



Investing in
our Youth Inc.

Annual Report

24/25

Commitment to Reconciliation

Investing In Our Youth is committed to reconciliation, increasing cultural awareness, developing respectful relationships, and creating meaningful opportunities with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land we work on, the Wardandi Noongar people, and pay respects to their ancestors and Elders past and present.

We extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people today and acknowledge your continuing connection to land, waters, and communities.

We respect the oldest, continuous living culture and are committed to working in partnership to strengthen and embed First Nation's voices and perspectives in our decision-making, now and into the future.



NAIDOC Week
SWAMS Family Day



Team Leaders Preparing for
Reconciliation Week



Welcome to Country
HIPPY Graduation



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Child and Parent Centre
Carey Park



Child and Parent Centre
Collie Valley



Acknowledgements

Investing In Our Youth is fortunate to have a network of alliances who we collaborate and partner with to promote the healthy development of children young people and families. We would like to extend our sincerest thanks to our funding bodies, community partners and individual supporters who make it possible for us to continue to deliver high quality programs and services.



With special thanks to our Child & Parent Centre host schools, Carey Park Primary School and Wilson Park Primary School. We would like to thank the following for their partnerships this year: Adam Road Primary School, Bunbury Chinese Lantern Festival, Bunbury Fringe, The Bunbury Markets, Bunbury Multicultural Group, Bunbury Youth Advisory Council, Bunbury Regional Art Gallery, Central Garage Collie, City of Busselton, Collie Family Centre, Collie PCYC, Collie Senior Citizens, Collie Suicide Prevention Network, Dalyellup Primary School, Feed it Forward, Freedom, Kiind, Maidens Park Primary School, Milligan, Parenting Ways, Pathways Southwest, Playgroup WA, Radiance, SEN Spirit, South West Autism Network, Shire of Collie, South West Women's Health & Information Centre, Vinnies, WA Primary Health Alliance, Wanslea, Waratah, Youth Affairs Council of WA, zero2hero.

Business Partners & Memberships



Vision & Purpose



Vision

That all children, youth, and families live and grow in safe, healthy, and connected communities.

Purpose

Building our communities' capacity so that every child and young person, regardless of location, household income or individual needs, can be nurtured to achieve their potential.

OUR VALUES



Wholeheartedness

Our approach is grounded in care, compassion and generosity.



Sustainability

Our programs and practices grow and contribute positively to people and planet.



Integrity

Our practices are based on evidence, expertise and ethics.



Collaborations

Our partnerships are meaningful, equitable and diverse.

OUR PRIORITY AREAS

1.

Empowering children and young people to participate.

2.

Embedding child safety at the heart of our organisation.

3.

Working collaboratively with others to foster partnerships.

4.

Encouraging curiosity and lifelong learning.

5.

Building a sustainable and inclusive organisation

Chair Report



Thank you for the opportunity to present the Annual Report 2024/25.

Our key focus is on Financial, Risk and Strategic governance. This means working with the CEO to ensure we manage our finances well, which I am pleased to report, they are. Risk & Strategic governance is also important. We need to have a focus on where we want to be, how we best achieve this and how we do this including mitigating risk as best we can.

In a nutshell this means having a strategic plan, understanding our operating environment, and being agile in adjusting where needed without losing focus. Training, Communication Strategies, Policies & Procedures all assist in managing risk.

The achievements of IIOY reflects the necessary combination of Board guidance, CEO engagement and the IIOY team embracement of what we need to do. The Board have received Program updates from Team Leaders and we are particularly impressed with both the passion and

commitment of the Team. The measurable outcomes of all programs reflects well on all involved but also highlights the value our community have for IIOY.

It is this combination of effort, and measurable outcomes, that is also acknowledged by our supporting agencies whose ongoing commitment is appreciated. Thank you to all Board Members, CEO and IIOY team. I am immensely proud of the work the organization does on a daily basis and look forward to the future opportunities.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ian Telfer'.

Ian Telfer
Chairperson



Successful collaboration with
Parenting Connections WA to bring
Karen Young to Bunbury!



CEO Report

Yet another financial year passes, and it seems the one constant is change. Effective and authentic leadership at all levels is essential for successful change management to guide organisations through transitions and help navigate challenges. It was timely in the last financial year that IIOY refocused on vision, purpose and values with a new Strategic Plan. The values of the organisation where the starting point and all team members had input along with the Board members. IIOY also launched a refreshed website including important information on safeguarding children and young people and our second Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan. IIOY has also recently become a member of Reconciliation WA.

