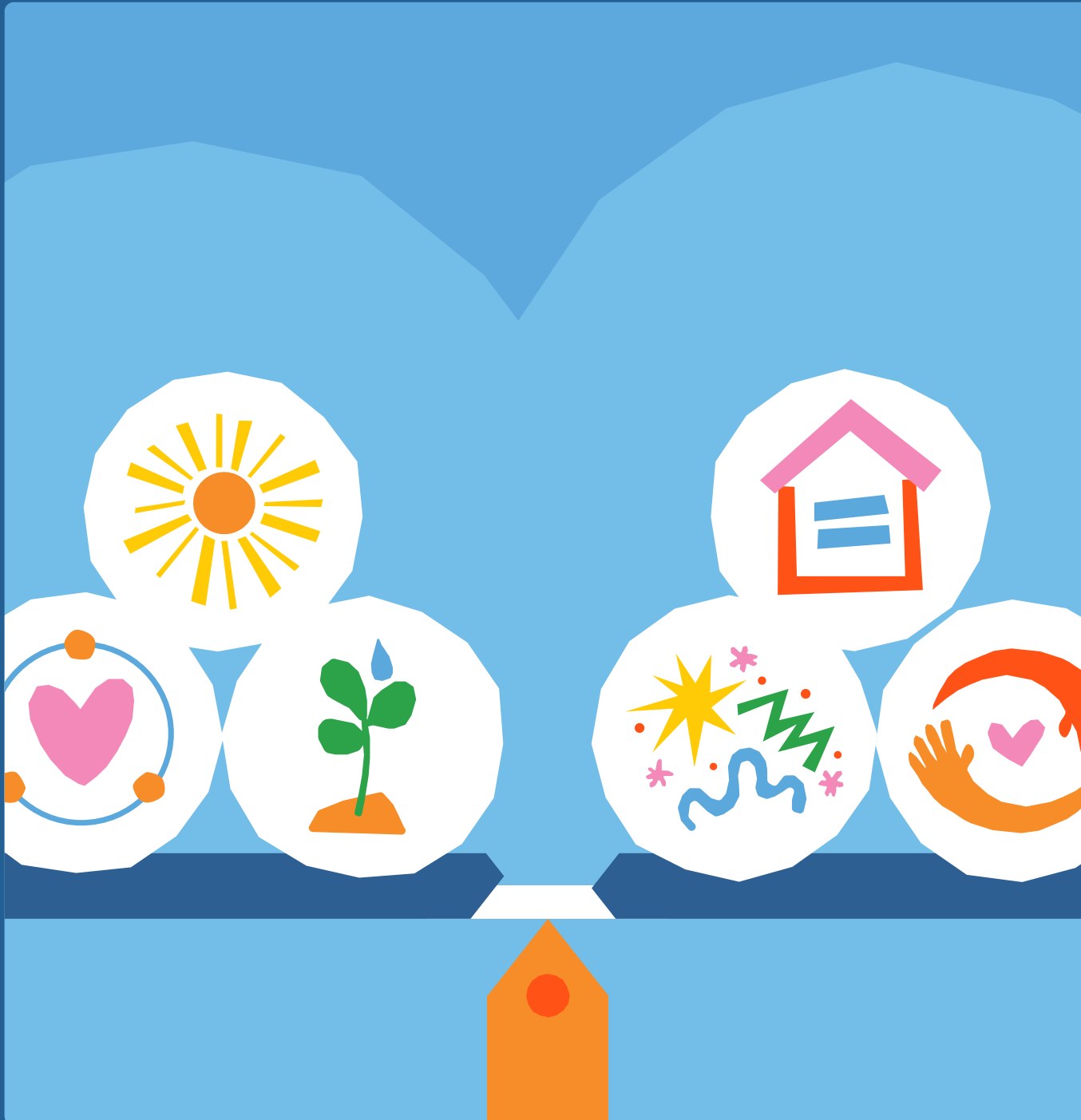


Review of the  
**NSW Strategic  
Plan for Children  
and Young People  
2022-2024**

*August 2025*



# Acknowledgement of Country



**We acknowledge Aboriginal people as the First Nations Peoples of NSW and pay our respects to Elders past, present, and future.**

**We listen and learn from the knowledge, strength and resilience of the Stolen Generations Survivors, Aboriginal Elders and Aboriginal communities.**

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# Executive Summary



**The Office of the NSW Advocate for Children and Young People (ACYP) has a mandate to represent and advocate for the needs, interests and rights of children and young people in NSW.**

In April 2022, ACYP launched the NSW Strategic Plan for Children and Young People 2022–2024 ('Strategic Plan') informed by over 41,000 children and young people. It guides the work of ACYP and aims to create a future where all children and young people have the support to thrive.

This evaluation draws on 39 interviews and extensive desktop research. It assesses progress made against the six commitment areas of the Strategic Plan, the role of ACYP driving change, and lessons learned to amplify advocacy efforts in the future.

From 2022 - 2024, ACYP delivered 46 of the 47 activities committed to in the Strategic Plan. Further, 89 of 144 commitments from other organisations are progressing or achieved based on updates provided during the evaluation timeframes. Beyond these commitments, ACYP has responded to emerging needs, such as mobilising the Recovery Youth Support Service to support those in the Northern Rivers regions following significant flooding.

A defining achievement is the leadership of ACYP in driving systemic reform in the out-of-home care ('OOHC') system, marked by the launch of its special inquiry into children and young people in Alternative Care Arrangements ('ACAs'). By focusing on lived experience and sharing findings through a comprehensive report, video and media engagement, ACYP generated momentum for change. The inquiry's findings, together with other reports into OOHC by the NSW Ombudsman and NSW Department for Communities and Justice, contributed to a government-led review of the foster care system, the abolition of ACAs in NSW, and a landmark \$1.2 billion investment to reform NSW's child protection system.

## ACYP has also driven systemic reform which extends beyond direct service enhancements, influencing legislative changes and amplifying young voices in decision-making forums.

For example, the 'The Voices of LGBTQIA+ Young People in NSW' report, drew on findings from consultation with 233 LGBTQIA+ youth and played a significant role in discussions around the Equality Legislation Amendment (LGBTIQIA+) Bill and the Conversion Practices Prohibition Bill. ACYP have also supported initiatives such as the Youth Advisory Councils, which connect young people directly with leaders and policymakers, ensuring their voices actively shape policies and reform. As important are the numerous examples of advocacy that have improved young people's lives.

Children and young people are at the heart of everything ACYP does. They guide their priorities, shape their actions and are embedded in all aspects of their work.

Frequent consultations provide invaluable insights into their experiences, supporting ACYP to advocate effectively, influence policy and decision-making, and amplify youth voices through impactful reports, media campaigns, submissions and participation of the ACYP team at a range of governance forums on the top worries for children and young people, from vaping and bullying to significant inequality and disadvantage.

Drawing on strong networks and trusted relationships, ACYP brings together different groups to collaborate and ensures young people actively shape the services, decisions, and legislation that affect their lives. The Advocate's empathetic and pragmatic leadership sets the tone for the advocacy style of ACYP, uplifting its influence across government and driving prioritisation of practical changes.

Several key lessons have emerged that will enhance future advocacy efforts. These include establishing clear metrics to measure advocacy impact, raising awareness of the role of ACYP and the Strategic Plan, and using more quantitative data alongside the rich qualitative insights to increase influence.

Effective succession planning will help sustain government and sector relationships that are integral to ACYP advocacy efforts. Finally, ongoing prioritisation of disadvantaged groups and addressing emerging youth issues will remain central to ensure its relevance.

*There will always be more work to do.*

# About the Advocate for Children and Young People

## Office of the Advocate for Children and Young People

The Advocate is supported by a small office of 19 full-time and four part-time staff in the Department of Communities and Justice ('DCJ'), excluding the six staff members that work on the Recovery Youth Support Service (RYSS).

The Office of the Advocate for Children and Young People (ACYP) plays a critical role in advocating for the voices of children and young people across NSW, ensuring their voices are heard and addressed by Government and the broader community.

## Role of the Advocate

The Advocate for Children and Young People is an independent statutory appointment reporting to NSW Parliament through the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Children and Young People.

Established in 2015 under the *Advocate for Children and Young People Act 2014* ('the Act'), the mandate of the Advocate is to represent and advocate for the needs, interests and rights of children and young people in NSW.

The current Advocate, Ms Zoë Robinson, was appointed as the Acting Advocate in 2020 and subsequently by the Governor of NSW for a five-year term in January 2021

## Principles that Govern the Work of the Advocate

The principles as described in Part 3 Section 14 of the Act:

- a. The safety, welfare and wellbeing of children and young people are the paramount considerations,
- b. The views of children and young people are to be given serious consideration and taken into account,
- c. A co-operative relationship between children and young people and their families and communities is important for the safety, welfare and wellbeing of children and young people.

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<sup>1</sup> Advocate for Children and Young People Act 2014 (NSW) No 29.

## Functions of the Advocate

The Act outlines the responsibilities of the Advocate in promoting the safety, welfare, and wellbeing of children and young people in NSW. It also establishes the role of the Advocate in promoting the inclusion of the voices of children and young people in the development of legislation, policies and services that affect them.

The functions of the Advocate, as set out in Part 3 Section 15 of the Act:

- a. To advocate for and promote the safety, welfare and wellbeing of children and young people aged 0-24 years.
- b. To promote the participation of children and young people in the making of decisions that affect their lives and to encourage government and non-government agencies to seek the participation of children and young people appropriate to their age and maturity.
- c. To conduct special inquiries into issues affecting children and young people.
- d. To make recommendations to government and non-government agencies on legislation, reports, policies, practices, procedures and services affecting children and young people.

- e. To conduct, promote and monitor research into issues affecting children and young people.
- f. To promote the provision of information and advice to assist children and young people.
- g. To prepare, in consultation with the Minister, a three-year strategic plan for children and young people in the State.

In undertaking these functions, as set out in Part 3 Section 15 of the Act, the Advocate must:



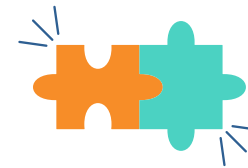
- a) Focus on systemic issues affecting children and young people.



- b) Give priority to the interests and needs of vulnerable and disadvantaged children and young people.



- c) Consult with children and young people from a broad range of backgrounds and age groups throughout the State.



- d) Work co-operatively with other organisations that provide services to or represent the interests of children and young people.



- e) Work co-operatively with the Council.

The Act guides the work of ACYP. Central to the mission of ACYP is engaging directly with children and people in NSW, including the most vulnerable and disadvantaged, so their experiences and perspectives are understood. The engagement then informs the advocacy efforts of ACYP.



## Engagement Channels

ACYP uses several channels to ensure the voices of children and young people are listened to, communicated and acted upon:

### Consultation

ACYP engages directly with children and young people from all backgrounds across NSW, prioritising those who are most vulnerable and disadvantaged. Consultations take various forms including face to face interviews, surveys and informal interactions at community events.

### Research Reports

ACYP uses consultation and research to produce reports highlighting the key issues faced by children and young people. These reports include recommendations to inform policy, service, and system improvements, which are informed by the lived experiences of children and young people.

## Committees and Advisory Boards

The Advocate and ACYP staff actively contribute to several committees and advisory boards, working alongside government agencies, businesses and non-government organisations that support children and young people such as the *Cross Agency Advisory Group*, which focuses on the *Alcohol and Other Drugs Strategy*, and the *Property Industry Foundation – NSW Beneficiary Review Committee*, which focuses on addressing youth homelessness.

### Initiatives and Programs

ACYP leads, facilitates and supports initiatives that provide platforms for children and young people to share and amplify their voices. They deliver set projects and support community-led programs that encourage youth participation, leadership, and advocacy. This includes recruitment and ongoing support to the NSW Youth Advisory Council, who directly communicate with the NSW Government on issues and solutions that impact them. Other examples include annual polling of 10 – to 24-year-olds during Youth Week to understand the issues that matter to this group, or the Short Film Competition run by ACYP to celebrate the voices of young people who have arrived in Australia as a refugee or migrant.

## Submissions

As part of its legislative mandate<sup>2</sup>, ACYP is required to make recommendations to government and non-government agencies on legislation, reports, policies, practices, procedures and services affecting children and young people. The legislation empowers them to table submissions and make recommendations directly to the NSW Parliament.

### Special Inquiries

ACYP has the power to conduct special inquiries<sup>3</sup> into a specific issue affecting children and young people, either at the request of the Advocate or on the Minister's own initiative. These inquiries enable ACYP to investigate specific concerns, gather evidence, and provide informed recommendations which seek to address the needs of young people and ensure their voices are heard in critical decision-making processes.

Through these diverse engagement channels, ACYP supports the voices of children and young people to not only be heard but actively shape policies, programs, and services that impact their lives.

<sup>2</sup> *ibid.*, s 15 (1)(d)

<sup>3</sup> *ibid.*, pt 5



# The NSW Strategic Plan for Children and Young People 2022-2024



In April 2022, ACYP launched the *NSW Strategic Plan for Children and Young People 2022-2024* ('Strategic Plan')<sup>4</sup>, the second whole-of-government plan designed for all children and young people in NSW. The plan urges governments and organisations to prioritise young people's needs, both now and in the future.

- Elevate the voices of children and young people.
- Identify the key issues and needs that children and young people have articulated and provide them with an opportunity to influence the solutions.
- Provide a roadmap that responds to children and young people's needs by identifying relevant government priorities and initiatives.

The Strategic Plan was informed by the voices of over 41,000 children and young people, captured through face-to-face consultations, surveys and other engagement activities. The Strategic Plan seeks to tie together initiatives and activities from across government and non-government organisations, with the goal of creating a future where all children and young people have the support they need to thrive.

## Six Commitment Areas

The Strategic Plan is centred around six core commitment areas, developed based on direct feedback from children and young people on what matters most to them.

Each commitment area is further defined by priority areas for action, specific goals and a set of actions for ACYP and NSW Government. This approach provides a unified and focused foundation to address the needs of children and young people across NSW.

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<sup>4</sup>ibid., s 15(1)(g)

## Commitment Areas



Hope for the Future



Love, Connection  
and Safety



Health and Wellbeing



A Good Standard  
of Living



Environments for  
Joy and Fun



Respect  
and Acceptance

## Guiding Principles

Three guiding principles – Voice, Rights and Access – underpin the Strategic Plan.



### 01. Voice

Children and young people must be able to meaningfully contribute to decisions about them.



### 02. Rights

Children and young people's rights must be upheld, promoted and met consistently.



### 03. Access

Support children and young people must be accessible to those who need it.

# Methodology

## Objective and Scope

The evaluation aims to independently and objectively assess the impact of the Strategic Plan. It also critically examines the role of ACYP in driving positive outcomes for children and young people through the implementation of the Strategic Plan.

The scope of this review has included the following activities:

1. Developing evaluation questions and a framework to measure progress against the six commitment areas of the Strategic Plan.
2. Conducting a desktop review to identify available data that can be used to demonstrate progress and impact, consolidating the relevant evidence.
3. Engaging external interviewees through semi-structured interviews to gather qualitative insights on the influence of ACYP and the implementation of the Strategic Plan.
4. Engaging government agencies to understand progress made on projects that were included in the Strategic Plan and aligned to its six commitment areas.

5. Updating the baseline indicators in the Strategic Plan to reflect the end-of period data.

## Methodology

The evaluation adopted a mixed approach to assess the impact of the Strategic Plan and the role of ACYP in driving positive outcomes. The methodology was designed to balance rigour with practical considerations, using both qualitative insights and available quantitative data.

### 1. Evaluation Questions

In collaboration with ACYP, key evaluation questions were developed to guide the evaluation:

1. What were the activities of ACYP and what was the output or outcome produced?
2. What constraints has ACYP faced in delivering these activities?

3. What improvements has ACYP efforts influenced or contributed to?
4. What lessons can be learned to improve future advocacy and intervention by ACYP?

## Evidence Consolidation and Quantitative Analysis

A broad desktop review was undertaken to identify documents, reports, and data sources relevant to the progress and impact made under the Strategic Plan. The process assessed the availability and quality of data, ensuring its relevance to the key activities and outcomes of the Strategic Plan. Evidence was gathered from diverse sources, including legislative developments, submissions to Parliament, research reports, public websites, media coverage and semi-structured interviews.

### 3. Qualitative Analysis and Thematic Analysis

39 semi-structured interviews were conducted between April and June 2025 with representatives from a range of sectors including government departments, not-for-profit organisations, businesses, the judiciary, and the Youth Advisory Council (see *Appendix C: Interviewees* for a more detailed breakdown).

To protect privacy and confidentiality all interviewees have been de-identified. Participants were informed prior to the interview of its purpose and the key discussion themes. Each interview lasted between thirty and sixty minutes and was attended by an interviewer and a note-taker. With participants' consent, some interviews were transcribed using Microsoft Teams transcription functionality and then checked and amended for accuracy.

Interviews were intended to gather insights on the impact across the six core commitment areas of the Strategic Plan and the role of ACYP. Key themes and findings across the interviews were analysed, which highlighted both successes and areas for improvement, providing a nuanced understanding of the role of ACYP and impact within the broader context of its strategic objectives.

### 4. Indicator Review and Data Update

Quantitative indicators from the Strategic Plan were reviewed and updated using the most recent available data. Where data was unavailable, explanatory notes are included to maintain transparency.

### 5. Synthesis and Report

Findings from both qualitative and quantitative analyses were consolidated to provide a view of the impact of the Strategic Plan and the role of ACYP. The report sets out progress against the commitments made in the Strategic Plan, insight into the role of ACYP and updated indicators. Additionally, it offers practical insights to support future planning and decision-making.

#### Limitations

##### The Strategic Plan timeframe is a limited window to drive systemic change

The evaluation recognises that ACYP has had only three years since the launch of the Strategic Plan to influence and initiate positive change. This timeframe is challenging given the complexity and scale of the six commitment areas, and the transformation required. Legislative changes, policy shifts, and service delivery improvements often take longer to materialise, and changing political priorities further impact the pace of progress.

### The limited extent to which advocacy impact can be quantified

The role of ACYP is primarily one of advocacy and influence rather than direct implementation, making it challenging to quantify its impact with quantitative metrics. The influence of ACYP on a child or young person can have a positive change to their life, with lasting effect on well-being, development and future opportunities, however these impacts are difficult to quantify and capture. This evaluation therefore emphasises qualitative impacts which, while less tangible, are just as important as quantifiable outcomes.

### Changes to indicators included within the Strategic Plan are not attributable to ACYP

The indicators included within the Strategic Plan and refreshed as part of this evaluation cannot be directly attributed to ACYP despite significant contributions. This is due to the multitude of external factors and interrelated areas that influence these outcomes, which makes isolating the specific impact of ACYP challenging.

### Responsibility for evaluating projects and programs lies with government departments

The evaluation does not assess the success of individual government initiatives. That responsibility lies with the relevant departments or agencies and is outside the scope and remit of ACYP.

# Evaluation Findings

The work of ACYP has significantly influenced the six commitment areas set out in the Strategic Plan:



**Hope for the Future**



**Love, Connection and Safety**



**Health and Wellbeing**



**A Good Standard of Living**



**Environments for Joy and Fun**



**Respect and Acceptance**

By responding to identified needs with innovation and dedication, ACYP has improved outcomes for children and young people across NSW between 2022 and 2024. ACYP has lifted their voices and ensured their most pressing challenges have been heard.

The approach of ACYP has been critical in delivering on the Strategic Plan, with research identifying key themes that demonstrate how ACYP contributed to its success.

## Youth Voices are at the Heart of ACYP

*The voices, views and stories of children and young people in NSW are front and centre.*

Central to the Strategic Plan is the guiding principle of voice, ensuring children and young people are heard, taken seriously, and given the opportunity to influence decisions that affect them.

ACYP has been described as *empathetic, warm, embracing, inclusive, passionate and caring*. These values contribute to creating an approachable environment where children, young people and often those supporting them are comfortable sharing their views openly.

ACYP was repeatedly commended for putting children and young people's voice at the forefront of everything they do. At events young people are the first attendees the ACYP team engage with, making it clear to young people that they are respected and valued. Interviewees highlighted a key strength of the Strategic Plan is the extent to which it was informed by the voices of children and young people, representing their hopes and needs at the time. The real words children and young people use to describe their experiences are at the front and centre of ACYP reports, which is one demonstration of its leadership in putting voice at the centre of all their practices and processes.

Interviewees recognised the vital role of the Advocate as an independent voice representing *all* children and young people in NSW, not just those who are most disadvantaged.

By embedding their perspectives into all the work of ACYP, the voices of children and young people in NSW shape their actions and drive change.

## Engagement is Everything

*ACYP is constantly engaging with children and young people, staying informed on current issues.*

*“They either put the young person in the room or represent the voice of young people in the room.”*

ACYP frequently engages with diverse groups of children and young people through multiple channels. This includes visits to Youth Detention Centres, polling of 10 – 24-year-olds in NSW, and the creative ‘Postcards to the Advocate’ initiative, where children expressed their hopes for the future by writing or drawing on postcards. As a result, ACYP is informed and aware of the issues young people are facing, the impact of these issues and young people’s ideas on how NSW can support them.

Between 2022 and 2024 ACYP engaged with young people on topical issues including the social media ban proposed by Federal Government, the COVID-19 pandemic and cost-of-living challenges.

A detailed example of this engagement is vaping: ACYP consulted with 261 young people aged 13-18 to investigate their vaping choices and the support they needed to stop. Insights revealed that vape detectors were ineffective deterrents as people could easily bypass them. This feedback was shared with the Department of Education and contributed to a decision against installing vape detectors, allowing funds to be redirected towards more impactful interventions.

Since 2022, ACYP has produced reports based on their close engagement with children and young people, exploring a range of issues including:

- The experiences of LGBTQIA+ young people in NSW;
- Young people’s perspectives on vaping;
- Impact of the rising cost of living on young people;
- The experiences of young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds; and
- Disaster recovery and preparedness informed by children and young people in the Northern Rivers

Interviewees emphasised that the regular engagement of ACYP with children and young people mean they remain highly informed on their views on current issues. Members of NSW Parliament also identified ACYP as a key source of insight when researching matters concerning children and young people.

The diverse engagement methods and rich qualitative insights gathered by ACYP help Members of NSW Parliament, government officials and organisations stay up to date on the latest issues and trends. This enables a more responsive and informed approach to addressing the needs of young people in NSW.

### Style and Leadership of the Advocate

*The Advocate leads with empathy, passion and resilience, setting the tone for how ACYP operates.*

The Advocate was consistently praised by interviewees for her empathetic and engaging style, prioritising practical outcomes over theoretical debates. Described as caring, passionate, tenacious, and resilient, she demonstrates unwavering dedication to making NSW a better place for children and young people. The Advocate has been instrumental in shaping the culture, focus and approach to advocacy at ACYP, instilling a sense of commitment and responsiveness throughout their work.

The Advocate prioritises having children and young people's voices at the heart of all advocacy efforts of ACYP. Her passion and approachability, fosters a welcoming culture where diverse voices are sought, heard and valued. Her ability to build trust and rapport encourages young people to share their views on various issues, helping NSW better understand what can be done to improve their lives. As noted by an interviewee, *"They leave no stone unturned in finding, listening and understanding children and young people. ACYP are warm and embracing to young people."*

Interviewees also highlighted the Advocate's courage and resilience, acknowledging her commitment to drive change despite challenges faced. This leadership gave several interviewees greater confidence in the independence of ACYP. One interviewee described the Advocate as *"pragmatic, innovative, and courageous, often asking difficult questions and prioritising children over politics"*. The Advocate's ability to pivot focus when necessary was identified as a key strength of her advocacy by many.

The Advocate's understanding of how government works – how to navigate bureaucratic complexities, identify where to influence, and when to engage at different levels of government – was repeatedly remarked upon as a real asset to ACYP. Interviewees praised the Advocate's ability to get things done, described by one interviewee as: *"When Zoë does something, we expect the dial to move and change to happen."*

Several interviewees expressed admiration for the Advocate's commitment to building a team that includes members with lived experience in care and detention, overcoming significant barriers to make this happen.

This lived experience not only builds credibility with the young people ACYP advocates for, but also deepens the understanding of ACYP on the complex challenges children and young people face and brings a different perspective to advocacy efforts.

The Advocate's empathetic leadership and understanding of government, combined with her commitment to incorporating the voice of children and young people sets the tone for the advocacy style of ACYP. By prioritising practical outcomes and pragmatic approaches, she has ensured that the needs of children and young people are the drivers for real change across NSW.

### Orchestrating Connections

*ACYP has created connections between people and organisations.*

Interviewees highlighted the strength of the network ACYP has and the value it brings to their advocacy efforts. Several interviewees commented on the strong interpersonal relationships of the Advocate within the youth sector and government. This, combined with a focus on building new connections, supports ACYP to have a broad impact and reach.



There are a myriad examples. ACYP connected a charity who were supporting a young person struggling to get a job without identity documents with a government agency who could help, removing a barrier to employment. ACYP introduced individuals at Legal Aid and the Association of Children's Welfare Agencies (ACWA), leading to *"increased referrals from ACWA affiliates for young people that could be supported by our service"*. One charity seeking to expand its youth accommodation valued the connections ACYP provided to other organisations, who could share crucial lessons learned. At Cobham Youth Justice Centre, ACYP connected the team with people and organisations willing to participate and support their TEDx presentation program. By inviting connections to the Women of the Year event, ACYP provided an opportunity for people in influential positions to understand how they could offer support to a network of young women.

Interviewees underscored the ability of ACYP to identify and unite groups for a common cause.

For example, through their network, ACYP brought together police, the NRL, various government departments and children and young people to organise a footy tournament in Tamworth.

This increased community engagement and showcased the power of sport in bringing disparate groups together.

Interviewees also highlighted the value ACYP bring when connecting their organisations to young people with varied lived experiences. For example, at a national roundtable on on-line youth crime, ACYP arranged for members of a Youth Crime Working Group and a Minister to hear directly from young people at Cobham Youth Justice Centre that powerfully elevated the voices of young people, supporting decision-makers to hear first-hand the experiences and stories of those in juvenile detention.

The links and opportunities that ACYP orchestrates on behalf of children and young people in NSW cannot be underestimated and are among their most powerful tools.

### Amplifying the Voices

*ACYP consistently lifts youth voices into decision-making and is a reliable source of truth.*

The power of reports produced by ACYP, such as *'Moving Cage to Cage: Final Report of the Special Inquiry into Children and Young People in Alternative Care Arrangements'*<sup>5</sup> and *'Young People's perspectives on vaping in 2023'*<sup>6</sup> lies in the amplification of the direct voice of children and young people. The voices preserve the essence of the individual experiences and teach the world what young people really think. These reports generate requests for interviews and media coverage that help to bring children and young people into the public eye on issues that concern them and lift the lid on what would otherwise be assumed or speculated upon.

ACYP has submitted evidence to inquiries, parliamentary committees, and government consultations, *"bringing young people's voices into discussions"* and elevating their views. Members of NSW Parliament emphasised the value of this advocacy and were keen to bring more perspectives from young people into future policymaking.

5 ACYP, *Moving cage to cage: Final Report of the Special Inquiry into Children and Young People in Alternative Care Arrangements*, ACYP website, 2024, accessed 15 June 2025

6 ACYP, *Young people's perspectives on vaping in 2023*, ACYP website, 2023, accessed 11 May 2025

For example, the *'The Voices of LGBTQIA+ Young People in NSW'*<sup>7</sup> report, drew on findings from consultation with 233 LGBTQIA+ youth and played a significant role in discussions around the *Equality Legislation Amendment (LGBTIQ+ ) Bill* and the *Conversion Practices Prohibition Bill*.

Members of NSW of Parliament commended ACYP for facilitating forums where decision-makers could hear directly from young people, with ACYP taking care to instil confidence in the young people that participated. ACYP has created opportunities for young people with lived experiences to share their stories and opinions at summits, roundtables, events in NSW Parliament, conferences and inquiries, often alongside the Advocate. Several interviewees valued how ACYP can “*hold the space for young people so powerfully*”. Interviewees underscored the leadership of ACYP in advocating for and increasing youth involvement, including increasing youth attendance and participation at the 2024 *Social Media and Youth Summit*.

ACYP has put young people's voices on Working Groups, Advisory Groups and local decision-making forums, encouraging organisations to actively seek young people's views on a range of issues, services and approaches. For example, ACYP worked with Legal Aid to facilitate the input of young people on the design of the Your Voice legal service, including helping frame questions so they got the most value from those young people involved.

ACYP has supported the establishment and development of multiple youth advisory councils and groups, enhancing youth participation in local decision-making processes and youth advocacy skills. ACYP has condensed their knowledge and expertise into a guide for establishing Children and Young People's Youth Advisory Groups<sup>8</sup>, as well as providing advocacy training to young people. For example, ACYP supported NSW Health establish a Mental Health Youth Advisory Group, evidencing their work to empower and elevate the voices of young people by providing their expertise to other organisations.

In addition, ACYP has connected Youth Advisory Councils directly to decision makers.

Several interviewees highlighted the role of ACYP in advocating for legislative amendments to support the representation of young people on the boards of cultural organisations in NSW, creating further opportunities for young people to contribute to societal discussions.

Interviewees highlighted the “*critical friend*” role of ACYP, providing constructive challenge to organisations and ensuring that children are always at the centre of the services designed for them with their voices considered throughout. A key mechanism for advocating is through the active contribution of ACYP to several committees and advisory boards, working alongside government agencies, businesses and non-government organisations that support children and young people.

<sup>7</sup> ACYP, *The Voices of LGBTQIA+ People in NSW*, ACYP website, 2022, accessed 18 June 2025

<sup>8</sup> ACYP, *ACYP Guide to establishing a children and young people's advisory group*, ACYP website, accessed 10 July 2025

ACYP represent and amplify the voice of young people at these forums. For example, they provide regular input to a large Australian Bank offering perspectives on how their products can be more accessible to young people, or input into the Aboriginal Outcomes Taskforce facilitated by DCJ.

Through sustained advocacy and innovative practices, ACYP has elevated youth voices and fostered meaningful participation that has directly shaped services, programs and policies affecting children and young people's lives.

### Advocacy is a Changemaker

*ACYP is highly responsive, and with a pragmatic approach to advocacy that drives real change.*

ACYP has been commended for their pragmatic and practical methods, their work contributes to addressing systemic issues while simultaneously creating significant changes in individual lives. One interviewee described ACYP as having a "culture of action".

For instance, following significant government efforts, there are now no vulnerable children in unaccredited emergency care for the first time in over 20 years<sup>9</sup>.

In September 2023, the Advocate launched a special inquiry into children and young people in Alternative Care Arrangements ('ACAs') to understand their lived experiences in their own words. This was the first special inquiry undertaken by the Advocate. The special inquiry captured first-hand experiences shared by children and young people during hearings, along with a comprehensive report, video, recommendations, and extensive media coverage, all of which generated momentum for change.

The Inquiry found that the impacts of ACA's included:

- **Instability:** Children and young people experienced frequent changes in placement, often moving between short-term care settings including hotels, motels, and caravan parks. Respondents reported that the instability undermined their emotional wellbeing and development;
- **Lack of continuity, supervision and poor standard of care:** Care arrangements were inconsistent, with minimal supervision and rotating rosters.

Care was often provided directly by staff not accredited by the Office of the Children's Guardian. This resulted in environments that were not trauma-informed which compromised daily care, safety, and trust;

- **Disruption to education:** The instability resulting from ongoing placement changes often resulted in children and young people having to change school repeatedly or travel unsustainable distances to stay engaged in education, leading to academic setbacks;
- **Lack of access to therapeutic supports:** Many children and young people, with complex trauma and mental health needs were unable to access timely or consistent therapeutic services; and
- **Isolation and disconnection from friends, family, community and culture:** Children and young people in ACA's were often removed from people, places, and cultural practices that gave them a sense of identity and belonging.

<sup>9</sup> NSW Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ), *'For the First Time in 20 Years, There Are No Vulnerable Children in Out-of-Home Care'*, DCJ website, 2025, accessed 18 June 2025

Based on the findings of the special inquiry and other reports by the NSW Ombudsman and DCJ, NSW Government established an urgent review of the foster care system due to the first-hand experiences shared by children and young people during private hearings. The use of ACAs in NSW has now been abolished and \$1.2 billion to rebuild the out-of-home-care system was announced in the 2025 – 26 budget<sup>10</sup>.

The ‘*Moving Cage-to-Cage*’ report from this inquiry is now used by other agencies. Notably, it has been embedded as recommended reading at *Legal Aid*, further incorporating children’s voices and experiences into the justice system.

ACYP adapts to the evolving needs of children and young people in NSW by pivoting or expanding their focus to address current issues. Following the devastating floods in the Northern Rivers region in 2022, ACYP implemented a *Recovery Youth Support Service*, providing young people living in temporary pod villages with employment assistance, educational support, mental health services, and access to school holiday and after school activities.

This is one example that demonstrates the pragmatic approach ACYP has to adapting their support to children and young people to navigate current and emerging challenges.

Equally impactful are the individual success stories facilitated by ACYP, for example ACYP sponsored small graduation gifts to celebrate the achievements of young people working to turn their lives around with support from the Youth Koori Court. Various practitioners interviewed emphasised the Advocate’s willingness to collaborate, brainstorm, and problem-solve to combat unfair treatment faced by individual young people, ensuring that their rights are upheld.

Community events play a vital role in enhancing young people’s participation and wellbeing. The coordination of Youth Week and local sports tournaments by ACYP creates opportunities for young people to engage with their communities, reinforcing a sense of belonging. Local councils have recognised the efforts of ACYP in coordinating the *Youth Week Reference Group*, which fosters idea sharing and collaboration among councils.

One participant noted, *“It’s good to share, so other councils get ideas from what we are working on. It gets the connections started.”*

In conclusion, to affect meaningful change, ACYP have invested effort in addressing systemic injustices, while also focusing on immediate needs. Through these efforts, ACYP not only aims to bring about substantial change today but also strives to lay the groundwork for future improvements in the lives of children and young people.

## Constraints to Delivery of the Strategic Plan

### Perceptions of Independence

*There are perceived conflicts for ACYP advocating for change under the umbrella of DCJ.*

The Advocate for Children and Young People is an independent statutory office reporting to the NSW Parliament through the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Children and Young People. The Advocate is supported by the Office of the Advocate for Children and Young People (ACYP), a small team within the Department of Communities and Justice.

<sup>10</sup> NSW Government, [Rebuilding services for young people in out-of-home care](#), NSW Government Media Release, accessed 10 July 2025

Part of the DCJ budget is allocated to ACYP, and DCJ also provides corporate support to ACYP.

Several interviewees questioned the independence of ACYP, given the reliance on DCJ for both funding and corporate support. They highlighted perceived challenges and limitations of this arrangement in situations where ACYP may have different views to the policy position or priorities of DCJ, or the preferred method for addressing identified issues.

Despite these perceived challenges, the Advocate and ACYP have demonstrated a willingness to undertake activity on potentially controversial issues that are within the remit of DCJ, demonstrated by regular visits to Youth Detention Centres across the State and the Special Inquiry into the experiences of children and young people in Alternative Care Arrangements. All the interviewees who raised this point underlined the importance of the freedom and ability of ACYP to advocate for vulnerable children and young people interacting with any part of DCJ.

### Power vs. Influence

*The Advocate has a high ability to influence, but no authority to deliver or implement services or programs*

The role of the Advocate is a statutory one and comes with specific limitations that impact the ability of ACYP to execute change at a systemic level. The Advocate has the power to shape people's beliefs and actions through her influence but does not have the authority to deliver or implement services and programs. She brings one perspective amongst many views into a debate and plays a crucial role in raising awareness and pushing for policy changes.

While the role of the Advocate wields significant influence, ACYP lacks power to impose sanctions or effect change through legislation or enforcement. Interviewees speculated on whether there is a space for such a role in NSW government, or whether this additional layer of enforcement would in fact take away from the power and independence of ACYP's advocacy.

### Co-ordinated Approaches

*Planning with other organisations would support more co-ordinated action.*

There is an opportunity to improve co-ordination between ACYP, The Office for Regional Youth and Youth Action during outreach and consultation efforts to prevent duplication or confusion.

Involving and consulting these organisations during the formation of the next Strategic Plan would aid coordination.

It was often suggested that ACYP could increase its impact by collaborating more closely with organisations such as the Office of the Children's Guardian and NSW Ombudsman. They have powers and functions that could be used alongside ACYP advocacy efforts in a complementary way, or co-ordinating approaches on how to bring about positive change for children and young people.

A regular comment was that by allowing more time for consultation and engagement with other government departments, ACYP could develop a deeper understanding of ongoing or planned initiatives already addressing issues identified. This would create opportunities for ACYP to integrate the voices of young people into these efforts or align its activities to complement existing departmental work. Additionally, greater collaboration could enable coordinated approaches to tackling systemic challenges by pooling resources – an example of this being the work of ACYP on vaping complementing existing initiatives underway within NSW Health.

Some interviewees noted there is a need to clarify the role, purpose and goals of ACYP, as not all stakeholders are fully aware of its specific functions and potential scope of the advocacy. This awareness would improve engagement and support.

## Lessons Learned for the Next Strategic Plan and Future Advocacy

### Targeted Advocacy

*A plan that is more targeted would help ACYP prioritise activity to shift the dial on key areas.*

Several interviewees commented on the breadth of goals in the Strategic Plan, and the opportunity for the next plan to be more targeted by focussing on fewer goals. It was noted this would involve an increased level of prioritisation when developing the plan, followed by the allocation of available ACYP resources to fewer goals and more targeted activities.

There were opposing comments from interviewees on the appropriate timelines for a Strategic Plan of this nature. Some interviewees felt a longer timeline for the Strategic Plan was needed to ensure a consistent focus on a few systemic changes that take time, others felt the pace of change in the world was so fast that any plan focussing on set issues would quickly become obsolete.

### Focused Measures of Success

*Clearer metrics would help demonstrate the effective advocacy efforts of ACYP.*

Given the breadth of the Strategic Plan and the limited number of measures for which improvements can be attributed to the efforts of ACYP, interviewees found it challenging to comment on how effective ACYP had been at achieving what they set out to. One interviewee said, *“It’s hard to comment on the impact of the plan and whether it was effective when it is about fixing everything”*. For the next plan, ACYP should consider developing clear metrics to evaluate the success of its advocacy efforts.

### Build Awareness

*Greater awareness and visibility of the Strategic Plan would help others understand the intent.*

When the Strategic Plan was developed, it was intended to be a plan for the children and young people of NSW, rather than specifically for ACYP. However, many interviewees had differing levels of awareness and understanding of the Strategic Plan, the intent on how it was to be used, and the role of ACYP versus other organisations in its delivery.

Interviewees suggested that increasing the visibility of the Strategic Plan, clarifying the role of ACYP in its delivery, and outlining how to engage their expertise would make the objectives of ACYP and the Strategic Plan clearer to others in the sector, potentially leading to greater opportunities for collaboration.

### Systemic Reform

*With further collaboration, greater change could be catalysed through actionable and realistic policy recommendations.*

ACYP has a significant opportunity to directly influence systemic reform by translating the voices of children and young people into actionable and realistic policy recommendations. Several members of NSW Parliament stated they would value an increased level of commentary from the Advocate on proposed legislation. This could help increase understanding and visibility of how legislation may impact children and young people in NSW.

Interviewees acknowledged that while ACYP excels in capturing youth perspectives through various channels, some felt it occasionally took an overly simplistic view of how systems operate. This could lead to an impact on the credibility of the recommendations if they do not reflect the nuanced realities of the many factors to be taken into consideration



Similarly, it is always the case that the perspectives of a single child or young person do not necessarily represent the broader spectrum of experience.

The Advocate's ability to bring youth voices into very senior discussions at Parliamentary Inquiry level exemplifies the potential for ACYP advocacy to influence policy. However, a limited number of interviewees noted that without careful consideration of the complexities involved, recommendations in reports may have a limited impact on the relevant agencies responsible for the actual implementation. To address this, ACYP could strengthen its approach and invest more time in co-designing recommendations or reforms with the departments or organisations responsible for their delivery.

### Data Analysis and Quantitative Insights

*ACYP advocacy for policy change could be strengthened by using more robust quantitative data to complement qualitative insights.*

ACYP recognises the vital role of data in amplifying the voices of children and young people. Through consultations and regular polling it captures valuable qualitative insights on youth experiences and perspectives.

Interviewees highlighted the usefulness of this data, particularly NGO's and Local Councils, who frequently rely on ACYP polling results and reports on different topics as a crucial resource in the absence of other reliable data sources.

There is nonetheless an opportunity for ACYP to improve its advocacy by increasing the use of quantitative data to strengthen systemic reform recommendations or influence policy changes. Realising this potential would require investment in developing the necessary capabilities to identify, analyse, and effectively visualise relevant datasets. Some interviewees specifically pointed to publicly available DCJ datasets as a valuable resource for advocacy related to the criminal justice and health systems.

### Succession Planning

*Succession planning at the end of the Advocate's term is crucial for continuing the positive impact of ACYP.*

Given the integral role the current Advocate plays in the organisation's impact and effectiveness, succession planning and a careful handover to the next Advocate will be crucial for maintaining the momentum of the work of ACYP. The current Advocate has strong relationships with decision-makers and influential figures in the sector, and uses their wide network to support ACYP advocacy efforts.

Interviewees highlighted the importance of passing on existing connections to the next Advocate and empowering other team members to maintain these connections.

Concern was expressed that the effectiveness of ACYP could be disrupted if leadership changes occur without a well-thought-out succession plan. As one participant noted, *"It will be hard to maintain the benefits ACYP delivers if the leader changes,"* emphasising the pivotal nature of the Advocate's role in steering the organisation's direction and action.

Implementing a structured succession planning process will not only prepare ACYP for future changes in leadership but also ensure that the relationships and trust built with stakeholders and the community remain intact.





### Future Focus Areas

*There are opportunities to amplify the voices of the disadvantaged more.*

The efforts of ACYP to capture the universal voice of all children and young people were commended but interviewees also emphasised the continued need to prioritise those from disadvantaged backgrounds. This includes children and young people with disabilities, First Nations children, those that are culturally and linguistically diverse, and children and young people in rural and regional NSW.

Interviews also put forward a range of other focus areas that ACYP could concentrate future efforts on including youth justice, disengagement in education, prevention and early intervention.

There will always be more work to do.

# Hope for the Future

## The aim was to build a NSW where:

- Children and young people's individual learning and interests are fostered through education, training and skills development which supports them to grow and prepares them for their future.
- They are supported to be independent, engage in society and to join the workforce.

## What ACYP had heard from children and young people:

Young people value education and see it as key to their future, but they are also overwhelmed by academic pressure and want more focus on practical life skills and flexible learning. Many feel unprepared for life after school and are unsure about how to access meaningful job opportunities. They are calling for better career advice, more pathways beyond university, and stronger support through the transition to adulthood.

“Too much pressure at school, everything is busy and fast and it is hard to find quiet time.”  
Male, 12 years old

“Finding a job, it's hard to get a job at times because many employers are looking for a person with experience or certifications, it's hard to start somewhere.”  
Female, 20 years old



ACYP have delivered all five actions committed to within the Strategic Plan, including:

- *Equipping young people with real-world skills*  
ACYP co-designed four life skills videos and a supplementary website based on direct input from young people, covering career, finance, and independent living based. These were launched on the ACYP and Department of Customer Service websites, and have been viewed over 1,800 times.
- *Boosting pathways to employment*  
ACYP helped promote Skillsroad, a platform designed to empower young people, parents, and educators by offering tools, advice, and job listings tailored to young people.

See Appendix A for a full list of actions committed to within the Strategic Plan.

ACYP have delivered additional activity outside of the commitments in the Strategic Plan, including:

- *Supporting youth resilience through connection*  
Mobilising the ACYP Recovery Youth Support Service (RYSS) team to provide essential support, community engagement, and advocacy for wellbeing of children and young people in the flood-affected Northern Rivers regions in NSW.
- *Supporting inclusive learning pathways*  
ACYP contributed to NESA's Alternative Schools Setting Approval Board to support efforts to engage young people who had otherwise disengaged from mainstream education.

