



youth
off the streets

**Annual
Report
2024**

About Youth Off The Streets

Youth Off The Streets is a not-for-profit youth services organisation that supports 12–24-year-olds experiencing or at risk of homelessness and complex disadvantage.

Founded by Father Chris Riley over 30 years ago, we have grown into an organisation of dedicated experts providing wraparound services to children and young people in NSW and QLD.

We walk alongside each young person as we seek to understand their needs and goals, and we offer the safety, support and education that helps them to realise their potential.

Youth Off The Streets is an inclusive, community-focussed organisation with a unique service model that is trauma-informed and culturally responsive.

We offer:

- crisis accommodation and housing services
- accredited alternative high schools
- cultural and wellbeing support for First Nations children and young people
- 1:1 casework support
- alcohol and other drugs counselling
- youth justice programs
- domestic and family violence education and support
- vocational training courses
- a national scholarship program
- life skills and capacity-building workshops
- mentoring support
- youth drop-in centres and community outreach, among other services and programs



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Acknowledgement of Country

Youth Off The Streets acknowledges the traditional custodians of the Country on which we work and recognises their connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respects to them and their cultures and to Elders past and present.

In all our work, we celebrate the culture, learning and spiritual connection that has been shared across thousands of years. We are proud to continue these traditions for future generations – so that all young people who seek connection to Country at Youth Off The Streets may be empowered to find it.



Some of the names and/or images of young people in this report have been changed to protect their privacy. All quotes and stories are true.

Chairperson's message



As we reflect on 2024, it is clear that the challenges faced by young people have never been more pressing. This year, homelessness emerged as one of the most significant issues impacting the lives of Australia's youth. Over 43,000 children and

young people under the age of 25 presented alone for support from homelessness services. The rising cost of living, high rates of domestic and family violence and the lack of affordable housing options are some of the factors leaving so many young people without a safe place to call home.

Other critical issues impacting the lives of children and young people this year include poor mental health, disconnection from education and involvement with the youth justice system. These challenges highlight the urgent need for experienced organisations like ours to provide services that are tailored to the unique circumstances, needs and aspirations of young people experiencing or at risk of homelessness and disadvantage.

Looking back over the past 12 months, we are proud of what we achieved – both in terms of our work with children and young people, but also the organisational developments that underpin our ambitious five-year strategic plan. Some of these achievements are described in this report and I have no doubt you'll be inspired by the determination of the young people we supported as well as the unwavering dedication of our staff.

This year, the board was pleased to welcome three new directors: Helen Conway, Sue Foxcroft-Cliffe and Patrick O'Connell. With extensive experience across multiple sectors, all three bring substantial professional expertise and a passion for supporting young people and uplifting communities. The strategic direction and oversight provided by the entire board was vital in 2024 – a year in which key foundational projects supporting our strategic plan were implemented, including site expansion plans and a brand refresh, the results of which you can see across the pages of this report.

As we look ahead, we remain committed to advocating for the needs of children and young people and expanding our services to reach even more young Australians in need. On behalf of the board, I would like to extend our deepest thanks to our donors, partners, volunteers and funders, whose contributions make our work possible.

Together, we can continue to make a difference in the lives of young Australians, providing them with the opportunities and support they need to reach their potential and thrive.

Thank you for your continued trust and support.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading 'Anne Fitzgerald'.

Anne Fitzgerald, GAICD
Chairperson



CEO's message



This year marked the first year of our Strategic Plan 2024–2028, which outlines our vision to strengthen our impact, expand our reach and deliver even better outcomes for at-risk children and young people. It was a critical year for laying strong foundations

to support these goals, with a number of key strategic projects commenced and completed.

To meet the increasing needs in the communities in which we work, we expanded our service offerings in Maitland, Dubbo, Blacktown and Redfern. These expansions saw our Youth Support Services, Registered Training Organisation and First Nations Services reach greater numbers of young people, with more growth and even greater impact to come during the next four years of our strategic plan period. Driving this expansion is our unique joined-up service model, which links together all of our core services and puts each child and young person at the centre of our 'wraparound' approach to service delivery.

To ensure continual improvement of our services and programs, we developed a comprehensive impact measurement strategy and framework and provided team members with tools to capture, analyse and report on the outcomes of our work. This data will help us continually strengthen our services to meet the changing needs of children and young people.

Recognising that our passionate team members are the heart of Youth Off The Streets, in 2024 we rolled out a new People Strategy to enhance capabilities and provide a safe, healthy and inclusive workplace. We also began implementing the Sanctuary Model, a trauma-informed approach to supporting staff wellbeing, fostering resilience and enhancing safe, therapeutic practice. Two important steps towards achieving formal accreditation were the professional development sessions we held for the whole organisation and establishing a Core Team and Steering Committee.

This year also saw the Youth Off The Streets brand refreshed with a new visual identity and expression of our purpose to best reflect our strategic ambitions for the years ahead. This bold new look was developed through extensive consultation and collaboration with staff, young people and other key stakeholders including donors and partners. While we have a new look, we remain firmly committed to the vision and values of our founder, Father Chris Riley AM. Our Founding Principles are at the heart of our strategy and our work – you can read them on page 22.

Just as we were building future-focussed foundations inside our organisation, so too were our frontline staff supporting children and young people to build strong foundations for their own future. Some of the achievements of our staff and young people include:

- **2,033** instances of support provided to help young people navigate the justice system and address their individual challenges
- **1,607** instances of homelessness and housing assistance provided to young people across all Youth Support Services teams
- **1,232** First Nations young people supported through culturally safe case management, workshops and group work
- **119** of our high school students earned their Record of School Achievement and 21 completed Year 12.

Each of these numbers is a child or young person with a story to tell. All are facing challenges and all deserve the opportunity to reach their potential.

The resilience and strength of the children and young people we work with never ceases to inspire me. The story of one of the young people we supported in 2024 epitomises this. Summer* lived with relatives as a child after her family home fell apart. Her childhood was cut short when those relatives moved away and Summer was on her own, at the age of 14. She eventually found a home of sorts in a supported youth accommodation service.

At the start of Year 9, Summer was connected with Youth Off The Streets and thrived in the supportive environment of one of our high schools. She had a go at everything and by the end of the year had been part of our cross-school student leadership group, participated in government policy consultations, presented to an academic conference and finished Year 10. She is now doing well in Year 11 and, while the challenges haven't gone away, she has a bright future ahead of her.

None of the achievements outlined in this report would have been possible without our dedicated team members and generous supporters. Thank you for sharing our commitment to empowering children and young people to build a positive future. Together, we are making a lasting impact.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'Judy Barraclough'. The signature is fluid and cursive, written on a light-colored background.

Judy Barraclough
Chief Executive Officer

2024 snapshot



Homelessness and housing

- **233** young people experiencing or at risk of homelessness were supported by our Inner West Youth Homelessness Service
- **1,607** instances of homelessness and housing assistance were provided to young people across all Youth Support Services teams



Education and training pathways

- **256** young people were supported in our independent high schools
- **116** young people enrolled in vocational training through our Registered Training Organisation



Engagement and outreach activities

- **2,177** children and young people accessed recreational and skill development activities and culturally focussed education and awareness activities, aimed at building positive peer relationships, reducing social isolation and promoting community cohesion*
- **12,754** instances of capacity building, advocacy, living skills and personal development support were delivered to children and young people by our Youth Support Services teams

First Nations support services



- **1,232** First Nations young people were supported through culturally safe case management, workshops and group work
- Prevention and intervention programs focussed on enhancing mental health and wellbeing, providing support to address the misuse of alcohol and other drugs and developing life skills

* Data captured between July and December 2024.