IIOY also prepared itself for changes and challenges ahead with the production of a Capability Statement that outlines to prospective funders and partners our impact, programs, skills and knowledge and our point of difference. Investing In Our Youth takes a collaborative approach to building thriving communities across the South West, working closely with local partners and fostering strong relationships from partners to community members and everyone in between. Our community-focused decision-making process empowers individuals and teams, encouraging active participation and idea sharing that influence the entire

organisation. This approach enables us to localise efforts, form meaningful networks, and build capacity at the community level, ensuring that our funded programs are delivered effectively and sustainably at the grassroots.

At a program level IIOY finished up delivery of the HIPPY program as of the 31 December 2025 and hopeful that the Brotherhood of St Laurence will be successful in transition this program to an Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation in the future.

“ The measure of intelligence is the ability to change . ”

Albert Einstein



Whole of organisation Cultural Competency Training 7

Our End to End Driving Program was successful in receiving funding from the Department of Transport Driver Access and Equity Program to compliment the existing Department of Justice funding. This increased funding and staffing allows the driving program to be extended geographically to more locations in the SW region and expanded eligibility requirements.

The Blue Leaf Initiative was also successful in securing a third and final year of funding from Healthway's Healthy Communities program and is to be evaluated in partnership with UWA and Telethon Kids Institute. A successful Greater Bunbury Youth Mental Health Forum was held in early 2025. IIOY is a member of Volunteer South West and were represented in all nomination categories for Blue Leaf and RYDE volunteers. Congratulations to Bec McLevie, Blue Leaf Coordinator, for taking home the Volunteer Leader of the Year award during Volunteer Week.

Yallo's funding for early years programs in Dalyellup was extended until 30 June 2029 and has seen increased engagement in the community. Partnerships with Dalyellup Primary School and Bethanie Dalyellup compliment the popular Nature Play and Storytelling in the Park held each week.

Both the Carey Park and Collie Valley Child and Parent Centres continue to successfully engage with families and stakeholders in the early childhood sector. Parenting programs, literacy promotion and transition to school initiatives continue to support parents and children prior to starting school. Currently funding is extended until 30 June 2026 and IIOY is prepared for the Department of Education planned commissioning process.

With some of these changes IIOY also farewelled some team members in the last financial year including HIPPY Coordinator Sophia Bennell along with the HIPPY Tutors.



Farewelling HIPPY Coordinator,
Sophia Bennell



Kristy, Bec, Nicky and Sara
from the team supporting
headspace opening

“Vulnerability is the birthplace of innovation, creativity and change.”

Brene Brown

Gaia Boranga also moved on from her role in the HIPPY and Yallo programs. Raine Torrisi stepped up to coordinate the Driving Programs along with new Driving Support Officers. Caitlin O'Donoghue stepped up to coordinate the Yallo program working with a range of partners and contractors. Sara Page our Marketing Officer is now also a part of the Collie Valley Child and Parent Centre supporting families as part of the My Time program. A very special mention to Robyn Golding who has been the Finance Officer for IIOY for over 20 years and kept us all organised, wages and bills paid consistently every week.

I would also like to take a moment to thank the Board of IIOY particularly Ian as Chairperson who has been in this role for many years and provides a consistent stewardship for the organisation and myself in the role of CEO. I appreciate Ian's support and belief in me as I continue develop and grow as a leader in the for purpose sector. This financial year has seen IIOY's profile expand in the community with participation in leadership programs facilitated by the Bunbury Geographe Chamber of Commerce and Industry. IIOY also stays connected to the broader sector as members of WA Council of Social Service and Youth Affairs Council of WA.

The IIOY team continues to roll out the Dare to Lead approach across the organisation and I immensely proud of the growth, development, safety and trust in the teams. So I will finish with a quote from Brene Brown that brings me back to the theme of change.



Nicky Smith
Chief Executive Officer



**End to End Driver Training
officially launches.**



Our commitment to safeguarding children & young people



At Investing In Our Youth, child safety is not just a responsibility, it's embedded into our values and flows into everything we do. We are committed to creating safe, welcoming, and inclusive environments where children feel safe, respected, and empowered. All of our programs and activities are guided by the 10 National Principles for Child Safe Organisations, ensuring that safety and wellbeing are always at the centre of our decisions, practices, and culture.

Across all our early years programs; Yallo, the Child and Parent Centre - Carey Park and Child and Parent Centre- Collie Valley—we take a proactive, holistic approach to safeguarding children. Every staff member and facilitator is trained in child-safe practices, holds relevant Working with Children Checks, and is committed to continuous learning.



All activities are planned with thoughtful intent and designed to be inclusive and culturally responsive, recognising the unique needs of every child and family. We strive to ensure that children's voices are central to program design and delivery—acknowledging that their choices and perspectives are a powerful expression of agency.

