

Yfoundations 2022-23

Pre-Budget Submission



Introduction

For over 40 years, Yfoundations has served as the NSW peak body representing children and young people at risk of or experiencing homelessness, as well as the services that support them. Our members and board are made up of highly experienced youth Specialist Homelessness Service (SHS) providers who have direct knowledge of the issues homeless young people face across NSW.

In this pre-Budget submission, Yfoundations will focus on three recommendations to reduce youth homelessness in NSW. These are:

1. Funding to provide medium-term housing and support for homeless 16 to 18-year-olds

Yfoundations recommends that from 2022-23, the NSW Government provides:

- \$5,740,000 p.a. for the operation of seven new medium-term accommodation services in regional and rural NSW, as well as additional capital funding dependent on location
- \$1,291,028 p.a. to supplement the five existing medium-term services in NSW

2. Funding to end the incarceration of homeless children and young people

Yfoundations recommends that from 2022-23, the NSW Government provides:

- \$1,977,000 p.a. to operate four new Bail Assistance Line contracts and one new youth specialist homelessness service in regional areas of NSW
- \$277,318 p.a. to expand the Bail Assistance Line team

3. Funding to reduce homelessness amongst children and young people involved with youth justice

Yfoundations recommends that from 2022-23, the NSW Government provides:

- \$2,780,000 p.a. for permanent ongoing funding for the A Place To Go pilot, plus additional funding to expand the program across NSW
- \$1,780,000 p.a. for an Aboriginal-controlled therapeutic accommodation service for homeless children and young people involved in the youth justice system

Working closely with our members, Yfoundations has also developed a range of broader recommendations to holistically address youth homelessness (see page 13), which are also outlined in position papers on our [website](#).

Many of these broader recommendations have been included in past Yfoundations' submissions. They also feature in the 2022-23 pre-Budget submissions of Yfoundations' partner organisations, including NCOSS, the Home Stretch Campaign and DVNSW, which Yfoundations endorses.

New medium-term accommodation services for homeless children and young people

1. Funding to provide medium-term housing and support for homeless 16 to 18-year-olds

Yfoundations recommends that from 2022-23, the NSW Government provides:

- \$5,740,000 p.a. for the operation of seven new medium-term accommodation services in regional and rural NSW, as well as additional capital funding dependent on location
- \$1,291,028 p.a. to supplement the five existing medium-term services in NSW

Why do we need more medium-term accommodation services?

In the average year, more than 3,000 unaccompanied 16 to 18-year-olds present to Specialist Homelessness Services (SHS) in NSW because they are either at risk of, or directly experiencing, homelessness (AIHW, 2020a). Youth refuges provide this vulnerable group with crisis accommodation and case management for up to three months. But when it comes time for them to move on – and if returning home isn't possible – these homeless young people face very few options.

Homeless 16 to 18-year-olds are too old for policies and programs designed for children experiencing homelessness, which end at age 15. And while they are eligible for housing support targeted at young adults, it's unrealistic to expect that the majority of homeless under-18's – who often undertake risk-taking behaviour and experience interpersonal conflict (Branje, 2018; Steinberg, 2008) – will have the independent living skills that these programs require. This leaves 16 to 18-year-olds with very few pathways out of the refuge, forcing them to 'refuge-hop,' couch surf or return to unsafe homes.