Domestic, family and sexual violence (DFSV) education and support

- **187** students in our high schools received support from our specialist DFSV team
- **120** youth sector professionals received DFSV training through our Taking Action, Creating Change Together workshop



Street Walk

- **81** young people received after-hours support to respond to their immediate needs
- **45** children and young people in Sydney's CBD, Inner West and Bankstown areas received after-hours police support



Youth justice support

- **428** young people involved with the justice system received specialist casework support
- **2,033** instances of support were provided to help young people navigate the justice system and address their individual challenges



Alcohol and other drugs support

- **60** young people accessed casework and counselling to overcome substance misuse
- **100** children and young people accessed psychosocial education through our harm minimisation education program



What our community told us

Every year, we give young people and members of our community the opportunity to provide feedback on our services and programs. The results of these annual surveys help us understand their needs to deliver the best support possible.

Of the 89 children and young people who completed our 2024 annual survey:

- **88%** rated our services as 'excellent' or 'good'
- **90%** said we met 'all' or 'most' of their needs
- **94%** reported that we helped them to deal with their challenges
- **96%** said they would come back to Youth Off The Streets again if they needed support

Of the 86 parents or carers who completed our school satisfaction survey:

- **95%** said they noticed positive changes in their children this year
- **95%** said their children felt safe and supported by staff
- **90%** said that staff have handled well any challenges that have arisen with their children
- **88%** said that our schools have offered their children a high level of support

Measuring the wellbeing of children and young people

Our Youth Support Services (YSS) assess children and young people's needs and monitor the impact of their services by using the Personal Wellbeing Index (PWI). The PWI is a widely used tool that asks people to rate their satisfaction with seven different aspects of their lives: safety, health, community connectedness, relationships, achievements, standard of living and future security.

YSS assessed 308 different children and young people using the PWI in 2024. On intake, the average PWI score was 6.4 out of 10, which is considered 'compromised' wellbeing. With each follow-up assessment, scores improved. At exit, the average score was 7.3, which is considered 'normal' for the Australian population.

“ I have recently moved to Sydney and knew no one. My youth worker has really helped me, even if she's busy she'll sit to talk with me. I massively appreciate knowing that someone's here for me, always down to listen. ”

– James*

“ My daughter's teacher has been absolutely amazing in the support she has given her and our family. She has gone above and beyond to help and support us. ”

– Parent of a young person attending a Youth Off The Streets school

Layla's story

As a child, Layla's* home was filled with fighting. She grew up in constant fear of how her parents' arguments would end. When she was 15, she became responsible for her three younger siblings – aged 12, nine and six – after her dad and then her mum abandoned them.



To pay rent and feed her siblings, Layla left school to get a job. But it wasn't enough and the family was evicted.

With no other choice, the children moved in with their grandmother, but her home was too small for all of them. A family friend helped Layla secure a private rental house.

"At first I was so happy," Layla says. "I had also enrolled in TAFE to study community services."

But working while studying was hard. Soon Layla was missing classes to work shifts so she could cover the rent.

"Eventually, I couldn't keep up with the payments and we were evicted again."

With no family support, Layla struggled alone. Despite working multiple jobs to keep up with rent and expenses, Layla and her siblings lost their home again and were forced to couch surf.

The constant stress was taking its toll on Layla and her mental health deteriorated rapidly.

"All I kept thinking was, 'I don't want to live this life anymore. I'm ready to give up,'" she says.

But no matter how bad things were, Layla did everything she could for her younger siblings.

"I made sure they had everything they needed or wanted. I paid their school fees and made sure they had uniforms and lunches."

When Layla met team members from Youth Off The Streets, things finally started to turn around.

"My caseworker spoke to so many different services for us," Layla says. "She got us food and helped us with everything."

Layla's caseworker helped her secure a house that she could afford and organised some furniture.

"I'm so thankful to have met my caseworker and Youth Off The Streets. If I hadn't, I don't know where my life would've ended up."

"We finally have a home – not just a house," she says.

"We have support around us and we can breathe easy now."

“My caseworker spoke to so many different services for us. She got us food and helped us with everything.”

A safe and stable place to call home

We offer a range of homelessness and housing services to young people aged 12–24. As we seek to address a significant gap in youth homelessness services, our goal is to provide holistic support that ranges from early intervention programs to individual case management, crisis accommodation, tenancy assistance and transitional housing.



Homelessness and housing support

In 2024, 233 young people were assisted by our Inner West Youth Homelessness Service (IWYHS), accessing crisis accommodation or housing support, casework and referrals to other services.

This year, the service provided:

- **39** young people with 3,443 nights of crisis accommodation, where the average length of stay was 127 nights – six weeks longer than the recommended timeframe for crisis accommodation due to the shortage of appropriate, affordable housing alternatives
- **8** young people with 1,183 nights in transitional accommodation
- **150** young people with support to sustain a tenancy or prevent eviction

Of the young people supported by IWYHS in 2024:

- **90%** identified domestic, family and sexual violence (DFSV) as the main reason or a contributing factor to needing support – noting that young people tend to disclose this once trust and rapport have been built with our staff, rather than on intake
- **24%** identified as having a First Nations background



Additionally, for the young people who received our support to sustain a tenancy or prevent eviction:

- Their main reason for seeking support was a combination of DFSV, family breakdown, youth justice system involvement and financial difficulty
- **35%** presented with a complex mental health issue that required a high level of support

Across all of our Youth Support Services teams, this year we provided:

- **1,607** instances of homelessness and housing support, ensuring young people could access relevant services and address personal challenges



Street Walk

Young people's need for support doesn't stop after regular work hours. Street Walk provides them with access to food, transportation, police support, service referrals and other assistance to improve their safety and wellbeing.

In 2024:

- **81** young people were provided with practical support over 171 nights
- **20** volunteers assisted our team



Food Van

Our Food Van program operates most nights in inner Sydney, providing young people and other community members experiencing homelessness with hot meals and social connection.

In 2024:

- **8,905** meals and beverages were served over 356 nights
- **681** dedicated volunteers provided 1,680 combined hours of service to support young people

Opening doors to education

Children and young people experiencing homelessness and disadvantage benefit from specialised support to stay connected to education, develop crucial life skills and build strong foundations for a positive future. Youth Off The Streets offers a range of educational opportunities including alternative high schools, accredited training courses and youth-focussed programs to build confidence, skills and aspirations.

Independent high schools

In 2024, our six registered and accredited high schools for young people in Years 9–12 continued to offer an alternative education pathway for students with complex needs.

Our schools provided opportunities for students to re-engage in learning while ensuring they felt safe and secure. With student wellbeing and holistic learning integrated across all programs, the young people enrolled in our schools were supported to reconnect with their education through individualised learning plans that supported development in emotional regulation, self awareness and readiness to learn.

In 2024:

- **256** young people were supported in our schools across Years 9–12
- **119** students earned their Record of School Achievement
- **21** students completed Year 12, including 10 young people who graduated with their Higher School Certificate

Student voice

Student leadership representatives from across our schools were supported to establish the Nurturing Opportunities and Ideas for Student Empowerment (NOISE) project in 2024. Led by our Deputy Principal – Wellbeing, this student group met regularly during the year, working together to drive positive change within their school communities and foster a sense of ownership and responsibility among the student cohorts.

Alternative Schools Conference

In July, Youth Off The Streets hosted the Alternative Schools Conference for teachers, administration staff, leaders, youth workers, support staff, psychologists, teachers' aides/student support learning officers and researchers. The event featured keynote speeches from several renowned educators including Dr Helen Cahill, Joe Kwan, Mary Teague and Dr Carmel Hobbs.

Over 220 attendees participated in expert-led sessions on topics such as inclusive practices, engagement techniques and resilience building. There were also opportunities to network, learn practical tools and gain insights to enhance teaching practices.



Our Annual School Reports are available on the 'Independent high schools' page of our website at youthoffthestreets.com.au



Power Within program

In 2024, our early intervention domestic, family and sexual violence (DFSV) program for young people was offered across all our independent high schools for the first time. The program empowers young people to identify the cycle of violence, have conversations about their experiences and take steps to ensure their safety and wellbeing. A highlight of the program was the 'Voices of Our Warriors' event in November as part of the United Nations' 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence. Students participated in competitions and activities to give a voice and visual representation to their personal DFSV learning journey.

