

Department of Communities

Home Stretch WA Program Summative Evaluation

Evaluation Report

April 2026



Quantum
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Acronyms and Abbreviations

Acronym	Definition
ACCO	Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation
ADHD	Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder
AIHW	Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
AOD	Alcohol and Other Drugs
BCR	Benefit-Cost Ratio
CaLD	Culturally and Linguistically Diverse
CBA	Cost Benefit Analysis
Communities	WA Department of Communities
CoP	Home Stretch WA Community of Practice, referred also as the Guiding Panel
CPFS / DCP	Child Protection and Family Services (within Department of Communities)
ERR	Economic Rate of Return
FASD	Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder
FDV	Family and Domestic Violence
GVA	Gross Value Added
HA	Housing Allowance
Home Stretch/HSWA	Home Stretch WA Program
IIM funding	Invest In Me funding
ISEP	Indigenous Skills and Employment Program
MEF / M&E	Home Stretch WA Monitoring and Evaluation Framework
MSC	Most Significant Change
NDIS	National Disability Insurance Scheme
NPV	Net Present Value
OFI	Opportunity for Improvement
PTSD	Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder
PWI	Personal Wellbeing Index
Quantum	Quantum Consulting Australia Pty Ltd
SLO	Service Level Outcome
SOA	Staying On Agreement
STT	Home Stretch WA Service Tracking Tool
TAFE	Technical and Further Education
WA	Western Australia
WAAHEC	Western Australian Aboriginal Health Ethics Committee

Acknowledgement

Quantum Consulting Australia Pty Ltd (Quantum) acknowledges the people of the many traditional countries and language groups of Western Australia. It acknowledges the wisdom of Elders past, present and future and pays respect to the Aboriginal communities of today.

The Evaluation Team at Quantum would like to acknowledge the commitment of the Department of Communities (Communities) to the children, young people and families of Western Australia.

Terminology

Recognising that Aboriginal people are Western Australia's original inhabitants, the term Aboriginal is used throughout this document. The term Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander may be preferred in other, including national, contexts and no disrespect is intended.

Disclaimer

The information contained within this Report has been compiled from a variety of external sources and has not been subject to an internal independent verification. Although every care has been taken to ensure that the information and opinions are correct, Quantum specifically disclaims any responsibility for the use or interpretation of this report.

Findings within this Report can be influenced by a number of unforeseen events that may occur outside of our control. Therefore, no assurance can be given that the findings contained within the Report will remain as such in the future.

This is an internal document for use by the Department of Communities and its key stakeholders.

Executive Summary

The Home Stretch WA Program

Young people leaving out-of-home care face complex and often compounding vulnerabilities. In response, the Department of Communities established the Home Stretch WA Program, extending support from age 18 to 21 to promote stability, independence and wellbeing.

The program provides tailored assistance to young people transitioning from the child protection system and is delivered through a diverse network of Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOs) and Community Service Organisations across metropolitan and regional Western Australia. The Program was rolled out statewide in early 2024 following an earlier formative evaluation and 2023 summative assessment.

Home Stretch WA is overseen through a collaborative governance structure that includes the Home Stretch WA Community of Practice (CoP) – also referred to as the Guiding Panel – comprising representatives from the Department of Communities, service providers and other key stakeholders. The CoP plays an active role in guiding program implementation, supporting quality practice, facilitating knowledge-sharing across providers, and contributing to ongoing program improvement. Its engagement with this evaluation reflects the shared commitment across government and the sector to evidence-based, continuous improvement.

The Evaluation

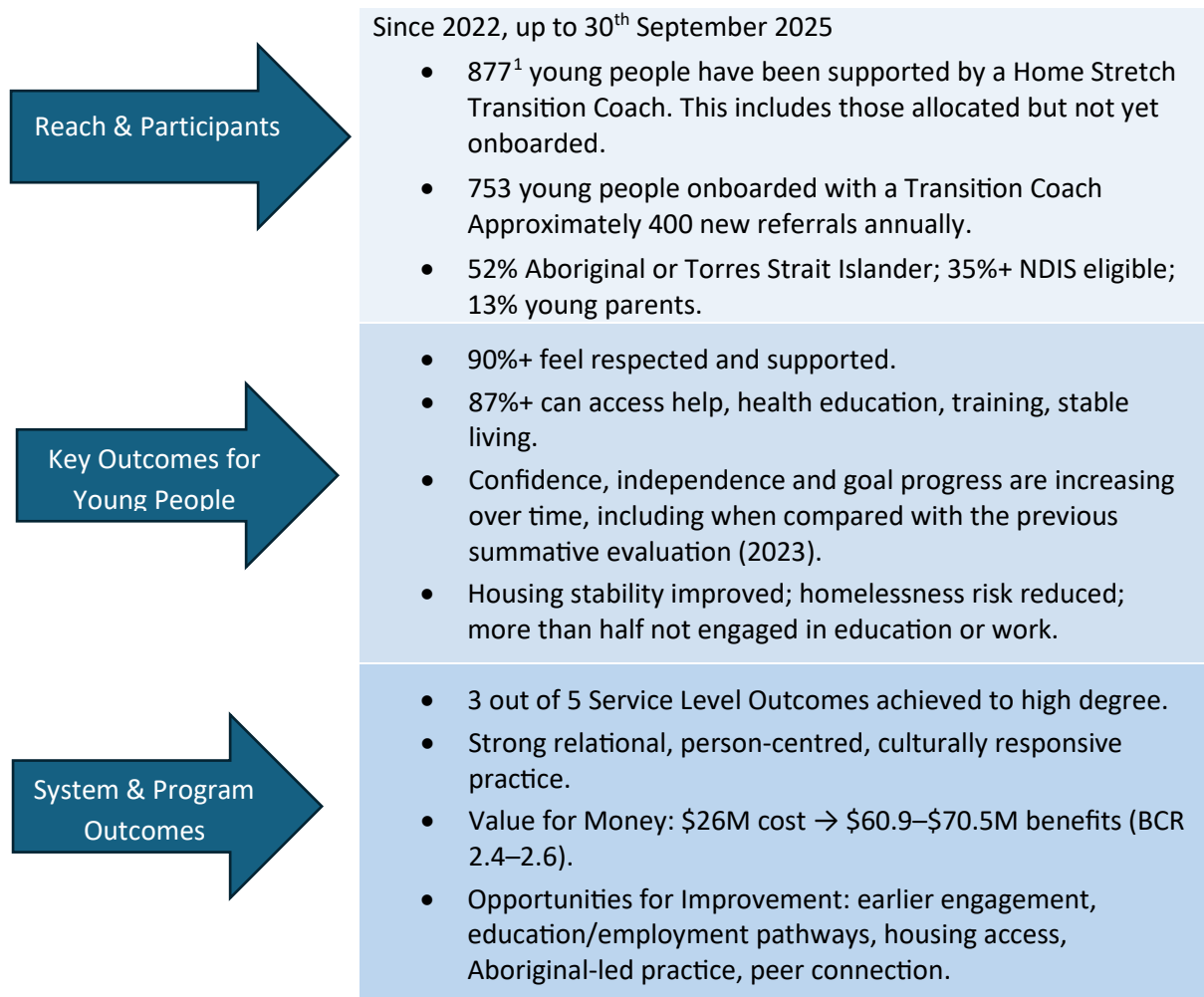
This summative evaluation (late 2025–early 2026) was commissioned by the Department of Communities and undertaken by Quantum Consulting Australia (Quantum). It assessed the extent to which Home Stretch WA is:

- Achieving its five Service Level Outcomes (SLOs) by meeting the needs of young people transitioning from care;
- Appropriate, effective and sustainable; and
- Efficient and demonstrating value for money.

The evaluation drew on a mixed-methods approach aligned to the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework developed in 2023, enabling comparability with previous findings. Evidence was gathered from:

- Surveys and interviews with 230 young people participating in the Program;
- Surveys of carers (n=49), service provider staff (n=63), Communities staff (n=45) and external stakeholders (n=8);
- 18 de-identified case studies from metropolitan and regional providers;
- Service Tracking Tool (STT) administrative data (February 2023 – September 2025); and
- Longitudinal paired survey data for 23 young people across 2023–2025.

The following figure provides a high level overview of key findings of the evaluation.

Figure 1 Overview of Key Findings

Main Findings

Young People: Program Satisfaction and Meaningful Progress

Survey responses from 230 young people showed consistently high satisfaction. More than 90% reported feeling respected and supported by their Transition Coach, and 87% or more indicated access to stable accommodation, health care, and education or training opportunities. Young people described strong support networks, growing confidence, and meaningful personal progress attributable to personalised coaching, flexible funding, and practical assistance.

¹ Count of 877 as reported by Communities as of 30 September 2025. Analysis of STT data by Quantum validated this figure, reaching an estimate of 881, which excludes those that Decline – before onboarding and adjusted for double counting. The marginal difference with reported figures likely due to different classification on Onboarded – Transferred.

Wellbeing and safety ratings were strong, with Aboriginal young people reporting culturally affirming experiences, including that staff take time to listen to their story and encourage cultural expression. Longitudinal analysis of paired survey data from a subset of participants between 2023 and 2025 (n=23) identified statistically significant improvements across measures of access to health care, mental and physical wellbeing, and cultural learning support.

This is an important outcome that aligns with National Closing the Gap targets (15–17) and the whole-of-Government and Communities Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation (ACCO) Strategy. It reflects strong cultural safety and governance within Home Stretch WA, supported by access to place-based, community-led and culturally secure services, and reinforces the importance of ACCOs delivering Home Stretch WA.

Cross-Stakeholder Consistency

Feedback from carers (n=49), service provider staff (n=63), Communities staff (n=45) and external stakeholders members (n=8) was consistently positive. All stakeholder groups highlighted the relational coaching model, cultural responsiveness and practical assistance as core strengths, with satisfaction rates above 90% in key areas. This consistency across diverse stakeholder groups reinforces the robustness of the findings and indicates that the Program's impact is recognised across all levels of experience, support, delivery and oversight.

Stakeholders also identified common systemic barriers such as housing shortages – driven by market conditions in WA and nationally that materially constrain achievable outcomes – along with regional inequities, workforce capacity pressures, and uneven education and employment pathways. Together, these structural factors limit the Program's ability to achieve fully consistent outcomes across all participants, despite the strength of its underlying practice. Differences between Perth metropolitan and regional/remote participants generally reflect these broader structural inequities rather than variations in program performance or delivery quality (as evidenced in STT data and stakeholder surveys).

In light of these challenges and constraints, there was broad support among stakeholders for extending eligibility, engaging young people earlier to build awareness of the Program, strengthening regional capacity, and deepening Aboriginal-led practice.

Service Data and Value for Money

Analysis of Home Stretch WA STT data from February 2023 to September 2025 shows that engagement is generally sustained, with most participants remaining in the Program for at least one year and only one in four exits attributed to disengagement. Housing outcomes have improved over time, with numerous participants moving from unstable arrangements into more independent living, and the Housing Allowance and Staying On subsidies contributing to reduced homelessness risk.

Education and employment outcomes remain largely flat at the cohort level, with the majority of participants not engaged in work or study at either their first or last observation point. While perceived access to services and opportunities is high, this has not yet translated into sustained participation at

scale. Individual gains are evident, but stronger pathways and more coordinated supports appear necessary to drive system-level change.

The economic analysis confirms that Home Stretch WA delivers strong value for money. Against delivery costs of approximately \$26 million between 2022/23 and 2024/25, the Program generates an estimated \$60.9 to \$70.5 million in benefits over 20 years – a Benefit–Cost Ratio of 2.42 to 2.62, or around \$2.50 in benefits for every dollar invested.

The majority of quantified benefits are driven by Transition Coaching, Staying On arrangements and the Smooth Transition component, with overall value primarily arising from improved housing stability, wellbeing and sustained support rather than employment outcomes alone.

Service Level Outcomes (SLO) Assessment

Three of the five SLOs are being achieved to a high degree: successful transitions to adulthood, responsiveness to young people's needs, and culturally responsive, place-based delivery. Progress is more moderate for housing, health care, education and employment access, and for collaboration toward systemic reform – areas more significantly affected by external structural constraints.

Medium-term outcomes (as outlined in the Home Stretch WA Program Logic, see Appendix 7.1) show a similar pattern: consistently high satisfaction and relational support; moderate-to-high progress in transitions, cultural connection and independent living skills; and generally positive, though more variable, results in housing access and education and employment participation.

Overall Conclusion

Home Stretch WA is delivering meaningful, quality and cost-beneficial support for young people transitioning from care. The Program shows clear signs of effectiveness, supported by evidence from multiple stakeholder groups, data sources and methods. The Program's relational, person-centred and culturally responsive foundations are its core strength and the primary driver of positive outcomes. At the same time, persistent systemic challenges – particularly housing availability, education and employment engagement, and regional equity – point to a set of targeted opportunities to deepen the Program's impact as it matures.

Opportunities for Improvement

The following nine Opportunities for Improvement (OFI) were identified through the evaluation. These opportunities are provided to reflect areas where the Program could deepen its impact and enhance sustainability. They do not indicate program failure; rather, they point to structural and operational refinements consistent with a maturing initiative operating within constrained parameters.

Section 6.3 in this report provides additional particulars on the actions (suggestions) that could occur to implement the relevant OFI.

Note: Several OFIs require cross-sector collaboration and are dependent on broader system conditions (e.g., housing supply, labour market capacity). Progress in these areas will depend on coordinated action between Home Stretch WA, government agencies and external partners.

Table 1 Opportunities for Improvement - Summary

Finding	Opportunities for Improvement (OFI)
Some young people engage with the Program later than ideal timeframe, with pre-18 years preparation and handover varying in consistency	OFI 1: Engage participants earlier (e.g., ages 16–17) to improve awareness, preparedness and smoother transition into Home Stretch WA.
Education, training and employment outcomes appear limited, with many participants not engaged in work or study during the Program	OFI 2: Develop mechanisms to improve identification, entry and sustained participation in education, training and employment.
Housing shortages persist across all regions, with instability impacting wellbeing and hindering education, employment, and other life domain engagement	OFI 3: Explore strategic partnership development with housing providers, community housing organisations and relevant ACCOs to expand stable accommodation pathways.
Many young people continue to experience financial stress despite available supports	OFI 4: Embed structured financial capability development as a core component of Home Stretch WA financial support.
Program support ending at 21 ceases assistance for young people still stabilising	OFI 5: Introduce graduated or tapered exit supports to avoid abrupt program cessation for individuals with ongoing high and complex needs, including progressive 'stepping-back' arrangements implemented over an extended eligibility period.
Distance, constrained local services and workforce shortages challenge consistent support delivery across regions	OFI 6: Investigate and develop region specific outreach and delivery models reflecting local service ecosystems (place-based).
Access to cultural learning opportunities and Aboriginal mentoring capacity vary in consistency	OFI 7: In locations where workforce capacity is emerging, expand Aboriginal led cultural mentoring and ACCO partnerships and deepen culturally matched supports for Aboriginal and CaLD young people.
Young people value peer connection, but opportunities are limited	OFI 8: Further embed peer connection (including facilitation support) as a core protective and developmental factor within Home Stretch WA Program design.
STT data inconsistencies and gaps constrain both real-time and longitudinal analysis and performance tracking	OFI 9: Strengthen data consistency, integration and analytical capability across providers and systems.

1. Evaluation Overview

This section provides an overview of the Home Stretch WA Program and the summative evaluation, including the Program's background, core elements, intended service level outcomes and key stakeholders.

1.1 Home Stretch WA Background

Young people who have experienced out-of-home care face significant and complex challenges and are among the most vulnerable and disadvantaged groups in society. Although Aboriginal people comprise only 3.3% of Western Australia's population, they represent over half the young people in state care.

Home Stretch WA supports young people aged 18–21 as they transition from out-of-home care to independent adulthood. Unlike most 18-year-olds – 85% of whom continue living at home – care leavers have traditionally been required to exit support at 18. Home Stretch WA provides continued assistance to address these disparities and promote more equitable outcomes.

Its core elements include one-to-one Transition Coaching, the Invest in Me Fund (up to \$2,500 per annum for goals and crisis relief), Staying On Agreements and Subsidies (enabling young people to remain with carers), a Housing Allowance, and Support Circles to build enduring personal and community connections. The Program was rolled out statewide in April 2024 following an earlier formative evaluation and 2023 summative assessment.

After an extensive and consultative trial period, Home Stretch WA commenced service delivery in late 2022. The Program was formally rolled out statewide in April 2024, informed by a formative evaluation completed in May 2023. A subsequent summative evaluation assessing implementation and early outcomes began later in 2023 and was completed in February 2024.

A diverse network of Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOs) and community service organisations now deliver Home Stretch WA across metropolitan and regional WA, including providers such as Yorganop, Salvation Army, Wanslea, Mission Australia (with SWAMS and AYSA), Karla Kuliny, Broome Youth and Families Hub, Marra Worra Worra, Jungarni-Jutiya, MG Corporation, Robe River Kuruma, Bloodwood Tree Association, Geraldton Streetwork Aboriginal Corporation, and the Goldfields Indigenous Housing Organisation (GIHO), ensuring culturally secure and place-based support for young people statewide.

1.2 Evaluation Focus

The Department of Communities (Communities) engaged Quantum to undertake a summative evaluation of the Home Stretch WA Program to inform service improvement and support commissioning for the 2027–2032 period.

The evaluation assesses the extent to which the Program is:

- i. Achieving its Service Level Outcomes (SLOs) by meeting the needs of young people transitioning from the child protection system;
- ii. Appropriate, effective and sustainable; and
- iii. Efficient and demonstrates value for money.

The existing Monitoring and Evaluation Framework (2023) underpins the Summative Evaluation Plan, with data collection tools aligned to those used in the previous summative evaluation to ensure consistency and comparability.

1.3 Program Elements

Home Stretch WA is built around personalised, one-to-one support that adapts to each young person's goals and priorities, guiding their transition toward independence. This flexible and responsive approach evolves over time and may include securing stable accommodation, pursuing further education, exploring employment opportunities, connecting with community supports, accessing health services, strengthening social networks and building financial capability.

The formally defined elements of the Home Stretch WA Program are outlined as follows:

- **A Smooth Transition** – Working with young people (and their caseworker) from 17 ½ years of age to ensure a smooth transition into the Program and provide a seamless continuation of support until age 21.
- **Transition Coach** – works with the young person to provide flexible, one-to-one coaching support (a maximum caseload of 12 clients per coach). Coaches work closely with their young person, providing regular contact and assistance in various aspects of their lives, including accommodation, developing life skills and pursuing personal and vocation goals.
- **Invest in Me Fund** – A safety net fund (\$2,500 per person per annum) created to ensure a young person has access to resources to support them to meet their goals, as well as relief in times of crisis. Invest In Me funding is accessed through the Transition Coach who works with the young person to plan/request funding to meet their desired goals.
- **Staying On Agreement and Subsidy** – The young person can be supported by the Transition Coach and a Staying on Facilitator (separate role) to continue 'staying on' with a carer to ensure they have a stable living arrangement until age 21. This includes a payment and support to the foster or family carer.
- **Housing Allowance** – The Transition Coach can support the young person to access a Housing Allowance to assist them to afford a broader range of living arrangements.
- **Support Circles** – The Transition Coach can support the young person to establish an enduring network of personal, family and community connections.