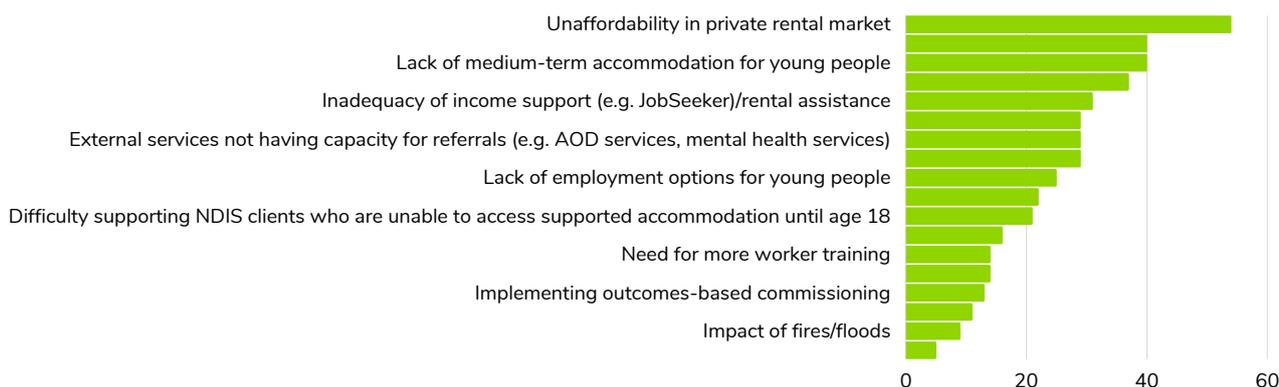
Medium-term accommodation provides an important lifeline for this age group. This model offers 24/7 supported accommodation in a home-like environment for one to two years, providing the stability that 16 to 18-year-olds need to reconnect with family, finish high school and avoid negative long-term outcomes. In medium-term accommodation services, specialised staff provide trauma-informed support and life skills education, and link young people to other services which are not provided on-site (e.g. counselling). Unfortunately, there are only five medium-term services for 16 to 18-year-olds in NSW: two in metropolitan Sydney, and three in Illawarra.



[For more information on the medium-term accommodation service model, see Yfoundations' 2021 Business Case](#)

Last year, 63 Yfoundations members (predominantly youth homelessness providers) identified the lack of medium-term accommodation as the second most urgent issue facing homeless youth in NSW - behind only housing unaffordability.

Figure 1: Yfoundations' annual survey total responses to the question: What do you think are the biggest issues affecting the homelessness sector?



The need for this model is particularly acute in regional and country areas of the state, which (apart from Illawarra) do not have a single medium-term service, and face significant gaps in their youth homelessness service systems (Ellem et al., 2019). The demand in regional and rural NSW is evident in Table 1, which shows the high number of unaccompanied 16 to 18-year-olds who sought assistance from SHS in 2019/20 outside of Sydney.

Table 1: Number of 16 to 18-year-olds accessing SHS alone in 2019/20, by DCJ district (AIHW, 2020a)

| DCJ District | Total unaccompanied 16 to 18-year-olds accessing SHS |
|--|--|
| Regional and rural districts | |
| Hunter New England | 722 |
| Illawarra Shoalhaven | 293 |
| Nepean Blue Mountains | 208 |
| Western NSW | 197 |
| Murrumbidgee | 181 |
| Mid-North Coast | 167 |
| Northern NSW | 165 |
| Southern NSW | 138 |
| Central Coast | 129 |
| Far West | 33 |
| Sydney districts | |
| South-Eastern Sydney, South-Western Sydney & Sydney* | 1151 |
| Western Sydney | 447 |
| Northern Sydney | 307 |

* South-Eastern Sydney, South-Western Sydney & Sydney have been grouped in this table because the Sydney and Canterbury-Bankstown LGAs are spread across these DCJ districts

This data clearly shows the high occurrence of youth homelessness in areas outside of Sydney, which is only more significant when we consider that these regions have much smaller youth populations. Recent research has also demonstrated that young people outside of metropolitan areas face higher rates of housing unaffordability (NSW Department of Planning Industry and Environment, 2021), poverty (Vidyattama et al., 2019), unemployment (Baum & Mitchell, 2008) and early school leaving (NSW Department of Education, 2020) than their city peers, which in turn increases their likelihood of experiencing homelessness. Given this dire need, Yfoundations recommends that new medium-term accommodation services are established in regional and country areas.



[For more information on the medium-term accommodation service model, see Yfoundations' 2021 Business Case](#)

What impact would more medium-term accommodation services have?