Children are actively encouraged to share their thoughts freely, building confidence and a strong sense of belonging. Families are recognised as key partners in this work, with their feedback shaping programs and activities. Through both formal and informal consultation, we ensure that children and caregivers are not just participants but valued contributors who help guide our organisation.

We also embed a culture of visibility and openness. At Collie, for example, our public Child Safety Commitment Board informs families of our safeguarding practices. At Carey Park, our philosophy highlights the importance of nurturing relationships, emotional safety, and the belief that “the way we speak to our children becomes their inner voice.” At Yallo, we create spaces where children are seen, heard, and respected through familiar routines, safe physical environments, and trusted adult support.

The IIOY End to End Driving Program supports young people to gain their drivers license and to help safeguard participants all team members including staff, volunteers and contractors such as driving instructors are screened. This screening process includes provision of a current Working With Children Check and National Police Certificate along with questions on safeguarding at interview. Participants are asked for feedback and have the ability to request a change of team member if have any concerns.

Safeguarding Children and Young People starts with good leadership, governance and culture and the Board and CEO of IIOY are committed to embedding child safety and well being in the organisation. This includes annual review of policies, public commitment on the IIOY website and the child safety is a regular agenda item at Board meetings. All Board members at a minimum have completed the IIOY Child Safety Induction and the CEO alongside other Board members has completed further training via the WACOSS Child Safe Project.

By embedding all 10 National Child Safety Principles into our programs, Investing In Our Youth ensures that children are not only safe from harm but are supported to thrive. This commitment underpins our vision for stronger, healthier communities—where every child feels safe, valued, and free to reach their full potential.



Our commitment to reconciliation



Commitment to reconciliation and creating spaces where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples feel respected, valued, and heard, is something we deeply value at Investing In Our Youth. We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which we live, learn, and work, and we pay our respects to Elders past and present. Our work is guided by the belief that reconciliation begins with everyday actions, through relationships, education, and a commitment to embedding First Nations voices into all we do.

Across all of our programs, reconciliation is woven into our daily practices. At our Early Years sessions, families participate in child-friendly Acknowledgments to Country, nurturing respect for culture and place from the earliest years. Yallo's Early Years events are delivered in Dalyellup's parks and green spaces on Wadandi land, which encourage belonging, environmental stewardship, and recognition of Traditional Custodians. Families engage in storytelling and play using resources created by First Nations artists and businesses, ensuring that cultural learning is authentic and inclusive.

At the Child and Parent Centre in Carey Park, every child-focused session and parent meeting begins with an Acknowledgment to Country, supported by visible signage and Aboriginal resources.

In February 2025, all staff undertook a full-day Aboriginal Cultural Competence training, building skills to ensure culturally safe and inclusive practices across all services. Our Coordinator actively contributes to reconciliation-focused committees, including the National Child Voice Community of Practice (Emerging Minds), Boodjari Yorgas (WACHS), and Parenting Connections WA, strengthening our advocacy for closing developmental gaps between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal children.



Staff at the Child & Parent Centre - Collie Valley delivered a range of activities at NAIDOC week celebrations.

In Collie, located on Wilman Noongar Boodja, the Child and Parent Centre has become a safe place for Elders to gather for seasonal yarns, strengthening ties between the Centre and the local Noongar community. Staff have co-designed programs alongside Aboriginal families and led early years activities for NAIDOC Week celebrations, including a large community mural now displayed at PCYC Collie. The Centre also hosts the Waalitj Foundation's Parent Pathways program, supporting First Nations families with culturally safe pathways for parenting and community connection.

The IIOY Board now incorporates Acknowledgement of Country at the beginning of all Board meetings and the Reflect RAP is a standing agenda item. Three Board members are part of the Reflect RAP Working Party as well which has met once since the launch of the RAP in early 2025.

The End to End Driving Program, funded jointly by Department of Justice and Department of Transport, support participants to gain their driver's license in the SW region. The driving program works closely with stakeholder organisations such as Bunbury PCYC and JSW for referrals and connects with the Karri Karrak Aboriginal Corporation's Boodja Kaditj-Kaditj (Country Car) program to offer youth a choice of driving program providers.

Currently 27% of the End to End Driving Program participants identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.

Through these actions, we are embedding reconciliation into our programs, services, and organisational culture. By fostering cultural respect, elevating First Nations voices, and strengthening partnerships, Investing In Our Youth is contributing to stronger, more connected communities. Our commitment is ongoing, and we recognise that reconciliation is not a single initiative but a shared journey—one we are proud to walk alongside children, families, and community.

Blue Leaf commissioned local artist, Tia to create original artwork for the program.





