



youth
off the streets

Annual Report 2025

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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 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.



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

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 over 30 years ago by the late Father Chris Riley AM, 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-focused 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.

Our vision is that all children and young people are defined by their potential, not their circumstances.

Our purpose is to empower children and young people in need by providing them with safety, support and education for a positive future.



Our strategic ambition

Our five-year strategy sets out how we will strengthen our impact and expand our reach to deliver even better outcomes for children and young people.

Between 2024–2028, we are working to strengthen our holistic and evidence-based homelessness, housing, education and First Nations services, supporting 60% more children and young people to build a positive future.



To learn more about our five-year strategy, scan the QR code or visit:

youthoffthestreets.com.au/about-us/strategic-plan

2025 snapshot

Young people aged 12–24 make up nearly a quarter of the nation's homeless population. Many young people who experience homelessness and complex disadvantage – including the impacts of domestic violence, poverty and trauma – are also at significant risk of disconnecting from education.

Our holistic service model enables us to respond to these intersecting challenges by offering young people the safety, stability, resources and opportunities they need to build independence – and to thrive.

This annual report highlights the impact of our approach in 2025. Below are just some of the outcomes we achieved as we worked alongside young people to help them reach their goals.



Children and young people supported

- Youth Off The Streets supported **1,813** children and young people with individual tailored support or structured group work in 2025.
- Over **3,400** children and young people were engaged in outreach, drop-in and diversionary programs provided by Youth Off The Streets.
- **97%** of young people supported by our Youth Support Services teams reported high satisfaction with the service they received.

Note: As many children and young people accessed multiple types of support, the figures above do not equate to the combined totals of individual services detailed elsewhere in this report.

Youth justice support

- **673** young people received specialist youth justice casework support, an increase of 36% from 2024.
- **3,592** instances of support were provided to help young people navigate the justice system, an increase of 43% from 2024.



Homelessness and housing support

- **619** young people experiencing or at risk of homelessness were supported by our specialist youth homelessness service and other Youth Support Services teams.
- **1,848** instances of homelessness or housing assistance were provided to young people.



First Nations support services

- **392** First Nations children and young people were supported, an increase of 22% from 2024.
- The First Nations Services team expanded their collaboration with community organisations to **reach more young people and families** – including a new wellbeing program in Western Sydney, youth justice support at local high schools, a men's program in Dubbo and RTO course delivery for students in Maitland.



Education and training pathways

- **276** students were enrolled in Youth Off The Streets schools in 2025, representing an 8% year-on-year increase.
- New students increased their attendance by **43%** after joining a Youth Off The Streets high school, compared to attendance at their previous school.
- **3 in 4** graduates of Year 10 and Year 12 say they feel well prepared for their future after school.
- **283** young people were enrolled in vocational training through our Registered Training Organisation (RTO), more than double the participation rate in 2024.
- The National Scholarship Program has grown by **90%** since 2020, with a record 41 recipients awarded in 2025.



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

- Power Within, our high school DFSV program, now supports **five times** as many young people as it did when it began 10 years ago.
- **177** students at our schools received individual support from our specialist DFSV team, with **1,521** safe conversations held about DFSV and **48** safety plans created with young people to help them stay safe in active domestic violence situations.
- **600** sector professionals received specialised DFSV training through our Taking Action Creating Change Together (TACCT) workshop across the program's 2024–2025 run.



Engagement and outreach support

- **2,795** children and young people accessed recreational and skill development activities at our drop-in centres and outreach programs, aimed at building positive peer relationships, reducing social isolation and promoting community cohesion.
- **Over 600** children and young people participated in First Nations community engagement activities in regional and metropolitan areas.



Alcohol and other drugs (AOD) support

- **389** young people engaged in community events run by our AOD service, three times the participation rate in 2024.
- **281** young people engaged in psychosocial education through our harm minimisation program, nearly triple the number reached in 2024.
- **87** young people accessed 1:1 casework and counselling to overcome substance use, an increase of 45% from 2024.



Chairperson's message

It is my pleasure to present Youth Off The Streets' Annual Report for 2025.

This year's Annual Report illuminates some of the complex issues children and young people face and highlights how Youth Off The Streets works alongside them to strengthen their stability and wellbeing.

Sadly, 2025 continued the trend of escalating challenges for young people across Australia.

Cost of living pressures, the youth mental health crisis and rising rates of domestic, family and sexual violence have meant that demand for Youth Off The Streets' services has never been higher. These issues coupled with global political unrest mean our teams have worked with children and young people to navigate circumstances that are increasingly complex.

This reality places enormous pressure on young people's ability to overcome disadvantage, remain engaged in education or employment and plan confidently for the future. These intersecting pressures demand coordinated, youth-centred responses that recognise the broader social and economic context shaping young people's lives.

I'm proud to say that the Youth Off The Streets team went above and beyond to achieve this in 2025.

Likewise, I feel proud and honoured to witness the determination that young people have shown as they worked to achieve their goals.

Behind every number in this report is a young person finding hope, support and a path to a positive future.

In 2025, we marked the sad passing of our founder, Father Chris Riley AM. His unwavering belief in the potential of young people, and his lifelong commitment to standing alongside those experiencing disadvantage, shaped the organisation. His legacy lives on through the thousands of young people whose lives have been changed by his compassion and determination, and through the dedicated staff who continue his work every day.

As we carry forward Father Riley's vision, the strength of Youth Off The Streets' leadership remains my priority. This year we were pleased to welcome a new director, Gelina Talbot, to the Board. Gelina brings valuable experience and insight with a background in senior leadership roles in the public sector and NSW Police Force. We look forward to her contributions in the years ahead. We also marked the retirement of our Deputy Chair, Pamela Jackson. On behalf of my fellow directors, I sincerely thank Pamela for her longstanding service and continued support for Youth Off The Streets.

I would like to extend gratitude to my fellow directors of the Board for their governance and strategic oversight. I would also like to share my deepest thanks to our volunteers, partners and supporters. Your dedication and generosity make our work possible. Together, we remain committed to supporting children and young people to build safer, more secure futures.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Anne Fitzgerald, GAICD
Chairperson





CEO's message

I am deeply inspired by the strength and courage of the children and young people we walk alongside at Youth Off The Streets.

Every day, they show us remarkable resilience in the face of adversity. It is a privilege to see the impact that the right support, at the right time, can have on their lives.

In 2025, Youth Off The Streets:

- Engaged over 3,400 children and young people in our outreach, drop-in and diversionary programs.
- Supported 1,813 children and young people individually or through structured group work.
- Provided 1,848 instances of homelessness or housing support to young people.
- Connected to over 600 young people through First Nations community engagement activities, in regional and metropolitan areas.

These are just some of the numbers in our report that reflect not only increasing demand for our services, but also the trust young people place in our teams to listen, support and act in their best interests.

And, as you read further, I encourage you to look beyond the numbers to the stories of personal growth they represent.

Lucy's story is one that has stayed with me.

After years of family breakdown and trauma, Lucy was forced to leave her family home at 16. She moved between temporary arrangements before finally connecting with Youth Off The Streets' crisis accommodation service. Alongside safe housing, we were able to offer her the support of a caseworker.