Social impact

New medium-term accommodation services would be largely targeted at homeless 16 to 18-year-olds, who are an extremely vulnerable cohort. Research has shown that children and young people who have experienced homelessness have a greater likelihood of experiencing negative outcomes, including higher rates of mental and physical health issues, alcohol and drug use problems and incarceration, as compared to their peers (Hail-Jares et al., 2021; Kamieniecki, 2001; Moore, 2017; Santa Maria et al., 2018; Yfoundations, 2021).

One of the most important protective factors against these outcomes is positive social connections (Begun et al., 2018; Dang, 2014; Owens et al., 2020). Medium-term accommodation services improve young peoples' positive social connections directly, by offering them trauma-informed care and support. They also act as a respite for parents during times of family conflict, allowing young people to stay connected to their school community while promoting family reunification (Nebbitt et al., 2007; Youth Coalition of the ACT, 2021).

Financial impact

As a result of these negative outcomes, Mackenzie et al. (2016) estimated that every homeless young person costs the Australian health and justice systems \$17,868 p.a., based on 2014/15 figures. These costs climb higher if we consider the lifelong impacts of youth homelessness – including disengagement from schooling, long-term unemployment, and chronic homelessness.

By keeping these young people connected with their school communities during critical developmental periods, medium-term services help avoid these negative longer-term outcomes, thereby producing significant returns for the NSW Government. This was made evident by an evaluation of Lighthouse Foundation's medium-term accommodation service in Victoria, which found that each young person that passed through the service saved the Victorian government \$677,836 over 35 years (Ernst & Young, 2018).

The capacity for this model to intervene early and change a vulnerable young person's life course is evident in the case study below, provided by an existing medium-term service in Sydney.

Case study – Sian

Sian* was referred to Saint Sophia House* from a local crisis refuge where she had been staying for two weeks. Sian was a 16-year-old girl who suffered from depression, and whose relationship with her mother had broken down and at times turned violent. When Sian moved into Saint Sophia House she was vulnerable - she was struggling to get out of bed and attend school. Saint Sophia House provided Sian with a stable environment and connected her with the services which she needed to grow in confidence and move towards independence.

When Sian turned 18, she was transferred to semi-supported accommodation where she completed her HSC while working part-time. Sian no longer sees her counsellor and does not require any of her previous medications. Sian has also reconnected with her mother, with whom she now lives, and her father and brother who live abroad.

***Names changed for privacy**

How much would this cost?

In 2021, Yfoundations held consultations with existing medium-term accommodation providers to calculate the cost of the model. Based on these services' actual expenses, Yfoundations estimated that the annual operating cost of a six-bed medium-term accommodation service is \$820,000 p.a.



[For a more detailed breakdown of the service costing, see Yfoundations' 2021 Business Case](#)

As such, Yfoundations is calling on the NSW Government to provide:

1. \$5,740,000 p.a. for the operation of seven new medium-term accommodation services in regional and rural NSW

These new medium-term services would accommodate up to 42 homeless 16 to 18-year-olds across NSW per year. But their impact would be much broader, as the young people who exit these medium-term services will continue to be supported through outreach programs that facilitate their successful transition to independence. Yfoundations members support the establishment of these new services in regional and rural areas, where there are existing crisis refuges that can offer adequate referrals and support. The Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) should, in consultation with services, undertake a more detailed needs analysis to determine the exact location of these services.

Breakdown of total \$5,740,00 funding request

| | |
|---|--|
| Annual cost of medium-term accommodation service | \$820,000 p.a. |
| Total annual operating cost for seven new medium-term accommodation services | \$820,000 x 7 = \$5,740,000 p.a |

2. A one-off capital grant for services to buy, build and/or renovate appropriate premises, on a case-by-case basis

The \$5,740,000 annual operating fee does not include the cost of buying or building the facility required for a new medium-term accommodation service. Some medium-term accommodation services may be able lease properties through the community housing or private rental market. But extremely low vacancy rates are common across regional and rural areas (NSW Department of Planning Industry and Environment, 2021), meaning that most services will require a capital grant to secure a property. Options could include constructing purpose-built facilities, repurposing private properties (such as ex-motels) and/or repurposing Land and Housing Corporation properties. It is not possible to determine a single figure for these capital grants, as it will depend on market availability in each local area.