1.4 Service Level Outcomes

The formally established Service Level Outcomes (SLOs) for Home Stretch WA Program are as follows.

1. Young people are better prepared and supported (via continuing support and resources) to successfully transition to independent adulthood.
2. The service meets young people's needs and expectations and responds to their circumstances.
3. Young people:
 - Have access to stable accommodation and health care,
 - Have their employment, training and educational opportunities met,
 - Have (and maintain and further build) a robust sense of identity and are connected to community and culture (and country and kin).
4. Services are culturally responsive and place-based, with a person-centred approach.
5. Service providers work with the Home Stretch WA Community of Practice (CoP), share data and collaborate to enable systemic reform.

1.5 Evaluation Stakeholders

Identified evaluation stakeholders include the following cohorts.

- Young people participating in the Home Stretch WA Program
- Contracted Home Stretch WA service provider staff
- Foster and family 'staying-on' carers
- External stakeholders and partners, and
- Department of Communities staff involved in program oversight or delivery

2. Evaluation Scope

This section sets out the evaluation's scope, focus areas, ethical foundations, guiding principles, and methodological approach, establishing the framework through which findings were generated. A detailed tabular summary of the approved methodology stages and timelines is provided in Appendix 7.2.

2.1 Objectives

The evaluation provides an independent, evidence-based summative assessment of progress toward the Home Stretch WA Program's objectives and Service Level Outcomes (SLOs). The findings offer critical insights to guide program improvement and inform commissioning decisions for the 2027–2032 period.

Specific Evaluation Objectives included:

- Collaborating with the CoP to review, refine, and reconfirm culturally secure, lived experience-informed methodologies and tools.
- Capturing and analysing qualitative and quantitative data aligned with SLOs – covering wellbeing, housing stability, education, employment, cultural identity, and systemic collaboration.
- Identifying data sources and analytic approaches to generate robust evidence and inform strategic recommendations.
- Ensuring the evaluation process respects the needs of Aboriginal young people and other priority cohorts.
- Delivering clear, actionable reporting tailored to policymakers, service providers, young people, and their families/carers.

As part of project inception, the evaluation focus areas and key evaluation questions were developed in consultation with members of the Community of Practice / Guiding Panel (the same entity). This collaborative process ensured that the evaluation reflected the priorities, lived experiences and cultural perspectives central to the Home Stretch WA Program in 2025.

2.2 Focus Areas

The core focus of the evaluation was to:

- Assess the achievement of SLOs, measuring how effectively the Program supports young people transitioning from out-of-home care to independent adulthood.
- Evaluate the sustainability of positive outcomes over time, identifying factors that influence medium- and longer-term success.

- Determine which program elements – including Transition Coaching, Invest in Me Fund, Staying On Agreements, Housing Allowance, and Support Circles – most materially contribute to beneficial outcomes, identifying what works, for whom, and under what contexts.
- Examine the Program's broader contributions to community and systemic improvements.
- Capture lessons learned to inform actions that enhance program delivery and guide future commissioning decisions.

2.3 Ethical Approach

The Evaluation was conducted under the original Ethics Approval granted by the Western Australian Aboriginal Health Ethics Committee (WAAHEC). Consistent with previous evaluations, Quantum applied established evaluation methodologies and ensured that evaluators did not have direct contact with Program participants. Additionally, as the Home Stretch WA Program has been operating for several years, the evaluation focused on assessing an established service model rather than researching a new or untested intervention.

Engagement with Program participants followed the approved Information Sheet, Consent Form, Withdrawal Process, and Distress Protocol, as outlined in Appendix 7.4.

2.4 Key Principles

The evaluation was underpinned by the following principles:

- Minimise Overburden – Use existing data and information wherever possible to reduce duplication and avoid participant fatigue.
- Ethical Practice – Uphold integrity and confidentiality; identify and address potential biases and limitations.
- Rigorous Methodology – Apply a balanced mix of quantitative and qualitative methods; ensure triangulation, validation, and evidence-based findings.
- Capability Building – Strengthen monitoring and evaluation capacity among service providers, partners, and Communities staff.
- Cultural Sensitivity – Ensure culturally safe and inclusive engagement with all stakeholders.
- Aboriginal Data Sovereignty – Respect the rights of Aboriginal peoples to control, protect, and use data relating to them.

2.5 Evaluation Approach

2.5.1 Mixed Methods

Adopting a mixed-methods approach, the evaluation drew on a range of data collection and analysis methods, principally:

- Surveys and interviews with all key stakeholder groups, including service recipients

- Case studies, developed with support from service providers, presenting young people's experiences and outcomes in the Home Stretch WA Program
- Review of reporting and administrative data, primarily through the Home Stretch WA Service Tracking Tool.

Complementary data triangulation processes were applied to ensure the validity and usefulness of the evaluation findings. Triangulation involved (a) comparing and integrating information gathered from different methods and sources, and (b) forming conclusions and recommendations based on the overall 'weight of evidence'.

2.5.2 Most Significant Change

The evaluation team incorporated 'Most Significant Change' (MSC) questioning in the methodology. MSC is a participatory monitoring and evaluation technique that focuses on program improvement by capturing changes in people's lives from their own perspectives.²

Participating young people were asked one primary MSC question framed around positive experience: *"What has been the most positive experience you have had since joining the Home Stretch Program?"* They were then invited to elaborate on why the experience was important to them and how it came about.

2.5.3 Personal Wellbeing

Given the person-centred emphasis of Home Stretch WA and the importance of participant wellbeing as an indicator of program effectiveness, the evaluation utilised and adapted the validated Personal Wellbeing Index (PWI; International Wellbeing Group, PWI-SC, Robert Cummins and Anna Lau, Deakin University, Victoria).³

As in previous evaluations, the PWI was simplified into a five-point scale, with satisfaction across life domains assessed as: *Fully, Mostly, Sometimes, A Little Bit, or Not at All*.

The final Young Person Interview Proforma is included at Appendix 7.3.

2.5.4 Service Tracking Tool

Utilised by service providers, the Home Stretch WA Service Tracking Tool (STT) workbook functions as a consolidated reporting system with several sheets capturing both client-level Minimum Data Set (MDS) information and program-level activity and investment data. The primary sheet contains deidentified individual participant records and core MDS-aligned fields spanning demographics, intake and referral details, engagement status, assessed support needs, action or support plans, goal progress

² See Davies and Dart 2005 for detailed information about MSC, <https://www.mande.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2005/MSCGuide.pdf>

³ International Wellbeing Group (2013). Personal Wellbeing Index: 5th Edition. Melbourne: Australian Centre on Quality of Life, Deakin University ; Personal Wellbeing Index – School Children 3rd Edition, Robert A. Cummins and Anna L. D. Lau, 2005.

and key life-domain indicators. These include education and training status, employment, living arrangement, parenting status, NDIS eligibility, housing allowance and case comments.

Collectively, these fields standardise who receives services, how and when they engage, what supports are delivered and how circumstances or outcomes change over time.

Supporting sheets extend the dataset into program performance, financial tracking and investment reporting. The 'Invest in Me' sheet captures reporting periods, provider details, investment types, life domains, funding amounts, counts of supports or requests, declined or appealed requests and qualitative notes, linking expenditure to service demand and categories. The 'GA IIM Actuals' sheet records funded places, allocations, budgets and financial-year tracking to reconcile activity against contracted funding. Additional Lists and Definitions sheets provide controlled values and data definitions, ensuring consistent coding and uniform application of MDS fields across providers and reporting periods.

In this evaluation, the STT served as the primary quantitative evidence base. Participant-level records and program-level activity data were analysed to identify trends in engagement, housing, education, employment and goal progression, while financial and investment data informed the economic modelling. These datasets enabled a robust quantitative assessment of program performance and underpinned the cost–benefit analysis of Home Stretch WA's impact.

2.5.5 Methodological Constraints

As outlined, the evaluation applied a robust mixed-methods design, incorporating triangulation across quantitative, qualitative and administrative data sources. This included survey and interview data, Most Significant Change (MSC) narratives, case studies and STT administrative data. While this approach strengthens the reliability of findings through convergence of evidence, several methodological limitations should be considered when viewing results.

First, the STT shows the data-quality issues identified in OFI 9, including inconsistent structures, definitions and coding across providers; gaps in key fields; and the absence of geographic identifiers and time-series data needed for reliable longitudinal or regional analysis. Accordingly, findings relating to education, training and employment outcomes, and to regional comparisons, should be interpreted with this context in mind.

Second, survey and interview findings are based on self-reported data from Program participants and stakeholders. While coach-supported survey completion enabled inclusion of vulnerable young people who may otherwise not have participated, it also increases the likelihood of socially desirable responding. Triangulation with other data sources (e.g., STT, case studies and stakeholder surveys) partially mitigates this risk, but it remains an important consideration when interpreting participant-reported outcomes. The achieved sample ($n = 230$) is substantial but reflects a Program-engaged cohort and may not fully capture the experiences of disengaged or harder-to-reach participants. Additionally, the longitudinal paired dataset ($n = 23$) should similarly be interpreted as illustrative rather than statistically representative.

Third, the evaluation period (2023–2025) provides a relatively short observation window for assessing sustained or long-term outcomes, particularly in domains such as education, employment and independent living. While early and medium-term outcomes are observable, the evaluation’s capacity to draw firm conclusions about long-term trajectories and life-course impacts is necessarily limited.

3. Survey Results

3.1 Home Stretch WA Young People

Supported by their Transition Coaches, 230 young people completed the Home Stretch WA survey, either in full or in part. Two additional young people declined to provide consent. The survey respondents represent 39.5% – close to two in five – of the 582 onboarded active or aged-out young people who participated in Home Stretch WA and whose records were captured in the STT in September 2025.

This total includes 532 active participants, and 50 aged-out participants (noting that eight respondents were no longer engaged with the Program at the time they completed the survey). For a full breakdown of referral and engagement status, see Figure 1: *Participants by Status of Enrolment in September 2025*.

The 230 survey records were submitted directly to Quantum through the online survey instrument, or scanned and sent electronically during November and December 2025.

In total, 59 participants (25.7% of all respondents) identified as Aboriginal. Given Aboriginal young people comprise more than 50% of the Home Stretch WA participant cohort, this represents an underrepresentation relative to the overall Program profile. That notwithstanding, the evaluation team considers the number of Aboriginal respondents sufficient to support indicative findings about this cohort's experiences, particularly when read alongside other evidence.

In this regard, survey findings were not relied upon in isolation. The evaluation design incorporated multiple complementary methods – including Most Significant Change (MSC) narratives, case studies (50% of whom were Aboriginal), and engagement with Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOS) – which provide additional culturally grounded insight and help to mitigate potential gaps in survey representation.

Demonstrating state-wide coverage, participating young people were supported by the following service provider organisations:

- The Salvation Army
- Mission Australia
- Yorganop Association Incorporated
- Wanslea Family Services
- Albany Youth Support Association (AYSA)
- Broome Youth and Families Hub (BYFH)
- Karla Kuliny Aboriginal Corporation
- Geraldton Streetwork Aboriginal Corporation (Streeties)
- Robe River Kuruma Aboriginal Corporation
- Goldfields Indigenous Housing Organisation (GIHO)

- South West Aboriginal Medical Service (SWAMS)
- Marra Worra Worra Aboriginal Corporation
- Jungarni-Jutiya Indigenous Corporation
- MG Corporation (Yawoorroong Miriuwung Gajerrong Yirrgeb Noong Dawang Aboriginal Corporation)

Participants were asked to indicate how long they had been involved with Home Stretch. The most frequent response was 'between 1 year and less than 2 years' (43.4%), followed by 'between 2 years and less than 3 years' (30.2%). Other responses were 'less than 6 months' (8.8%), 'between 6 months and less than 1 year' (15.4%), and 'more than 3 years' (2.2%).

This distribution indicates that just over two in five respondents are roughly halfway through their Home Stretch journey, with most others still in the early or middle stages. This is likely to shape survey findings to some degree, as young people in their first one to two years are primarily focused on establishing stability – particularly housing, health, and safety – before they are able to move toward longer-term goals and higher-level outcomes.

The data demonstrate that a majority of participants (75.8%) had been engaged with the Program for over a year, indicating a depth of experience that positions them to comment meaningfully on its effectiveness.

3.1.1 Program performance

Participants were asked to indicate: ***How much do you agree with the following statements about your experience with Home Stretch from '1' Not at All to '5' Fully.***

Young people's responses to the statements are shown below in descending order of agreement. Percentages are reported (rather than response numbers), as the number of respondents varied across items.

In Table 2 and tables that follow in this section, percentages displayed in blue under the 'Statement' heading represent the proportion of participants indicating "Fully" or "Mostly" agreement. Percentages shown in red correspond to agreement levels reported in the previous 2023 evaluation.

Table 2 Young Person Agreement with Home Stretch WA Elements

Statement	Fully	Mostly	Sometimes	A Little Bit	Not at All
I can access health care if needed 93.4%; 93.5%	75.8%	17.6%	6%	0	0.6%
I can access education opportunities 91.9%; 83%	73.4%	18.5%	7.1%	0.5%	0.5%
I can access training opportunities 91.9%; 84.5%	68.5%	23.4%	7.6%	0	0.5%
If I have a problem, I can talk to someone	77.8%	13.5 %	4.9%	2.2%	1.6%

Statement	Fully	Mostly	Sometimes	A Little Bit	Not at All
91.3%; 88%					
I am able to access stable and safe accommodation if needed 91.3%; 88.5%	67.9%	23.4%	6.5%	1.1%	1.1%
I am well-connected to people who can support me 90.8%; 88%	66.5%	24.3%	6.5%	1.6%	1.1%
I am working towards the things that are important to me 90.2%; 84%	63.2%	27%	6.5%	2.2%	1.1%
My living arrangements are stable and safe 87.5%; 85.5%	70%	17.5%	9.8%	2.7%	0
I am confident to seek out services to support me with any issues or goals I want to work towards 85.4%; 83.5%	60.5%	24.9%	10.3%	3.8%	0.5%
I can access employment opportunities 83.7%; 82.5%	60.9%	22.8%	11.4%	1.6%	3.3%
I am developing my skills and abilities 83.2%; 82.5%	54.6%	28.6%	10.3%	5.4%	1.1%
I look after my health and wellbeing 81.5%; 82.5%	52.7%	28.8%	11.4%	5.4%	1.6%
I can connect with my family/families 80.5%; 74.5%	55.1%	25.4%	10.8%	5.4%	3.2%
I have an open connection to my carer family/families 79.9%; 72%	51.1%	28.8%	8.7%	5.4%	6%
I feel more confident 74%; 69%	43.2%	30.8%	17.3%	6%	2.7%
I feel that I have good control over my life 73.2%; 76%	44.8%	28.4%	18.6%	4.4%	3.8%
I am less stressed about money and getting by 63.3%; 64%	39.3%	24%	21.3%	9.8%	5.5%

Survey responses indicate that the Home Stretch WA Program is achieving consistently strong positive outcomes, with high levels of ‘Fully’ or ‘Mostly’ agreement recorded across the majority of statements. In particular, consistently high “Fully” agreement – around three in four participants – was reported across key areas of support: 77.8% of young people confirmed they can rely on someone to talk to when needed, 75.8% expressed full confidence in accessing health care, and 73.4% reported the ability to fully access education opportunities. These findings highlight strong relational support, effective pathways to medical services, and a solid foundation of educational provision.

Further to these results, several areas emerge as notable strengths and represent the Program’s most impactful domains. Each domain shows very high participant satisfaction, with agreement levels exceeding 90%. Young people reported strong access to health care (93.4%), education opportunities (91.9%), and training opportunities (91.9%). They also highlighted the importance of having someone

to talk to when needed (91.3%), access to stable and safe accommodation (91.3%), feeling well-connected to support networks (90.8%), and working towards things that are personally important (90.2%).

Viewed together, these outcomes indicate dependable and culturally grounded support in domains central to wellbeing, independence and future pathways.

Most outcomes remain robust, with “Fully” and “Mostly” agreement levels exceeding 80% across domains such as stable living arrangements, confidence in seeking services, employment access, skill development, and health and wellbeing self-care. Encouragingly, most areas show modest improvements compared with the 2023 evaluation, with the largest gains observed in accessing education opportunities (+8.9%), carer family connections (+7.9%), training opportunities (+7.4%), working towards important goals (+6.2%), family connections (+6%), and growing confidence (+5%). While a small proportion of respondents reported occasional barriers or feelings of isolation, the overall pattern indicates that the Program continues to deliver reliable and meaningful outcomes in areas critical to young people’s wellbeing and future opportunities.

Areas of relative challenge appear in domains where agreement levels are lower: feeling more confident (74%, though up 5% from 2023), sense of control over life (73.2%, a slight decline), and reduced stress about money (63.4%, largely unchanged). Although nearly two-thirds of participants indicated they were at least mostly satisfied, financial stress continues to be the lowest-rated domain, highlighting an ongoing area for attention.

In summary, the survey findings show that a large majority of Home Stretch WA participants feel empowered and are actively pursuing personal goals including in education, training, and employment. Wellbeing and safety ratings were also strong. Young people reported consistently high outcomes across the Home Stretch WA service model, with strong agreement in key areas including access to health care, stable accommodation, personal connections, and confidence in seeking help.

3.1.2 Young parents

The following question was only for Young Parents. It asked: ***If you are a parent, how much do you agree with the following statements?*** A total of 28 young people participated in this question, accounting for approximately 12.2% of all interview respondents and over 50% of young parents currently active in the Program (n=53). Response percentages are presented in the columns.

Table 3 Young Parent Agreement with Statements - Young Parents

Statement	Fully	Mostly	Sometimes	A Little Bit	Not at All
I feel that I can call on family to help me 67.8%; 46%	21.4%	46.4%	28.6%	3.6%	0
I feel I can reach out for parenting support if needed (e.g. day-care, cultural play groups) 92%; 77%	48%	44%	8%	0	0
My child is connected to family 84.6%; 53.5%	42.3%	42.3%	7.7%	0	7.7%

Compared with the 2023 evaluation, the current evaluation showed a clear shift from more polarised responses towards stronger agreement across all domains.

For calling on family for help, “Fully” agreement declined slightly (23% → 21.4%), but “Mostly” agreement nearly doubled (23% → 46.4%), with “Not at all” dropping from 15.5% to 0 – indicating improved overall confidence in family support. In relation to accessing parenting support, “Fully” agreement fell (54% → 48%), yet “Mostly” agreement rose (23% → 44%) and “Sometimes” decreased (23% → 8%), suggesting broader and more reliable access to services such as day-care and cultural play groups. For child connected to family, “Fully” agreement increased slightly (38.5% → 42.3%), while “Mostly” agreement rose substantially (15% → 42.3%) and “Not at all” responses dropped (23% → 7.7%), pointing to stronger perceived family connections for children and fewer reports of disconnection.