“ I’ve changed the way I treat myself and others. How I communicate with my previous partner and understand emotions, how I help my children with current circumstances. ”

Child & Parent Centre - Carey Park
Keeping Kids in Mind participant

Playgroup families enjoyed a special end of year celebration with a visit from Bubbles Biyabeda who gifted the children play dough with the recipe card.

Outside activities are a hit at Playgroup



Child and Parent Centre
Carey Park

Child & Parent Centre Carey Park

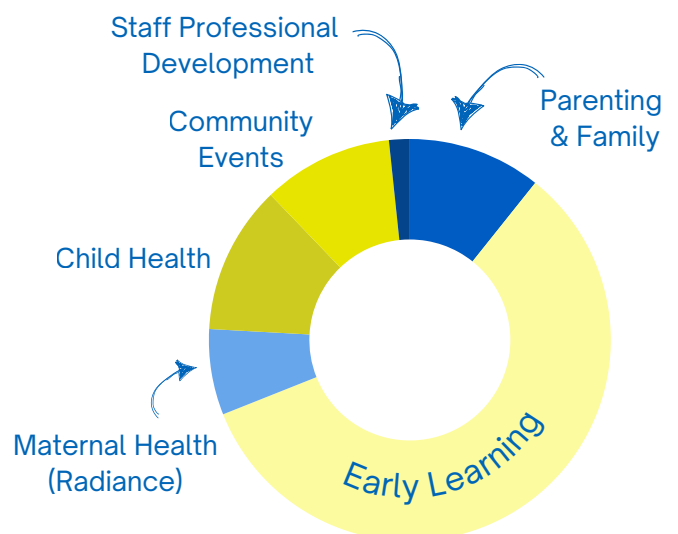
Program Highlights

The Child and Parent Centre Carey Park has had a fantastic year, filled with connection and growth. Our weekly programs—Musical Mondays, Radiance Support Group, Wednesday Playgroup, MyTime on Thursdays, and Playgroup @ Maidens Park Primary every Friday—have become familiar favourites for families during the school term. We also run a parenting program on Monday evenings each term, along with extra daytime sessions throughout the year, with a creche to support families with little ones.

Australian Early Development Census (AEDC): The AEDC is a national survey conducted every three years which measures children's development across five key areas as they start full-time school. In response to the concerning 2021 AEDC results showing Bunbury children lagging behind state and national averages, our Local Area Committee set a goal to improve outcomes in all five developmental domains by 2024.

Across the 2024/2025 reporting period, we welcomed 2,521 child visits and 2,113 adult visits to our early years programs. We love celebrating books, and each term we pick a new theme to boost early literacy and encourage kids' love for reading as part of the Paint Bunbury Read initiative.

 **7,459**
Parents & Children attended
the Centre in 2024/2025



The variety of **programs and services offered** by the Centre 15



4,297

Families attended
Early Learning groups
run by the Centre.
(Playgroup, MyTime, Transition
to Kindy & School Holiday
activities)



791

Families attended
Parenting Workshops
run by the Centre.
(Workshops, Karen Young
event, Creche, Baby Massage &
Family Liaison Support)