Therefore, in addition to the \$5,740,000 p.a. for service costs, Yfoundations strongly recommends that the NSW Government provide a one-off capital grant to enable services to purchase, renovate or build appropriate premises where necessary. The approximate capital for a new build would need to be costed with sector input and will depend on the location and land availability but could be in vicinity of \$3.5 million.

| | |
|--|---|
| Capital grant for new medium-term accommodation property | In excess of \$3.5 million |
| Total cost per model (new build) | \$820,000 p.a. + capital grant/establishment cost (approx. \$3.5 million) = minimum \$4.32 million |

3. \$1,291,028 p.a. to supplement the existing five medium-term accommodation services in NSW

As discussed above, the annual service cost for running a medium-term accommodation service is approximately \$820,000 p.a. None of the existing services receive this level funding from the NSW Government, with some services resorting to supplementing income through philanthropic grants, leaving their funding uncertain.

Yfoundations is requesting that the five existing services receive a permanent funding supplement so that each is funded at \$820,000 p.a. on an ongoing basis. Across the five services, this equates to a total of \$1,291,028 additional funding per year. This amount would allow for adequate staffing, thereby increasing the support and programs that providers can offer homeless children and young people. It would also allow services to enhance their outreach programs to create a continuum of care. This means that when clients leave the service, they can retain support from a team they know.

Accommodation and support for homeless young people facing incarceration

2. Funding to end the incarceration of homeless young people

Yfoundations recommends that from 2022-23, the NSW Government provide:

- \$1.977 million p.a. to operate four new Bail Assistance Line contracts and one new youth specialist homelessness service in regional areas of NSW
- \$277,318 p.a. to expand the Bail Assistance Line team

In October 2021, Yfoundations released a research report – [Young, in trouble and with nowhere to go: homeless adolescents' pathways into and out of detention in NSW](#) – which showed that there is a strong link between youth homelessness and detention, with homeless children and young people facing a greater risk of criminalization simply by virtue of being homeless (Yfoundations, 2021). The report was based on 143 interviews with professionals in the Youth Justice and SHS system, as well as international research and Australian data.

The following recommendations – more bail beds, a bigger Bail Assistance Line (BAL) team and more specialist accommodation – were first made in our report and are aimed at reducing the incarceration of homeless young people. Notably, the report and its recommendations have been [tabled in NSW Parliament and endorsed by both NSW Labor and Liberal Members](#).

Why do we need additional bail contracts and a bigger Bail Assistance Line team?

Our report found that homeless children and young people are at greater risk of coming into contact with the youth justice system (Yfoundations, 2021) than their housed counterparts. The clearest link between homelessness and incarceration is that hundreds of under-18's are being remanded in detention in NSW every year under Section 28 of the Bail Act – which allows magistrates to impose an 'accommodation requirement' when granting bail. In 2019/20 alone, **236 highly vulnerable adolescents were held in detention in NSW simply because they were homeless.**