Taken together, the decline in polarised responses and the increase in moderate-to-strong agreement indicate more dependable support and a more stable, positive experience for young parents compared with the 2023 evaluation.

3.1.3 Additional caring responsibilities

The next question was only for Young People who hold additional carer responsibilities for a family member such as a sibling or cousin. It asked: ***If you hold additional carer responsibilities, how much do you agree with the following statements?*** Sixteen young people, around 7% of interview participants, responded. Response percentages are noted in the columns.

Table 4 Young Carer Agreement with Statements - Additional Carer Responsibilities

Statement	Fully	Mostly	Sometimes	A Little Bit	Not at All
I feel I have a support network I can rely on 81.3%; 50%	68.8%	12.5%	12.5%	6.2%	0
I feel I can reach out for carer support if needed (e.g. day-care, in-home support, NDIS) 75%; 50%	56.2%	18.8%	25%	0	0
I am getting enough help being a carer 75%; 40%	56.2%	18.8%	18.8%	0	6.2%

In line with the previous survey question, the data indicates a clear shift from mixed or limited support towards consistently stronger and more reliable carer assistance, with fewer young carers reporting gaps or disconnection compared to the earlier evaluation.

Reports of having a reliable support network rose significantly, with 'Fully' agreement increasing from 20% to 68.8% and "Not at all" dropping to zero. Access to carer support also strengthened, with "Fully" agreement more than doubling (20% → 56.2%) and no respondents selecting "A little bit" or "Not at all". Similarly, perceptions of receiving enough help as a carer improved markedly, with "Fully" agreement rising from 10% to 56.2% and "Not at all" decreasing from 20% to 6.2%.

Participants who responded "Not at All," "A Little Bit," or "Sometimes" to the item "I am getting enough help being a carer" were asked a follow-up question: *"What supports would you find helpful?"*. Highlighting the importance of both structural and relational supports, responses included practical care assistance, stable housing, financial support (e.g. Centrelink), and extended family connection.

Overall, while the cohort is relatively small, the 2025 results demonstrate a substantial uplift in carer support, with the majority of young carers now reporting dependable networks and services that meet their needs. This marks a significant improvement in both the breadth and reliability of assistance compared with the earlier evaluation.

3.1.4 Most significant change

Moving to consideration of Most Significant Change, all participants were asked: ***What has been the most positive experience you have had since joining the Home Stretch Program?***

Responses underscore the Program's role in providing practical, emotional, and financial support to young people transitioning from care. Common sentiments include feelings of security, independence, and empowerment. Many participants highlighted personalised assistance received from Transition Coaches, access to resources, and tangible achievements in housing, education, employment, and personal growth. While a few responses were neutral or unspecified (e.g., "I don't know"), the clear majority (98%) were positive, with no dominant single experience and benefits often described as ongoing or multifaceted.

Key Observations

1. **Trusted and supportive relationships:** Transition Coaches were the most frequently praised, described as reliable, responsive, non-judgemental, and proactive. This human connection provides emotional safety and acting as a gateway to other benefits
2. **Genuine gratitude:** The overall tone was consistently appreciative, with participants feeling heard, supported, and equipped for adulthood.
3. **From instability to security:** Many participants reported relief from homelessness, financial stress, or unsafe situations, replaced by stable housing, emotional safety nets, and reduced anxiety.
4. **Empowerment and milestones:** Support enabled major achievements such as gaining private house rentals, jobs/apprenticeships, education, travel, family reunification, and independence while retaining backup.
5. **Social and fun elements:** Events, camps, outings, and peer connections helped combat isolation and build community.

Response Clusters

Participants' responses were grouped into six recurring clusters. Each is summarised below with examples and representative quotes.

1. **Transition Coach Support** (≈65 responses): The most common theme involved the relationship with a coach – valued for listening, guidance, advocacy, responsiveness, and help with decisions or challenges. Participants appreciated having a reliable person to talk to, who checks in and provides emotional/practical support. *Examples:* Chatting/catching up with coach, advocacy for services, building confidence/rapport. *Quotes:* "Getting [Name] as my coach. I have not had this much help before"; "Having someone who is always responsive"; "My Coach always checks in with me, listens to what I need".
2. **Social and Community Connections** (≈25 responses): Building relationships, meeting peers, attending events/camps, or making friends was seen as fostering a sense of belonging and reducing isolation. *Examples:* Group activities, outings, camps, connecting with others in similar situations. *Quotes:* "Meeting new people. Making friends"; "Being able to meet other people in the same situation"; "... allowed me to meet new people".
3. **Health, Mental Health, and Personal Growth** (≈20 responses): Support for medical/mental health needs, stress relief, personal development, or life skills was highlighted, often leading to better self-understanding and independence. *Examples:* Accessing psychologists, medical appointments, anxiety management, reunification with family. *Quotes:* "Getting my health back in order"; "Learning about myself in ways that I didn't before"; "The stress relief off my shoulders".
4. **Financial Assistance and Resources** (≈45 responses): Many highlighted receiving funding, allowances, or help purchasing essentials (e.g., furniture, phones, food vouchers) as relieving stress and enabling stability. This includes IIM funding and housing allowances. *Examples:* Buying home items, car repairs, travel expenses, groceries/fuel. *Quotes:* "Having the IIM funding to help support me with the purchase of a new bedroom suite"; "Financial support and access to other services

(food bank, and IIM)"; "Getting the financial aid I needed to fix my car".

5. **Housing and Accommodation Stability** (~35 responses): Securing safe, stable, or independent housing was frequently mentioned, including private rentals, moving from unsafe situations, or staying with carers via agreements. These experiences were often linked to reduced stress and a stronger sense of long-term security. *Examples:* Finding rentals, , housing allowances. *Quotes:* "Getting a house for me and my daughter"; "Securing a private rental after being transient/secondary homeless"; "I have stable, long-term accommodation".
6. **Education, Employment, and Skill Development** (~30 responses): Participants valued help with enrolling in courses, job searches, apprenticeships, or skill-building (e.g., driving lessons, certifications), leading to personal achievements and confidence. *Examples:* Enrolling in further education, getting jobs, learners' permits, career guidance. *Quotes:* "Enrolling into uni"; "Getting my apprenticeship"; "Providing stability and helping me gain the confidence to get into the career I wanted".

Responses to **Why was this experience important to you?**, indicate that Home Stretch WA is widely valued during the transition out of care. Participants consistently described it as filling critical gaps in emotional support, safety, stability, and practical guidance – often where family, previous care, or other services had fallen short. The Program is regarded as transformative, fostering independence and confidence while providing non-judgmental, trusted relationships.

Key Themes (ordered by prevalence)

1. **Safety and Stability** (~45 responses): Participants emphasised the importance of secure housing and relief from homelessness, unsafe situations, or instability. Many described “feeling safe for the first time” or being prevented from “falling through the cracks”. *Examples:* Stable home, avoiding homelessness, safety for self and children. *Quotes:* "I finally feel safe in my home"; "Safety"; "So me & my daughter aren't homeless no more & we have somewhere to call home".
2. **Emotional Support and Feeling Heard** (~40 responses): Having someone non-judgmental to listen, trust, and confide in reduced isolation, built trust, and offered guidance without bias. *Examples:* Feeling understood, having someone who cares. *Quotes:* "Because I know someone is listening"; "Never had someone understand or listen to me the way [Coach] does. [They] saved my life".
3. **Building Independence and Future Security** (~35 responses): The Program was noted as enabling independent living, life skills, goal achievement, and long-term planning. *Examples:* Achieving independence, learning to manage money/life, future preparation. *Quotes:* "To help get ready for when I move out by myself"; "Helped me sort my life out more".
4. **Confidence, Personal Growth, and Mental Health** (~30 responses): Participants reported boosts in self-esteem, confidence, and mental wellbeing, alongside support in processing past trauma and developing identity. *Examples:* Building confidence, overcoming low self-esteem, improving mood/mental health. *Quotes:* "Helped me find my confidence"; "Better for my mental health".

5. **Practical and Financial Help** (≈20 responses): Financial assistance eases stress, affords essentials, and enables achievements otherwise out of reach. *Examples:* Housing allowance, buying needed items, reducing costs. *Quotes:* "the cost of living is high and I lack other support".
6. **Connection and Belonging** (≈15 responses): The Program was stated to reduce loneliness through, for example, peer connections, cultural reconnection, and family ties. *Examples:* Meeting others in care, reconnecting with culture/family, making friends. *Quotes:* "It helped me build connection to community which is very important for me and my mental health"; "I get to learn more about my culture and meet family".
7. **Goal Achievement and Opportunities** (≈15 responses): Participants highlighted support in reaching milestones such as education, employment, and family reunification. *Quotes:* "Because it helps me achieve my goals"; "My [child] is my life... made it possible to be reunited".

When next asked **How Did the Experience Come About?**, most experiences originated from regular contact with a Transition Coach, through ongoing meetings, phone calls, and messages where goals and challenges were shared. Others arose from direct requests for help, with coaches responding to needs such as funding, resumes, or housing. Many noted that coaches proactively offered support or opportunities. Some experiences were prompted by personal crises, such as family conflict, and others stemmed from program events or structured processes, including funding approvals or housing allowances.

Overall, the responses reinforce that many positive outcomes in Home Stretch WA are not incidental; they are deliberately facilitated through consistent engagement, proactive coaching, and the Program's readiness to respond to expressed needs.

3.1.5 Personal wellbeing

Presenting the personal wellbeing index measures, participating young people were next asked: **How satisfied are you with the following areas of your life on a scale from '1' Not at all satisfied to '5' Fully satisfied?**

The survey results displayed under the 'Statement' heading in Table 5 feature percentages in blue font to indicate levels of "Fully" or "Mostly" agreement for all participants. The percentages shown in red indicate levels of agreement provided during the 2023 evaluation.

Table 5 Satisfaction with Personal Wellbeing

Personal Well Being Statement	Fully	Mostly	Sometimes	A Little Bit	Not at All
Your standard of living? 82%; 79.5%	41%	41%	11.6%	4.6%	1.7%
Your personal health? 71.7%; 72.5%	34.7%	37%	23.1%	4%	1.2%
What you're achieving in life? 69.2%; 66.5%	29.1%	40.1%	23.8%	5.2%	1.7%

Your personal relationships? 78.5%; 77%	41.3%	37.2%	15.1%	4.7%	1.7%
How safe you feel? 90.7%; 85.5%	62.4%	28.3%	6.4%	2.9%	0
Feeling part of your community? 68.2%; 66%	38.7%	29.5%	19.1%	6.9%	5.8%

While overall patterns in evaluation results remained similar, the 2025 results indicate incremental improvements across most wellbeing domains, with a greater proportion of participants reporting they are “Fully” or “Mostly” satisfied.

The majority of participants reported positive wellbeing outcomes, with high levels of satisfaction across key domains. Highlighting the delivery of a strong foundation for wellbeing, personal safety emerged as the strongest area, with more than 90% of participants feeling at least mostly safe and over three in five fully satisfied.

Living standards and personal relationships also showed high satisfaction, reflecting the Program’s role in building trust and supporting personal goals. Achievement in life presents solid outcomes, with close to 70% satisfied, though fewer reported being fully satisfied – suggesting progress toward goals is steady but still developing for many.

Health outcomes remained steady, with moderate satisfaction overall but a notable minority continuing to experience challenges; nearly one in four reported being only “Sometimes” satisfied, signalling persistent issues in this domain.

Finally, community connection, while generally positive, remains the weakest area: around two-thirds feel at least mostly connected, yet a significant proportion (12.7%) report only partial or no sense of belonging.

3.1.6 Personal items and training

The next question asked participating young people to: ***indicate which of the following items you have and which training you have completed***. The table below shows the percentages of responses.

Table 6 Personal Items and Training Completed

Item or Training	Yes	No	Not Applicable
Birth Certificate	95.9%	3.5%	0.6%
Child’s Birth Certificate (if applicable)	17.7%	2.8%	79.5%
Drivers Licence / Proof of Age Card 81% Yes in 2023	90.8%	8.1%	1.1%
Proof of Citizenship 35.5% Yes in 2023	46.4%	8.4%	45.2%

Smart Rider (for Public Transport)	58.2%	23.5%	18.2%
Resume / CV	86.7%	8.1%	5.2%
Job readiness training/skills	72.7%	17.4%	9.9%
Public or community housing application	68%	13.4%	18.6%
Personal Bank Account	98.3%	0	1.7%
Health Care Card	87.9%	6.3%	5.8%
Medicare Card	97.1%	2.3%	0.6%
Student Card	33.1%	29%	37.9%
White Card (for building site work, issued by RTOs) 16% Yes in 2023	27.2%	34.9%	37.9%
Centrelink Income	79.6%	7.6%	12.8%
Passport	64.9%	32.2%	2.9%
How to manage and save money 73% Yes in 2023	78.1%	19%	2.9%

The 2025 evaluation shows that most young people have secured essential identification and financial items, with near-universal access to birth certificates, bank accounts, Medicare Cards, and resumes. Appreciable gains were evident in driver's licences, proof of citizenship, and White Cards, reflecting improved independence, employability, and access to services. Health documentation (Medicare and Health Care Cards) is also widely held, supporting consistent access to preventative and primary care.

Key Insights: 2023 – 2025 evaluations

- Major Improvements: Driver's licences (+9.8%), proof of citizenship (+10.9%), White Card (+11.2%), and financial literacy (+5.1%) evidence gains in independence, employability, and resilience.
- Health Documentation: Possession of Medicare (+2.1%) and Health Care Cards (+3.9%) both increased, strengthening access to essential health care.
- Foundational domains: Birth certificates and bank accounts remained near-universal, ensuring reliable identification and financial inclusion across the cohort.
- Stable Domains: Resume/CV, Centrelink income, and student cards remained consistent.
- Declines were observed in public transport (Smart Rider card) uptake (-4.8%), housing applications (-6%) and job-readiness training (-3.3%). These shifts may reflect the

circumstances of a larger proportion of non-metropolitan participants, as well as varied housing situations and pathways.

3.1.7 Program experience

Participants were next asked: ***How much do you agree with the following statements about your experience with Home Stretch?*** Response percentages are listed in the following table.

Table 7 Young Person Experience with Home Stretch WA

Statement	Fully	Mostly	Sometimes	A Little Bit	Not at All
Is respectful 96.5%; 97%	87.9%	8.6%	2.9%	0.6%	0
Takes my strengths and potential into account 93.5%; 97%	83 %	10.5%	5.3%	1.2%	0
Helps me get things done (e.g. encourages me, provides useful information, helps develop skills) 95.4%; 94.5%	83.9%	11.5%	4%	0.6%	0
Works with me to identify my dreams and ambitions 95.3%; 93%	75.1%	20.2%	3.5%	0.6%	0.6%
Provides support when I'm feeling down or when I'm feeling happy 93%; 92%	76.7%	16.3%	3.5%	1.7%	1.7%
Overall, is available when needed 95.4%; 92%	79.2%	16.2%	3.5%	0.6%	0.6%

Across all domains, young people continued to report very positive experiences with Home Stretch, with 2025 results showing consistent improvement on already high baselines. Ratings of “Fully” agreeing increased across every statement, indicating strengthened trust, relational quality, practical support, and overall program effectiveness.

Respect remained exceptionally high (rising from 86% to 87.9%), and there were notable increases in perceptions that coaches and others take strengths and potential into account (74.5% → 83%) and help young people get things done (76.5% → 83.9%). Support around dreams and ambitions, emotional wellbeing, and availability when needed also improved, with fewer young people selecting “Sometimes” or “A little bit,” suggesting more consistent and reliable support.

Overall, the 2025 results indicate sustained and strengthened relational and practical support, reflected in young people’s reports of increased respect, encouragement, and availability. These improvements point to stronger coaching relationships and more responsive support during the transition from care.

3.1.8 Aboriginal young people

The following identity-related question was only for the consideration of Aboriginal young people who agreed to participate. The question presented was: ***how much do you agree with the following statements about your identity?***

Fifty-nine young people responded to each statement associated with the question, with response percentages presented in the following table.

Table 8 Aboriginal Young Person Identity

Statement	Fully	Mostly	Sometimes	A Little Bit	Not at All
I feel I belong to my home community, culture and Country 67.8%; 60.5%	50.8%	17%	20.3%	3.4%	8.5%
Being connected to my home community is important to me 76.2%; 75.5%	61%	15.2%	15.2%	3.4%	5.1%
I have a family member or trusted person I can contact if needed 88.1%; 71.5%	74.6%	13.5%	5.1%	1.7%	5.1%

Across all three identity-related statements, the 2025 results show substantial improvements in young people's sense of belonging, cultural connection, and access to trusted support.

Belonging to home community, culture and Country increased markedly, with full agreement rising from 38% to 50.8% and fewer young people selecting "Sometimes" or "A little bit". This pattern indicates a strengthening and more consistent experience of cultural identity and connection.

The importance of connection to home community also grew, with full agreement increasing from 49% to 61%, indicating deeper recognition of cultural ties as central to wellbeing.

The most substantial improvement was in having a trusted family member or person to contact, where full agreement rose significantly from 56.5% to 74.6% (+18.1%). This change points to stronger relational safety nets and improved perceived support.

Overall, the 2025 results indicate strengthened cultural identity, stronger connection to community and Country, and notable improvements in access to trusted relationships – key building blocks of wellbeing, stability, resilience and self-determination for Aboriginal young people. These shifts point to continued progress in delivering culturally safe and responsive transition support.

3.1.9 Culturally and Linguistically Diverse young people

The same question was asked only for Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CaLD) young people. Eighteen young people responded to each statement, with response percentages presented in the following table.

Table 9 CaLD Young Person Identity

Statement	Fully	Mostly	Sometimes	A Little Bit	Not at All
I feel I belong to my home community, culture and country 61.1%; 55.5%	55.6%	5.5%	22.2%	5.5%	11.1%
Being connected to my home community is important to me 72.2%; 78%	61.1%	11.1%	16.7%	5.5%	5.5%
I have a family member or trusted person I can contact if needed 88.9%; 78%	77.8%	11.1%	0	0	11.1%

The 2025 results show substantial increases in agreement across all three identity-related statements for CaLD participants, indicating strengthened cultural connection, belonging, and access to trusted support.

Compared with 2023 findings, feelings of belonging increased markedly, with full agreement rising from 33.25% to 55.6%. Although a small proportion selected “Not at all” in 2025 (2 people, 11.1%), the overall shift suggests a stronger sense of cultural grounding for most participants.

The importance of connection to home community also strengthened, with full agreement increasing markedly from 33.5% to 61.1%. This notwithstanding, small increases in the “Sometimes” and “Not at All” categories indicate a slightly more varied spread of views in 2025.

