

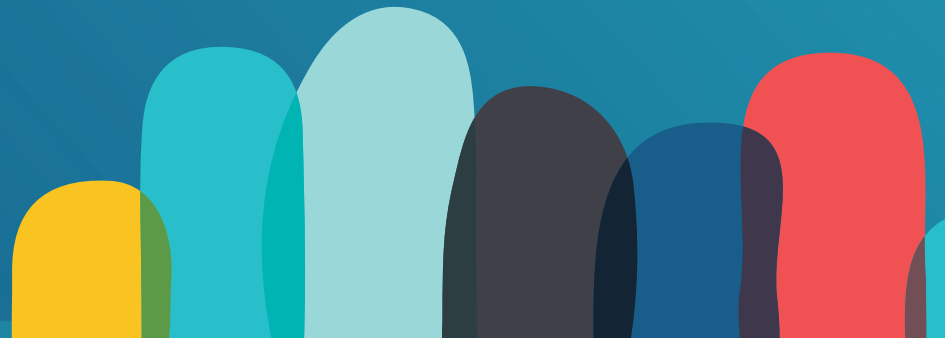


Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Communities**

Commissioning of At Risk Youth, Home Stretch WA and Target 120

Online webinar

September 2026



Acknowledgement of Country

At Risk Youth Strategy 2022–2027 (the Strategy)

- The Strategy was released in September 2022 and aims to strengthen responses for young people:
 - aged 10 to 24 years
 - with multiple and complex problems
 - who are at risk of harm
 - with increased vulnerability experiencing poor life outcomes
 - with an increased risk of requiring a tertiary and/or statutory response (child protection, police, justice, and acute mental health).
- The Strategy provides a high-level framework to improve responses for at risk young people and their families across four interrelated focus areas:

The ideas, views information and first-hand experiences of young people and representatives from the youth services sector provided an essential evidence layer to inform development of the Strategy.

Focus Area One:
Partnerships,
collaboration and
integrated responses

Focus Area Two:
Targeted initiatives to
improve long term
outcomes

Focus Area Three:
Strengthening the
services system for at
risk young people

Focus Area Four:
Services and supports
for Aboriginal young
people



Guide to defining young people at risk

Encompassing all communities and identities in society – including vulnerable Aboriginal young people and young people from multicultural backgrounds or those identifying as LGBTIQ+

Impact

	Criminal justice contact		Early or lifelong mortality		Becoming victims or perpetrators of crime		Chronic unemployment, poverty and homelessness
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Indicators

	Adverse childhood experiences, intergenerational trauma		Chronic health conditions including mental health conditions		Alcohol and other drug use		Truancy and not engaged in employment, training or education
	Experience of primary, secondary or tertiary homelessness		Lack of connection to culture, identity and community		Cognitive and neurodivergent disabilities		Intergenerational out-of-home care
	Unsafe family environment or living arrangements		Poor mental health including self-harm and suicide ideation		Experience with the child protection system		Early parenthood
	Impact of social media	 Experiences of FDV					

Protective/resilience factors

	Connection to family, community, culture		Trauma-informed supports
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Background – previous commissioning activities

At Risk Youth

Statewide Engagement Summary

Purpose and context of consultation



The stakeholder engagement and consultation was undertaken in alignment with the At Risk Youth Strategy 2022-2027.



This work aims to realign and strengthen the service system established in 2014 so that it is more responsive, culturally safe, trauma informed and meets place based need.



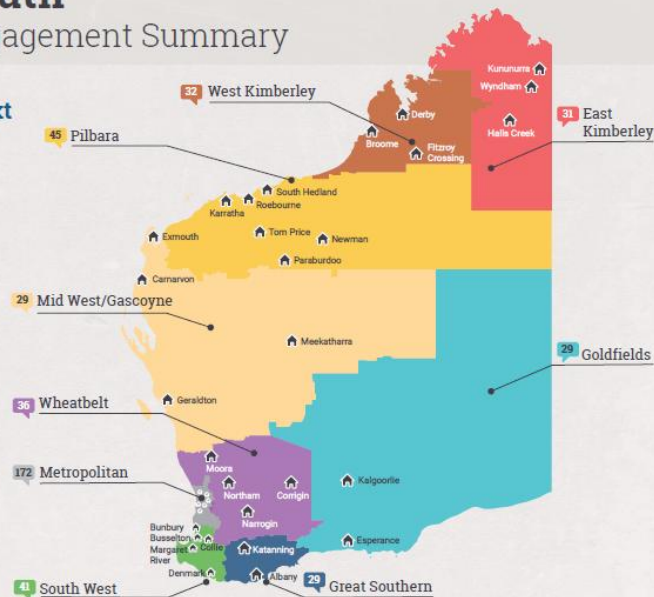
The redesign is part of a broader system improvement, and recommendations arising from engagement will inform future service models and investment approaches.