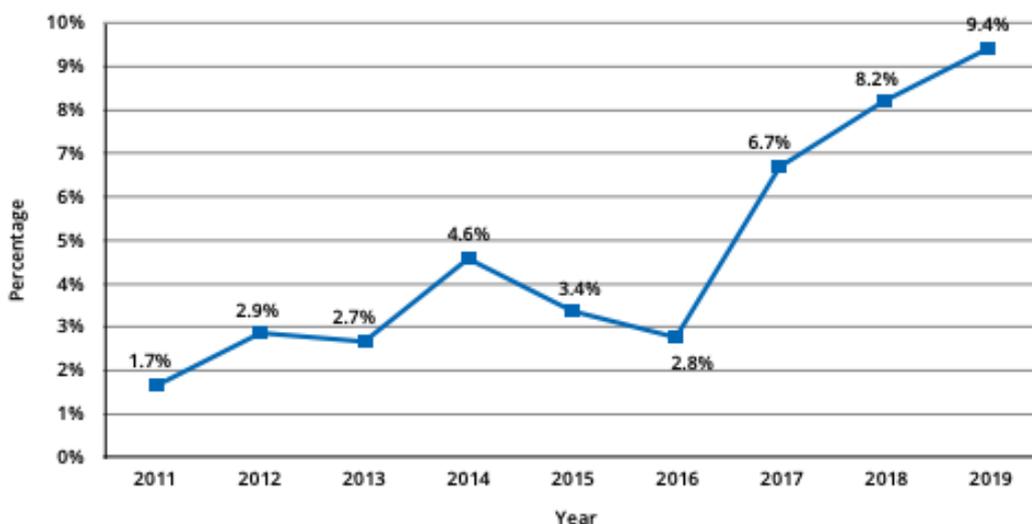
Many of these under-18-year-olds can't provide an address to be bailed to because their families and carers are reluctant to have them return home due to a violent offence, or they may be prevented from doing so by a legal order. SHS and out-of-home care (OOHC) providers also report that they are not resourced enough to meet the complex needs of this highly vulnerable group (Yfoundations, 2021).

To help these children and young people, the NSW Government introduced an after-hours Bail Assistance Line (BAL) in 2010. The service operates from 4 pm – 3 am every day and works with the NSW Police to ensure that all options are exhausted before they deny bail to homeless children and young people (Klauzner, 2021).

If returning to family isn't an option, the Bail Coordinators look to youth housing providers to find accommodation. The BAL has contracts with one residential OOHC provider and six SHS providers. In total, these providers offer 15 beds across seven of the 15 DCJ districts: six in the Sydney and Northern Sydney, one in Nepean Blue Mountains, one in Illawarra Shoalhaven, five in Central Coast, one in Northern NSW and one in Western NSW.

Unfortunately, a recent evaluation of the BAL found that it successfully diverted less than 10% of under-18-year-olds from detention (Klauzner, 2021). Our report supported the evaluation's explanation for these statistics: Bail Coordinators are being held back by a lack of beds, particularly in regional areas.

Figure 2. Percentage of young people placed by BAL of all police bail refusals and BAL placements by year, 2011 - 2019 (Klauzner, 2021).



Indeed, BOSCAR's evaluation of BAL concluded that the service has limited reach in rural and regional NSW, with only one contract in Northern NSW and one in Western NSW (Klauzner, 2021). But data from Youth Justice indicated there is a high demand in these areas – with the BAL attempting 440 diversionary interventions for young people who resided outside of Metropolitan Sydney in 2020- 2021 alone.

The BOCSAR evaluation also found that the Bail Assistance Line team did not have the capacity to handle all of the referrals due to the size of the team, and had to triage for only the most urgent referrals (Klauzner, 2021). Alongside additional accommodation, the evaluation found that the expansion of BAL could help increase the number of young people placed and help the service to meet demand.

The BAL attempted **440** diversionary interventions for young people who resided outside of Metropolitan Sydney in 2020- 2021 alone



What impact would increasing bail contracts and the Bail Assistance Line team have?

Increasing the number of bail contracts (and the services that auspice them) will directly reduce the number of homeless young people who are held in detention simply because they are homeless. Yfoundations recommends that this happens alongside the expansion of the BAL team, which would improve the referral capacity of the service. These changes will have both long-term social and financial impacts.

Social impact

Children and young people who come into contact with the criminal justice system can be as young as 10 years old. Even before they experience detention, many of them have suffered from childhood maltreatment, mental health issues, cognitive disabilities, and developmental delays (Armytage & Ogloff, 2017; Cashmore, 2011).