In Lucy's words, "Everything changed for me. What had been a period of loneliness shifted into one of the most genuine forms of community I've ever experienced".

We supported Lucy to transition into independent accommodation and join our pathways to employment program.

Lucy is now undertaking an internship at a financial services firm and, for the first time, able to focus on her aspirations – not just what she needs to survive.

Lucy's story shows what's possible when young people are given the care and opportunities they deserve. It also sheds light on the type of work we do. Our wraparound approach is our greatest strength. We take the time to understand each young person's individual needs and goals, and our support continues well

beyond the point of crisis. Our services work together to help young people move forward with their lives.

Stories like Lucy's drive us to strengthen our impact and expand our reach to even more children and young people. This is what we are achieving through our five-year strategy.

In 2025, the second year of this strategy, we strengthened organisational foundations, expanded to new locations and continued supporting our teams to best meet the needs of the communities we serve.

We are proud to reflect on a number of significant achievements, including:

- Improving our facilities and expanding our capacity for young people who need our services in Maitland, Mount Druitt, Redfern, Wollongong and Dubbo.
- Embedding best practice frameworks to ensure our services are sector-leading and work seamlessly together for young people.
- Refining our impact data measurement to improve services, strengthen advocacy and increase our accountability to supporters.

2025 was also a difficult year for Youth Off The Streets as we farewelled our founder, Father Chris Riley AM.

Father Riley's dedication to supporting and empowering young Australians in need has left a powerful legacy that I am proud to carry forward alongside our team. His vision, drive and determination will continue to inspire our organisation as we strive to provide growing numbers of children and young people facing disadvantage with safety, support and education pathways.

Looking to 2026, our focus remains firmly on investing in the quality of our services, demonstrating our impact and sharing our unique expertise with the wider sector, so that more young people can feel safe and supported, remain engaged and have genuine opportunities to thrive.

Of course, none of this would be possible without your support.

Thank you for believing in the work we do and the potential of young people to build a positive future.

Judy Barraclough
Chief Executive Officer

What young people told us

We are committed to listening to the young people, families and communities we serve. Their lived experiences, needs and goals are at the centre of every action we take.

Every year we give young people various opportunities to provide feedback on our services and programs. The results of these surveys help us understand their needs so that we can deliver the best support possible. Of the children and young people who completed our service quality surveys and annual satisfaction survey in 2025:

100%

of young people accessing our Youth Support Services agreed that they felt safe at Youth Off The Streets, and **97%** said they were highly satisfied with the support they received through these services.

85%

of young people accessing our First Nations Services said they felt culturally safe, while **90%** agreed or strongly agreed that they were happy with their overall support and felt staff treated them with respect.

82%

of young people accessing our Education Services agreed or strongly agreed that they were happy with the support they received, and **84%** of Year 10 and Year 12 graduates believed their Youth Off The Streets school helped them develop the skills and networks to access support when they needed it. Initiatives such as NOISE student leadership, the Duke of Edinburgh Award and service-learning activities beyond the classroom contributed significantly to students' positive experiences.

Student leaders co-design staff training

The **NOISE** (Nurturing Opportunities and Ideas for Student Empowerment) student leadership group was established across our schools in 2024. Students in the group connect across our campuses and work closely with staff to drive positive change within their school communities.

In 2025, as part of a grant-funded collaboration with Together for Humanity, NOISE student leaders collaborated with our schools' Deputy Principal to co-design staff training on student sensitivity and inclusion. Linking sector-based theory to lived experience, the project gave a space for young people to share their insights on diverse learning needs with Education staff. The students created short videos to accompany each training module, exploring their personal stories in safe, authentic and respectful ways. The program supports new Education staff to connect with young people's voices empathetically through a trauma-informed and healing-centred lens.

Young people drive positive community change

Established in 2017 by four young people who were being supported by Youth Off The Streets at the time, the **FAMLiY** (Future Australian Multicultural Leaders in Youth) group demonstrates our commitment to amplifying young people's voices across our Youth Support Services. Meeting fortnightly, the group provides a platform to share lived experiences, identify emerging needs and inform responses to challenges faced in their communities.

Over the years, FAMLiY has been involved in a variety of youth-designed initiatives at Youth Off The Streets, including festivals, youth summits, workshops on healthy relationships, fundraising activities and cultural consultations. The group has also collaborated with partners such as Multicultural NSW and shared their views with state government ministers, contributing youth perspectives to issues such as multicultural leadership, community safety and wellbeing. FAMLiY continues to be a dynamic example of youth-led engagement, demonstrating how Youth Off The Streets centres young people as leaders of positive social change.



“I didn't join the FAMLiY group to help with my social anxiety and depression. But I subconsciously knew that it was going to help me. My plan was to help people in the community and in doing so, I learned to better manage new situations and everyday stresses.

I ended up emceeing at one of the biggest events that we had. It was a community dinner with Multicultural NSW and many other government agencies and stakeholders. I was thrown in the deep end, but I did it.”

– Bilal, FAMLiY group representative

Understanding the complex challenges young people face

Youth Off The Streets tackles some of the most urgent social issues experienced by children and young people in Australia today. Recognising that many face multiple intersecting challenges – from domestic violence, family breakdown and homelessness to trauma, substance misuse and education barriers – we offer wraparound support that is tailored to each young person's circumstances, needs and goals.

As our expertise is diverse and our work is trauma-informed and culturally responsive, we can adapt our response to match each young person's situation. We take a strengths-based, therapeutic approach. We believe education is essential to improving a young person's future and that learning isn't limited to the classroom.

Every program we run helps young people build resilience, realise their potential and thrive.

DFSV and family breakdown

90% of young people accessing our crisis accommodation report DFSV as a major reason for needing support.

Homelessness and housing instability

The number of young people seeking homelessness support is rising alongside lengths of stay in our crisis accommodation, reflecting the lack of safe and sustainable housing options for young people.

Poverty

Over two-thirds of young people accessing our homelessness support service have an income below the Australian poverty line.

Disengagement from mainstream education

Enrolments at special assistance schools have increased fourfold nationally since 2015.

Intergenerational disadvantage and cultural disconnection

First Nations young people make up one-third of students at our special assistance high schools and a quarter of those accessing our homelessness support service.

Poor mental health

Nearly half of the young people who access our youth support services experience mental health concerns.

Involvement with the justice system

Family instability, experiences of trauma, unmet education or health needs or social disadvantage are some of the leading root causes behind young people coming into contact with the law.

Substance misuse

The number of young people accessing 1:1 casework and counselling to overcome substance use increased by 45% last year.



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

– Ashleigh, 17

A safe and stable place to call home

We support young people aged 12–24 through a range of homelessness and housing services. Our goal is to provide holistic support that addresses the significant gap in youth homelessness services, ranging from early intervention programs to individual case management, crisis accommodation, tenancy assistance and transitional housing.

Homelessness and housing support

Across our Youth Support Services teams, in 2025 we provided **1,848** instances of homelessness and housing support to young people experiencing or at risk of homelessness. This is an increase of 241 instances compared to the previous year – a clear indicator of rising youth homelessness and the growing demand for safe, accessible housing options for young people in crisis.