In 2024:

- **187** students received support from our DFSV team
- **1,820** safe conversations were had about DFSV, a 66% increase on the previous year
- **20** students were supported to leave a DFSV situation and move into crisis accommodation



Registered Training Organisation

Youth Off The Streets is a Registered Training Organisation (RTO code 41450) delivering nationally accredited vocational education and training (VET) courses for young people who attend our schools and access our services, as well as community members looking to upskill.

In 2024:

- **116** students, including 20 from external organisations, enrolled in vocational training through our RTO

Training the sector in DFSV responses

This year, we expanded the number of training programs we offer to community services staff from across the sector and continued to grow our reputation as a leading provider of innovative DFSV training.

Youth Off The Streets recognises the significant impacts of DFSV on young people and the need for greater support. Collaborating with young people with lived experience, we have developed trauma-informed training to help professionals provide sensitive, effective support.

Taking Action, Creating Change Together (TACCT)

Following a co-design phase involving young people with lived experience of DFSV, subject matter experts and sector representatives, TACCT was launched in May 2024. This training workshop equips youth sector professionals with the tools they need to support children and young people impacted by DFSV with greater awareness, insight and sensitivity. By the end of December, 120 sector staff from seven local government areas had been trained.

Safer Conversations

This course was developed in 2024 by our Education DFSV Prevention and Support Lead, who identified a need to train youth workers to hold safe, confidential conversations with young people about their individual DFSV experiences and needs. Using a trauma-informed approach, the workshop covers DFSV issues for young people, legal frameworks, effective support strategies and vicarious trauma.

National Scholarship Program

Since 2004, our National Scholarship Program has recognised the talents and strengths of young people who show extraordinary promise but need extra support and resources to reach their full potential.

Every year, a group of young people from across Australia are awarded a scholarship to support their further education or training. Along with financial assistance, each recipient is partnered with a mentor who provides guidance and support. In the 20-year history of the program, 467 scholarships have been awarded.

In 2024:

- **39** scholarships were awarded to young people across Australia, representing 85% growth since 2020
- **3** new sponsors joined our existing 24 partners to fund the scholarships
- **16** new mentors were recruited, trained and onboarded, joining the existing cohort of 67 volunteer mentors

In November, scholarship recipients, sponsors, mentors, supporters and carers came together at Sydney's International Convention Centre for the annual Awards Ceremony, which doubled as a 20th anniversary celebration.

The educational achievements of the 2022 program graduates were also acknowledged during the event. These students will receive ongoing support from their mentors and program staff as they progress in their careers.

“ This scholarship has profoundly impacted my life in multiple ways. It has provided the financial support necessary to pursue my education. More importantly, it has motivated me to strive for excellence and seize opportunities for growth. ”

– Faeza, National Scholarship Program recipient

Our annual Awards Ceremony brought together recipients, mentors and supporters from across the country to celebrate the young people's success.



Sam's story

In 2005, Sam Alderton-Johnson was living in foster care while completing Year 12. With big ambitions to go to university, he successfully applied for a scholarship through the Youth Off The Streets National Scholarship Program.



It was exactly the encouragement the young Indigenous student needed to pursue his dreams.

"I was looking for financial support so that I could pay for course fees, books and resources. I found it really valuable," he says.

"But it wasn't really about the money. It was about being recognised as someone who was struggling and trying to succeed despite their challenges."

Sam embarked on an honours degree in criminology at the University of New South Wales (UNSW), using his own experiences to understand the factors that put people at risk of offending.

During his first semester, Sam aged out of the foster care system. Unable to find youth accommodation, he deferred his studies and couch surfed for nearly a year.

After eight years of study, Sam graduated and began working at his local PCYC before moving into the public sector. There he coordinated social policy projects for government secretaries and worked in the juvenile prison system.

Eager to keep learning, Sam gained a master's degree in teaching, before taking a role with Aboriginal Affairs and later the Aboriginal Languages Trust.

Sam now works at Impact Policy AU, a First Nations consulting firm grounded in community engagement, co-design, research, evaluation and effective communication. He's also a Senior Lecturer

in criminology at UNSW and is building his own Indigenous scholarship program so that young people like him can get the support they need to reach their education goals.

"It's based around Blak philanthropy," he explains.

"Last year, Impact Policy AU did a call-out to Aboriginal business owners and asked them to donate \$1,000 to individual kids.

"This year, we're leveraging our connections around the principles of access, equity and inclusion to fund grants that community members can apply for.

"It's my way of giving back and paying it forward, because organisations like Youth Off The Streets were really important to me as a young person."



Supporting First Nations young people to thrive

Our First Nations Services support the social and emotional wellbeing of Aboriginal children, young people, families and communities. The team provides culturally sensitive programs, case management, workshops, community events and support services to strengthen resilience, opportunity and cultural connection.

Our First Nations team also guides our organisation in delivering services and programs that meet the unique needs of Aboriginal children and young people.

In 2024:

- **1,232** First Nations young people were assisted through case management, workshops and group work
- Prevention and intervention programs focussed on enhancing young people's mental health and wellbeing, support to address substance misuse and activities to develop life skills
- Our Aboriginal Elder played a key role in supporting First Nations young people involved with the justice system

The team also worked with Aboriginal families and communities to strengthen support networks and reinforce the role of culture and kinship.

Youth justice

This year, our First Nations Services team continued to support the Koori Court in Dubbo, Parramatta and Surry Hills. Youth Off The Streets' Aboriginal Elder sat alongside NSW magistrates to ensure decisions considered cultural identity, healing and support networks.

By working with Elders, legal representatives and support services, our team provided young people with tools and pathways to make positive choices and access culturally safe advocacy, diversionary programs and support networks. Many young people supported by our youth workers accessed education, employment and leadership opportunities and were empowered to reconnect with community and pursue pathways to a positive future.

Culturally Responsive Practice framework

In 2024, our First Nations Services team developed and launched Youth Off The Streets' first Culturally Responsive Practice (CRP) framework, to ensure that all aspects of our work are respectful and inclusive of diverse cultural perspectives.

Led by First Nations cultural principles of hospitality and reciprocity, the CRP framework embraces all cultures as we develop and embed policies and practices into an organisational environment where all individuals feel valued and understood.

The CRP framework is critical to ensuring the best possible service for all children and young people who receive assistance from Youth Off The Streets. This is important not only in terms of how we deliver our support services, but also in supporting a workforce that understands diversity and recognises culture as a strength, not a barrier.



Care, connection and capacity building

Our Engagement and Support teams work with at-risk children and young people in Greater Sydney, the Hunter region in NSW and Logan in QLD. They provide holistic support to address the immediate needs and longer-term goals of each young person.

In 2024, we provided:

- **428** children and young people with support to address issues including DFSV, homelessness and housing, education, employment, capacity building and mental health concerns, among other types of individual support
- **2,177** children and young people with recreational and skill development activities and culturally focussed education and awareness activities, aimed at building positive peer relationships, reducing social isolation and promoting community cohesion
- **12,214** instances of support to young people through engagement activities at our drop-in centres and outreach programs

Growing support in the Hunter

In Maitland in the Hunter region of NSW, our Engagement and Support team continued to reach more children and young people through a focussed outreach and child- and youth-centred service model. In 2024, the team provided 2,747 instances of support, exceeding their target. Capacity building, education and advocacy were the key areas of support delivered.

The team's Woodberry Outreach program, which launched in June 2023, steadily expanded its reach and impact throughout the year, engaging young people, families and other community services. The team reached 1,216 young people through barbecues at the local skatepark, sports activities and arts and crafts. This success has led to requests for the team to expand their outreach into other areas.