Any time spent in detention, however brief, can cause these children and young people even more distress and exacerbate childhood trauma (Barnert et al., 2017; Freeman & Seymour, 2010; Lambie & Randell, 2013). Research also shows that these experiences of detention affect their future outcomes. Isolation can affect their physical and psychological health and intensify their social and educational marginalization. And exposure to criminal peers while in detention can also lead to a cycle of incarceration (Dowse et al., 2014; Freeman, 2009; Gifford-Smith et al., 2005; NSW Inspector of Custodial Services, 2018).

To avoid this cycle and prevent further marginalisation, it is essential that these vulnerable young people are provided with safe accommodation.

Financial Impact

According to Just Reinvest, the daily cost of detaining one child or young person in NSW in 2018 was **\$1,344** (Just Reinvest, 2019). In comparison, it costs the NSW Government **\$850 per day** to accommodate an under-18-year-old through a bail bed. Remanding children and young people in detention when no bail address can be provided is significantly more expensive than accommodating them in a homelessness or OOHC service. Additional bail beds would not only help vulnerable children and young people avoid the negative outcomes associated with detention, it would also reduce NSW Government expenditure by at least **\$494 dollars** per person per day.

How much would this cost?

1. \$1.977 million to expand bail contracts in three new regional areas and fund one new regional SHS service to auspice them

Yfoundations held consultations with SHS providers and Youth Justice to calculate the cost of expanding bail accommodation. During these consultations, Youth Justice highlighted a particular need for new bail contracts in three regional NSW Police Districts. These three areas do not have bail accommodation providers and had the highest number of referrals in regional NSW:

- Orana Mid-Western District
- Newcastle City Police District
- Riverina Police District

Yfoundations has consulted local youth SHS, who agree that there is acute demand for bail accommodation in these areas. But while Wagga Wagga and Newcastle have youth refuges who are able to host these bail beds, Dubbo does not. For this reason, in addition to expanding bail contracts in these three locations, Yfoundations recommends that the NSW Government provide ongoing funding for the establishment and operation of a youth refuge in Dubbo.

The annual service cost of running a youth specialist homelessness service is approximately **\$1,025,000** per annum. As mentioned above, BAL provides services with fee-for-service payments of **\$850 per day** to provide bail specific accommodation for a maximum of 28 days.

Based on these numbers, Yfoundations is calling on the NSW Government to provide the following:

| Area and service | Cost |
|---|---|
| 20 placements a year of 28 days across two providers in Newcastle | \$476,000 |
| 10 placements a year of 28 days for Wagga Wagga | \$238,000 |
| The funding of a youth SHS in Dubbo and 10 placements a year of 28 days | \$1,025,000 (SHS funding) + \$238,000 (bail bed contract) = \$1,263,000 |
| Total cost \$1.977mil | |

Currently, SHS providers are funded on yearly contracts for their bail placements. Given the uncertainty this short timeframe creates, Yfoundations also recommends that the NSW Government funds all bail contracts for five-year periods, or at minimum aligns them to the three-year periods for SHS.

These new contracts would create 40 placements for homeless children and young people in Orana, Newcastle and Riverina, who would otherwise be detained in jail. But in reality, the impact of more bail placements is much broader. A new youth-specific SHS in Dubbo would also support many other homeless children and young people who seek accommodation each year. According to SHS annual data, there were 91 unaccompanied 12 to 17-year-olds who presented to homelessness services in Dubbo in 2019/20. A new refuge in that area would mean that the most vulnerable amongst this cohort could be housed and supported. It should be noted that the funding listed above for this new youth SHS does not include a capital grant, which may be necessary if the service is unable to find a property to rent.

2. \$277,318 p.a. for the expansion of the Bail Assistance Line

Currently, the BAL is staffed by two employees: a Team Leader and a Bail Coordinator. To address the BAL's low placement rate and help meet demand for the service, Yfoundations recommends that the NSW Government fund an additional team, comprised of a Bail Coordinator and Team Leader.