Our Inner West Youth Homelessness Service (IWYHS) supported **223** young people to find safe housing through our crisis accommodation, properties managed in partnership with other organisations or other housing arrangements.

The average stay in our crisis accommodation increased to four months, continuing the trend from 2024 for longer stays. This reflects the current barriers young people face in finding safe and sustainable accommodation outside of homelessness and housing services.

Of the young people supported by IWYHS in 2025:

90%

identified domestic, family and sexual violence as a primary or contributing factor to needing support.

25%

had experienced rough sleeping before seeking support.

52%

had couch surfed or sought help from emergency housing in the month before seeking support.

23%

identified as First Nations.

70%

had an income below the Australian poverty line (including 19% with no income).

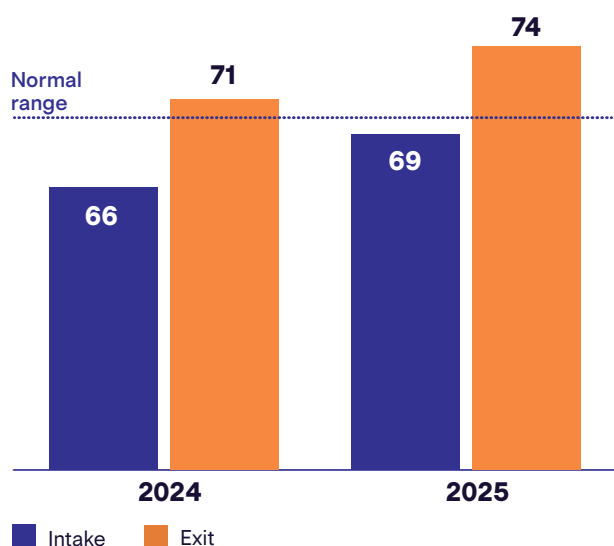


Improving personal wellbeing

In 2025, we again measured the social and emotional wellbeing of young people receiving case management support from our Youth Support Services teams using the Personal Wellbeing Index (PWI), which tracks satisfaction across areas such as safety, health, relationships and future security.

- Of the 149 young people who completed a follow-up assessment, **72%** improved their wellbeing score.
- Average scores increased from 69 (below the typical range for their peers) at intake to **74** (within the normal range) at follow-up. This continues the positive trend seen in 2024.

Together, these results show that our support is helping young people move from vulnerability towards greater stability and an improved sense of wellbeing.



Results are based on wellbeing scores from 134 young people in 2024 and 149 young people in 2025.

From sleeping rough to a finding a place to call home

At just 17, Joe was homeless – sleeping rough, disconnected from his family and caught in a cycle of crime to survive. With no income and no safe place to stay, he had no access to food or shelter and experienced significant mental health problems.

Youth Off The Streets' Sydney Engagement and Support casework team stepped in and worked alongside Joe to rebuild the foundations of his life. They helped him access Centrelink for stable income, secure identification so he could rent and connected him with essential mental health support.

As his mental health improved, Joe gained the stability he needed to start planning for the future.

Six months later, Joe has achieved what once felt impossible. He secured accommodation, has experienced significant improvements in his wellbeing and has not committed crime since connecting with our support. Now on the path to employment, he says he finally feels hopeful for the future.



Opening doors to education

Children and young people experiencing disadvantage benefit from specialised support to stay engaged with their education, develop life skills and build foundations for a positive future.

Youth Off The Streets provides a range of educational opportunities – including accredited and independent alternative high schools, vocational training courses and youth-focused development programs – to help young people build confidence, skills and aspirations.

In 2025:

409

children and young people were supported across our education services.

276

students enrolled in our schools, an increase of 8% from 2024.

Our independent high schools

In 2025, our six high schools continued to offer an alternative education pathway for students in Years 9–12 with complex needs.

Feeling safe, welcome and respected at school is essential for a young person to reconnect with their education. Many young people come to us after long periods of low attendance or complete disengagement, often due to mental health challenges, homelessness, bullying, poverty, family breakdown or experiences of domestic violence.

Our schools offer a safe, personalised and nurturing environment where students can rebuild their confidence to learn.

43%

increase in attendance by new students after joining a Youth Off The Streets high school, compared to attendance at their previous school.

92%

of our students agree that there is a teacher or other trusted adult at their school who really believes they can succeed, compared to 65% of high school students nationally.

74%

of our students feel a strong sense of belonging at their school, compared to 64% of NSW students aged 15 years from low SES areas.

3 in 4

of our Year 10 and Year 12 graduates feel well prepared for their future after school.

Duke of Edinburgh's International Award

The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award is a defining part of education at our schools, helping students build resilience, friendships and teamwork skills beyond the classroom. As some of the only special assistance schools in Australia to offer the Award, we support young people to volunteer, train and upskill through service-learning and personalised projects.

Our Education teams plan 'adventurous journeys' – from hiking the Larapinta Trail to camping on Wallaginjji (Lady Musgrave Island) – empowering students to build stamina and confidence. These trips are important milestones for students, many of whom have never been away from home. With our guidance, they take ownership of their progress and show remarkable personal growth, proving that learning happens everywhere, not just in a classroom.

In 2025:

23

young people completed the Bronze Award.

8

young people completed the Silver Award.

75%

of participants completed their Award level.

Special thanks to Mounties Group and the Duke of Edinburgh's International Award for supporting this transformative program in our schools.



“If I’m always telling myself that I can’t or don’t want to do something, I’m going to stay stuck. And if I keep telling myself that I can do something, I’ll keep working for it.”

– Erik, program participant

Responding to the impacts of domestic, family and sexual violence (DFSV)

177

students at our schools received support from our specialist DFSV team.

1,521

safe conversations were held with students about DFSV.

48

safety plans were created with young people to help them stay safe in active domestic violence situations.

Over the past 10 years, our DFSV education program, Power Within, has empowered at-risk young people to recognise the cycle of violence and stay safe. The program celebrated a milestone year in 2025, expanding to all Youth Off The Streets high schools and supporting five times as many young people as it did when the program launched.

In addition, the team continued to offer Safer Conversations, a training program for youth sector professionals who support young people experiencing DFSV. The workshop draws from Youth Off The Streets' specialist expertise to teach participants how to have safe and confidential conversations with young people, while also covering legal frameworks, effective follow-up strategies and ways to minimise vicarious trauma.

Vocational training and career pathways

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 2025, we refined the structure of our RTO courses, which improved engagement and completion rates among young people and helped them achieve more learning outcomes. As a result, more young people gained critical employment-ready skills, qualifications and on-the-ground experience to set them up for strong vocational careers.

283

young people enrolled in vocational training through our RTO, more than double the participation rate in 2024.

Reconnecting with education to achieve career goals

Sixteen-year-old Greg was facing complex barriers to his learning before he commenced the Education and Employment Pathways program delivered by our RTO.

Greg came from a highly unstable and unsafe home environment, including parental involvement in drug dealing. After his father passed away, Greg disengaged from education for an extended period and attended school only sporadically. He also felt unable to formally exit school, as doing so would have impacted his mother's income support payments. Despite these challenges, he had a clear goal: he wanted to become a mechanic.