<sup>11</sup> ACYP, *NSW Strategic Plan for Children and Young People 2022-2024* baseline data, ACYP website, 2021



Priority Areas for Action	Goals	Indicator included within Strategic Plan	Baseline	Update	Changes	Commentary
Stress and anxiety related to school or study.	Decrease the level of stress and anxiety related to school or study.	% of young people reported they experienced a lot or a moderate amount of stress related to their studies.	64% (2021)	63% <sup>12</sup> (2024)	▼	
Lack of practical life skills for young people.	Increase access to practical life skills resources.	Number of downloads, views and dissemination of ACYP Practical Life Skills Resources.	N/A	1,718 webpage views <sup>13</sup> 2,579 total video views <sup>14</sup> 10,279 received resources via email <sup>15</sup>	▲	No baseline was included in the Strategic Plan.
Lack of employment opportunities for young people.	Decrease difficulty for young people in finding work.	Nationally, the median length of time spent looking for work for those aged 15-24.	15 weeks (July 2021)	9 weeks <sup>16</sup> (Dec 2024)	▼	
	Increase the number of young people in employment, education or training.	In NSW, how many young people aged 15-24 reported having difficulty in finding work.	48,143 <sup>17</sup> (2022)	49,121 <sup>18</sup> (2024)	▲	Baseline has been updated to be NSW and for February 2022.
		% young people aged 15-24 are either fully or partially engaged in some form of employment, education, or training.	89% (2020)	92% <sup>19</sup> (2024)	▲	

Negative change ● Positive change ●

<sup>12</sup> ACYP, [NSW Strategic Plan for Children and Young People: Tracking Report 03](#), ACYP website, 2024, accessed 23 June 2025

<sup>13</sup> ACYP, ACYP data shared in email correspondence, accessed 30 July 2025

<sup>14</sup> ACYP, ACYP data shared in email correspondence, accessed 30 July 2025

<sup>15</sup> ACYP, ACYP data shared in email correspondence accessed 30 July 2025

<sup>16</sup> Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), 'Table14d. Median Duration of Median duration of job search by state, territory and duration of job search' [data set], Labour Force, Detailed, ABS Website, accessed 30 July 2025

<sup>17</sup> Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), 'Table Table 9. Main difficulty in finding work by age of unemployed persons' [data set], Participation, Job Search and Mobility, Australia, ABS Website, accessed 23 June 2025

<sup>18</sup> Ibid.

<sup>19</sup> Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), '5: Engagement in employment and/or study, Table 15' [data set], Education and Work Australia, ABS Website, accessed 30 July 2025





Priority Areas for Action	Goals	Indicator included within Strategic Plan	Baseline	Update	Changes	Commentary
Disengagement from education in early childhood to high school	Increase engagement in learning and education, including early childhood education and transition to school.	Nationally, % of eligible children were enrolled in preschool in the year before school.	90.1% (2017)	84.7% <sup>20</sup> (2022)	⬇️	
		% of children aged 4-5 who were enrolled for 600hrs or more of preschool actually attended for 600hrs or more.	92.7% (2020)	93.4% <sup>21</sup> (2024)	⬆️	
		% attendance level. The proportion of full-time students in Year 1-10 whose attendance rate in Semester 1 is equal to or greater than 90 per cent.	74.9% (2019)	59.8% <sup>22</sup> (2024)	⬇️	
		Year 12 certification rate. Those awarded the HSC as a proportion of the total population for that age group.	70% (2019)	71% <sup>23</sup> (2022)	⬆️	2023 or 2024 data not available for the Year 12 certification rate.
	Decrease school exclusion and suspensions.	% of students received a short suspension and % of students received a long suspension.	4.2% short 1.7% long (2019)	3.3% short <sup>24</sup> 1.2% long <sup>25</sup> (2022)	⬇️	2023 or 2024 data not available for short and long suspensions.

Further details regarding the progress of the ACYP and the Government commitments are provided in Appendix A and B.

ACYP Commitments Met:

5/5

Government Initiatives Progressed:

11/22\*

\*Eleven initiatives were progressed, completed, or are still ongoing. We were unable to obtain an update within the report production timeline for the remaining eleven.

20 Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW), 'Data Tables: Australia's Children 2022 - Education, Table 3' [data set], Australia's Children, AIHW website, accessed 30 July 2025

21 Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), 'Preschool Education, 2024 (Tables 1 – 32)' [data set], Preschool Education, ABS website, 2025, accessed 23 June 2025

22 Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA), Student Attendance Key Facts Sheet, Student Attendance, ACARA website, accessed 30 July 2025

23 Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA), 'Year 12 certification rates by geolocation, sex and state/territory [data set], Year 12 certification rates, ACARA Website, accessed 30 July 2025

24 NSW Department of Education (2022), 'Table 2a: Students receiving suspensions [data set], 2022 suspensions and expulsions, data.nsw.gov.au, accessed 30 July 2025

25 Ibid.



# Love, Connection and Safety

The aim was to build a NSW where children and young people:

- Feel safe, loved and nurtured.
- Can connect and build friendships with others.
- Feel that they belong to a wider community, social or cultural group.
- Are free from neglect, abuse and violence.

## What ACYP had heard from children and young people:

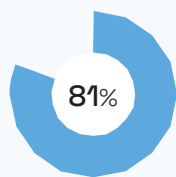
Children and young people consistently emphasised the importance of positive relationships – with friends, families, and role models – for their wellbeing, safety, and sense of belonging. Young people want support to build respectful relationships, stay safe online, and have access to digital tools, especially in rural areas. They also seek inclusive community connections and culturally safe spaces to celebrate their identity and heritage.

“Each Wednesday, we go to the youth group and meet our friends from different schools... it really helps us find new friends.”

Female, ACYP  
Refugee Report

A lot of us boys who come in don't know things about our culture... we know the name but don't know what we stand for... how to become a man.”

Male, ACYP Juvenile  
Justice Report



of children and young people said they had a good relationship with their immediate family.<sup>26</sup>

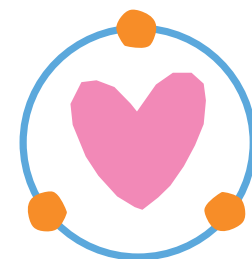
ACYP have delivered all eight actions committed to within the Strategic Plan, including:

- *Empowering youth voices on digital safety*  
Through targeted consultations and a youth working group, ACYP ensured young people's perspectives on digital safety influenced policy discussions including the 'Online Safety Amendment (Social Media Minimum Age) Bill' with the Children's Commissioner and eSafety Commissioner.
- *Elevating voices young survivors of domestic or family violence*  
ACYP highlighted the lived experiences of children and young people affected by domestic and family violence national forums, and shaped key strategic government domestic and family violence initiatives.

See Appendix A for a full list of actions committed to within the Strategic Plan.

ACYP have delivered additional activity outside of the commitments in the Strategic Plan, including:

- *Amplifying youth-centric activities digitally*  
ACYP promoted local youth group events for Youth Week on social media.
- *Strengthening diversity and inclusion of young migrants and refugees*  
ACYP consulted with young migrants and refugees, published a report highlighting the challenges and opportunities, and provided recommendations for government agencies and organisations to strengthen inclusive, culturally responsive support systems.



Priority Areas for Action	Goals	Indicator included within Strategic Plan	Baseline	Update	Changes	Commentary
Bullying and cyberbullying.	Decrease the prevalence of bullying (including cyberbullying).	% of young people reported experiencing bullying in the past 12 months.	31% (2021)	35% <sup>27</sup> (2024)	▲	
Domestic and family violence.	Decrease the number of children and young people experiencing domestic of family violence.	Number of children (0-17 years) that were victims of domestic violence related assault according to offences recorded by NSW Police.	4,005 <sup>28</sup> (Apr 2020-Mar 2021)	5,246 <sup>29</sup> (Apr 2023-Mar 2024)	▲	Due to the inability to independently recreate the previously cited figure for children and young people who were victims of domestic violence-related assault (9,805 from April 2020 to March 2021, we have adjusted the baseline figure and its subsequent update in this report. The previous indicator relied on Census data collected every five years.
Concerns around consent and respectful relationships.	Create cultural shift in understanding of consent and respectful relationships	% felt they had received sufficient information on sexual consent and respectful relationships.	75% (2021)	78% <sup>30</sup> (2024)	▲	
		% agreed people their age who they know have respectful romantic and sexual relationships.	58% (2021)	62% <sup>31</sup> (2024)	▲	
		% agree people of any age in the community have respectful romantic and sexual relationships.	46% (2021)	55% <sup>32</sup> (2024)	▲	

Negative change ● Positive change ●

27 ACYP, [NSW Strategic Plan for Children and Young People: Tracking Report 03](#), ACYP website, 2024, accessed 23 June 2025

28 NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BOSCAR), [NSW Trends in Domestic and Family Violence – Quarterly Report \(Data to March 2025\)](#), BOSCAR website, 2025, accessed 30 July 2025

29 Ibid.

30 ACYP (2024), ACYP Strategic Plan Tracking Survey.

31 Ibid.

32 Ibid.



Priority Areas for Action	Goals	Indicator included within Strategic Plan	Baseline	Update	Changes	Commentary
Lack of a sense of belonging.	Increase number of children and young people reporting connection to a community or social group outside of their family.	% of young people gave a positive rating (7+/10) for the quality of their relationships with friends.	78% (2021)	81% <sup>33</sup> (2024)	▲	
		% of young people gave a positive rating (7+/10) for the quality of their relationships with others in their community (outside of friends and family).	56% (2021)	59% <sup>34</sup> (2024)	▲	

Further details regarding the progress of the ACYP and the Government commitments are provided in Appendix A and B.

ACYP Commitments Met:	8/8	Government Initiatives Progressed:	9/13*
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*\*Nine initiatives were progressed, completed, or are still ongoing. We were unable to obtain an update within the report production timeline for the remaining four.*



<sup>33</sup> ACYP, [The NSW Strategic Plan for Children and Young People – Tracking Report 03](#), ACYP website, 2024, accessed 30 July 2025

<sup>34</sup> Ibid.



# Health and Wellbeing

## The aim was to build a NSW where:

- Children and young people's mental, physical and emotional health is nurtured and supported to enable them to flourish.

## What ACYP had heard from children and young people:

Mental health is one of the most pressing concerns for children and young people and was consistently raised as a top issue in consultations. Many see mental health as central to their wellbeing, yet many feel unsupported due to long waits, unaffordable services, and lack of culturally responsive care – particularly in rural and multicultural communities. They are calling for early intervention, reduced stigma, and better access to support options, especially in schools.

“ [Government should] recognise the need for far more mental health services. I haven't been able to find a clinical psychologist because they are far too booked up. ”

Female, 17 years old

Making sure that doctors have some sort of professionalism in regard to mental health. I went to a [local] doctor and when talking about my anxiety he told me to 'calm down' and that it's 'just life'. ”

Female, 21 years old

55%

of children and young people rated their mental health as good.<sup>35</sup>

ACYP have delivered ten of the eleven actions committed to within the Strategic Plan, including:

- *Embedding the youth experience on mental health in system design*

ACYP amplified young people's voice on mental health through consultation, collaboration, and advocacy – by briefing government on seven key recommendations, establishing the NSW Mental Health Advisory Group, and promoting the Youth and Teen Mental Health First Aid. These efforts have embedded young people in mental health policy, design, and service delivery.

See Appendix A for a full list of actions committed to within the Strategic Plan.

ACYP have delivered additional activity outside of the commitments in the Strategic Plan, including:

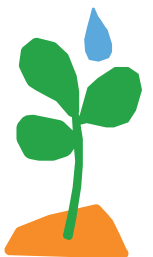
- *Improving health equity for young families*

ACYP consulted young parents, published cost-of-living insights, and provided a submission to the Inquiry into Early Childhood Health Checks. ACYP advocacy has brought visibility to early health and development gaps, strengthened the case for cross-sector reforms, and highlighted the need for more inclusive service models.

- *Youth-led evidence driving vape reform*

ACYP consulted with young migrants and refugees, published a report highlighting the challenges and opportunities, and provided recommendations for government agencies and organisations to strengthen inclusive, culturally responsive support systems.

<sup>35</sup> ACYP, [NSW Strategic Plan for Children and Young People 2022-2024](#) baseline data, ACYP website, 2021



Priority Areas for Action	Goals	Indicator included within Strategic Plan	Baseline	Update	Changes	Commentary
Support for children and their carers during the first 2000 days of life.	Increase proportion of women attending their first antenatal visit within the first trimester.	% of women in NSW attended their first antenatal visit within the 14 weeks of pregnancy. This figure was lower for those aged 19 and under at 71.5% (2019)	80.1% (2021)	79.7% <sup>36</sup> (2023)	⬇️	
	Increase in the proportion of children having development checks at age 2, 3 and 4 years.	While not currently published, this figure will be available through the First 2000 Days Implementation Plan.	Unavailable	Unavailable		No data available within the report production timelines that can be shared publicly.
Childhood death and accidental injury.	Decrease in deaths among infants and children.	Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births (2019).	3.5 per 1000 live births (2019)	2.6 per 1000 live births <sup>37</sup> (2022)	⬇️	No baseline was included in the Strategic Plan.
		Death rate per 100,000 population: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aged 0-4: 77.7;</li> <li>Aged 5-9: 7.0; and</li> <li>Aged 10-14: 10.6 (2019)</li> </ul>	Age 0-4: 73.8 Age 5-9: 6.9 Age 10-14: 9.6 (2020)	Age 0-4: 55.2 Age 5-9: 5.6 Age 10-14: 8.9 (2023)	⬇️	The 2020 values for this indicator have been updated to reflect the nature of this dataset, which is combined from two data sources, namely: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Preliminary NSW Death Registrations (available within 7 days), and;</li> <li>ABS deaths data (up to an 18-month delay)</li> </ul> The ABS data for 2020 was not yet fully available at the time of the Strategic Plan. Historical figures have been revised as more complete data is released. This report reflects those updates.

Negative change ⬇️ Positive change ⬆️

<sup>36</sup> AIHW, [Figure 1: Proportion of women who gave birth, by duration of pregnancy at first antenatal visit and selected topic \[data set\]](#), Australia's mothers and babies, AIHW website, 2020, accessed 30 July 2025

<sup>37</sup> NSW Health, ['Infant mortality NSW comparison' \[data set\]](#), HealthStats NSW, 2022, accessed 30 July 2025



Priority Areas for Action	Goals	Indicator included within Strategic Plan	Baseline	Update	Changes	Commentary
	Decrease in childhood injury.	Hospitalised injury rate for those aged 0-14: per 100,000 population (2018-19).	1,266.7 per 100,000 <sup>38</sup> (2019-20)	1,268.5 per 100,000 <sup>39</sup> (2022-23)	▲	The baseline data has been revised to use 2019–20 data in place of the previously reported 2018–19 data.
Suicide and self-injury.	Decrease in suicide for children and young people.	Number of deaths by suicide for those aged 24 and under in 2020 (2020).	108 deaths <sup>40</sup> (2021)	77 deaths <sup>41</sup> (2024)	▼	Baseline has been updated to be NSW and for February 2022.
	Decrease in intentional self-injury among children and young people.	Hospitalisations of those aged 15-24 due to intentional self-harm.	Age 15-19: 265.0 per 100k population  Age 20-24: 193.0 per 100k population <sup>42</sup> (2018-19)	Age 15-19: 218.4 per 100k population  Age 20-24: 154.7 per 100k population <sup>43</sup> (2022-23)	▼	The 2018–19 baseline figure has been updated to reflect revised population estimates. Rates are based on ABS estimated resident populations from the 2021 Census (ERP current to December 2022), with projections provided by the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure. In addition, data previously reported as a single age group (15–24 years) has now been disaggregated into two separate age cohorts: 15–19 years and 20–24 years based on available data.
Lack of informal mental health supports	Increase mental health literacy for adults who serve children and young people.	Completion rates of the Youth Mental Health First Aid course among Government agencies supporting children and young people.*	Unavailable	Unavailable		No data available within the report production timelines that can be shared publicly.



38 NSW Health, '[Injury and poisoning hospitalisations by leading cause](#)' [data set], HealthStats NSW, 2023, accessed 30 July 2025

39 Ibid.

40 NSW Health, Table 2 Gender and age group [data set] '[NSW Suicide Monitoring System Report - Data to December 2024](#)', NSW Health Website, 2025, accessed 30 July 2025

41 Ibid.

42 NSW Health, '[Intentional self-harm hospitalisations Persons by Age \(years\)](#)' [data set], HealthStats NSW, 2023, accessed 31 July 2025

43 Ibid.

\* Further work required to identify data sources for this indicator.

Priority Areas for Action	Goals	Indicator included within Strategic Plan	Baseline	Update	Changes	Commentary
	Increase capacity for young people to provide peer-to-peer mental health support.	Number of young people who had completed a teen mental health first aid course in the financial year 2020-21.**	Unavailable	Unavailable		No data available within the report production timelines that can be shared publicly.
		% were confident in their ability to support their friends with their mental and emotional wellbeing (% rating 7+/10)	72% (2021)	77% <sup>44</sup> (2024)	▲	
Long waiting times for professional mental health supports	Decrease waiting time for professional mental health supports.	Headspace wait times: 25.5 days is the average wait for the first therapy session* (Nationally, 2018)	Unavailable	Unavailable		
Lack of support for young people experiencing addiction or problematic use of alcohol and other drugs	Increase access to youth specific services to support young people who had engagement with alcohol and other drugs.	ACYP would establish a baseline understanding of current access and make recommendations to improve this over time.	N/A	N/A		No baseline or consistent data has been found for this indicator, and it remains a gap.
COVID-19 public health response for children and young people	Increase access to and uptake of COVID-19 vaccination in accordance with public health advice.	Vaccination rates for children and young people will be included as the vaccine becomes available to a wider age cohort of children and young people.	Unavailable	Unavailable		No data available within the report production timelines that can be shared publicly.

Further details regarding the progress of the ACYP and the Government commitments are provided in Appendix A and B.

ACYP Commitments Met:

10/11

Government Initiatives Progressed:

30/43\*

\*30 initiatives were progressed, completed, or are still ongoing. We were unable to obtain an update within the report production timeline for the remaining 13.

44 ACYP, [The NSW Strategic Plan for Children and Young People – Tracking Report 03](#), ACYP website, 2024, accessed 30 July 2025

\*\*Further work required to identify data sources for this indicator.



# A Good Standard of Living

The aim was to build a NSW where:

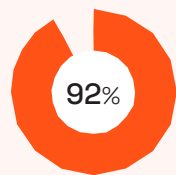
- are provided with the necessities they need to thrive.
- do not live in poverty
- are provided with adequate services and resources to operate in society.

## What ACYP had heard from children and young people:

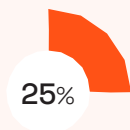
Children and young people see a good standard of living as essential to their wellbeing, shaped by access to housing, education, financial stability, and healthcare. Many raised concerns about financial stress, limited-service access in regional areas, and the barriers young people face when trying to live independently. They are asking for better access to housing, local jobs, transport, and wrap-around support to ensure all young people can meet their basic needs and reach their potential.

“Explore additional financial opportunities to get people into their own homes. Living in rental properties are expensive and cost of deposits for a home or unit to own is way too high for the majority of the population and what they are earning. This will help reduce homelessness also.”

Female, 23 years old



of children and young people said they had a safe and secure place to live and sleep.<sup>45</sup>



of children and young people are experiencing some financial difficulties.<sup>47</sup>

ACYP have delivered all nine actions committed to within the Strategic Plan, including:

- *Driving awareness and discussions on child poverty in NSW*  
ACYP promoted anti-poverty week through its social media channels and newsletters, reaching 2,934 children and young people and 7,081 other subscribers. ACYP also contributed to a national joint media release and shared insights from youth consultations with key social policy forums, such as the NSW Council of Social Services, to embed lived experience in key policy discussions.
- *Supporting young people to access information and resources about financial counselling*  
ACYP delivered informative Life Skills videos and webpages based on youth consultations, equipping young people with tools to navigate financial stress, understand their income, and plan for the future.


See Appendix A for a full list of actions committed to within the Strategic Plan.

ACYP have delivered additional activity outside of the commitments in the Strategic Plan, including:

- *Elevating youth voices to tackle cost-of-living pressures*  
Through consultations with over 2,000 diverse young people – including those from refugee, regional, disability and parenting background – ACYP captured the impact of the cost-of-living crisis in a report and video. The insights informed cross-government action including tighter regulation on Buy Now Pay Later schemes, extended fee-free TAFE, and new virtual telehealth services in NSW.

<sup>45</sup> ACYP, [NSW Strategic Plan for Children and Young People 2022-2024](#) baseline data, ACYP website, 2021



Priority Areas for Action	Goals	Indicator included within Strategic Plan	Baseline	Update	Changes	Commentary
Childhood poverty	Decrease the number of children and young people living in poverty.	% of children and % of young people in NSW live in poverty.	15.2% of children under 15 <sup>46</sup> 13.1% of young people aged 15-24 <sup>47</sup> (2024)	N/A		Previously reported baseline figures were based on national poverty rates. These have been updated to NSW-specific figures.  No updated data is available, as baseline figures rely on Census data collected every five years.
Financial instability and the cost of living	Decrease the number of young people reporting financial instability.	% of young people who live independently report financial difficulties (noting those experiencing homelessness and acute financial difficulties are less likely to be able to access the survey).	31% (2021)	35% <sup>48</sup> (2024)		
Inability to access safe, stable and affordable accommodation	Decrease the number of young people reporting difficulty in finding safe, stable and affordable accommodation.	Number of children and young people 0–24 that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Were identified as at risk of homelessness at first contact with homelessness services.</li> <li>Tracked for 6 months to determine if homelessness was avoided</li> </ul>	6,976 <sup>49</sup> (2021)	5,447 <sup>50</sup> (2024)		Alternative indicator and baseline included. This indicator has several limitations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The indicators only capture individuals who have accessed specialist homelessness services, excluding those who are homeless but have not sought help.</li> <li>Avoiding homelessness only reflects that the individual was not recorded as homeless during the follow-up period and does not necessarily indicate they are in safe, stable, or affordable housing.</li> </ul> No updated data available for the indicator that was included in the Strategic Plan, as it relies on Census data collected every five years (previously 2021).

Negative change  Positive change 

46 Impact Economics and Policy, [Lasting Impacts: The Economic Costs of Child Poverty in NSW](#), National Council of Social Service (NCOSS) website, 2024, accessed 21 July 2024

47 Ibid.



48 ACYP, [NSW Strategic Plan for Children and Young People: Tracking Report 03](#), ACYP website, 2024, accessed 23 June 2025

49 AIHW, [Table CLIENTS.1: Clients and support periods, by age and sex, and by state and territory, 2023–24' \[data set\]](#), Specialist homelessness services 2023–24, AIHW website

50 Ibid.





Priority Areas for Action	Goals	Indicator included within Strategic Plan	Baseline	Update	Changes	Commentary
Youth homelessness	Decrease youth homelessness.	Number of children and young people 0-24 in NSW that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Experienced repeat homelessness</li> <li>Returning to homelessness</li> </ul>	Persistent homelessness: 4,856 <sup>51</sup> (2021 – 22)	Persistent homelessness: 5,105 <sup>52</sup> (2023 – 24)		Alternative indicator and baseline included. This indicator has several limitations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The indicators only capture individuals who have accessed specialist homelessness services, excluding those who are homeless but have not sought help.</li> <li>Increases in persistent homelessness may sometimes reflect improved identification or service access, not worsening outcomes.</li> <li>There may be some overlap or double counting of individuals between the two datasets, as the same person may appear in both measures across reporting periods.</li> </ul>
			Returning to homelessness: 2,268 <sup>53</sup> (2021 – 22)	Returning to homelessness: 2,139 <sup>54</sup> (2023 – 24)		
		The number of children and young people aged 0-24 accessed specialist homelessness services, representing what percentage of the total number of clients accessing support.	12,990 (2021)	38,058 <sup>55</sup> (2023-24)		No updated data available for the indicator that was included in the Strategic Plan, as it relies on Census data collected every five years (previously 2021).

51 Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW), Specialist homelessness services annual report 2023 – 24, AIHW website, 2025, accessed 30th July 2025

52 Ibid.

53 Ibid.

54 Ibid.

55 Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) 'Table CLIENTS.1: Clients and support periods, by age and sex, and by state and territory, 2023–24' [data set], Specialist homelessness services 2023–24, AIHW website, 2024, accessed 31 July 2025



Priority Areas for Action	Goals	Indicator included within Strategic Plan	Baseline	Update	Changes	Commentary
Lack of transport in regional areas	Increase children and young people's access to transport in regional areas.	ACYP will track children and young people's self-reported access to transport.	N/A	N/A	N/A	Via ACYP Tracking Surveys ACYP has asked several questions to understand how easy or difficult it is for children and young people to get to and from a range of places with the transport available.

Further details regarding the progress of the ACYP and the Government commitments are provided in Appendix A and B.

ACYP Commitments Met:	9/9	Government Initiatives Progressed:	9/11*
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*\*Eleven initiatives were progressed, completed, or are still ongoing. We were unable to obtain an update within the report production timeline for the remaining two.*



# Environments for Joy and Fun

## The aim was to build a NSW where:

- Children and young people have spaces and opportunities to engage in activities for recreation and leisure.
- These spaces are enjoyable, welcoming and safe.

## What ACYP had heard from children and young people:

Children and young people value having fun, connecting with others, accessing safe spaces to play, relax, and participate in community life. They want more youth-led and culturally inclusive programs; low-cost activities beyond sport – such as music, art, and school holiday programs; and accessible venues especially for those with a disability, from refugee backgrounds, or living in regional areas. Young people are calling for better transport, more youth-friendly facilities, and clearer information about local opportunities where they can feel safe, included, and heard.

“Improving opportunities to engage in fun activities and strengthening community bonds.”  
Male, 11 years old

“Take care of the environment and more outside places for kids in cities to play.”  
Female, 11 years old

63% of children and young people said they feel safe in public areas around the community.<sup>56</sup>

ACYP have delivered five of six actions committed to within the Strategic Plan, including:

- *Making activities accessible for all young people*  
ACYP directly contributed to reforms that expanded access to sport, arts, and recreation – including shaping Youth Justice standards through targeted consultations with young people at Youth Justice Centres, ensuring access to activities is embedded in the reforms.
- *Celebrating and elevating children and young people across NSW*  
ACYP led the coordination and promotion of NSW Children’s Week and Youth Week, creating opportunities for children and young people to connect, create, and contribute to their communities. ACYP delivered and supported events across the state – from film showcases and art competitions to nature-based activities and school consultations – ensuring young people were recognised and celebrated through accessible and inclusive programs.

See Appendix A for a full list of actions committed to within the Strategic Plan.

ACYP have delivered additional activity outside of the commitments in the Strategic Plan, including:

- *Creating safe, inclusive recovery spaces for flood-affected youth*  
ACYP supported over 2,000 young people in the Northern Rivers through school holiday programs, engagement with local sport and cultural events, and trauma-informed initiatives. Insights captured in the ‘Disaster Recovery and Preparedness Report’ drove local reforms and strengthened youth inclusion in disaster planning.
- *Reducing youth crime through sport and connection*  
ACYP partnered with NSW Police and BackTrack to deliver a footy competition for at-risk youth. The initiative addressed local access barriers and demonstrated the role of sport in community safety the ‘Disaster Recovery and Preparedness Report’ drove local reforms and strengthened youth inclusion in disaster planning.



Priority Areas for Action	Goals	Indicator included within Strategic Plan	Baseline	Update	Changes
Lack of access to organised activities for socially excluded children and young people.	Increase opportunities for children and young people to participate in organised recreational activities. In particular, those engaged with Youth Justice, in out-of-home care, refugees, asylum seekers and those with disability.	% of young people are satisfied with their ability to participate in fun activities. (% rating 7+/10)	62% (2021)	69% <sup>57</sup> (2024)	▲
Lack of safe, youth-friendly and accessible spaces.	Increase access to child and youth friendly spaces to gather, play and study.	% of young people are satisfied with their ability to access public spaces to relax, meet with friends, study, or spend time alone. (% rating 7+/10)	59% (2021)	71% <sup>58</sup> (2024)	▲
	Increase the safety of public spaces.	% of young people feel safe in public areas around their community (those rating feelings of safety as 7+/10)	63% (2021)	69% <sup>59</sup> (2024)	▲
		% of young people feel safe online (those rating feelings of safety as 7+/10)	70% (2021)	67% <sup>60</sup> (2024)	▼

Negative change ● Positive change ●

Further details regarding the progress of the ACYP and the Government commitments are provided in Appendix A and B.

ACYP Commitments Met:	6/6	Government Initiatives Progressed:	12/33*
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\*Twelve initiatives were progressed, completed, or are still ongoing. We were unable to obtain an update within the report production timeline for the remaining 21.

<sup>57</sup> ACYP, [NSW Strategic Plan for Children and Young People: Tracking Report Q3](#), ACYP website, 2024, accessed 23 June 2025

<sup>58</sup> Ibid.

<sup>59</sup> Ibid.

<sup>60</sup> Ibid.



# Respect and Acceptance

## The aim was to build a NSW where:

- feel respected, accepted and included in society.
- are part of a community supports them to be proud of their culture, diversity and individual identity.
- are free from discrimination, racism and structural violence.

## What ACYP had heard from children and young people:

Young people consistently raised the need for respectful, inclusive communities where all children and young people feel they belong. They shared how experiences of discrimination – whether based on race, disability, gender identity, or background – negatively affect their wellbeing. Many reported feeling judged, excluded, or unsafe in schools, public spaces, online, and in interactions with systems such as police and health services. Children and young people want their voices taken seriously and are asking for stronger action to tackle discrimination, build cultural understanding, and create safe spaces.

“The main thing is that I am viewed as someone of equal status. That my background, my race, my religion doesn't affect who I am as a person.”

Male, 21 years old

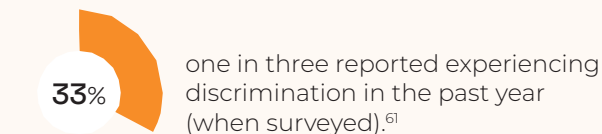
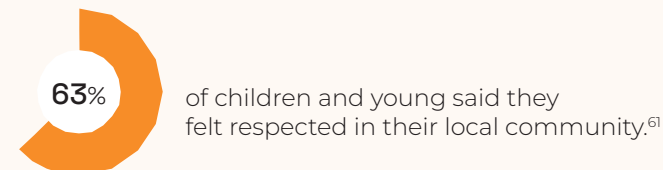
Help stop discrimination and bullying as it affects people's wellbeing. My African friend was discriminated against and told me he wants to kill himself. I stopped him and helped him ... stand up to his bullies.”

Male, 20 years old

ACYP have delivered all eight actions committed to within the Strategic Plan, including:

- *Conducting a Special Inquiry into Alternative Care Arrangements*  
The ACYP Special Inquiry into Alternative Care Arrangements (ACA's) put young people's lived experience at the centre of change – ending ACA use, cutting emergency placements by 25%, and driving a system review of foster care practices and funding.
- *Embedding the youth LGBTQIA+ voice in law reform*  
ACYP conducted consultations, published a report on the youth LGBTQIA+ experience, and advocated directly through submissions and presenting at parliamentary inquiries. ACYP advocacy played a key role in securing landmark legal changes, including the Equality Legislation amendment and a statewide ban on conversion practices.
- *Driving visibility and change for students with a disability*  
ACYP elevated the voices of students with a disability through consultations, preparing a submission, and appearing – alongside the Youth Advisory Council members – at the Inquiry into children and young people with disability in NSW schools.

See Appendix A for a full list of actions committed to within the Strategic Plan.



<sup>61</sup> ACYP, [NSW Strategic Plan for Children and Young People 2022-2024](#) baseline data, ACYP website, 2021



Priority Areas for Action	Goals	Indicator included within Strategic Plan	Baseline	Update	Changes	Commentary
Racism and discrimination related to age, disability, religion, gender or sexuality.	Increase number of children and young people reporting connection to a community or social group outside of their family.	% of young people were satisfied with the level of respect they feel in their local community.	63% (2021)	66% <sup>62</sup> (2024)	▲	
		% were satisfied with the level of acceptance they feel in their local community.	65% (2021)	N/A		This data was not collected as part of the 2024 tracking survey conducted by ACYP.
	Decrease the number of children and young people experiencing racism or discrimination due to age, disability, religion, gender or sexuality.	% of young people had experienced discrimination in the past 12 months.	33% (2021)	27% <sup>63</sup> (2024)	▼	
Overrepresentation of Aboriginal children and young people in the Youth Justice and out-of-home care systems	Decrease in the overrepresentation of Aboriginal children and young people in the out-of-home care system.	Ratio of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people in out-of-home care compared to non- Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander children and young people.	9.7x more likely <sup>64</sup> (2019)	10.8x more likely <sup>65</sup> (2022-23)	▲	The baseline figure has been revised to correct an error identified in the previously reported value.
	Decrease in the overrepresentation of Aboriginal children and young people in the Youth Justice system	Average daily number of young people in custody with Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander background.	112 representing 45% of all young people in custody (2019-2020)	127 representing 60% of all young people in custody <sup>66</sup> (2023-2024)	▲	

Negative change ● Positive change ●

Further details regarding the progress of the ACYP and the Government commitments are provided in Appendix A and B.

ACYP Commitments Met:

8/8

Government Initiatives Progressed:

19/23\*

\*Nineteen initiatives were progressed, completed, or are still ongoing. We were unable to obtain an update within the report production timeline for the remaining four.

62 ACYP, [The NSW Strategic Plan for Children and Young People – Tracking Report 03](#), ACYP website, 2024, accessed 30 July 2025

63 Ibid.

64 SNAICC – National Voice for Our Children (SNAICC), [The Family Matters Report 2020](#), SNAICC, 2020, accessed 23 June 2025

65 SNAICC – National Voice for Our Children (SNAICC), [The Family Matters Report 2024](#), SNAICC, 2024, accessed 23 June 2025

66 NSW Government, [Young People in Custody](#), NSW Government Website, 2024, accessed 30 July 2025





# Appendix A

## Status of ACYP Initiatives Included in the Strategic Plan



### Hope for the Future

#### Stress and Anxiety

**Overview:** ACYP has conveyed student views on wellbeing to government and schools, increasing awareness of the nature of student stress. ACYP provided stress tips to students around exam time, increasing reach and access to key messaging via the ACYP network of young people. ACYP identified a need to *reduce the level of stress and anxiety of children and young people* related to school or study. Through its advocacy efforts, ACYP contributed to the following:

Goal	ACYP Commitments / Actions	Activities Delivered by ACYP	What Changes Have the Activities Contributed to?
<i>Decrease the level of stress and anxiety related to school or study.</i>	Work with the Department of Education, Independent Schools and Catholic Schools to highlight the nature of student stress and to share and disseminate supports and programs that children and young people say are helpful.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Collaborated with the NSW Department of Education (DoE), Independent Schools and Catholic Schools to highlight the nature of student stress, as identified by students and captured through ACYP consultations.</li> <li>Shared and disseminated NSW DoE and Headspace materials on managing stress to ACYP's network of children and young people during the NSW Higher School Certificate (HSC) exam time.</li> <li>Polling and consultations with children and young people including within Youth Week highlighted school stress as an area of concern. ACYP shared this with the DoE, NSW Education Standards Authority and Australia's eSafety Commission. <i>(cont.)</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ACYP entered a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with NSW DoE, supporting the regular sharing of data with DoE in relation to a range of relevant topics including student stress and recommendations from the Student Voice in Schools report<sup>67</sup>.</li> <li>Data shared by ACYP on student stress has been used by the NSW DoE and NSW Health to support advocacy efforts for the expansion of the Wellbeing and Health In-reach Nurse Coordinator Program. The program co-locates wellbeing nurses in public schools to support students and their families on a wide range of health and wellbeing issues. In June 2024, the NSW Government committed ongoing funding for 106 wellbeing nurses to be in schools, following successful pilots<sup>68</sup>.</li> </ul>

Goal	ACYP Commitments / Actions	Activities Delivered by ACYP	What Changes Have the Activities Contributed to?
<i>Decrease the level of stress and anxiety related to school or study.</i>		✓ Designed the 'Digital Lunchbreak website' <sup>69</sup> to assist children and young people to find and access online resources from government and non-government organisations to help take care of their wellbeing and health.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased access to information and resources to support children and young people to take care of their health and wellbeing through the Digital Lunchbreak website. The Support Resources page with links to support services has been viewed 5,453 times, and the Health and Wellbeing page has been viewed 2,840 times as of June 2025.<sup>70</sup></li> </ul>
		✓ Provided communications to a network of young people about the importance of self-care around exam times and the importance of exam results not reflecting identity or self-worth.  Produced videos in 2023 and 2024 highlighting the support resources available.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provision of information and advice to assist 2,934 children and young people around exam time via email communications to ACYP network of young people.</li> </ul>
		✓ Facilitated consultations with ten schools (203 students) from the South West Sydney region at the South West Youth Wellbeing Success Summit <sup>71</sup> (October 2023) to understand and hear from young people "How can the NSW Government support your wellbeing" and "What do you do to maintain your wellbeing?".  ✓ ACYP facilitated consultations with 11 schools (172 students) at the Southwest Connect: VET summit <sup>72</sup> (November 2023) focused on education and employment pathways.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased direct participation of young people at the summit.</li> <li>Listened to and captured young people's voices on managing wellbeing, and how NSW Government can help.</li> <li>Informed the design of youth programs, focusing on mental health, employment pathways, and skill development.</li> </ul>

## Practical Life Skills Resources

**Overview:** ACYP identified a lack of practical life skills resources for young people and responded by producing and promoting educational videos about essential skills as prioritised by young people, providing resources and access to practical life skills information to aid their transition to adulthood. ACYP have also collaborated with the NSW Government to ensure children's voices are incorporated at the program level to address their needs, as well as providing data and insights from the Youth Week Survey.