The most significant improvement was in having a trusted family member or person to contact, where “Fully” agreement rose from 44.5% to 77.8% (+33.3%). This indicates a more secure and reliable support network for most CaLD young people.

Overall, the 2025 results reflect stronger cultural identity, deeper connection to home community, and significantly improved access to trusted relationships for CaLD young people – key contributors to safety, stability, resilience, and wellbeing during transition from care. While the emergence of a small number of “Not at all” responses merits consideration, the overall pattern is strongly positive and indicates that Home Stretch WA supports are contributing to cultural connectedness and relational security for CaLD participants.

3.1.10 Aboriginal and Culturally and Linguistically Diverse young people

The following question was only for the consideration of Aboriginal and CaLD young people who agreed to participate. Addressing the importance of culture and connection, the question presented was: ***how much do you agree with the following statements about your experience with Home Stretch?***

Between 54 and 57 young people addressed the statements in the question with response percentages appearing in the following table.

Table 10 Aboriginal and CaLD Young Person Experience with Home Stretch WA

Statement	Fully	Mostly	Sometimes	A Little Bit	Not at All
Makes time to listen to my story 89.5%; 86%	77.2%	12.3%	8.8%	0	1.7%
Encourages me to express my culture 80.7%; 85%	63.2%	17.5%	14%	3.5%	1.75%
Helps me to learn my family's culture and history 61.8%; 71%	43.6%	18.2%	21.8%	10.9%	5.5%
Organises cultural opportunities (e.g. connecting with family or Elders) and attendance at cultural events) 63.1%; 70.5%	42.1%	21%	21%	7%	8.8%
Has supported me to return to country and/or participate in important family events 53.7%; 60.5%	37%	16.7%	18.5%	14.8%	13%

Compared with the 2023 participant cohort, the 2025 data shows a mixed pattern, with some strengthening in relational and cultural-expression domains, alongside declines in areas relating to cultural learning, cultural opportunities, and return-to-Country support.

Relational and cultural-expression support remains strong. More young people reported that workers make time to listen to their story, with full agreement increasing from 71.5% to 77.2%. Encouragement to express culture remained strong, with a modest decline in full agreement (66% → 63.2%) alongside small increases in lower agreement categories, suggesting overall stability with some variation in experiences.

In contrast, support for cultural learning and cultural opportunities showed some decline. Full agreement for learning family culture and history fell from 51% to 43.6%, with increases in “Sometimes” and “Not at all”. Similarly, full agreement for organising cultural opportunities dropped from 54% to 42.1%.

Support for return to Country or participation in important family and cultural events continued to be the most varied domain. “Fully” agree increased marginally (35.5% → 37%), and “Not at all” decreased (21% → 13%), but mid-range dissatisfaction rose, reflecting persistent diversity in experiences – conceivably influenced by inherent logistical, geographic, and resource challenges.

Overall, the 2025 results demonstrate strengthened listening and relational foundations, with stable encouragement of cultural expression, but also highlight challenges in delivering consistent, proactive, place-based cultural facilitation. These mixed results may partly reflect the greater participation of Aboriginal young people living in regional and remote areas in the 2025 cohort. In these locations, long distances, often extreme heat, seasonal weather impacts (such as wet-season flooding and road

closures), and limited local cultural infrastructure or staffing can restrict access to cultural events and return-to-Country experiences.

3.1.11 General feelings

Young people were next asked to reflect on their general feelings over the past six months, responding to the question: ***how have you been generally feeling over the last 6 months?***

The distribution of mental, physical, emotional and spiritual feelings is shown in the following table.

Table 11 Young Person General Feelings

Feeling	Really Good	Mostly OK	Sometimes OK	Not that Great	Bad
Mentally (mind) 61.4%; 57%	18.1%	43.3%	24%	10.5%	4.1%
Physically (body) 63.5%; 56%	24.7%	38.8%	26.5%	8.2%	1.8%
Emotionally (heart) 59.4%; 60 %	21.2%	38.2%	26.5%	8.8%	5.3%
Spiritually (spirit) 65%; 66%	31.9%	33.1%	24.7%	6.6%	3.6%

Across the four domains, the 2025 results show generally stable or improving experiences compared with the previous 2023 evaluation, with the most notable gains in physical and mental feelings. Emotional and spiritual feelings remained steady, with only minor shifts.

- The proportion of young people feeling mentally “Really Good” or “Mostly OK” increased from 57% to 61.4%.
- Physical wellbeing saw the largest positive shift, with “Really Good + Mostly OK” increasing from 56% to 63.5%.
- Emotional wellbeing was essentially unchanged, with a slight decrease from 60% to 59.4%.
- Spiritual wellbeing remained the strongest domain overall, although it changed slightly from 66% to 65%.

The pattern of results suggests that while young people’s overall wellbeing is holding steady – and in some areas improving – a minority continues to experience more persistent emotional or spiritual challenges. Additionally, compared with stronger ratings in other survey areas (e.g., program experience, cultural identity, and practical preparedness), young people’s general feelings show lower overall ratings and greater variation. Across the four domains, and consistent with the pattern observed in 2023, no more than two-thirds of participants reported feeling “Really Good” or “Mostly OK” in 2025. On average, around two in five young people continued to report that they felt only “Sometimes OK” or worse, indicating a sizeable cohort experiencing fluctuating or lower levels of wellbeing.

Continued relational support, stability, and access to health and wellbeing services will remain important to sustain and build on observed gains.

3.1.12 Feelings of safety

The next interview question was: *how safe do you feel currently?* Response percentages appear in the following table.

Table 12 Young Person Feelings of Safety

Feeling	Really Safe	Mostly Safe	Sometimes Safe	Not very Safe	Not Safe
Mentally (mind) 79.6%; 77%	40.1%	39.5%	15.7%	3.5%	1.2%
Physically (body) 84.2%; 76.5%	52%	32.2%	11.7%	3.5%	0.6%
Emotionally (heart) 76%; 76%	36.2%	39.8%	18.7%	4.7%	0.6%
Spiritually (spirit) 76.3%; 77%	43.8%	32.5%	18.3%	4.1%	1.2%

Encouragingly, compared with the 2023 participant cohort and in contrast with feelings over the prior six months, the 2025 results show stable or improving perceptions of safety across all domains, with the strongest gains in physical and mental safety. Emotional and spiritual safety remained steady, with only minor shifts.

- The proportion of young people feeling mentally “Really Safe” or “Mostly Safe” increased from 77% to 79.6%.
- Physical safety experienced the most notable positive shift, with “Really Safe” and “Mostly Safe” increasing from 76.5% to 84.2%.
- Emotional safety totals remained steady at 76% across both evaluations.
- Spiritual safety changed marginally from 77% to 76.3%.

Despite noted positive trends, around one in five young people continue to report feeling only “Sometimes Safe” or worse in at least one domain. Again, this persistent cohort highlights the importance of ongoing relational support, therapeutic engagement, and culturally grounded safety practices.

Notably, young people reported substantially higher levels of current safety than longer-term wellbeing (i.e., general feelings over the last six months) across all four domains. This pattern, which ranges from 11 to 21 percentage points, suggests:

- Immediate environments and supports feel safer and more stable, with most young people experiencing a strong sense of present-day security.

- Longer-term wellbeing – most evidently emotional and mental – remains more mixed, with a sizeable cohort experiencing fluctuating or lower levels of wellbeing over the past six months.

3.1.13 Meeting participant needs

Participants were next asked to consider: ***overall, is the Home Stretch Program meeting your needs?***

Presented with the options - *Not at All, A Little Bit, Sometimes, Mostly* and *Fully*, a majority of participants (71.1%) stated that Home Stretch WA was fully meeting their needs, and one in four (25.9%) stated that Home Stretch WA was mostly meeting their needs. As shown in the following table, this equates to 97% of the interview sample and yields an average score of 4.7 out of 5, signaling consistently strong perceptions that the Program is meeting young people's needs.

Table 13 Extent to Which Home Stretch WA Meets the Needs of Participants

Fully	Mostly	Sometimes	A Little Bit	Not at All
71.1%	25.9%	1.8%	0.6%	0.6%

When asked to explain why they chose their answer, 152 participants provided responses, offering various insights into how the Program is meeting their needs. Common themes included:

- 1. Availability and Reliability of Support** (~45–50 mentions): Support is consistently accessible when needed, with frequent references to coaches being “always there,” checking in regularly, responding quickly, and being easy to reach.
- 2. General Helpfulness and Meeting Needs** (~35–40 mentions): Broad appreciation for practical and emotional assistance, with comments such as “they help me” and “doing everything they can”.
- 3. Positive Relationships with Coaches** (~30 mentions): Strong emphasis on trust, feeling listened to, encouragement, and supportive relationships. Coaches were described as “amazing,” “supportive,” and “empowering”.
- 4. Goal Setting and Achievement** (~25 mentions): Support with setting goals, completing tasks, managing life administration, building independence, and planning for the future.
- 5. Practical and Financial Assistance** (~20 mentions): Help with finances, housing, education, medical needs, transport, subsidies, appointments, and navigating systems such as Centrelink.
- 6. Emotional and Mental Health Support** (~15–20 mentions): Assistance with managing anxiety and stress, emotional processing, confidence building, and having someone to talk to.
- 7. Empowerment and Independence** (~10 mentions): Support that builds skills, encourages self-reliance, respects young people's pace, and strengthens confidence and independence.

Overall, the data reflects highly positive feedback for the Program. Participants value the reliable, personalised, and flexible support provided during the transition to independence. Key strengths

include accessibility, trusted relationships with coaches, and assistance across both practical and emotional domains. Critical feedback was limited and generally constructive, focusing on external constraints or a desire for additional resources or time (e.g., caseload pressures, remote-location challenges, accommodation needs).

3.1.14 Program improvement

When next asked: ***What, if anything, do you think needs to be done to improve the Home Stretch Program?***, 68 of the 141 respondents (48%) indicated that nothing was required, explicitly "nothing", "no", "happy as is", "nil", "N/A", or similar.

Around half of the respondents (52%) offered suggestions for improving Home Stretch WA, with proposals ranging from minor adjustments to more substantial structural changes. Recommendations predominantly focused on expanding reach and capacity – particularly through extending support beyond age 21 (up to 25), increasing housing options and rental assistance, providing greater or more flexible funding, and boosting staffing levels to reduce caseloads.

The most frequent challenges raised by young people centred on housing insecurity and the need for longer-term support – issues that reflect the ongoing realities faced by those leaving care. Many suggestions also conveyed empathy for “overstretched” staff, pairing requests for additional resources with clear appreciation for coaches’ efforts.

Specific improvement suggestions are noted as follows (ranked by frequency):

1. ***Housing options/support*** (16): Requests for more dedicated accommodation, units, rental assistance, improved real-estate coordination, support letters and help with high rent costs.
2. ***Extend program age/duration*** (11): Support beyond 21, commonly to 23–25.
3. ***More staff/lower caseloads/better availability*** (10): Additional coaches, reduced workloads, more one-on-one time, after-hours/extended hours, fewer cancellations.
4. ***Increased/flexible funding*** (7): Greater or more flexible "Invest in Me" funds, rental support, help with big costs (flights, cars, training), earlier funds access.
5. ***Events, activities & social connection*** (7): Group events (especially in summer), cultural opportunities (e.g., NAIDOC, other Aboriginal events), friendship-building.
6. ***Better communication & consistency*** (5): Clearer, more transparent explanations of funding decisions, reduced confusion.
7. ***Program focus & approach*** (5): More relationship-building time vs. goal-focused, avoid reducing support when participants succeed.
8. ***Cultural/identity-specific*** (3): Enhanced Aboriginal cultural opportunities, Aboriginal liaison, LGBTQIA+.

3.1.15 Life or situation context

When next asked: ***Please feel free to tell us anything else about your life or situation that you think is important***, 58 of the 97 responses (60%) indicated they had nothing further to share. Open comments were mostly brief. Where shared, responses highlighted ongoing real-life challenges typical for care leavers – including housing instability, family dynamics, trauma/mental health, and practical barriers – balanced by personal progress, aspirations, and gratitude for the Program's role in building independence and confidence. Cultural reconnection and achievement of parenting goals also emerged as meaningful for some.

Participants' reflections covered a broad mix of experiences. Housing challenges were most common (8 mentions), including affordability, remote access, accommodation needs and returning to regional communities. Aspirations appeared in 7 responses, from licences and mining work to vocational passions, happiness and strengthened parenting. Family and relationship issues were also raised 7 times, touching on exclusion, safer partnerships, large households, family importance and cultural reconnection. Mental health and trauma concerns (6) included neurodivergence, social anxiety and seizures. Six participants shared positive progress, noting confidence, independence and gratitude for support. A smaller theme involved frustrations with "Invest in Me" funding constraints (3), particularly in the context of rising living costs.

3.1.16 Additional comments

Participants were finally asked: ***Please provide any final thoughts or comments before we finish***.

Around 55% of participants (52 of 95 responses) reported having no additional points to make. Final comments were otherwise positive, with nearly half expressing gratitude for coaches and the Program's role in supporting their transition to independence. Many affirmed the Program's value for care leavers and said they would recommend it to others. Several reiterated housing needs or suggested Program extensions, but criticism was minimal and isolated (including one survey complaint). Overall, the tone reflects strong satisfaction with the support received.

3.1.17 Within-subjects change analysis of Paired Survey Data (2025–2023)

This within-subjects analysis examined longitudinal data from young people who completed surveys in both 2023 and 2025 (n=23, slightly fewer for some items). Paired t-tests assessed mean differences, statistical significance, and effect size using a five-point scale (1 = Not at All to 5 = Fully). Only complete paired responses were included.

Presented below is a statistical assessment of paired survey items:

- Mean Score (2025 and 2023): Average agreement/satisfaction score, calculated as total sum divided by sample size.
- Difference: Mean 2025 minus Mean 2023, with positive values indicating improvement.
- Paired t-test p-value: Tests for statistically significant differences between years. A p-value < 0.05 indicates significance at the 5% level; < 0.10 is considered marginally (near) significant.
- Interpretation: A brief explanation of the results, including effect size (Cohen's d for paired samples: small ~0.2, medium ~0.5, large ~0.8) and practical implications.

Note that questions with a generally small sample size (e.g., Aboriginal/CaLD-specific) have limited statistical power, indicating that while differences may appear meaningful, they are not necessarily significant.

Overall Summary

Overall, the within-subjects analysis from 2023 to 2025 shows a program performing consistently well. Across 47 paired survey items, results were largely stable, reflecting the high baseline scores in 2023 – often above 4 on a 5-point scale – which were maintained in 2025. This stability indicates that many aspects of young people’s experiences in Home Stretch WA have been sustained over time.

Within this consistency, positive movement was evident.

- Around three in five items increased in mean score, with five showing statistically significant improvement ($p < 0.05$) in health access, cultural support, and mental and physical wellbeing.
- A further seven items showed marginally significant improvement ($p < 0.10$), particularly in community and cultural domains. Cultural connection and support for Aboriginal and CaLD young people showed some of the largest effect sizes.
- Only one item – personal health satisfaction – showed a marginal decline,
- Employment, financial stress and family connection remained comparatively lower and warrant continued attention.

3.2 Home Stretch WA Carers

Carers in the Home Stretch WA ‘Staying On’ Program were invited to complete the survey through their service providers, following an initial invitation from Quantum on 12 November 2025. The survey remained open until 15 December 2025.

Forty-nine carers participated in the survey. Nine carers (18%) identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander. Carers were located across Perth, the South West, the Great Southern, and the Mid West–Gascoyne regions. The Carers Survey Form is provided at Appendix 7.8.

3.2.1 Program performance

Before exploring specific outcome areas, carers were first asked a broad question about overall program performance: ***In your view, is the Home Stretch Program working as intended for your participant?***

Highlighting a strongly favourable reaction, of those who responded, 34 participants (94%) answered in the affirmative, with only two indicating uncertainty. Carers overall provided highly positive feedback, describing the Program as effective, supportive, working as intended, and essential for young people transitioning to adulthood. Many highlighted the stability, financial relief, emotional support, and practical guidance provided by the Program – supports otherwise unavailable after leaving care – and several remarked that they “can’t imagine” managing without it. While most feedback was positive, some carers highlighted challenges with consistency of support, workforce capacity, and regional

access. Comments received are summarised below.

- 1. Stability, Security, and Transition Support:** Carers reported that Home Stretch WA provides young people with stability, safety, and continuity after turning 18. Through this support, young people experience a smoother transition from care, feel welcome and secure, and are becoming more independent and capable in managing adult responsibilities.
- 2. Financial Relief and Practical Assistance:** Financial support significantly reduces pressure on both carers and young people, assisting with rent, transport, medical costs, and other daily expenses. As was noted, it enables young people to save and contribute to household costs, and is especially critical for those relying on Centrelink.
- 3. Emotional, Relational, and Behavioural Improvements:** Carers observed better relationships, reduced conflict, and improved emotional wellbeing. Participating young people show increased confidence, motivation, and positivity, supported by coach mentors who provide encouragement, emotional regulation, and someone to talk to.
- 4. Coaching, Mentoring, and System Navigation:** Transition Coaches and mentors are highly valued for helping young people navigate government systems, employment and training services, and everyday life challenges. This support was stated to increase engagement in education, training, and employment.
- 5. Flexibility, Responsiveness, and Reliability:** Carers appreciated the Program's availability when needed, regular communication, and reliable support during difficult periods, contributing to a strong sense of safety and reassurance.
- 6. Limitations and Areas for Improvement:** Some carers noted inconsistent delivery due to staff turnover, workload pressures, or unfulfilled commitments. Regional access challenges (geographical barriers) were also raised which can limit the Program's reach, along with the need to commit more time for some young people – particularly those with trauma histories – to build trust.

3.2.2 Program effectiveness

Participating carers were next asked: ***How effective do you consider the Home Stretch Program is in achieving its intended Service Outcomes?***

In descending order of assessed effectiveness, Carers provided the following response selections to the options provided.

Table 14 Carer Ratings of Home Stretch WA Effectiveness

Option	Effective	Moderately Effective	Neither / Neutral	Moderately Ineffective	Ineffective	Not Sure
Young people have access to stable accommodation and health care 83.3%; 91%	72.2%	11.1%	5.5%	0	0	11.1%

Services are culturally responsive and place-based, with a person-centred approach 88.8%; 65.5%	69.4%	19.4%	0	0	2.8%	8.3%
The service meets young people's needs and expectations and responds to their circumstances 91.7%; 85.5%	66.7%	25%	2.8%	2.8%	0	2.8%
Young people are better prepared and supported to successfully transition to adulthood 91.7%; 86%	63.9%	27.8%	5.5%	2.8%	0	0
Young people have their employment, training and educational opportunities met 77.8%; 80%	61.11%	16.7%	16.7%	0	0	5.6%
Young people have (and maintain and further build) a robust sense of identity and are connected to community, culture and kin 88.9%; 77%	58.3%	30.6%	5.5%	2.8%	0	2.8%

Across the two (2023 and 2025) evaluation periods, areas of positive change included:

- Cultural responsiveness and person-centred practice saw the largest gains (Effective rating +23.9%; combined Effective + Moderately Effective rising from 65.5% to 88.8%).
- Identity, community, culture, and kin connections improved (combined +11.9%, from 77% to 88.9%).
- Meeting young people's needs and expectations, and responding to their circumstances also increased (Effective +6.7%; combined ≈ +6%).
- Preparation and support for transition to adulthood showed modest improvement, in terms of overall effectiveness, albeit this occurred due to more "Moderately Effective" responses.