With consistent wraparound support from Youth Off The Streets, Greg completed the Certificate II in Skills for Work and Vocational Pathways – a qualification widely recognised as equivalent to the Year 10 Record of School Achievement. The RTO team then supported Greg to gain a trial placement with a local mechanic, who subsequently offered him ongoing employment.



Our Annual School Reports are available through the 'Alternative high schools' section of our website at youthoffthestreets.com.au

Xavier's story

Just a few years ago, Xavier's school life was a cycle of suspensions and setbacks.



"I really just didn't like school, so I never wanted to go," he says.

Xavier often found himself in conflict with other students and was disciplined for things he felt had little to do with learning.

"I left my school jumper at my friend's house and he burned it," says Xavier.

Without a jumper in winter, Xavier kept showing up in the wrong uniform. The school's response was suspension, again and again.

Things began to shift when Xavier was connected with a youth worker who suggested a different school: Youth Off The Streets' Bowen College.

Now in Year 10 at Bowen College, Xavier has found a school that works for him.

Connection has also played a big role in Xavier's re-engagement with education.

"This school is more of a tight-knit community where everybody knows everybody," he says. "Everyone knows what you did last weekend and everyone knows when and when not to talk to you."

Xavier loves that classroom learning is interspersed with engaging activities and outings. His highlights include snowboarding and visiting the Great Barrier Reef as part of the Duke of Edinburgh's International Award program.

"Every Friday we also do volunteering," he says.

"We've been going to Taronga Zoo and taking care of animals as well as going to a local primary school to read to the children there and do activities with them."

Since starting at Bowen College, Xavier has built a strong foundation for his future, having earned his First Aid certificate and white card for construction work.

"Having my white card and my protective equipment – both of which I got through school – opens up a lot of opportunities," he says. "If someone says, 'Hey, want to come work on site?' I can do that straight away."

Through school, Xavier is also working towards his Working at Heights certification and driver's licence, both of which will open even more doors for him.

Looking ahead, Xavier plans to stay with Youth Off The Streets for the remainder of high school and keep exploring the possibilities that his new school has shown him.

“There’s a lot more attention given to the students,” he says. “There’s also a lot of leeway for students who have certain disadvantages.”

National Scholarship Program

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

Every year, a group of young people from across Australia are awarded a Youth Off The Streets scholarship to help them pursue further education or training. Along with financial assistance, each recipient is partnered with a mentor who provides guidance and support throughout the two-year program. In the 21-year history of the program, over 500 scholarships have been awarded.

In 2025:

41

scholarships were awarded to young people across Australia, representing 90% growth in the number of participants since 2020.

1 in 3

recipients in 2025 identified as First Nations.

84%

of recipients from the 2023 cohort were still in education or had successfully completed their studies by the end of the two-year scholarship period.

22

new mentors were recruited, trained and onboarded.

In November, scholarship recipients, sponsors, mentors, supporters and carers gathered at Sydney's International Convention Centre for the annual Awards Ceremony. The event celebrated the educational achievements of the 2023 program graduates and welcomed the 2025 cohort as they were formally inducted into the program. Incoming scholarship recipients will receive ongoing support from their mentors and program staff as they progress through their education and into their careers.

“Opportunities like this don't come often. I am incredibly thankful to my sponsor, mentor and the scholarship team who have given me a reason to keep pursuing my ambitions. Even when life has felt like it's working against me, being recognised in this way makes me feel heard and seen. It also reminds me that my goals are worth fighting for. This scholarship will allow me to give back not only to the kids I plan to support and guide in learning environments, but also to my mother and family, who have sacrificed everything for me.”

– Charlotte, scholarship recipient



Supporting First Nations young people to thrive

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

In 2025, we developed and delivered four new programs:

- **Men's Business Health program** to support First Nations young people at risk of or currently involved in the criminal justice system.
- **Wellbeing program** for First Nations students in Western Sydney.
- **Aboriginal Girls Reoffending program** for girls identified by their schools as instigators of bullying or conflict, to address underlying drivers of behaviour.
- **Goodooga Health program**, a community-led initiative in Western NSW focused on improving wellbeing and fostering social connection.

Programs are delivered in close partnership with both internal Youth Off The Streets services and external community organisations, enabling the team to provide culturally responsive support that meaningfully involves the local community in mentoring and decision-making. For instance, in 2025 the team collaborated with our Registered Training Organisation (RTO) to offer accredited courses to First Nations students at a local high school in the Hunter region, giving students access to culturally relevant education to build skills and strengthen their connection to culture and community.

Connection on Country

Our First Nations Services team brought together **40** young people for a cultural camp on Wiradjuri Country in July to mark NAIDOC Week. Local police and representatives from Aboriginal Community-Controlled Organisations attended each day, building trust and strengthening the relationships essential to long-term wellbeing and justice outcomes. The camp culminated in a corroboree attended by over **200** young people, family members and community representatives to celebrate culture and identity.

Jade's story

Before receiving support, Jade was experiencing severe depression and anxiety and felt disconnected from her culture.

With support from our First Nations Services team, Jade attended counselling fortnightly, building trust and resilience over time. She started participating in cultural groups at school and attended a three-week cultural program, both of which provided her with a safe space to explore her identity.

Through consistent support, Jade has achieved all the goals she set with her caseworker. Her wellbeing has significantly improved and she is demonstrating increased confidence and positive personal growth.



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 2025, we provided:

1,049

children and young people with individual tailored support through our Youth Support Services teams – an increase of 41% from 2024 – to address issues including DFSV, homelessness and housing, education, employment, capacity building and mental health concerns.

2,795

children and young people with recreational and skill development activities, aimed at building positive peer relationships, reducing social isolation and promoting community cohesion.

11,347

instances of support to young people through engagement activities at our drop-in centres and outreach programs.

Highlights from our regional and QLD services include:

60%

more young people in the Hunter region supported with 1:1 casework compared to 2024.

27%

more young people in Logan supported with 1:1 casework compared to 2024.

Growing support in Western Sydney

In 2025, we launched a new Engagement and Support team based in Mount Druitt in Western Sydney, expanding our support services to reach more children and young people.

77

children and young people received 1,116 instances of support for youth justice issues.

376

instances of support were provided to young people for homelessness and housing-related needs.

3,717

instances of capacity building support were provided to young people.

The Western Sydney team built essential referral pathways and partnerships with local schools in 2025, creating new opportunities for program delivery and strengthening social connections for children and young people.

Training the sector in youth-focused DFSV responses

Through our Taking Action Creating Change Together (TACCT) program, we offered workshops that provided youth workers, caseworkers, psychologists, counsellors and other professionals with the tools they need to approach DFSV sensitively and compassionately throughout their work. TACCT prioritises the experiences of children and young people who have survived DFSV while outlining new strategic approaches and trauma-informed support interventions.

From August 2024 to December 2025, we delivered training to around **600** community professionals across NSW to support capability uplift across the sector. Participants reported an average training satisfaction score of **4.75 out of 5**. After the training, **97%** of participants felt confident in their ability to respond appropriately to young people who disclose DFSV, up from 56% before training.



Helping young people to 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 wraparound support services, including specialist casework, court support, diversion programs and therapeutic pathways. We also provide bail, prison pre-release and post-release support.

In 2025:

673

young people received specialist youth justice casework support, an increase of 36% from 2024.