67 ACYP, [Annual Report 2024](#), ACYP website, 2024, accessed 16 June 2025

68 [NSW Health, Wellbeing and Health In-reach Nurse Coordinator program funding](#), NSW Health Website, 2024, accessed 9th July 2025

69 ACYP, [Digital Lunch Break](#), ACYP website, n.d., accessed 24 June 2025

70 ACYP, ACYP data shared in email correspondence, accessed 30 July 2025

71 South West Connect, [Youth Wellbeing Success Summit 2023](#), SW Connect, n.d., accessed 24 June 2025

72 South West Connect, '2023 VET Students Careers Summit, SW Connect, n.d., accessed 24 June 2025

Through its advocacy efforts, ACYP contributed to the following:

Goal	ACYP Commitments / Actions	Activities Delivered by ACYP	What Changes Have the Activities Contributed to?
<i>Increase access to practical life skills resources.</i>	Develop four practical life skills videos and a website linking to additional support. ACYP will launch each video and promote them widely.	<p>✓ Produced four practical life skills educational videos<sup>73</sup> and website pages that include signposting to additional life skills resources to help young people in the transition to adulthood.</p> <p>The video topics were selected based on consultations with young people and cover key topics such as career literacy, financial management and making a house a home.</p> <p>The videos were launched in June 2022 and published on the NSW Department of Customer Service (DCS) website<sup>74</sup>, and featured in their 'State of the Customer Report'<sup>75</sup>.</p> <p>Increased the reach of and access to of NSW Rental Commission information by sharing this in the ACYP December 2024 newsletter. This was done in response to feedback received at the Youth Summit from young people.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provided videos, resources and information to support young people as they transition to adulthood with over 1,800 video views<sup>76</sup> as of May 2025, in response to a need for more information about practical life skills.</li> <li>• Life Skills educational videos added to the NSW DCS website, expanding their reach and accessibility.</li> <li>• NSW Rental Commission information shared with an additional 12,703 young people via the ACYP December 2024 newsletter<sup>77</sup>.</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ The Advocate was a member of the 'Becoming an Adult' Steering Committee and Project Control Group led by the NSW Department of Customer Service (DCS), and ACYP worked closely with DCS on the 'Becoming an Adult' Program. The work aimed to improve support for 12 – 24 transitioning into adulthood in NSW.</li> <li>+ Convened a co-design workshop with NSW DCS and children and young people in November 2023 for the Life Skills and Finding A Job areas of the Becoming an Adult Program.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provided the voice of children and young people to Department of Customer Service stakeholders at a program level.</li> </ul>

<sup>73</sup> ACYP, '[Life Skills](#)', ACYP website, n.d., accessed 16 June 2025

<sup>74</sup> NSW Department of Customer Service (DCS), '[Life Skills](#)', DCS website, 2025, accessed 16 June 2025

<sup>75</sup> NSW DCS, '[State of the Customer Report, Case Study – Life Skills](#)', DCS website, n.d., accessed 16 June 2025

<sup>76</sup> ACYP, ACYP data shared in email correspondence, accessed 30 July 2025

<sup>77</sup> ACYP, '[ACYP Newsletter - December edition](#)', ACYP website, 2024, accessed 23 June 2025

Goal	ACYP Commitments / Actions	Activities Delivered by ACYP	What Changes Have the Activities Contributed to?
<i>Increase access to practical life skills resources.</i>		✓ Conducted the 2024 Youth Week Survey, and included questions focused on young people's access to life skills to enhance the understanding of life skills across various domains.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provided data and insights relating to children and young people's views and experience with life skills that were also fed into the 'Becoming an Adult' program.</li> </ul>

## Employment Opportunities

**Overview** ACYP has collaborated with NSW Government and industry peak bodies to develop a life skills video on finding the right career and used their network to promote the Skillsroad platform to young people in NSW, an additional career resource for use by young people and their parents. ACYP identified a lack of employment opportunities for young people. Through its advocacy efforts, ACYP contributed to the following:

Goal	ACYP Commitments / Actions	Activities Delivered by ACYP	What Changes Have the Activities Contributed to?
<p><i>Decrease difficulty for young people in finding work.</i></p> <p><i>Increase the number of young people in employment, education or training.</i></p>	Work with Industry Peak Bodies to include young people in business planning and strategies.	<p>✓ Collaborated with industry peak bodies to facilitate the input of young people in business planning and strategies.</p> <p>Supported Business NSW in their launch of Skillsroad<sup>78</sup>, a platform designed to “empower young people, along with their parents, teachers and future employers, to feel confident and supported taking the first steps of their career journey.” The platform provides career advice, support to build career skills and signposts job listings for entry level positions across a wide range of careers.</p> <p>Promoted Skillsroad platform to young people and ACYP stakeholder network since its launch.</p> <p>Provided feedback on the re-design of the NSW Government's Young People Hub and facilitated a review and feedback from the 2024 Youth Advisory Council (YAC).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provided videos, resources and information on employment, education or training to support young people.</li> <li>Greater input of young people's voices to industry peak bodies, supporting them to ensure their planning and strategies capture their needs, enabling them to be more effective and impactful.</li> <li>Input and participation of young people and their voices to the design of services they will use.</li> </ul>

<sup>78</sup> Skillsroad, [‘About Us’](#), Skillsroad website, 2025, accessed 16 June 2025

Goal	ACYP Commitments / Actions	Activities Delivered by ACYP	What Changes Have the Activities Contributed to?
<p><i>Decrease difficulty for young people in finding work.</i></p> <p><i>Increase the number of young people in employment, education or training.</i></p>		<p>Inputted the voices of children and young people into a large Australian bank through role as a member on the bank's Community Council. This has included young people's experiences of interacting with different financial services and products, financial literacy, how young people are engaged on their banking and financial rights, and how changes may impact these cohorts.</p>	
	Support Service NSW in the development of Careers NSW.	<p>✓ Supported Service NSW in the development of Careers NSW.</p> <p>Collaborated with industry peak bodies and Careers NSW to develop a life skills video<sup>79</sup> about how young people can find a career that is right for them.</p> <p>Engaged Department of Education about Careers NSW, children and young people's perspectives on careers and their requests for careers advice, and on keeping young people engaged in schools.</p> <p>Provided feedback on the re-design of the NSW Government's Young People Hub and facilitated a review and feedback from the 2024 Youth Advisory Council (YAC).</p> <p>Facilitated partnerships with local organisations and communities to ensure young people's voices were authentically represented, helping Careers NSW better understand regional and cultural nuances.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expanded the reach and accessibility to career advice for young people to support their transition to adulthood.</li> <li>Provided input of young people's views and perspectives on careers and how to keep young people engaged in schools.</li> <li>Since publication on 17 May 2023, Life Skills has received 1,781 page views, with 8% of traffic referred from trusted platforms including Legal Aid, Google Classroom, and local government websites.</li> <li>Career and life skills videos have received over 2,500 views, with the highest engagement in financial management (864 views) and health and wellbeing (751 views)<sup>80</sup>. This enabled Careers NSW to tailor its services more seen, heard, and supported in their career pathways.</li> </ul>
		<p>+ Conducted 2024 Youth Week Survey<sup>81</sup>, questions were asked around young people's career aspirations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provided data and insights relating to children and young people's views on career aspirations.</li> </ul> <p>Following the release of findings from the survey, ACYP produced a brief providing an overview of the survey results for The Hon. (Steve) Whan MP the Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education.</p>

<sup>79</sup> ACYP, '[Career Literacy – Lifeskills](#)', ACYP website, n.d., accessed 16 June 2025

<sup>80</sup> ACYP, ACYP data shared in email correspondence, accessed 30 July 2025

<sup>81</sup> ACYP, '[The NSW Strategic Plan for Children and Young People Tracking Report 03](#)', ACYP website, 2024, accessed 24 June 2025

Goal	ACYP Commitments / Actions	Activities Delivered by ACYP	What Changes Have the Activities Contributed to?
<i>Cont. from previous page.</i>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ Visited regional schools, engaging with over 600 people in three days, including 100+ individual consultations in Gunnedah, Gilgandra, and Coonamble. The group sessions focused on future careers and educational opportunities, while individual consultations explored the specific needs of young people in rural areas.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Built a better understanding of the needs of young people in rural areas, as well as capturing their views on future careers and educational opportunities that informed the advocacy of ACYP.</li> </ul>

## Engagement in Education

**Overview:** ACYP has collaborated with NSW Government and a university to increase student engagement and sense of belonging in schools; facilitated the input of student views into the evaluation of the NSW Government's Student Behaviour Strategy to ensure the voices of children are captured; and advocated for the needs of children and young people living in the Northern Rivers to support their re-engagement in school following displacement. ACYP identified *disengagement in education from early childhood to high school*. Through its advocacy efforts, ACYP contributed to the following:

Goal	ACYP Commitments / Actions	Activities Delivered by ACYP	What Changes Have the Activities Contributed to?
<p><i>Increase engagement in learning and education, including early childhood education and transition to school.</i></p> <p><i>Decrease school exclusion and suspensions.</i></p>	Work with Department of Education around ensuring that student voice is included in the evaluation of the Behaviour Strategy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Collaborated with NSW Department of Education (DoE) to ensure that the student voice is included in the evaluation of the Student Behaviour Strategy.</li> <li>ACYP continues to engage with NSW DoE on the Student Behaviour Strategy.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There have been several adjustments to the Student Behaviour Strategy over the course of the Strategic Plan.</li> <li>• In 2022, a new policy was released by NSW DoE that aligned with feedback from young people, and the Advocate participated in joint media advocacy to welcome the policy change.</li> <li>• A revised Student Behaviour Procedure and Policy was announced by NSW DoE (September 2023)<sup>82</sup> that rolled back earlier changes that had been made. ACYP have attended meetings with agencies and conducted media advocacy to highlight concerns about limited consultation on the development of implementation of the new policy.</li> </ul>

<sup>82</sup> NSW Government '[New Student Behaviour Policy to Address Disruptive Classrooms](#)', NSW Government Ministerial Releases, 24 August 2023, accessed 20 June 2025



Goal	ACYP Commitments / Actions	Activities Delivered by ACYP	What Changes Have the Activities Contributed to?
<p><i>Increase engagement in learning and education, including early childhood education and transition to school.</i></p> <p><i>Decrease school exclusion and suspensions.</i></p>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Behaviour Procedure and Policy was not amended following the advocacy efforts.</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contributed to NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) Alternative School Setting Approvals Board to support efforts to engage young people who had otherwise disengaged from mainstream education. These programs either support students to re-engage in school or connect them to further education or training opportunities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Voices of young people fed in via NESA discussions with ACYP.</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collaborated with Southern Cross University on the School is for Everyone (SIFE)<sup>83</sup> Project (concluded in June 2024). The SIFE Project sought to understand students' sense of belonging in schools and what staff could do to enhance and grow this engagement.</li> </ul> <p>ACYP were a member of the project steering committee, providing the voices of young people that complemented surveys undertaken by Southern Cross University.</p> <p>ACYP provided advice on the interview structure and approach for interviews undertaken for the project.</p> <p>The Youth Advisory Council reviewed and provided feedback on learning modules that were being developed.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Additional voices of young people fed into the project via ACYP involvement that supplemented the survey results. Over 1,498 students and 268 staff took part in the survey.</li> <li>Co-design and collaborative development of a School is for Everyone Professional Learning Module, to be housed on the NSW Department of Education MyPL site<sup>84</sup>. The aim of the module is to support staff to identify and improve belonging and participation practices in the context of their school.</li> </ul>

83 A. Graham et al., '*School is for Everyone (SIFE): Executive Summary*', Southern Cross University, 2024

84 Ibid.

Goal	ACYP Commitments / Actions	Activities Delivered by ACYP	What Changes Have the Activities Contributed to?
<p><i>Increase engagement in learning and education, including early childhood education and transition to school.</i></p> <p><i>Decrease school exclusion and suspensions.</i></p>		<p>+ Conducted surveys with 1,561 children and young people aged 12 - 24 to understand their school experience, with a focus on voice and participation in the NSW Education System. The surveys were designed by NSW Youth Advisory Council Members.</p> <p>Supported the Youth Advisory Council to develop and publish Student Voice in Schools Report<sup>85</sup>, including recommendations.</p> <p>Shared findings and the report with policy makers, government departments and schools in NSW. This was shared with the Secretary of the NSW Department of Education (DoE), who responded to DoE recommendations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Youth Advisory Council equipped with key tools and techniques to help ensure young people's views and ideas are considered.</li> <li>• Voice, views and opinions of children and young people and their experience on engagement in the NSW Education System listened to, captured and understood at a point in time.</li> <li>• Greater awareness of the hopes and concerns of children and young people. No data available for the total number of report views.</li> <li>• NSW DoE considered findings and recommendations made in the report, providing a response outlining work underway and opportunities for further collaboration with ACYP.</li> <li>• NESA consultation with young people on the NSW Youth Advisory Council concerning curriculum reform, student voice and ways of learning.</li> </ul>
		<p>+ ACYP Recovery Youth Support Service (RYSS) team:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Advocated to the NSW Department of Education around re-engaging students living in pod villages who have been suspended or disengaged from school due to displacement.</li> <li>– Created opportunities for young people to re-engage with their peers including Wardell (womens group).</li> <li>– Provided students with materials needed to enable them to return to school following a suspension.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Young people reporting impacts of better engagement with education and building of social connections and belonging following displacement<sup>86</sup>.</li> <li>• Re-engagement of some children and young people with schools by reducing barriers for this to happen.</li> </ul>

85 ACYP, '*Student Voice in Schools Report*', ACYP website, December 2023, accessed 17 June 2025

86 ACYP, 'Evaluation of ACYP Recovery Youth Support Service', ACYP website, 2025, accessed July 2025

Goal	ACYP Commitments / Actions	Activities Delivered by ACYP	What Changes Have the Activities Contributed to?
<i>Cont. from previous page.</i>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conducted advocacy around how the decision to suspend distance education to the Northern Rivers would impact their community.</li> </ul> <p>See Environment for Joy and Fun section on page 84 for further details on Northern Rivers activities.</p>	

## Postcards to the Advocate

**Overview:** ACYP launched the Postcards to the Advocate initiative, gathering direct input from 677 children and young people across 24 schools in NSW about their hopes and concerns for the future, and they published a media release, report and summary video to share voices. Through its advocacy efforts, ACYP contributed to the following:

Activities Delivered by ACYP	Changes the Activities Have Contributed To:
<p>+ Conducted an initiative to hear directly from 677 children and young people from 24 schools across NSW about what matters to them and their hopes and concerns for the future, through Postcards to the Advocate.</p> <p>This included 468 responses from metro NSW and 205 from regional NSW, with the age of known respondents ranging from three to eighteen years old.</p> <p>Media release<sup>87</sup> on the launch of the Postcards to the Advocate initiative, including outlining how to engage.</p> <p>Developed and published Postcards to the Advocate Report<sup>88</sup> and a summary video<sup>89</sup>. Both share information that ACYP has gathered in a way that maintains the children and young people's voices.</p> <p>Shared findings with via ACYP Youth Week mailing list that includes young people, policymakers and practitioners that work with young people and parents.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hopes and concerns of children and young people listened to and captured at a point in time.</li> <li>Greater awareness of the hopes and concerns of children and young people in NSW, with the Postcards to the Advocate website page with 1,145 page views as of June 2025.</li> <li>Greater awareness of the hopes and concerns of children and young people, with insights from the Postcards to the Advocate work shared in Youth Week 2023 communications that were sent to 2,609 children and young people, 444 schools and 250 people that work for councils.</li> <li>ACYP was cited in the Youth Engagement Methods guide<sup>90</sup> as an example of a creative engagement method for young people to express their ideas and experiences through, providing a case study for other organisations.</li> </ul>

<sup>87</sup> ACYP, '[Launch of Postcards to the Advocate \[media release\]](#)', ACYP, 28 October 2022, accessed 17 June 2025

<sup>88</sup> ACYP, '[Postcards to the Advocate – The Report](#)', ACYP website, 2024, accessed 17 June 2025

<sup>89</sup> ACYP, '[Postcards to the Advocate \[Video\]](#)', ACYP website, 2024, accessed 17 June 2025

<sup>90</sup> Office for Youth, '[Youth Engagement Methods – When Do These Work Best and What Is Required \(v2.2\)](#)', Department of Education, 2024, accessed 18 June 2025



## Love, Connection and Safety

### Bullying and Cyberbullying

**Overview:** ACYP has contributed to the goal of decreasing the prevalence of bullying by providing greater visibility of the issues children and young people face, facilitating their direct input to government initiatives aimed at reducing bullying and making submissions to support the amendment of legislation. ACYP identified *bullying as an issue continually raised by children and young people*. Through its advocacy efforts, ACYP contributed to the following:

Goal	ACYP Commitments / Actions	Activities Delivered by ACYP	What Changes Have the Activities Contributed to?
<i>Decrease the prevalence of bullying (including cyberbullying).</i>	Support the work of the eSafety Commissioner, including by disseminating eSafety resources via ACYP social media platforms.	✓ During Cyber Safety week ACYP shared eSafety resources with network of young people via ACYP social media accounts, including information about Safe Internet Day.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased reach of eSafety resources to ACYP network through social media challenges.</li> </ul>
	Conduct consultation with children and young people on their experience of social media and advocated on regulation.	✓ Provided advice to the NSW Premier's Department and Ministers on the design of the Social Media Summit 2024.  Designed and facilitated two workshops with 90 young people at the Social Media Summit <sup>91</sup> , that included building a better understanding of their experience of cyberbullying and strategies to mitigate.  Supported the development of the attendee list of young people invited to the summit.  Supported an Advisory Group for the Social Media Summit, comprising of young people, staff from the Minister's Officer, NSW Premier's Department, The Cabinet Office and ACYP.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Direct participation of children and young people at the Social Media Summit.</li> <li>Contributed to the design of sessions at the Social Media Summit, ensuring it provided the opportunity to hear the voices of children and young people directly.</li> <li>Increased engagement of young people with policymakers, academics and social media experts who were at the summit.</li> <li>Advice and insight gathered from the summit shared by the NSW Government with Federal Government and informed by children and young people's participation at the summit.</li> </ul>

<sup>91</sup> NSW Government, '[Social Media Summit](#)', NSW Government website, 2024, accessed 22 June 2025

Goal	ACYP Commitments / Actions	Activities Delivered by ACYP	What Changes Have the Activities Contributed to?
Decrease the prevalence of bullying (including cyberbullying).			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Insights and voices of young people captured in the consultation shared with summit attendees, including stakeholders from across government.</li> <li>The Advisory Group for the Social Media Summit gave feedback on the Summit's agenda, emphasising the importance of including more young people, influencing the inclusion of more young people to the Summit Agenda. Following the Summit, the group held a reflection session to provide guidance and recommendations to NSW Premier's Department regarding the event.</li> </ul>
		✓ Prepared and made a submission <sup>92</sup> to the NSW Inquiry into the Prevalence, Causes and Impacts of Loneliness in NSW.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Insights and voices of young people captured in consultation shared with the Inquiry, pulling on previous research and reports conducted by ACYP.</li> </ul>
		✓ Supported the creation of the eSafety Commissioner's Advisory Group that was established in 2022. The group was made up of young people to provide advice and feedback directly to the Federal Government on work related to the social media ban. The eSafety Commissioners Advisory Group was set up in April 2022.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Greater involvement of children and young people in making decisions that affect their lives.</li> <li>Mechanism for government to obtain the views of children and young people to support decision making.</li> </ul>
		✓ Facilitated discussions with children specifically to inform the development of 'Online Safety Amendment (Social Media Minimum Age) Bill 2024' <sup>93</sup> with the Children's Commissioner and eSafety Commissioner.  ✓ ACYP consulted young people to ask their views on the platforms that could be covered by a social media ban and the minimum age.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Insights from ongoing work of ACYP shared in their Submission to the <i>Statutory Review of the Online Safety Act 2021</i> (June 2024), based on the voices of children and young people. The submission called for regular youth consultation, stronger platform accountability, improved content filtering, and enhanced privacy protections to better safeguard young people online.<sup>94</sup></li> <li>Shared views and influenced NSW decision-makers.</li> </ul>

92 ACYP, '[Submission into the Online Safety Act 2021](#)', Submission to Parliament of NSW, Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts June 2024, accessed 23 June 2025

93 Online Safety Amendment (Social Media Minimum Age) Bill 2024

94 ACYP, '[Inquiry Into Prevalence, Causes And Impacts Of Loneliness In New South Wales](#)', Submission to Parliament of NSW, ACYP, November 2024, accessed 23 June 2025

Goal	ACYP Commitments / Actions	Activities Delivered by ACYP	What Changes Have the Activities Contributed to?
<i>Decrease the prevalence of bullying (including cyberbullying).</i>		✓ Consulted with 258 young people during Police Citizens Youth Clubs (PCYC) Nations of Origins to understand their experiences of social media, and views on the ban.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Informed a media release<sup>95</sup> calling for children and young people's perspectives to be including in the development of social media regulations.</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Provided a submission<sup>96</sup> and made five recommendations to the Federal Government Statutory Review of the Online Safety Act 2021. This was informed by annual tracking reports, Youth Polling Weeks and round tables held on anti-bullying.</li> <li>✓ Contribution to roundtables on 'Online safety issues for young people'.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A final report has been published with recommendations<sup>99</sup> to help reduce harm to children and young people based on collective inputs for the review.</li> <li>• The views of children and young people represented at a national level, in a forum with decision makers.</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Prepared two media releases:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Calling for the perspective of children and young people to be included in the development of social media legislation.<sup>97</sup></li> <li>– Voicing concerns at the limited time available for suitable consultation and consideration on the impact the social media ban will have on children and young people.<sup>98</sup></li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Awareness raised on the level of engagement with children and young people to develop the social media legislation.</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Collaborated with the Youth Advisory Council and NSW Department for Education (DoE) to co-design, build and launch the 'Your Online Habits Survey' to record young people's online habits, experiences and perceptions of online safety and presented findings back to NSW DoE.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Between 27 February and 31 May 2024, the survey captured responses from 140 participants. Findings were presented back to NSW DoE, strengthening its understanding of young people's online habits and safety concerns.</li> <li>• NSW DoE have mechanisms to capture the voice, views and opinions of young people's online habits, experiences and perceptions of online safety captured.</li> </ul>

95 ACYP, [Social media: the way forward must include the voice and views of young people \[media release\]](#), ACYP, 20 September 2024, accessed 23 June 2025

96 ACYP, [Submission into the Online Safety Act 2021](#), Submission to the statutory review of the Online Safety Act 2021, ACYP, June 2024, accessed 23 June 2025

97 D Rickard, [Report of the Statutory Review of the Online Safety Act 2021](#), Online Safety Branch, Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts, October 2024, accessed 25 June 2025

98 ACYP, [Social media: the way forward must include the voice and views of young people](#) [media release], ACYP, 20 September 2024, accessed 23 June 2025

99 ACYP and Australian Children's Commissioners and Guardians, [Top children's officials call for a rethink of social media ban](#)



Goal	ACYP Commitments / Actions	Activities Delivered by ACYP	What Changes Have the Activities Contributed to?
<i>Decrease the prevalence of bullying (including cyberbullying).</i>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Conducted polling of circa 1,000 children and young people per year through the annual Strategic Plan Tracking Survey<sup>100</sup>, that includes a section dedicated to social media and its impact.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greater visibility of the issues affecting children and young people, with results from polling published on an annual basis on the ACYP website.</li> </ul>
	Engage with children and young people about their experiences of bullying.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Prepared and participated into the Anti-Bullying Round Table on 9th May 2022<sup>101</sup> that brought together government and industry leaders to discuss how to address bullying and cyberbullying, convened by former Minister for Education and Early Learning, the Hon. Sarah Mitchell MLC.</li> <li>✓ Facilitated a second Round Table<sup>102</sup> on 15th July 2022 to hear from students on this issue.</li> <li>✓ Produced an internal report (Anti-Bullying Round Table Report) for the NSW Department of Education with recommendations, an outline of key insights and actionable recommendations captured from students with lived experience of being bullied.</li> <li>✓ Shared insights and data from the roundtables with the Chief Behaviour Adviser to support early understanding of key issues, although no further joint work progressed due to changes in the role's remit.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agreement at the round table of the need to incorporate students' voices in the conversations and work of the Round Table.</li> <li>• Visibility of key issues provided to educators who can action recommendations.</li> <li>• Insights and recommendations from 20 children and young people at the second ACYP-facilitated Round Table informed the development of the Anti-Bullying Round Table Report. This has contributed to ongoing discussions and actions to address bullying in NSW in areas such as education about bullying, support for students, intervention, and bullying on social media.</li> </ul>

[media release], ACYP, 29 November 2024, accessed 24 June 2025

100 ACYP, *The NSW Strategic Plan for Children and Young People Tracking Report 01*, ACYP, NSW Government, 2022. ACYP, *The NSW Strategic Plan for Children and Young People Report 02*, ACYP, NSW Government, 2023, ACYP, *The NSW Strategic Plan for Children and Young People Tracking Report 03*, ACYP, NSW Government, 2024, accessed 24 June 2025

101 NSW Department of Education, *Working together to stop bullying: One step beyond is the first Antibullying Roundtable for children and young people in NSW [media release]*, NSW Department of Education, 14 May 2022, accessed 27 June 2025

Goal	ACYP Commitments / Actions	Activities Delivered by ACYP	What Changes Have the Activities Contributed to?
<i>Decrease the prevalence of bullying (including cyberbullying).</i>		<p>✓ Consulted with 271 children and young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds, including hearing their experiences of bullying in schools or discrimination within the workplace and the community.</p> <p>Prepared <i>The experience of young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds in NSW</i> report, highlighting these findings.<sup>103</sup> This was shared with over 10,000 stakeholders, to amplify the experiences of bullying and discrimination faced by refugee and migrant children and young people.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strengthened sector understanding of bullying and discrimination experienced by refugee and migrant young people.</li> <li>Supported awareness and practice change through presentations at sector forums and resource engagement (report and worksheet downloads).</li> </ul>
		<p>+ Youth Advisory Council members aged 16 and over reviewed and provided feedback on marketing materials for a social media campaign, aimed at raising awareness among young women and girls about the eSafety Commissioner's digital resources, to help ensure the content resonated with young audiences.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Feedback from the perspectives of young people in NSW provided via the Youth Advisory Council. This included comments around the language and content of the campaign to ensure it was clear and engaging for its target audience.</li> </ul>

<sup>102</sup> Engadine High School, [Anti-Bullying Round table invitation with the Office of the Advocate for Children and Young People](#), Engadine High School website, 2022, accessed 26 June

## Domestic and Family Violence

**Overview:** ACYP facilitated discussions with key stakeholders amplifying the voices of young domestic and family violence survivors, as well as influencing National and Australia wide action plans, and contributing to reference groups providing advice and impact of the coercive control legislation on specific communities. ACYP identified a critical need to decrease the number of children and young people experiencing domestic or family violence.

Through its advocacy efforts, ACYP contributed to the following:

Goal	ACYP Commitments / Actions	Activities Delivered by ACYP	What Changes Have the Activities Contributed to?
<i>Decrease the number of children and young people experiencing domestic or family violence.</i>	Work in partnership with the sector, with a focus on elevating the voices of children and young people who have been victims / survivors of domestic or family violence.	✓ Facilitated panel discussions in 2022 <sup>104</sup> and 2024 <sup>105</sup> at the Domestic Violence NSW Conference and follow-up events.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Voices of children and young people who have been victims / survivors of domestic and family violence heard and uplifted.</li> </ul>
		✓ Provided feedback on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Draft National Action Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and Children; and</li> <li>Draft NSW DFV and SV Action Plans.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ACYP feedback highlighted the importance of elevating children and young people's voices and acknowledging them as victims and survivors, as well as being part of the family unit.</li> </ul>
		✓ Attended and contributed to the Children and Youth Reference Group <sup>106</sup> concerning the new coercive control legislation and the Working Group on Responses to Children's Harmful Behaviour. This included providing feedback directly into the Strategy for Coercive Control.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Young people with lived experience fed in directly to development of the Coercive Control Strategy.</li> <li>Young people's views fed into Reference Group on the new coercive control legislation.</li> </ul>

<sup>103</sup> ACYP, *The experiences of young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds in NSW*, ACYP, NSW Government, 2024, accessed 16 June 2025

<sup>104</sup> Domestic Violence NSW (DVNSW), *Domestic Violence NSW Conference 2022*, DVNSW website, 2022, accessed 27 June 2025

<sup>105</sup> DVNSW, *Domestic Violence NSW Conference 2024*, DVNSW Conference 2024 website, 2024, accessed 27 June 2025

## Consent and Relationships

**Overview:** ACYP has contributed to building a greater understanding and awareness of the views of children and young people in NSW on consent and respectful relationships, as well as facilitating young people's feedback on their campaign about affirmative consent legislation in NSW. ACYP identified a need to *shift the cultural understanding of consent and respectful relationships* through education and awareness building. Through its advocacy efforts, ACYP contributed to the following:

Goal	ACYP Commitments / Actions	Activities Delivered by ACYP	What Changes Have the Activities Contributed to?
<i>Create cultural shift in understanding of consent and respectful relationships.</i>	Work with NSW Department of Education around implementation of the Statement of Intent.	✓ The Youth Advisory Committee provided feedback on the Statement of Intent from the Department of Education.	• Incorporation of children and young people's feedback into the Statement of Intent before publication, ensuring it aligned with their perspectives.
	Work with key stakeholders to improve access to additional consent education in schools.	✓ The Advocate hosted a round table networking event to promote the work of Chanel Contos in the Teach Us Consent campaign and bring together female leaders who work and advocate on issues related to gender equality, domestic and family violence, sexual violence and consent in relationships.  Attendees heard from the Advocate and Chanel Contos and then discussed opportunities to share advocacy platforms with those whose voices are otherwise marginalised.	• The event included representatives across government, non-government organisations, advocacy groups, media spokespersons, and private sector actors, who heard directly on issues related to gender equality, domestic and family violence, sexual violence and consent in relationships.
		✓ Youth Advisory Council provided feedback to NSW Department of Communities and Justice in relation to the development of their 'Make No Doubt' campaign focused on increasing awareness about new affirmative consent legislation in NSW.	• Feedback provided from perspective of young people in NSW via the Youth Advisory Council. This included comments around the language and content of the campaign to ensure it was clear and engaging for its target audience.

Goal	ACYP Commitments / Actions	Activities Delivered by ACYP	What Changes Have the Activities Contributed to?
<i>Create cultural shift in understanding of consent and respectful relationships.</i>	Continue to undertake consultation with children and young people around consent and respectful relationships and represent their views to government and the community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Conducted polling through ACYP annual Strategic Plan Tracking Survey, with a section of questions on consent and respectful relationships.</li> <li>Shared survey results across government, including with the NSW Department for Education to inform their work.</li> <li>Funded Consent Labs to deliver school-based consent education in Bathurst, Orange and Dubbo.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Greater awareness and visibility of the views of children and young people on consent and respectful relationships including:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Information sources young people have for respectful relationships;</li> <li>– How sufficient children and young people believe information on sexual consent and respectful relationships is; and</li> <li>– How children and young people rate the level of respectful relationships they see in people they know who their age / or in people in their community.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Implementation of consent education program through ongoing collaboration with Teach Us Consent and support for Consent Labs in schools.</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ Made a submission to the Commonwealth Parliament Inquiry into the Crimes Amendment (Strengthening the Criminal Justice Response to Sexual Violence) Bill 2024<sup>107</sup>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Insights from ongoing work of ACYP shared with the Committee's and Inquiries, based on the voices of children and young people. These contribute to the evidence base provided in the submissions of ACYP and others.</li> </ul>

## Sense of Belonging

**Overview:** ACYP has provided training to Youth Advisory Councils, supporting young people directly involved in their local community, as well as creating a reflective activity for those that work with children and young people to consider how they support belonging, connection and community cohesion when working with children and young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds. ACYP identified the need to build a *greater sense of connection to community* through the creation of more opportunities for young people to do this. Through its advocacy efforts, ACYP contributed to the following:

106 NSW DCJ, *Coercive control Reference Groups*, NSW DCJ website, 2025, accessed 23 June 2025

107 Parliament of Australia, *'Submission to the Inquiry into the Crimes Amendment (Strengthening the Criminal Justice Response to Sexual Violence) Bill 2024'*.

Goal	ACYP Commitments / Actions	Activities Delivered by ACYP	What Changes Have the Activities Contributed to?
<i>Increase number of children and young people reporting connection to a community or social group outside of their family.</i>	Empower youth advisory councils across the state to encourage engagement in local events, activities and engagement with community, in particular through Youth Week.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Supported Youth Advisory Councils across the state, including:  Delivered training to Camden Council's Youth Reference Group on how to consult with other young people and advocate for them.  Condensed knowledge and expertise into a guide for establishing Children and Young People's Youth Advisory Groups<sup>108</sup>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More young people with advocacy and consultation skills.</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Reposted local youth group events for Youth Week across Youth Week Instagram and Facebook accounts.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased reach of Youth Week events promoted by ACYP through social media channels.</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ In the ACYP refugee and migrant report<sup>109</sup>, ACYP spotlighted case study examples of programs and initiatives that promote and foster belonging, community and inclusion. Additionally, the report provides insights on young people's views on community and belonging.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Insights available via case studies on programs and initiatives that promote and foster belonging, community and inclusion. Additionally, report contains insights captured via consultation with children and young people.</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ ACYP have developed a reflection activity<sup>110</sup> for organisations to improve their work with refugee and migrant children and young people. Part of the activity focusses on how an organisation, service, or team can reflect on supporting belonging, connection, and community cohesion for children and young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reflection activity has been downloaded eight times since publication. No data available on use.</li> </ul>

Submission to Parliament of Australia No 36, ACYP, 2024, accessed 4 July 2025

<sup>108</sup> ACYP, [ACYP Guide to establishing a children and young people's advisory group](#), ACYP website, accessed 10 July 2025

<sup>109</sup> ACYP, [The experiences of young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds in NSW](#), ACYP, NSW Government, 2024, accessed 16 June 2025



## Health and Wellbeing

### Support for Children and Their Carers During the First 2000 Days of Life

**Overview:** ACYP conducted targeted consultation with young parents to better understand the challenges facing young parents that informed a submission to a NSW inquiry into Improving Access to Early Childhood Health and Development checks, as well as informing the national Early Years Strategy. ACYP identified a need to strengthen efforts to provide support for children and their carers during the first 2000 days of life. Through its advocacy efforts, ACYP was successful in contributing to the following:

Goal	ACYP Commitments / Actions	Activities Delivered by ACYP	What Changes Have the Activities Contributed to?
<p><i>Increase proportion of women attending their first antenatal visit within the first trimester.</i></p> <p><i>Increase proportion of children having development checks at age 2, 3 and 4 years.</i></p>	<p>Support the implementation of the First 2000 Days Strategy, such as promoting information about childhood health and development to parents and supporting targeted programs for young parents.</p>	<p>This commitment was completed outside of Strategic Plan's duration and has therefore been marked as incomplete for the purposes of the evaluation. During the Plan's timeframe, progress included developing the consultation framework, securing ethics approval, and conducting consultations with a pre-school in December 2024. The majority of the work, including the release of the Final Report, occurred outside of the Plan's duration.</p> <p>✓ Collaborated with the NSW Department of Education and NSW Health to hear from 25 children who have completed their four-year old health and development check in an early childhood education and care service. The consultations were conducted via play-based activities and focussed on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Children's experience of health and development checks.</li> <li>– Adjustments and improvements that could be made to make the process more comfortable for them.</li> </ul> <p>The final report will be published in the next reporting period.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children's experience of health and development checks captured, with research increasing the visibility of adjustments and improvements that could be made as part of the implementation of the First 2000 Days Strategy.</li> </ul>



Goal	ACYP Commitments / Actions	Activities Delivered by ACYP	What Changes Have the Activities Contributed to?
<i>Increase proportion of women attending their first antenatal visit within the first trimester.</i>		<p>As part of this final report, ACYP will be publishing a case study regarding the approach to consultation with young children to inform future work by the Advocate and other government agencies.</p> <p>The consultations were with 4-year-old children in Warragamba, Kellyville Ridge, Dubbo and Cowra.</p>	
<i>Increase proportion of children having development checks at age 2, 3 and 4 years.</i>		+ Made recommendations to the Federal Department of Social Services on changes to the Early Years Strategy 2024-2034. <sup>111</sup>	• As of July 2025, there has been no formal response to the submission
		<p>+ Prepared a submission for the NSW Inquiry into Improving Access to Early Childhood Health and Development Checks.<sup>112</sup></p> <p>Captured the voices and views of young parents from 'How children and young people are impacted by and responding to the rising cost of living in NSW' report, which highlighted the pressures and barriers around access to medical care.</p> <p>Developed and provided recommendations to the NSW Parliamentary Committee.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visibility of issues from perspective of young parents and young people fed into NSW State decision-makers.</li> <li>• The Committee is deferring further activity for this inquiry until its inquiry into the Health Services Amendment (Splitting of the Hunter New England Health District) Bill 2025 is completed.</li> <li>• The impact of the 'How children and young people are impacted by and responding to the rising cost of living in NSW' report has been to create greater awareness of the specific pressures that children, young people and their families are facing due to the rising cost of living, and how this has impacted their health, wellbeing, education and aspirations. It also identifies solutions that government, businesses and community can implement to address these experiences.</li> </ul>
		+ Conducted targeted consultation with young parents, as part of the development and publication of the 'How children and young people are impacted by and responding to the rising cost of living in NSW' report.	

<sup>110</sup> ACYP, *Supporting Refugee and Migrant children and young people reflective activity*, ACYP, NSW Government, 2024, accessed 16 June 2025

<sup>111</sup> Department of Social Services, 8 May 2023, *OFFICE OF THE ADVOCATE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE – 17497 – New submission from Early Years Strategy – Public Submissions*, Submission to DSS Early Years Strategy, accessed 18 June 2025

## Childhood Death and Accidental Injury

**Overview:** ACYP participated on the Child Death Review Team, contributing to reviews, reports and the implementation of key recommendations in collaboration with other government departments. ACYP identified a need to strengthen efforts to prevent childhood death and accidental injury. Through its advocacy efforts, ACYP contributed to the following:

Goal	ACYP Commitments / Actions	Activities Delivered by ACYP	What Changes Have the Activities Contributed to?
<p><i>Decrease in deaths among infants and children.</i></p> <p><i>Decrease in childhood injury.</i></p>	The Advocate will continue to serve on the Child Death Review Team.	<p>✓ Participated on the Child Death Review Team (CDRT)<sup>113</sup> in 2022, 2023 and 2024 as an Ex Officio member.</p> <p>ACYP review annual reports and review cases and files escalated to the CDRT.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The reviews provided an opportunity to identify trends and patterns relating to child deaths; undertake research that aims to help prevent or reduce the likelihood of child deaths and to identify areas requiring further research; and make recommendations to prevent or reduce the likelihood of child deaths.</li> </ul>
	Work with the NSW Ombudsman, NSW Health, the NSW Department of Communities and Justice and other organisations to implement the findings and recommendations of the Child Death Review Team.	<p>✓ Collaborated with the NSW Ombudsman, NSW Health, NSW Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) and other organisations to implement the findings and recommendations of the Child Death Review Team.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The findings and recommendations from the CDRT have contributed to the opportunity to share learnings with key stakeholders including practitioners, program areas and policymakers across DCJ to strengthen child protection practice and improve the services offered to children and families with complex needs.</li> <li>Recommendations have led to strengthening the child protection system and improving responses to vulnerable children and families.</li> </ul>

## Suicide and Self-Injury

**Overview:** ACYP facilitated the direct input of young people to the development of the NSW Health Mental Health Strategy and advocated for children and young people at the Adolescent Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Interagency meetings in 2022. ACYP identified a need to strengthen efforts around suicide and self-injury prevention.

<sup>112</sup> ACYP, 11 May 2024, [‘Inquiry into improving access to early childhood health and development checks’](#), Submission to Parliament of NSW, ACYP, accessed 23 June 2025

Through its advocacy efforts, ACYP contributed to the following:

Goal	ACYP Commitments / Actions	Activities Delivered by ACYP	What Changes Have the Activities Contributed to?
	The Advocate will continue to participate in the Adolescent Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Interagency Meeting.	✓ Participated in Adolescent Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Interagency Meetings in 2022. <sup>114</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Interagency Meetings have contributed to broad discussions on various aspects of adolescent mental health services, including improving access to mental health services, addressing disparities in care and implementing evidence-based interventions.</li> <li>The Interagency Meetings contributed to the development of the Suicide Prevention Strategy.</li> </ul>
		✓ Participated in Adolescent Mental Health Steering Group Meetings with NSW Health between 2023-2024, including supporting them to find young people to assist in the development of a new Mental Health Strategy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Between 2023-2024 the Adolescent Mental Health Steering Group contributed to multiple initiatives, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Informed the NSW Community Mental Health Services Priority Issues Paper (2023), highlighting key service gaps and priorities based on young people's input.</li> <li>– Helped shape the Living Well in Focus Strategic Plan (2020–2024), ensuring youth perspectives were reflected in co-designed mental health services.</li> <li>– Supported youth participation in the design of a new NSW Mental Health Strategy, promoting more inclusive and responsive policy development.</li> <li>– Strengthened cross-sector collaboration to address adolescent mental health through coordinated, whole-of-government approaches.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
		+ Collaborated and supported Northern Beaches Health Service with attendance at a community meeting and strategy, following several suicides within a short period of time.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not applicable.</li> </ul>

<sup>113</sup> NSW Ombudsman, [Child Death Review Team \(CRDT\)](#), NSW Ombudsman website, n.d., accessed 19 June 2025

## Mental Health Supports

**Overview:** Collaborated with various organisations to bring speakers with lived experience of mental ill-health to schools. ACYP also promoted the Youth Mental Health First Aid Health course so adults who teach, care for, or support young people have the knowledge, skills and confidence to recognise, understand and respond to a young person experiencing a mental health problem or crisis. ACYP identified a need to improve accessibility, availability and awareness of mental health supports for children and young people. Through its advocacy efforts, ACYP contributed to the following:

Goal	ACYP Commitments / Actions	Activities Delivered by ACYP	What Changes Have the Activities Contributed to?
<p><i>Increase mental health literacy for adults who serve children and young people.</i></p> <p><i>Increase capacity for young people to provide peer mental health support.</i></p>	<p>Work to promote the Youth Mental Health First Aid course and advocate for higher completion rates in NSW.</p>	<p>✓ Promoted the Youth Mental Health First Aid course to stakeholders across government departments, including through mechanisms like the Youth Advisory Council 2024 brief to the Minister for Youth and Mental Health Commissioner.</p> <p>ACYP Youth Advisory Council presented a brief to the Minister for Youth and Mental Health Commissioner which consisted of seven recommendations about improving mental health education in schools, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Mandating Youth Mental Health First Aid Training for teachers and year 7 students.</li> <li>– Funding the development of a peer-to-peer education and storytelling model to begin mental health awareness and education for years 5-8 students.</li> <li>– Advocated for Youth Mental Health First Aid training for NSW Police, teachers and Womn-Kind mentors. Contributed to funding for this training for NSW Police and Womn-Kind mentors.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Funding for Mental Health First Aid training within NSW Police.</li> <li>• No data available that can be shared publicly on the completion statistics for the Youth Mental Health First Aid Training Course.</li> <li>• Youth Advisory Council brief informed the development of the Mental Health Commission Strategy.</li> </ul>

Goal	ACYP Commitments / Actions	Activities Delivered by ACYP	What Changes Have the Activities Contributed to?
<p><i>Increase mental health literacy for adults who serve children and young people.</i></p> <p><i>Increase capacity for young people to provide peer mental health support.</i></p>	Empower local youth advisory councils to advocate for Teen Mental Health First Aid training.	<p>✓ Consulted with local youth advisory councils to empower them to advocate for the Teen Mental Health First Aid Course.</p> <p>Promoted Teen Mental Health First Aid across social media platforms.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No data available that can be shared on completion statistics for the Teen Mental Health First Aid Course. It is included on Education to Advocate (E2A) resource list and is promoted in all E2A training workshops delivered.</li> </ul>
		<p>✓ ACYP Youth Advisory Council consulted over 100 young people and collaborated with Batyr's National Youth Advisory Group, the NSW Ministry of Health (Mental Health Youth Advisory Group) and the Department of Student Voices in Education and Schools Youth Advisory Group on 2024 Project: Reducing the Stigma of Mental Health.<sup>115</sup></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This resulted in a brief to the Minister for Youth and Mental Health Commissioner which consisted of seven recommendations about improving mental health education in schools. Two recommendations were tabled.</li> </ul>
		<p>✓ Provided advice to NSW Health and helped to facilitate the establishment of the NSW Health Mental Health Youth Advisory Group<sup>116</sup>, including its design, development, recruitment and onboarding phases.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Mental Health Youth Advisory Group helps to provide the voice of children and young people who have lived experience of mental health issues and want to improve the mental health and well-being of young people to help shape NSW Health mental health work and influence decision-makers.</li> </ul>
		<p>✓ Delivered advocacy training to a Youth Advisory Group at Western Sydney Primary Health Network (WentWest). The group is aimed at supporting the participation of young people aged between 18 and 24 who have a lived experience of mental health services within the Western Sydney Primary Health Network.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Youth Advisory Group equipped with key tools and techniques to help ensure young people's views and ideas are considered.</li> </ul>

<sup>114</sup> ACYP, [Annual Report 1 July 2023](#), ACYP website, 2023, accessed 16 June 2025

<sup>115</sup> ACYP Youth Advisory Council, (n.d.), [2024 Project: Reducing the Stigma of Mental Health](#), ACYP website, accessed 20 June 2025

Goal	ACYP Commitments / Actions	Activities Delivered by ACYP	What Changes Have the Activities Contributed to?
<p><i>Increase mental health literacy for adults who serve children and young people.</i></p> <p><i>Increase capacity for young people to provide peer mental health support.</i></p>		✓ Supported NSW Health to provide advocacy training to NSW Health's Mental Health Youth Advisory Group as part of the onboarding program.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An increased awareness by young people on mental health issues and how to support their peers.</li> </ul>
		✓ Collaborated with five former members of the NSW Youth Advisory Council to make a submission into the Inquiry into Equity, Accessibility and Appropriate Delivery of Outpatient and Community Mental Health Care in NSW <sup>117</sup> and appeared before the Portfolio Committee to provide further information.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Final Report called for more funding, programs and services to the community to provide greater access to support before they become critically ill or unwell.<sup>118</sup></li> <li>Share views and influence NSW decision-makers.</li> </ul>
	Support the work of the Four You Alliance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Collaborated with Four You Organisations and Government Departments to connect schools to speakers with lived experience of mental illness<sup>119</sup>.</li> <li>✓ Promoted the work of Four You Organisations to Government departments by engaging directly with them and by highlighting their work to stakeholders across government.</li> <li>✓ Facilitated connections between the Regional Youth Taskforce in NSW and Project Rockit – a youth-driven movement against bullying, hate and prejudice that is part of the Four You Alliance.</li> <li>✓ Provided funding to Youth Insearch to train and support young people in regional communities, supporting their work on youth trauma recovery.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No visibility of impact of this activity.</li> </ul>

<sup>116</sup> NSW Health, (n.d.), [NSW Health Mental Health Youth Advisory Group](#), NSW Health Website, accessed 19 June 2025

<sup>117</sup> ACYP, ['Inquiry into Equity, Accessibility and Appropriate Delivery of Outpatient and Community Mental Health Care in NSW'](#), Submission to Parliament of NSW, ACYP, 13 September 2023, accessed 20 June 2025

<sup>118</sup> Parliament of NSW, Portfolio Committee No. 2 – Health (June 2024), [Equity, accessibility and appropriate delivery of outpatient and community mental health care \(report 64\)](#)

Goal	ACYP Commitments / Actions	Activities Delivered by ACYP	What Changes Have the Activities Contributed to?
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participated in the 2023 NRL State of Mind Program to reduce stigma around mental health, particularly for First Nations' communities and regional/rural communities.</li> </ul> <p>ACYP provided funding, collaborated with NRL to run the program and coordinated with schools to align the program to needs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The NRL State of Mind Program addresses mental health within rugby league communities and beyond, aiming to increase mental health literacy, reduce stigma, start positive conversations and encourage help-seeking behaviours.</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supported the Recovery Youth Support Service in funding sessions for children and young people to undertake the Youth Mental Health First Aid Course.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Greater number of children and young people undertaking the Youth Mental Health First Aid Course and increasing their awareness on how to provide peer to peer support.</li> </ul>

### Wait Times for Mental Health Support

**Overview:** ACYP captured children and young people's experience in NSW of wait times to receive professional mental health support and shared these with NSW Health, as well as continued advocacy for existing data on wait times to be broken down to be more granular. ACYP identified long waiting times for professional mental health supports. Through its advocacy efforts, ACYP contributed to the following:

Goal	ACYP Commitments / Actions	Activities Delivered by ACYP	What Changes Have the Activities Contributed to?
<i>Decrease waiting time for professional mental health supports.</i>	Work with relevant agencies to advocate for tracking of wait times for young people to receive professional mental health support.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collaborated with NSW Health to advocate for the tracking of wait times for young people to receive professional mental health support.</li> </ul> <p>ACYP has requested and advocated to NSW Health for the current data to be broken down to a more granular level.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The data for tracking of wait times for young people to receive professional mental health support is not yet available.</li> </ul>



Goal	ACYP Commitments / Actions	Activities Delivered by ACYP	What Changes Have the Activities Contributed to?
<i>Decrease waiting time for professional mental health supports.</i>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Conducted an annual Strategic Plan Tracking Poll to capture children and young people's experience of wait times to receive professional mental health support.<sup>119</sup></li> <li>The insights from the polling were shared with NSW Ministry of Health.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The insights informed the Ministry of Health review and redevelopment of youth strategy, specifically the sections on youth mental health.</li> </ul>

## Alcohol and Other Drug Addiction

**Overview:** ACYP facilitated consultations and direct input at the NSW Drug Summit from children and young people on alcohol, drugs and addiction and provided input to a cross agency Advisory Group focused on Alcohol and Other Drugs Strategy and the implementation of ICE inquiry recommendations. ACYP identified a lack of supports for young people experiencing addiction or problematic use of alcohol and other drugs. Through its advocacy efforts, ACYP contributed to the following:

Goal	ACYP Commitments / Actions	Activities Delivered by ACYP	What Changes Have the Activities Contributed to?
<i>Increase access to youth specific services to support young people who had engagement with alcohol and other drugs.</i>	Work to understand children and young people's level of access to existing supports, particularly in regional areas, and identify any barriers to participation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Increase access to youth specific services to support young people who had engagement with alcohol and other drugs.</li> <li>✓ Supported ACYP Recovery Youth Support Service in providing brief intervention support to children and young people involved in alcohol and drugs.</li> <li>✓ Consulted with eleven young people across two consultations focussed on Alcohol and Other Drugs use at Ted Noffs Foundation and Oasis.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• During this time, ACYP has been able to identify appropriate referral pathways for ongoing support post the service closure.</li> <li>• The findings from the consultations conducted by the Advocate were collated and provided to the Premier's Department and Cabinet to inform the development of the Strategy.</li> </ul>

<sup>119</sup> ACYP, [Peer to Peer Alliance, All Four, For You](#), ACYP, n.d.. accessed 18 June 2025

Goal	ACYP Commitments / Actions	Activities Delivered by ACYP	What Changes Have the Activities Contributed to?
<i>Increase access to youth specific services to support young people who had engagement with alcohol and other drugs.</i>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Supported Ministry of Health consultations to engage young people in NSW Drug and Alcohol Summit (2024), as well as supporting their attendance.</li> <li>✓ Facilitated young person's input at the Drug and Alcohol Summit in Griffith (2024), with attendees hearing insights directly from young people on their experiences with access to Alcohol and Other Drugs services.</li> <li>✓ Advocated for children and young people at all sessions of the NSW Drug and Alcohol Summit (2024).</li> <li>✓ Inputted to NSW Drug Summit Working Group.</li> <li>✓ Participated as a member and provided input into a cross Agency Advisory Group focussed on Alcohol and Other Drugs Strategy and Special Commission of Inquiry into the Drug ICE.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Decision makers were able to listen to the views and experiences of young people, including those with lived experience of drug use and harms, to identify and understand challenges and opportunities. Insight was also used ensure that services and programs are informed by the experiences and voices of the people in the community, and generate achievable actions for better health outcomes for young people impacted by drugs.</li> <li>• The NSW Drug and Alcohol Summit resulted in NSW Government developing priorities for action that focus on the impact of drug use on individuals, families and communities. The priorities for action also aim to reduce stigma by encouraging open dialogue, early help seeking support and broader participation in developing and implementing solutions.</li> <li>• Increased advocacy at the NSW Drug and Alcohol Summit for pill testing.</li> <li>• The voice of young people fed into Government Advisory Groups.</li> </ul>

## COVID-19 Vaccinations

**Context:** When the Strategic Plan was developed, COVID-19 was a significant concern for children and young people with fears about the virus impacting their mental health. There were many fears about the safety of the vaccine, as well as misinformation about the vaccines. Whilst COVID-19 is no longer a priority, it is important to acknowledge the work of ACYP and consider its contributions to the following:

**Overview:** ACYP facilitated the direct input of children and young people into the design of a Communications Strategy for NSW Health on the COVID-19 vaccine, as well as a regular input to NSW Government decision making during COVID-19 pandemic. ACYP identified the need for a COVID-19 public health response for children and young people. Through its advocacy efforts, ACYP contributed to the following:

Goal	ACYP Commitments / Actions	Activities Delivered by ACYP	What Changes Have the Activities Contributed to?
<i>Increase access to and uptake of COVID-19 vaccination in accordance with public health advice.</i>	Throughout the pandemic ACYP worked alongside NSW Health to ensure communications were targeted to young people and that they received the information they needed.	✓ Collaborated with NSW Health to represent the voices of children and young people in the design and development of a Communications Strategy for young people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Created social media videos on the vaccine role out featuring trusted experts (Youth Ambassadors and clinicians) viewed by over 12,800 times.</li> <li>Communications Strategy informed and responded to the voice of children and young people in NSW.</li> </ul>
	ACYP has and will continue to engage children and young people to ensure NSW Government decision making includes their voices.	✓ Facilitated the input of children and young people's voices in NSW Government decision making during the COVID pandemic by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Undertaking periodic polling of children and young people to understand young people's wellbeing and experiences of the pandemic. This included returning to school, overall sentiment tracking and views on vaccines.</li> <li>Sharing polling results with all NSW Government Departments.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consideration of the impact of decisions in COVID on children and young people in NSW, including on students returning to school and government messaging.</li> </ul>

## Vaping

**Context:** Whilst vaping was not included as an initiative in the Strategic Plan, it sits within the health and wellbeing commitment area.