The total cost for this would be:

| Employee | Cost |
|------------------------------|-------------|
| Bail Coordinator (Grade 5/6) | \$ 131, 275 |
| Team Leader (Grade 7/8) | \$ 146, 043 |
| Total = \$277,318 | |

Specialist accommodation for homeless children and young people involved in youth justice

3. Funding to reduce homelessness amongst children and young people involved with youth justice
Yfoundations recommends that from 2022-23, the NSW Government provide:

- \$2,780,000 p.a. for permanent ongoing funding for the A Place To Go pilot, plus additional funding to expand the program across NSW
- \$1,780,000 p.a. for an Aboriginal-controlled therapeutic accommodation service for homeless children and young people involved in the youth justice system

Why do we need more therapeutic accommodation for homeless children and young people in contact with youth justice?

Although bail accommodation has helped support many homeless children and young people involved with the youth justice system, those with complex needs require more intensive interventions than what SHS with bail contracts are equipped to deliver (Taylor et al., 2020). The BAL also often struggles to place children and young people with complex offending histories (Klauzner, 2021), and only deals with homeless children and young people on bail, not those exiting detention or serving sentences in the community.

A Place To Go – a pilot program delivered by Mackillop Family Services – aims to fill this gap. This service, funded by the NSW Government, provides homeless 10 to 17-year-olds in contact with the juvenile justice system with up to 12 weeks of accommodation in a home-like environment, which is staffed 24/7 and underpinned by a therapeutic framework (Mackillop Family Services, 2021). Unfortunately, A Place To Go only has four beds in Western Sydney, and as a pilot program is only funded for six months at a time. In light of this, Yfoundations is recommending that the funding for A Place to Go be made permanent, and that the model is expanded across the state to meet demand.

As well as expanding A Place to Go, Yfoundations is calling on the NSW Government to fund new therapeutic accommodation services to address the needs of homeless Aboriginal children and young people in contact with the youth justice system.

In 2019/20, 27% of the unaccompanied 10 to 17-year-olds who accessed homelessness services in NSW identified as Aboriginal (AIHW, 2020a). In the same time frame, 45% of under-18-year-olds in custody on an average day in NSW were Aboriginal (DCJ, 2020). These figures are alarming, considering this cohort made up only 6% of 10 to 17-year-olds in NSW in the 2016 census (ABS, 2016).

Despite these figures, there has been little success in reducing the overrepresentation of Indigenous young people in the youth justice population (ACRT, 2018). Indeed, Aboriginal young people are less likely to be diverted from court than the general population (SCRGSP, 2020) and BOCSAR's recent evaluation found that the BAL struggled to find placements for Aboriginal children and young people (Klauzner, 2021).

Research has shown that policies and programs achieve better outcomes for Indigenous people when there is genuine control and community involvement in the program design (SCRGSP, 2016). However, there are currently no Aboriginal-controlled youth SHS in NSW which provide accommodation or bail accommodation services.

To address this overrepresentation in both the homeless and youth justice systems, Yfoundations recommends that the NSW Government fund a therapeutic accommodation service for Aboriginal children and young people experiencing homelessness and youth justice involvement.

This service would involve similar program elements to A Place to Go, such as a therapeutic approach and a longer accommodation period – but would be managed and co-designed by an Aboriginal-controlled service.

What impact would the expansion of specialist accommodation have?

Studies have shown that the younger a person starts to offend, the more likely they are to become a recidivist offender (Payne, 2007). Funding the expansion of A Place To Go is therefore, crucial as the service seeks to end this cycle by working with children and young people to address the underlying issues which contribute to their offending behaviour. The program also provides exit points for children and young people on bail or those coming out of detention and helps them to reunite with families, when possible - reducing the likelihood of other negative outcomes such as homelessness.

Investing in an Aboriginal-led service is also essential to improve the low placement rates among this over-represented group and reduce the number entering remanded detention. Through co-creation, the service will respond directly to the needs of the community leading to better, more sustainable outcomes. Culturally safe service provision is also likely to encourage Aboriginal young people to seek support and access these services (SCRGSP, 2016).