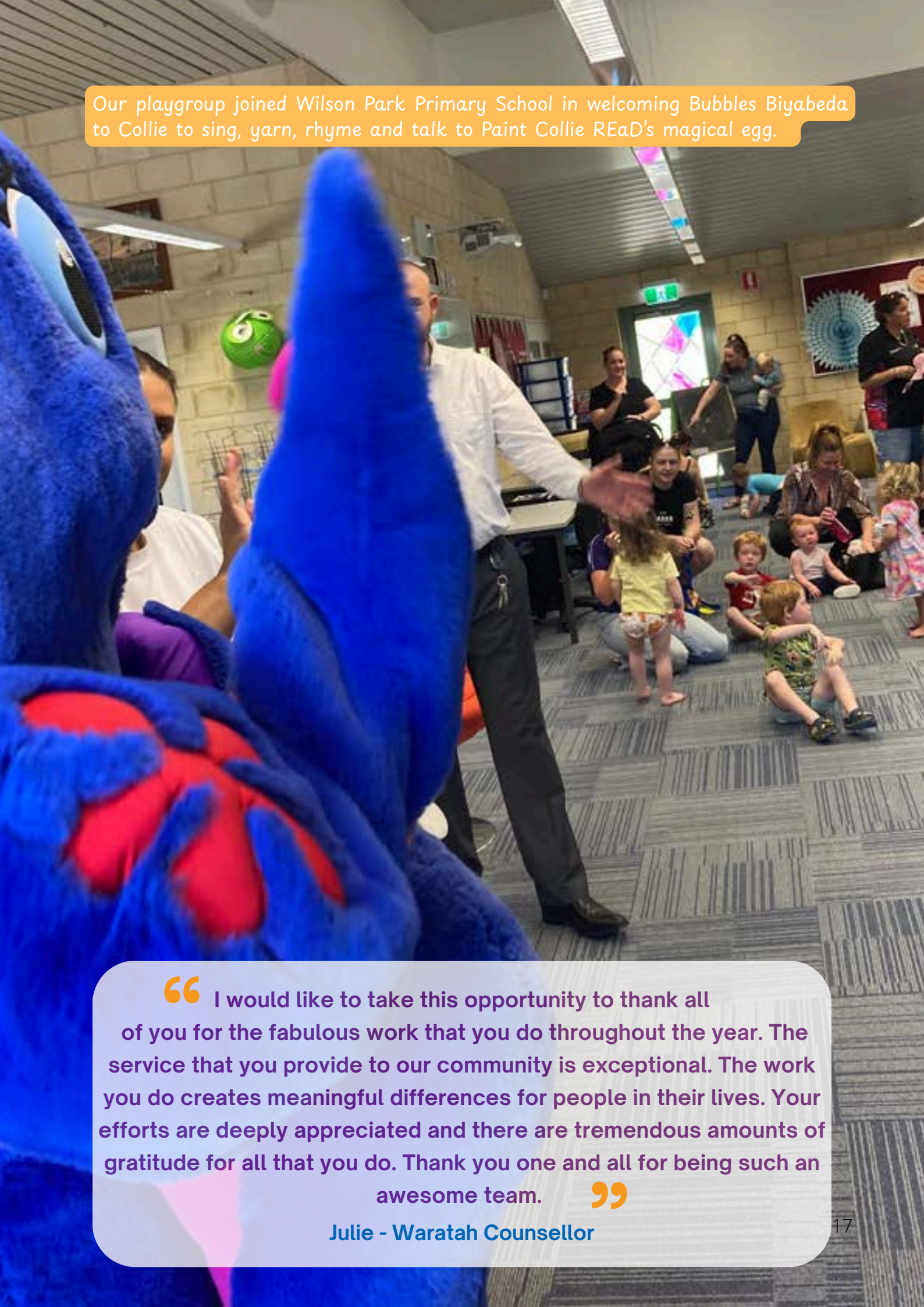
We are pleased to report that this goal has been achieved. Bunbury's 2024 AEDC results show a significant reduction in developmental vulnerability and an increase in children 'on track' across all five domains, closing the gap with—and in some cases surpassing—state and national averages:

This remarkable turnaround reflects the collective commitment of service providers, educators, families, and advocates working together to enhance early childhood development in our community.



Parenting Programs: A diverse range of parenting programs was offered, demonstrating excellent retention and attendance rates. These programs effectively supported parents and caregivers by enhancing their skills and promoting active engagement. To deliver a comprehensive spectrum of parenting information and support, partnerships were established with facilitators at local, state, and national levels. A notable event included a community session by Karen Young held at the Bunbury Regional Entertainment Centre, which was additionally livestreamed to community partners throughout the South West region.

Book Themes & Literacy Promotion: Each term, a carefully selected book theme was implemented to promote emergent literacy and to integrate social and emotional wellbeing into child development activities both within the Centre and the home environment. Regular reading to children at home remains the single most significant factor across all five developmental domains measured by the AEDC. Consequently, this practice continues to be a primary focus of the Centre's child development initiatives and take-home communications.



Our playgroup joined Wilson Park Primary School in welcoming Bubbles Biyabeda to Collie to sing, yarn, rhyme and talk to Paint Collie REaD's magical egg.

“ I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for the fabulous work that you do throughout the year. The service that you provide to our community is exceptional. The work you do creates meaningful differences for people in their lives. Your efforts are deeply appreciated and there are tremendous amounts of gratitude for all that you do. Thank you one and all for being such an awesome team. ”

Julie - Waratah Counsellor



Child and Parent Centre
Collie Valley

Child & Parent Centre Collie Valley

The past 12 months deserves not only a reflection of our achievements, but a celebration of the dedicated team behind them. Every milestone we have reached is an accolade to their passion, professionalism, and shared belief in the value of our work. From our vibrant contributions to NAIDOC Week and the successful launch of Quill our Paint the Town REaD mascot, the CPC team has added significant value at every turn. The Karen Young livestream event was unprecedented in both scope and impact — a truly collaborative and innovative undertaking that paved the way for future events to reach regional and remote areas across the South West. Likewise, Career Comeback Crew offered a parenting program with a powerful difference, focusing on building self-esteem and self-efficacy in mothers returning to the workforce.