Areas of slight decline included:

- Access to stable accommodation and health care saw a small drop in Effective ratings (-4.8%) and the largest decline in combined ratings (-7.7%, from 91% to 83.3%), although remained the highest "Effective" outcome overall.
- Employment, training, and educational opportunities were largely stable in Effective ratings (+1.1%) but showed a slight drop in combined ratings (-2.2%), accompanied by a notable increase in "Neither/Neutral" responses (from 5.75% to 16.7%).

General Trend:

- The 2025 results indicate broader confidence in the Program, with fewer "Not Sure" responses

and stronger effectiveness ratings in four of the six outcome areas. Minor declines in practical domains – accommodation/health and employment/education – appear to reflect normal variability rather than any systemic concern, occurring within an overall pattern of strong endorsement.

3.2.3 Support

Carers were next asked: ***To what degree do you feel appropriately supported by Home Stretch financially?***

Approximately two-thirds of Carers (64%) feel supported to a high degree, with over 94% expressing support to a high or moderate extent.

Two carers (6%) reported feeling supported only to a low degree, underscoring the importance of recognising individual differences and tailoring support accordingly.

Carers were then asked: ***To what degree do you feel appropriately supported by Home Stretch in other (non-financial) ways?***

As with the previous question, the results are encouraging: two-thirds of carers feel highly supported, and over 94% report feeling supported to a high or moderate degree. Again, a small minority (6%) indicated feeling supported to a low degree.

3.2.4 Program improvement

Participating carers were finally asked: ***Please provide any suggestions or ideas for how the Home Stretch Program could be improved.***

Carers' suggestions reflect a desire for earlier engagement (e.g., from age 17), longer support (with recommendations ranging from age 23 to 25), clearer communication (such as monthly check-ins), stronger cultural alignment (for example, pairing young people with mentors who share their cultural background), and more practical life-skills development – particularly for young people with ADHD, FASD, or other complex needs. Carers also highlighted the need for improved regional access and better coordination across systems, especially in remote areas. At the same time, many expressed deep gratitude and high satisfaction, reinforcing the Program's perceived value and impact.

Carers offered a range of practical and thoughtful suggestions for strengthening the Program, illustrated in comments such as:

- "It would be better if they were more involved from 17 so there is a stronger relationship before leaving care".
- "It would be amazing if Home Stretch could pair a young person with a mentor who shares the same cultural background".
- "Home Stretch needs to be extended to or beyond 25... young people who have been in care are at higher risk of mental health issues and homelessness".

In summary, carers expressed strong confidence in Home Stretch WA's effectiveness, with the clear

majority reporting positive experiences, meaningful benefits for young people, and consistently strong performance across key outcome areas. While some practical challenges were noted – particularly around consistency, regional access, and support for young people with complex needs – the overall picture is one of a highly valued program delivering substantial and sustained impact.

3.3 Service Providers

On 12 November 2025, emails were sent to participating service providers statewide, outlining the purpose of the evaluation and providing a link to the online survey. Service providers were able to participate until 15 December 2025.

Sixty-three service providers completed the survey (one declined), representing a well-distributed sample across metropolitan and regional areas, including the Mid-West, Pilbara and Kimberley. Participants included Transition Coaches, coordinators, team leaders, program managers, staying-on facilitators, youth workers and cultural leads.

Seventeen respondents (27%) identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander. The Service Provider Survey Form is provided at Appendix 7.9.

3.3.1 Program performance

Participants were asked: ***In your view, is the Home Stretch Program working as intended for Young People?***

“For most young people it provides a level of support that can be life changing” – Service Provider

“Young people are at the heart of everything ... provided platforms to share their voice and story to make positive change” – Service Provider

A large majority of service providers (46 people, 87%) reported that Home Stretch WA is working as intended. One respondent (2%) felt it was not, while six (11%) were unsure.

These results reflect a high level of confidence among frontline and other key staff in the Program’s design and delivery, indicating that providers see Home Stretch WA as effectively achieving its intended outcomes.

While the staff who were unsure or disagreed is notable, this may reflect staff who are newer to the Program, have limited visibility of outcomes, or are working with young people whose progress is still emerging. Several noted that outcomes become clearer over the full three-year cycle or that early-stage engagement limits visibility.

Overall, staff feedback was highly positive. The majority (83%) reported that Home Stretch WA is working as intended, consistently describing clear improvements in young people’s independence, confidence, housing stability, education and employment pathways, cultural connection, and life-skills

development. A further six staff (15%) agreed the Program is effective but noted that systemic barriers are limiting how fully it can achieve its intended impact. One respondent provided a critical assessment, focused primarily on organisational challenges.

Several themes emerged across service providers' responses:

- 1. Personal growth and independence:** Staff frequently observed gains in participants' decision-making, emotional regulation, confidence, and overall wellbeing.
- 2. Practical outcomes:** Many highlighted tangible achievements such as securing stable housing, obtaining driver's licences, progressing through TAFE or employment, accessing financial supports, and preventing crises.
- 3. Relational and flexible support:** A strong theme was the value of long-term coaching, trust-building, and youth-led practice, with Home Stretch WA described as a reliable "safety net".
- 4. Regional successes:** Staff in regional areas reported proactive outreach to highly vulnerable young people – including young parents, justice-involved youth, and those with disabilities – resulting in outcomes such as retaining child custody and securing NDIS access.
- 5. Life-changing impact:** Several respondents noted that young people themselves describe the Program as transformative, often providing comments such as they "wouldn't know where they'd be" without it.

Staff also identified some challenges that constrain outcomes:

- 1. Housing crisis:** Lack of housing was the most frequently cited barrier, limiting young people's ability to progress despite program support.
- 2. Complex needs and service gaps:** Issues such as long waitlists, NDIS overlap impacting on the transition coach role, loss of support during incarceration, and guardianship limitations were raised.
- 3. Preparation gaps before age 18:** Reported challenges included limited life-skills preparation, inadequate cultural knowledge, incomplete medical assessments, and insufficient leaving-care planning prior to transition.
- 4. Resource and operational constraints:** Difficulties included funding caps, waitlists, and set rules around supports – for example, Invest in Me, vehicle access, and assistance for justice-involved young people.

Overall, the responses point to a Program that is highly valued and effective, while also operating within broader structural constraints that can limit the extent of its influence. Staff emphasised Home Stretch WA's strong relational, practical, and financial supports, observing that it works extremely well when young people enter with adequate preparation and stability. The challenges raised were attributed largely to broader system pressures rather than weaknesses in the program model.

3.3.2 Program effectiveness

Service providers were next asked: *How effective do you consider the Home Stretch Program is in achieving its intended Service Outcomes?*

Service providers' selections, presented below in descending order of perceived effectiveness, reflect their assessment of the available options. Between 50 and 53 participants responded to each statement, with response percentages noted in the columns.

Table 15 Service Provider Ratings of Home Stretch WA Effectiveness

Option	Effective	Moderately Effective	Neither / Neutral	Moderately Ineffective	Ineffective	Not Sure
The service meets young people's needs and expectations and responds to their circumstances 92.3%; 100%	50%	42.3%	5.8%	1.9%	0	0
Services are culturally responsive and place-based, with a person-centred approach 88.5%; 100%	50%	38.5%	9.6%	0	1.9%	0
Young people are better prepared and supported to successfully transition to adulthood 92.5%; 100%	43.4%	49.1%	7.5%	0	0	0
Service providers work with the Home Stretch WA CoP, share data and collaborate to enable systemic reform 75.4%; 100%	35.8%	39.6%	11.3%	3.8%	3.8%	5.7%
Young people have their employment, training and educational opportunities met 84.6%; 87.5%	30.8%	53.8%	11.5%	3.8%	0	0
Young people have (and maintain and further build) a robust sense of identity and are connected to community, culture and kin 80.7%; 96%	28.8%	51.9%	15.4%	0	3.8%	0
Young people have access to stable accommodation and health care 62%; 79%	20%	42%	24%	6%	8%	0

For all but one of the outcome areas, the combined "Effective" and "Moderately Effective" ratings sit between 75% and 92.5%, indicating that service providers continue to view Home Stretch WA as a

valuable and effective model. Neutral or negative ratings are present but remain a minority. This suggests a broad, stable endorsement of the Program's core approach.

The highest effectiveness ratings appear in areas relating to: meeting young people's needs (92.3%), culturally responsive, place-based practice (88.5%), and preparing young people for adulthood (92.5%). These results reinforce that the relational and person-centred foundations of Home Stretch WA are working well, and that providers see strong alignment with cultural and community expectations.

Across both evaluation points, service providers rated Home Stretch WA positively overall. However, the 2025 results from a larger and broader sample show a noticeable softening in "Effective" ratings, accompanied by higher proportions of "Moderately Effective," and other responses. This pattern suggests that while confidence in the model remains strong, assessments have become more varied and deliberative. Contributing factors may include increased complexity in young people's needs, external pressures such as the housing crisis and cost-of-living impacts, a different cohort of respondents, and broader participation from regional and remote providers.

As one illustration, for education, training, and employment outcomes, combined effectiveness remains high (84.6%). However, only 30.8% rated this area as "Effective," with most (53.8%) selecting "Moderately Effective". This pattern suggests that providers see some progress, but outcomes are not shifting strongly, and young people continue to face structural barriers outside the Program's control, such as labour-market conditions, training access, and regional constraints. This aligns with the evaluation's broader finding of static or slow-moving education and employment outcomes.

Access to stable accommodation and health care remains the lowest-rated outcome in both years, with combined effectiveness declining from 79% in 2023 to 62% in 2025 – plausibly reflecting limited housing stock, regional health-service gaps, and broader cost-of-living challenges.

Survey comments reinforce this interpretation. Regional staff described significant geographical barriers, including "vast distances... to meet with young people who live in isolating communities, especially during the wet season". Others noted the loss of key systemic supports that previously enabled a "housing first approach", as well as internal program burdens such as "administration-heavy" processes that detract from direct engagement. Some respondents also pointed to organisational issues – such as limited professional supervision, training, trauma-informed practice, and governance challenges – that can affect consistent delivery

3.3.3 Performance

The next question asked of service provider participants was: ***How effective would you consider your own organisation's performance in delivering Home Stretch?***

Of the 44 respondents, 24 (54.5%) rated their organisation's performance as effective and a further 14 (32%) as moderately effective, giving a combined effectiveness score of 86.5%. A small number provided neutral, uncertain, or negative assessments (4.6% Neutral, 4.6% Moderately Ineffective, 2.3% Ineffective, 2.3% Not Sure). Overall, the pattern suggests strong organisational confidence in service delivery.

Clarifying comments were analysed and summarised under the following thematic headings.

1. **Positive Self-Assessment** (Majority View – 19 of 28 responses): Most providers rated their organisation's delivery as highly effective, highlighting passionate and adaptable teams that build trust and achieve strong outcomes. Reported strengths included person-centred practice, relational engagement, cultural understanding (where present), flexible funding use, youth participation activities, and integration with broader services such as housing and carer support. Providers frequently emphasised stable staffing, high engagement, and the Program's life-changing impact for young people.
2. **Operational Challenges** (8 responses): As already referenced above, providers acknowledge barriers impacting delivery, particularly in regional/remote areas. Common issues include significant travel distances and isolation (especially wet season), high staff turnover, local service gaps, and administrative burdens. These pressures appear to constrain proactive coaching, shifting the role toward reactive case management.
3. **Organisational Challenges** (7 responses): Several comments focused on internal organisational factors such as leadership, training, consistency, and cultural capability. Respondents identified a need for clearer communication and transparency, increased cultural safety and training, improved supervision and professional development, and reduced micromanagement.
4. **Systemic and Policy Constraints** (5 responses): Some providers highlighted external limitations that affect the ability to deliver the Program effectively. As was stated, these included reduced housing prioritisation levers, and restrictions on supporting young people during any periods of incarceration (note: Communities advises that this is not a restriction imposed by the Home Stretch WA Program).

3.3.4 Confidence in organisation's ability to deliver Home Stretch WA

A related follow-up question asked participants: **How confident are you in your organisation's ability to deliver Home Stretch?** Responses appear in the following table.

Table 16 Organisational Confidence to Deliver

Fully	Mostly	Sometimes	A Little Bit	Not at All
63.6%	25%	2.3%	6.8%	2.3%

Of the 44 participants who responded, 28 (63.6%) reported being "Fully" confident and a further 11 (25%) were "Mostly" confident, resulting in an overall confidence level of 88.6% - close to nine out of ten participants. This reflects a strong sense of organisational capability across participating organisations. A minority expressed lower confidence, with 11.4% combined selecting "Moderately," "A little bit," or "Not at all". Overall, the pattern reflects a workforce that generally feels well-equipped to deliver the Program.

3.3.5 Collaboration with CoP and Communities

Participants were then asked: ***To what degree does your organisation work with the Community of Practice (CoP) and the Department of Communities to collaborate and share data?***

The responses indicate generally positive, though variable, levels of collaboration. Of the 44 respondents, just over a third (34%) reported a high degree of collaboration and a similar proportion (36%) reported a moderate degree, meaning around 70% experience at least moderate collaboration and data-sharing. Close to one in five (18%) described collaboration as occurring to a low degree, and a further 11% were not sure. This spread of responses suggests that while many providers experience strong or moderate collaboration, others encounter inconsistent or limited engagement.

The next survey question asked: ***To what degree do you feel supported by a collaborative peer network?***

The responses show generally positive but uneven levels of perceived support from the collaborative peer network. Of the 43 respondents, just over 72% reported feeling supported to at least a moderate degree (30% to a high degree and 42% to a moderate degree). However, a notable minority indicated weaker support: 7% reported a low degree of support and 9.3% felt not at all supported. A further 11.6% were unsure, suggesting limited visibility or inconsistent engagement with the peer network.

Overall, the pattern points to a peer network that is functioning well for most providers but remains variable in reach and consistency, with some staff experiencing limited or unclear support.

3.3.6 Young people who disengage

The penultimate survey question was: ***What do you think are some reasons why young people may choose not to engage with the Home Stretch Program, or leave part way through?***

Responses indicate that young people's decisions not to engage with the Home Stretch WA Program, or to disengage part way through, are shaped by a combination of historical system experiences, individual readiness and circumstances, program design factors, and broader structural barriers. Disengagement is rarely attributable to a single issue; rather, it reflects a complex interplay between trust, timing, perceived relevance, and the young person's immediate life context.

Mistrust of services – often rooted in past statutory involvement – remains a dominant influence, intersecting with emotional readiness, a desire for independence, and competing priorities such as housing, work, and crisis management. Engagement is also highly dependent on the quality and continuity of relationships with workers, with turnover and inconsistent communication undermining trust and stability. At the same time, program design features, logistical barriers (particularly in regional and remote areas), and gaps in referral pathways further limit consistent participation. Together, these dynamics highlight that disengagement is seldom a sign of disinterest; rather, it emerges from the interaction of trust, clarity, stability, and the broader pressures shaping young people's lives.

Key themes emerging from service provider feedback are outlined below.

Table 17 Service Provider Key Engagement Themes

#	Theme	Weighting	What it means in practice
1	Life Complexity and Competing Priorities	Strong (Foundational)	Persistent instability (e.g., mental health, AOD, FDV, justice involvement, employment, housing crisis) significantly limits young people's capacity to engage consistently. This underpins most other barriers.
2	Trust Barriers and Systemic Legacy	Strong (Recurring)	Distrust of government, influenced by previous experiences of inconsistent support and staff turnover. Perception of Home Stretch WA as being linked to the Department can contribute to early uncertainty about engaging with the Program.
3	Engagement Readiness and Capacity	Prevalent	Many young people are not emotionally or mentally ready to engage, often lacking confidence, resisting structure, or needing space post-care. Flows directly from Theme 1 – internal readiness vs external pressures.
4	Perceived Lack of Need / Independence	Prevalent	Disengagement can reflect stability rather than risk—young people may feel self-sufficient or have needs met elsewhere, e.g., due to stable work, housing, income or family/community support.
5	Relationship Quality and Continuity	Prevalent (Key Enabler)	Engagement is highly dependent on strong, consistent relationships with Transition Coaches; turnover and limited (particularly early) rapport-building time undermine this. Trust → relationships → engagement.
6	Program Understanding and Expectations	Prevalent	Confusion about Program purpose, scope, roles, and links to child protection reduces engagement and trust.
7	Program Alignment and Responsiveness	Prevalent	Program structure (e.g., coaching hours, admin processes) may not always align with young people's lives and their expectations, leading to friction, distrust, disengagement.
8	Program Scope and Limitations	Moderate	Mismatch between expectations (e.g. housing provision, justice advocacy) and what the Program is able to deliver may lead to dissatisfaction.
9	Social Influences and External Pressures	Moderate	Family, partners, cultural expectations, and mobility can discourage or disrupt engagement. Relocation or transient living can disrupt continuity.
10	Geographic and Access Barriers	Moderate (Context-specific)	Distance, transport, connectivity, and regional / remote conditions (e.g., weather) can reduce consistency and access, especially outside metro areas.
11	Referral Pathways and System Gaps	System-level (Entry Barrier)	Some young people never fully engage due to delays, poor coordination, or lack of clarity at referral and transition points.

3.3.7 Program improvement

Participating service provider representatives were finally asked: ***Please provide any suggestions or ideas for how the Home Stretch Program could be improved.***

Suggestions from 31 participating service provider representatives were reviewed and synthesised into the program improvement themes below, presented in approximate order of prevalence.