Helping young people get back on track

The young people we support are dealing with diverse and complex personal challenges, often related to experiences of trauma. Our specialist Youth Support Services teams deliver programs that empower young people to make positive life choices and overcome barriers to a healthy and positive future.

Youth justice

Young people involved in the justice system have access to our holistic support services, including specialist casework, court support, diversion programs and therapeutic pathways. We also provide bail, prison pre-release and post-release support.

In 2024:

- **428** young people received specialist casework support
- **2,033** instances of support were provided to help young people navigate the justice system and address their individual challenges

Positive Action towards Community Harmony (PAAtCH)

In 2024, we developed the PAAtCH countering violent extremism project and delivered 10 education sessions to community members and service providers, including police, court personnel and youth justice workers in the Canterbury–Bankstown and Campbelltown LGAs.

The outcomes for young people involved in the project were assessed using the Personal Wellbeing Index (PWI) and Kessler 10 Psychological Distress scale. The results showed significant positive impacts, with PWI scores increasing by 3.4% to 11.9% and psychological distress dropping by an average of 44% by the project's conclusion in December.

Alcohol and other drugs

Through our Dunlea Alcohol and Other Drugs (AOD) Youth Service, we work with young people aged 13–19 and their families to help them break the cycle of drug misuse, set personal goals and build foundations for a healthy life. The service includes a comprehensive initial assessment, individual and family casework support, counselling and health promotion that reduces harm.

In 2024:

- **60** young people accessed casework and counselling to overcome substance misuse
- Psychosocial education was provided to **100** children and young people through our harm minimisation education program

During the year, we began delivering the Self Management and Recovery Training (SMART) program, which aims to help young people strengthen their recovery focus.



Yousef's story

When he was 14, Yousef* and his family came to Australia seeking safety. The family had fled civil conflict in their homeland of Iraq and discrimination in Jordan. Yousef had seen children and babies killed and families separated. These experiences left him carrying deep trauma and anger.



When they arrived in Australia, things were going well for Yousef and his family, despite a language barrier and other challenges. But things worsened quickly when Yousef's father became increasingly angry and abusive. While trying to protect his sister during one of their father's outbursts, police were called to the house and Yousef was arrested and taken to youth detention.

"I didn't speak English so I couldn't explain what had been going on at home," Yousef says.

In youth detention, Yousef couldn't ask for help or use the phone. He was scared of the other detainees and would wake up screaming from nightmares about his experiences in Iraq.

Yousef was released after three months but because of his criminal conviction, restrictions were placed on his schooling. He was isolated from other students and his teachers suggested he find a new school. At 16 and with limited English, no other school would accept him.

Without access to education, Yousef worried he'd never achieve his dream of becoming a lawyer. He also struggled to find a job with his criminal record.

When Yousef started receiving support from Youth Off The Streets, he began to learn to manage his trauma.

Fatima Elabd, Team Leader – Engagement and Support, says that early trauma can affect brain development and shape the people that children become.

"Yousef has triggers that remind him of war, including the sounds of women screaming and balloons popping," she says.

"Our caseworkers and youth workers are specially trained to understand the complexities of trauma and support young people like him."

Yousef believes that culturally sensitive, trauma-informed practice should be central to the youth justice system.

"I want people in power to know that not everyone who does something wrong needs to go to jail," he says.

"Jail might break them. They get used to being inside. So every time they get out, they get in fights and end up going back again. That's not good at all."

“ I want people in power to know that not everyone who does something wrong needs to go to jail. ”

Evaluating the impact of our work

Tracking and measuring the impact of our services and programs for the children and young people we support is crucial to our success. In 2024, we made significant progress in enhancing impact measurement across the organisation.

Rigorous impact measurement systems help improve our service delivery and ensure that our services and programs are making a real difference for vulnerable children and young people. Improved evaluation systems will also increase our accountability to our funders and donors, as well as strengthen our advocacy work and position in the youth sector.



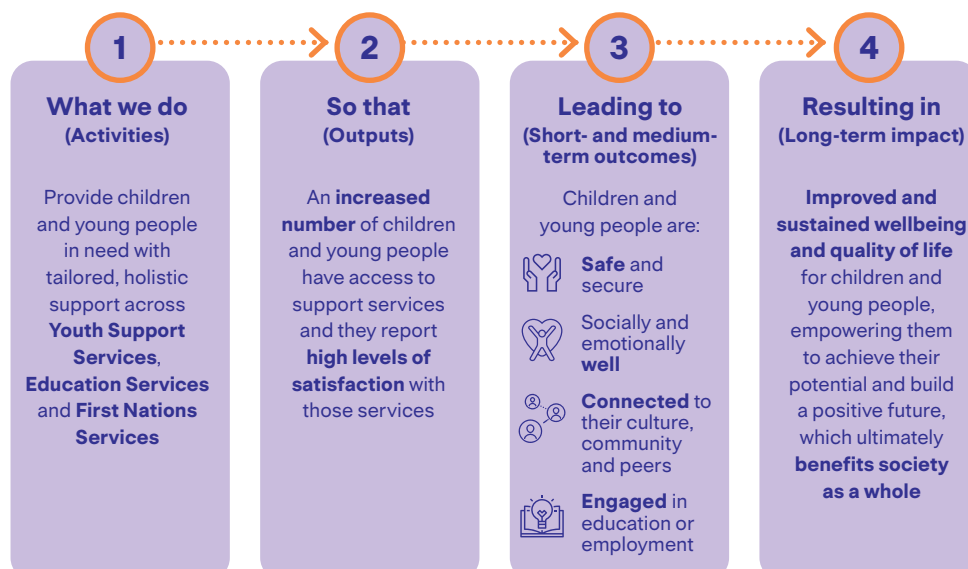
Key achievements in 2024 include:

- Collaboration with the Sax Institute and MH Consulting to finalise the Youth Off The Streets Impact Measurement Strategy. This provides a framework and five-year roadmap for developing robust, ethical impact measurement systems
- The development of organisation-wide and program-specific 'program logics' identifying key outcomes and measures across all services, including culturally responsive measures for First Nations children and young people
- The improvement of internal systems and processes for capturing, reporting and analysing impact data, including the development of internal dashboards
- Continuous work with our teams to analyse their outcome data and establish baselines and targets for priority outcomes, such as improving the wellbeing of young people
- Initial work to embed data sovereignty principles in our evaluation processes

This work has laid the foundation for the next stage of our Impact Measurement Strategy, which will focus on improving staff capacity and data collection platforms and processes.

Theory of Change

Our Theory of Change was developed as part of our Impact Measurement Strategy. It describes how our services and holistic approach lead to positive outcomes and long-term impact for 12 to 24-year-olds experiencing or at risk of homelessness and complex disadvantage.



Sector engagement and advocacy

By working closely with the youth sector and advocating with all levels of government, we aim to increase understanding of the challenges faced by at-risk children and young people and create long-term social improvement.

Youth homelessness and housing

In 2024, we participated in several working groups with NSW peak body Yfoundations, supporting the development of position papers calling for appropriate housing and supported temporary accommodation models for unaccompanied children and young people.

We also represented the sector in several meetings with key NSW Government ministers, including Minister for Homelessness, Housing and Youth, Rose Jackson and Minister for Families and Communities, Kate Washington, advocating for a systems response to the structural and systemic drivers of child and youth homelessness, youth justice and statutory child protection interventions. Additional advocacy called for increased funding for the Youth Hub model, recognising the effective early intervention and post-crisis responses this model can provide.

Youth justice

Our activities included submissions to the NSW Government on the programs and investment needed to address youth crime in regional and rural areas, and to the Australian Senate inquiry into the nation's youth justice and incarceration system. We also joined Raise the Age NSW's 'Happier 10th Birthday' public awareness campaign, calling on the NSW Government to raise the age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 14.