Program Highlights

Carer Comeback: Program supporting mothers returning to the work force, upskilling or reskilling. A 81% graduation rate, saw 9 women participate in 8-weekly professional development workshops to enhance employability to improve financial independence and equity in the home.

Pre-kindy age playgroup increase: Has increased 14%, 1026 attendees in the 24/25 financial year an increase from 902 the previous year. The introduction of school holiday play series and pop-up playgroups, supporting community events through the school holidays remaining actively engaged with families outside of our standard program delivery.

Karen Young live streamed
to the Collie community



5775

Parents & children
supported at the
centre in 24-25

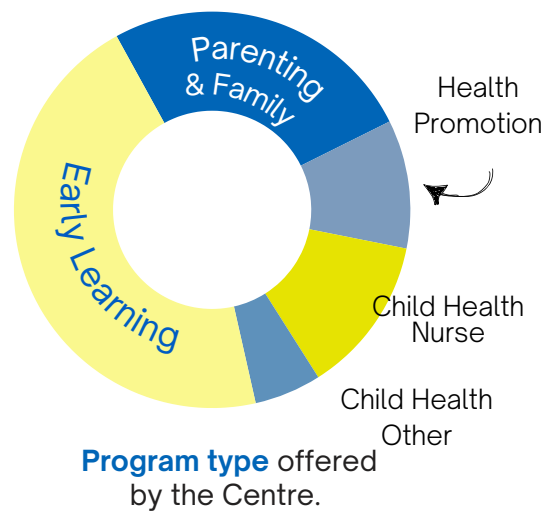


Playgroup continues to
grow in numbers.





The Centre embedded Harmony Week celebrations and messaging throughout our programs



280

Families attended **Parenting Workshops** run by the Centre.
(Bringing Up Great Babies/ Circle of Security, DoE Psychologist Workshops, First Aid & Wanslea)



171

Children who utilized the **Creche Facilities**

“The staff of Child and Parent Centre Collie-Valley are always there to listen and offer advice when needed. From running various age playgroups, to running MyTime for parents, to running and organising parenting courses, organising creche so parents of littlies can attend. They have definitely made my time raising littlies much easier, even if I only turn up now once every few weeks, we are always warmly welcomed.”

Playgroup Parent (Facebook)

Paint Collie REaD: The CPC Actively championed and supported the successful hatching of Quill, Paint Collie Read mascot, a project designed to support early literacy development. We supported and championed the project through social media, bringing Bunbury Paint the Town read mascot, Bubbles Biyabeda, to meet the Collie community both during the egg rotations and Collie Mascot launch contributing to the overall success of the program.



526

Families attended **Early Parenting & Support Groups**
(such as Baby Business, MyTime, Early Parenting Groups)



2396

Children attended **Early Learning groups** run by the centre.
(Playgroup, Lego Club, School holiday activities)



Families who attended Yallo Nature Play in the Park thanks to funding from Australia Post

Yallo^o

Yallo



Over the past 12 months, Yallo's early years programs have nurtured connection, wellbeing, and play for families with children aged 0–5. From Play Café and Bubs on Rugs to our intergenerational sessions, Play Café for Young and Old, and seasonal programs like Nature Play and Storytelling in the Park, families have engaged in meaningful, play-based learning in welcoming, supportive environments. Attendance has increased across all programs, with Nature Play and Storytelling regularly welcoming around 30 families per session. All Yallo programs are designed to gently support early development, ease social isolation, and nurture strong local connections. With a focus on inclusion, creativity, and belonging, our programs bring families together and foster meaningful relationships across generations and cultures.



698

Parents/Carers and children attended **Nature Play in the park** over two terms.



979

Families attended **Bubs on Rugs** over 67 sessions



979

Families attended **Summer Storytelling in the park** over 19 sessions



586

Families attended **Play Cafe** over 34 sessions offered at Dalyellup Primary



Nature Play in the Park has continued to grow in numbers.



Play Cafe for the Young and Old with residents from Bethanies Dalyellup.



Pop up school holiday activities are very popular and have lots of messy fun.

Program Highlights

Play Café for Young & Old: This was able to be held year-round at Bethanie Dalyellup, fostering intergenerational connection through shared play, singing, and cuddles. Sessions are warmly embraced by residents, families, and staff.

Pop-Up Holiday Sessions: These events drew crowds of up to 200 attendees, offering fun, connection, and helping reduce social isolation across the Dalyellup community.

Perinatal Mental Health Pram Walk: Held during Storytelling in the Park and Bubs on Rugs, this special event raised awareness of perinatal mental health and encouraged self-care, with families enjoying a supportive walk through Dalyellup's green spaces.