3,592

instances of support were provided to help young people navigate the justice system, an increase of 43% from 2024.

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 break harmful patterns of drug and alcohol use. We help them set personal goals and build the foundations for a healthier future. The service includes a comprehensive initial assessment, individual and family casework support, counselling and harm minimisation health promotion.

In 2025:

389

young people engaged in community events run by our AOD service, three times the participation rate in 2024.

281

young people engaged in psychosocial education through our harm minimisation program, nearly triple the number reached in 2024.

87

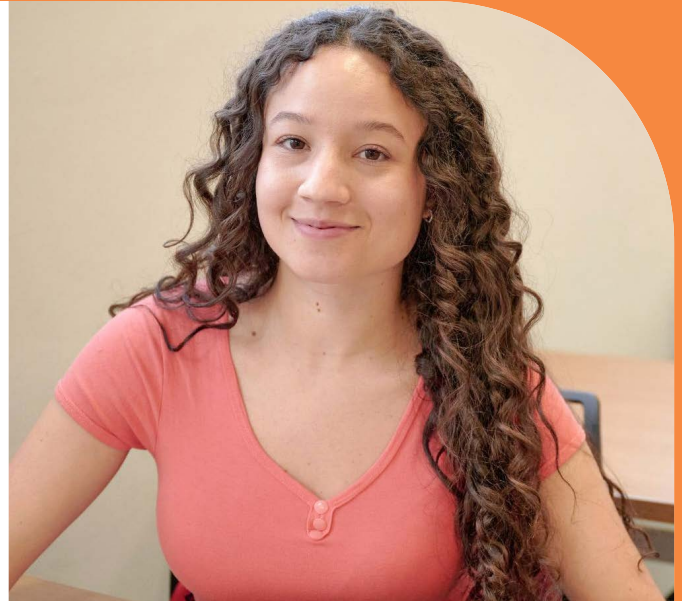
young people accessed 1:1 casework and counselling to overcome substance use, an increase of 45% from 2024.

This year, we continued to deliver the Self Management and Recovery Training (SMART) program, which aims to help children and young people through peer support to build strategies in strengthening their recovery focus.



Helena's story

Seventeen-year-old Helena had a difficult upbringing. Her mum struggled with substance abuse and was prone to verbally abusive rages. The conflict in Helena's home intensified after her parents separated.



"Mum would always put me down, telling me that I was no good," says Helena.

With no one to turn to for support, Helena started lashing out at school and her behaviour became impossible for her teachers to manage.

"I was kicked out of lots of schools. Then, after I lost my job, I thought, 'What's the point in even trying?' and just gave up."

Eventually, Helena fled home to escape the abuse. But without a stable home, school or job to return to, she began using cannabis and methamphetamine almost every day.

"Two years ago, I started breaking the law," Helena says. "When the police caught me stealing, I faced charges and I was consumed with depression and anxiety."

Thankfully, the magistrate realised the magnitude of Helena's struggles and referred her to Youth Off The Streets' Dunlea Alcohol and Other Drugs (AOD) Youth Service.

"All of a sudden, I had all this support that I never had before," says Helena. "The people actually cared about me and gave me options to get my life back on track."

For Helena, the most essential service that Dunlea provided was AOD counselling.

"The counsellor gave me all this support and guidance, which helped me to stop using drugs," Helena says. "That was a big step for me because I never thought I could get away from that life."

The counsellor encouraged Helena to finish her education and she was able to enrol in a school that recognised her specific needs and previous hardships, setting her up for long-term success.

"I am so much happier and more positive after going back to school," Helena says. "I feel fully supported by the students and teachers too – like I am finally part of the family."

Helena is no longer homeless either. With support from Youth Off The Streets, she has found affordable, stable accommodation. She is slowly rebuilding her relationship with her parents and her anxiety and depression have also improved.

"It's been tough, but Youth Off The Streets has gotten my life back on track," Helena says of her current circumstances.

"Things have been getting better ever since."

“It wasn't how I wanted to live, but I didn't know how to get out.”

Remembering Father Chris Riley AM

This year, we said goodbye and thank you to a friend, mentor, advocate, colleague and the founder of Youth Off The Streets, Father Chris Riley AM. He passed away at home on 1 August 2025 following a long period of ill health. He was 70.

Father Riley established Youth Off The Streets in 1991 with a single food van providing meals to young people experiencing homelessness in Sydney's inner city. He served as our CEO for almost three decades before moving on to the Board as Founder and Executive Director in 2020. He stepped down from this role in 2022 due to illness.

"He was a tireless advocate for homeless and disadvantaged youth, and he inspired and changed thousands of young lives," said Anne Fitzgerald, Chairperson of our Board. "Father Riley will be remembered for his compassion, tenacity and unwavering belief that every young person deserves the chance to reach their full potential."

Our CEO Judy Barraclough said: "Father Riley's dedication to supporting and empowering young Australians in need has left a powerful legacy. His vision, drive and determination will continue to inspire our organisation as we strive to provide growing numbers of disadvantaged children and young people with safety, support and education for a better future".

Beyond his public service, Father Riley was a beloved son to Mavis and Kevin, and a cherished brother to Helen, Peter and Greg.

Paying tribute to a life lived in service

A public memorial for Father Riley was held in Western Sydney, where so much of his life's work was carried out. Hundreds of mourners, from family and friends to supporters of Youth Off The Streets, were in attendance. Many dressed in black and white, the colours of Collingwood, Father's beloved AFL team.

Veteran journalist and close friend of Father Riley, Mike Munro AM, served as master of ceremonies, offering words of comfort and reflection.

"Father Chris Riley was someone who never sought attention or fame," he said. "His whole existence was devoted to helping disadvantaged youth rise up and lead happy, successful and full lives."

Looking out to the hundreds gathered, including former and current young people supported by Youth Off The Streets, he asked, "Who would have thought he would wildly surpass all his dreams?"

These reflections were followed by tributes that spoke to the enduring and far-reaching impact of Father Riley's life and work.

"The tombstone of Christopher Wren, the architect of St Paul's Cathedral, is located inside the cathedral he

"If you save one child,
you save the world.
That's my focus. One kid
at a time. And if they put on
my tombstone that I saved
one kid, then that would be
more than enough for me."

– Father Chris Riley AM



designed,” the Hon. Chris Bowen MP shared from the lectern at the memorial service. “The epitaph of the tomb reads: ‘Look around you. This is his monument.’

“To find the monument to Father Chris Riley, look around you,” he invited those assembled at the service. “Look at the eyes of the people he saved... Look into the eyes of their children and grandchildren, because his impact was generational.”

Among the speakers at the memorial service were those whose lives were directly impacted by Father Riley’s work, including Chris Sutherland – one of the first trainee youth workers at Youth Off The Streets, employed by Father Riley in the wake of the Macquarie Fields riots in 2005.

“In our culture, we honour our creators,” Chris, a proud Aboriginal man, said in his tribute. “My hope is that Youth Off The Streets will continue to honour Father’s legacy through the work they do with young people, as their creator.”

An enduring legacy

Father Riley’s frontline knowledge and academic research shaped an organisation guided by compassion and committed to walking alongside young people. That legacy lives on in how we work today. The founding principles that Father Riley championed continue to inform our practice and our belief in the potential of every young person.