Additionally, we provided a written submission to the QLD Parliament Select Committee Youth Justice Reform calling for the age of criminal responsibility to be raised, along with greater investment in early intervention and therapeutic responses to children and young people at risk of connecting to the justice system. Our submission was well regarded and resulted in an invitation to appear before the Select Committee to further discuss our recommendations.

Alternative education pathways

Education Services staff continued to represent Youth Off The Streets on the Association of Independent Schools (AISNSW) Special Assistance Schools (SAS) Principal Reference Group Committee, which advocates for systemic sector improvements to better meet the social-emotional needs of students.

Additionally, in 2024 we were invited to participate in a new initiative of the Association for Flexible and Inclusive Education (AAFIE). The Data Analysis For

Flexible and Inclusive Education (DAFFIE) project will see data collaboration across the flexible learning sector reveal trends and patterns that are crucial for adapting to the needs of students experiencing disadvantage. We were also invited to collaborate on the Enhancing Learning Through AI research trial conducted by the Human Technology Institute at University of Technology Sydney and funded by the Paul Ramsay Foundation. The trial aims to enhance learning outcomes for Youth Off The Streets students by providing them with access to personal AI tutors.

First Nations children and young people

In 2024, we continued to advocate for the expansion of culturally responsive support services and diversionary programs to keep First Nations young people out of the justice system. In our government submissions on the youth justice system, we highlighted the overrepresentation of First Nations youth in detention and advocated for systemic reform to address this.

Our First Nations Services team continued to represent Youth Off The Streets on the NSW Corrective Services Aboriginal Deaths in Custody Committee, Youth Koori Court Committee and local police youth action groups to address antisocial behaviour and influence positive change.



New brand, same vision

It has been over a decade since Youth Off The Streets last refreshed its branding and visual identity. With a new strategic plan and an ambitious goal to support even more children and young people in need, it was essential that we reflected on how to remain as relevant and impactful as possible for those we exist to serve – today and in the years ahead.

In 2024, we undertook a comprehensive research and feedback project to understand our brand from the perspective of a range of stakeholders – from staff and young people to sector partners and donors.

The process to understand our brand essence led us to the single idea at the heart of our work: we exist to support vulnerable young people to realise their **potential**. With this guiding principle in mind, every element of our new branding was thoughtfully designed to reflect and amplify this vital theme.

Alongside our brand essence and visual identity, we brought together a group of team members who have been with Youth Off The Streets for many years to distil the ideals of our founder, Father Chris Riley AM, in a new set of Founding Principles. These principles reflect Father Riley's unwavering belief in the potential of every young person (see below).



Founding Principles

Our Founding Principles reflect the fundamental beliefs and ideals held by our founder, Father Chris Riley AM. These principles still hold true for us today as we strive to support even more children and young people while honouring Father Riley's legacy.

Father Riley founded Youth Off The Streets over 30 years ago with the aim of championing and supporting vulnerable children and young people. We are proud to carry his vision forward as a community of professionals committed to empowering young people and advocating for their rights and needs.

Our Founding Principles connect the strengths of our past with the ambition, determination and expertise of our current and future organisation.



1

We recognise the strength and potential that is already within every child and young person.

2

We know that relationships built on empathy, non-judgement, honesty and compassion can transform the lives of young people.

3

We listen to young people, value the knowledge of their diverse lived experiences and place their perspectives at the centre of our actions.

4

We believe every child and young person can give back to their community and in doing so find a sense of hope, belonging and purpose.

5

We are committed to finding solutions to complex issues by implementing best practices, asking 'what works here' and embracing continual learning.

Astrid's story

Astrid hadn't planned to leave home, but when her relationship with her parents broke down, she had no other choice. She found herself walking for hours – in a pair of rapidly disintegrating slippers – to nowhere in particular. On her first night sleeping rough, a stranger directed her to one of our crisis accommodation services in Sydney's Inner West.



"I only stayed there for one night, but that night was lovely," Astrid recalls.

"There was food everywhere and nobody pressured me to talk. They just encouraged me to rest."

The next night, Astrid transferred to another Youth Off The Streets 24/7 crisis accommodation service. She credits the staff and other residents with acknowledging her gender identity – and accepting her for who she truly is.

"One resident saw me, clocked my entire vibe and thought, 'I'm gonna teach this girl how to tie her hair up,'" Astrid says.

"That's when my transition properly started. Not with hormones or anything but just learning how to do my hair."

With support from Youth Off The Streets caseworkers, Astrid started to come to terms with her gender identity. She also learned life skills and continued her nursing degree.

"My caseworkers were amazing. I could go to them for guidance on anything, but I was also encouraged to figure things out for myself."

After switching from nursing to hospitality studies, Astrid worked at a hotel for 18 months. This gave her the confidence to move into a private rental property. But further difficulties saw her return to temporary supported accommodation.

Now pursuing her dream of a career in the beauty industry, Astrid is working part time while studying at TAFE. She continues to receive support from Youth Off The Streets caseworkers, who taught her the importance of being happy in herself.

"Having the chance to explore my gender identity and express myself has been so important for my long-term stability and mental health," she says.

"Staying at the refuge gave me room to figure those parts out."

“My caseworkers were amazing. I could go to them for guidance on anything, but I was also encouraged to figure things out for myself.”

Fundraising

The kindness and generosity of our donors in 2024 was truly inspiring, helping young people find safety, overcome trauma and build a positive future.

In 2024, we raised an incredible

\$12 million

to support children and young people facing disadvantage.



We are deeply grateful to our wonderful supporters – without them, Youth Off The Streets simply would not be able to exist. We are thankful for those who responded to our appeals with generous one-off gifts to meet the immediate needs of young people and those who committed to recurring donations – or a legacy in their Will. Their generosity ensures we can support young people throughout their journey to a positive future.

We also want to celebrate those who took on fundraising challenges to increase community awareness about the circumstances that force young people into homelessness. Their efforts not only raised much-needed funds but also shone a light on this critical issue, inspiring others to join the cause.

Our philanthropic and corporate partners are critical to our work, funding key programs and initiatives over multiple years. Their commitment provides financial security for us to deliver reliable and sustainable support to young people in need. We are also grateful to the employees of our corporate partners who contribute their time, energy and enthusiasm as volunteers for our programs and services.

Our supporters are the lifeblood of our organisation, enabling us to be there when children and young people need a safe place to turn.

Giving Day

On Thursday 8 August 2024 we held our inaugural Giving Day, coinciding with National Homelessness Week.

With the generous help of volunteers from our corporate partners, our office was buzzing with energy for 12 hours straight as we hit the phones, calling on members of our community to help join the fight against youth homelessness.

Every donation made to Youth Off The Streets was matched dollar-for-dollar by partners and major donors, doubling the impact of each contribution. The day was a huge success with over **\$300,000** raised to support young people facing homelessness.

Lipstick Luncheon

In May we hosted our eighth annual Lipstick Luncheon, with over 250 guests attending at Sydney's Four Seasons Hotel. We are grateful for the support of our tremendous MC, Melissa Doyle, and our esteemed guest panellists – the Hon Linda Burney MP, Maggie Dent and Deborah Clay.

We were also incredibly moved as we heard from Sana, a young person who has accessed Youth Off The Streets' services. Supported by her caseworker and our Engagement and Support Team Leader, Sana spoke powerfully about overcoming family breakdown and housing instability.

Through generous prize donations ranging from handbags to holidays that were auctioned during the event, we raised **\$112,000** towards our services and programs to help young people like Sana.



Community fundraising

In January 2024, we held an exclusive screening of **Force of Nature: The Dry 2** at Chauvel Cinema, Paddington. Hollywood superstar Eric Bana and Studio 10 presenter Angela Bishop joined us for a fascinating Q&A after the film. Eric has supported Youth Off The Streets for over 15 years. Thanks to his generosity and devotion to our cause, the event raised over **\$13,000** for children and young people facing disadvantage. We'd also like to thank Village Roadshow and Palace Cinemas for making the evening such a success.