**Overview:** Significant consultation to develop a report on vaping that influenced anti-vaping campaigns, educational campaigns on the harms of vaping, Department for Education approach to prevention and Commonwealth Government legislation on plain packaging and vape flavours.

ACYP was involved in an interagency panel on vaping, following the launch of the ‘*Do You Know What You’re Vaping?*’ campaign launched by the Ministry of Health (MoH) and the Department of Education (DoE). ACYP recognised the need to ensure that the voices of young people around vaping were captured. Through its advocacy efforts, ACYP were able to contribute to the following:

Activities Delivered by ACYP	What Changes Have the Activities Contributed to?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Facilitated 25 focus groups to consult with 261 young people aged between 13 - 18 to understand the reasons young people chose to vape or not to vape and what support would help a young person if they were trying to stop vaping.</li> <li>✓ Created and published the ‘<i>Vaping can affect your whole life, not just your lungs: Young people’s perspectives on vaping in 2023</i>’ report, summarising findings from consultation and developed and provided recommendations for consideration by several government organisations.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Insights from the vaping consultation and report contributed to the following:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– The Cancer Institute and NSW Health developed an anti-vaping campaign<sup>121</sup>.</li> <li>– The Department of Education and NSW Health worked together to create universal education (Vaping Resources Hub) about the health harms of vaping, via online webinars, videos, podcasts and factsheets<sup>122</sup>.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The NSW DoE decided not to install vape detectors as a method to reduce vaping in schools, with the report providing insight from children who believed they could circumvent vape detectors and questioning their effectiveness. Market testing regarding vape detectors were conducted by the NSW DoE in 2023, which found that installing detections would not be cost effective<sup>123</sup>.</li> <li>• Public Health (Tobacco and Other Products) Act 2023 was passed by the Federal Government requiring plain packaging and limiting vape flavours. It came into effect on 1 April 2024.</li> <li>• 2,166 views of the Vaping Report website, two media interview request and 29 articles or radio mentions of the report findings as of May 2025.</li> <li>• ACYP Media release on 19 October 2023 on the findings of the Vaping Report creating public awareness that many young people are unaware of the detrimental effects of vaping.</li> </ul>

<sup>120</sup> ACYP, *The NSW Strategic Plan for Children and Young People Tracking Report 01*, ACYP, NSW Government, 2022, accessed 24 June 2025

<sup>121</sup> Cancer Institute NSW, ‘*Every vape is a hit to your health*’ Anti-Vaping Campaign, Cancer Institute NSW Website, n.d., accessed 17 June 2023

<sup>122</sup> NSW Health, *Vaping Resources Hub*, NSW Health website, n.d., accessed 19 June 2025

Activities Delivered by ACYP	What Changes Have the Activities Contributed to?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Made a submission to the Legislative Assembly Committee on Law and Safety's Inquiry on E-Cigarette Regulation and Compliance in NSW. Appeared before the Committee to provide further information about the submission.</li> <li>✓ Facilitated the direct input of a young person with lived experience to a closed hearing, enabling the Committee to hear and learn directly from a young person.</li> <li>✓ Created an opportunity for a young person with lived experience to appear at a closed hearing, to enable the Committee to hear and learn directly from them (April 2024).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Final Report on the Inquiry into e-cigarette regulation and compliance in NSW (August 2024) found that e-cigarette use is high among youth, poses significant health risks and requires stronger collaboration to protect public health and reduce vaping uptake. The report referenced ACYP 2023 Vaping report on numerous occasions and were included in the recommendations including that NSW should adopt one of the recommendations in ACYP report to develop an online tool or app that provides a 'one-stop shop' for information about vaping and support for cessation.</li> <li>• The impact of this report has led to greater awareness of the risks and impact on young people in using e-cigarette and 13 recommendations around strengthening regulations, enhancing enforcement mechanisms to prevent illegal supply and promote federal collaboration, launch public health campaigns and increase support for quitting.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Shared findings with policy makers:  Attended the NSW E-Cigarette Regulation and Compliance hearing to present evidence from the vaping report, and associated recommendations for NSW, Federal Parliament and Bodies.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Members of NSW Parliament were sent the Vaping Report and findings, providing visibility of the views of children and young people on the topic.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Convened Government departments and non-government organisations to discuss findings and develop responses to the ACYP Vaping Report (NSW Health, Department for Education and the Cancer Institute).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 72% of recommendations were accepted (recommendations numbered 1.1, 1.3, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 4.1, 4.2), including plain packaging requirements being extended to therapeutic vaping products and vape detectors not being installed in schools.</li> </ul>

Activities Delivered by ACYP	What Changes Have the Activities Contributed to?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Collaborated with NSW Health and the NSW Cancer Institute to develop an online tool and app for young people, to support them to quit vaping, due for release in December 2024. Policy team have been sitting on committees.</li> </ul> <p>Enabled young people to share their feedback on the vaping cessation app.</p> <p>Enabled a young person to join the steering committee as an active member (for the Pave app development).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PAVE (Vaping Cessation Support App)<sup>124</sup> was developed to support young people while they quit vaping.</li> <li>• Having young people share their feedback on the vaping cessation app and being part of the Steering Committee has enabled young people to provide their views and share their experiences.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Participated as a member of inter-agency panel about vaping in March 2022.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ACYP shared insights from children and young people that revealed that vape detectors were ineffective deterrents as young people could easily bypass them. This feedback was shared with the NSW DoE and contributed to a decision against installing vape detectors, allowing funds to be redirected towards more impactful interventions</li> </ul>

<sup>123</sup> Parliament of NSW, [2350 – Vape Detectors in NSW Public Schools](#), Parliament of NSW website, 2024, accessed 24 June 2025



## A Good Standard of Living

### Childhood Poverty

**Overview:** ACYP provided greater visibility of rising levels of child poverty and contributed to recommendations governments can take in response, as well as regularly sharing the views of children and young people at regular meetings with the NSW Council of Social Services. Through its advocacy efforts, ACYP contributed to the following:

Goal	ACYP Commitments / Actions	Activities Delivered by ACYP	What Changes Have the Activities Contributed to?
<i>Decrease the number of children and young people living in poverty.</i>	Support the work of Anti-Poverty Week – highlighting childhood poverty in NSW.	✓ Promoted the work of Anti-Poverty Week across ACYP social media accounts and ACYP newsletters to highlight childhood poverty in NSW.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Newsletter increased visibility of Anti-Poverty Week and Childhood Poverty in NSW by sharing details with 2,934 children and young people and 7,081 other subscribers.</li> <li>• Increased visibility of the rising levels of child poverty, and the suggested actions for government to take in response.</li> </ul>
		✓ Prepared a joint media release with the Australian New Zealand Children's Commissioners, Guardians and Advocates raising visibility of the rising concern of child poverty and identifying four actions Australian Governments can take in response. The actions identified included the establishment of a minimum national poverty line that is regularly measured, monitored and reported on. <sup>124</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Responses to the media release will have gone to the National Children's Commissioner, rather than ACYP.</li> </ul>

<sup>124</sup> Cancer Institute NSW, *PAVE – a vaping cessation support app*, *Cancer Institute NSW Website*, 2025, accessed 17 June 2023



Goal	ACYP Commitments / Actions	Activities Delivered by ACYP	What Changes Have the Activities Contributed to?
<i>Decrease the number of children and young people living in poverty.</i>	Support agencies to track the extent of childhood poverty in NSW.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Continued advocacy to the Australian Council of Social Services (ACOSS) for national poverty data to be disaggregated to a state level.</li> <li>✓ ACYP consultation and survey data used to inform the 'Lasting Impacts: The Economic Costs of Child Poverty in NSW' published by NSW Council of Social Service (NCOSS). This was shared at the time of drafting through regular meetings with NCOSS.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not yet disaggregated.</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Attended regular meetings with NSW Council of Social Services (NCOSS), and shared what ACYP heard from consultation and engagement with children and young people.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The NSW Council of Social Services gained insights from ACYP's participation in these meetings to better understand the experiences of children and young people facing poverty and disadvantage in NSW.</li> </ul>

## Financial Instability

**Overview:** ACYP increased awareness of the need for young people to access financial counselling resources and partnered with organisations to support the development of financial support programs with the aim to reduce the number of young people facing financial instability. Through its advocacy efforts, ACYP contributed to the following:

Goal	ACYP Commitments / Actions	Activities Delivered by ACYP	What Changes Have the Activities Contributed to?
<i>Decrease the number of young people reporting financial instability.</i>	Support young people to access information and resources about financial counselling.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Supported NSW Department of Customer Service in the development of their Becoming an Adult life events project<sup>126</sup> that focussed on life skills resources. In the 'Cost-of-Living Report', ACYP noted that this resource should be co-designed, tested and evaluated by young people.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Becoming an Adult life event has provided young people with life skills resources to help young people as they transition from high school on how to become an adult, including education on financial literacy and financial management.</li> </ul>

<sup>125</sup> ACYP, Australian Children's Commissioners and Guardians Joint Statement on Poverty [media release], ACYP, 13 October 2024, accessed 26 June 2025

Goal	ACYP Commitments / Actions	Activities Delivered by ACYP	What Changes Have the Activities Contributed to?
<i>Decrease the number of young people reporting financial instability.</i>		Collaborated on Becoming an Adult Project through attendance at both the Steering Committee and Project Control Group led by the Department of Customer Service, additionally provided quantitative data from ACYP polling, and advocated for the development of a digital passport for young people to store their qualifications.	
		✓ Developed a Life Skills video <sup>127</sup> and linked resources to support children and young people build their financial literacy and management skills.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Having access to life skills resources empowers young people, enabling them to make informed decisions and manage their finances effectively as they navigate adult life.</li> <li>• Provided a video, resources and information to support young people as they transition to adulthood with over 865 views on YouTube as of May 2025, in response to a need for more information about practical financial management skills.</li> </ul>
	Work in partnership with Revenue NSW to support inclusion of children and young people's voices to identify gaps and opportunities to improve the Hardship Support program.	✓ Participated in Revenue NSW – Hardship Support Program Steering Committee <sup>126</sup> and Advisory Committee.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shared findings from consultations with children and young people with the group, contributing to the development of initiatives to improve the Hardship Support Program.</li> </ul>

<sup>126</sup> NSW Government, *OneCX Program blog: Helping young people transition to adulthood*, NSW Government website, 2024, accessed 27 June 2025

<sup>127</sup> ACYP, *'Life Skills: Financial management resources'*, ACYP website, n.d., accessed 16 June 2025

## Safe, Stable and Affordable Accommodation

**Overview:** ACYP inputted the voices of young people to the NSW Consultation on Rental Laws, as well as contributing to the National Housing and Homelessness Plan and increasing the reach of information and guidance on renters' rights. ACYP identified inability to access safe, stable and affordable accommodation. Through its advocacy efforts, ACYP contributed to the following:

Goal	ACYP Commitments / Actions	Activities Delivered by ACYP	What Changes Have the Activities Contributed to?
<i>Decrease the number of young people reporting difficulty in finding safe, stable and affordable accommodation.</i>	Work in partnership with the Real Estate Institute and other relevant stakeholders, to develop greater awareness and knowledge about Rent Choice products which are available for young people.	✓ Published the Cost of Living Consultation Report, which highlighted mixed reception to supports such as Rent Choice and Rent Assistance. Some young people described these services as difficult to access due to complex application procedures and a lack of understanding about eligibility requirements.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The voices of young people and the challenges they face accessing Rent Choice or Rent Assistance fed into the Revenue NSW working group.</li> </ul>
	Support the dissemination of information about renters' rights amongst young people.	✓ Promoted the resources developed by the Rental Commissioner in both the ACYP newsletter and website sections on renters' rights. <sup>129</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Newsletter increased visibility of Rental Commissioner resource by sharing details with 4,803 children and young people and 6,099 other subscribers on ACYP mailing list.</li> <li>Increased reach of resources on renters' rights that are included on the Life Skills page having 1,827 views as of June 2025.</li> <li>Expanded the reach and accessibility of information and guidance to young people.</li> </ul>
		✓ Developed a Life Skills video <sup>130</sup> and linked resources about how to make a house a home, including information about rental bonds and lease, designed to support young people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provided a video, resources and information to support young people as they transition to adulthood with over 360 views on YouTube as of May 2025, in response to a need for more information about making a house a home.</li> </ul>

<sup>128</sup> ACYP, [Annual Report 2024](#), ACYP website, 2024. ACYP, [Annual Report 2023](#), ACYP website, 2023. ACYP, [Annual Report 2022](#), ACYP website, 2022. Accessed 16 June 2025

<sup>129</sup> ACYP, [ACYP Newsletter - December edition](#), ACYP website, 2024, accessed 23 June 2025

Goal	ACYP Commitments / Actions	Activities Delivered by ACYP	What Changes Have the Activities Contributed to?
<i>Decrease the number of young people reporting difficulty in finding safe, stable and affordable accommodation.</i>		+ Prepared two submissions that contributed to the Improving NSW Rental Laws Consultation Paper with the NSW Fair Trading, including providing feedback on the proposed reform of rental laws. <sup>131</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Insights and the voice of young people inputted into the consultation process, pulling on previous research and reports conducted by ACYP.</li> <li>The Residential Tenancies Amendment Act 2024 improves rental laws to make renting in NSW fairer and improve protections for tenants including ending 'no grounds' termination, limiting rent increases to once per year.</li> </ul>
		+ Prepared a submission to the Department of Social Services, National Housing and Homelessness Plan Issues Paper. <sup>132</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Insights and voice of young people captured in consultation inputted into the consultation process to develop the Plan development, pulling on previous research and reports conducted by ACYP.</li> </ul>

## Youth Homelessness

**Overview:** ACYP influenced both national and state Housing and Homelessness Strategies, increased the reach of key crisis support services to children and young people and contributed to the Property Industry Foundation Board. ACYP identified youth homelessness as a priority area for action. Through its advocacy efforts, ACYP contributed to the following:

Goal	ACYP Commitments / Actions	Activities Delivered by ACYP	What Changes Have the Activities Contributed to?
<i>Decrease youth homelessness.</i>	Continue to work collaboratively with government, NGOs and the business community to increase the availability and accessibility of youth foyers, and other models designed and proven to work with young people.	✓ Advocated for greater investment into the development of youth foyers and other models designed and proven to work with young people, through recommendations in the 2022 Out of Home Care Report and 2023 Cost of Living Report.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Greater visibility of recommendations and the voices of children and young people shared through the Out of Home Care Report that was sent to 4,721 children and young people and 5,762 other stakeholders. The report webpage has been viewed 4,670 times as of June 2025.</li> </ul>

<sup>130</sup> ACYP, *'Life Skills: Making a house a home'*, ACYP website, n.d., accessed 16 June 2025

<sup>131</sup> ACYP, *Submission on improving rental laws in New South Wales*, Submission to Department of Customer Service's Real Estate and Housing Policy Team, 16 August 2023, accessed 24 June 2025

Goal	ACYP Commitments / Actions	Activities Delivered by ACYP	What Changes Have the Activities Contributed to?
<i>Decrease youth homelessness.</i>		✓ Provided submission on the draft NSW Homelessness Strategy 2025 – 2035 <sup>133</sup> .	• The final NSW Homelessness Strategy 2025-2035 and Action Plans will be released later in 2025.
		✓ Contributed as a member on the NSW Property Industry Foundation Beneficiary Review Committee <sup>134</sup> that focuses on youth homelessness. This includes providing funding and building support for organisations.	• Insights and voice of young people captured in consultation inputted through the Advocates participation, pulling on previous research and reports conducted by ACYP.
	Support the dissemination of communications around Link2Home and crisis support services.	✓ Promoted and signposted key crisis support services (Emergency, Kids Helpline, Lifeline, Headspace) on the ACYP website front page and the December 2024 Newsletter <sup>135</sup> provides link to resources by NSW Government in which information on Link2Home can be found.	• Increase visibility of key support services available in NSW, including 12,703 recipients of the newsletter.

<sup>132</sup> ACYP, [Submission to the National Housing and Homelessness Plan](#), 2023, accessed 25 June 2025

<sup>133</sup> ACYP, [ACYP Feedback on the National Housing and Homelessness Strategy](#), ACYP files, accessed 15th July 2025

## Regional Transport

**Overview:** ACYP increased the visibility of the challenges young people in regional areas face relating to affordable transport, concession and learner drive programs, which informed a submission to NSW Parliamentary Committee into Support for Rural and Regional Learner Drivers, and input at several committees and boards. ACYP identified a lack of transport in regional areas as a priority area for action. Through its advocacy efforts, ACYP contributed to the following:

Goal	ACYP Commitments / Actions	Activities Delivered by ACYP	What Changes Have the Activities Contributed to?
<i>Increase children and young people's access to transport in regional areas.</i>	Work with the Office of Regional Youth and Transport NSW to increase understanding about available concessions and learner driver licensing programs.	✓ Contributed and member of Office of Regional Youth, Regional Youth Steering Committee; Revenue NSW, Hardship Support Program Steering Committee; and Transport for Vulnerable Youth and Concessions Working Group.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased public awareness of the lack of public transport services in regional areas across NSW and access to opportunities; and the need for greater financial assistance to support young people to travel to a mental health specialist when they live in a regional or remote area.</li> </ul>
		✓ Inputted submission (May 2021) <sup>134</sup> to NSW Parliamentary Committee into Support for Rural and Regional Learner Drivers, which highlighted the lack of transport in communities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NSW Government provided a response on the Joint Standing Committee on Road Safety (Staysafe) – <i>Support for rural and regional learner drivers</i> to the 21 recommendations. Seven recommendations were supported fully including the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Ensure the Driver Knowledge Test is accessible to those with literacy, numeracy difficulties, and disabilities.</li> <li>– Streamline the Safer Drivers Course application process for online lodging and local provider listings.</li> <li>– Expand the Driver Licensing Access Program to all rural and regional areas.</li> <li>– Review the Driver Licensing Access Program to make it ongoing in rural and regional areas.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

<sup>134</sup> Property Industry Foundation, [Board of Directors and Committees](#), Property Industry Foundation website, n.d., accessed 25 June 2025

Goal	ACYP Commitments / Actions	Activities Delivered by ACYP	What Changes Have the Activities Contributed to?
<i>Increase children and young people's access to transport in regional areas.</i>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Investigate a data-sharing portal for local councils and driver mentoring programs.</li> <li>– Offer formal road safety training for parents/guardians of learner drivers.</li> <li>– Investigate a vehicle accessibility scheme for rural and regional learner drivers.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Six recommendations were supported in principle and six recommendations were noted.</li> </ul>
		✓ Developed and published the Cost of Living Report that highlighted and raised visibility of the challenges that young people in regional areas face relating to access to affordable transport, concessions and learner driver programs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Insights from the Cost of Living Report has increased awareness of the challenges faced by young people in relation to access to affordable transport.</li> </ul>
		✓ Conducted polling through the annual Strategic Tracking Report, that includes a question focussed on children and young people's access to transport.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In 2022, there were 1,005 children polled; in 2023, there were 1,017 children polled; and in 2024, there were 1,010 children polled. These results increased awareness on children and young people's access to transport.</li> </ul>
		✓ Co-facilitated with the Department of Customer Service a consultation about life skills with seven young people from Greater Sydney at the ACYP office, to understand the experience of young people and transport.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Views of young people and children directly fed into Department of Customer Services.</li> </ul>
		✓ Provided funding to support a number of young people to get their driving licenses. Some funding was provided jointly with NSW Police and a regional school.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased access to transport for young people in regional areas.</li> </ul>
		+ Provided transport to Recovery Youth Support Service events.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Young people affected by disasters still had access to community events.</li> </ul>



## Cost of Living

Whilst the development and publication of the Cost of Living Report was not included as an initiative in the Strategic Plan, it sits within the good standard of living commitment area.

**Overview:** The voices of 2,000 children and young people, including those from disadvantaged backgrounds, were captured and amplified through consultations and a report, which promoted resources like financial counselling, and leading to the introduction of a new telehealth service, extended fee-free TAFE initiatives, and greater regulation of Buy Now Pay Later services. Through its advocacy efforts, ACYP were able to contribute to the following:

Activities Delivered by ACYP	What Changes Have the Activities Contributed to?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Facilitated consultation with 2,000 children and young people in NSW to understand the impact of the rising cost of living crisis and the responses.</li> <li>✓ Identified children and young people from different backgrounds to consult. This was through support services ACYP has established relationships with including refugee and recent migrant services, homelessness services, disability support services and support services for young parents.</li> <li>✓ Consulted 198 children and young people face-to-face through 34 focus groups, with 25 held in greater Sydney and 9 in regional NSW.</li> <li>✓ Surveyed 1,007 children and young people in NSW through the 2023 Youth Week Survey.</li> <li>✓ Developed an open link online questionnaires that reached 852 children and young people including TAFE and university students.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Voices, views and opinions of 2,000 children and young people, including those from disadvantaged backgrounds on the Cost of Living crisis captured, listened to and understood at a point in time.</li> <li>• Materials distributed during consultations promoted information and resources, including about financial counselling.</li> <li>• Voices of children and young people amplified through the creation and sharing of a report with stakeholders, which has had over 1,610 website page views as of May 2025 and 4 request for media interviews off the back of the publication.</li> </ul>

Activities Delivered by ACYP	What Changes Have the Activities Contributed to?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Created and published a report and a video: “It should be easier to just exist’: How children and young people are impacted by and responding to the rising cost of living in NSW<sup>137</sup> (The Cost of Living Report). The report summarised findings from consultation and provided recommendations for consideration by several government organisations.</li> </ul> <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Shared findings with policy makers and government departments through:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Two media releases<sup>138</sup> on the release of the report and findings from consultation.</li> <li>– Shared the report with all NSW Ministers alongside a briefing note.</li> <li>– Shared with broader networks to 5,94 stakeholders and 2,461 children and young people who are part of the ACYP mailing list. An interim version was shared with 3,543 stakeholders and 906 children and young people.<sup>139</sup></li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Cost of Living Report created greater public awareness on the financial issues and pressures facing children and young people and the impact on their housing, health, education and physical wellbeing. Recommendations contributed to the following:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– NSW Government introduced new telehealth service, Virtual Adults.</li> <li>– Extended fee-free TAFE initiatives adopted as the program was extended for a further three years, from 1 January 2024 to 30 December 2026.</li> <li>– In June 2024, the Federal Government introduced the Treasury Laws Amendment (Responsible Buy Now Pay Later and Other Measures) Bill 2024, to provide greater regulation and protection for the usage of Buy Now Pay Later services.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

<sup>135</sup> ACYP, [ACYP Newsletter - December edition](#), ACYP website, 2024, accessed 23 June 2025

<sup>136</sup> ACYP, [Submission to the Inquiry on Support for Rural and Regional Learner Drivers](#), Submission to Parliament of NSW, ACYP, 14 May 2021, accessed 23 June 2025

<sup>137</sup> ACYP, [How children and young people are impacted by and responding to the rising cost of living in NSW Final Consultation Report](#), ACYP website, December 2023, accessed 18 June 2025

<sup>138</sup> ACYP, [New report on the impact of the cost of living on young people \[media release\]](#), ACYP, 10 December 2023. ACYP, [Young people are working more, eating less, avoiding medical support and borrowing money to cope with the rising cost of living, new data from ACYP finds \[media release\]](#), ACYP, 26 June 2023, accessed 27 June 2025



## Environments for Joy and Fun

### Organised Activities for Socially Excluded Young People

**Overview:** ACYP collaborated with NSW Government and other organisations to increase the participation of children and young people in recreational activities, supported and promoted youth activities, and attended prominent sporting events to capture the lived experiences of children and young people. ACYP identified the need to address a lack of access to organised activities for socially excluded children and young people. Through its advocacy efforts, ACYP contributed to the following:

Goal	ACYP Commitments / Actions	Activities Delivered by ACYP	What Changes Have the Activities Contributed to?
<i>Increase opportunities for children and young people to participate in organised recreational activities. In those engaged with Youth Justice, in out-of-home care, refugees, asylum seekers and those with disability.</i>	Work with Youth Justice, Create NSW, the NSW Office of Sport and other relevant organisations to determine what activities are available to children and young people in these cohorts and remove any barriers to participation.	<p>✓ Worked with Youth Justice, Create NSW, the NSW Office of Sport and other relevant organisations to determine what activities are available to children and young people and remove barriers to participation, including:</p> <p>Participated in the Youth Justice Activities Standards working group in 2023. ACYP consulted young people at Youth Justice Centres to inform the development of a strategy on the types of activities available in Youth Justice. Following the strategy, Youth Justice also developed a Youth Justice Disability Action Plan.</p> <p>Invited to become a member of the Create NSW Creative Youth Network (2024) and participated in the inaugural meeting. The work of the group has contributed to legislative amendments in NSW that will mean NSW cultural institutions have a young person aged 18 – 28 on their board.</p> <p>Worked with NSW Netball to support young women's engagement in sport.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opportunities for children and young people to participate in activities they enjoy and are fun, with their voices informing the different offerings made available.</li> <li>• Engagement with young people in Youth Justice Centres shaped the creation and funding for initiatives including the Plate It Forward program, African Nights program, a football program, and First Nations initiatives in Youth Justice Centre.</li> </ul>

Goal	ACYP Commitments / Actions	Activities Delivered by ACYP	What Changes Have the Activities Contributed to?
<p><i>Increase opportunities for children and young people to participate in organised recreational activities. In those engaged with Youth Justice, in out-of-home care, refugees, asylum seekers and those with disability.</i></p>		<p>Participated in the 'First Lap' working groups focused on learn-to-swim programs and a voucher launch, aimed at improving water safety and swimming skills before children start school.</p> <p>Collaborated with What Ability not-for-profit to improve access to recreational activities for young people with disability.</p> <p>Participated in Active and Creative Kids Cross Agency Advisory Committee, and collaborated to support the implementation of the Active and Creative Kids (ACK) Voucher Program. The program provided financial support for eligible families with school-aged children to participate in sport, recreational, creative or cultural activities.</p> <p>Participated in Active and Creative Kids Steering Committee, focused on providing oversight and guidance and on the development and implementation of the Active and Creative Kids Voucher Program, supporting its delivery.</p> <p>Organised, throughout the Recovery Youth Support Service, free activities for children and young people in Pod Villages and school holiday activities in partnership with other NSW Departments including Office of Sport and Department of Primary Industries and Regional NSW.</p>	
		<p>✓ Collaborated with NSW Police (Oxley Police District) and BackTrack in Tamworth to run a Footy Competition for at-risk children and young people who were known to the police. The initiative aimed to demonstrate that providing positive alternatives, such as organised sports, can help reduce youth crime.</p> <p>✓ Through consultations, it was found that many young people in the area lacked access to such opportunities due to barriers like travel distance or financial constraints.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased community engagement and feeling of a sense of belonging for young people.</li> <li>• Built a mutual understanding of the barriers young people face in the area to access opportunities.</li> </ul>

Goal	ACYP Commitments / Actions	Activities Delivered by ACYP	What Changes Have the Activities Contributed to?
<i>Increase opportunities for children and young people to participate in organised recreational activities. In those engaged with Youth Justice, in out-of-home care, refugees, asylum seekers and those with disability.</i>		✓ Conducted 2022 Youth Week Survey which included polling questions focused on exploring what types of activities children and young people like to participate in and barriers to participation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Findings from survey identified gaps, such as limited access to creative arts and community-based non-sport activities which informed a range of responses to increase access and inclusion for young people including:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support for the Holiday Break program which provides free activities for young people in regional NSW to connect, build skills, and participate in creative and recreational opportunities during school holidays.</li> <li>Funding for community-based initiatives such as the pool in Ballina, pizza nights, and safe spaces for social connection.</li> <li>Funded opportunities for participation in inclusive events, including youth conferences and the Minus18 Youth Ball.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
	Continue to coordinate and promote NSW Children's Week and NSW Youth Week, which aim to grow children and young people's participation and inclusion in community life through a variety of activities.	✓ Coordinated and promoted NSW Children's Week and NSW Youth Week, which aim to grow children and young people's participation and inclusion in community life through a variety of activities.  At Youth Week ACYP: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facilitated the 2024 Youth Week Film Showcase at for children and young people at the Riverside Theatre in Parramatta.</li> <li>Co-ordinated and partnered with councils across NSW and attended 17 Youth Week events.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collaboration with different agencies has led to increased opportunities for children and young people to participate in activities that support enjoyment and fun.</li> <li>The voice, views and opinions of children and young people across a range of demographics, geographic locations, and lived experiences are captured, listened to and understood at a point in time. These voices were captured through a series of consultations, reference groups, and activities.</li> </ul>

Goal	ACYP Commitments / Actions	Activities Delivered by ACYP	What Changes Have the Activities Contributed to?
<i>Increase opportunities for children and young people to participate in organised recreational activities. In those engaged with Youth Justice, in out-of-home care, refugees, asylum seekers and those with disability.</i>		During Children's Week, ACYP: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Ran a board game and art competition.</li> <li>– Launched the ACYP Office Mural created by children.</li> <li>– Delivered consultation events with children in Year 3 and Year 4 in Penrith and Wagga Wagga.</li> <li>– Coordinated Children at Bush Magic Bush Adventures in Wollongong which will include creek play, nature-based arts and craft and interactive activities.</li> <li>– Hosted students at Redfern Jarjum College to read 'Stand Proud' by Nicho Hynes</li> <li>– Hosted students from the Oaks Public School at Wooglemai Environmental Education Centre where they participated in a bushwalk, archery and advocacy for their local communities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ACYP facilitated a series of initiatives during Children's Week including competitions, bushwalks and art, demonstrating that when accessible alternatives are available, they can lead to positive outcomes for youth such as increased community engagement.</li> <li>• Activities throughout Children's Week raised the profile and coverage of the voices of children and young people in NSW.</li> </ul>
		✓ Attended the Netball Regional State Titles tournament in Liverpool and heard from more than 79 children and young people aged 14 years and under.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gaining the views and perspectives of younger children.</li> </ul>
		+ Attended and consulted over 133 children and young people AbSec NAIDOC Family Fun Day at Marrickville PCYC in July 2023.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greater visibility of the issues affecting children and young people, with results informing the advocacy work of ACYP.</li> </ul>

## Safe, Youth-Friendly and Accessible Spaces

**Overview:** ACYP collaborated with the Office of the Children's Guardian around the implementation of Child Safe Standards, including conducting presentations on how to embed Child Safe Standards to include the participation of children and young people as well as providing feedback on Government Agency Child Safe Action Plans. ACYP identified the need to increase *access to organised activities for socially excluded children and young people*. Through its advocacy efforts, ACYP contributed to the following:

Goal	ACYP Commitments / Actions	Activities Delivered by ACYP	What Changes Have the Activities Contributed to?
<i>Increase access to child and youth friendly spaces to gather, play and study.</i>	Work collaboratively with the Office of Children's Guardian around implementation of the Child Safe Standards.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Reviewed draft Child Safe Action Plans (CSAPs) for several Government Agencies and provided feedback in partnership with OGC.</li> <li>✓ Provided advice to Office of the Children's Guardian on the Code of Practice and associated resources.</li> </ul> <p>ACYP team members have also provided presentations to the OGC around how to embed the child safe standards, with a focus on the standard relating to CYP's participation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greater input from children and young people on Child Safe Action Plans for NSW Government Departments.</li> </ul>

## Safety of Public Spaces

**Overview:** ACYP facilitated the empowerment of Youth Advisory Councils by facilitating their participation in Advocacy and Child Rights Training and their input into NSW Women's Safety Commissioner's mapping project to identify areas where they feel unsafe, in addition to sharing NSW Government Everyone Can Play resources with youth advisory councils and local government across NSW. Through its advocacy efforts, ACYP contributed to the following:

Goal	ACYP Commitments / Actions	Activities Delivered by ACYP	What Changes Have the Activities Contributed to?
<i>Increase the safety of public spaces.</i>	Support youth advisory councils to highlight areas of their local communities where children and young people feel unsafe and empower them to take action at a local level through advocacy training.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Provided opportunities to Youth Councils to participate in Advocacy Training and Child Rights Training.</li> <li>✓ Promoted opportunities for young people to highlight areas in the community where they feel unsafe. For example: NSW Women's Safety Commissioner's mapping project.</li> <li>✓ As part of Youth Week, conducted past polling work which focused on safe spaces.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased reach of opportunities for children and young people to become actively involved in advocacy or community projects via appointment or involvement onto one of these forums.</li> </ul>



Goal	ACYP Commitments / Actions	Activities Delivered by ACYP	What Changes Have the Activities Contributed to?
<i>Increase the safety of public spaces.</i>		✓ Shared opportunities on social media channels to join the Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth (ARACY) Young and Wise Consultation Group, Youth Steering Committee, NSW Youth Health Consultation, Create NSW Artform Boards, Youth Advisory Panel, Regional Youth Taskforce and Mental Health Advisory Group.	
	Promote the Everyone Can Play resources to youth advisory councils and local governments across NSW.	✓ Promoted the NSW Government Everyone Can Play resources via ACYP social media channels. For example, the 'City of Canada Bay and Touched by Olivia' case study video of inclusive and participatory playground design is hosted on YouTube and embedded on the ACYP website and has been viewed 752 times.	• Sharing of resources creates awareness of the need for inclusive play spaces.
	Promote existing materials about online safety.	✓ Shared eSafety resources with network of young people via ACYP social media accounts, including information about Safe Internet Day.	• Increased reach of eSafety resource to ACYP network through social media challenges.

Goal	ACYP Commitments / Actions	Activities Delivered by ACYP	What Changes Have the Activities Contributed to?
<i>Increase the safety of public spaces.</i>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ Recovery Youth Support Service (RYSS) advocated for:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the installation of shade cloths over temporary play equipment in the pod villages to NSW Reconstruction Authority.</li> <li>rule changes, such as young people being allowed to ride bikes in the pod villages.</li> </ul> </li> <li>+ Established a formal working group with regular meetings between the Pod Village Engagement Co-ordinators to promote the sharing of best practice, explore collaboration opportunities, and amplify the voices of children and young people living in the pod villages.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Installation of shade cloths over temporary play equipment, and rule changes on young people riding bikes in the pod villages increased access to child and youth friendly spaces for play in the pod village.</li> <li>Improved access to programs and support for young people in pod villages through the introduction of after-school clubs, and coordination of parental consent for school holiday activities</li> <li>Improved access to support via increased presence of appropriate services regularly attending the pod village.</li> <li>Strengthened collaboration between services, such as linking RYSS with housing caseworkers, to support young people's transition planning.</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ Made a submission to the inquiry into Community Safety in Regional and Rural NSW.<sup>140</sup></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Insights and voice of young people captured in consultation inputted into submission, pulling on previous research and reports conducted by ACYP.</li> </ul>

### Northern Rivers Activities and Initiatives

**Overview:** Recovery Youth Support Service (RYSS) has supported over 2,000 young people in the Northern Rivers following the 2022 floods, working with local community groups and local governments to provide recreational activities (e.g. Ready Fest Festival) and trauma-informed intervention support service; publishing and promoting the Disaster Recovery and Preparedness Report based on extensive consultations with young people; and collaborating with NSW Government in a youth-led Disaster Recovery and Future Preparedness Roundtable to increase visibility of key issues and concerns of young people impacted by the floods.

