June 2025	7,369,676	280,217	7,649,893

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

AS OF 30 JUNE 2025

	Note	2025 \$	2024 \$
Cash flows from operating activities			
Receipts from customers and government		898,900	1,020,676
Payments to suppliers and employees		(7,994,481)	(7,432,113)
Donations and fundraising income		1,881,664	3,814
Government grants received		7,546,922	6,566,806
Interest received		116,581	138,344
Net cash flows from operating activities		2,449,586	297,527
Cash flows from investing activities			
Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment		85,453	82,273
Purchase of capital work in progress		(3,636)	(26,938)
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		(2,512,178)	(299,931)
Net cash flows from investing activities		-2,430,361	-244,596
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents		19,225	52,931
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the financial year		3,608,229	3,555,298
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the financial year	6	3,627,454	3,608,229

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

DIRECTORS 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 2025, 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 2025 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
Chairperson



Colin Lenton
Director

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 2025;
- (ii) The statement of financial position as at 30 June 2025 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
Chairperson



Colin Lenton
Director