Our Founding Principles

Youth Off The Streets’ Founding Principles reflect the fundamental beliefs and ideals held by Father Riley. These principles still hold true for us today as we strive to support even more children and young people while honouring his 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.

“Father Riley was a tireless advocate for homeless and disadvantaged youth, and he inspired and changed thousands of young lives.”

– Anne Fitzgerald,
Chairperson

Evaluating the impact of our work

In 2025, we continued to enhance impact measurement across Youth Off The Streets.

We refined and expanded the outcomes we track, our methods for identifying change and how data is collected across the organisation. We also strengthened our data feedback loops with services, so that our research guides ongoing service improvement. This supports our relevance, our flexibility to respond to diverse circumstances and our ability to offer the best possible service to children and young people.

Our strong focus on impact measurement continues to strengthen our advocacy work with government and the youth sector, as well as increase our accountability to supporters.

Our achievements in 2025 include:

- A significant increase in the volume and consistency of data collected across Youth Off The Streets.
- The development and implementation of new impact measures and data tools, which are providing new insights to inform our work with young people.
- Implementing a youth-friendly mobile data collection platform that is more efficient, easier to use, improves data quality and provides real-time data visualisation for staff.
- Regular reporting cycles and feedback loops to internal and external stakeholders to inform service-level decision-making, drive innovation and strengthen accountability.

Advocacy and government engagement

In line with our five-year strategy commitment to grow our influence through brand and advocacy, Youth Off The Streets strengthened its government relations and systemic advocacy capability in 2025.

A key focus was developing an advocacy and government engagement strategy shaped by organisational and sector analysis and grounded in the needs and experiences of the young people we support.

The strategy identifies five priority areas where Youth Off The Streets has strong expertise and can influence broader system responses: youth homelessness; youth justice; domestic, family and sexual violence; alternative education engagement; and preventing young people from falling through system gaps. These priorities now guide our advocacy efforts and our engagement with government.

To advance this work, we undertook targeted engagement throughout 2025, including meetings with state and federal ministers and MPs, as well as advisors and departmental officials. We also hosted ministers and MPs at our services, made submissions to government inquiries and contributed to sector committees and peak bodies. Together, these activities strengthened our visibility with policy makers and positioned Youth Off The Streets as a proactive and informed contributor to discussions about issues affecting vulnerable young people.



What happens when you support Youth Off The Streets

When you support Youth Off The Streets, you become part of a community that helps children and young people find the safety and stability they need to create a positive future.

Your contribution – no matter its size or form – goes straight to work where it will have greatest impact for young people. Your help provides essentials for their complex and diverse needs: whether that's a daily meal or crisis support; the ability to safely leave a domestic violence situation, recover from trauma, reconnect with school, gain life skills or find pathways to employment.

You're part of a wider ecosystem of supporters who, through regular giving, fundraising or partnerships, allow us the flexibility to use our expertise in recognising what each young person needs to thrive – at every stage of their journey.

Because of you, we can run life-changing programs to reach even more young people each year, connecting them with skilled and caring professionals who believe in their potential. And we make sure you can see the impact you're making. All the information in this Annual Report reflects real stories and real outcomes young people have achieved.

When you support young people through Youth Off The Streets, you're giving them the chance to experience a future they didn't think was possible. Your kindness becomes that opportunity – and we're truly grateful.

Thank you for showing up when young people need it most.

Our thanks to those who supported us in 2025

The kindness and generosity of our donors in 2025 was truly inspiring. Thanks to you, we raised an incredible \$8.2 million to help young people experiencing homelessness and disadvantage.

We are deeply grateful to those who responded to our appeals with generous one-off gifts or 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.

Our corporate and philanthropic partners are critical to our work, funding key programs and initiatives over multiple years. So too is the support we receive from government. In 2025, this commitment ensured financial stability for us to deliver reliable and sustainable support to young people in need.

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

Why we support Youth Off The Streets

Michael and Yvonne, who have five children and seven grandchildren, have both decided to include Youth Off The Streets in their Wills.

"We believe we're fortunate to have a good life and we want to share this to help young people who aren't so fortunate."

Like many families, they've faced challenges. But through it all, they've supported each other and come together with love and respect.

"It was a conversation with our grandson that crystallised our decision. He recently declared that he has 'three mums' – his mum, his gran and his nan – because we all love him so much."

"That moment made us think. So many children have never experienced that type of love in their lives."

"We see our legacy as passing on love and respect to our children and grandchildren. Our gift to Youth Off The Streets is love given to these young people, too. We want to make an imprint of love where there was none."



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

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 2025.

UnLtd:

In 2025, UnLtd and its partners provided \$400,876 of in-kind support, significantly amplifying public awareness of Youth Off The Streets' work. New partner INNOCEAN Australia began developing a pro bono brand campaign, supported by media agency PHD, who briefed industry partners to help achieve visibility for the forthcoming campaign. Bench Media raised \$10,000 through its Fundraiser Walk, and UnLtd continued its multi-year support for the National Scholarship Program. Youth Off The Streets was also proudly featured at UnLtd's Big Dream Ball, further increasing public awareness and engagement.



In 2025, Sony Foundation's \$195,000 contribution continued to be instrumental to the success of our programs for young people, helping us deliver 982 hours of mental health support, strengthen the reimagined Food Van program for our Western Sydney outreach and provide a scholarship through our National Scholarship Program to help a Year 12 student achieve their higher education goals.



Helia's partnership made a powerful difference in 2025, providing \$120,000 in funding for essential programs and scholarships, plus 93 hours of volunteer support. Helia believes that all Australians should have access to housing and is proud to support Youth Off The Streets in providing vulnerable young people with support and education for a positive future.



Merrylands RSL has proudly supported Youth Off The Streets for over 25 years, empowering young people to build brighter futures. In 2025, they contributed \$105,000 towards our essential programs and services. Students from our Merrylands school campus were also invited to exhibit their artworks at the Merrylands RSL for the first time – an opportunity that we hope to continue. This enduring partnership strengthens the vital programs that help young people thrive.



Aland

Dooleys

Revesby Workers' Club

Mounties Group

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

Community Impact
Foundation

Davies Family
Foundation

Eden Foundation

Gandevia Foundation

James N. Kirby
Foundation

JLDJS Foundation

Matana Foundation
for Young People

One Kindness

Valley Foundation

* We acknowledge the recent sad passing of Alan Bagnall and are grateful to his family for their ongoing support to continue his legacy.

Government support

We extend our sincere thanks to our government funding partners for their contributions in 2025.

Australian Government

Department of Education

Department of Industry, Science and Resources

NSW Government

Department of Communities and Justice

Department of Education

NSW Ministry of Health

Multicultural NSW

Women NSW

Local government

Maitland City Council

Other groups

The Association of Independent Schools

Wentwest Limited

Western NSW Primary Health Network



2025 financial snapshot

Growing income, deliberate investment and a strong funding mix positioned Youth Off The Streets well in 2025 to progress our strategic goal of expanding our reach and strengthening our impact.