<sup>139</sup> ACYP, ACYP data shared in email correspondence accessed 30 July 2025

Activities Delivered by ACYP	What Changes Have the Activities Contributed to?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Developed and delivered the Recovery Youth Support Service program (RYSS) through the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements 2018 - commenced in 2023. The program which has supported over 2,000 young people in the area on their journey following the 2022 floods.</li> <li>✓ ACYP through the RYSS program provided and facilitated regular school holiday activities and after school programs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– On site at the Pod Villages, with the community housing providers that manage these facilities.</li> <li>– With PCYC Lismore in remote communities, such as Coraki and Wardell.</li> </ul> </li> <li>✓ ACYP through the RYSS program conducted the following activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Sponsored the 2024 Casino Beef Week Ambassador program, which involved delivering an Advocacy Training program.</li> <li>– Engaged in existing programs, such as the PCYC Lismore's Fit for Life program, the Children's Week Colour Run in Ballina, and more broadly with Northern NSW through the Netball NSW Regional Tournament.</li> <li>– On a regular basis, the RYSS team has shared and promoted existing programs delivered by colleagues in other government agencies and non-government organisations, to boost awareness of the importance and support the participation of children and young people.</li> <li>– Facilitated a trauma-informed intervention support service for children and young people aged between eight and 24 years old who live in the flood affected areas of the Northern Rivers. This support service was launched in August 2023 and to date has provided targeted support to 47 children and young people.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opportunities provided for fun activities for children and young people displaced by the Northern Rivers flooding in 2022.</li> <li>• Work conducted in Northern Rivers, including consultations led to the Disaster Recovery and Preparedness Report: Voices of young people living in the Northern Rivers.</li> <li>• Media release that provided an opportunity for greater public awareness.<sup>141</sup></li> <li>• When the Northern Rivers team visits, young people and children in the area show a noticeable reduction in antisocial behaviour for a period afterward. A report is currently being developed to document these findings.<sup>142</sup></li> <li>• Response from recommendations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Richmond-Tweed Library conducted consultations with children and young people for the re-design of the new Lismore Library space that was rebuilt after the flood.</li> <li>– Community housing providers are increasingly facilitating consultations with the children and young people who use their services.</li> <li>– Reconstruction Authority and community housing providers now support children and young people to have their own Housing Transition plans, to promote a sustainable transition from pod villages and emergency accommodation to long-term solutions.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

140 Parliament of NSW, *No 184. Submission to the Inquiring into community safety in regional and rural communities*, Parliament of NSW website, June 2024, accessed 10th July 2025

141 ACYP, Disaster Recovery and Preparedness Report [media release], ACYP website, 2024, accessed 18 June 2025

142 ACYP, Evaluation of ACYP Recovery Youth Support Service, ACYP website, 2024, accessed 3 July 2025

Activities Delivered by ACYP	What Changes Have the Activities Contributed to?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Consulted 635 children and young people aged 4-24 years living in the Northern Rivers between March and November 2023. Since March 2023, the RYSS team has engaged in wide ranging consultations across the Northern Rivers region, reaching over 850 children and young people.</li> <li>✓ Hosted Ready Fest in Lismore with 150 people in the Northern Rivers Community - people to gather together in a positive way to reconnect children with all emergency services (in this area) in a fun and positive way.</li> <li>✓ Co-hosted a Youth Led Disaster Recovery and Future Preparedness Roundtable in the Northern Rivers with the Hon. Rose Jackson MLC, Minister for Youth and Minister for the North Coast (Nov 2023). The event hosted 28 young people aged between 13 and 24 years who live in the Northern Rivers community, alongside local support services, businesses and local government.</li> <li>✓ Developed and published the Disaster Recovery and Preparedness Report: Voices of children and young people living in the Northern Rivers and participated in activities to launch the report in the Northern Rivers, the Advocate and the RYSS team:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– attended the Resilient Lismore Disaster Ready Together Conference</li> <li>– participated in an interview with ABC Radio North Coast.</li> </ul> </li> <li>✓ RYSS team has supported children, young people and support services and organisations in the Northern Rivers community since the launch of the Disaster Preparedness Report: Voices of children and young people in the Northern Rivers.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Department of Communities and Justice Disaster Welfare team continues to work with the RYSS team on the design and provision of services in evacuation centres.</li> <li>– RYSS team support local community organisations with the drafting and development of grant proposals and other key documents.</li> <li>– RYSS team are actively promoting the inclusion of children and young people's voices in the development of Disaster Adaptation Plans, led by Reconstruction Authority and Local Emergency Management Committees.</li> <li>• The voices, views and opinions of children and young people in the Northern Rivers, and captured, listened to and understood their experiences at a point in time through a number of consultations, workshops, and activities.</li> <li>• ACYP engaged with several key stakeholders including ministers, local and state governments, NGOs, and other organisations through consultations, roundtables, working groups, and other public forums.</li> <li>• RYSS team shares and promotes existing programs delivered to other government and non-government agencies – creating awareness of programs available to support children and young people in Northern Rivers.</li> <li>• The provision of training to various organisations to help individuals have a better understanding on current issues for children and young people; how to best advocate; and understanding children's rights.</li> <li>• Voice of children and young people amplified through the creation and sharing of a report with stakeholders.</li> <li>• ACYP have published several pieces of media to share key issues raised by children and young people in the area, and to showcase the initiatives that tackle these issues.</li> <li>• ACYP have initiated several initiatives and supported grassroots and existing programs to address the needs of children and young people in the Northern Rivers. This includes incorporating their views into Disaster Recovery and Evacuation plans; supporting funding initiatives; and supporting community housing initiatives.</li> </ul>



## Respect and Acceptance

### Racism and Discrimination

**Overview:** ACYP has collaborated with NSW Government to support their advocacy and policy work to address systemic issues, including working with Multicultural NSW to develop anti-racism initiatives; promote youth and child rights training for both young people; and provide opportunities for young people to be part of youth decision making bodies. ACYP identified the need to address racism and discrimination related to aged, disability, religion, gender or sexuality. Through its advocacy efforts, ACYP contributed to the following:

Goal	ACYP Commitments / Actions	Activities Delivered by ACYP	What Changes Have the Activities Contributed to?
<p><i>Increase the number of children and young people reporting that they feel respected and accepted.</i></p> <p><i>Decrease the number of children and young people experiencing racism or discrimination due to age, disability, religion, gender or sexuality.</i></p>	<p>Work collaboratively across government to identify structural and systemic issues and advocate for changes that will create a service system which is more responsive to children and young people's needs.</p>	<p>✓ Conducted a Special Inquiry into children and young people in alternative care arrangements.</p> <p>Conducted private hearings with 21 children and young people. The issues emerging from the private hearing held prior to 31 March 2024 were the focus of the interim report of the Special Inquiry.</p> <p>Released an Interim Report – 'Moving Cage to Cage: an interim report of the Special Inquiry into children and young people placed into alternative care arrangements (ACAs)'.</p> <p>Hosted a workshop to draw expert insights from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Researchers and academics; and</li> <li>– Caseworkers who work with children and young people in Alternative Care Arrangements.</li> </ul> <p>Held a public hearing on YouTube and Instagram Live to provide and update on the Special Inquiry's progress and future plans.</p> <p>Tabled 'Moving Cage to Cage: Final Report of the Special Inquiry into children and young people placed into alternative care arrangements (ACAs)' to NSW Parliament.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Established Special Inquiry to understand the lived experience of children and young people and to ensure that those voices are placed squarely at the centre of future work undertaken to reform the out-of-home care (OOHC) system in NSW.</li> <li>• The voices, views and opinions of children and young people in ACAs were captured, listened to and understood.</li> <li>• The voices, views and opinions of caseworkers who work closely with children and young people in ACAs were captured, listened to and understood.</li> <li>• Insights from expert researchers and academics captured.</li> <li>• The voice of children and young people was amplified through the creation and sharing of a several reports (Interim and Final Report).</li> <li>• The voice of children and young people was amplified via private hearings.</li> <li>• The voice of children and young people was amplified via public hearing on YouTube and Instagram Live raising the profile.</li> </ul>

Goal	ACYP Commitments / Actions	Activities Delivered by ACYP	What Changes Have the Activities Contributed to?
<p><i>Increase the number of children and young people reporting that they feel respected and accepted.</i></p> <p><i>Decrease the number of children and young people experiencing racism or discrimination due to age, disability, religion, gender or sexuality.</i></p>		<p>Appeared at a press conference to deliver a overview of the report's findings with Hon. Kate Washington MP, Minister for Families and Communities and Minister for Disability Inclusion.</p> <p>Held a public hearing as part of the ACYP Special Inquiry into children and young people in ACAs. Advocated for the need to raise the age of leaving care to 21 (6 Nov 2022).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The voice of children and young people was amplified via media releases and press conference to deliver the final report's findings.</li> <li>• 10 media enquiries and 378 article or radio references of the report, amplifying the voices of those that fed into the report.</li> <li>• 8,800 website page view of the Special Inquiry web-page, and 235 views of the media release webpage – raising the profile and visibility of the findings.</li> <li>• Amplification of the voices captured throughout the Special Inquiry. Findings were presented by the Advocate at the National Child Protection Forum in 2024, Legal Aid NSW Family Law and Care and Protection Conference in 2024, Thrive National Permanency Summit in 2024 and a webinar for Legal Aid staff.</li> <li>• NSW Government to ban / phase out unaccredited ACAs (October 2024).</li> <li>• Informed the 'System review into out-of-home care' commissioned by the Minister for Families and Communities, Kate Washington MP, which examined the outsourced foster care system, and investigated how taxpayer money is being spent by non-government providers.</li> <li>• A roadmap to reform foster care is being delivered.</li> <li>• The review examined the overreliance on emergency accommodation and investigate how taxpayer money is being spent by non-government providers.</li> </ul>

Goal	ACYP Commitments / Actions	Activities Delivered by ACYP	What Changes Have the Activities Contributed to?
<p><i>Increase the number of children and young people reporting that they feel respected and accepted.</i></p> <p><i>Decrease the number of children and young people experiencing racism or discrimination due to age, disability, religion, gender or sexuality.</i></p>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The NSW Government has begun work to tackle the cost of emergency accommodation through a dedicated team that moves children from high-cost emergency arrangements (HCEAs) to more suitable arrangements. This has resulted in a 16% decrease in the number of children in HCEAs, from 506 children on 2 November 2023 to 427 on 31 March 2024 (cost savings of reduced emergency accommodation usage).</li> <li>A dedicated team, established to move children from HCEAs to more suitable arrangements, has achieved significant results – with the number of children in HCEAs dropping by 25% in eight months, from 506 in November 2023 to 381 on 31 July 2024.</li> <li>On 3 April 2025, the Minister for Families and Communities announced that there are no more children living in alternative care arrangements in NSW.</li> <li>Report informed the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal's (IPART) – Review of Out-of-Home Care Cost and Pricing that is in progress (Feb 2025).</li> </ul>
		<p>✓ Partnered with Legal Aid to provide advice on the Your Voice: Children's Out-of-Home care Advocacy Service. Your Voice provides family law, civil law, advocacy and casework assistance to young people with Out-of-Home Care experience.</p> <p>Facilitated a session between the NSW Youth Advisory Council and Legal Aid to get additional input from young people on the service.</p> <p>Supported Legal Aid prepare for the session with the NSW Youth Advisory Council to get the most from the session.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support to embed young people's voice at the centre of the service.</li> <li>Consultation with the Youth Advisory Service to support the development of the service.</li> </ul>

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<p><i>Increase the number of children and young people reporting that they feel respected and accepted.</i></p> <p><i>Decrease the number of children and young people experiencing racism or discrimination due to age, disability, religion, gender or sexuality.</i></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Provided feedback into the Gender Diverse Students in Schools and Recording a Student's Name Legal Issues Bulletin in December 2024.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Voices of children and young people informing Government communications on topical issues.</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Informed the Inquiry into NSW Children and Young People with Disability in NSW Educational Settings through:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Facilitated introductions to service providers to support the participation of young people with lived experience in a roundtable hosted in Newcastle in April 2024.</li> <li>– Prepared a submission<sup>143</sup> including ACYP findings from consultation with children and young people with disability, and recommendations.</li> </ul> </li> <li>✓ Facilitated direct input of two young people from the NSW Youth Advisory Council into a Parliamentary Inquiry into children and young people with disability in NSW educational settings.<sup>144</sup></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Through the submission, ACYP made numerous recommendations which focused on enhancing educational and vocational support, increasing direct consultation and feedback, improving disability awareness and training, and promoting mental health resources for children and young people with disabilities.</li> <li>• Direct input and participation of children and young people into inquiry.</li> <li>• ACYP collaborated with the NSW Audit Office on an audit of SSP (Schools for Specific Purpose) schools. The Audit Office report used findings from the ACYP disability report<sup>145</sup> and incorporated insights on undiagnosed disabilities within the Youth Justice system.</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Made submissions into NSW Department of Communities and Justice – Reviewing Legal Protections Against Forced Marriage in NSW.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Additional input to the NSW Force Marriage Review Team based on the views and voices of children and young people whom ACYP have consulted, in addition to two recommendations.</li> </ul>

<sup>143</sup> Parliament of NSW, ACYP Submission - [Children and young people with disability in New South Wales educational settings](#), 7 March 2024, accessed 24 June 2025

<sup>144</sup> Parliament of NSW Portfolio Committee No. 3 – [Education, Terms of Reference - Children and young people with disability in NSW educational settings](#), Parliament of NSW, 19 August 2024, accessed 24 June 2025

<sup>145</sup> Audit Office of NSW, [Supporting students with disability](#), Audit Office of NSW website, 26 September 2024, accessed 19 June 2025



Goal	ACYP Commitments / Actions	Activities Delivered by ACYP	What Changes Have the Activities Contributed to?
<p><i>Increase the number of children and young people reporting that they feel respected and accepted.</i></p> <p><i>Decrease the number of children and young people experiencing racism or discrimination due to age, disability, religion, gender or sexuality.</i></p>	<p>Collaborate with relevant agencies and organisations to increase children and young people's awareness of their rights, including through the ACYP advocacy training program.</p>	<p>✓ Delivered training on child rights and advocacy including for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– 80 children and young people for Youth Parliament Camp.</li> <li>– 2168 Children's Parliament: 44 children from the 2168 Children's Parliament program which is run by Liverpool City Council and Mission Australia.</li> <li>– Went West Advocacy Training with twelve young people.</li> <li>– Participation Training to seventeen young people from the NSW Youth Advisory Council Conference.</li> <li>– Youth Development Officers from Inner West Councils.</li> <li>– NSW Health Child Safe Standards Community of Practice.</li> <li>– Inner West Child and Family Interagency.</li> <li>– Disability Advocacy Futures Program providers.</li> <li>– The Cumberland Council Children and Youth Development team.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This training strengthened both individual and organisational knowledge and capabilities in child rights and advocacy across diverse communities and networks.</li> </ul>

Goal	ACYP Commitments / Actions	Activities Delivered by ACYP	What Changes Have the Activities Contributed to?
<p><i>Increase the number of children and young people reporting that they feel respected and accepted.</i></p> <p><i>Decrease the number of children and young people experiencing racism or discrimination due to age, disability, religion, gender or sexuality.</i></p>	Provide Child Rights training to adults who serve children and young people across NSW.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Developed and launched the Online Child Rights module (June 2023) with 616 successful completions from 660 attempts (as of December 2024).</li> <li>✓ Provided Child Rights training to adults who serve children and young people across NSW. For example, Child Rights training was provided in Moruya to people that work with young people.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Child Rights training provided to adults in NSW has equipped them with the knowledge and skills to better understand and uphold the rights of children and young people, fostering a safer and more supportive environment for children and young people.</li> <li>• Demonstrates a strong commitment from adults to understand and uphold children's rights. This positively impacts children and young people by fostering a safer, more supportive environment where their rights are respected and protected.</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Collaborated with local councils, government agencies and organisations to increase children and young people awareness of their rights, including through the ACYP advocacy training program and Youth week events.</li> <li>✓ Launched and delivered online Educate to Advocacy Training (E2A) delivering this to over 26 participants, including young people from refugee backgrounds. This includes training on Advocacy, Participation and Child Rights.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NSW Youth Week events foster creativity, connection, and empowerment among young people, offering opportunities to develop skills, showcase talents, and engage with their communities.</li> <li>• ACYP advocacy training program equips young people with the skills and confidence to effectively advocate for their ideas, empowering them with the confidence to drive positive change. There were 198 children and young people that participated in the training in 2024.</li> <li>• Attendees equipped with tools to support them advocate effectively and amplify the voice of children and young people to a broader audience.</li> </ul>

Goal	ACYP Commitments / Actions	Activities Delivered by ACYP	What Changes Have the Activities Contributed to?
<p><i>Increase the number of children and young people reporting that they feel respected and accepted.</i></p> <p><i>Decrease the number of children and young people experiencing racism or discrimination due to age, disability, religion, gender or sexuality.</i></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Provided Advocacy and Participation training to government and non-government organisations and groups, including the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Youth Development Officers from Inner West Councils.</li> <li>– NSW Health Child Safe Standards Community of Practice.</li> <li>– Inner West Child and Family Interagency.</li> <li>– Disability Advocacy Futures Program providers.</li> <li>– the Cumberland Council Children and Youth Development team.</li> </ul> </li> <li>✓ Participated in the 2168 Parliament and facilitated voice and Participation training including two teamwork activities (March 2024).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Advocacy and Participation training provided to government and non-government organisations has enhanced their ability to effectively engage with and support young people, fostering more inclusive and responsive policies and practices.</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Delivered online interactive advocacy training to six disability advocacy service providers participating in the Disability Advocacy Futures Program<sup>146</sup> (requested by the NSW Department of Education, Memorandum of Understanding).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhanced the ability for disability advocacy service providers to effectively support and advocate for individuals with disabilities, fostering more inclusive and responsive services.</li> </ul>
	Support and promote development of anti-racism initiatives.	<p>Race and Religion Submissions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Made a submission<sup>147</sup> (October 2023) to the NSW Law Reform Commission's preliminary review of the Anti-Discrimination Act 1977 for NSW.</li> <li>✓ Made a submission<sup>148</sup> to the Review of Section 93Z of the Crimes Act and its effectiveness in addressing serious racial and religious vilification (NSW Law Reform Commission – Serious Racial and Religious Vilification).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Voices of children and young people captured in the submissions, pulling on previous research and reports conducted by ACYP.</li> </ul>

<sup>146</sup> NSW DCJ, [Disability Advocacy Futures Program](#), DCJ website, n.d., accessed 20 June 2025

<sup>147</sup> NSW Law Reform Commission, [PAD78: Submission to the NSW Law Reform Commission's Review of the Anti-Discrimination Act 1977 \(NSW\)](#), ACYP, October 2023, accessed 24 June 2025

<sup>148</sup> NSW Law Reform Commission, [SV14: review of the effectiveness of Section 93Z of the Crimes Act 1900 \(NSW\) \(Crimes Act\) in addressing serious racial and religious vilification](#), ACYP, 19 April 2024, accessed 23 June 2025

Goal	ACYP Commitments / Actions	Activities Delivered by ACYP	What Changes Have the Activities Contributed to?
<p><i>Increase the number of children and young people reporting that they feel respected and accepted.</i></p> <p><i>Decrease the number of children and young people experiencing racism or discrimination due to age, disability, religion, gender or sexuality.</i></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Collaborated with Multicultural NSW to develop polling questions related to children and young people's experiences of hate speech, to help inform the revamp of Multicultural NSW's 'Remove Hate from the Debate' campaign.</li> <li>✓ Produced and published the ACYP report "Everyone should be heard no matter your, culture, religion...no matter what": The experiences of young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds in NSW<sup>149</sup> (the Refugee and Migrant Report). The report is based on consultations with 276 young people from 29 countries who shared their experiences of racism, cultural disconnection and exclusion in NSW. It highlighted programs / initiatives that already exist and what young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds asked for to address racism, discrimination and exclusion in communities, schools and workplaces.</li> <li>✓ To complement the report, ACYP have also developed a 'Supporting Refugee and Migrant Children and Young People reflective activity worksheet'<sup>150</sup> so that organisations which support children and young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds can consider how they can improve the way they work.</li> <li>✓ Organised, launched and ran a Short Film competition to celebrate the voices of children and young people who arrived in Australia as a refugee or migrant.</li> <li>✓ Participated in the launch of the Settlement Services International (SSI) Youth Symposium Youth Speak report; and facilitated two focus groups of seven young people at the launch.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This has strengthened community resilience and social cohesion by advising young people on handling online attacks based on race, religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation, disability, and gender, while empowering them to speak out against online hate safely and effectively.</li> <li>• Elevated lived experiences of refugee and migrant youth, emphasising the need for culturally safe and inclusive environments.</li> <li>• Informed calls for community-led cultural education and anti-racism programs in schools and communities.</li> <li>• Promoted the importance of celebrating cultural identity to strengthen young people's sense of belonging. Captured the voices of young people at the Settlement Services International Youth Symposium to create awareness of their settlement experiences in Australia.</li> </ul>

<sup>149</sup> ACYP, *The experiences of young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds in NSW*, ACYP, NSW Government, 2024, accessed 16 June

<sup>150</sup> ACYP, *Supporting Refugee and Migrant children and young people reflective activity*, ACYP, NSW Government, 2024, accessed 16 June 2025

Goal	ACYP Commitments / Actions	Activities Delivered by ACYP	What Changes Have the Activities Contributed to?
<p><i>Increase the number of children and young people reporting that they feel respected and accepted.</i></p> <p><i>Decrease the number of children and young people experiencing racism or discrimination due to age, disability, religion, gender or sexuality.</i></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Conducted consultations with 276 young people from refugee or migrant backgrounds, to better understand their experiences and insights about what could help them during their settlement journey.</li> <li>✓ Developed and published the Refugee and Migrant Report.</li> <li>✓ Conducted regular polling to track young people's experiences of discrimination in NSW in the Strategic Plan Tracking Survey. Results have been shared with relevant Minister to inform their work.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Created greater awareness and understanding of settlement experiences and has informed support strategies to improve the settlement experiences of young refugees and migrants in NSW.</li> <li>• The voices, views and opinions of children and young people from refugee or migrant backgrounds in NSW captured, listened to and understood at a point in time.</li> <li>• The Refugee and Migrant Report has created increased awareness of key issues facing young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds including having greater access to available supports. Four recommendations have been made in which NSW Government should: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Create an accessible communication document, update the website and ensure information is available in multiple languages;</li> <li>– Address the specific needs of multicultural communities in their application forms and requirements;</li> <li>– Prioritise increased investment in programs supporting multicultural communities; and</li> <li>– Include refugee and migrant youth voices in decision-making processes.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The Refugee and Migrant Report has been shared through ACYP social media channels with 16,700 views on Facebook and 12,600 on Instagram. Additionally, it was sent to 10,166 stakeholders and 2,635 children and young people<sup>151</sup>.</li> </ul>

<sup>151</sup> ACYP, ACYP data shared in email correspondence accessed 30 July 2025

Goal	ACYP Commitments / Actions	Activities Delivered by ACYP	What Changes Have the Activities Contributed to?
<p><i>Increase the number of children and young people reporting that they feel respected and accepted.</i></p> <p><i>Decrease the number of children and young people experiencing racism or discrimination due to age, disability, religion, gender or sexuality.</i></p>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Refugee and Migrant Report shared with NSW Ministers. It also generated an interview request.</li> <li>ACYP has agreed to collaborate with Multicultural NSW on the implementation and evaluation of the NSW Settlement Strategy. This will include tracking the number of consultations conducted with children and young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds and providing advice to support the implementation and evaluation of the strategy.<sup>152</sup></li> <li>A number of recommendations have been agreed that will promote the safety, welfare and wellbeing of children and young people from refugee or migrant backgrounds in NSW.</li> </ul>
	Consult with young people who identify as being part of the LGBTQIA+ community and elevate their voices.	<p>✓ Consulted with young people who identify as being part of the LGBTQIA+ community and elevate their voices:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Developed and published the Voices of LGBTQIA+ Young People in NSW report<sup>153</sup> which drew on the finding of this large-scale qualitative consultation focused on the experiences of LGBTQIA+ young people. The report also compared outcomes for LGBTQIA+ young people compared to their non-LGBTQIA+ peers within the findings of ACYP annual quantitative Strategic Plan Tracking Survey 2022.</li> <li>Made a submission<sup>154</sup> to the NSW Parliament inquiry into the Equality Legislation Amendment (LGBTQIA+) Bill 2023.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Voices of LGBTQIA+ children and young people were captured in the submission.</li> <li>Voices of children amplified through ACYP attendance at a parliamentary inquiry on the Equality Legislation Amendment (LGBTQIA+) Bill.</li> <li>NSW Parliament passed the Equality Legislation Amendment (LGBTQIA+) Act 2024 No 71 which includes the largest number of LGBTQIA+ reforms in NSW.</li> <li>In March 2024, the NSW Parliament passed the LGBTQIA+ Conversion Practice Ban Act which criminalises conversion practices that seek to change or suppress a person's sexual orientation or gender identity and cause serious mental or physical harm.</li> </ul>

<sup>152</sup> ACYP, ACYP data shared in email correspondence accessed 30 July 2025

<sup>153</sup> ACYP, *The Voices of LGBTQIA+ People in NSW*, ACYP website, 2022, accessed 18 June 2025

<sup>154</sup> *Parliament of NSW, No. 44 ACYP Submission to the NSW Parliament Inquiry into the Equality Legislation Amendment (LGBTQIA+) Bill 2023*, Parliament of NSW website, April 2024, accessed 25 June 2025

Goal	ACYP Commitments / Actions	Activities Delivered by ACYP	What Changes Have the Activities Contributed to?
<p><i>Increase the number of children and young people reporting that they feel respected and accepted.</i></p> <p><i>Decrease the number of children and young people experiencing racism or discrimination due to age, disability, religion, gender or sexuality.</i></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Appeared before the Legislative Assembly Committee on Community Services – Inquiry into the Equality Legislation Amendment (LGBTQIA+) Bill 2023 to provide further information about their submission.</li> <li>– Attended a parliamentary inquiry on the Equality Legislation Amendment (LGBTQIA+) Bill 2023 to represent the voices of young people from the LGBTQIA+ community.</li> <li>✓ Provided feedback to the targeted consultation on the NSW Government's election commitment to ban LGBTQIA+ conversion practices.</li> </ul>	
	Disseminate resources to support children and young people's participation and the development of Youth Advisory Councils at the local level, including ACYP Participation Charter, Participation Guide, Youth Advisory Council Guide and other child rights resources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Disseminated resources to support children and young people's participation and the development of Youth Advisory Councils at the local level, including ACYP Participation Charter, Participation Guide, Youth Advisory Council Guide and other child rights resources.</li> <li>✓ Provided resources<sup>155</sup> via the ACYP website on setting up a Youth Advisory Group.</li> <li>✓ Shared and promoted opportunities on social media channels to join the Youth Steering Committee, Youth Advisory Panel, Regional Youth Taskforce and Mental Health Advisory Group.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resources available to support organisations set up Youth Advisory Groups so they can meaningfully engage children and young people in decision-making.</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Delivered a presentation and held a stall to provide information about the work of the Office and facilitate short consultation activities at the Central Coast Research Institute's Youth Leadership Forum.</li> </ul>	

<sup>155</sup> ACYP, Guide to Establishing a Children and Young People's Advisory Group, ACYP website, n.d., accessed 19 June 2025

Goal	ACYP Commitments / Actions	Activities Delivered by ACYP	What Changes Have the Activities Contributed to?
<p><i>Increase the number of children and young people reporting that they feel respected and accepted.</i></p> <p><i>Decrease the number of children and young people experiencing racism or discrimination due to age, disability, religion, gender or sexuality.</i></p>		<p>✓ Inputted to Office for Youth – Australia's Youth Engagement Strategy, by providing information and materials and advice on their youth advisory councils.</p>	<p>• Increased direct participation and empowerment of young people to influence decisions that impact their lives.</p>
		<p>✓ Nominated young people to represent their peers on the following groups and forums:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Committee on Law and Safety Hearing on e-cigarette regulation and compliance.</li> <li>– Heritage NSW Youth Roundtable.</li> <li>– Digital Childhoods Summit.</li> <li>– International Women of the Year Awards Ceremony 2024.</li> <li>– Youth judge on the Youth Voices Get Active video competition.</li> <li>– The future of Moore Park South.</li> </ul> <p>✓ Prepared a submission for the Inquiry into Civics Education, Engagement and Participation in Australia for The Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters. This included the data captured in the 2022 Youth Week polling on young people's political literacy.</p>	



## Overrepresentation in Youth Justice and Out-Of-Home Care

**Overview:** ACYP established the Aboriginal Outcomes Taskforce (AOT) to support the implementation of the Family Is Culture Report recommendations; collaborated with NSW Government to support the review of six youth justice centres and elevated the voices of children young people in contact with the youth justice system; and participated in Youth Justice working groups to reduce the overrepresentation of Aboriginal children and young people in the youth justice system. ACYP identified the need to reduce the overrepresentation of Aboriginal children and young people in the Youth Justice and out-of-home care systems. Through its advocacy efforts, ACYP contributed to the following:

Goal	ACYP Commitments / Actions	Activities Delivered by ACYP	What Changes Have the Activities Contributed to?
<i>Decrease in the over-representation of Aboriginal children and young people in the out-of-home care system.</i>	Elevate the voices of children and young people in the out-of-home care system, through consultations and related advocacy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Elevated the voices of children and young people, including Aboriginal children and young people in the out-of-home care system, through consultations and related advocacy:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Developed and published <i>The Voices of Children and Young People in Out-of-Home Care Report (2021)</i><sup>156</sup> which contained key recommendations including for government to empower Aboriginal communities and embed principles of self-determination in child protection matters (published in 2021).</li> <li>– Established and conducted a Special Inquiry into children and young people placed into alternative care arrangements (ACAs) in September 2023.</li> <li>– Developed and published the <i>Moving Cage to Cage Final Report</i> in 2024.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In 2021, the ACYP team embarked on a consultation project to listen to the voices of children and young people, including Aboriginal children and young people as they shared their experiences of the out-of-home care system in NSW. ACYP spoke to 99 children and young people (30 identified as Aboriginal) across NSW who are currently in OOHC or have an experience of being in the OOHC system. The project was aimed at providing an opportunity for children and young people, including Aboriginal children and young people in OOHC across NSW to express their views, outline their experiences and their suggestions around what needs to change.</li> <li>• The Special Inquiry was particularly focussed on hearing from children and young people directly about their experiences, including Aboriginal children and young people.</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Made submissions into NSW Department of Communities and Justice – Redesigning Family Preservation in NSW Discussion Paper.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contributed to discussions that informed the governments \$1.2 billion Child Protection Package in the 2025-26 Budget.</li> </ul>
	Continue to work in collaboration with Youth Justice NSW to elevate the voices of children and young people in contact with the youth justice system.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Established the Aboriginal Outcomes Taskforce (AOT) to provide ongoing engagement and advocacy around implementation of the Family Is Culture Report (2019)<sup>157</sup> Recommendations, including through AOT.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Family is Culture Report led to recommendations, some to be addressed through Aboriginal Outcomes Taskforce.</li> </ul>

<sup>156</sup> ACYP, *The Voices of Children and Young People in Out-of-Home Care*, ACYP website, 2021, accessed 20 June 2025

<sup>157</sup> NSW DCJ, *Family is Culture: Independent Review of Aboriginal Children and Young People in Out-of-Home Care in NSW*, NSW DCJ website, n.d., accessed 23 June 2025

Goal	ACYP Commitments / Actions	Activities Delivered by ACYP	What Changes Have the Activities Contributed to?
Decrease in the over-representation of Aboriginal children and young people in the out-of-home care system.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Participated in the Closing the Gap Target 11 Working Group which is focused on reducing the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people in detention by at least 30% by 2031.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provided the voices of children and young people where additive to discussions of the group.</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Supported the Inspector of Custodial Services with their review of six youth justice centres across NSW, with a focus on supporting interviews with young people (2022).</li> <li>✓ Conducted consultations in Acmena Youth Justice Centre (2023).</li> <li>✓ Spent at least one day in Youth Justice Centres each month in 2022 / 2023.</li> <li>✓ Participated regularly in several Youth Justice NSW (YJNSW) led working groups and committees, including: the Youth Justice Advisory Committee and the Short-term Remand (STR) Steering Committee and Working Group.</li> <li>✓ Collaborated with Youth Justice NSW to elevate the voices of children and young people in contact with the youth justice system.</li> <li>✓ Participated in the Youth Crime Steering Committee and Steering Committee on Responding to Children's Harmful Behaviours throughout 2023 and 2024 which aimed at reducing young people's contact with the Youth Justice system.</li> <li>✓ Invited to redesign the Client Information Management System (CIMS) databased (June 2024) in a five-year project. ACYP have not yet contributed to the redesign work.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spending time in youth justice centres provided opportunities for ACYP to hear directly from young people on a regular basis to gain a greater understanding of the challenges that may be systemic and local.</li> <li>• ACYP have been able to capture smaller changes that make a big difference to young people, and advocate for these. Through ongoing advocacy, ACYP have supported DCJ's decision to introduce body scanners at Youth Justice Centres, replacing the need for conducting partially clothed body and strip searches. Additionally, ACYP have supported the introduction of property bags that are more subtle for those leaving Youth Justice Centres.</li> <li>• The Short-term Remand Working Group has initiated a pilot program where a network of volunteers can be called upon when a young person interacts with the Youth Justice system and does not have a responsible adult they can call upon.</li> </ul>

# Appendix B

## Appendix B: Status of External Government Initiatives Included in the Strategic Plan

### Commitment Area: Hope for the Future

Commitment Made in the Strategic Plan		Alignment to Other Commitment Areas
<b>1.1 NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA)</b> is in the process of reform after the NSW Curriculum Review. The priorities for reform include strong foundations in Mathematics and English skills in the first years of schooling; reducing the burden on teachers to ensure more time is spent on teaching; strengthening post-school pathways by linking learning in senior school to future employment and study options; and refining the curriculum with syllabuses focused on essential knowledge and skills. [NSW Department of Education, NSW Education Standards Authority]		N/A
Objective	Progress	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No update provided within the report production timelines.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No update provided within the report production timelines.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No update provided within the report production timelines.</li> </ul>
Commitment Made in the Strategic Plan		Alignment to Other Commitment Areas
<b>1.2 Stay Healthy HSC</b> is a website providing resources for HSC students to manage their study and self-care. [NSW Department of Education, NSW Education Standards Authority]		N/A
Objective	Progress	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No update provided within the report production timelines.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No update provided within the report production timelines.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No update provided within the report production timelines.</li> </ul>

Commitment Made in the Strategic Plan		Alignment to Other Commitment Areas
<p><b>1.3 The establishment of Careers NSW</b> will work to support people of all ages to find work in NSW. This includes career advice through a digital channel to book the community into career advisors. Careers NSW will be piloted by Service NSW commencing on 25 October 2021 before a full roll out is expected in June 2022. This was a recommendation of the NSW Review of Vocational Education and Training released in 2021. [Service NSW]</p>		N/A
Objective	Progress	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Careers NSW was established in part to support the state's economic recovery during and after the COVID-19 global pandemic at a time of predicted high unemployment.</li> <li>• From its pilot in November 2021, to expanding statewide in December 2022, Careers NSW provided accessible lifelong careers information, advice and professional career guidance to NSW residents aged over 18 years seeking to enter the labour market, upgrade skills or change careers.</li> <li>• The services included career practitioner and industry expert appointments (service for over 18 only) and a self-service website with access to comprehensive information and resources on upskilling, training and job seeking including job data and a career planner tool.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In 2023, Careers NSW was expanded to 61 NSW Public Schools as a trial, to provide schools with access to careers services that complemented the existing career adviser work in schools.</li> <li>• Over 9,000 students benefited from the Careers NSW School trials delivered in 2022-2023. However, due to the program's trial nature, the services to young people in NSW Public Schools ceased end of Term 4, 2023.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete</li> <li>• <b>Reason:</b> Careers NSW established. While the NSW Public Schools trial was discontinued, Careers NSW still operates as a self-serve website.</li> </ul>

Update provided by NSW Department of Education in June 2025.

Commitment Made in the Strategic Plan		Alignment to Other Commitment Areas
<b>1.4 The Regional Industry Education Partnerships</b> program creates connections between industry and secondary schools to support students to plan their future career pathways. [NSW Department of Education, Training Services NSW]		N/A
Objective	Progress	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Regional Industry Education Partnerships (RIEP) Program designs and delivers bespoke opportunities for employers to connect with secondary schools. Through these connections, students learn about jobs and pathways to employment. They develop new skills and employer networks, allowing them to make informed decisions about their career pathways. Employers can educate students about their industry and actively participate in the development of talent pipelines.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RIEP is currently being delivered in a range of industries including construction, healthcare and social assistance, childcare, aged care, advanced manufacturing, electrical/electrotechnology, retail, hospitality, ICT and agriculture.</li> <li>Since 2021, RIEP has delivered over 284,400 'opportunities' for students from 905 NSW government and non-government schools, partnering with over 4,000 businesses and industry groups.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing.</li> <li><b>Reason:</b> In February 2024, the RIEP program was secured as an ongoing service for all NSW schools.</li> </ul>

Update provided by NSW Department of Education in June 2025

Commitment Made in the Strategic Plan		Alignment to Other Commitment Areas
<p><b>1.5</b> The NSW Government offers a range of <b>apprenticeships, traineeships and graduate programs</b>. While each is operated with the goal of inclusivity, the following programs have been highlighted based on their specific focus on engaging with underrepresented or vulnerable groups.</p> <p><b>1.5.1 The LAHC Apprenticeship Program</b> provides career pathways, with a focus on young people aged 16-25, people accessing housing assistance, women, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and people with disability. The program includes funding for students to contribute to construction of social housing and provides opportunities for students to study social housing tenancy and property management. [NSW Land and Housing Corporation]</p> <p><b>1.5.2 The NSW Infrastructure Trainee Program (NSWITP)</b> is a two-year program to provide paid training opportunities for those completing school during the COVID-19 pandemic. The program started in 2021. [NSW Department of Education]</p> <p><b>1.5.3 The Regional and Outer Metropolitan (ROM) Entry Level Program</b> is one of many initiatives from Transport for NSW (TfNSW). This program begins with engagement with regional school students in order to highlight the various apprentice and traineeships available through TfNSW. [Transport for NSW]</p> <p><b>1.5.4 The Aboriginal Vocational Education and Training (VET) Cadet and Aboriginal HSC Scholarship</b> program supports Sydney based and regional Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people to achieve certifications in a higher school and vocational space and provide ongoing employment outcomes. [Transport for NSW]</p> <p><b>1.5.5</b> The NSW Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) has a number of programs for those who have been in OOH. Examples include the <b>Smart and Skilled scholarship program</b> for those aged 15 and over, and the <b>DCJ Education Scholarship</b> for those 15-18 in OOH or in social housing. [NSW Department of Communities and Justice]</p> <p><b>1.5.6</b> The Office for Regional Youth and the Department of Education are running an <b>18 month pilot program to deliver work experience and cultural training</b> for Year 8 and 9 students at Taronga Zoo in Dubbo. The program aims to incentivise vulnerable youth to re-engage with schooling and complete year 12 or gain stable employment. [NSW Office of Regional Youth]</p> <p><b>1.5.7</b> Many NSW Government departments offer <b>scholarships for university level study for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students</b>. Some are specific to an area of study, such as the DPIE scholarship for undergraduate studies in town planning, while others are broader in scope, such as the DCJ Scholarship Program. [Various NSW Departments]</p>		N/A
Objective	Progress	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1.5.1 LAHC Apprenticeship Program</b> No update provided within the report production timelines.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No update provided within the report production timelines.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No update provided within the report production timelines.</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>1.5.2 NSW Government Infrastructure Traineeship Program (NSWITP)</b> was formed in 2021 in response to COVID to provide post-school pathway opportunities for and increase diversity in employment within the state's infrastructure industries.</li> <li>• The two-year traineeship program is funded by government NSW departments and agencies, who also provide workplace training, and the NSW Construction Leadership Group and TAFE NSW.</li> </ul> <p>Update provided by NSW Department of Education in June 2025</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Since its establishment 448 Year 12 school leavers have joined the program.</li> <li>• Trainees have been supported to complete a Certificate IV qualification in project management, business or procurement. In addition to their government work placement, trainees have also had 8-month placements in construction business and infrastructure consultancies – many of which have offered full time ongoing employment to the trainees.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In progress</li> <li>• <b>Reason:</b> The NSWITP concludes on Wednesday 25 February 2026 when the final cohort (2024 intake) complete the program. It was a point-in-time program responding to COVID and this particular model is no longer required.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>1.5.3 The Regional and Outer Metropolitan (ROM) Entry Level Program</b> is now known as the Road Maintenance and Resilience Entry Level Programs (RMR ELP). It aims to attract, develop, and retain a diverse range of workforce skills and capabilities across NSW, addressing issues regarding the ageing regional workforce by creating employment pathways within regional communities and enabling the transfer of essential skills and knowledge.</li> </ul> <p>Update provided by Transport for NSW in July 2025</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School talks, career events and regional Industry Days, have been coordinated by Transport for NSW, where school students are provided with information about the opportunities on offer at Transport for NSW and the operational programs completed in and around their communities.</li> <li>• Since 2022, RMR ELP has facilitated the employment of 313 apprentices and trainees on limited-duration program contracts, with most of these positions in regional NSW (more than 80% of each annual intake). Over the past three years, Transport for NSW has consistently retrained approximately 80% of the apprentices and trainees within the agency.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing</li> <li>• <b>Reason:</b> This is an ongoing program creating pathways for individuals, primarily in regional NSW, to complete a nationally recognised qualification while gaining industry knowledge from experienced business specialists.</li> <li>• The program recently gained approval to recruit 89 new apprentices and trainees, who are scheduled to commence in February 2026</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>1.5.4 The Aboriginal VET Cadet and Aboriginal HSC Scholarship</b> program:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Identify talent across NSW to pipeline into employment opportunities in Transport for NSW.</li> <li>– Providing mentoring and support services through Transport for NSW's Aboriginal Employment Unit (AEU).</li> <li>– To build relationships with community leading to sustainable economic outcomes.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Update provided by Transport for NSW in July 2025</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Programs already established and delivered on an annual basis.</li> <li>• As of June 2025, there were 28 Aboriginal HSC Scholarship participants, and 11 Aboriginal VET Cadets across NSW.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing</li> <li>• <b>Reason:</b> This is an ongoing annual offering.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>1.5.5 DCJ Programs (e.g. Smart and Skilled scholarship program and DCJ Education Scholarship)</b> No update provided within the report production timelines.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No update provided within the report production timelines.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No update provided within the report production timelines.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>1.5.6 18-month pilot program to deliver work experience and cultural training:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Develop wellbeing through a sense of belonging, confidence, resilience and achievement.</li> <li>– Motivate participants to engage in education and complete Year 12 or equivalent.</li> <li>– Establish networks and influence participants to engage in post-school employment and future training.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Update provided by NSW Office of Regional Youth in July 2025</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The program provided work experience and cultural training to 160 Year 8 and 9 High School Students over an 18-month period. It received a 90% satisfaction rating from participants and 90% of participants indicated a greater connection to Country and Community.</li> <li>• There was a 75% improvement in attendance at school while participating in the program.</li> <li>• Participation led to formal certificate learning programs, joining the youth extension program at TWPZ and in some cases, employment at TWPZ. 30% of participants progressed to formal certificate learning programs or modules, 55% joined the youth extension program, and it was a pathway to employment at TPWZ for 5% of participants.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concluded</li> <li>• <b>Reason:</b> The pilot program has been completed. Positive findings will be included in future employment pathways pilots.</li> </ul>



<p><b>1.5.7 Scholarships for university level study for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students</b></p> <p>No update provided within the report production timelines.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No update provided within the report production timelines.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No update provided within the report production timelines.</li> </ul>
<p>+ <b>Interpreter and translator scholarship program:</b></p> <p>Multicultural NSW delivered the interpreter and translator scholarship program which included targeted initiatives to attract younger professionals to the industry.</p> <p>Update provided by NSW Office of Regional Youth in July 2025</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 215 students who achieved an E4 (Band 6) in 10 targeted extension language courses were offered a place in the HSC High Achievers in Language Scholarship Program.</li> <li>• 77 HSC students accepted a scholarship, which provided a career pathway for young people proficient in a language other than English to become certified interpreters and/or translators leading to casual employment opportunities.</li> <li>• Of the 77 scholarships offered, 54 students completed their studies. Another 3 HSC students who plan to commence a scholarship at the conclusion of their university language degrees.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Superseded</li> <li>• <b>Reason:</b> From the 2024-25 FY, the Multicultural NSW interpreter and translator scholarship program will be replaced with the new Multicultural NSW Language Services Academy.</li> </ul>
<p>+ <b>Multicultural NSW</b> participates in the following NSW Government programs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– NSW Graduate Program</li> <li>– First Nations Internship Program run by Career Trackers</li> <li>– NSW Public Sector Apprentices and Trainees Program</li> </ul> <p>Update provided by NSW Office of Regional Youth in July 2025</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Between 2022 and 2024, Multicultural NSW has supported the following placements:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– 1 university graduate through the NSW Graduate Program.</li> <li>– 1 university student through the First Nations Internship Program run by Career Trackers (gives First Nations university students meaningful paid work during summer and winter semester breaks)</li> <li>– 3 university internships through Career Seekers (supports Australia's humanitarian entrants into professional careers).</li> <li>– 4 traineeships through the 1,000 NSW Public Sector Apprentice and Trainees Program.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing</li> <li>• <b>Reason:</b> Depends on the capacity of Multicultural NSW to accommodate new candidates.</li> </ul>

<p>+ <b>NSW Health Aboriginal Nursing and Midwifery Cadetship Program:</b> Provide Aboriginal students undertaking a Bachelor of Nursing or Bachelor of Midwifery, the opportunity to be employed in an NSW Public Health facility during their studies. The Cadetship supports the sustainability of the Aboriginal nursing and midwifery workforce by providing access to education and employment.</p> <p>Update provided by NSW Ministry of Health in July 2025</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Since 2001, the Cadetship program has graduated 334 students including 239 registered nurses, 49 midwives and 44 enrolled nurses. Of these, 188 graduated Cadets were employed at rural and remote facilities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing</li> <li>• <b>Reason:</b> This is an ongoing annual offering.</li> </ul>
<p>+ <b>NSW Health Aboriginal Nursing and Midwifery Undergraduate Scholarships:</b> Provide financial support to assist Aboriginal students to undertake a Bachelor of Nursing or Bachelor of Midwifery, leading to professional registration as a nurse or midwife.</p> <p>Update provided by NSW Ministry of Health in July 2025</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scholarships have been offered by NSW Health since 2001. In 2024, 72 Aboriginal nursing and midwifery students were awarded undergraduate scholarships.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing</li> <li>• <b>Reason:</b> This is an ongoing annual offering.</li> </ul>
<p>+ <b>Service NSW Offer Traineeships:</b> Utilise their current contracted Group Training Organisation (GTO) Zeal Futures, for young people across NSW, allowing many diverse cohorts undertake work-based training and study within the frontline.</p> <p>Update provided by Service NSW in June 2025</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• From FY 2022 (1 July 2021) to FY 2024 (30 June 2024):             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– 186 trainees placed at Service NSW, 105 trainees of trainees placed at Service NSW under the age of 25, and 101 trainees retained at Service NSW</li> <li>– The Service NSW Traineeship program has allowed for greater partnerships with DCJ- where a targeted Out of Home Care employment program was delivered.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing</li> <li>• <b>Reason:</b> Offering dependant on budget and vacancies. Current contract with GTO supplier due to expire 16 December 2026.</li> </ul>

<p>+ <b>NSW Government's 1000 Trainees and Apprentices Program:</b> Aims to address the skills shortage and enhance employment opportunities for youth and those re-entering the workforce.</p> <p>Update provided by NSW Department of Customer Service in July 2025</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All current trainees are under 25 years of age. This includes:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– 2x Revenue full time trainees onboarded in 2024, due to complete in 2025</li> <li>– 12x full time trainees onboarded in 2025 (10x Revenue, 1x SIRA, 1x People and Culture)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing</li> <li>• <b>Reason:</b> Round 3 applications close 11 July. DCS plans to submit an application on behalf of DCS business units.</li> </ul>
<p>+ <b>Supporting NSW care leavers to engage with DET traineeships and apprenticeships</b> and offer supported pathways. Regular promotion of Smart and Skilled and the 1000 Public Sector traineeships/apprenticeships takes place.</p> <p>Update provided by NSW Department of Communities and Justice in July 2025</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DCJ OOHC Programs is collaborating with DET's 1000 Public Sector Traineeships and Apprenticeships to encourage applications for young people in care and care leavers. They are undertaking targeted promotion to care leavers, caseworkers etc.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In progress</li> <li>• <b>Reason:</b> DCJ and DET continue to collaborate, with targeted outreach and engagement activities currently underway.</li> </ul>
<p>+ <b>Out of Home Care (OOHC) Employment Program:</b> Facilitates apprenticeships and traineeships with Service NSW by providing a tailored, targeted recruitment strategy for OOHC leavers to access existing traineeships and internships with Service NSW.</p> <p>Update provided by NSW Department of Communities and Justice in July 2025</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two cohorts (a total of 68 individuals) have been successfully referred to Service NSW. The pilot in 2022 and a second cohort in 2024, with 68 referrals in total.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paused</li> <li>• <b>Reason:</b> Service NSW is currently focusing on the mobility pathway for staff within Service NSW.</li> </ul>
<p>+ <b>Provision of the Transport for NSW graduate, cadet and scholarship programs.</b></p> <p>Update provided by Transport for NSW in July 2025</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Programs already established and delivered on an annual basis.</li> <li>• As of June 2025, there were 203 participants employed across the graduate, cadet and Scholar program with a 35% female participation rate and Aboriginal representation of 4%.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing</li> <li>• <b>Reason:</b> This is an ongoing annual offering.</li> </ul>

Commitment Made in the Strategic Plan		Alignment to Other Commitment Areas
<b>1.6 The Regional VET Pathways Initiative</b> supports young people aged 15–19 years not in study or in a job to find pathways into education, training and work. It offers services to re-engage young people such as access to career mentoring, planning and brokerage of pathways to training and employment. [Training Services NSW]		N/A
Objective	Progress	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Get Back in the Game program was formerly called the Regional VET Pathways Initiative. It is an initiative for disengaged or disconnected young people in NSW (expanded now to 15-21 years old) who need support to re-engage or connect to education, employment and training opportunities.</li> <li>Case managers work with young people to develop Career and Transition Plans and provide practical, tailored support to help them achieve their goals.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Since the commencement of the Regional VET Program in 2016 to June 2024, approximately 12,000 young people enrolled into the program.</li> <li>As of June 2025, the Get Back in the Game program has engaged nine community-based youth organisations to deliver specialist support services to young people aged 15-21 who are struggling to engage with education, or to make effective transitions into training or sustainable employment.</li> <li>The program has expanded to now operate in 17 of the 28 Statistical Areas Level 4 (SA4) areas of NSW.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing</li> <li><b>Reason:</b> In March 2025, the NSW Government finalised a matched funding deal with the Australian Government totalling \$10 million. This funding will extend Get Back in the Game through to at least 30 June 2027.</li> </ul>

Update provided by NSW Department of Education in June 2025

Commitment Made in the Strategic Plan		Alignment to Other Commitment Areas
<b>1.7 RISEUP Fit Programs:</b> The Fit to Learn, Fit to Work and Fit for Service programs encourage young people to engage in education and work. While Fit to Learn and Fit for Work focus on the skills and strengths required to study and to operate in the work environment, The Fit for Service program assists those with an interest in Policing specifically. There are also other Fit for Programs aimed at supporting young people to build resilience and develop the skills they need to engage with their community. [NSW Police with PCYC]		N/A

Objective	Progress	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To provide support to young persons to reduce and prevent reoffending.</li> <li>To support young people to build resilience, develop new skills and to make better life choices.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NSW Police Force in partnership with PCYC NSW currently offer, Fit for Change and Fit for Life, while Fit for work is a PCYC NSW program.</li> <li>Fit for Change is a program tailored to address the core principles of risk, need and responsivity. This intervention program addresses major risk/need factors to reduce and prevent re-offending and is tailored to the participants needs. 115 programs run statewide between July 2024 – June 2025.</li> <li>Fit for Life programs are held at most PCYC clubs and offer health and support needs to young persons between and 1 and 3 times a week, usually prior to school. 3,708 programs run statewide between July 2024 – June 2025.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing</li> <li>Reason: Part of ongoing program delivery.</li> </ul>

Update provided by NSW Police Force in July 2025

Commitment Made in the Strategic Plan		Alignment to Other Commitment Area
1.8 The School Success Model aims to scale best practice in school governance and teaching across the school system so that decisions can be made based on “what works”. The Model includes specific targets for attendance, HSC attainment and student performance as well as the opportunity to learn from high performing schools. [NSW Department of Education]		N/A
Objective	Progress	Status
• No update provided within the report production timelines.	• No update provided within the report production timelines.	• No update provided within the report production timelines.