Table 18 Service Provider Program Improvement Themes

#	Theme	Refined Insight	Implications
1	Housing Barriers Limit Program Outcomes	Housing insecurity is the most cited structural barrier, undermining stability and engagement. Coaches often manage crises without sufficient authority or resources.	Strengthen housing provider agreements for timely access; expand transitional options; increase flexibility in subsidies and housing supports.
2	Timeframes for Developmental Progress	The three-year support window to age 21 is insufficient, with early engagement dominated by crisis and foundational work.	Extend eligibility (e.g. to age 25); commence earlier (pre-care exit); align Program Logic with longer-term development.
3	Early Preparation Is Critical for Transition	Many young people enter without essential groundwork (e.g. ID, income, housing readiness), resulting in reactive support.	Strengthen leaving care integration; invest in pre-transition support; ensure early identification of needs and completion of core tasks.
4	Workforce Capacity and Role Definition	High administrative burden and unclear role boundaries limit coaches' capacity for relational and developmental work.	Redistribute admin tasks; clarify and appropriately classify the Transition Coach role; ensure adequate staffing and manageable caseloads.
5	Funding Levels to Better Match Support Needs	Current funding, including Invest in Me, does not reflect the complexity of need, particularly for high-need cohorts.	Review and index funding; introduce targeted streams for high-need groups; separate funding across coaching, housing, and case management.
6	Embedding Cultural Practice	Cultural practice is inconsistently embedded and risks becoming compliance-driven rather than relational and meaningful.	Embed Cultural Leads as a core component; prioritise relational cultural measures; recruit and support Aboriginal staff from relevant Country/region.
7	Strengthening Program Visibility and Referral Pathways	Limited awareness reduces uptake; referrals are often delayed, incomplete, or overly reliant on statutory pathways.	Develop accessible, youth-friendly communications; maintain engagement with key stakeholders; explore self-referral pathways.
8	Improving Governance and Cross-Agency Alignment	Variability in delivery, unclear governance, and inconsistent adherence to the Code of Practice affect program consistency and quality.	Strengthen oversight and accountability; formalise MOUs; invest in District Champions and cross-agency collaboration.
9	Workforce Leadership and Wellbeing as Outcome Drivers	Workforce retention, leadership, and organisational culture directly influence continuity of care and quality of support.	Prioritise retention and psychologically safe workplaces; adopt relational leadership; invest in ongoing capability development.

In sum, service provider suggestions point to a Program that is strongly valued but, at times or in certain areas, is constrained by structural barriers, limited timeframes, inconsistent practice, and insufficient resourcing. Reflecting provider input, the themes highlight a need for strengthened housing pathways, earlier and longer engagement, clarified roles, culturally grounded practice, improved governance, and investment in workforce capability and wellbeing.

More broadly, feedback from a well-distributed sample of service providers reflects strong confidence in Home Stretch WA's effectiveness in supporting young people's transition from care, while also underscoring the persistent challenges outlined above. Quantitative ratings indicate high trust in program outcomes, and qualitative insights emphasise meaningful gains in independence alongside clear opportunities to further strengthen program outcomes.

3.4 Department of Communities responses to Survey

On 12 November 2025, emails were distributed to designated Department of Communities stakeholders, including key staff and District Champions. These emails outlined the purpose of the evaluation and directed recipients to the online survey.

Participants were asked to complete the survey on or before 15 December 2025. Forty-five responses, were received.

The Department of Communities Survey Form is attached at Appendix 7.10.

Communities staff who participated in the survey were drawn from twenty metropolitan and regional offices / districts. .

The respondent group reflected a broad cross-section of operational, supervisory, and strategic roles across Communities. Participants described responsibilities spanning referrals to Home Stretch WA, case management and post-care support, district-level coordination, commissioning and contract functions, data and project work, and program oversight at both district and state levels. Overall, the responses represent well-balanced input from staff involved in delivering, supporting, or overseeing Home Stretch WA across multiple parts of the system.

One participant identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.

3.4.1 Program effectiveness

In descending order of assessed effectiveness, Communities staff provided the following response selections to the options provided.

Table 19 Communities Staff Ratings of Home Stretch WA Effectiveness

Option	Effective	Moderately Effective	Neither / Neutral	Moderately Ineffective	Ineffective	Not Sure
The service meets young people's needs and expectations and responds to their circumstances 97.3%; 76%	59.5%	37.8%	0.0%	2.7%	0	0
Services are culturally responsive and place-based, with a person-centred approach 94.6%; 88%	48.6%	46.0%	5.4%	0	0	0
Young people are better prepared and supported to transition to adulthood 97.4%; 76%	47.4%	50.0%	2.6%	0	0	0
Service providers work with the CoP, share data and collaborate to enable systemic reform 81.5%; 84%	44.7%	36.8%	13.2%	0	2.6%	2.6%
Young people have their employment, training and educational opportunities met 81.6%; 60%	34.2%	47.4%	15.8%	2.6%	0.0%	0
Young people have a robust sense of identity and are connected to community, culture and kin 81.6%; 64%	34.2%	47.4%	10.5%	2.6%	0.0%	5.3%
Young people have access to stable accommodation and health care 60.6%; 56%	5.3%	55.3%	21.1%	7.9%	5.3%	5.3%

For all but one of the outcome areas, combined effectiveness ratings (Effective + Moderately Effective) sit between 81% and 97.5%, indicating that Communities staff broadly view Home Stretch WA as delivering meaningful value for young people. Ratings represent strong results for a government-funded program operating in complex contexts.

The strongest areas of perceived effectiveness relate to the Program's core relational and developmental functions. The highest proportion of "Effective" ratings was for meeting young people's needs and expectations (59.5%), followed by culturally responsive, place-based practice (48.6%) and preparing young people for adulthood (47.4%). These findings suggest that staff see Home Stretch WA as performing particularly well in the domains most directly shaped by its model and practice approach.

When reviewing combined "Effective" and "Moderately Effective" ratings, a clear hierarchy emerges. Three outcomes score exceptionally highly (94–97%), demonstrating strong consensus that the Program is effective in meeting its core aims: preparing young people for adulthood, meeting their

needs and expectations, and delivering culturally responsive, place-based support.

A second cluster of outcomes sits at approximately 81.5%, reflecting generally positive perceptions but with greater variability. These relate to young people's identity and cultural connection, their education and employment pathways, and collaboration through the Community of Practice. While still viewed favourably, these areas appear to require more consistent practice approaches, clearer pathways or additional resourcing to strengthen impact.

The clear outlier is access to stable accommodation and health care, with a combined effectiveness rating of only 60.5%. Very few respondents rated this outcome as "Effective," and a notable proportion selected neutral or negative options. This pattern suggests significant structural barriers – such as housing shortages and regional service gaps – are limiting the Program's ability to influence this domain.

Overall, the results show that Home Stretch WA is perceived as highly effective in the areas most directly shaped by its model – relationship-based support, preparation for independence and culturally responsive practice – while outcomes dependent on broader system capacity, particularly housing and health access, remain challenging.

Comparing the 2023 and 2025 evaluations, the latter shows broad progress in perceived effectiveness among Communities staff, with combined "Effective + Moderately Effective" ratings increasing in six of seven categories (average +12.9 percentage points) and a sharp reduction in "Not Sure" responses, reflecting greater stakeholder confidence.

Key improvements include:

- 1. Meeting young people's needs and expectations:** Effective rating rose from 36% to 59.5%; combined positives from 76% to 97.3%.
- 2. Preparation and support for transition to adulthood:** Effective rating rose from 40% to 47.4%; combined from 76% to 97.4%.
- 3. Cultural responsiveness and person-centred approach:** Effective rating dipped slightly (56% to 48.6%), but combined rose from 88% to 94.6%.
- 4. Identity, community/cultural connection, and education/employment opportunities:** Combined positives increased substantially from ~60–64% to ~81–82% in each, with uncertainty halved or eliminated.

Collaboration via the Community of Practice remained relatively stable (combined 84% to 81.5%), with a modest increase in neutral responses.

Access to stable accommodation and health care remains the weakest area: Effective ratings fell from 16% to 5.3%, though combined positive ratings moved from 56% to 60.6% due to a shift toward "Moderately Effective". As noted, this likely reflects persistent systemic barriers (e.g., housing shortages) beyond direct program control.

Overall, the 2025 results indicate a maturing program delivering stronger outcomes in relational, developmental, and support areas it is able to influence, while structural challenges continue to constrain progress in housing and health access.

3.4.2 Organisation's Performance

Participants were next asked: ***How effective would you consider your own organisation's performance in the Home Stretch Program?***

The following responses were obtained.

Table 20 Communities' Assessed Performance in the Home Stretch WA Program

Effective	Moderately Ineffective	Neither / Neutral	Moderately Ineffective	Ineffective	Not sure
62.2%	27%	5.4%	2.7%	0	2.7%

The results show a strong overall endorsement of the Program's effectiveness. Nearly 90% of respondents rated the outcome as either Effective (62.2%) or Moderately Effective (27%), demonstrating broad confidence in performance. Only a small proportion selected neutral or negative options (5.4% neutral and 2.7% moderately ineffective), and no respondents rated the outcome as ineffective.

The 2025 results also reflect a marked improvement in perceptions of Communities' performance compared with 2023. The proportion rating Communities as effective rose sharply from 34.8% to 62.2%, accompanied by a decline in neutral and negative responses. These shifts indicate a substantial increase in confidence in Communities' role in delivering and supporting Home Stretch WA.

Overall, the findings suggest that Communities' contribution to Home Stretch WA is increasingly viewed as effective, with fewer reservations and a stronger consensus of support in 2025.

3.4.3 Comments on Communities' performance

Twenty-five open-ended comments afforded useful insight into how Communities perceives its own performance in delivering Home Stretch WA. The tone overall was positive, with respondents highlighting proactive effort, strong collaboration, and a clear commitment to young people. At the same time, several recurring challenges tempered perceptions of full effectiveness.

Key Positive Themes

- 1. Strong collaboration and relationships:** Staff consistently praised effective partnerships with Home Stretch WA providers, responsive central teams, and good communication.
- 2. Proactive referral practices:** Many districts report timely referrals around age 17–18, prioritising Stage 2 funding and encouraging engagement.
- 3. Central and project team support:** The project team was commended for its coordination, training,

governance, funding stability, lived-experience engagement, and responsiveness.

4. **Program advocacy and improvement focus:** Staff described championing the Program, driving continuous improvement, and keeping young people's outcomes central.

Key Challenges

1. **Late engagement and referral timing:** The 17.5 eligibility age was stated to limit relationship-building, especially in regional and remote areas, while some referrals also still occur too late.
2. **Regional and remote constraints:** Geography, transiency, staff turnover, and limited outreach create persistent barriers.
3. **Variable young person engagement:** Consent and post-18 participation remain inconsistent, with some young people declining or losing contact.
4. **Demand and workforce capacity:** Staff noted the need for better demand modelling and allowing time for new coordinators to build capability.

Overall Assessment

Staff generally view Communities as effective in championing, coordinating and supporting Home Stretch WA, with particular strengths in governance, provider relationships and referral processes. Recent improvements – such as centralised referrals and more timely district practices – were also recognised. Notwithstanding these strengths, some limitations, including regional challenges, workforce turnover and, at times, inconsistent young person engagement, continue to constrain outcomes. Staff noted that earlier referral pathways (e.g., from age 15–16), strengthened regional outreach and ongoing workforce development would help address service gaps and further enhance program outcomes.

3.4.4 Confidence in organisation's ability to deliver positive outcomes

Participating staff were asked: ***How confident are you in your organisation's ability to deliver positive outcomes for Home Stretch participants?***

The following responses, across both evaluation points were received.

Table 21 Confidence in Communities' Ability to Deliver Positive Outcomes

Fully	Mostly	Moderately	A Little Bit	Not at All	Not Sure
2025					
37.8%	43.2%	13.5%	2.7%	0	2.7%
2023					
26.1%	47.8%	21.7%	0	0	4.4%

The results show a strong level of confidence in Communities' ability to deliver positive outcomes for Home Stretch WA participants. Close to 95% of respondents selected Fully (37.8%), Mostly (43.2%), or Moderately (13.5%) confident. Overall, the pattern reflects a widespread belief among staff that the department is well-positioned to support positive outcomes for Home Stretch WA participants.

Additionally, the 2025 result shows strengthening confidence compared with those provided in 2023. The proportion of respondents who were fully confident increased from 26.1% to 37.8%. Combined confidence (Fully + Mostly + Moderately) remained strong overall, staying above 94% in both evaluation years, reflecting stable confidence across the organisation, with a notable movement toward higher levels.

3.4.5 Collaboration and data sharing

The next question for Communities' staff was: ***To what degree does your organisation work with the Home Stretch Community of Practice (CoP) and Service Providers to collaborate and share data?***

The results indicate a strong level of collaboration between Communities and Home Stretch WA service providers. Nearly 90% of respondents reported working with providers to a high (62.2%) or moderate (27%) degree, suggesting that data-sharing and joint practice are well-embedded across most districts and teams. Importantly, no respondents reported low or zero collaboration, reinforcing that partnership remains an embedded feature of program delivery.

Demonstrating consistency across the evaluations, the 2025 results closely mirror the strong collaboration levels reported in 2023, with only minor shifts in distribution. In 2023, 58% of respondents reported a high degree of collaboration and 33% a moderate degree.

3.4.6 Program improvement

As a final question, participants were asked to provide any suggestions or ideas for how Home Stretch WA could be improved. The 21 responses present a coherent set of priorities for strengthening the Program, with several themes emerging. Earlier engagement and capacity constraints were raised by over half of respondents, while issues relating to systems, workforce capability, and cultural responsiveness appeared in approximately one-third to half of responses.

1. ***Earlier Engagement and Referral*** was the strongest and most frequently raised theme. Respondents consistently emphasised the need to begin engagement and referrals well before age 18 – e.g., from 15–17 years – to allow meaningful relationship-building. This was seen as critical to preventing crisis-driven support once young people exit care.
2. ***Proactive Engagement and Promotion*** was raised and included the suggestion of more proactive outreach, and earlier and more engaging communication with young people, to reduce disengagement and missed opportunities for support.
3. ***Increasing Capacity and Reducing Waitlists*** was also a major focus. Many responses highlighted insufficient numbers of coaches and the impact of waitlists on timely access to support. Participants called for demand-based funding and resourcing to ensure young people are allocated a coach

immediately upon eligibility, rather than waiting during a period of heightened vulnerability.

4. **Regional, Remote, and Cultural Responsiveness** featured prominently. Participants stressed the importance of sustained outreach in regional and remote areas, improved access to culturally appropriate supports, and stronger Aboriginal representation within the workforce. Several respondents noted that Aboriginal young people, particularly those in remote communities or custodial settings, require tailored engagement approaches that are not always consistently available.
5. **Improved Systems and Processes** emerged as another recurring theme. Respondents identified some limitations in current data management, referral tracking, and inter-agency communication, noting that these issues can delay access, lead to duplication, or result in referrals being lost. Suggestions focused on establishing more user-friendly, centralised systems to support referrals, funding approvals, reporting, and accountability.
6. **Staff Training, Support, and Retention** was identified as essential to consistent service delivery. Participants pointed to the need for stronger induction, clearer understanding of program parameters (including funding flexibility), and ongoing professional development. Workforce turnover, particularly among coaches and coordinators, was seen as impacting service delivery, reinforcing the importance of strategies to reduce or mitigate staff churn including strong induction and training, and ensuring sustained support.
7. **Flexible and Longer-Term Support Options** was raised by several respondents. Suggestions included extending eligibility beyond age 21, improving housing pathways, and further shifting the balance of support away from ongoing reliance on basic subsidies (such as food or phone credit) toward building independence and connection to community-based supports.

Taken together, the responses point to earlier engagement, ensuring sufficient capacity to meet demand, strengthened regional and cultural responsiveness, improved systems, and a stable, well-supported workforce as key levers for strengthening Home Stretch WA. Participants consistently indicated that progress in these areas would improve access, enhance consistency of delivery, and support stronger long-term outcomes.

3.5 External Stakeholders

External sector stakeholders and partners approached during the evaluation (n=8) reported that Home Stretch WA delivers clear benefits for many young people, especially when engagement begins early and support is provided by skilled, dedicated staff. They highlighted a cohort of workers who consistently exceed expectations in advocating for young people and providing high-quality, relational support, viewing the program as fundamentally strong and well-suited to the needs of care leavers.

Members also noted implementation challenges that hinder effectiveness for some young people, including inconsistent awareness in residential care that can lead to late and stressful discussions close to age 18. Young people with complex disabilities often experience deferred access in favour of other pathways, and regional waitlists shorten the time available for meaningful engagement, diluting the

model's preventative intent.

These issues stem from system capacity challenges rather than policy design, prompting calls for earlier outreach, enhanced workforce training, better inclusion of young people with disability and reduced access delays. Members also emphasised the importance of maintaining clear distinctions between Home Stretch WA and other Leaving Care supports to maximise access.

Overall, the feedback affirms Home Stretch WA as an essential reform while highlighting targeted improvements needed to ensure equitable and consistent outcomes for all young people transitioning from care.

4. Young Person Case Studies

4.1 Methodology Overview

This section of the evaluation report presents a thematic analysis and synthesis of 18 participant case studies. These were submitted by metropolitan and regional service providers and consolidated into a single evidence base to enable comparative analysis. To assist, Quantum developed a simple case study proforma covering participant background, program involvement, achievements and progress, reflections on program impact, and an overall summary.

Providers were asked to submit up to two de-identified case studies of young people currently in Home Stretch WA or those who had exited, including through ageing out. These case studies gave evaluators important context and personal insights, helping to illuminate program outcomes and lived experiences that may not be captured through quantitative data alone. As noted, 18 case studies were received.

In addition to the cross-case thematic synthesis, the report includes a longitudinal comparison of three young people (Peter, Reilly and Liam – pseudonyms) who had case studies completed at two time points (2023 and 2025). A specific focus on four other program participants is also integrated into the analysis.

The aim was to identify patterns of change over time, understand how extended care and transition supports contribute to stability and capability, and draw out practice-relevant insights. Rather than reproducing individual narratives, the analysis focuses on trajectories, enabling factors, and the cumulative effect of consistent, relationship-based support during the transition to adulthood.

4.1.1 Cultural Lens and Framing

Across the 18 case studies, nine young people were identified as Aboriginal, representing half of the cohort.

The assessment is grounded in an Aboriginal community-controlled and culturally responsive lens. It recognises that outcomes for Aboriginal young people are shaped by connection to culture, kin, Country, and the presence of culturally safe, relationally consistent systems. Progress is understood as non-linear and contextual, reflecting both the strength of Aboriginal ways of knowing, being and doing, and also the realities of intergenerational trauma and systemic inequities.

Our Way, Our Being

The analysis is guided by *Our Way, Our Being* – Aboriginal ways of knowing, being and doing. This framework recognises that wellbeing, transition and adulthood are not linear or individually bounded processes, but relational, collective and grounded in connection to kin, culture and Country. Progress is therefore understood not only through individual milestones, but through stronger relationships, growing agency, cultural identity and culturally safe, accountable systems.

Applying *Our Way, Our Being* as an evaluative lens privileges lived experience, relational continuity and self-determination, and resists deficit-based or compliance-driven interpretations of success. This

approach aligns with Aboriginal community-controlled practice and reflects how Aboriginal young people themselves describe stability, safety and a good life.

4.1.2 Thematic analysis method

All eighteen case studies were reviewed using a thematic synthesis approach. The analysis focused on identifying cross-cutting themes, change trajectories and practice implications, while preserving the integrity and cultural context of each young person's lived experience.

The longitudinal comparison of Peter, Reilly and Liam examined each individual's circumstances at two time points (2023 and 2025). The analysis focuses on the direction and nature of change over time, rather than attributing outcomes to single interventions, and was undertaken with explicit attention to cultural context, including the role of ACCOs, kinship care, cultural identity and community connection.