How much would this cost?

1. \$2,780,000 p.a. to provide ongoing, permanent funding to the A Place to Go pilot and additional funding to expand A Place To Go across NSW.
2. \$2,780,000 p.a. for an Aboriginal-controlled therapeutic accommodation service for homeless children and young people involved in criminal justice system.

Yfoundations is calling on the NSW Government to provide ongoing, permanent funding for A Place To Go. To improve state-wide reach and support, DJC must also expand the program across NSW. And they must hold sector consultations and undertaking a detailed needs analysis to determine the services' locations and number.

Yfoundations also recommends the establishment of an Aboriginal-controlled therapeutic accommodation service that incorporates similar program elements to A Place To Go. But it must co-design this with the Aboriginal community it will support to ensure its validity.

Following consultations with Mackillop Family Services its clear the program needed a much longer accommodation period, of around six to 12 months, to stabilise these young people and successfully transition them to independent living. Any new service funded under this model should therefore provide a longer period of support to achieve successful outcomes for this group.

The annual service cost of running A Place To Go is approximately \$2,780,000 per annum. Based on this, Yfoundations recommends:

| | |
|--|------------------------|
| Annual cost of running A Place To Go | \$2,780,000 p.a |
| Annual cost for one Aboriginal-controlled therapeutic accommodation service (modelled on costing of A Place To Go) | \$2,780,000 p.a |
| Total annual cost (dependant on number of sites) | >\$5,560,000 |

Other Yfoundations Recommendations

This table lists Yfoundations' broader recommendations to end youth homelessness. For more detail on each recommendation and the issue it addresses, please see our [position papers](#).

| Recommendation | Funding amount | Homelessness stage | Target |
|--|----------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| The NSW Government must commission an external evaluation of Rent Choice Youth and provide data on participant numbers, outcomes, and the length of their support period. | \$ | TRANSITION | 16 to 24-year-olds on low incomes renting who struggle to rent privately. |
| The NSW Government must invest in training for real estate agents to decrease stigma and encourage caseworkers and real estate agents to work together to work together in a trauma-informed way. | \$ | EARLY INTERVENTION | |
| The NSW Government must build at least 5,000 new social housing properties per year for the next ten years, including new youth-specific social housing particularly in rural and regional NSW. | \$\$\$\$ | EARLY INTERVENTION/ TRANSITION | 16 to 24-year-olds on low incomes renting who struggle to rent privately. |
| The NSW Government must commit to ongoing funding for the PYI program beyond 2024 and expand it across the state, while also considering expanding eligibility criteria to include young people leaving SHS. | \$\$ | TRANSITION | 16 to 20-year-olds leaving OOHC. |
| The NSW Government must invest \$20 million p.a. to raise the age of leaving out-of-home care to at least 21. | \$\$\$ | EARLY/ INTERVENTION TRANSITION | 17 to 18-year-olds leaving OOHC. |
| The NSW Government must fund family support and family therapy for unaccompanied homeless children in SHS/HYAP. | \$\$ | CRISIS | 12 to 15-year-olds presenting alone at homelessness services. |
| The NSW Government must invest in school and community based early interventions to identify and support children and young people at risk of or experiencing homelessness. | \$\$\$ | EARLY INTERVENTION | 12 to 18-year-olds in full time education. |
| The NSW Government must increase supported accommodation for young people with complex needs (including therapeutic foster and residential care placements and drug and alcohol rehabilitation programs). | \$\$\$ | CRISIS | Homeless 16 to 24-year-olds with complex needs. |
| The NSW Government must fund additional Foyers for vulnerable youth including capital funding where necessary. | \$\$ | TRANSITION | At risk and homeless 16 to 24-year-olds who are ready to commit to education and/or employment. |
| The NSW Government must expand and evaluate the Transitional Housing Plus (THP) program. | \$\$ | TRANSITION | At risk and homeless 16 to 24-year-olds who can't rent in the private market who have some independent living skills. |

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