Investment in our people and sites during the year enabled Youth Off The Streets to deliver more services to more young people, including in new locations. We reported a planned deficit of \$1.3 million, in line with our financial strategy to apply reserves accumulated in previous years to support this expansion. Supported by strong stewardship of both funding and reserves, we remain financially resilient to make sustainable impact into the future.

Where our money comes from

A key strategic objective is to grow our funding to over \$46 million by 2028. In 2025, the second year of our five-year strategy, total income increased to \$35.6 million, representing a 7% increase on 2024 and continuing progress toward this target. We are fortunate to receive funding from a broad range of sources, including government funding, philanthropy, corporate partnerships and individual donations.

During the year, we secured several crucial multi-year government funding agreements. These enabled us to deliver increasingly impactful work across alcohol and other drugs support, casework, youth work, pathways to employment and suicide prevention.

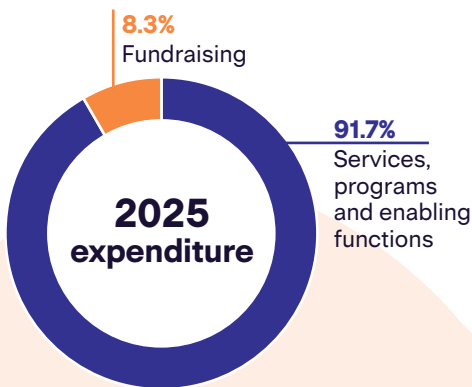
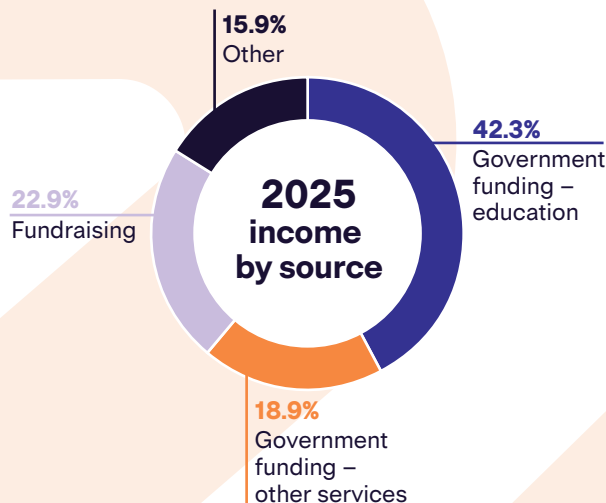
The fundraising landscape, however, continued to present challenges due to cost-of-living pressures, changes in funder criteria and constraints imposed by global technology companies to digital advertising. As a result, fundraising income of \$8.2 million in 2025 was below the prior year, reinforcing the critical importance of our supporters' ongoing generosity and engagement.

Where our money goes

As a people-focused organisation, the majority of our expenditure relates to the employment of our staff. Our diverse workforce includes teachers, youth workers, caseworkers, psychologists and staff across our enabling functions. Employee costs increased by 19% in 2025, reflecting our continued investment in existing staff and the establishment of important new roles to support the growing number of young people we work with each day.

During the year, we opened several new service delivery locations, providing higher-quality environments for both young people and staff. This included commencing operations in Mount Druitt in Western Sydney, delivering a broad range of joined-up services to the local community. Craig Davis College also relocated to the University of Wollongong Innovation Campus – an exciting milestone for one of our largest schools that is already creating enhanced opportunities for students.

Our expenditure base continues to grow year on year, reflecting our intentional strategy to strengthen our impact and expand our reach. This growth has been supported through a combination of generous funding received each year and the planned application of reserves accumulated in previous years. This deliberate and disciplined approach provides a strong foundation for long-term organisational sustainability and impact.





View current and previous full financial reports at: youthoffthestreets.com.au/about-us/publications

Consolidated statement of financial position

(January–December)

	2025 \$000	2024 \$000
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	22,046	26,822
Other receivables	433	240
Financial assets	499	513
Other assets	581	1,474
Total current assets	23,559	29,049
Non-current assets		
Financial assets (investments)	16,235	12,301
Property and equipment	5,898	5,654
Leased assets	3,107	1,050
Total non-current assets	25,240	19,005
TOTAL ASSETS	48,799	48,053
Current liabilities		
Trade and other payables	(2,533)	(1,923)
Contract liabilities	(8,102)	(8,591)
Lease liabilities	(784)	(269)
Employee benefit liabilities	(2,152)	(2,204)
Other provisions	(622)	(1,002)
Total current liabilities	(14,192)	(13,990)
Non-current liabilities		
Lease liabilities	(2,319)	(792)
Provisions	(1,364)	(1,034)
Total non-current liabilities	(3,682)	(1,826)
TOTAL LIABILITIES	(17,874)	(15,816)
NET ASSETS	30,925	32,238
Equity		
Contributed equity	4,296	4,296
Retained earnings	26,629	27,942
TOTAL EQUITY	30,925	32,238

Consolidated statement of income and expenditure

(January–December)

	2025 \$000	2024 \$000
INCOME		
Government funding		
Education	15,064	12,058
Other services	6,726	5,992
Total government funding	21,790	18,050
Fundraising		
Donations and gifts	5,160	6,525
Philanthropy and partnerships	2,352	4,877
Events, community fundraising and op shops	649	613
Total income from fundraising	8,161	12,016
Other income		
Finance and investment income	2,355	2,491
Other income ¹	3,300	823
Total other income	5,654	3,314
TOTAL INCOME	35,605	33,380
EXPENDITURE		
Services, programs and enabling functions ²	(33,858)	(28,973)
Fundraising	(3,059)	(2,493)
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	(36,917)	(31,466)
Income tax expense	–	–
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	(1,312)	1,914

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

² Includes wages and facilities costs

Our people

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

In 2025, we had:

247

staff members.

191

volunteers, providing a cumulative
11,170 hours of service.

Everyone's potential deserves to be realised

Supporting children and young people to realise their potential starts with empowering our team to do the same. In 2025, we defined our **Employee Value Proposition** (EVP) – what makes Youth Off The Streets a values-led, supportive and rewarding place to work.

We've built a workplace that sustains meaningful work with comprehensive wellbeing support and a psychologically safe environment. We undertook extensive surveys and focus groups with team members to learn what inspires them to achieve their best and where we can support them better.

Using these insights, we trialled a successful balance program, increased support for mental health and physical fitness, refined opportunities for professional development and set up regular feedback opportunities to track our progress. Our efforts resulted in an 88% positive satisfaction rating for staff engagement (8% above the industry standard benchmark) and a 78% positive rating for staff wellbeing. In recognition of these high scores, we received two awards from survey provider Xref – 'Best Workplace' and 'Change Champions'. We're proud to support our thriving, engaged workforce dedicated to delivering impact for the communities we serve.

Our volunteers

Many of our programs and services owe their success to the support of our generous volunteers.

In 2025, we analysed community needs to create a volunteer strategy that delivers impact where it matters most. By engaging with stakeholders, reviewing service gaps and assessing emerging challenges, we identified priority areas where volunteers can bring the greatest value to children, young people and families. Our strategy now aligns volunteer roles with these needs to ensure every hour contributed leads to meaningful, tangible outcomes. We also strengthened our recruitment, onboarding and training processes to attract skilled, passionate individuals and equip them for success. These improvements are helping us build a volunteer network that is responsive, empowered and essential to strengthening communities.