Reported outcome proportions are drawn from provider-submitted case documentation and reflect progress within case narratives rather than independently verified quantitative outcome measures.

4.2 Findings Overview

Across the case studies, housing stability, relational continuity, and flexible, culturally responsive practice emerged as central enablers of positive outcomes. Core mechanisms such as Transition Coaches, Invest in Me funding, housing allowances, and sustained advocacy supported these changes. Young people with stable accommodation and consistent coach relationships were generally better placed to engage in education, employment, health care and future planning. Conversely, housing instability and system fragmentation were associated with heightened risk, stress and crisis-driven responses.

The longitudinal comparison shows clear change trajectories for the three young people with case studies completed in both 2023 and 2025. Over this period, each showed increased stability, less reliance on crisis responses, and greater self-management of finances, housing and daily living. As independence grew, support stepped back while maintaining relational continuity.

These findings reinforce the value of extended, developmentally appropriate support beyond age 18, particularly for young people navigating complex mental health, parenting, cultural or broader system challenges.

4.3 Thematic Synthesis

4.3.1 Housing Stability and Independence

Housing instability was one of the most consistent and significant challenges across the cohort. Some young people had experienced homelessness, unstable or unsafe placements, and delays in departmental engagement, often shaped by broader factors such as the housing crisis and limited crisis accommodation.

Despite these barriers, Home Stretch WA played a critical stabilising role. Transition Coaches worked to secure emergency or transitional accommodation, supported Staying On Agreements, and assisted

young people to obtain public housing. Stable housing stands as a foundational factor influencing outcomes across all domains, with young people who secured accommodation demonstrating improved capacity to engage in education, employment, health care and future planning. Conversely, where housing was unstable or delayed, risk, stress and reliance on crisis responses increased.

In several cases, delays in housing access extended beyond six months due to structural shortages rather than participant readiness, underscoring the broader system constraints within which the Program operates.

4.3.2 Health and Wellbeing (Mental, Physical, Cultural)

Many young people entered Home Stretch WA with complex health and mental health needs. Over time, coordinated support, advocacy and flexible responses contributed to improved stability, recognising that progress was frequently non-linear.

Mental health challenges were prevalent, including anxiety, depression, PTSD, suicidality and trauma histories. Some young people also navigated substance abuse or significant physical health conditions. Home Stretch WA appears to have contributed to improved wellbeing through, for example, advocacy for NDIS access and increased support packages, coordination of therapeutic and medical care, psychoeducation and emotional-regulation coaching, and consistent support and crisis de-escalation.

As the case studies show, these interventions were associated with marked improvements, including reduced suicidality, sustained sobriety and strengthened cultural identity. Cultural reconnection, in particular, emerged as a protective factor that supports resilience, belonging and long-term stability.

4.3.3 Education, Training, and Employment Pathways

Education, training and employment pathways were diverse and non-linear. Young people faced a range of barriers, including anxiety and limited prior work experience. Transition Coaches were noted as providing practical support such as résumé development, interview preparation, enrolment assistance and enabling access to short courses and certifications.

Outcomes included completion of vocational courses, securing full-time or stable employment, improved financial literacy and savings capacity, and emerging entrepreneurship and business growth. Positive outcomes were consistently associated with flexibility around readiness, tailored pathways and the provision of practical assistance such as advocacy, transport and equipment.

4.3.4 Relationships and Social Support

Many young people experienced isolation, fractured family relationships or exposure to family and domestic violence. Others lacked age-appropriate peer networks or supportive adults. In response, Transition Coaches played a central role in strengthening social connectedness by providing consistent and reliable adult relationships, facilitating safe family reconnections, supporting participation in peer groups and community activities, and developing safety plans to help young people exit any unsafe relationships.

These relational supports are evidenced as contributing to increased confidence, improved emotional regulation and a stronger sense of belonging.

4.3.5 Systemic and External Challenges

Across providers, young people encountered systemic barriers that sat outside the Program's control, including limited crisis accommodation and broader housing shortages, service gaps (particularly in family and domestic violence responses), and challenges accessing services in remote areas.

Transition Coaches frequently mitigated barriers through providing consistent advocacy, coordination and practical problem-solving. The case studies highlight the Program's role in buffering young people from system failures and ensuring continuity of support.

4.4 Core Evidence of Program Impact

Across the 18 case studies, the following outcomes were detailed:

- meaningful engagement in education, training or employment in 14 of the 18 cases (78%)
- housing stability achieved or maintained in 12 of 18 cases (67%)
- improved mental or physical health in at least 10 cases (56%)
- increased motivation, confidence and independence, consistently reported by multiple participants
- strengthened cultural identity for Aboriginal participants
- enhanced financial capability, including budgeting, savings and long-term planning, with Invest in Me funding supporting both immediate needs and longer-term capability building.

In addition, the Program's flexible, relational and youth-centred approach consistently countered limitations within the statutory care system. Transition Coaches provided the stability, advocacy and practical support that many young people had not previously experienced.

4.5 Illustrative Cases

The following indicative case studies provide a grounded sense of participant experience, progress and the kinds of challenges navigated through Home Stretch WA. They were selected to reflect a mix of success, complexity and system-level barriers, while centring the lived realities of young people transitioning from care. They intentionally exclude the three young people examined separately through the longitudinal comparison across 2023 and 2025.

The case studies are framed through a strengths-based, culturally grounded lens that recognises progress is not always linear and that stability, trust and consistent relationships often enable change. The emphasis is not only on outcomes, but on what made the difference.

4.5.1 Case Study 1 – Housing Stability After Crisis

This young person, from regional WA, exited out-of-home care with limited leaving-care planning and no safe housing options in place. As a result, they experienced prolonged periods of homelessness, rough sleeping in makeshift shelters, and exposure to significant personal risks, including family and domestic violence, self-harm, suicidal ideation and legal issues linked to survival behaviour.

Early engagement in Home Stretch WA focused on safety, crisis intervention, immediate accommodation and advocacy across housing and support systems. The Transition Coach built trust through consistent, culturally responsive support and undertook joint advocacy with regional executives, police and legal services to overcome eligibility barriers and secure emergency funding for temporary accommodation.

Invest in Me funding was used strategically for essentials such as groceries, bond payments and emergency items, while the coach facilitated safety planning to exit unsafe relationships and provided regular debriefing to address feelings of hopelessness and trauma. Through sustained, persistent effort, the young person eventually secured a stable public housing tenancy – a foundational turning point.

With housing stability achieved, wellbeing improved markedly: mental health stabilised with reduced self-harm and substance use, criminal offending decreased as survival pressures eased, and the young person began rebuilding daily routines, financial literacy and a positive self-narrative. This security enabled engagement in community activities, peer advocacy and long-term planning for independence. Despite ongoing external challenges, the Program's youth-centred, relational approach buffered these barriers, supporting a shift from crisis to dignity, motivation and proactive goal-setting.

4.5.2 Case Study 2 – Cultural Connection and Identity

This young person, from the Perth metro area, entered Home Stretch WA in 2022 with limited knowledge of their Aboriginal cultural identity and connections. This stemmed from early entry into care, a complex relationship with their father involving alcohol concerns, minimal contact with their mother, and a stable but non-Aboriginal care arrangement with their maternal grandmother since childhood.

Diagnosed with anxiety and ADHD, this young person faced barriers such as delayed psychiatric reports and challenges in self-advocacy. This noted, they expressed a strong desire for cultural reconnection from the first Home Stretch WA meeting. Through the Program's culturally safe, Aboriginal-led practice, engagement centred on trust-building via regular face-to-face contact, yarning, cultural mentoring, and family-tracing services. These allowed exploration of paternal connections at a self-directed pace, including links with Aboriginal cultural staff for guidance, funding for travel and resources like genogram development, and connections with Elders for storytelling and cultural immersion – all grounded in relational continuity across two Transition Coaches with a seamless handover.

Invest in Me funding enabled practical items such as art supplies, a tablet for study, a high-spec laptop for assignments and screen-acting classes to nurture creative interests aligned with cultural expression.

This support strengthened cultural identity as a protective factor, fostering resilience, belonging and purpose amid ongoing mental health challenges.

Achievements included completing Year 12, securing a paid traineeship, finishing a Diploma with distinctions, and receiving awards, alongside leadership roles in relevant national initiatives. Cultural growth translated into enhanced confidence, shifting the young person from a cautious student to an articulate mentor for peers. This was supported by improved life skills in financial literacy, social networking, and independent living.

Despite some setbacks, the Program's flexible, trauma-informed support enabled navigation of challenges, including limited access to family information. By program end in 2025, they had secured part-time youth support work, maintained stable housing, and demonstrated strong personal agency.

The case highlights how Home Stretch WA's emphasis on self-determination and cultural reconnection (at a participant's own pace) can counter systemic disconnection, supporting holistic wellbeing, economic participation, and a future grounded in community, heritage, and giving back through informal mentoring. Strengthening cultural identity proved to be a key protective factor, supporting confidence, purpose, and long-term planning alongside positive employment outcomes.

4.5.3 Case Study 3 – Health, Grief and Transition

This young person, from regional WA, entered Home Stretch WA during a period of profound grief following the loss of their primary carer, alongside significant mental health challenges and emerging physical health issues requiring specialist care. The Transition Coach provided immediate reassurance and relational continuity, acting as a reliable adult figure to prevent disengagement at a critical juncture. Support included housing advocacy via departmental referrals, coordination of health appointments, and grief processing through debriefing and emotional-regulation strategies.

Home Stretch WA funding addressed practical barriers such as fuel for travel to specialist appointments, while the coach collaborated with services to maintain income stability during recovery. Although some employment plans were temporarily disrupted due to health needs, the young person remained engaged and future-focused, supported to sustain housing stability, income and connection.

Over time, the young person secured temporary accommodation with a family friend and completed Year 12 despite significant disruptions. Mental health improved through better management of triggers and reduced anxiety, supported by the Program's trauma-informed approach, while physical health progressed as the coach helped navigate medical wait times and appointments.

This responsive intervention not only prevented crisis escalation but strengthened the young person's future orientation, building confidence in decision-making, community ties and a sense of security. The case illustrates Home Stretch WA's role in bridging service gaps and supporting young people to maintain stability while transforming vulnerability into proactive planning for independence and career goals.

4.5.4 Case Study 4 – Navigating Complexity and Systems

This case reflects a young person from Perth navigating multiple intersecting systems simultaneously. These included child protection due to long-term care involvement, housing instability from transient placements, health services for substance use, post-traumatic stress, episodes of self-harm and drug-induced psychosis, and justice involvement linked to survival-driven offending and addiction, including periods of incarceration.

Progress in Home Stretch WA was often non-linear, characterised by setbacks such as relapses into substance misuse, and relationship breakdowns, and delays in accessing supports. These were further complicated by strained but vital family ties, and the long-term impacts of childhood trauma.

The Home Stretch WA response prioritised trust-building through a Transition Coach who provided relational continuity and persistent advocacy over three years. Invest in Me funding supported essential needs, while referrals to culturally safe programs offered coping strategies and safe spaces. This included fostering involvement in decision-making, safety planning and emotional regulation sessions, with support tailored to language and cultural needs where relevant.

Over time, these efforts led to gradual but meaningful progress, including achieving sobriety, exiting rehabilitation and securing independent share housing. While education and employment goals were not fully realised, the young person made steady gains through consistent court attendance, completion of counselling and effective self-advocacy for preferred rehabilitation pathways.

Despite ongoing complexities such as potential relapses and financial constraints that limited their ability to make progress, a clear movement toward stability emerged through reduced reliance on crisis services, improved self-advocacy – including proactively contacting the coach after rehabilitation – and strengthened family connections. This narrative underscores Home Stretch WA's critical role in buffering system fragmentation through adaptive, wrap-around advocacy, promoting resilience by honouring the non-linear nature of recovery, and empowering the young person to shift from cycles of instability toward pathways of independence, abstinence and personal growth.

4.6 Integrated Longitudinal Analysis (2023–2025)

The following integrated analysis examines changes across three participants (Peter, Reilly and Liam - all pseudonyms) whose journeys from 2023 to 2025 provide a clear narrative of growth, resilience, and increasing independence. Each entered the Program with complex circumstances, including trauma exposure, mental health challenges, and systemic barriers. Over time, Home Stretch support appears to have contributed to greater stability and self-sufficiency.

4.6.1 Overall Trends in Progress

Across all three participants, a consistent developmental pattern is evident: a shift from immediate stabilisation and crisis management toward sustained achievement and proactive future planning.

In 2023, participants were primarily focused on foundational goals:

- Peter was developing basic employability skills while managing anxiety.
- Liam was preparing for work and beginning to explore cultural identity.
- Reilly was navigating pregnancy, misdiagnosis, and hesitancy to engage.

By 2025, these foundations had translated into tangible outcomes:

- Stable employment and career progression.
- Increased independence and self-advocacy.
- Stronger financial capability and planning.
- Improved wellbeing and confidence.

This progression underscores the cumulative impact of extended support over time.

4.6.2 Cultural and Social Reconnection

For Aboriginal participants in particular (two of three), cultural reconnection emerged as a key driver of wellbeing and stability. Strengthened identity, belonging, and community connection supported broader life outcomes.

- Liam's early curiosity about kin and Country developed into active cultural engagement.
- Reilly's previously distant family relationships evolved into purposeful reconnection and community contribution.

These changes highlight the importance of culturally responsive, relationship-based practice as a core component of program success.

4.6.3 Challenges and Complexity

Progress was not linear. Participants continued to experience fluctuations in mental health, service system barriers, and structural constraints such as housing shortages and limited regional opportunities. Periods of disruption, including changes in Transition Coaches, also affected continuity. These factors reinforce the need for flexible and sustained rather than time-limited support.

4.6.4 Program Contribution

Evidence across the cases suggests that Home Stretch WA's model played a critical enabling role. Consistent relationships with Transition Coaches, flexible funding supports, and advocacy with services (e.g., NDIS, Centrelink) helped bridge immediate vulnerabilities while building longer-term capability.

Importantly, support intensity evolved alongside each young person's confidence and skills. Early stages often required hands-on assistance and close guidance. Over time, this shifted to a lighter-touch, stepped-back approach that prioritised autonomy while preserving trusted relationships. This adaptive model allowed participants to exercise independence without losing access to a reliable safety net.

4.6.5 Cross-Case Insights and Implications

Taken together, these cases demonstrate that extended care beyond age 18 functions as a developmental bridge rather than simply additional service time. Positive outcomes accumulated gradually through sustained engagement, reinforcing that meaningful change is rarely achieved through short-term interventions.

4.6.6 Comparison Summary

Overall, the longitudinal evidence indicates that flexible, relationship-based, and culturally grounded support can enable young people to consolidate skills, strengthen identity, and transition into adulthood with greater stability, resilience, and confidence.

The table below summarises observed changes over time for the three young people over key domains.

Table 22 Observed Progression of Young People Across Key Domains (2023→2025)

Domain	Peter (2023 → 2025)	Reilly (2023 → 2025)	Liam (2023 → 2025)	Cross-Case Observations
Housing stability	Stable placement: increased independence and stepped-back support	Secured stable public housing near ex-carer; sustained tenancy	Stable kinship care with relative; planning for future independent housing	<i>Housing stability underpins engagement, wellbeing, and future planning</i>
Health & wellbeing	Reduced mental health risk; improved self-regulation and engagement with other services	Improved mental health stability; coordinated supports; reduced statutory involvement	Good physical health; growing cultural wellbeing and routine	<i>Health outcomes improve with continuity and coordinated support</i>
Education / employment	TAFE engagement; part-time to full-time employment; exploring self-employment	Focus on parenting and stability; gradual re-engagement with goals	Steady employment progression with skills development	<i>Non-linear pathways require flexibility and time</i>
Financial capability	Budgeting, savings, car purchase, forward planning	Improved access to entitlements and material stability	Growing financial skills and planning	<i>Financial capability strengthens with practical support</i>
Agency & confidence	Increased confidence, goal-setting, and self-management	Greater self-advocacy, parenting confidence, and independence	Increased responsibility and future orientation	<i>Agency grows as stability and trust increase</i>

5. Service Data Analysis

5.1 Summary

This component of the evaluation covered program activity from the Program's inception (2022) to September 2025, drawing on STT data for the 1,103 eligible care leavers recorded in the system. It assesses Home Stretch WA's effectiveness, impact, and value for money across three program components: case management and coaching, housing support, and financial support.

A synthesis of key STT findings – including participant characteristics, engagement patterns, outcomes and value-for-money results – is presented in Table 23.

Table 23 Summary of STT Participant and Service Data

Finding Area	Key Result
Reach & Participation	1,103 young people recorded in the system with 753 onboarded; ~400 referred annually – broadly matching the number ageing out of foster care in WA each year. Only 161 declined to participate.
Target Population	The Program is strongly aligned with its most vulnerable intended cohort. 52% of participants are Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander. Additionally, over 35% have NDIS eligibility; around 13% are young parents.
Engagement Quality	Most participants meet their Transition Coach weekly or fortnightly. Most remain engaged for at least one year. Disengagement rate (26% of those who have left) is considered low given the risk profile of the cohort.
Housing Outcomes	Independent living increased from 7% to 17% of participants (first vs last observation). Unstable arrangements decreased. 35% of participants in independent living received Housing Allowance support. 29% of those in supported arrangements were supported by a Staying On subsidy.
Education & Employment	57% of participants were not engaged in formal education and 56% were not employed. Overall shifts in education and employment status were minimal across the period of program participation. Participants who aged out (after age 21) showed more improvement: unemployment dropped from 62% to 34% and education participation increased from 19% to 26%.
Goal Progress	60% of participants recorded some or significant progress towards their identified goals.
Value for Money	BCR of 2.50 at 7% discount rate (range: 2.42–2.62). NPV of \$39.05m at 7%. The Program delivers approximately \$2.50 in benefits for every \$1 of cost. Results are resilient when employment benefits are removed (BCR 2.26).

	According to Anglicare Victoria, BCRs for similar programs extending out of home care across in different states range from 1.40 to 2.69.4
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5.2 Operating Context

5.2.1 Engagement and Program Status

Participant status data provides insight into engagement and progression through the Home Stretch WA Program. Within the STT data, a total of 1,103 individuals were included across pre onboarding and post onboarding stages. 753 of these individuals have been onboarded, which excludes those that were referred but declined the Program, were not eligible, or are still on the wait list to begin the Program.

In the September 2025 reporting period, 588 records relate to participants who did not progress to onboarding and remained in the pre onboarding pipeline. All of these participants had been referred but not yet onboarded. This group includes participants who were allocated but not yet onboarded, pending due to age, transferred prior to onboarding, declined participation, or assessed as ineligible. The largest pre onboarding categories were participants transferred before onboarding, with 231 records, and those declined before onboarding, with 132 records. A further 121 participants were allocated but had not yet commenced onboarding, while 41 were referred but pending service capacity.