Commitment Made in the Strategic Plan		Alignment to Other Commitment Areas
<b>1.9 Attendance Matters:</b> Attendance is a key priority for the Department of Education with the ongoing work of schools supported by the Attendance Matters resource hub. This acts as a central source of information and resources that school leaders and teachers can use to improve attendance. [NSW Department of Education]		N/A
Objective	Progress	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No update provided within the report production timelines.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No update provided within the report production timelines.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No update provided within the report production timelines.</li> </ul>
Commitment Made in the Strategic Plan		Alignment to Other Commitment Areas
<b>1.10 Research on the impact of wellbeing and attendance:</b> The Department of Education has partnered with the University of Queensland to research the impact of student wellbeing and student engagement on attendance. [NSW Department of Education]		N/A
Objective	Progress	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No update provided within the report production timelines.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No update provided within the report production timelines.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No update provided within the report production timelines.</li> </ul>
Commitment Made in the Strategic Plan		Alignment to Other Commitment Areas
<b>1.11 The Young Carers Program supports young people</b> caring for a family member or friend with disability, illness or other ongoing dependency. The program includes general support, information and resources to help young carers and works to improve their education and employment outcomes. [NSW Department of Communities and Justice with Carers NSW]		N/A
Objective	Progress	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Young Carer Program (YCP) aims to support young carers in NSW (aged 25 and under) by: Providing information, referrals, and practical support to young carers and those who assist them. Raising awareness through training, resources, and outreach in schools, universities, and community organisations.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The YCP has received \$305,000 per year since 2018, starting with a three-year contract under the Carers Investment Program. After that program ended, the funding continued through the Carers portfolio grants.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing</li> <li>Reason: Funding is set to continue annually under a new five-year contract with Carers NSW that began in 2024.</li> </ul>

Update provided by NSW Department of Communities and Justice in July 2025

Commitment Made in the Strategic Plan		Alignment to Other Commitment Areas
<b>1.12 The OOHC Education Pathway</b> supports pre-school and school aged children and young people to engage in education regardless of whether they attend a government or nongovernment school. The pathway involves casework planning to support learning and access to supports as needed, for example accessing the school's homework centre or a tutor. [NSW Department of Communities and Justice]		N/A
Objective	Progress	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To provide consistent, collaborative, and tailored educational support for every child and young person in OOHC, ensuring they have access to quality education and the opportunity to reach their full learning potential.</li> <li>The Program facilitates timely and inclusive planning through Personalised Learning and Support Planning (PLaSP), conducted within 30 days of entering care or starting school, with plans reviewed annually.</li> <li>The Program emphasises active participation of children and young people in their educational journey, ensuring their developmental and learning needs are identified, supported, and monitored.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DCJ and DoE are committed to supporting school attendance and engagement for children and young people under PRM enrolled in government schools through data sharing and a joint action plan.</li> <li><b>Data sharing schedule:</b> In 2023, the information sharing MoU between DCJ and DoE was amended to share monthly attendance data for students in OOHC enrolled in government schools. In 2024, the MoU was further updated to include exchange of data with reasons for absences in attendance.</li> <li><b>Joint action plan:</b> In 2024, DCJ and DoE developed a joint action plan to improve school engagement for students in OOHC enrolled in government schools.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing</li> <li><b>Reason:</b> Part of ongoing service delivery</li> <li>In the second half of 2025 reasons for absences will be analysed by DCJ and DoE, which could assist with early identification of children at risk of educational neglect or disengagement and allow for the provision of appropriate supports.</li> </ul>

Update provided by NSW Department of Communities and Justice in July 2025

Commitment Made in the Strategic Plan		Alignment to Other Commitment Areas
<b>1.13 The Student Behaviour Strategy</b> will work to shift the classroom approach from behaviour support and management to an evidence based multi-tiered care continuum of behavioural support. The strategy is broad in its approach to behaviour change, supporting both students and teachers, but also includes changes to suspension policy that will lead to a decrease in the length of suspensions and aims to decrease the frequency of suspensions. [NSW Department of Education]		Love, connection and safety
Objective	Progress	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No update provided within the report production timelines.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No update provided within the report production timelines.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No update provided within the report production timelines.</li> </ul>
Commitment Made in the Strategic Plan		Alignment to Other Commitment Areas
<b>1.14 The Perfect Presence Pilot program</b> aims to support students showing early signs of disengagement from school so that they feel stronger connections to school and learning and are supported to build on personal and social capabilities. [NSW Department of Education]		N/A
Objective	Progress	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No update provided within the report production timelines.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No update provided within the report production timelines.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No update provided within the report production timelines.</li> </ul>
Commitment Made in the Strategic Plan		Alignment to Other Commitment Areas
<b>1.15 Getting on Track in Time (Got It!)</b> is a program designed to reduce the emergence of conduct disorders. It supports children aged 5-8 and their parents and teachers through targeted interventions delivered by Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services in the school setting. There is also a 'Got It!' pilot developing culturally informed adaptations for Aboriginal children. The program works with education staff to provide a universal social-emotional Learning Program in schools developing skills for social communication, relationship building, problem solving and learning that complements a targeted intervention, reduces stigma and creates an environment for support. [NSW Department of Health]		Love, connection and safety Respect and acceptance
Objective	Progress	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No update provided within the report production timelines.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No update provided within the report production timelines.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No update provided within the report production timelines.</li> </ul>



Commitment Made in the Strategic Plan		Alignment to Other Commitment Areas
<p><b>1.16</b> Service NSW and the NSW Department of Customer Service (DCS) have delivered a <b>Youth Landing Page</b> to make it easier for young people to access NSW services and supports. These sites can be found at <a href="https://www.youth.nsw.gov.au/">https://www.youth.nsw.gov.au/</a> and <a href="https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/nswgovdirectory/youth-nsw">https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/nswgovdirectory/youth-nsw</a>. Continued cross government collaborations ensures that these sites are maintained with relevant and up-to-date information [NSW Department of Customer Service, Service NSW]</p>		Love, connection and safety
Objective	Progress	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provision of easy access to youth focused services to make it easier for young people to access the services they need.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="https://www.youth.nsw.gov.au/">https://www.youth.nsw.gov.au/</a> and <a href="https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/nswgovdirectory/youth-nsw">https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/nswgovdirectory/youth-nsw</a> have been replaced with SNSW landing page (<a href="https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/services/young-people">https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/services/young-people</a>) with links to NSW.gov.au – Young People which provides broad youth focused information.</li> <li><a href="https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/kidsfamilie/youth/Pages/health-services-yp.aspx">https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/kidsfamilie/youth/Pages/health-services-yp.aspx</a> and <a href="https://www.nsw.gov.au/legal-and-justice/youth-justice/programs-and-services">https://www.nsw.gov.au/legal-and-justice/youth-justice/programs-and-services</a> sites offer a broad range of information and supports continued cross-government collaboration.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing</li> <li><b>Reason:</b> Service NSW to continue to support services for young people. Sites are continually maintained with relevant and up-to-date information.</li> </ul>

## Commitment Area: Love, Connection and Safety

Commitment Made in the Strategic Plan		Alignment to Other Commitment Areas
<b>2.1 Anti-bullying</b> now forms part of the <b>Student Behaviour Strategy</b> . Schools develop an individual school Anti-Bullying Plan, supported by a newly refurbished Anti-Bullying website. It provides advice and resources on bullying and cyberbullying to parents, teachers and students. The Department also participates in the National Day of Action and other anti-bullying and behaviour initiatives each year. [NSW Department of Education]		N/A
Objective	Progress	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No update provided within the report production timelines.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No update provided within the report production timelines.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No update provided within the report production timelines.</li> </ul>
Commitment Made in the Strategic Plan		Alignment to Other Commitment Areas
<b>2.2 Creating child safe organisations by implementing the Child Safe Standards.</b> There is a specific standard on creating child safe online environments. Perpetrators exploit situations where they can be alone with children or use the online environment to extend their connection and influence. To address this, children can be provided information about online safety and regularly encouraged to tell staff about negative experiences. Staff and parents are provided information about risks in the online environment, such as online grooming, cyber bullying and sexting. [Office of the NSW Children's Guardian]		N/A
Objective	Progress	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No update provided within the report production timelines.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No update provided within the report production timelines.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No update provided within the report production timelines.</li> </ul>

Commitment Made in the Strategic Plan		Alignment to Other Commitment Areas
<b>2.3 2021 Mandatory Child Protection Training</b> for all employees of the Department of Education focused on identifying and responding to domestic and family violence. This included a focus on coercive control (in the secondary school pathway it included a case study of a peer relationship as well as family settings). [NSW Department of Education]		N/A
Objective	Progress	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No update provided within the report production timelines.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No update provided within the report production timelines.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No update provided within the report production timelines.</li> </ul>

Commitment Made in the Strategic Plan		Alignment to Other Commitment Areas
<b>2.4 Targeted Earlier Intervention Program</b> delivers flexible support to children, young people, families and communities experiencing or at risk of vulnerability. Services are delivered under two broad streams: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community strengthening – activities that build cohesion, inclusion and wellbeing across all communities, and empower Aboriginal communities.</li> <li>Wellbeing and safety – activities that support families and individuals, including activities that strengthen protective factors and respond to known risk factors and provide opportunities for personal development.</li> </ul> [NSW Department of Communities and Justice]		N/A
Objective	Progress	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Targeted Earlier Intervention (TEI) program is designed to support the needs of children, young people, families and communities experiencing or at risk of vulnerability through early intervention services, through the provision of culturally safe, responsive and flexible support services.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In 2023-24 TEI services were delivered to 176,888 individual clients and 1,188,299 unidentified group clients across NSW. An independent evaluation has been conducted for the program. Recommendations from the evaluation have been considered and incorporated into the new program design, where appropriate.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing</li> <li>Reason: The program has access to continuous funding.</li> <li>As of 1 January 2026, the TEI program will be amalgamated with the Family Connect and Support (FCS) program and be known as the Community and Family Support program.</li> </ul>

Update provided by NSW Department of Communities and Justice in July 2025

Commitment Made in the Strategic Plan		Alignment to Other Commitment Areas
<b>2.5 Family Connect and Support (FCS) program</b> offers help as early as possible, bringing together families, support services and community resources flexibly tailored to a family's individual needs, so that our children and young people are safe and well. [NSW Department of Communities and Justice]		N/A
Objective	Progress	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A voluntary referral and case coordinated service for children, young people and families in NSW which aims to build family capacity and decrease risk.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In 2023-24, FCS services were delivered to 19,123 individual clients across NSW.</li> <li>An independent evaluation has been conducted for the program. Recommendations from the evaluation have been considered and incorporated into the new program design, where appropriate.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing</li> <li><b>Reason:</b> The program has access to continuous funding.</li> <li>As of 1 January 2026, the FCS program will be amalgamated with the Targeted Earlier Intervention (TEI) program and be known as the Community and Family Support program.</li> </ul>

Update provided by NSW Department of Communities and Justice in July 2025

Commitment Made in the Strategic Plan		Alignment to Other Commitment Areas
<b>2.6 Establishment of two statewide specialist mental health inpatient units to accommodate mothers with mental health problems and their infants.</b> These units allow intensive mental health and clinical care to be provided in a safe environment that supports carer/infant attachment as well as ensuring early parenting skills and parenting confidence. [NSW Health]		N/A
Objective	Progress	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide holistic, multidisciplinary specialist health care that is parent and infant-centred, family and carer inclusive, and culturally sensitive.</li> <li>Inpatient services are available for parents who are experiencing significant mental health problems in the perinatal period (before, during and after birth), and who are the primary caregiver for their baby (up to 12 months of age).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Units continue to work closely with LHDs to improve referral processes, reduce barriers to admission for regional and rural families and improve access to cultural support within the Unit.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing</li> <li><b>Reason:</b> The Mother and Baby Units are funded in an ongoing capacity. Local policy development is progressing to reflect the unique needs of each of the Units.</li> </ul>

Update provided by NSW Ministry of Health in July 2025

Commitment Made in the Strategic Plan		Alignment to Other Commitment Areas
<p><b>2.7 The NSW Family Focused Recovery Framework 2020-2025</b> supports an intentional shift for mental health services to include considerations of the impacts of mental illness on the family. The Framework continues and expands the established wellbeing supports for Children of Parents with a Mental Illness as a key prevention and early intervention priority. The Framework also focuses on parents with a mental health issue and highlights the significance of the parenting role on self-esteem, personal goals and on the parent's recovery journey. The Framework guides the work of NSW Mental Health Services to develop coordinated and integrated care processes with opportunities to enhance engagement, support mutual goals, facilitate risk assessments and broad inter-agency and cross-sector collaboration. [NSW Health]</p>		N/A
Objective	Progress	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To improve outcomes for families impacted by parental mental health issues through:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Embedding a family focused approach</li> <li>Delivering evidence informed interventions to meet the needs of families; and</li> <li>Coordinating treatment and support</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local Health Districts/ Specialist Health Networks provide annual reporting on the implementation of the Family Focused Recovery Framework.</li> <li>The Family Focused Recovery Small Grants Program offers LHDs/SHNs the opportunity to apply for a grant to assist with operationalising the activities within the NSW Family Focused Recovery Framework 2020-2025.</li> <li>A statewide Family Focused Recovery Learning Resource is being developed to support the ongoing implementation of the NSW Family Focused Recovery Framework 2020-2025.</li> <li>Approximately 56 grants have been allocated since 2019 through the Family Focused Recovery Small Grants Program to support LHD/SHN to operationalise the activities within the Framework.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing</li> <li><b>Reason:</b> the current Family Focused Recovery Framework spans the period 2020-2025.</li> </ul>

Update provided by NSW Ministry of Health in July 2025

Commitment Made in the Strategic Plan		Alignment to Other Commitment Areas
<p><b>2.8</b> Under the <b>Youth Justice Domestic and Family Violence Strategy 2019–2022 (DFV Strategy)</b>, Youth Justice NSW (YJNSW) is progressing several initiatives intended to identify and support young people experiencing and/or using violence in the home to ensure that they receive the specialist support that they need. Actions in the DFV Strategy include:</p> <p>2.8.1: Development of localised referral packs for young people and their families.</p> <p>2.8.2: Strengthening court-related support services for young people involved in domestic and family violence.</p> <p>2.8.3: Developing a safety planning tool suitable for use with young people (by end of 2021).</p> <p>2.8.4: Enhancing workforce capability through training conference convenors, youth officers and caseworkers on identifying and responding to domestic and family violence where the young person is a victim of and/or using violence.</p> <p>2.8.5: Development of the Safe Spaces DFV perpetrator intervention for young people in contact with YJNSW.</p> <p>2.8.6: Increased awareness of the issues for young people who are victims of and/or use violence.</p> <p>2.8.7: Expanded the referral network for Youth on Track. Youth on Track is an early intervention scheme for 10–17 year-olds that identifies and responds to young people at risk of long-term involvement in the criminal justice system. Youth on Track provides the NSW Police, NSW Department of Education, Youth Justice NSW, Justice Health and Forensic Mental Health, solicitors, Community Services, Out-of-Home Care Providers, Community Health, Family Connect and Support, headspace and other mental health services without requiring a legal mandate.</p> <p>2.8.8: My Journey My Life is an Aboriginal specific program which aims to address violence within relationships. It seeks to facilitate participants' movement from relationships based on power and control, towards relationships based on respect. The program was originally designed for young Aboriginal men/boys and in 2021 was adapted through co-design with young women for use with Aboriginal young women/ girls, with plans to roll out the new program in early 2022. [Youth Justice NSW]</p>		Respect and acceptance
Objective	Progress	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To provide specialist support for young people experiencing and/or using domestic and family violence through comprehensive intervention and prevention strategies.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strategy implementation includes development of localised referral packs, enhanced court support services, safety planning tools, workforce capability training, Safe Spaces DFV intervention, expanded referral networks to Youth on Track, and My Journey My Life program adaptation for Aboriginal young women in 2021.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing</li> <li><b>Reason:</b> Strategy implementation ongoing with program adaptations completed.</li> </ul>

Update provided by NSW Department of Communities and Justice in July 202

Commitment Made in the Strategic Plan		Alignment to Other Commitment Areas
<b>2.9</b> In partnership with the National Association for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (NAPCAN), Youth Command Officers are being trained to facilitate the <b>Lovebites Respectful Program</b> in schools, in conjunction with the School Liaison Police presentation on respectful relationships. [NSW Police]		N/A
Objective	Progress	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To provide young people with a safe environment to examine, discuss and explore respectful relationships.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NSW Police Force currently offers a suite of school presentations delivered by Youth Command. The presentations cover topics such as Domestic Violence, Hate Crime, Respectful Relationships, Drugs and Alcohol, eBikes and eScooter Safety, Harassment and Assault, Knife Laws, Road Safety and Staying Safe Online.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing</li> <li><b>Reason:</b> Part of ongoing service delivery.</li> </ul>

Update provided by NSW Police Force in July 2025

Commitment Made in the Strategic Plan		Alignment to Other Commitment Areas
<b>2.10</b> The NSW Government joined <b>Our Watch</b> on 1 July 2019. Our Watch was established in July 2013 by the Commonwealth and Victorian Governments through the National Plan to drive nationwide change in the culture, behaviours and attitudes that underpin and create violence against women and children. [NSW Govt. – various]		N/A
Objective	Progress	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Our Watch is an independent not-for-profit organisation working in the primary prevention of violence against women, working to embed gender equality and prevent violence where Australians live, learn, work and socialise.</li> <li>Our Watch was established under the <i>National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010- 2022</i> and continues under the <i>National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022-2032</i>. All state and territory governments have joined Our Watch as members.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The NSW Government remains a member of Our Watch to support primary prevention in both NSW and Australia.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing</li> <li><b>Reason:</b> The NSW Government remains a member of Our Watch.</li> </ul>

Update provided by NSW Department of Communities and Justice in July 2025

Commitment Made in the Strategic Plan		Alignment to Other Commitment Areas
<b>2.11 Whole Family Teams (WFT):</b> Whole Family Teams provide intensive specialist mental health and drug and alcohol services to vulnerable families many of whom may be experiencing domestic or family violence. They work intensively with families to improve health and safety outcomes for parents and their children. [NSW Health]		N/A
Objective	Progress	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To improve outcomes for families where parental mental illness and/or substance use concerns intersect with child protection concerns by:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Delivering specialist in-home and community-based care including mental health, substance use and parenting interventions</li> <li>Improving family functioning and child safety</li> <li>Providing coordinated, multi-disciplinary care across mental health, drug and alcohol and child protection services</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WFTs have been established across 7 metropolitan, regional and rural local health districts, with each team supporting approximately 48 families per year.</li> <li>An independent 4-year evaluation found that completion of the WFT program led to clinically significant improvements in parental mental health and drug and alcohol outcomes, significant improvements in family functioning and significant improvements in child safety with a substantial reduction in the number of children being re-reported to Community Services.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing</li> <li><b>Reason:</b> WFTs are part of ongoing service delivery.</li> </ul>

Update provided by NSW Ministry of Health in July 2025



Commitment Made in the Strategic Plan		Alignment to Other Commitment Areas
<b>2.12 The Multicultural Youth Linker Pilot program</b> is free for young people from migrant and refugee backgrounds who would like advice and help with settling in Fairfield, NSW. A Multicultural Youth Linker is a young person from a migrant, refugee and refugee-like background who helps other young people to get connected, feel supported and explore opportunities to reach their goals. This program this will be expanded over the next three years and the next site to have a Youth Linker will be Liverpool. [Multicultural NSW, Service NSW]		N/A
Objective	Progress	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Multicultural Youth Linker Pilot Program was designed in collaboration with young refugees and community stakeholders and aimed to empower young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds to provide advice and support to their peers to help them to meet their economic, educational, social and health needs.</li> <li>The Program adopted a place-based approach and was trialled in Service NSW Wetherill Park Service Centre and later in Liverpool Service Centre between November 2020 and September 2022.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Program linked young people to a range of social, economic and educational activities and outcomes.</li> <li>The Program enhanced the way the NSW Government interacted with customers from this target group.</li> <li>Proactive outreach, use of social media and the peer-to-peer and place-based approaches were key elements of program design contributing to success.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Concluded</li> <li><b>Reason:</b> The pilot program ended 30 March 2025.</li> <li>There is consideration by Service NSW in preparing a business case to move the Program into BAU work under the Customer Care and Business Bureau.</li> </ul>

Update provided by Multicultural NSW in July 2025

Commitment Made in the Strategic Plan		Alignment to Other Commitment Areas
<b>2.13 The Youth Opportunities Program</b> funds youth-led and youth-driven projects through the allocation of grants. The funded projects aim to grow community connection and inclusion. [NSW Department of Communities and Justice]		N/A
Objective	Progress	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No update provided within the report production timelines.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No update provided within the report production timelines.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No update provided within the report production timelines.</li> </ul>

## Commitment Area: Health and Wellbeing

Commitment Made in the Strategic Plan		Alignment to Other Commitment Areas
<b>3.1 The First 2000 Days Framework</b> aims to highlight the importance of the first 2000 days of a child's life and what action people within the NSW Health System will need to support them. It includes greater awareness of the importance of this period among health staff, parents and others who care for children. The Strategy will be implemented by Local Health Districts and Specialty Health Networks as appropriate for their districts. [NSW Health]		N/A
Objective	Progress	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Understanding the importance of the first 2000 days</li> <li>Care and support for all</li> <li>Specialised services for all those who need it.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All districts, Sydney Children's Health Network, Karitane and Tresillian continue to undertake education and quality improvement programs and projects to meet all 3 objectives.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing</li> <li><b>Reason:</b> Projects and programs are ongoing and evolving according to population needs.</li> </ul>

Update provided by NSW Ministry of Health in July 2025

Commitment Made in the Strategic Plan		Alignment to Other Commitment Areas
<b>3.2</b> The NSW Health Maternity care policy: 'Connecting, listening and responding: A Blueprint for Action – Maternity care in NSW' (the Blueprint) will be launched in 2022. The Blueprint has a holistic scope, taking a 'life course approach' to maternity care in NSW in line with the First 2000 Days Framework. The Blueprint focuses on providing women with family centred, responsive care during the perinatal period to improve experiences and optimise maternal and neonatal outcomes. An implementation plan will accompany the Blueprint and will include activities to connect women to information and care early in pregnancy. [NSW Health]		N/A
Objective	Progress	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All women in NSW receive respectful, evidence-based and equitable maternity care that improves their experiences and health and wellbeing outcomes.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NSW Health published the Blueprint in March 2023.</li> <li>NSW Health is implementing the Blueprint in collaboration with maternity clinicians and consumers. The <a href="#">NSW Health Maternity Expert Advisory Group</a> and the <a href="#">NSW Health Maternity Consumer Reference Group</a> are providing advice and making recommendations on the following implementation priorities:</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing</li> <li><b>Reason:</b> The Blueprint has been published, and the initial implementation priorities are on track to be delivered by October 2025.</li> </ul>

1. Increasing access to maternity continuity of care models, including midwifery continuity of care.
2. Embedding trauma-informed care into all aspects of maternity care.
3. Improving the way information is provided to women.
4. Improving the consent process in maternity care.
5. Supporting women who experience pregnancy complications.

Update provided by NSW Ministry of Health in July 2025

Commitment Made in the Strategic Plan		Alignment to Other Commitment Areas
<b>3.3 The Aboriginal Maternal and Infant Health Service (AMIHS)</b> provides antenatal and postnatal care, from as early as possible in pregnancy and up to eight weeks after the birth of the baby. Midwives and Aboriginal health workers work together to provide a high-quality maternity service that is culturally safe, family-centred and provided in partnership with Aboriginal people. Care is provided in the community and links closely with mainstream maternity services. [NSW Health]		N/A
Objective	Progress	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provision of high quality, culturally safe, family-centred maternity care for Aboriginal women or women having an Aboriginal baby throughout pregnancy and up to 8 weeks following the birth.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There are 44 AMIHS sites operating across NSW, delivered through NSW Health services or through Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations.</li> <li>There is ongoing monitoring of services to ensure alignment with the full-service delivery model.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing</li> <li><b>Reason:</b> Delivered as part of business-as-usual operations.</li> </ul>

Update provided by NSW Ministry of Health in July 2025

Commitment Made in the Strategic Plan		Alignment to Other Commitment Areas
<b>3.4 Building Strong Foundations (BSF)</b> for Aboriginal Children, Families and Communities services provide culturally safe child and family health services for Aboriginal children and families from birth to school age. Services are provided by teams of Aboriginal health workers and child and family health nurses. In some locations there are other allied health workers including social workers and speech pathologists. [NSW Health]		N/A
Objective	Progress	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provision of high quality, culturally safe, family-centred care for Aboriginal babies from birth until starting school, including undertaking development checks to enable early recognition and referral for developmental concerns where indicated.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There are 15 BSF sites operating across NSW, delivered through NSW Health or through Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing</li> <li><b>Reason:</b> Delivered as part of business-as-usual operations.</li> </ul>

Update provided by NSW Ministry of Health in July 2025

Commitment Made in the Strategic Plan		Alignment to Other Commitment Areas
<b>3.5 Perinatal and Infant Mental Health Services</b> are offered in most local health districts and provide specialist mental health treatment and care for pregnant or postnatal women with children (up to 2 years of age) where the parent has severe, acute, or complex mental illness. The service supports the parent's recovery as well as supporting the parent infant relationship and their skills, safety and confidence in attending to their child's needs. NSW Health also funds several organisations providing mental health services to parents and their young children, including Karitane, Tresillian, the Gidget Foundation and Mums and Kids Matter. [NSW Health]		N/A
Objective	Progress	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provision of free, statewide mental health service that helps women and parents who:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have a severe, acute or complex mental illness, or are at risk of recurrence</li> <li>Are pregnant or have a child under the age of two</li> </ul> </li> <li>This includes support for mums, dads, parents, babies and families, including LGBTQIA+ families, with a range of diagnosed, severe or complex perinatal mental health disorders.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PIMHS is operational in almost all districts in NSW.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing</li> <li><b>Reason:</b> This is an ongoing permanently funded service, which continues to provide specialist mental health care to families in the perinatal period.</li> </ul>

Update provided by NSW Ministry of Health in July 2025

Commitment Made in the Strategic Plan		Alignment to Other Commitment Areas
<b>3.6 SAFE START universal mental health and psychological screening</b> is managed by Safe Start coordinators, who are mental health workers, and is delivered through Maternity staff and Child and Family Health nurses. Care planning and referrals link various relevant perinatal services. [NSW Health]		
Objective	Progress	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The first 2,000 days of life are a critical time for physical, cognitive, social and emotional health and development and can have a lifelong impact on a child's wellbeing and quality of life. Engagement by families with health care services in the first 2,000 days of life supports children to have the best possible start in life.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SAFESTART coordinators are employed across each local health district.</li> <li>Universal screening is undertaken by maternity services at the first antenatal appointment during pregnancy and at six weeks postnatally by Child and Family Health services.</li> <li>Women with identified support needs receive referrals for care coordination and input from relevant services to provide an integrated support plan.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing</li> <li><b>Reason:</b> Delivered as part of business-as-usual operations.</li> </ul>

Update provided by NSW Ministry of Health in July 2025

Commitment Made in the Strategic Plan		Alignment to Other Commitment Areas
<b>3.7</b> The Mental Health Commission of NSW has developed <b>Living Well in Focus 2020–2024</b> , a strategic plan for community recovery, wellbeing and mental health in NSW. The Plan aims to improve mental health across the whole NSW population but, of relevance to these goals, the scope includes suicide prevention; prevention and early intervention; improved health literacy; increasing capacity of the formal peer workforce; addressing workforce shortages; and improving system navigation. [Mental Health Commission of NSW]		N/A
Objective	Progress	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No update provided within the report production timelines.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No update provided within the report production timelines.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No update provided within the report production timelines.</li> </ul>

Commitment Made in the Strategic Plan		Alignment to Other Commitment Areas
<b>3.8 National Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Agreement (NMHSPA):</b> DPC and Health have led negotiations on the NMHSPA and associated bilateral agreement between NSW and the Australian Government. The NMHSPA will support NSW's existing work to improve mental health and suicide prevention outcomes. [NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet, NSW Health]		N/A
Objective	Progress	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The NMHSPA provides a framework for states, territories and the Australian Government to work together to deliver mental health and suicide prevention reform.</li> <li>The NSW Bilateral Schedule to the NMHSPA is a \$383 million combined investment with the Australian Government over 5 years to 2025-26. It includes 7 co-funded initiatives to address the aims of the NMHSPA.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The NMHSPA and NSW Bilateral Schedule set out a range of commitments which have been well progressed. Key achievements include:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development of a new model of service delivery for Universal Aftercare and expansion of aftercare services across NSW, including supports for priority groups such as young people (e.g. Youth Aftercare).</li> <li>Delivery of the Youth Mental Health initiative to support earlier access to specialist mental health care for young people presenting to selected headspace services with severe and complex mental health needs.</li> <li>Establishment of Head to Health Kids Hubs to improve access to multidisciplinary team care for children under 12.</li> <li>Development of a National Evaluation Framework and Evaluation Sharing Guidelines.</li> <li>A review of psychosocial supports outside of the NDIS.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing</li> <li>Reason: The NMHSPA and NSW Bilateral Schedule are current until 30 June 2026.</li> </ul>

Update provided by NSW Ministry of Health in July 2025

Commitment Made in the Strategic Plan		Alignment to Other Commitment Areas
<b>3.9 Initiatives under the Towards Zero Suicides Premier's Priority,</b> which include supports specific to young people and across the population. The Priority aims to reduce the rate of suicide deaths in NSW by 20% in 2023. [NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet, NSW Health]		N/A

Objective	Progress	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NSW suicide prevention and response initiatives address priorities in the Strategic Framework for Suicide Prevention and aim to:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide leading best practice crisis care and support</li> <li>Build on local community resilience</li> <li>Improve systems and practices to reduce the suicide rate in NSW.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>The <u>suicide prevention and response initiatives</u> available across NSW are well embedded and responsive to the needs of each community. Together they provide a holistic approach to suicide prevention. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>23 Safe Havens provide non-clinical support for people experiencing suicidal distress across NSW, including youth focused Safe Havens.</li> <li>18 Suicide Prevention Outreach Teams to provide proactive outreach care by engaging with people experiencing suicidal crisis in the community.</li> <li>The NSW Suicide Monitoring System was established, which reports on suspected and confirmed deaths by suicide using data from Police reports to the Coroner.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing</li> <li>Reason: The current iteration of suicide prevention and response initiatives are funded to 30 June 2026.</li> </ul>

Update provided by NSW Ministry of Health in July 2025

Commitment Made in the Strategic Plan		Alignment to Other Commitment Areas
<p><b>3.10 The Child Death Review Team</b> reviews the deaths of children in NSW and works to prevent and reduce child deaths. It is convened by the NSW Ombudsman and the Advocate for Children and Young People and the Community and Disability Services Commissioner are ex-officio members. [NSW Ombudsman]</p> <p><b>3.10.1</b> Each year DCJ also reviews the deaths of children in NSW who had been known to the Department. This includes infants who died in circumstances related to premature birth and those who died by suicide.</p>		N/A
Objective	Progress	Status
<p>The CDRT is responsible for registering, classifying, analysing, and reporting to the NSW Parliament on data and trends relating to all deaths of children aged 0-17 years in NSW.</p>	<p>The CDRT continues to review and maintain a register of the deaths of all children aged from birth to 17 years on an ongoing basis. They analyse this data to identify trends and make recommendations to reduce the risk of preventable deaths of children in the future.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing.</li> <li>The CDRT continues to convene on a bi-monthly basis.</li> </ul>

Commitment Made in the Strategic Plan		Alignment to Other Commitment Areas
<b>3.11 Investment in health literacy and unintentional injury prevention.</b> In 2021-22 the Ministry of Health will invest \$827,600 to support Youth Action, Youthsafe, Kidsafe and the Association for the Wellbeing of Children in Healthcare to develop and maintain health literacy and injury prevention information and resources. [NSW Health]		N/A
Objective	Progress	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Youth Action:</b> The NSW Youth Health Literacy Project funded aims to improve the health outcome of young people aged between 12 and 24 years through promoting their health literacy and access to healthcare.</li> <li>• <b>Youthsafe:</b> Health Promotion (through Youth Injury Prevention).</li> <li>• <b>Kidsafe:</b> Health promotion for injury prevention</li> <li>• <b>Association for the Wellbeing of Children in Healthcare (AWCH):</b> Provides advocacy and education on the rights of children and young people in the healthcare system.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NSW Ministry of Health continues to invest in health literacy and unintentional injury prevention initiatives. Total funding of \$948,900 was allocated in FY2024–25.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing</li> <li>• <b>Reason:</b> All initiatives are in progress and receiving funding. The NSW Ministry of Health will continue to support these NGOs pending on performance at end of each funding cycle.</li> </ul>

Update provided by NSW Ministry of Health in July 2025



Commitment Made in the Strategic Plan		Alignment to Other Commitment Areas
<p><b>3.12</b> The Department of Education provides a series of mental health supports to students with central aims of preventing suicide and acute mental illness.</p> <p><b>3.12.1 Youth Aware of Mental Health:</b> A 3-week mental health and suicide prevention program designed to develop peer support between students and develop emotional intelligence [NSW Department of Education with Black Dog Institute]</p> <p><b>3.12.2 batyr@school:</b> Speakers with lived experience of mental illness share their story and provide information and education about support available. Targeted at those in Year 9–12. [NSW Department of Education with batyr]</p> <p><b>3.12.3 PAX Good Behaviour Game:</b> an in-class exercise for public schools teaching emotional regulation and impulse control. While contributing to general wellbeing and a host of other health benefits, it has been shown to decrease prevalence of suicidal thoughts in students. [NSW Department of Education]</p> <p><b>3.12.4</b> NSW Health also funds <b>suicide prevention activities</b> in schools in collaboration with headspace. Sessions are available to parents, teachers and students. [NSW Health]</p>		N/A
Objective	Progress	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>3.12.1 Youth Aware of Mental Health (YAM):</b> Reducing suicide attempts and ideation and facilitating help-seeking among young people through the delivery of an evidence based mental health and suicide prevention program to stage 5 students.</li> </ul> <p>Update provided by NSW Department of Education in June 2025</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The YAM program was delivered to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– 7087 students from 71 secondary schools (2022)</li> <li>– 9494 students from 88 secondary schools (2023)</li> <li>– 8158 students from 91 secondary schools (2024).</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing</li> <li><b>Reason:</b> Implementation of the YAM program is continuing in 2025.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>3.12.2 batyr@school program:</b> Aims to educate, engage, and empower young people to take charge of their mental health, reduce stigma, and increase help-seeking. Through peer-led programs focused on sharing lived experience stories, mental health literacy, emotional connection, and resilience, students gain the knowledge and skills to support themselves and others.</li> </ul> <p>Update provided by batyr in July 2025</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Since 2022, batyr has delivered 692 peer-to-peer preventative mental health education programs across NSW, with 477 of these being batyr@school programs delivered to high school students. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– 2022: 188 batyr@school programs delivered</li> <li>– 2023: 151 batyr@school programs delivered</li> <li>– 2024: 138 batyr@school programs delivered (to date).</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing</li> <li><b>Reason:</b> Program delivery is ongoing as part of batyr's core operations, with a strong focus on growth and expanding reach to more young people across NSW and Australia.</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>3.12.3 PAX Good Behaviour Game:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To support schools in delivering best practice mental health support for students.</li> <li>- To strengthen student wellbeing and development with the goal being that every student is known, valued and cared for.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Update provided by NSW Department of Education in June 2025</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Over 620 NSW public primary schools and 5100 department staff are trained in PAX GBC.</li> <li>• Schools that have signed up to PAX GBC have successfully embedded PAX to teach their students emotional regulation and promote their general wellbeing.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In progress</li> <li>• <b>Reason:</b> Program in place to December 2025.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>3.12.4 Suicide prevention activities:</b> See update from NSW Ministry of Health for commitment '3.21: The establishment of 12 Community Wellbeing Collaboratives' detailed below.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• See update from NSW Ministry of Health for commitment 3.21 detailed below.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• See update from NSW Ministry of Health for commitment 3.21 detailed below.</li> </ul>

Commitment Made in the Strategic Plan		Alignment to Other Commitment Areas
<b>3.13</b> The Department of Education has contracted Orygen to evaluate the effectiveness of <b>postvention initiatives</b> in NSW High Schools. This was a recommendation of the Child Death Review Team biannual report 2016-17 and findings and recommendations are due to be published throughout the period of this Plan. [NSW Department of Education]		N/A
Objective	Progress	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No update provided within the report production timelines.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No update provided within the report production timelines.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No update provided within the report production timelines.</li> </ul>

Commitment Made in the Strategic Plan	Alignment to Other Commitment Areas
<b>3.14 Youth Aftercare Pilots</b> are being delivered in four locations across NSW, providing age-appropriate psychosocial support for children and young people following suicidal thoughts or attempts including significant incidents of self-harm. The program is codesigned by young people with a lived experience and aims to assist young people and their families to improve resilience and problem solving, pursue personal goals and connect to community. [NSW Health]	N/A

Objective	Progress	Status
<p>The program aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keep children and young people 'at high risk' safe, reducing their risk of further suicide or need to present to health services in crisis.</li> <li>• Provide community based, developmentally appropriate and trauma informed assertive outreach for children and young people experiencing suicidal ideation or significant distress leading to self-harm.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The suicide prevention and response initiative known as 'i.am', is fully operational across the four rural and metropolitan sites. i.am benefits from continuous co-production strategies. The peer led service provides flexible, person-centred, outreach support to children and young people up to 25 years old with no lower age limit.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing</li> <li>• <b>Reason:</b> The current iteration of suicide prevention and response initiatives including 'i.am' are funded to 30 June 2026.</li> </ul>

Update provided by NSW Ministry of Health in July 2025

Commitment Made in the Strategic Plan		Alignment to Other Commitment Areas
<p><b>3.15 The Youth Community Living Support Service</b> is a community outreach mental health service for young people aged 15 to 24. The program in partnership with local mental health support, provides case management and psychosocial support, working with young people with moderate to significant mental health concerns to promote recovery and wellbeing. This program also helps young people work towards their identified goals including those related to education, vocation and accommodation. [NSW Health]</p>		<p>Hope for the future Love, connection and safety A good standard of living</p>
Objective	Progress	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The program aims to provide person centred, recovery oriented psychosocial support to young people with moderate to severe mental health concerns to remain connected to their community and work towards their recovery and wellbeing goals.</li> <li>• It also assists families to understand and support their young person's mental health needs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• YCLSS is provided by Community Managed Organisations (CMOs) across five established NSW rural/metro locations. Each site relies on strong partnerships with their local mental health services to provide intensive person-centred care.</li> <li>• In 2023/24 YCLSS supported a total of 144 young people to achieve their recovery goals and reduce time spent in hospital.</li> <li>• Previous evaluations of YCLSS and Y-POP (pilot) demonstrated that the program is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Functioning at a high level</li> <li>– Achieving its desired outcomes</li> <li>– Cost effective.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing</li> <li>• <b>Reason:</b> YCLSS is re-currently funded under the NSW Mental Health Commission, Living Well Mental Health reform. The current funding agreement with CMO is due to end 30 June 2026.</li> </ul>