We sincerely thank our volunteers for their generosity and dedication, which help create lasting positive outcomes for the young people we support.

Mentoring

Thank you to the 76 volunteer mentors who supported young people across three programs in 2025:

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



“My mentor has made such a big impact on my life. He's taught me the importance of university life, helping me focus on what's most valuable about my studies while also remembering to enjoy this stage of my education.”

– Arthur, National Scholarship Program participant

Governance

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

Our 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 principal 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 is an experienced leader, director and senior executive who has worked in a range of organisations in the commercial, government and not-for-profit sectors. She spent 18 years as Executive Manager, Member Services & Marketing at ClubsNSW and five years as CEO with the Talent Development Project (TDP). Anne has extensive experience spanning more than 20 years as a Board Chair and Director and is currently a Trustee with the NSW Responsible Gambling Fund and a Director of Newcastle Meals on Wheels. She is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors, a qualified mediator and holds an MBA from MGSM.



Helen Conway | Deputy Chair

Helen is an experienced leader, director, senior executive and lawyer who has worked across commercial, public and not-for-profit sectors. She spent 10 years in private legal practice, including seven years as a partner in a major Sydney law firm, and then worked as a senior executive in the corporate sector. She has extensive experience as a Board Chair and Director. 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. Craig has served in various governance positions for Youth Off The Streets, including as Chairman, and is an ambassador for Muscular Dystrophy Tasmania. Craig is an inductee in the Tasmanian AFL and NSW Australian Football League Hall of Fame.



Sue Foxcroft-Cliffe | Director

Sue brings over 25 years of experience in educational leadership within K-12 schools in the UK and Australia. She has worked across private, public, Catholic and Jewish systems, specialising in student wellbeing, community engagement and school-family partnerships. Sue excels in enhancing school cultures and supporting at-risk students. Sue is currently Head of Student Life at Moriah College, and she has led initiatives that improve student health, engagement, retention, academic achievement and life skills. Her strategic leadership has 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-focused senior executive working in the corporate sector. Now working in the not-for-profit sector, David is currently the General Manager of Maccabi Australia, having previously worked with the Foundation for National Parks and Wildlife. David is also a volunteer mentor at Youth Off The Streets. He holds a Master of Commerce and a Graduate Diploma in Psychology. He is also a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.



Luke Magee | Director

Luke brings extensive international experience as an IT consultant. Throughout his career, he has led and delivered innovative, best-practice technology solutions for organisations ranging from small and medium to multinational enterprises, as well as federal and state government departments. Luke holds a Bachelor of Economics and a Master of Business Administration, and is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. He first connected with Youth Off The Streets in the early 2000s and, driven by a long-standing commitment to its mission, joined the Board in 2023.



Patrick O'Connell | Director

Patrick is a Fellow Chartered Accountant with extensive experience across property, public healthcare, education and the disability sector, having worked for Ingenia Communities, St Vincent's Health Network Sydney and UTS. Patrick has developed a deep passion for supporting people to reach their full potential. He is currently the Director of Corporate Services for MGG Health. Patrick is also a Social Impact Fellow, having completed a fellowship with the Social Impact Hub, underscoring his commitment to making a positive difference in the community.



Tilda Sikes | Director

Tilda has extensive experience in the government, education and community sectors. She is on the Board of the NSW Carers Advisory Council and has been on the boards of organisations such as Arts and Cultural Exchange, Multicultural Arts Alliance and the Greek-Australian Lemnian Association of NSW. She was most recently Festival Director for the Greek Festival of Sydney and previously a Director of Communications in the NSW Parliament. Her professional experience also includes working at Premier and Cabinet, the Department of Education, UTS and Sydney Festival. 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 in financial control, internal audits, system implementation, business transformation and process improvement, gained in the corporate, government and not-for-profit sectors. In addition, Paul has over 20 years of Board experience with companies such as Seven Group Holdings, Seven Media Group, Seven West Media, NSW Trains and Countplus.



Gelina Talbot | Director

Gelina is Assistant Commissioner with the NSW Police Force and a senior executive who is passionate about improving outcomes for young people. In 2024 she co-led the landmark review of the NSW out-of-home care system, now the foundation for government reform to better safeguard children and young people. With over 35 years in the public sector, she joined the Youth Off The Streets Board in 2025.

Inez's story

At just 24 years old, Inez has experienced homelessness and housing insecurity on and off since she was 10. Her father's physical and financial abuse drove Inez, her sister and their mum – who lives with a physical disability – from home, with nowhere to go.



"The longest I've ever had a stable home is three years," says Inez.

Inez and her family stayed with relatives, in women's shelters and motels and at times had no option but to sleep in their car, all while trying to take legal action against Inez's father.

For Inez, escaping domestic violence was only the beginning. What followed was a continuous administrative maze that she had to navigate alone.

"It's been really hard to do this as a young person, not knowing the process, not knowing the rental subsidy even existed, which also makes it harder because I don't know what we're entitled to," she says. "They expect me to be available at all times, either on the phone or in the office, to progress our housing request," she says.

The search for stable housing and the constant paperwork forced her to put her studies on hold. So far, she has had to submit more than 90 documents.

At times, it felt like Inez's family was being torn apart.

"My little sister and I could get into youth accommodation but that would leave our mum on her own," says Inez. "I was told, 'It's either that or you all just stay homeless.'"

Then came a lifeline: Inez was connected with a Youth Off The Streets caseworker.

"I've had help from Youth Off The Streets to deal with the housing department because usually when I went in and was trying to manage all this myself, I would get to the point where I would literally cry," says Inez. "When I go in with my caseworker, they speak differently to her and it's much better for me."

Now, Inez is currently receiving support from our Engagement and Support team to navigate the complexity of the housing system and find a stable, subsidised rental property.

What Inez wants is simple: compassion and housing security.

"People's cases need to be looked at individually and respectfully," she says. "Everyone's situation is different and it seems like almost everyone is falling through the cracks, especially young people like me and my sister."

"When I go in with my caseworker, they speak differently to her and it's much better for me."

youth off the streets

Ways to support us

Every day, children as young as 12 turn to us for help. With more than 43,000 young people forced into homelessness every year and even greater numbers facing other forms of disadvantage, the demand for our services has never been higher.

No matter how you support Youth Off The Streets, you'll ensure we can show up for young people when they need us most.



Becoming a regular giver with a monthly donation of any size is one of the most effective ways you can keep our work going.



A gift in your Will turns your legacy into a positive future for young people.



Volunteering for one of our services or schools is a rewarding way to help young people thrive.



Our corporate partnerships are essential to the work we do and the life-changing outcomes we achieve.



Fundraising or hosting an event in support of Youth Off The Streets is a great way to get your community together for a good cause.



Workplace giving is one of the easiest and most effective ways for employees to support young Australians in need.

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Youth Off The Streets is a registered Public Benevolent Institution (PBI) and complies with the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations. Our policies and procedures uphold the highest standards of safety and care for young people.

As a PBI, Youth Off The Streets receives certain ATO tax concessions and exemptions relating to goods and services tax, fringe benefits tax and income tax.