Stakeholder engagement session locations



Total number of session attendees per region



May 2026

2025 Consultation and Engagement

- The At Risk Youth team consulted statewide with local organisations and service providers.
- Home Stretch WA undertook statewide sector information sessions.
- Target 120 worked collaboratively with Local Interagency Groups across the state.

Why are we reviewing the commissioning approach?

Community consultation consistently highlighted the need for more integrated and coordinated services. The alignment of the contract end dates in 2027 provides an opportunity to respond to this feedback.

2025



Statewide consultation and evidence identified opportunities for stronger coordination and more flexible, local response

Current
State



Three distinct programs, delivered through separate contracts, are operating to support vulnerable young people.

2027
Opportunity



Contract end dates align in mid 2027 creating opportunity to recommission selected services using placed-based approach.

Benefits for young people and providers

A simpler, more coordinated commissioning approach.



Reduce duplication

greater alignment across commissioning process, reporting and engagement



More meaningful engagement

fewer consultation processes and more strategic conversations with government



Clearer partnership

greater collaboration between organisations, with clearer roles



Stronger place-based services

more opportunities to deliver coordinated support that reflects community need



Better outcomes for young people

integrated services make it easier for young people and families to access the right support at the right time



Greater service certainty

Moving eligible services from grants to Service Agreements provides greater certainty for workforce planning, service continuity and organisational development.

New Commissioning

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What is guiding the proposed commissioning approach?



Funding Alignment

Align with budget decisions



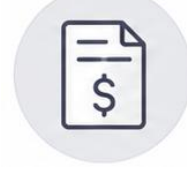
Program remains unchanged

Retain program elements of ARY, T120 & HSWA



Service Reach

Current service locations and reach



Funding Maintained

Approved funding parameters



Contract Timing

Current contract cease mid-late 2027

Commissioning Approach

We take a consistent approach to determine the most suitable proposed commissioning approach for each program and location.



Engagement

Ongoing sector and community engagement since 2022



Understanding the place

Review local need, service landscape, and program requirements



Assess the approach

Consider how the programs can best work together in that location



Procurement approach

Select the most appropriate procurement approach for the location and program

What this means



Programs may be **commissioned together** where this adds value for the community in selected locations



Some programs may **remain separate** where appropriate to maintain focus and meet needs.



The approach may **differ between locations** based on local context and evidence.



Different commissioning approaches

The proposed commissioning approach will reflect how many of the programs operate in a location and the opportunity for greater coordination and integration



ALL THREE PROGRAMS

ARY + HS + T120



Approach

Consider the programs together to strengthen coordination and create more seamless, holistic support for young people.

What this means

- Providers may tender for one, two or all three programs
- Support pathways are more connected
- Shared engagement, cultural connection and workforce approaches.
- Stronger place-based outcomes



TWO PROGRAMS

(Combinations may vary)



Approach

Consider the two programs together where this can create efficiencies, reduce duplication and improve outcomes.

What this means

- Providers may tender for either or both programs
- Coordination between programs is prioritised
- Service pathways and transitions are strengthened
- Other program requirements remain in place
- Flexibility to adapt to local context.



SINGLE PROGRAM

(One program only)



Approach

Commission the individual program through specific approach that meets local need

What this means

- Coordination between programs is prioritised
- Service pathways and transitions are strengthened
- Other program requirements remain in place
- Flexibility to adapt to local context.





Anticipated Recommissioning - Where?

ARY = At Risk Youth

HS = Home Stretch WA

T120 = Target 120

Based on current service delivery, locations are grouped by the combinations of programs being considered for recommissioning.



ALL THREE PROGRAMS

ARY + HS + T120



Albany
Carnarvon
Fitzroy Crossing
Geraldton
Halls Creek
Hedland



TWO PROGRAMS

(Combinations may vary)



Broome (HS + T120)
Esperance (ARY + HS)
Karratha (HS + T120)
Kununurra (HS + T120)



SINGLE PROGRAM

(One program only)



Kalgoorlie (HS)
Metropolitan Perth (HS)
South West region (HS)
Wheatbelt region (HS)
Northam (T120)
Derby (T120)
Bunbury (T120)



The commissioning approach for each location will be informed by local context, engagement, and program requirements.

What now?

Date	Location
15 September 2026	Carnarvon
16 September 2026	Karratha
17 September 2026	Geraldton Hedland
22 September 2026	Broome Kununurra
23 September 2026	Derby (Target 120 only) Bunbury (Target 120 only) Halls Creek
24 September 2026	Fitzroy Crossing
30 September 2026	Albany
1 October 2026	Esperance



Scan this QR code for
our webpage and then
register for sessions



- Following Sector Information Sessions, all proposed procurement approaches are subject to government approval.
- Updates on the website.
- StrategicServicesARY@communities.wa.gov.au

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