We were thrilled to attend **Run For The Hills** at Bella Vista Farm in September. The fun-run event was a chance for families of all ages and skills to support youth mental health. In 2024, they raised **\$11,000** towards our programs and services. Thanks go to Castle Hill Rotary Club for supporting us and hosting such a great day out.

Meanwhile, the support shown by our remarkable community of schools has filled us with inspiration and gratitude. Special mention goes to:

- **Willoughby Girls High School**, who raised \$10,000 through a Charities Day dedicated to Youth Off The Streets.
- **St Angela's Primary School Parramatta**, who continued their support by raising \$6,000 through their annual Walkathon.
- **Inaburra School in Bangor**, who held a variety of fundraising events throughout the year culminating in \$17,000 in donations.



Bringing festive cheer to families in need

We are deeply grateful to the donors and corporate supporters who helped provide over **500 Christmas hampers** to children, young people and their families.

Our friends at Westpac, Holding Redlich, ICA Partners, Helia, Sony Foundation, Edwards Lifesciences, Paramount and UnLtd, among other generous supporters, supplied toys, gift cards and essential

items to our schools, crisis accommodation, community outreach events and First Nations Services from Sydney to Dubbo.



Our Sydney Engagement and Support Team Leader expressed her heartfelt thanks:

"The smiles on children's faces and the gratitude from their families shows how much of an impact your support had."

"Your kindness not only provided important items, but also showed love and care to those who needed it most. We are truly thankful for your support and the difference you've made."

Leaving a legacy of kindness and hope

We acknowledge those who chose to leave a gift in their Will to Youth Off The Streets. Last year, we received **\$2.6 million** in bequests. By leaving a portion of their estate to Youth Off The Streets, these generous donors are helping to build a future where every young Australian can realise their potential and thrive.

Our partners and supporters

We greatly appreciate the generosity and commitment of our partners and supporters. Thanks to these dedicated individuals, community groups and organisations, children and young people can access the safety, support and education they need to build a positive future.

Corporate partners

Youth Off The Streets gratefully acknowledges the support provided by our valued corporate partners in 2024.

Your local club

ClubsNSW and the Registered Clubs community continued their long-standing support in 2024, contributing a total of \$423,733. Their support funded several programs across the Youth Off The Streets network and enabled our 'Journey to Work' program, which offered employment support to 189 students and delivered over 970 non-accredited short courses. This support equipped young people with the skills, training and pathways needed to overcome individual barriers and enter the workforce.



In 2024, Future Generation Australia (ASX: FGX) provided \$421,224 of support, enabling Youth Off The Streets to significantly expand our First Nations Services, reaching more Aboriginal young people across NSW. This expansion included tailored support for young people and culturally sensitive programs addressing mental health, alcohol and drug misuse, and educational engagement. FGX's funding also supported crucial interventions within the justice system, advocating for culturally appropriate support for Aboriginal youth.



Sony Foundation's support of \$171,000 in 2024 continued to be instrumental across Youth Off The Streets' National Scholarship Program, Food Van and mental health program. Their funding enabled the delivery of 667 hours of mental health support, a scholarship for an emerging musician and the ongoing operation of the Food Van, providing essential meals and outreach to people experiencing homelessness in inner Sydney.

UnLtd:

UnLtd and key partners provided \$754,923 of in-kind support in 2024. Today Design generously provided low-bono brand refresh services, while Bench Media raised over \$20,000 through a successful trivia event. PHD also joined as a new supporter. Paramount Ten increased their contribution to over \$10,000 and UnLtd again sponsored our National Scholarship Program. Additionally, Youth Off The Streets was featured at UnLtd's Golf Day, providing a platform to talk about our work and promote upcoming fundraising initiatives.



Count Charitable Foundation
CSR Limited
Dooleys Lidcombe Catholic Club

Lewis Land Foundation
Liverpool Catholic Club
Mounties
Steadfast Foundation

U Turn
Wests Illawarra Leagues Club

Philanthropic partners

We gratefully acknowledge the generous support of our philanthropic partners, including those wishing to remain anonymous, who share our commitment to empowering children and young people experiencing disadvantage.

Andrew Pratten Charitable Trust

Australian Youth &
Health Foundation

Bagnall Endowment Fund

Bant Street Foundation

Collendina 5 Foundation

Collier Charitable Fund

Davies Family Foundation

Doc Ross Family Foundation

Eden Foundation

Gandevia Foundation

James N. Kirby Foundation

JLDJS Foundation

Matana Foundation
for Young People

Pacific West Foods
Australia Pty Ltd

Ted Dunn Foundation

Government support

We extend our sincere thanks to our government funding partners for their contributions in 2024.

Australian Government

Department of Education

Department of Home Affairs

NSW Government

Department of Communities and Justice

NSW Department of Education

Multicultural NSW

NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet

Local Government

Canterbury–Bankstown Council

Maitland City Council

Randwick City Council

Other groups

The Association of Independent Schools

Wentwest Limited



Our people

Our staff and volunteers demonstrate passion, skill and dedication as they work to empower children and young people and strengthen communities.

In 2024 we had:

219

staff
members*

22,609

hours of
volunteering provided



People Strategy

In 2024, we launched our People Strategy, which was developed to enhance staff wellbeing, develop capabilities and cultivate a safe, healthy and inclusive workplace. Through the tools and initiatives launched by the People and Culture team, we aim to:

- deliver a great team member experience
- foster a culture that connects our people and aligns to our purpose and values
- invest in developing our people to build a high-performing and diverse workforce
- position Youth Off The Streets as an outstanding place for prospective staff to join

The strategy, based on rigorous consultation and discussion across our teams, has been designed to advance two key enablers of our five-year strategy: to strengthen our people and culture and to optimise our organisational capability. These enablers support our ambition to ensure even better outcomes for the children and young people we work with.

Sanctuary at Youth Off The Streets

The Sanctuary Model serves as the foundational ethos at Youth Off The Streets, informing our organisational culture and our service practices.

Beginning in 2023, we partnered with the MacKillop Institute to introduce Sanctuary across our organisation, commencing the first stage of a multi-year journey to enhance our organisational culture in 2024.

Sanctuary provides tools and practices that support staff to prioritise safety and wellbeing for themselves, as well as for the children and young people we support, at every level within our workplace.

By integrating trauma-informed principles of safety, emotional intelligence and social learning, the model fosters resilience and promotes healing from trauma, while also mitigating the risks of harm from vicarious trauma.

* as of December 2024.



Our volunteers

Many of our services and programs owe their success to the support of our generous volunteers. In 2024, volunteers contributed over 22,600 hours of their time. From preparing meals for students at our schools to assisting with Street Walk, gardening at our crisis accommodation services and managing our op shops, the compassion and dedication demonstrated by our volunteers gives hope to young people, who are often then inspired to pay it forward.

Mentoring

In 2024, 94 volunteer mentors supported young people across three programs:

- **General mentoring:** mentors encourage students from our schools to develop support networks and resilience
- **iDrive:** experienced drivers help learners build confidence and improve their employability prospects as they obtain their 120 hours of experience
- **National Scholarship Program:** mentors provide recipients with career advice and emotional support over their two-year scholarship journey

“My mentor has inspired me to view challenges as opportunities for growth, which has significantly shaped my approach to my studies and personal life for the better.”

– Nasri*, National Scholarship Program recipient

On the road to independence

Our iDrive program continued to grow in popularity in 2024, expanding to include students at our six high schools and residents in our crisis accommodation services. Young people receive at least five professional driving lessons and can then accumulate driving hours with a volunteer iDrive supervisor in a vehicle provided by Youth Off The Streets.