Update provided by NSW Ministry of Health in July 2025

Commitment Made in the Strategic Plan		Alignment to Other Commitment Areas
<b>3.16 Touch, Feel and De-Stress</b> is a project co-designed with Justice Health to prevent self harm at Acmena Youth Justice Centre. The project aims to use sensory tools for sensory modulation. [Youth Justice NSW]		N/A
Objective	Progress	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To provide a tailored response to young people who are at risk of, or are self-harming, where there has been an incident of self-harm.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project resources have been purchased and the project is being implemented and is ongoing.</li> <li>There has been a 30% reduction in self-harm incidents at Acmena Youth Justice Centre (administrative data held by Justic Health and YJNSW at the Centre).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing</li> <li><b>Reason:</b> Given the indicative positive results the project will be continued.</li> </ul>

Update provided by NSW Department of Communities and Justice in July 2025

Commitment Made in the Strategic Plan		Alignment to Other Commitment Areas
<b>3.17</b> The Mental Health Commission of NSW has partnered with Western Sydney University in the final development stage of <b>Moody Tunes</b> , an innovative, evidence-based smartphone app for youth mental health. Designed with young people for young people, Moody Tunes works in the background as users listen to music on Spotify, prompting users to record the effect that music has on their moods. In turn the app creates playlists of the music they love which best supports their wellbeing and provides appropriate referral and resources. Funding from the Mental Health Commission will support the final development stage of Moody Tunes to: enhance visual and interactive elements of the app to hold greater appeal to young people; enhance the app's potential to increase help seeking behaviours; and roll out the app free to young people across NSW, Australia and internationally. [Mental Health Commission of NSW with Western Sydney University]		N/A
Objective	Progress	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No update provided within the report production timelines.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No update provided within the report production timelines.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No update provided within the report production timelines.</li> </ul>

Update provided by NSW Ministry of Health in July 2025

Commitment Made in the Strategic Plan		Alignment to Other Commitment Areas
<b>3.18 Youth Mental Health First Aid</b> is a training course to provide the equivalent of physical first aid to a young person who may be experiencing symptoms of mental illness or distress. At present, this course is being rolled out to teachers and other staff in schools, NSW Police Youth Command, as well as those involved with the Youth Justice system through various initiatives associated with each agency. [NSW Department of Education, NSW Police, Youth Justice NSW, NSW Health]		N/A
Objective	Progress	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No update provided within the report production timelines.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No update provided within the report production timelines.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No update provided within the report production timelines.</li> </ul>

Commitment Made in the Strategic Plan		Alignment to Other Commitment Areas
<b>3.19</b> Staff who are involved in the <b>Youth Justice system</b> are required to <b>receive training to support the mental health of young people they work with</b> . Youth Justice and Youth on Track staff are required to complete training in <b>trauma informed care</b> . All Youth Justice Psychologists and Justice Health clinicians have completed <b>Dialectical Behaviour Therapy (DBT)</b> training as an intervention for young people engaging in self-harm and/or suicidal ideation. [Youth Justice NSW]		N/A
Objective	Progress	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To ensure Youth Justice (YJ) and Youth on Track staff receive appropriate training to support mental health needs of young people through evidence-based interventions.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>DBT Training:</b> Many Youth Justice psychologists have DBT skills from their tertiary qualifications. Youth Justice has developed its own DBT Program for staff taught by a YJ Psychologist. 9 people have formally completed that program (7 psychologists, a Clinical Manager and an Occupational Therapist).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing</li> <li><b>Reason:</b> 10% of relevant staff trained. There is a need for a directive to make this training compulsory if this commitment is to be achieved.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Trauma Informed Training:</b> Whilst the principle of Trauma Informed Practice runs through all YJ Training, there are 2 specific Trauma Informed Practice training programs. Since its inception 1518 people have completed the eLearning course which is mandatory course for all staff. 208 participants have completed Trauma Informed classroom sessions (140 in the last 12 months).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing</li> <li><b>Reason:</b> Well progressed given most front-line employees trained. The training of YJ staff is a major undertaking and turnover of staff means significant resources need to be applied to ensure all YJ staff have the core skills expected.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mental Health Awareness Training:</b> There is a classroom program included in the induction of all Youth Officers that mental health awareness. 593 officers have completed this training since its inception (223 in the last 12 months). 110 community staff have completed the Young People and Mental Health Program (44 in the last 12 months) since it replaced the external Mental Health First Aid program which was attended by 212 employees.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing</li> <li>• <b>Reason:</b> Well progressed given a significant number of frontline employees have been trained. The training of YJ staff is a major undertaking and turnover of staff means that significant resources need to be applied to ensure all YJ staff have the core skills expected.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Youth On Track Staff:</b> participate in a range of YJNSW training including Trauma Informed Practice, depending on the needs of the provider. Youth on Track service providers deliver their own training for staff including narrative therapy.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In progress</li> <li>• <b>Reason:</b> There has been little or no progress against this objective. The Training Unit was not directed to train Youth on Track staff.</li> </ul>

Update provided by NSW Department of Communities and Justice in July 2025

Commitment Made in the Strategic Plan		Alignment to Other Commitment Areas
<b>3.20</b> Department of Communities and Justice Case workers, carers and service providers refer to the <b>NSW Therapeutic Care Framework</b> , which ensures trauma-informed care is at the centre of their practice. The focus is on supporting children and young people to recover from trauma, with a goal of reducing time in intensive OOHc services and achieve permanent homes where children and young people can thrive. [NSW Department of Communities and Justice]		N/A
Objective	Progress	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To establish core principles that ensure consistent, evidence-informed therapeutic care across the OOHc sector, improving outcomes for children and young people.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consultations were held and feedback incorporated to develop and disseminate the NSW Therapeutic Care Framework.</li> <li>• The Ten Essential Elements of Therapeutic Care have been developed to operationalise the Therapeutic Care Framework and are embedded in Permanency Support Program contracts for providers delivering Intensive Therapeutic Care.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete</li> <li>• <b>Reason:</b> NSW Therapeutic Care Framework has been developed, refined through consultation, and embedded into service delivery via the Ten Essential Elements of Therapeutic Care.</li> </ul>

Update provided by NSW Department of Communities and Justice in July 2025

Commitment Made in the Strategic Plan		Alignment to Other Commitment Areas
<p><b>3.21</b> The establishment of <b>12 Community Wellbeing Collaboratives</b> has been funded by NSW Health where headspace and Lifeline will support communities with populations at high risk of suicide and increasing rates of self-harm among young people. [NSW Health with headspace and Lifeline]; and</p> <p><b>3.12.4</b> NSW Health also funds <b>suicide prevention activities</b> in schools in collaboration with headspace. Sessions are available to parents, teachers and students. [NSW Health]</p>		N/A
Objective	Progress	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>headspace and Lifeline were previously funded to deliver this initiative.</li> <li>Community Collaboratives aim to enhance and strengthen community-led responses to suicide prevention and postvention across the state. Community Collaboratives support locally tailored, whole-of-community approaches to suicide prevention by bringing key local stakeholders together.</li> <li>In addition, headspace delivered support sessions to parents, teachers and students in schools.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community Collaboratives are established across NSW.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complete</li> <li><b>Reason:</b> The Community Collaboratives are now established. Primary Health Networks (PHNs) in NSW have been provided with funding to support existing Community Collaboratives and establish Community Collaboratives in areas of need.</li> </ul>

Update provided by NSW Ministry of Health in July 2025

Commitment Made in the Strategic Plan		Alignment to Other Commitment Areas
<p><b>3.22 OurSpace</b> and <b>LINKS Trauma Healing Service</b> are trauma treatment services for children and young people in OOHC that ensure children are supported by care teams in a traumainformed approach. Carers are empowered to develop the skills they need to address the mental health needs of children and young people in their care. [NSW Department of Communities and Justice]</p>		N/A

Objective	Progress	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>OurSpace</b> is a specialist outreach trauma therapeutic support program for children and young people in OOHC and their authorised carers.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• OurSpace continues to provide services across NSW.</li> <li>• 2024-25 Q2 data indicates that OurSpace work with approximately 123 children at a given time. They receive approximately 27 referrals per quarter. Clients are spread across NSW, with the largest numbers in Western Sydney, Nepean Blue Mountains and Mid North Coast, Northern NSW and New England.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing</li> <li>• <b>Reason:</b> Funding has been extended until June 2026. In that time an evaluation of the program will be undertaken to help inform future directions.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>LINKS Trauma Healing Service</b> (LINKS THS) is an evidence based multidisciplinary trauma treatment service for children and young people (CYP) in OOHC aged 16 and under who have trauma symptoms that are disrupting their stability in care and developmental trajectories. Referrals come from both DCJ and NGO OOHC services.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LINKS THS has been in operation since 2017 and has had 2548 children and young people referred. Approximately 31% of these referrals have been for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander CYP.</li> <li>• Independent evaluations have demonstrated significant reduction in risk of significant harm 12 months post discharge; significant improvement in placement stability and significant reductions in trauma symptoms; increased attendance at school and fewer hospital presentations and touch points with youth justice when compared to a matched sample.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing</li> </ul>

Update provided by NSW Department of Communities and Justice in July 2025



Commitment Made in the Strategic Plan		Alignment to Other Commitment Areas
<b>3.23 The Futures Planning and Support pilot program</b> provides connection and support to young people 17-24 years of age leaving OOHHC to address mental and physical health, mentoring and coaching, case work to address substance addiction, and managing engagement with the Justice sector. The service is being piloted in the Mid-North Coast region and the pilot will be completed at the end of 2022. [NSW Department of Communities and Justice]		Respect and acceptance
Objective	Progress	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This program was designed to provide support to care leavers in Northern NSW, particularly Aboriginal young people, and featured a strong mentoring element.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The pilot supported 168 young people and provided insights and evaluation insights to inform future service delivery.</li> <li>Between March 2020 and March 2022, a total of 168 young people were involved with the program. Most of these youth (135, 80%) engaged with the program on an ongoing basis. A smaller proportion were unable or unwilling to engage but benefited from information, help or supports and referrals received some help or support.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complete</li> <li><b>Reason:</b> This pilot has concluded and the provider is now delivering aftercare supports through the Specialist Aftercare Program, which was informed by the pilot and has been expanded to include mentoring elements.</li> </ul>

Update provided by NSW Department of Communities and Justice in July 2025

Commitment Made in the Strategic Plan		Alignment to Other Commitment Areas
<p><b>3.24</b> Alongside a range of professional development opportunities related to wellbeing, the Department of Education supports the following programs to assist teachers and school staff to care for the wellbeing of students:</p> <p><b>3.24.1 Be You:</b> develops mental health literacy among teachers and early childhood educators. [NSW Department of Education with Beyond Blue]</p> <p><b>3.24.2 Project Air Strategy for Schools</b> provides schools with resources to better recognise and respond to young people with complex mental health problems. [NSW Health]</p> <p><b>3.24.3 SAFEMinds Schools and Families Enhancing Minds</b> provide schools and families with resources to improve their ability to provide early intervention mental health support. [NSW Department of Education with headspace]</p> <p><b>3.24.4 Youth In Distress:</b> Includes the Managing Suicidality and Self-Harm training and Responding to Anxiety and Depression Toolkit. [NSW Department of Education with Black Dog Institute]</p> <p><b>3.24.5</b> The Department is currently developing a <b>universal mental health professional learning module for staff</b> that has been developed in consultation with young people. [NSW Department of Education]</p>		Hope for the future
Objective	Progress	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>3.24.1 Be You:</b> No update provided within the report production timelines.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No update provided within the report production timelines.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No update provided within the report production timelines.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>3.24.2 Project Air Strategy for Schools:</b> Aims to build capacity of health and education professionals across NSW to support young people with complex mental health issues.</li> </ul> <p>Update provided by NSW Ministry of Health in July 2025</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Training programs delivered to school counsellors (Air Therapy training).</li> <li>Launch and delivery of Air Pockets (Training programs focused on primary school student mental health).</li> <li>Ongoing Community of Practice for statewide health and education practitioners.</li> <li>Launch of e-learning version of Project Air Schools</li> <li>800 participants per year trained.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All initiatives are ongoing (Air therapy training, Air Pockets, Community of Practice and e-learning tool).</li> <li>Project Air for Schools is not funded beyond June 2025.</li> </ul>

<p><b>3.24.3 SAFEMinds</b> is a professional learning and resource package for schools and families that aimed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhance early intervention mental health support for children and young people in schools, specifically regarding mild mood disorders and self-harm</li> <li>• Increase engagement of parents and carers with schools to more effectively support their child's mental health; and</li> <li>• Develop clear and effective referral pathways between schools and community youth and mental health services.</li> </ul> <p>Update provided by NSW Department of Education in June 2025</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The NSW Department of Education contracted headspace to develop the resources and training for the NSW context.</li> <li>• Between the reporting period June 2020 to October 2022. SAFEMinds delivered a total of 430 workshops to 790 schools and trained 2816 staff. Teachers formed the highest number of staff trained sitting at 1033.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concluded</li> <li>• <b>Reason:</b> The services were completed with contract ending 30 October 2022.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>3.24.4 Youth in Distress:</b> No update provided within the report production timelines.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No update provided within the report production timelines.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No update provided within the report production timelines.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>3.24.5 Universal mental health professional learning module for staff:</b> No update provided within the report production timelines.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No update provided within the report production timelines.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No update provided within the report production timelines.</li> </ul>

Commitment Made in the Strategic Plan	Alignment to Other Commitment Areas
<p><b>3.25 The Police Ambulance and Clinical Early Response (PACER) model</b> embeds mental health clinicians with Triple Zero responders to provide specialist advice and appropriate care for those experiencing mental health distress. While this initiative is not targeted to young people, it will increase the level of support they receive from both the mental health clinician and the first responder. [NSW Police, NSW Health]</p>	N/A

Objective	Progress	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PACER aims to provide an immediate, trauma informed mental health response for people experiencing a mental health emergency in the community who encounter NSW Police Force (NSWPF) and reduce avoidable ED presentations.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Co-responder programs operate in 12 local health districts and St Vincent's Health Network which enables coverage across 20 Police Area Commands and Police Districts in NSW.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing</li> <li><b>Reason:</b> NSW Health and NSWPF have been exploring alternate responses to people in the community experiencing psychological distress. Wide consultation, including with lived experience stakeholders will occur as part of this process.</li> </ul>

Update provided by NSW Ministry of Health in July 2025

Commitment Made in the Strategic Plan		Alignment to Other Commitment Areas
<b>3.26 Teen Mental Health First Aid</b> is a training course for young people to provide the equivalent of physical first aid to their peers who may be experiencing symptoms of mental illness or distress. The course is currently available to students when individual schools sign up to the training. [NSW Government with Mental Health First Aid]		N/A
Objective	Progress	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No update provided within the report production timelines.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No update provided within the report production timelines.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No update provided within the report production timelines.</li> </ul>

Commitment Made in the Strategic Plan		Alignment to Other Commitment Areas
<b>3.27</b> Most Local Health Districts have a <b>School-Link Coordinator</b> , working closely with local schools and TAFE to link students to Child, Adolescent and Mental Health Services as well as other community services. They also play a role in early identification and referral of mental health issues and building school staff capacity in supporting students' mental health. School-Link supports setting informed mental health resources including learning modules for educators on best-practice approaches to mental health and wellbeing issues such as: supporting students who refuse to attend school because of their mental health issues; and supporting students with complex mental health challenges. SchoolLink also supports schools with supporting students who are suspended or expelled from school. [NSW Department of Education, NSW Health]		Hope for the future

Objective	Progress	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No update provided within the report production timelines.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No update provided within the report production timelines.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No update provided within the report production timelines.</li> </ul>
<b>Commitment Made in the Strategic Plan</b> <b>3.28:</b> NSW Government funding has been allocated to expanding the <b>Student Support Officer and counselling workforce</b> between 2020 and 2023. Every Government high school will have a full-time counselling allocation as well as a full-time student support officer. This will mean 100 additional school counselling positions and 350 additional student support officers. [NSW Department of Education]		<b>Alignment to Other Commitment Areas</b> Hope for the future
Objective	Progress	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No update provided within the report production timelines.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No update provided within the report production timelines.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No update provided within the report production timelines.</li> </ul>
<b>Commitment Made in the Strategic Plan</b> <b>3.29</b> The Department of Education has established a <b>telepsychology service and a fly-in flyout psychology service</b> for students in regional and remote NSW. [NSW Department of Education]		<b>Alignment to Other Commitment Areas</b> N/A
Objective	Progress	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No update provided within the report production timelines.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No update provided within the report production timelines.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No update provided within the report production timelines.</li> </ul>
<b>Commitment Made in the Strategic Plan</b> <b>3.30 The Wellbeing and Health In-Reach Nurse Coordinator program</b> establishes a wellbeing nurse position in identified schools in selected communities across NSW. The role of the wellbeing nurse is to identify and address the health and social needs of students and families, coordinate appropriate early intervention, assessments and referrals and build effective referral pathways with health providers. The NSW Government committed funding for 100 new positions in the 2020-21 state budget. These positions are in addition to the six positions established in 2018 and 2020. [NSW Department of Education, NSW Health]		<b>Alignment to Other Commitment Areas</b> N/A

Objective	Progress	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No update provided within the report production timelines.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No update provided within the report production timelines.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No update provided within the report production timelines.</li> </ul>

Commitment Made in the Strategic Plan	Alignment to Other Commitment Areas
<b>3.31 25 Safeguard Child and Adolescent Mental Health Response Teams</b> to be established over four years were funded in the 2020-21 state budget. Safeguard teams will provide specialist mental health support to children and adolescents experiencing moderate to severe mental health issues and their families and carers.	N/A

Objective	Progress	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The primary aim of the Safeguards Program is to provide early intervention access to timely, evidence-based, recovery focused, person-centred and trauma informed care for children and adolescents (and their families/carers) aged 0-17 years experiencing distress.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Safeguards have been rolled out in three tranches. With Tranche 1 and 2 teams generally operational, and Tranche 3 teams being implemented.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing</li> <li><b>Reason:</b> It is nearing the end of the implementation phase and moving to BAU. The model of care will be amended based on the findings of the evaluation which is due in late 2025 / early 2026.</li> </ul>

Update provided by NSW Ministry of Health in July 2025

Commitment Made in the Strategic Plan	Alignment to Other Commitment Areas
<b>3.32</b> NSW Health has established various supports across NSW for <b>young people with substance use issues:</b> <b>3.32.1 Eleven non-government services have been funded</b> to provide youth specific alcohol and other drug treatment across NSW, including access to withdrawal management and psychosocial support. <b>3.32.2 Multidisciplinary service hubs</b> delivering treatment to young people and their families have been established in five local health districts and the Sydney Children's Hospital Network. <b>3.32.3 Increased specialist clinical support</b> is being provided through a Youth Addiction Medicine Fellowship Program operating from three sites in NSW. [NSW Health]	N/A

Objective	Progress	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>3.32.1 Eleven non-government services and 3.32.2 multidisciplinary service hubs:</b> Utilise existing LHD infrastructure to enhance and complement current service provision to young people with moderate to severe substance use concerns, including families. LHD multidisciplinary teams include a range of staff specialist, allied health and nursing support.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This funding has been ongoing since 2017/18.</li> <li>In 2023/24 there were 18,846 youth non-admitted patient occasions of service, and 1,579 people were seen in outpatient care, community settings and client's home (non-admitted patient data). This does not include non-government services.</li> <li>In 2023/24 there were 950 distinct clients who received a Drug and Alcohol Treatment Service whether it be in a government or non-government Drug and Alcohol service. This excludes Sydney Children's Hospitals Network (AOD MDS data).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing</li> <li><b>Reason:</b> Positions still in place.</li> <li>In 2023 following recommendations from the Special Commission of Inquiry into the Drug 'Ice', additional funding was provided to expand or establish new youth AOD services in other local health districts and funding to NGOs to deliver youth AOD treatment including residential withdrawal management, day rehabilitation and counselling, and programs for families and carers.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>3.32.3 Increased specialist clinical support:</b> Both Sydney Children's Hospital Network and Hunter New England Local Health District receive additional funding for a Youth Addiction Fellowship.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>These positions have been in place since 2017/18. Specialist clinical support continues to be provided to LHDs as needed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing</li> <li><b>Reason:</b> No plans to change current arrangements.</li> </ul>

Update provided by NSW Ministry of Health in July 2025

Commitment Made in the Strategic Plan		Alignment to Other Commitment Areas
<b>3.33</b> The NSW Government has taken a whole-of-government approach to ensuring <b>the needs of children and young people are met during the COVID-19 pandemic</b> , particularly during periods of lockdown, home learning and throughout the vaccine roll out. [NSW Government - various]		N/A
Objective	Progress	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No update provided within the report production timelines.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No update provided within the report production timelines.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No update provided within the report production timelines.</li> </ul>

Commitment Made in the Strategic Plan		Alignment to Other Commitment Areas
<b>3.34</b> NSW Health has developed targeted communications for young people about the COVID-19 public health response in partnership with ACYP, Youth Ambassadors, Youth Action and the Young and Resilient Research Centre. A series of social media videos featuring Youth Ambassadors and clinicians have been developed so that young people can ask trusted experts from NSW Health the questions that matter to them. [NSW Health]		N/A
Objective	Progress	Status
To provide children and young people factual information relating to COVID-19.	ACYP and NSW Health supported a 'Back to School Forum' in early 2022, bringing together representatives from NSW Health and Department of Education to hear from students and provide guidance as they prepared to return to school a period of disruption.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completed</li> <li>• Reason: Activities were undertaken to develop targeted communications for children and young people. No further work was required once COVID-19 restrictions ended.</li> </ul>



## Commitment Area: A Good Standard of Living

Commitment Made in the Strategic Plan		Alignment to Other Commitment Areas
<p><b>4.1 The Hardship Support Program</b> seeks to address the burden of fines and debts on children and young people. The program includes initiatives which are: identifying youth in OOHC with fines and debts for write off or other action (e.g. Work and Development Orders or Payment Plans); working with Transport for NSW and other agencies to increase access to public transport for vulnerable youth; and, educating young people regarding fines and the consequences of receiving them. [NSW Department of Customer Service, Revenue NSW]</p>		N/A
Objective	Progress	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Identifying youth in OOHC with fines and debts for write off or other action:</b> To provide support for youth in OOHC in the fines system.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Initial data shared between DCJ and RNSW identified OOHC youth in the fines system. This project also supported education of case and youth workers to support youth by identifying fines and offering WDO/ write off pathways for resolution. A large part of this was helping case workers understand the fines lifecycle to help educate youth on options to resolve and seek help with fines.</li> <li>• In 2024, 335 OOHC youth had their fines removed through write-off activity. Education sessions were held with case workers from DCJ and NGOs across the Sydney region to support awareness of support available for youth with fines.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete</li> <li>• <b>Reason:</b> The initial data share and education with Case/Support workers is completed. An ongoing data share Agreement is being finalised to support continued identification of OOHC youth in the fines system. This will aid targeted support and education by case workers where it is needed most to help reduce fines and debt for youth.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Youth Transport Relief:</b> To understand the impact on youth of unlimited access to public transport on the Opal network.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A proof-of-concept (PoC) approach to supporting one hundred vulnerable youth with Opal credit to travel across the network for a 12-week period. Undertaken in collaboration with DCJ and an NGO in Western Sydney. Aims to identify the impact of access to transport without financial stress of fares and reduce fines related to fare evasion for youth.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing</li> <li>• <b>Reason:</b> To commence 1 July 2025 and finalise November 2025.</li> </ul>

Update provided by Revenue NSW in June 2025

Commitment Made in the Strategic Plan		Alignment to Other Commitment Areas
<b>4.2 Transport for NSW</b> offers a variety of <b>concessions and rebates for children and young people</b> , including: Apprentice/Trainee Concession, Tertiary Student Concession, Apprentice Registration Rebate and lower fares for bus customers in rural and regional NSW. [Transport for NSW]		N/A
Objective	Progress	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To support access to public transport for children and young people.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Concession fares are available for NSW residents aged 4 to 15 inclusive through the Child Fare.</li> <li>Senior Secondary Students aged 16 and over can access the Youth Concession Fare.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing</li> <li><b>Reason:</b> This is an ongoing offering.</li> </ul>

Update provided by Transport for NSW in July 2025

Commitment Made in the Strategic Plan		Alignment to Other Commitment Areas
<b>4.3 School Student Transport Scheme (SSTS)</b> and the <b>School Drive Subsidy (SDS)</b> provide free or subsidised travel from home to school, state-wide. SDS subsidises travel by car, motorbike or boat, to drive an eligible student all or part of the way to school or nearest pick-up point. [Transport for NSW]		N/A
Objective	Progress	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Eligible NSW school students can access free public transport between their home and school.</li> <li>Where public transport is not available, private vehicle use is subsidised to the nearest transport pick up point, or to the school.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The SSTS and SDS continue to support access to compulsory education for eligible school students that meet the distance criteria relevant to their age and year of schooling.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing</li> <li><b>Reason:</b> This is an ongoing offering.</li> </ul>

Update provided by Transport for NSW in July 2025

Commitment Made in the Strategic Plan		Alignment to Other Commitment Areas
<p><b>4.4</b> Through their Portfolio Strategy, Local Area Strategies and Housing Pipeline; the Land and Housing Commission (LAHC) actively pursues opportunities that <b>deliver more and better access to social housing for young people and families</b>, including those needing crisis accommodation and the new Youth Foyer Model. Further, LAHC is finalising a Functional Design Brief (FDB) for Core and Cluster crisis accommodation, which has a child focused design, assisting with the treatment of women and children that are escaping traumatic situations. LAHC is proposing to use the Functional Design Brief to address the current crisis accommodation portfolio, ensuring that LAHC-owned crisis accommodation better caters for women and children. LAHC also has a portfolio of crisis accommodation that targets women and children escaping domestic violence, including renewed existing properties and purpose-built accommodation. Support for children is also provided through the delivery of OOHC, through the 'Meanwhile Use' of properties awaiting redevelopment. [NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment]</p>		Love, connection and safety
Objective	Progress	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No update provided within the report production timelines.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No update provided within the report production timelines.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No update provided within the report production timelines.</li> </ul>
Commitment Made in the Strategic Plan		Alignment to Other Commitment Areas
<p><b>4.5 Housing Strategy 2041:</b> the NSW Housing Strategy is a 20-year plan for better housing outcomes in NSW and considers housing across the spectrum, from crisis housing to social and affordable housing, to private rental and specialist housing, to homeownership. The strategy also includes investigation into alternative financing arrangements for first homebuyers in addressing concerns that young people are finding it increasingly difficult to afford home ownership. [NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment]</p>		Love, connection and safety
Objective	Progress	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No update provided within the report production timelines.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No update provided within the report production timelines.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No update provided within the report production timelines.</li> </ul>

Commitment Made in the Strategic Plan		Alignment to Other Commitment Areas
<p><b>4.6 Youth Justice offers a holistic and coordinated approach for children and young people in contact with the Youth Justice system</b> to gain secure accommodation. This includes the <b>Youth Justice Bail Assistance Line, crisis accommodation and A Place to Go Pilot Program</b>. A Place to Go Pilot Program supports children and young people aged 10 to 17 in contact with the youth justice system, with a focus on children and young people on remand. A Place to Go draws on services from across NSW Government, including the Department of Communities and Justice, the Department of Education, Justice Health and Forensic Mental Health Network, as well as other non-government service providers. It aims to connect young people with suitable study options, provide legal assistance and necessary healthcare and assistance to find short-term accommodation. [Youth Justice NSW]</p>		N/A
Objective	Progress	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To provide secure accommodation and wraparound support for children and young people in contact with Youth Justice system through coordinated multi-agency approach.</li> <li>• <b>A Place to Go</b> draws on services across NSW Government (DCJ, Education, Justice Health) and NGO providers to connect young people with study options, legal assistance, healthcare and short-term accommodation.</li> <li>• <b>BASS</b> provides afterhours intake service for NSW Police to help young people gain access to bail.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>A Place to Go:</b> In 2023/24 60 young people received assertive outreach as a part of wraparound supports. Young people were also supported on 832 occasions by the Court Liaison Officer at Parramatta Children's Court.</li> <li>• <b>BASS:</b> 1,453 referrals (2023/24), 151 accommodation placements, 28 beds statewide across 14 providers.</li> <li>• <b>Crisis accommodation:</b> YTD 2024/25 total placements for young people in the Bail Accommodation Program is 101; YTD 2024/25 placements in the Youth Justice Accommodation Program has been 29.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing</li> <li>• <b>Reason:</b> Active service delivery across multiple programs.</li> </ul>

Update provided by NSW Department of Communities and Justice in July 2025

Commitment Made in the Strategic Plan	Alignment to Other Commitment Areas
<p><b>4.7 The Cost of Living Program</b> helps NSW residents find and access more than 40 rebates and savings offered across NSW Government agencies. This includes the Rent Choice Youth, which provides private rental assistance in the form of a subsidy for young people aged 16- 24 years for up to three years. [Service NSW]</p>	N/A

Objective	Progress	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The objective of the Service NSW Savings Finder program is to help alleviate cost of living pressures and facilitate access to relevant NSW government rebates and vouchers. The Cost of Living Hub is a separate and complementary service hosted on nsw.gov.au. The hub includes a link to the SNSW Savings Finder offering.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The SNSW Savings Finder offering includes an online Savings Finder tool and a free 45- minute appointment with a Customer Care Specialist at a SNSW Service Centre or via the phone. Customers are assisted to identify and apply for rebates, vouchers and discounts offered across NSW government agencies.</li> <li>Examples for children and young people include Active Creative Kid Vouchers, School Student Transport Scheme, Assisted School Travel Program, Start Strong Program for pre-school children, Fee-free apprenticeships and apprentice registration rebate, private rental assistance, and Smart and Skilled Subsidy for training courses.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing</li> <li><b>Reason:</b> This is an ongoing service offering. Service NSW is planning to engage with community to build awareness and facilitate access. Planning is also underway to enhance the self-service online tool by incorporating disaster support and moving from the current guided questionnaire to a self-directed e-commerce style search tool to enable greater personalisation.</li> </ul>

Update provided by Service NSW in July 2025

Commitment Made in the Strategic Plan		Alignment to Other Commitment Areas
<b>4.8 Homeless Youth Assistance Program (HYAP)</b> supports young people and unaccompanied children aged 12-15 experiencing or at risk of homelessness to reunite with their families or transition to longer term stable accommodation. [NSW Department of Communities and Justice]		N/A
Objective	Progress	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HYAP provides a targeted and holistic response to unaccompanied children and young people aged 12 to 15 years who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. It aims to reconnect children with their family, or wider support networks and facilitate transition to more appropriate long term supported accommodation where a return to family is not possible.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HYAP is delivered in 19 locations by 17 service providers.</li> <li>The specialist homelessness services (SHS) data collection shows that in 2023-24, 2,321 children and young people (CYP) at risk of or experiencing homelessness presented alone to services, a 7% decrease from 2022- 23. Of these, 702 CYP received accommodation and support services with the remaining receiving support services only.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing</li> <li><b>Reason:</b> Active service delivery across multiple programs</li> </ul>

Update provided by NSW Department of Communities and Justice in July 2025

Commitment Made in the Strategic Plan		Alignment to Other Commitment Areas
<p><b>4.9 The 16 Regional Cities Services Improvement Program</b> objective is to improve public transport services within 16 nominated cities around NSW, undertaking planning of bus service improvements to provide additional services to better meet customer needs through improved connections to key locations such as the CBD, hospitals, university/TAFE, and employment. [Transport for NSW]</p>		N/A
Objective	Progress	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The delivery of improved bus services for Tweed Heads, Bathurst, Wagga Wagga, Nowra, Orange, Lismore, Albury, Queanbeyan, Griffith, Dubbo, Coffs Harbour, Port Macquarie, Grafton, Armidale, Tamworth and Parkes.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Delivered improved bus services in Tweed Heads, Bathurst, Wagga Wagga, Nowra, Orange, Lismore, Albury, Queanbeyan, Griffith, Dubbo and Coffs Harbour.</li> <li>Delivered improved connectivity to youth employment, education, sport and recreation, childcare, and train stations. Weekend services have been improved to provide greater recreational connectivity for families with children and young people. Improved bus services for Charles Sturt University campuses at Bathurst and Orange has resulted in increased patronage.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing</li> <li><b>Reason:</b> Funding is being sought for Port Macquarie, Grafton, Armidale, Tamworth and Parkes.</li> </ul>

Update provided by Transport for NSW in July 2025

Commitment Made in the Strategic Plan		Alignment to Other Commitment Areas
<p><b>4.10 The Transport Access Regional Partnerships (TARP) Grants Program</b> has small scale funding available to support initiatives to improve services and outcomes for sections of the community that need improved transport. Funding is available for projects that focus on transport for disadvantaged groups within the community. A number of projects have been delivered for school students in regional areas including: access to recreational activities in larger regional centres (Youth Force on the Move - Nambucca), and transport for young mothers to access health and social services (Mums and Bubs – Kyogle). [Transport for NSW]</p>		N/A

Objective	Progress	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An annual grant program supporting initiatives to improve services and outcomes for communities that are transport disadvantaged.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The 2024/2025 round was fully subscribed, delivering projects across the State. The 2025/2026 round opened 1 July 2025.</li> <li>In 2024/2025, a total funding amount of \$1 million used in transport disadvantaged communities, of which 13 projects are targeting youth.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing</li> <li><b>Reason:</b> The program receives ongoing funding. Transport for NSW continues to invest in regional NSW with ongoing annual funding available.</li> </ul>

Update provided by Transport for NSW in July 2025

Commitment Made in the Strategic Plan		Alignment to Other Commitment Areas
<b>4.11 Country Passenger Transport Infrastructure Grants Scheme (CPTIGS)</b> provides subsidies to support the construction or upgrade of bus stop infrastructure generally owned and maintained by local councils across Regional NSW. The subsidies are aimed at assisting councils and communities to improve accessibility and quality at rural and regional bus stops, more accessible passenger transport, especially better connections between bus stops and surrounding communities; an increase in the use of passenger transport in country areas through improved awareness of bus stop locations, kerbside information and improved security; and the development of minor infrastructure to complement passenger service development. Funding is allocated regionally to facilitate an equitable distribution of the grant support and projects. [Transport for NSW]		N/A
Objective	Progress	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An annual program which financially contributes towards improving the accessibility and quality of regional kerbside passenger transport infrastructure.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The 2024/2025 round was oversubscribed. \$1.6 million is set to deliver 153 projects across 38 local government areas.</li> <li>The program is delivering improved bus stop infrastructure. The program is not specifically targeted to children and young people; however, recognises that this age group would be a significant proportion of those utilising the improved infrastructure.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing</li> <li><b>Reason:</b> Transport for NSW continues to invest in regional NSW with ongoing annual funding available.</li> </ul>

Update provided by Transport for NSW in July 2025

## Commitment Area: Environments for Joy and Fun

Commitment Made in the Strategic Plan		Alignment to Other Commitment Areas
<p><b>5.1 Active Kids Program</b> which aims at increasing participation of school-enrolled children in sport and physical activity, covering the cost of registration and membership fees. [Service NSW, NSW Office of Sport]</p> <p><b>5.1.1 Active Youth Program</b> is an offshoot of the Active Kids Program; The Active Youth Program targets the regions with the lowest uptake of Active Kids Vouchers – Eurobodalla, Bathurst and Kempsey – and provides school outreach programs, after school programs, and school residential camps. Office for Regional Youth is funding the school residential camps. [NSW Office of Regional Youth]</p>		Love, connection and safety
Objective	Progress	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>5.1 Active Kids Program:</b> To increase physical activity among NSW children by reducing financial barriers to participation in structured sport and recreation, thereby improving health, wellbeing, and educational outcomes.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Between July 2022 and January 2024, approximately 1.76 million vouchers were redeemed, delivering over \$149 million in cost-of-living savings for NSW families and supporting the sports sector.</li> <li>• The program was extended with reduced funding until January 2024, then transitioned to a means-tested model.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Superseded</li> <li>• <b>Reason:</b> On 16 June 2023, the NSW Government announced the merger of Active Kids with Creative Kids and introduced means testing, with administration shifting to the Department of Customer Service. This launched 1 February 2024.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>5.1.1 Active Youth Program:</b> To engage inactive and disengaged youth in physical activity through a student-centric program combining school-based, community, and residential components.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Program delivered successfully with high engagement in school and camp stages; after-school and voucher stages faced logistical and motivational challenges.</li> <li>• 251 participants engaged; 84% satisfaction rate; 90.5% camp attendance; 4413 total active hours; increased awareness of physical activity benefits.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concluded</li> <li>• <b>Note:</b> If additional funding became available, plans exist to scale the program across regional NSW with a refined model including more in-school sessions, extended residential camps, and improved transport access.</li> </ul>

Update provided by NSW Office for Sport in July 2025



Commitment Made in the Strategic Plan		Alignment to Other Commitment Areas
<b>5.2 Holiday Break Program</b> provides free and subsidised activities during the school holidays for young people impacted by natural disasters – with a focus on providing young people with the opportunity to enjoy a range of activities, to connect, learn new skills and have fun. [NSW Office of Regional Youth, NSW Office of Sport with PCYC and Local Governments]		N/A
Objective	Progress	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Address geographical, financial and accessibility barriers that impact the ability of young people in regional NSW to enjoy recreational and social activities within their local communities.</li> <li>• Provide funding to eligible applicants to host fully subsidised recreational and social activities.</li> <li>• Deliver a program of engaging, high-quality activities during the NSW school holidays.</li> <li>• Provide young people with a series of activities that encourage play, experimentation, reflection, and expression.</li> <li>• Increase access to free and local activities designed to meet the needs and interests of young people aged 12-24.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Since 2021, the Office for Regional Youth has successfully delivered the Holiday Break Program 14 times and delivered free activities to over 116,000 young people in Regional NSW.</li> <li>• This program is highly sought after and consistently oversubscribed. An evaluation of the Program showed strong evidence that supported: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Increased engagement between young people and local organisations</li> <li>– Improved access to recreational, physical and creative activities</li> <li>– Reduced barriers to activity participation for young people</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing</li> <li>• <b>Reason:</b> Minister for Youth has committed \$1million per year over 10 years to the Program.</li> </ul>

Update provided by NSW Office of Regional Youth in July 2025

Commitment Made in the Strategic Plan		Alignment to Other Commitment Areas
<b>5.3 Creative Kids Creative Kids Program</b> provides a \$100 voucher annually (2019 to 2022) for school aged children and young people to participate in creative and cultural activities, such as performing arts, visual arts, Aboriginal cultural learning, coding, languages, creative writing, music and film. [Create NSW, Service NSW]		Love, connection and safety
Objective	Progress	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No update provided within the report production timelines.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No update provided within the report production timelines.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No update provided within the report production timelines.</li> </ul>

Commitment Made in the Strategic Plan		Alignment to Other Commitment Areas
<b>5.4 The School Sport Unit</b> has a variety of participation opportunities for children and young people with disability. This includes Come-and-Try Athletics and Multi-Sport days being delivered across NSW, including in rural and remote areas. This will allow for an additional 3,500 students with disability to access sport and physical activity events specifically designed to meet their needs. In addition, the representative sport pathway is being expanded to provide greater opportunities for students with a disability who are recognised as having high potential in sport. [NSW Department of Education]		N/A
Objective	Progress	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No update provided within the report production timelines.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No update provided within the report production timelines.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No update provided within the report production timelines.</li> </ul>
Commitment Made in the Strategic Plan		Alignment to Other Commitment Areas
<b>5.5 The Connections Program</b> , run by the Department of Education's Arts Unit, provides a range of inclusive teaching, learning and performance opportunities in dance, visual arts, music and drama. Each year the Art Unit offers arts projects and programs that invite students and their teachers to create and showcase their own works based on a central theme. Schools and students are then invited to showcase their work in NSW. [NSW Department of Education]		N/A
Objective	Progress	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No update provided within the report production timelines.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No update provided within the report production timelines.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No update provided within the report production timelines.</li> </ul>
Commitment Made in the Strategic Plan		Alignment to Other Commitment Areas
<b>5.6 NSW Youth Week</b> aims to grow children and young people's participation and inclusion in community life through a variety of activities. [NSW Department of Communities and Justice]		Love, connection and safety
Objective	Progress	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No update provided within the report production timelines.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No update provided within the report production timelines.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No update provided within the report production timelines.</li> </ul>

Commitment Made in the Strategic Plan		Alignment to Other Commitment Areas
<b>5.7 My Community Project</b> is all about local ideas, local projects and local decisions. My Community Project provides NSW residents with an opportunity to propose and vote for funding to be provided to new projects in their local area. [Service NSW]		N/A
Objective	Progress	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No update provided within the report production timelines.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No update provided within the report production timelines.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No update provided within the report production timelines.</li> </ul>
Commitment Made in the Strategic Plan		Alignment to Other Commitment Areas
<b>5.8</b> Programs for young people to participate in arts and culture across all artforms are a priority under <b>Create NSW's Arts and Cultural Funding Program (ACFP)</b> . ACFP programs also involve children and young people from other priority groups: Aboriginal children and young people, those from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, those in regional NSW and Western Sydney and children and young people with disability. These programs also support young people to make social connections that link them to local and broader communities and cultural experiences. [Create NSW]		Love, connection and safety
Objective	Progress	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No update provided within the report production timelines.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No update provided within the report production timelines.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No update provided within the report production timelines.</li> </ul>
Commitment Made in the Strategic Plan		Alignment to Other Commitment Areas
<b>5.9: The State Cultural Institutions in the arts portfolio</b> (Art Gallery of NSW, Australian Museum, Powerhouse Museum, State Library of NSW, State Archives and Records Authority, Sydney Living Museums and Sydney Opera House) have rich and varied programs to engage, entertain and educate young people, including exhibitions, workshops, discussion groups, events and performances. This includes programs for children and young people with disability and those in other priority groups. The State Cultural Institutions provide curriculum-linked cultural education experiences such as excursions, online excursions, and professional development for preschool, primary, secondary and tertiary students and teachers. [Department of Premier and Cabinet, State Cultural Institutions]		Love, connection and safety

Objective	Progress	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No update provided within the report production timelines.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No update provided within the report production timelines.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No update provided within the report production timelines.</li> </ul>
Commitment Made in the Strategic Plan		Alignment to Other Commitment Areas
<p><b>5.10 Cultural Infrastructure</b>, such as theatres and other performing arts venues, galleries, museums, libraries and Aboriginal Cultural Centres, Keeping Places and language centres, ensures people can enjoy quality cultural experiences across NSW. Create NSW manages the planning and delivery of key cultural infrastructure projects. Most of these projects have outcomes that increase community access to child and youth-friendly spaces to gather, play, and study. For example:</p> <p><b>5.10.1</b> The recently completed <b>Australian Museum Project Discover</b> significantly expanded the Museum's role as a world-class educational and cultural facility, providing additional exhibition and public spaces, and enhancing visitor experience.</p> <p><b>5.10.2 The Sydney Modern Project</b>, to be completed in 2022, will add close to 8,000 sqm to the Art Gallery of NSW, offering ample new space for children and young people to engage with art.</p> <p><b>5.10.3</b> The development of <b>Powerhouse Parramatta</b>, expected to open in 2024 with 18,000 sqm of exhibition and public spaces, will have a science and technology focus and include the largest planetarium in Australia. This will be complemented by a dedicated play and learning space devoted to STEAM and children's spaces.</p> <p><b>5.10.4</b> In 2022, the <b>Sydney Opera House will launch the Centre for Creativity</b> – a permanent, dedicated onsite venue and online hub for students, children, families, and lifelong learners.</p> <p><b>5.10.5</b> The <b>Regional Cultural Fund has funded 146 cultural infrastructure projects in regional NSW</b>, ranging from new exhibition and performing arts centres, refurbishments of libraries, theatres and museums through to digitisation projects and small community projects. Examples include: the Bundanon Riversdale Masterplan, which will enable the Bundanon Art Museum to increase its work connecting at risk youth with the arts; a dedicated youth area at Narrandera Library; and expanded facilities at the Flying Fruit Fly Circus in Albury.</p> <p><b>5.10.6</b> Communities across NSW will benefit from new and improved cultural infrastructure through the <b>new Creative Capital program</b>. [Create NSW, State Cultural Institutions]</p>		N/A

Objective	Progress	Status
• 5.10.1 Australian Museum Project Discover	• No update provided within the report production timelines.	• No update provided within the report production timelines.
• 5.10.2 The Sydney Modern Project		
• 5.10.3 Powerhouse Parramatta		
• 5.10.4 Sydney Opera House Centre for Creativity		
• 5.10.5: The Regional Cultural Fund		
• 5.10.6 Creative Capital Program		

Commitment Made in the Strategic Plan		Alignment to Other Commitment Areas
5.11 The <b>Art Gallery of NSW's Djamu Youth Justice program</b> provides personal development and education for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people in NSW Youth Justice centres through sustained artmaking projects, learning from significant Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists, curators and cultural leaders. Reduced recidivism is a key goal of the project. [Art Gallery of NSW]		N/A
Objective	Progress	Status
• No update provided within the report production timelines.	• No update provided within the report production timelines.	• No update provided within the report production timelines.