763

Families attended
School Holiday events



192

Families attended
Parenting Programs
(Bringing Up Great Kids,
Incredible Years)



150+

Families attended
Paint Bunbury REAd events

Storytelling in the Park: These sessions focused on interactive storytelling and nature play, encouraging families to connect and explore together while strengthening community ties. They have grown in popularity immensely, drawing over 60 participants weekly.

“Bubs on Rugs is a key event in our week. My son has developed a love of songs and stories and I know this is a direct result of our participation in the weekly class.

Corenne is an enthusiastic and a passionate educator who never fails to put a smile on the faces of children and parents alike. Mums, dads and grandparents are welcomed into the class where stories of parenting are shared, laughs are had and you leave feeling a little lighter.

Thank you for providing this service to our community, we hope to see it continue. ”





Minister Don Punch, CEO Nicky Smith with Department of Transport Regional Manager, Peter Westgate and our Driving Program Coordinator, Raine Torrissi.



Driving Programs

In the past year, our driving program has continued to make significant strides in enhancing drivers' skills across the South West. End to End Young Driver Training Program became End to End Driver Training after receiving grant funding through Driving Access and Equity Program. This new funding has allowed us to expand our service delivery area to now include Harvey, Collie, Bunbury, Donnybrook, Busselton, Margaret River and all the small towns in between.

At the WA Community Achievement Awards in November, End to End Driver Training were recognised for their ongoing commitment to providing access to safe driving opportunities and improving outcomes for young drivers. It was an honour to see the program recognised for its success and receive the Insurance Commission of Western Australia Regional Safety Award.



174

of supervised log book driving sessions were offered by our volunteer driving mentors



261 HRS

of supervised log book driving hours were taken up by Young People

Program Highlights

Launch of End to End Driver Training:

We were successful recipients of the Driving Access & Equity Program (DAEP) which allowed us to expand our service delivery area to include local government areas of Harvey, Dardanup, Collie, Bunbury, Busselton, Donnybrook, Capel and Margaret River. This also allowed us to support people of all ages.

Driving Simulator at RAC Ignite Leadership Camp:

This event highlighted the importance of promoting road safety and engaging young leaders through immersive hands on learning and recognised us as credible leaders with innovative educational tools.



105

Young People actively participating in South West RYDE

YACWA Conference: Our driving team attended this prestigious YACWA Conference, showcasing our program's initiatives through an engaging stall and connecting with community service organisations from across the state.

Staff Training: Thanks to DAEP funding, our staff were able to upskill to become qualified Driving Instructors. This allows them to better support participants in the lead up to their PDA, in partnership with our driving schools.



Young People **engaged** in the **End to End Driver** program this financial year.



17

Young People were successful in obtaining **P-plates with End to End Driver Training.**

Stories of Change

Alex is an End to End participant who passed his computerised theory test for his learners permit on his first try.

When asked about the support he received Alex stated without End to End Driver Training he definitely would have been held back from obtaining his learners permit. He and his family have limited finances, he doesn't have a car or a supervising driver as both his parents do not have licences.

When asked why he wants his licence his answer was to open up opportunities in getting work, getting to work will be easier to navigate, no matter what the weather and taking his partner out on dates will be easier.



Driving Program Team Raine and Doreen at the End to End Driver Training Program launch.



Launch of End to End Driver Training funded by Driving Access & Equity Program



Crystal, our first DAEP funded participant to gain their provisional licence 25th End to End Driver Training Program.

“ Blue Leaf has helped me connect to people in my age group. I struggle with severe depression as well as being autistic, so I do struggle a lot to socialise and tend to fall into the depression couch rot. The days I can attend Blue Leaf events always make me feel better and happy afterwards. It's a rare chance for me to socialise with others”

Blue Leaf Participant

”



Blue Leaf rolled into another year of supporting youth wellbeing—happy birthday, Blue Leaf



Blue Leaf Initiative

The Blue Leaf Initiative was initially launched to enhance mental health awareness, prevention, and support for young people through peer support mentoring. As the pilot project concluded in 2024, we adapted our approach based on valuable insights gained during the first year. With renewed funding from Healthway, the initiative now emphasises prevention through collaboration and connection, focusing on four key pillars: Youth Safe, Youth Aware, Youth Empower, and Youth Connect. Our primary goals are to foster connections among young adults, build social support networks, and prevent suicide through early intervention and training initiatives.

Program Highlights

Events & Engagement:

- **Bunbury:** Over 700 young people engaged through events such as Games Nights (186 participants), Creative Workshops (75), Wellbeing & Yoga (22), Book Club (42), and social meetups including roller skating, speed friending, and Gallery After Dark. Pop-up community events regularly attracted more than 200 attendees.