In 2024:

- **34** young people obtained their Ls
- **4** young people completed the Safer Driver Course
- **6** young people passed their Ps
- **50** young people actively participated in the program, supported by 10 volunteer supervising drivers



2024 financial snapshot

In 2024, we achieved an overall surplus of \$1.9m, a great result for the first year of our five-year strategy. As part of our strategy, we intend to apply our reserves to develop our services and organisational capability and to implement strategic initiatives. We were able to make a successful start on this in 2024, while also ending the year with a financial position that was significantly favourable to our annual budget.

Where our money comes from

We recorded \$33.4 million in total income for 2024, achieving 11% growth in comparison to 2023. This growth enables us to meet our strategic objective: to strengthen our impact and expand our reach.

Our funding is from a range of sources including government funding, philanthropy, corporate partnerships and individual donations. We have seen growth across most of these areas in 2024 and we are so grateful for the organisations and individuals who have contributed to this. Their support has a direct impact on our ability to meet the needs of the young people we work with and to support more young people in the years ahead.

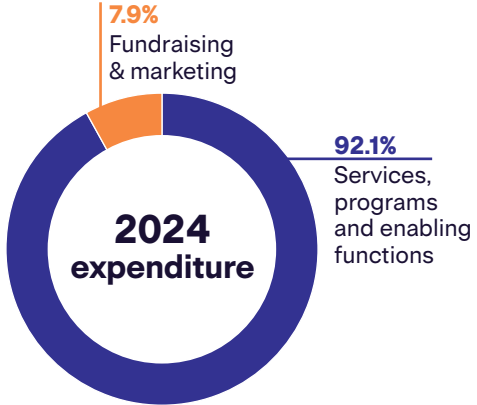
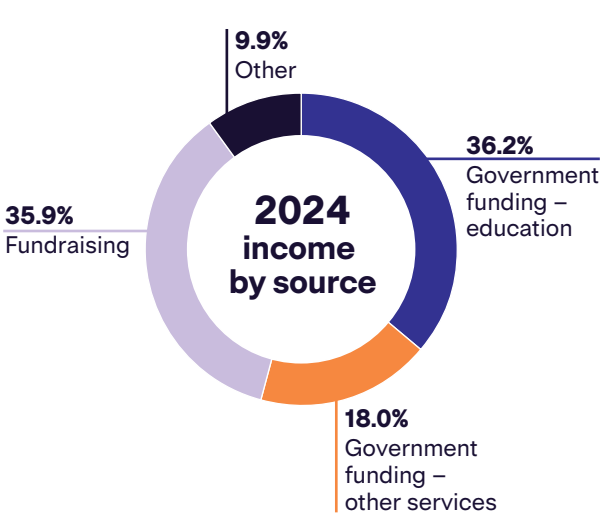
Where our money goes

Our imperative is to ensure that as much funding as possible goes to delivering and enhancing our programs and services. In 2024, almost 8% was used for fundraising and marketing and the remaining was allocated to our programs, services and enabling functions.

As part of our five-year strategy, we are investing funds into improving the condition and functionality of our existing site locations, while also securing new premises into which we can expand our services. During 2024, this included an upgrade to the kitchen at EDEN College in Macquarie Fields and securing an improved new location for Key College in Redfern.

Our expenditure base increased by 16% during 2024, mostly related to increasing our staff numbers through strategic recruitment. As a people-focussed organisation, our team members are fundamental to developing and delivering successful services for children and young people. This increase in staff numbers allows us to meet our strategic objectives.

Being able to deliver all of this, while also ending the year with a financial result that exceeds our budget, has been a great achievement. This result gives us an excellent foundation for continued financial sustainability and for ongoing success in the remaining years of our five-year strategy.





View current
and previous full
financial reports at:
[youthoffthestreets.
com.au/about-us/
publications](https://youthoffthestreets.com.au/about-us/publications)

Consolidated statement of financial position

(January–December)

	2024 \$000	2023 \$000
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	26,822	26,218
Other receivables	240	297
Financial assets	513	616
Other assets	1,474	533
Total current assets	29,049	27,663
Non-current assets		
Financial assets (Investments)	12,301	11,197
Property and equipment	5,654	7,136
Leased assets	1,050	303
Total non-current assets	19,005	18,635
TOTAL ASSETS	48,053	46,298
Current liabilities		
Trade and other payables	(1,923)	(2,197)
Contract liabilities	(8,591)	(9,842)
Lease liabilities	(269)	(204)
Employee benefit liabilities	(2,204)	(2,029)
Other provisions	(1,002)	(721)
Total current liabilities	(13,990)	(14,992)
Non-current liabilities		
Lease liabilities	(792)	(52)
Provisions	(1,034)	(930)
Total non-current liabilities	(1,826)	(982)
TOTAL LIABILITIES	(15,816)	(15,974)
NET ASSETS	32,238	30,324
Equity		
Contributed equity	4,296	4,296
Retained earnings	27,942	26,028
TOTAL EQUITY	32,238	30,324

Consolidated statement of income and expenditure

(January–December)

	2024 \$000	2023 \$000
INCOME		
Government funding		
Education	12,058	11,132
Other services	5,992	5,799
Total government funding	18,050	16,931
Fundraising		
Donations and gifts	6,525	7,909
Philanthropy and partnerships	4,877	2,397
Events, merchandise and op shops	613	884
Total income from fundraising	12,016	11,190
Other income		
Finance and investment income	2,491	1,828
Other income ¹	823	55
Total other income	3,314	1,883
TOTAL INCOME	33,380	30,005
EXPENDITURE		
Services, programs and enabling functions ²	(28,973)	(25,297)
Fundraising & marketing	(2,493)	(1,824)
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	(31,466)	(27,121)
Income tax expense	–	–
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	1,914	2,884

¹ Includes net gain/(loss) on disposal of property,
plant and equipment

² Includes wages and facilities costs

Governance

Youth Off The Streets is a company limited by guarantee. The organisation is currently incorporated under the Corporations Act 2001.

The board

The Board of Directors is our governing body. The board strives to act in the best interests of Youth Off The Streets and protects company assets by promoting the objectives embedded in our constitution and strategy.

The board's principle responsibilities are to:

- chart the company's strategic and financial objectives
- monitor the implementation of these objectives
- monitor compliance with regulatory requirements and ethical standards

The board convenes at least six times a year in addition to holding an Annual General Meeting.

Our Chairperson and Directors



Anne Fitzgerald | Chairperson

Anne has over 30 years' experience as a senior executive and non-executive director spanning sectors including government, health insurance and industry associations. Anne is experienced in developing strategy and leading multi-disciplinary teams to implement and achieve that strategy. She has a strong background in research, stakeholder management, strategic communications and community engagement, and has volunteered as a Youth Off The Streets mentor to young people. Anne is currently the CEO of the Talent Development Project and is a Trustee with the NSW Responsible Gambling Fund. She is also a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors, a qualified mediator and holds an MBA from MGSM.



Pamela Jack | Deputy Chair

Pamela has been a partner in some of Australia's major law firms, specialising in construction law and acting for many of the country's major contractors, ASX 100 companies and public-sector clients. Pamela is a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. In addition to her role as Deputy Chair of Youth Off The Streets, she is also a director of Two Good Foundation, a social enterprise assisting vulnerable women. She now runs her own consulting practice and acts as a dispute avoidance board member on some of Australia's most iconic infrastructure projects.



Helen Conway | Director

Helen is an experienced leader, director, senior executive and lawyer who has worked in a range of organisations in the commercial, public and not-for-profit sectors. She spent 10 years in private legal practice, including seven years as a major Sydney law firm partner, and then worked as a senior executive in the corporate sector. Helen was the Judicial Head of the NSW Equal Opportunity Tribunal and set up the Australian Government's Workplace Gender Equality Agency. She is a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors, a member of the Institute of Community Directors and a member of Chief Executive Women.