Commitment Made in the Strategic Plan	Alignment to Other Commitment Areas
<p><b>5.12 The Duke of Edinburgh International Award</b> is a global youth development program, empowering young people aged 14-24 to explore their full potential and find their purpose, passion and place in the world, regardless of their location or circumstance. The Award is a fully inclusive program and has no social, political, or religious affiliations. The Office of Sport is currently supporting a project to upscale the Award program, with a goal of ensuring that an even greater number of young people across NSW are able to participate in the program. [NSW Office of Sport]</p>	Love, connection and safety

Objective	Progress	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To increase participation in the Duke of Edinburgh's International Award across NSW, particularly among priority populations, by embedding inclusive, child-safe practices and expanding access through strategic partnerships.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The project has strong engagement from Duke of Ed Centres and leaders, and a focus on quality assurance, training, and stakeholder satisfaction.</li> <li>From 2022-2024, over 31,000 young people registered for the Duke of Ed, with a 43% completion rate, reflecting successful implementation of upscaling strategies.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing</li> <li><b>Reason:</b> Future priorities include expanding the Duke 4Sport initiative, increasing Duke of Ed Leader recognition, enhancing data reporting, and supporting national strategies such as centralised task management and assessor module implementation.</li> </ul>

Update provided by NSW Office for Sport in July 2025

Commitment Made in the Strategic Plan		Alignment to Other Commitment Areas
<b>5.13 The First Lap voucher program</b> provides \$100 vouchers for parents, guardians and carers of children aged 3-6 years towards the cost of swimming lessons. <b>[NSW Office of Sport, Service NSW]</b>		Health and wellbeing
Objective	Progress	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To increase participation of preschool-aged children (3–6 years) in learn to swim programs and improve parent/carer knowledge of water safety and the importance of swimming skills.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The First Lap voucher program provided \$100 vouchers for parents, guardians and carers of children aged 3–6 years towards the cost of swimming lessons, with over 339,000 vouchers redeemed from December 2021- June 2024 and a 6.8% year-on-year increase in participation.</li> <li>On 1 July 2023 the program was extended to 30 June 2024 with a reduced \$50 voucher due to budget considerations, while maintaining support for early childhood water safety.</li> <li>Across its two and half years of operation, the First Lap program delivered over \$30 million in cost-of living savings for NSW families, with more than 215,000 vouchers redeemed across both financial years, supporting increased access to swimming lessons and water safety education.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Superseded</li> <li><b>Reason:</b> The voucher program ended 30 June 2024 and has been replaced with a Learn To Swim program providing free lessons to populations at risk of drowning in various locations across the State.</li> </ul>

Update provided by NSW Office for Sport in July 2025

Commitment Made in the Strategic Plan		Alignment to Other Commitment Areas
<b>5.14 'Her Sport, Her Way'</b> strategy includes a number of initiatives aimed at increasing the number of girls and women playing sport and investing in the provision of sport facilities that support girls and women. This includes a focus on improving the retention of adolescent girls in sport. [NSW Office of Sport]		Love, connection and safety
Objective	Progress	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To increase participation, retention, and leadership opportunities for women and girls in sport through targeted programs and infrastructure investment.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The 'Her Sport, Her Way' strategy delivers initiatives that support girls and women in sport, with a strong focus on adolescent retention and inclusive facility development.</li> <li>Over 100 organisations supported through the InnovateHER program; increased visibility and leadership roles for women in sport; and enhanced infrastructure supporting female participation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Superseded</li> <li><b>Reason:</b> The project is ongoing, under the banner of Play Her Way, with continued funding and program expansion driven by positive outcomes and sector demand.</li> </ul>

Update provided by NSW Office for Sport in July 2025

Commitment Made in the Strategic Plan		Alignment to Other Commitment Areas
<b>5.15</b> NSW Department of Education and Youth Justice NSW collaboratively work to <b>enhance program provision in youth justice centres, including:</b>		N/A
<b>5.15.1</b> The Department of Education, in partnership with Youth Justice, is working to gain young people's insights and concerns regarding program provision during school vacation periods in Youth Justice Centres. New ideas and concepts will be piloted in 2022.		
<b>5.15.2</b> The Department of Education has engaged the University of Sydney to undertake a review of the current extended school year model of education available to schools in Youth Justice Centres. The findings of the review, which includes a literature review of like jurisdictions will inform future planning for Department of Education and Youth Justice NSW. [NSW Department of Education, Youth Justice NSW]		
Objective	Progress	Status
<b>5.15.1 Program provision during vacation periods in Youth Justice Centres</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No update provided within the report production timelines.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No update provided within the report production timelines.</li> </ul>
<b>5.15.2 Review of extended school year model in Youth Justice Centres</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No update provided within the report production timelines.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No update provided within the report production timelines.</li> </ul>

Commitment Made in the Strategic Plan		Alignment to Other Commitment Areas
<b>5.16 Implementation of the Child Safe Standards</b> in child-related organisations, including schools, to create safe environments for children and young people, where they are free from harm. [Office of the NSW Children's Guardian]		N/A
Objective	Progress	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement the Child Safe Scheme</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The NSW Child Safe Scheme (the Scheme) commenced under the Children's Guardian Act 2019 (the Act) on 1 February 2022. Enforcement provisions under the Act commenced on 1 February 2023.</li> <li>The Scheme covers all organisations defined as child safe organisations in the Act, including schools. All child safe organisations must implement the Child Safe Standards in their policies and procedures. The Children's Guardian may monitor or investigate a child safe organisation in relation to their implementation of the Standards and has the power to issue compliance notices or enter into enforceable undertakings.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing</li> <li><b>Reason:</b> While the OCG has completed the launch of the Scheme, the implementation of the Child Safe Standards is a process of continuous improvements for organisations and the OCG continues BAU work with sectors to build capabilities.</li> </ul>

Update provided by NSW Office of the Children's Guardian in July 2025

Commitment Made in the Strategic Plan		Alignment to Other Commitment Areas
<b>5.17 Everyone Can Play best practice toolkit and grants program</b> , focused on promoting the development of inclusive playgrounds and spaces across NSW. [NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment]		N/A
Objective	Progress	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No update provided within the report production timelines.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No update provided within the report production timelines.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No update provided within the report production timelines.</li> </ul>



Commitment Made in the Strategic Plan		Alignment to Other Commitment Areas
<b>5.18 Share Our Space program</b> which turns hundreds of school grounds into safe, green spaces for the entire community to use freely, every school holidays. [NSW Department of Education]		N/A
Objective	Progress	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No update provided within the report production timelines.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No update provided within the report production timelines.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No update provided within the report production timelines.</li> </ul>
Commitment Made in the Strategic Plan		Alignment to Other Commitment Areas
<b>5.19 Operation Unite</b> where PCYC clubs (or alternate space if unavailable) are open once every 6 weeks on a Friday night. [NSW Police]		N/A
Objective	Progress	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No update provided within the report production timelines.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No update provided within the report production timelines.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No update provided within the report production timelines.</li> </ul>
Commitment Made in the Strategic Plan		Alignment to Other Commitment Areas
<b>5.20 Operation Redirect</b> where Youth Command staff make Friday or Saturday night visits to public spaces frequented by young people. [NSW Police]		N/A
Objective	Progress	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enhance community safety and youth engagement through visible police presence in public spaces.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Operation Redirect was implemented during COVID-19 to monitor compliance with restrictions but is no longer active.</li> <li>Youth Command provides ongoing assistance to Police Area Commands/Police Districts when there is a need to focus on a specific location due to increase in crime or antisocial behaviour.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Concluded</li> <li><b>Reason:</b> Operation Redirect is not a current operation as it was specific to ensuring young persons compliance with restrictions during COVID-19.</li> </ul>

Update provided by NSW Police Force in July 2025

Commitment Made in the Strategic Plan		Alignment to Other Commitment Areas
<b>5.21 CCTV grants program</b> which aims to promote community safety by providing funds to 10 LGAs in Western Sydney and South Western Sydney, to support the installation of CCTV cameras. [NSW Department of Communities and Justice, NSW Police]		N/A
Objective	Progress	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No update provided within the report production timelines.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No update provided within the report production timelines.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No update provided within the report production timelines.</li> </ul>

Update provided by NSW Police Force in July 2025

Commitment Made in the Strategic Plan		Alignment to Other Commitment Areas
<b>5.22 Interagency meetings</b> aimed at supporting children and young people and increasing community safety, such as Youth Action Meetings (YAMS) convened in collaboration with NSW Police to provide a coordinated whole-of-government and services support response to vulnerable or disadvantaged young people in 7 sites across NSW. [NSW Police, NSW Government – various]		N/A
Objective	Progress	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>YAMs bring together local agencies or organisations monthly, to coordinate and utilise the service system available to disrupt young people's entry or entrenchment in the criminal justice system. Taking a person centred and strengths-based approach to address the safety, welfare and wellbeing needs of young people at risk of offending or victimisation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There was a commitment in the strategy for YAMs to be in 7 locations.</li> <li>There has been an expansion and there are now 20 co-ordinators across the state servicing 24 different Police Area Commands/Districts. 5 of these co-ordinators are in metro locations and 15 are in regional NSW.</li> <li>Between 2023 (when funded positions and YAM meetings begun) and June 2025:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>346 YAM's held across the state</li> <li>1,610 young people supported through the YAM's</li> <li>An additional 633 were supported outside of the meetings</li> <li>7,987 actions identified for government and non government agencies to support the young people on the agenda</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing</li> <li><b>Reason:</b> Part of ongoing service delivery. The YAM program will be undergoing an evaluation across 2026-27 to determine the extension of the program and request for additional funding.</li> </ul>

Update provided by NSW Police Force in July 2025

Commitment Made in the Strategic Plan		Alignment to Other Commitment Areas
<b>5.23 Transport for NSW Innovation Challenge, Safety After Dark initiative</b> , focused on improving safety for women travelling at night. The three initiatives selected for development and ongoing testing include a tool to quantify Passive Surveillance; development of a tool to incorporate gender and safety into routing in journey planners; and artificial intelligence trained to detect fighting at stations. [Transport for NSW]		N/A
Objective	Progress	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore ideas through small scale trials to improve safety (both perceptions of and actual) for women and girls travelling on the transport network.</li> <li>• Partner with industry to explore innovative approaches and technology to solve the problem.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trials have concluded:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Passive Surveillance Index (PSI) prototype was developed to visually display the PSI for different times of the night across the trial area, scoring walking routes based on quantifiable indicators.</li> <li>– In-depth research and data were collected to explore the ethical and technical considerations for developing a journey planner (algorithm) designed specifically to allow women to find the safest options to travel at night.</li> <li>– An AI trial was able to detect 'fighting', but not dangerous behaviours, specific to women. AI was not yet proven to capture subtle behaviours within this context of safety.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concluded</li> <li>• <b>Reason:</b> The challenge and initiatives selected for development and testing have concluded.</li> </ul>

Update provided by Transport for NSW in July 2025

Commitment Made in the Strategic Plan	Alignment to Other Commitment Areas
<b>5.24 National eSafety education resources</b> developed by the eSafety Commissioner, which provide targeted resources for children and young people, as well as parents, carers and teachers. [eSafety Commission]	Love, connection and safety

Objective	Progress	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>eSafety's resources for children and young people aim to reduce harm online, encourage help-seeking and referral pathways. eSafety's education resources support school-based educators and tertiary wellbeing support officers to prioritise online safety education in their contexts and encouraging reporting to eSafety as needed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>eSafety participates in ongoing review and updating of educational resources that support the online safety of children, young people, and educators. eSafety's education resources are co-designed with stakeholders.</li> <li>This review will also take into account any changes required as a result of pending <a href="#">Social Media Legislation (December 2025)</a> – details TBA.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing</li> <li><b>Reason:</b> Resources are regularly reviewed and updated with stakeholders, with changes expected following new Social Media Legislation.</li> </ul>

Update provided by eSafety Commissioner in July 2025

Commitment Made in the Strategic Plan		Alignment to Other Commitment Areas
<b>5.25 NSW Digital Citizenship resources</b> and accompanying Department of Education policy that governs student use of digital devices and online services. [NSW Department of Education]		Love, connection and safety
Objective	Progress	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No update provided within the report production timelines.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No update provided within the report production timelines.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No update provided within the report production timelines.</li> </ul>
Commitment Made in the Strategic Plan		Alignment to Other Commitment Areas
<b>5.26</b> Facilitating government collaboration to support place-based approaches to social wellbeing and diversion, such as <b>Maayuma-Li GEM Lightning Ridge Youth Program</b> . The project will involve the employment of two Activities Officers to run youth sports competitions, informal diversionary activities, school engagement and the NSW Police RISEUP programs. Multiple departments are collaborating on the project; Office for Regional Youth, Mining Exploration and Geoscience, Education, the Office of Sport and the Aboriginal Housing Office. [NSW Government - various]		N/A

Objective	Progress	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The project's primary objective is to deliver youth diversionary and social wellbeing programs, and engagement activities that provide purpose and connection for local youth and the broader community.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Maayuma-Li GEM Lightning Ridge Youth Program is complete. It received \$200,000 funding from Office of Regional Youth and \$80,000 contribution from Mining, Exploration and Geoscience.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Concluded</li> <li><b>Reason:</b> 2-year project completed across 2020/21 and 2021/22 FY</li> </ul>

Update provided by NSW Office of Regional Youth in July 2025

## Commitment Area: Respect and Acceptance

Commitment Made in the Strategic Plan		Alignment to Other Commitment Areas
<b>6.1 Community Partnership Action (COMPACT) grants program</b> which provides funds to community projects which are focused on building social cohesion and promoting community resilience when individuals, groups and communities are faced with hate, fear and division. [Multicultural NSW]		N/A
Objective	Progress	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>COMPACT aims to inspire and empower young people to stand up and stand united against fear, hate and division as champions for Australia's peaceful and harmonious way of life.</li> <li>COMPACT supports local solutions-based projects that bring young people together to promote positive behaviours and engage critically, creatively and constructively on local and global issues impacting on social cohesion in New South Wales.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Program delivery was heavily impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, yet it is estimated that COMPACT reached over 23,000 young people in the 2021-2024 funding round, bringing the program's total reach to over 80,000 young people since 2016.</li> <li>Following the second independent program evaluation covering 2021-2024, the NSW Government committed \$14.5m over four years to expand the proven COMPACT Program to 2028.</li> <li>20 new multi-year COMPACT Partnerships Projects involving over 65 partner organisations are delivering youth-led solutions for social cohesion from 2024 to 2028. COMPACT has now reached over 80,000 young people.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing</li> <li><b>Reason:</b> In 2024, the NSW Government committed \$14.5m over four years to expand the COMPACT Program to 2028.</li> </ul>

Update provided by Multicultural NSW in June 2025

Commitment Made in the Strategic Plan		Alignment to Other Commitment Areas
<b>6.2 Remove Hate from the Debate website</b> hosts tools and resources about online hate and how to begin countering hate so that we can live in a harmonious world. The focus is on building community resilience by empowering young people with the tools and techniques they need to counter hateful and divisive rhetoric. [Multicultural NSW]		N/A

Objective	Progress	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Remove Hate from the Debate responds to evidence showing concerning levels of hate witnessed and experienced by young Australians in the online environment.</li> <li>Drawing on behavioural insights, the initiative aims to empower young people who want to do something about online hate but may not have the skills, resources or confidence to know how to respond in a safe and effective way.</li> <li>It also aims to build an online network of allies who share a commitment to countering online hate and are supported to promote positive alternative messages.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Remove Hate from the Debate campaign was originally co-designed with COMPACT Alliance partners in 2017.</li> <li>In 2024, based on feedback from COMPACT Alliance partners, Multicultural NSW refreshed the Remove Hate from the Debate website and online resources to promote a more positive, solutions-oriented message ('The Internet Needs More Humanity') about building safer, more harmonious online communities.</li> <li>The new website was officially launched at the COMPACT Alliance meeting on 12 June 2025.</li> <li>Remove Hate from the Debate has reached over one million people online since its launch.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing</li> <li><b>Reason:</b> Remove Hate from the Debate is a COMPACT strategic communications initiative. In 2024, the NSW committed \$14.5m over four years to expand the proven COMPACT.</li> </ul>

Update provided by Multicultural NSW in June 2025

Commitment Made in the Strategic Plan		Alignment to Other Commitment Areas
<b>6.3 Child Safe Standards</b> and accompanying resources developed by the Office of the NSW Children's Guardian, which cover issues relating to the standard on equity and diversity. [Office of the NSW Children's Guardian]		N/A
Objective	Progress	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop resources on the Child Safe Standards, including Standard 4.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The OCG has developed a range of accompanying resources for the Child Safe Standards, including guidebooks, templates, videos, webinars and eLearning modules.</li> <li>These resources cover a wide range of topics associated with the Standards and many are tailored to specific sectors or risks within sectors.</li> <li>Regarding Standard 4: Equity is upheld and diversity is taken into account, this Standard is covered in multiple resources including resources covering all ten standards and resources specifically covering Standard 4.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing</li> <li><b>Reason:</b> The OCG is continuously working to identify the need for new resources and working to review and update existing resources.</li> </ul>

Update provided by NSW Office of the Children's Guardian in July 2025

Commitment Made in the Strategic Plan		Alignment to Other Commitment Areas
<b>6.4 Inclusive Education Policy</b> for students with disability which highlights schools' responsibility to contribute to an education environment free from harassment and unlawful discrimination on the basis of disability; and develop and implement strategies to prevent harassment and victimisation of students with disability. This includes reasonable adjustments for students with disability to support them to participate in all aspects of school life. [NSW Department of Education]		Environments for joy and fun
Objective	Progress	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No update provided within the report production timelines.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No update provided within the report production timelines.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No update provided within the report production timelines.</li> </ul>
Commitment Made in the Strategic Plan		Alignment to Other Commitment Areas
<b>6.5 Establishment of two statewide services and an enhanced model of care to support care and treatment of trans and gender diverse (TGD) children, adolescents and young adults.</b> In 2021-22 NSW Health will invest \$3.4million for TGD services to increase access to treatment and support, strengthen rural outreach and establish statewide coordination of TGD services. [NSW Health]		N/A
Objective	Progress	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide gender affirming healthcare for young people that is tailored, best-practice, multidisciplinary and age appropriate.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NSW Health has developed a statewide Specialist Trans and Gender Diverse Health Service (TGD Health Service) delivered through 2 specialist hubs linked to a broader network of healthcare services.</li> <li>The TGD Health Service is now fully operational. The governance for TGD Health Service has also been established and includes a Statewide Steering Group, Clinical Advisory Group and Community Advisory Panel.</li> <li>The annual budget for the TGD Health Service is \$4.9 million. The 2025/26 NSW Budget committed an additional \$4.7 million over the next four years to support the expansion of the existing Specialist Trans and Gender Diverse Health Service.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing</li> <li><b>Reason:</b> The TGD Health Service is now fully operational, however further development work on the TGD Health Service continues. This includes implementation of additional budget commitments around clinical and funding medication, evaluation, clinical and quality safety enhancements and clinical leadership.</li> </ul>



Update provided by NSW Ministry of Health in July 2025

Commitment Made in the Strategic Plan	Alignment to Other Commitment Areas
<p><b>6.6</b> In 2021-22 the Ministry of Health will commission ACON to deliver the <b>Welcome Here Project</b>, which will involve the roll out of comprehensive education, training and mentorship to the Child and Adolescent mental health workforce (initially in 10 local health districts) to ensure public mental health services to be as welcoming and culturally safe for LGBTQIA+ young people. ACON has been funded to work with LHD/SHNs informed by the Health and Wellbeing Equality Index (HWEI) which benchmarks current LGBTQIA+ inclusive service delivery across Australia within the health and wellbeing sectors. [NSW Health]</p>	N/A

Objective	Progress	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The project aimed to support Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)/Child and Youth Mental Health Service (CYMHS) services to create and promote environments that are visibly welcoming and inclusive of LGBTQIA+ communities through Welcome Here and Pride in Health + Wellbeing (PIHW) membership.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Welcome Here members receive rainbow stickers and the charter to display in a prominent place to let everyone know that LGBTQIA+ diversity is welcomed and celebrated.</li> <li>Pride in Health + Wellbeing provides year-round support in the provision of LGBTQIA+ inclusive services for those working within the health and wellbeing sector.</li> <li>10 LHD mental health services received sponsored annual memberships to ACONs Welcome Here and PIHW programs in 2022/23.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complete</li> <li><b>Reason:</b> ACON successfully supported teams across NSW to make mental health services more welcoming to LGBTQIA+ consumers.</li> </ul>

Update provided by NSW Ministry of Health in July 2025

Commitment Made in the Strategic Plan	Alignment to Other Commitment Areas
<p><b>6.7 Staff training and development programs, for example:</b></p> <p><b>6.7.1 Cultural competence and awareness training</b>, to ensure Aboriginal young people are being supported through culturally appropriate practices. [NSW Department of Communities and Justice, Legal Aid NSW, Youth Justice NSW]</p> <p><b>6.7.2 Mandated Disability Standards for Education Training</b> for all school leaders across NSW. This training covers discrimination and the rights of students with disability. [NSW Department of Education]</p>	Respect and acceptance

Objective	Progress	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>6.7.1 Cultural competence and awareness training:</b> No update provided within report production timelines.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No update provided within the report production timelines.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No update provided within the report production timelines.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>6.7.2 Mandated Disability Standards for Education Training:</b> No update provided within report production timelines.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No update provided within the report production timelines.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No update provided within the report production timelines.</li> </ul>

Commitment Made in the Strategic Plan	Alignment to Other Commitment Areas
<p><b>6.8</b> The NSW Government recognises a whole-of-government approach is core to intervening early to address the risks of re-offending for young people and delivers initiatives including</p> <p><b>6.8.1 Youth on Track early intervention program</b> for 10-17 year old young people at risk of long-term involvement in the criminal justice system. NSW Police, the Department of Education and other agencies can make discretionary referrals to Youth on Track.</p> <p><b>6.8.2 Youth Frontiers</b> is an early intervention youth mentoring program supporting young people 10-17 years in contact with the youth justice and child protection systems, with the aim of increasing their wellbeing and connection to the community and avoid further contact with the justice system.</p> <p><b>6.8.3 The Youth Koori Court (YKC)</b> was established in response to the overrepresentation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people coming into contact with the criminal justice system. The YKC currently operates in both Parramatta and Surry Hills. The YKC has the same powers as the Children's Court but uses a different process to better involve Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people, their families and the broader Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community in the court process.</p> <p><b>6.8.4 Joint Protocol</b> to reduce the contact of young people in residential OOHC with the criminal justice system. The Joint Protocol provides a framework and guidance to Funded Service Providers and NSW Police around responding to young people in residential OOHC in a trauma informed way, rather than criminalising a young person's behaviour.</p> <p><b>6.8.5 The Short-Term Remand Project</b> is developing a number of initiatives aimed at reducing the number of children and young people experiencing avoidable shortterm remand in NSW. [NSW Department of Communities and Justice]</p>	<p>Love, connection and safety</p>

Objective	Progress	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>6.8.1 Youth on Track early intervention program:</b> Youth on Track is an early intervention service that provides a range of flexible and culturally appropriate supports to young people aged 10-17 involved with or at risk of involvement with the justice system. The program aims to empower young people and their families to achieve change in the young person's behaviour and safety, through the provision of case management, cultural and practical supports that build on the young person's strengths, addresses areas of concern and increase prosocial behaviours.</li> </ul> <p>Update provided by NSW Department of Communities and Justice in July 2025</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Program recommissioned in 2024 and is now delivered by six Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations and three mainstream providers.</li> <li>• From June 2024 to April 2025, 234 young people successfully engaged in the program (over 500 referred). 73% of young people identify as Aboriginal. Of these, 76% of young people in the program have achieved their goals, 72% have engaged in pro-social activities and 68% have increased engagement at school or employment. These positive outcomes and increase in protective factors contribute to reducing risk of offending.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing</li> <li>• <b>Reason:</b> Program recommissioned in 2024, with active delivery across multiple reasons.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>66.8.1 Youth on Track early intervention program:</b> No update provided within report production timelines.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No update provided within the report production timelines.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No update provided within the report production timelines.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>6.8.3 The Youth Koori Court (YKC):</b> The YKC was established on a pilot basis in 2015 at the Parramatta Children's Court in response to the significant over-representation of Aboriginal young people in the criminal justice system.</li> </ul> <p>Update provided by NSW Department of Communities and Justice in July 2025</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Following the success of the Youth Koori Court pilot in Parramatta, government funding was provided to expand the Youth Koori Court to Surry Hills Children's Court in 2019 and to Dubbo Children's Court in March 2023.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing</li> <li>• <b>Reason:</b> YKC continues to operate in all three locations.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>6.8.4 Joint Protocol:</b> Improving the implementation of the Joint Protocol at a cross-sector level through enhanced governance, data monitoring, and staff training.</li> </ul> <p>Update provided by NSW Department of Communities and Justice in July 2025</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Governance:</b> In 2023, cross-sector governance for the Joint Protocol was revised to support more effective decision-making. In 2025, an Escalation Pathway was put in place to support timely escalation and local resolution of issues where the application of the Joint Protocol could be strengthened for individual children and young people.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete</li> <li>• <b>Reason:</b> The new governance arrangements were agreed on 9 May 2023.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Data:</b> DCJ, NSW Police Force and ITC service providers have agreed to develop a shared approach to data collection and reporting to monitor the application and effectiveness of the Joint Protocol. In 2024, DCJ and NSW Police Force executed a memorandum of understanding to facilitate data sharing to support linkage between data held by ITC service providers, DCJ and NSW Police Force to understand application and efficacy. Analysis of the data will be used to understand how the Protocol is working and what additional awareness raising of reform might be needed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing</li> <li>• <b>Reason:</b> DCJ and NSW Police Force executed a data sharing MOU in late 2024 to enable linkage between data held by NSW Police Force, with DCJ and ITC service providers. DCJ and volunteer ITC service providers are developing key terms and a minimum dataset to enable linkage.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Training:</b> The Joint Protocol Shared Training Strategy is currently in development. The objectives of the Training Strategy include establishing and sharing best practices for professionals; and using training to improve understanding of how agencies that are party to the Joint Protocol can better meet the needs of vulnerable children and young people in residential care and ITC, overcome siloes, and provide consistent standards and messaging across agencies and organisations.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing</li> <li>• <b>Reason:</b> The Implementation and Consultation Committees have endorsed the Training Strategy for progression to the Steering Committee for endorsement. Preliminary implementation planning is underway.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>6.8.5 The Short-Term Remand Project:</b> To reduce avoidable short-term remand through improved bail support, family finding, accommodation sourcing and enhanced police coordination.</li> </ul> <p>Update provided by NSW Department of Communities and Justice in July 2025</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Programs operating in Riverina and South Sydney Police Districts with Short-term Remand Pilot Coordinators, Volunteer Support Person Network Pilot, engagement with Wiradjuri Elders and community stakeholders.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In progress</li> <li>• <b>Reason:</b> Pilot programs active in target districts.</li> </ul>

Commitment Made in the Strategic Plan		Alignment to Other Commitment Areas
<p><b>6.9</b> Numerous targeted programs aimed at addressing the significant over-representation of Aboriginal young people in the youth justice system, including:</p> <p><b>6.9.1 Dthina Yuwali</b> is an Aboriginal specific alcohol and other drugs program, delivered in community and custodial environments, which focuses on addressing the relationship between substance abuse and interaction with the youth justice system.</p> <p><b>6.9.2 The Aboriginal Reintegration and Transition Program</b> (Nowra) is an initiative that provides intensive support for young Aboriginal people after they leave custody or community supervision. The program is being delivered throughout the Shoalhaven and Far South Coast areas by the Aboriginal Medical Service. The program aims to build resilience and wellbeing and reduce the risk of reoffending, with a key focus of building cultural identity by strengthening connections to country and family.</p> <p><b>6.9.3</b> In 2020, Youth Justice implemented a new initiative, the <b>Small Grants Aboriginal Engagement and Innovative Activities Program (AEIA)</b>. The AEIA program was developed to provide new avenues for Aboriginal employees to embed Aboriginal cultural practices into their day to day work with Youth Justice clients. A key aim of the AEIA Small Grants Program is to drive innovation in practice. [Youth Justice NSW]</p>		N/A
Objective	Progress	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>6.9.1 Dthina Yuwal:</b> To address substance abuse issues among Aboriginal young people through culturally appropriate intervention focusing on the relationship between substance use and offending pathways.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Program was first run 2009-2012 with 7 courses with 83 participants). It then went into a hiatus until a review in 2023 resulted in a relaunch. It has recommenced and since April 2024 there have been 12 courses with 129 staff attending. The course can be delivered by staff in both community and custodial settings utilising cultural learning, learning circles, and involvement of elders and respected community members.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing</li> <li>• <b>Reason:</b> Dthina Yuwali was run for several years and was then placed under review. It was revamped following a detailed review recommenced in April 2024.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>6.9.2 The Aboriginal Reintegration and Transition Program:</b> To provide culturally appropriate intensive support for young Aboriginal people young people involved with, or at risk of involvement with the criminal justice, including post custody/supervision.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Partnership with South Coast Medical Service Aboriginal Corporation since July 2017 providing culturally appropriate community-based supports focusing on building connections to country and family.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing</li> <li>• <b>Reason:</b> Funding for the program has been extended to 30 June 2027.</li> <li>• The scope of the program broadened to include early intervention for young people at risk of contact with the criminal justice system, in response to local community need.</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>6.9.3 Small Grants Aboriginal Engagement and Innovative Activities Program (AEIA):</b> To encourage and embed innovative Aboriginal engagement activities across the Youth Justice Division. This small grants fund aims to encourage innovative ideas that go beyond BAU and need modest financial assistance to get up and running. The focus is on improving our service delivery and responsiveness to Aboriginal young people.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Since the commencement of the small grants multiple activities have been funded to support Aboriginal staff and young people to engage in cultural activities. This has been across both community and custodial settings.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete</li> <li>• <b>Reason:</b> A total of \$50,000 was made available across Youth Justice. Future plans are to secure ongoing funding for the program.</li> </ul>
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Update provided by NSW Department of Communities and Justice in July 2025

Commitment Made in the Strategic Plan		Alignment to Other Commitment Areas
<b>6.10: The Justice Advocacy Service (JAS)</b> supports adults and young people with cognitive impairment who are in contact with the NSW criminal justice system – as victims, witnesses and suspects/defendants. The service supports clients to exercise their rights and fully participate in the process. [NSW Department of Communities and Justice]		N/A
Objective	Progress	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• JAS ensures that people with cognitive impairment can access and exercise their rights, meaningfully participate in criminal justice processes, and have equal access to justice by:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Providing individual advocacy (JAS Advocacy)</li> <li>– Supporting diversion orders under the Mental Health and Cognitive Impairment Forensic Provisions Act 2020 (JAS Diversion)</li> <li>– Providing systemic advocacy</li> <li>– Building the capacity of justice agencies to identify, respond to and work with people with cognitive impairment.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• JAS continues to support adults and young people with cognitive impairment who are in contact with the NSW criminal justice system.</li> <li>• For the period 1 July 2024 – 30 June 2025:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– JAS Advocacy supported 1,947 clients (41% Aboriginal clients) with 2,493 cases.</li> <li>– JAS supported 147 young people in FY2024/2025.</li> <li>– JAS Diversion supported 322 clients (37% Aboriginal clients) with 66% of clients receiving a successful Section 14 Diversion order.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing</li> <li>• <b>Reason:</b> The contract for JAS has been extended by an additional 2 years until 30 June 2027.</li> </ul>

Update provided by NSW Department of Communities and Justice in July 2025

Commitment Made in the Strategic Plan		Alignment to Other Commitment Areas
<p><b>6.11</b> Numerous reforms aimed at reducing the proportion of Aboriginal children in OOHHC, including:</p> <p><b>6.11.1</b> Implementation of the <b>Family Is Culture report's recommendations</b>, which will facilitate child protection and OOHHC systems that are responsive to the needs of Aboriginal families.</p> <p><b>6.11.2</b> Implementation of the <b>Permanency Support Program (PSP)</b>, which aims to ensure every child can grow up in a stable and secure home.</p> <p><b>6.11.3</b> Implementation of the <b>Aboriginal Case Management Policy (ACMP)</b>, which aims to engage early with Aboriginal families to keep children safe with their families and community.</p> <p><b>6.11.4</b> Strengthening of compliance with <b>Aboriginal Child Placement Principles</b> through review of the DCJ and case management policy. [NSW Department of Communities and Justice, Office of the NSW Children's Guardian]</p>		N/A
Objective	Progress	Status
<p>• <b>6.11.1 Implementation of the Family is Culture Report's recommendations:</b> Meet the NSW Government's commitment to implement the recommendations in full.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– <b>Recommendations 8, 72 &amp; 74:</b> Operationalise the Aboriginal Child Principle (ACP), under section 12A of the Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998 [The Care Act]</li> <li>– <b>Recommendation 26:</b> Operationalise the Principle of Active Efforts under section 9A of the Care Act.</li> <li>– <b>Recommendation 74:</b> Enhance child protection client management system (ChildStory) functionality to collect required data.</li> <li>– <b>Recommendation 83:</b> Strengthen the use of Aboriginal Consultation in OOHHC decision making.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For the recommendations that involve data and reporting, DCJ is progressing system changes to capture additional data and the design of reporting solutions.</li> <li>• Consultation strategy for Aboriginal Community organisations approved</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing</li> <li>• <b>Reason:</b> NSW is preparing to start reporting remaining 11 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle indicators in 2025-26, and is co-leading a national reporting solution under Safe and Supported.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Children's Court has implemented <b>Recommendations 13, 14, 15, 115 and 125</b>. In relation to <b>Recommendation 124</b>, DCJ has developed a unit costing model for the Children's Court, for use, should an opportunity to seek additional funding for the creation of additional specialist Children's Magistrates arise.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing</li> <li>• <b>Reason:</b> The Children's Court has implemented Recommendations 13, 14, 15, 115 and 125. In relation to Recommendation 124, DCJ has developed a unit costing model for the Children's Court, for use, should an opportunity to seek additional funding for the creation of additional specialist Children's Magistrates arise.</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Recommendation 125:</b> implement a pilot project establishing a dedicated court list for proceedings involving Aboriginal children.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>6.11.3</b> Implementation of the <b>Aboriginal Case Management Policy (ACMP)</b>.</li> <li>• <b>6.11.4</b> Strengthening of compliance with <b>Aboriginal Child Placement Principles</b>.</li> </ul> <p>Update provided by NSW Department of Communities and Justice in July 2025</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In response to <b>Recommendations 8, 26, 72, 74 and 83</b>, DCJ Child and Family (CF) OOHC Programs has completed a rewrite of the cultural planning casework practice mandate applied by DCJ staff. Key changes include creation of a standalone cultural planning practice mandate for Aboriginal children in OOHC that requires caseworkers to:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Comply with ACP and active efforts principles</li> <li>- Complete an Aboriginal child's cultural plan within 4 months of entry to OOHC</li> <li>- carry out cultural planning with family/kin using Aboriginal Family Led Decision Making (AFLDM)</li> <li>- Include family/kin in cultural activities with their child</li> <li>- A minimum of four regular, cultural activities or events to maintain Aboriginal cultural identity</li> <li>- A minimum of one regular activity to learn about and communicate in their cultural language</li> <li>- All Aboriginal Consultation recommendations to be included in a child's OOHC case plan</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete</li> <li>• <b>Reason:</b> All have been published and are currently in implementation phase.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In response to <b>Recommendation 74</b>, DCJ Child and Family (CF) OOHC Programs, Transforming Aboriginal Outcomes (TAO) and ChildStory have completed enhancement of information systems to support collection of data regarding the proportion of Aboriginal children in OOHC who have a cultural plan that includes:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Information about the child's clan and/or language group</li> <li>- Actions for the maintenance of their culture</li> <li>- The input of the child and family/kin</li> <li>- The input of family members through Aboriginal Family Led Decision Making (AFLDM)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete</li> <li>• <b>Reason:</b> Enhancements released and currently in implementation phase</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Winha-nga-nha List commenced on 4 September 2023 following of a co-design process with Aboriginal community representatives and key stakeholders in response to <b>Recommendation 125</b> of the Family is Culture Report. The Winha-nga-nha List is a dedicated court list for Aboriginal and or Torres Strait Islander families involved in care proceedings at Dubbo Children's Court.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing</li> <li><b>Reason:</b> The Winha-nga-nha List currently sits two days per month. In 2024, there had been 123 total appearances involving 36 matters.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>6.11.2 Permanency Support Program (PSP):</b> Regulation of the PSP.</li> </ul> <p>Update provided by NSW Office of the Children's Guardian in July 2025</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The OCG regulates the provision of out-of-home care, including the PSP, by monitoring and accrediting designated agencies providing care the designated agencies that provide care under the PSP.</li> <li>Many of the requirements under the PSPs are also requirements under the current Child Safe Standards for Permanent Care, which will be replaced from 1 October 2025 by the new Code of Practice Code of Practice for Designated Agencies and Adoption Service Providers.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complete</li> <li><b>Reason:</b> Continued monitoring of designated agencies' compliance against the Standards/Code of Practice is part of business-as-usual operations.</li> </ul>

#### Commitment Made in the Strategic Plan

**6.12 The Family Preservation services system** is currently being redesigned, with a focus on ensuring effective family preservation systems are working with families to reduce the number of children who enter OOHC. The new service system includes a specific service stream for Aboriginal community-controlled service providers and DCJ will work with them to co-design a new model of service delivery for Aboriginal families. [NSW Department of Communities and Justice]

#### Alignment to Other Commitment Areas

N/A

Objective	Progress	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve the outcomes, experience, suitability, and accessibility for families who want to access and would benefit from working with a Family Preservation service. For Aboriginal children, young people, and families this also means increasing culturally safe and responsive and community-led services that centre family-led decision making.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A central part of the redesign is the introduction of two new frameworks, the Families Together framework, and the Aboriginal Family Preservation framework. These frameworks present service providers with greater freedom and flexibility to design and deliver responsive, effective and tailored supports. The Aboriginal Family Preservation framework has been developed in partnership with AbSec and codesigned over two years with Aboriginal families, Aboriginal communities, and ACCOS. DCJ will be commissioning ACCOs to deliver Family Preservation services using the Aboriginal Family Preservation framework. Successful ACCOs will be able to use the framework to take the lead in developing Family Preservation models that are community-led, self-determined, and culturally safe.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In progress</li> <li><b>Reason:</b> Key design elements finalised and procurement activity currently underway.</li> </ul>

Update provided by NSW Department of Communities and Justice in July 2025

Commitment Made in the Strategic Plan		Alignment to Other Commitment Areas
<b>6.13 Family Law / Care and Protection legal services support</b> provided to families early and where possible in the community or through relevant community agencies. This includes identifying Aboriginal children and their families as priority clients and reducing the administrative burdens which may prevent such families from accessing legal services in a timely manner. [Legal Aid NSW, in partnership with the broader community legal assistance sector]		N/A
Objective	Progress	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>The Legal Assistance for Families Partnership Agreement (LAFPA)</b> is designed to ensure families are able to access early legal advice and representation formally commenced operations in October 2022.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To date, more than 3,900 referrals have been received from DCJ by Legal Aid NSW. Given the overrepresentation of First Nations families who are in contact with the child protection system, a high percentage of these referrals are for First Nations families.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing</li> <li><b>Reason:</b> The project now part of Legal Aid NSW's business as usual operations. LAFPA referrals are being managed by DCJ, ALS and LA NSW within their existing resources.</li> </ul>

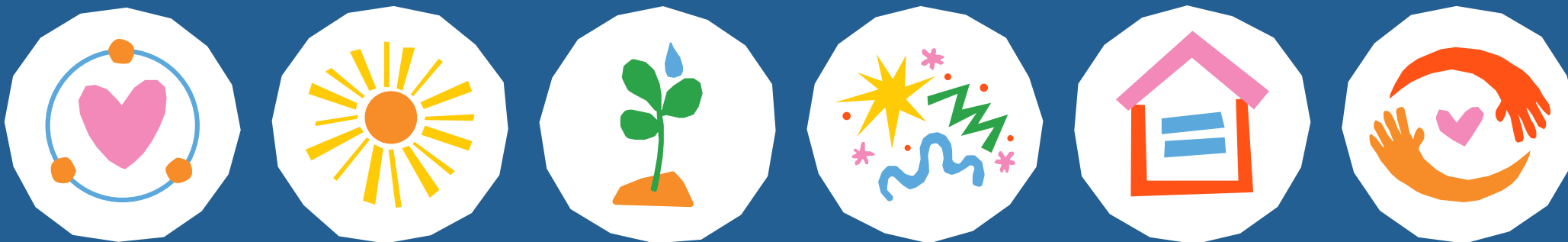
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>The Your Voice Legal Service</b> is a legal service that provides services to children and young people in out of home care. This is the only service in NSW that provides wrap around legal and non-legal support to this cohort.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Over 100 referrals have now been received directly from DCJ to the Your Voice service.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing</li> <li>• <b>Reason:</b> This legal service is in receipt of temporary funding and is only able to continue providing services until June 2026.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>The Family Law Service for Aboriginal Communities (FamAC)</b> is a legal service focused on providing advice and representation to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families in family law and care and protection matters with a focus on prevention of serious and ongoing involvement with DCJ and the child protection system.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Between 2022 and 2024, 2,527 advice, minor assistance and duty services have been provided to Aboriginal families. In addition, 235 casework services have been provided to Aboriginal families.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing</li> <li>• <b>Reason:</b> FamAC is now embedded into the family law division of Legal Aid NSW. The team is made up of lawyers as well as Aboriginal Field Officers.</li> </ul>

Update provided by Legal Aid NSW in July 2025

# Appendix C

## Interviewee List

Role	Number of Interviewees
Elected Official	6
Statutory Appointee	5
Public Sector Executive	8
Political Staff / Adviser	2
Public Sector Staff	11
Not-for-Profit Leader	2
Private Sector Partner / Representative	3
Child / Youth Representative	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>39</b>



Office of the Advocate for  
Children and Young People

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## Review of the NSW Strategic Plan for Children and Young People

Prepared for the Advocate for Children and Young People  
by Baringa

*August 2025*

## Contact Us

Locked Bag 500  
Parramatta NSW 2124

**T:** (02) 9248 0970

**E:** [acyp@acyp.nsw.gov.au](mailto:acyp@acyp.nsw.gov.au)

**W:** [acyp.nsw.gov.au](http://acyp.nsw.gov.au)

**ABN:** 36 433 185