- **Collie:** Local activities included creative workshops, barbecues, sundowners, and a Summer Movie Series, drawing more than 80 attendees.
- **Festivals & Pop-Ups:** Blue Leaf hosted or attended large-scale events including Bunbury's Biggest Community Picnic (300+), Love the Lesch Festival (400), The Big Gig (200), Bunbury Pride Fest, Christmas in the City, and Harmony Day Long Lunch (300).

Major Events:

- **Greater Bunbury Youth Mental Health Forum:** Held in February 2025, this landmark event brought together 110 students, 20 staff, 16 stallholders, and 6 volunteers for a day of discussion, learning, and connection. Supported by Healthway and Southern Ports, the Forum also launched IIOY's End to End Driver Training Program.

- **Have A Go Expo:** In partnership with Hudson Road Family Centre, over 200 young adults attended two expos showcasing local clubs, creative arts, and sporting opportunities—helping young people find meaningful social connections.
- **Dr Justin Coulson Speaking Event:** Attended by 75 participants, with 100% of surveyed attendees reporting increased awareness of youth mental health issues.
- **R U OK? Day:** Coordinated stalls and activities across schools, ECU campuses, and community hubs, engaging hundreds of students and families.

Training & Education

Blue Leaf delivered accredited programs including Youth Mental Health First Aid, safeTALK, and Conversations About Suicide, reaching more than 80 participants. We also worked closely with ECU, UWA, Telethon Kids Institute, Skill Hire, and South West Community College to support evaluation and youth workforce development.

Partnerships

Blue Leaf strengthened collaborations with more than 50 community partners including Act Belong Commit, SWAMS, headspace, Out South West, zero2hero, and Volunteer South West, as well as a range of schools, universities, arts organisations, and local governments.

Volunteering

Volunteers are the heartbeat of Blue Leaf. From running Dungeons & Dragons campaigns to leading Let's Chat conversations, they created safe, engaging spaces for peers. Skill Hire students built Blue Trees, supported community events, and created a mural for Manea Senior College. At the 2025 Sunset Soiree Volunteering Awards, Blue Leaf was proud to celebrate three finalists, with Coordinator Bec McLevie named South West Volunteer Leader of the Year.



1659+

Young people attended
Blue Leaf events



82

People attended
Training courses
(Mental Health First Aid, safeTALK, Suicide Prevention)



IIOY & Blue Leaf brought Dr Justin Coulson to Bunbury to unpack the youth mental health crisis

Volunteering

Volunteers were the heartbeat of Blue Leaf. From running Dungeons & Dragons campaigns to leading Let's Chat conversations, they created safe, engaging spaces for peers. Skill Hire students built Blue Trees, supported community events, and created a mural for Manea Senior College. At the 2025 Sunset Soiree Volunteering Awards, Blue Leaf was proud to celebrate three finalists, with Coordinator Bec McLevie named South West Volunteer Leader of the Year.

Impact

The Initiative provided more than 70 events and engagements across Bunbury, Collie, and the wider South West, reaching thousands of young people and community members. Programs reduced loneliness, built confidence, and provided safe spaces for authentic conversations about mental health.



217

Partnerships
+ Networks



466

Youth
Engaged



61

Social
Events



14

Youth-Led
Initiatives

Collie young adults enjoying a fire pit at Blue Leaf's social sundowner.



Governance

Our Board



Ian Telfer
Chair



Christine Gorman
Deputy Chair



Kylie Cullen
Treasurer



Jen Smoker
Secretary



Cherie Hazlitt



Beth Ferguson



Michael Finn



Amanda Caunt



Claire MacDonald

Organisational Information

Investing In Our Youth was incorporated in 2002 under the 'Western Australian Associations Incorporation Act 1987', Registration No: A1010627M. Our constitution was updated to comply with the 'Western Australian Associations Incorporation Act 2015' in November 2017. The organisation is an income tax exempt charity and is registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for Profits Commission. The organisation is registered for GST and ABN details are 26 472 921 505.

Audits and Accounts

A finance sub-committee has been formed to assist the Board in overseeing the proper financial management of the organisation. The Committee members included Ian Telfer, Kylie Cullen and Nicky Smith, CEO. End of month reporting is contracted out to Megan from Nomad Accounting.

The organisation requires that proper records of accounts are kept, true and complete accounts are maintained and audited annually and the auditor's report is presented at the Annual General Meeting. The external auditor for Investing In Our Youth is David Paine, CPA.

Financials

for the year ended
30 June 2025

[Click here to view the complete auditors report.](#)

Our Contact



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Investing in
our youth Inc.