Craig Davis | Director

After a successful career playing AFL for Carlton, North Melbourne, Collingwood and the Sydney Swans, Craig is now the Facilities Manager for the University of New South Wales. Across the 1990s and 2000s, he was CEO of the NSW Australian Football League, Chairman of Selectors for Sydney Swans, Deputy Chairman of the NSW Sports Federation and Chairman of the Non-Olympic Sports Task Force. In addition to his significant board experience, Craig holds a Surveying Certificate from RMIT. Craig has served in governance positions for Youth Off The Streets over many years in different roles, including as Chairman. Craig is an Ambassador for Muscular Dystrophy Tasmania.

**Sue Foxcroft-Cliffe | Director**

Sue Foxcroft-Cliffe brings over 25 years of experience in educational leadership within K–12 schools in the UK and Australia. She has worked across private, public and Catholic systems, specialising in student wellbeing, community engagement and school–family partnerships. Sue excels in enhancing school cultures and supporting at-risk students. She has led initiatives that improve student health, engagement, retention, academic achievement and life skills. Her strategic leadership and commitment to educational excellence have significantly improved student outcomes and school communities throughout her career.

**David Goldman | Director**

David has over 20 years' experience as a strategic, digital and customer-focussed senior executive, working in the corporate sector for organisations including The Coca-Cola Company and NewsCorp. More recently, he transitioned into the not-for-profit sector and is General Manager of Maccabi Australia, having previously worked with the Foundation for National Parks & Wildlife. David is a volunteer mentor at Youth Off The Streets, an experience that inspired him to do more and join the board. He holds a Master of Commerce from UNSW and a Graduate Diploma in Psychology from the University of Adelaide. He is also a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

**Luke Magee | Director**

Luke has worked as an IT consultant throughout Australia, the UK and Switzerland. He has managed the complex requirements of SMEs, multinational corporations and government departments, delivering innovative and industry best-practice solutions. Luke's formal qualifications include a Bachelor of Economics and a Master of Business Administration. He is also a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. Luke first worked with Youth Off The Streets in the early 2000s providing IT services, an experience that inspired him to seek appointment to the board.

**Patrick O'Connell | Director**

Patrick began his career at Grant Thornton and is a Fellow Chartered Accountant. He has extensive experience across property, public healthcare, education and the disability sector, having worked for Ingenia Communities, St Vincent's Health Network Sydney and University of Technology Sydney. Patrick has a deep passion for supporting people to reach their full potential. He is currently Finance Director for MGG Health APAC. Additionally, Patrick is a Social Impact Fellow, having completed a fellowship with the Social Impact Hub, which underscores his commitment to making a positive difference in the community.

**Tilda Sikes | Director**

Tilda is Director, Communications and Change for the Legislative Assembly in the NSW Parliament and has extensive experience in the education and community sectors. She is also on the board of the NSW Carers Advisory Council and has been on the boards of organisations such as the Arts and Cultural Exchange, Multicultural Arts Alliance, Community Arts Marrickville and the Greek–Australian Lemnian Association of NSW. Her professional experience includes working at the NSW Department of Education, NSW Premier and Cabinet, Belvoir St Theatre, Sydney Festival and Carnivale. She is passionate about community development, advocacy, the arts and education. Tilda is a member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and the Institute of Community Directors.

**Paul Smith | Director**

Paul is a Certified Practising Accountant with over 40 years of finance experience gained in the corporate, government and not-for-profit sectors – specialising in financial control, internal audit, system implementation, business transformation and process improvement. In addition, Paul has 20 years of board experience with companies such as Seven Group Holdings, Seven Media Group, Seven West Media, NSW Trains and Countplus.

From 2019–2024, Company Secretary **Sam Hudson** supported the work of the board.

Will's story

When he was 15, Will* was at risk of falling into a life of crime. He was becoming increasingly reckless and withdrawn and his attendance at school was poor.



“My relationships with my friends and family were horrible. Plus, I didn’t like school and I didn’t go much at all,” he says.

It wasn’t long before he came in contact with the justice system. After one incident, he was served with an Apprehended Violence Order (AVO), placed on a good behaviour bond and ordered back to school.

Will enrolled at Craig Davis College – one of six independent high schools operated by Youth Off The Streets. Craig Davis College offers an alternative pathway for students in Years 9–12 who have become disconnected from mainstream education and need extra support to complete their schooling.

Despite the individual learning plan designed for him, re-adjusting to full-time schooling wasn’t easy for Will and he struggled to attend. Support from teachers helped Will realise that he needed to give his education – and his future – a second chance.

Will worked with the teachers and support staff to ease back into full-time schooling.

“They slowly allowed me to attend school – first through half-days. Then, I attended more each day until eventually I stayed for the whole eight hours.”

Will says that support from the Craig Davis College team and his fellow students changed his perspective on life.

“I felt a sense of belonging that I’d never felt previously,” he says.

“Over time I started to feel like I had a chance at a healthy future. I was finally learning.”

At the end of his first year at Craig Davis College, Will’s good behaviour bond and the AVO expired – and he hasn’t been subject to any disciplinary action since. With support from his teachers, he decided to transition into an apprenticeship to increase his chances of getting a job after graduating from school.

“I’m currently enrolled in a Certificate II Construction course, which I’m completing while still attending school,” he says.

Switching to Craig Davis College was life-changing for Will.

“I’ve made friends and, best of all, my relationship skills have improved. I’d like to thank the teachers and everyone who has allowed a place like this to exist.”

“I felt a sense of belonging that I’d never felt previously.”

Ways to support Youth Off The Streets

Every day, children as young as 12 turn to Youth Off The Streets for help. With more than 43,000 children and young people forced into homelessness every year, the demand for our services has never been higher.

There are many ways to support children and young people experiencing homelessness and disadvantage.



Regular giving

Starting a monthly donation is one of the most effective ways you can support vulnerable children and young people to achieve their potential.

Our Street Lights Partners are the guiding lights that help children and young people find their way out of homelessness, violence and disadvantage towards a brighter future.

Your monthly donation will keep our essential support services and programs running, ready to respond to young people in crisis with:

- homelessness and housing support for safety and stability
- food hampers and meals to nourish growing minds and bodies
- counselling and mentoring for healing and hope
- education and job training for independent and stable futures

By becoming a regular monthly supporter, you ensure that we can consistently be there for the young people who need us the most.



Volunteering

Whether you're giving your skills, experience or time, volunteering for one of our services or schools is a rewarding way to help young people in need to thrive.



A gift in your Will

Imagine a future where every young Australian has a safe place to call home. By leaving a gift in your Will to Youth Off The Streets, you can help make this vision a reality.

After taking care of your loved ones in your Will, please consider leaving a gift to Youth Off The Streets. As little as 1% of your estate could make a life-changing difference for children and young people forced into homelessness every year.



Corporate partnerships

Our corporate partners are essential to the work we do – and the life-changing outcomes we achieve. Our impactful partnering opportunities can be tailored to your organisation's objectives and values.



Host or join a fundraising event

Take on a physical challenge like the City2Surf or host a barbeque, bake-off or morning tea to raise funds for young people. Community fundraising is a great way to get your community together for a good cause.



Workplace giving

This is one of the easiest and most effective ways for employees to support young Australians in need. Making a pre-tax donation through payroll also means you receive the tax benefit straight away.



To learn more about ways to support us, visit: youthoffthestreets.com.au/ways-of-giving



Or for ways to get involved in our work and cause, visit: youthoffthestreets.com.au/get-involved

youth off the streets



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Youth Off The Streets Limited ABN 29 100 388 412

Youth Off The Streets maintains policies and procedures that comply with the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations.

Its status as a Public Benevolent Institution (PBI) is confirmed by the Australian Taxation Office as part of registration requirements for all non-profit entities.

Youth Off The Streets receives certain tax concessions and exemptions consistent with its status as a PBI which relate to Goods & Services Tax, Fringe Benefits Tax and Income Tax.

All donations over \$2.00 are tax deductible.

Charitable Fundraising No. 12611