A total of 958 records relate to participants who progressed to onboarding. Within this group, the majority were onboarded and active, with 532 participants engaged with ongoing case management and/or coaching support at the time of reporting. This represents just over half of all onboarded participants. The remaining onboarded participants were recorded as stepping back, disengaged, transferred, opted out, or aged-out, each representing smaller but notable shares of the cohort.

4 Anglicare Victoria (2016) Extending Out of Home Care to 21 Years: Summary of the Australian Socioeconomic Cost Benefit Analysis. Accessed at https://thehomestretch.org.au/site/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/National-Summary_CBA-Extending-Support-for-OOHC-to-21-New-Cover.pdf.

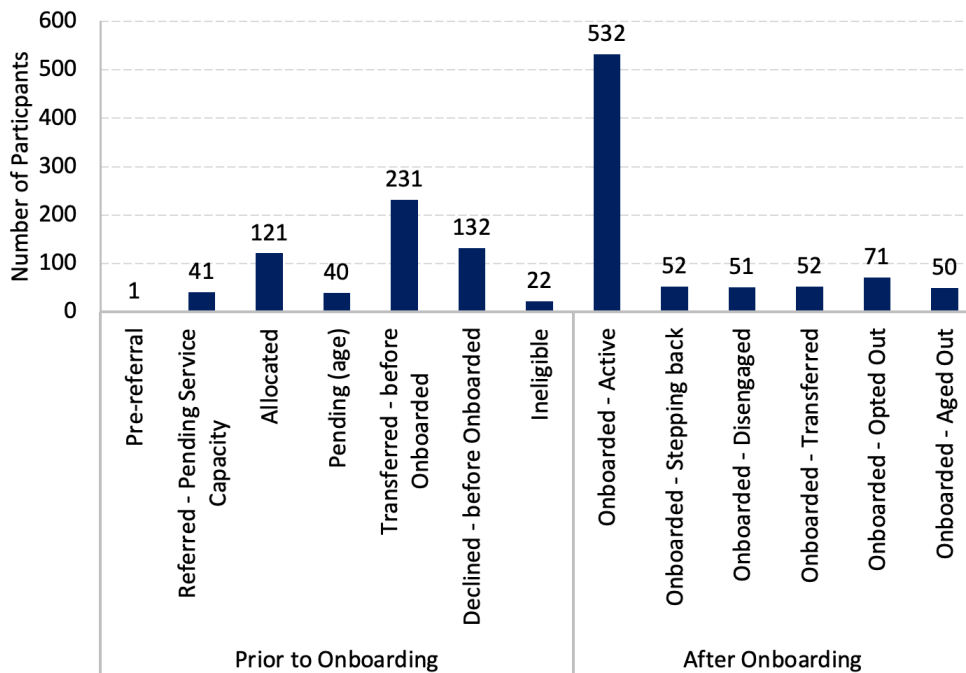


Figure 2 Participants by Status of Enrolment in September 2025

Since the Program's inception in 2022, 194 young people were referred but ultimately not onboarded. Of these, 161 declined the service offer (or did not engage despite assertive follow up), and 33 were ineligible due to not meeting criteria (age, location, care order etc.). This is a relatively small number, indicating that the Program is successful at onboarding eligible participants.

5.2.2 Housing Market Conditions

Housing market conditions in WA materially constrain achievable housing outcomes. Perth's rental vacancy rate was 2.6% (regional: 1.1%) in December 2025 – near or below the 2.5–3.5% range considered a balanced market. Median weekly rent in Perth reached \$725 for houses and \$690 for units in January 2026. Anglicare WA's 2025 Rental Affordability Snapshot found no affordable rentals for people on JobSeeker, Youth Allowance, or the Disability Support Pension. The WA social housing waitlist reached 20,686 applications in 2024 – a 48% increase over six years. In comparison, the current Housing Allowance first year rate is \$476.25 per fortnight. The ability for Home Stretch WA to assist with housing for young people is limited by the extremely tight housing market.

Nationally, around 30% of young people experience homelessness within the first year after leaving care. The Program operates in an environment of structurally elevated housing risk, and housing outcomes should be interpreted in this context.

5.2.3 Employment and Cost of Living

WA unemployment rates for young people (15–24) have been above the general population. In WA, inflation outstripped average weekly earnings growth in 2021/22 and 2022/23, compounding financial

pressure for young people on entry-level wages – particularly in regional areas. Only 57% of young care leavers nationally complete Year 12 or equivalent (compared to 85% nationally), reflecting compounding barriers to education and employment.

5.2.4 Metropolitan and Regional Differences

Differences between Perth metropolitan and regional/remote Home Stretch WA participants generally reflect broader structural inequities rather than program performance (as indicated in STT data and stakeholder surveys; see this Section and Section 3.1). Satisfaction with relational coaching, cultural responsiveness, and practical support is consistently high across all locations (e.g., >90% agreement in key survey domains). At the same time, young people in regional and remote areas experience more pronounced barriers, including:

- More limited education, employment and transport options, contributing to lower engagement rates overall (among all onboarded participants, 'not in education' runs at ~55% Metro and ~70% Regional; 'not in employment' at ~52% Metro and ~62% Regional – rates that, while reflecting structural disadvantage, underscore the scale of pathway support needed in regional contexts).
- Workforce shortages and greater difficulty in accessing specialist services (e.g., NDIS, mental health), which can contribute to variable pre-18 transitions.
- Regional areas also show a higher proportion of NDIS participants (14.2% current participants vs 8.6% Metro).
- Fewer youth-appropriate or culturally secure housing options, increasing instability risks. Uptake of Housing Allowance and Staying On supports is also lower in regional areas (Staying On 'In Place': 21% vs 28% Metro), suggesting access barriers may be limiting the stabilising potential of these supports.

Higher support variance and complexity in regional areas is reflected in the following:

- Aboriginal young people comprise 67% of regional participants compared with 48% in metropolitan areas, reinforcing the importance of culturally grounded, ACCO-led delivery.
- Regional participants have higher rates of high support needs (21% vs 12% Metro).
- Regional participants are more likely to be young parents (13% vs 5.5% Metro).
- Housing instability is more pronounced in regional areas, with couch surfing/transient and crisis accommodation combined reaching 14.5% regionally compared with 7% in the metropolitan area.

Place-based strengths help to offset some of these challenges. Regional delivery – particularly through ACCOs – can provide strong cultural grounding, though opportunities for peer connection and structured activities are generally more limited than in metro areas. Engagement duration is similar across regions.

Overall, the evaluation indicates that Home Stretch WA delivers meaningful, stabilising support in both metropolitan and regional contexts. Targeted regional enhancements – such as strengthened partnerships, tailored pathway models, and expanded Aboriginal workforce representation – would help address remaining access and equity gaps (aligning with OFIs 6 and 7 in Table 30 and Section 6.3).

5.3 Description of Selected Inputs, Activities and Outputs

5.3.1 Participant Profile and Reach

1,103 individuals were recorded in the STT dataset across pre onboarding and post onboarding stages. Referrals peaked in 2023 (402 participants) and have remained relatively consistent at around 355–402 per year, broadly matching the estimated number of young people ageing out of foster care in WA annually. This indicates each year, a very strong proportion of young people, eligible to opt into HSWA, do so.

Participants are predominantly aged 17–20 years. Their characteristics are as follows:

Table 24 Key Cohort Characteristics

Participant Characteristic	Share / Number
Aboriginal participants	52% (vs 7.3% of 0–17 year olds in WA)
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander	0.35%
Torres Strait Islander	0.18%
Culturally and linguistically diverse	2%
Metropolitan location	68% (32% regional, vs approximately 24% of 0–17 year olds in WA) ⁵
NDIS eligible or in progress	35.5% (vs 6.68% in general 0–17-year-olds in WA population)
Young parents	12.6% (139 participants; 84 female, 55 male. The Australian birth rate for 15-19 year old mothers is 0.92%) ⁶

⁵ Commissioner for Children and Young People WA (2025) Profile of Children and Young People. Accessed at <https://www.ccp.wa.gov.au/media/ycdpncje/profile-of-children-and-young-people-in-wa-2025-web-ready.pdf>.

⁶ AIHW (2022) Australia's Children. Accessed at <https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/children-youth/australias-children/contents/health/teenage-mothers>.

Not in formal education (at any point in data)	57% (compared to 53.9% of 15-24 year olds in WA as of May 2025, including those in employment) ⁷
Not currently employed	56% (Compared to 8.5% for 15-24 year olds as of January 2026) ⁸

5.3.2 Contact with Service Users

Most participants have frequent contact with their Transition Coach. 581 participants meet fortnightly, 515 weekly, and 192 more than once a week. The frequency and consistency of engagement appears as a highly positive feature of the Program. In September 2025, 547 participants had an active support or action plan, and 74 had a plan in development, comprising 74% of active participants.

5.3.3 Resource Inputs and Service Coverage

Examining program logic inputs – “HSWA resourcing and coordination inputs” as well as “Proportional funding for ACCOs to delivery HSWA regionally”, service delivery is distributed across 13 providers across metropolitan and regional WA. The three largest providers – Yorganop (Metro) (364 participants), The Salvation Army (303), and Wanslea (190) – collectively supported approximately 61% of all participants. The remaining 39% were supported by regional and remote providers, many of which are ACCOs, reflecting place-based, culturally appropriate service design.

5.3.4 Program Opt-In Rates

Of the 1,103 individuals recorded in the STT dataset across pre onboarding and post onboarding stages, 753 had been onboarded. Among those remaining pre-onboarding, 231 were transferred before onboarding, 132 declined, 121 had been allocated but not yet commenced, and 41 were pending service capacity. Since inception, 161 eligible participants have declined to participate and 33 have been assessed as ineligible – representing a relatively low non-engagement rate for this cohort.

Among participants who have exited the Program, 50 aged-out at 21, 85 chose to opt out, 86 became disengaged, and 114 stepped back. Only 26% of exits were due to disengagement, which again is considered comparatively low given the vulnerability and mobility of the cohort. Notably, 75% of those who opted out had been engaged for at least one year, indicating a level of sustained participation prior to exit.

5.3.5 Risk Profiling and Service Intensity

The majority (75%) of participants were assessed as low or moderate risk, while 25% were identified as high risk (only 4 recorded as 'alert' level). The distribution of risk levels underscores the need for flexible

⁷ ABS (2025) Education and Work, Australia. Accessed at <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/education/education-and-work-australia/latest-release#data-downloads>.

⁸ ABS (2026) Labour Force, Australia. Accessed at <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/labour/employment-and-unemployment/labour-force-australia/latest-release>.

support with capacity to provide higher-intensity engagement for participants experiencing challenging life circumstances.

5.3.6 Housing Support – Living Arrangements

At the time of reporting, the most common living arrangements were: family or significant other care (617 participants), independent living or house share (296), and Staying On agreement housing (209). Others were in Department foster care (203), Agency foster care (116), or crisis/temporary accommodation – highlighting the ongoing housing instability faced by some participants during transition. It also highlights the importance of Staying on Agreements to partly address this instability.

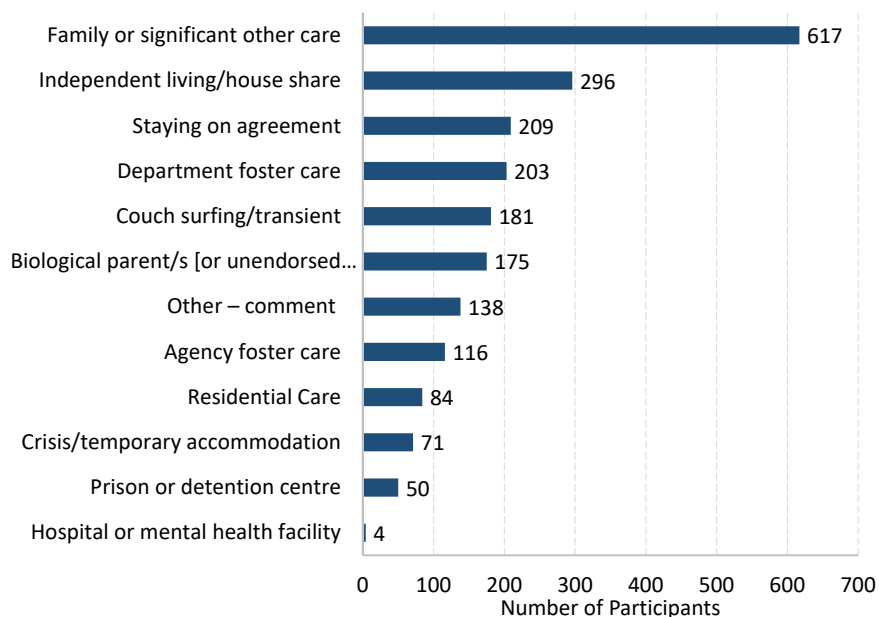


Figure 3 Participants by Living Arrangement, February 2023 to September 2025

5.3.7 Financial Support – Invest In Me Fund

The Invest In Me Fund supports participants across multiple life domains. Within identified domains, the largest allocations are shown below in Figure 4.

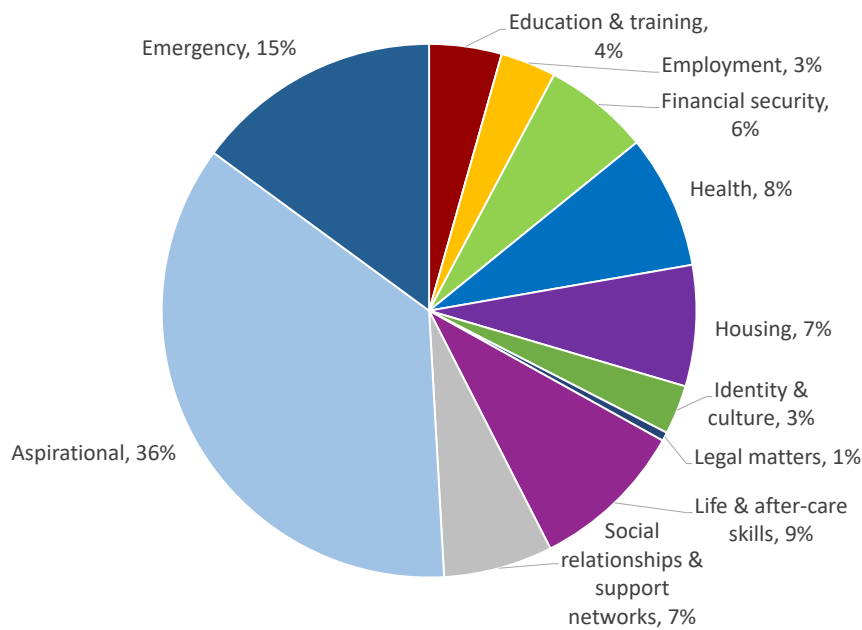


Figure 4 Share of Life Domain Investments, Invest In Me Fund, Feb 2023 to Sept 2025

This provides a compositional representation of the individualised funding allocation and its scope.

5.3.8 Financial Support – Housing Allowance and Staying On Agreements

In September 2025, 179 Staying On Agreements and 79 Housing Allowances were recorded as active. A larger number of participants were recorded as unable to access these supports – reflecting eligibility, placement, and structural constraints rather than participant choice alone. While these supports are highly impactful, their reach is constrained by broader system and market limitations.

5.3.9 Support Circles

Within Home Stretch WA, Support Circles are coordinated and facilitated by the young person's Transition Coach. Their purpose is to build a stronger, more reliable network of natural supports around the young person, clarifying who they can draw on for cultural, emotional and practical assistance. Support Circles generate regular facilitated conversations, a shared understanding of roles and expectations, and a culturally grounded support plan that connects the young person to family, community and culture while coordinating practical help across key life domains.

Support Circle activity is not captured in the Service Tracking Tool, meaning these relational and cultural outputs sit outside formal program data and would need to be understood qualitatively.

5.4 Description of Selected Outcomes

5.4.1 Housing Stability and Suitability Outcomes

The STT categorises participant living arrangements as Independent (private rental, Staying On with payment direct to participant, own home), Supported (foster care, family/significant other care, Staying On with payment to carer, residential care), or Unstable (couch surfing, crisis/temporary accommodation, hospital, prison).

As shown in Table 25, an analysis comparing each participant's first and last recorded living arrangement indicates the following.

Table 25 Participant Living Arrangements

Living Arrangement	First Observation	Last Observation
Independent	7%	17% ↑
Supported	82% (779 participants)	72% (655 participants) ↓
Unstable	109 participants	100 participants ↓

Of participants initially in Supported living who changed arrangement by their last observation: 83 moved to Independent living and 32 moved to Unstable living. By comparison, nationally 30% of young people experience homelessness within the first year of leaving care – making the 32 transitions to instability relatively low.

Housing Allowance played an enabling role in this regard: 35% of participants who achieved Independent living had Housing Allowance support in place. Similarly, 29% of participants in Supported living in their last observation had an active Staying On Agreement subsidy – arrangements that likely mitigated transitions to instability.

Cross-reference to case study data: These STT-based housing outcome findings are corroborated by the qualitative evidence from the 18 case studies reviewed in Section 4. Table 22 (Observed Progression of Young People Across Key Domains, 2023–2025) shows that housing stability was the domain in which the most consistent forward movement was documented. Case study data further highlights housing stability as an enabling condition for progress across other life domains including education, employment, and cultural connection.

5.4.2 Education and Training Outcomes

Comparing first and last recorded education status for onboarded participants (753):

- Overall cohort: 231 were in education at first observation; 211 at last observation – a marginal decrease, ostensibly reflecting the complexity of this cohort's barriers to sustained education engagement.

- Participants who left the Program: 28% in education at entry, 24% at exit – similar pattern to the above.
- Participants who aged-out (50 participants): 19% in education at entry, 26% at exit – signifying a more positive improvement for those who remained in the Program until age 21.

In comparison, 53.9% of 15-24 year olds in WA as of May 2025, were not in education or training.⁹ This is not a significant difference to the cohort, however it is important to note that the majority of WA youth not engaged in education are employed full-time.

Identified Opportunity for Improvement: Investigate how the Program can more effectively support and sustain participant engagement in education and training.

5.4.3 Employment Outcomes

Comparing first and last recorded employment status:

- Overall cohort: 67% were unemployed at first observation; 63% at last observation – highlighting negligible change.
- Participants who left the Program: 63% unemployed at entry, 55% at exit – a slightly larger gain.
- Participants who aged out (50 participants): 62% unemployed at entry, 34% at exit – a substantially more positive result for those retained for full program duration.

Notably, excluding NDIS-eligible participants or restricting to metropolitan participants produced similar results, suggesting barriers are not solely driven by disability or regional location. The negligible overall change is likely explained, at least in part, by many participants being in a preparatory stage focused on housing stability and foundational skills, with employment gains more commonly emerging among those who progress through the full Program.

In comparison, only 8.5% of 15-24 year olds in WA, as of January 2026, were unemployed.¹⁰ This is a large difference between the program cohort and the wider youth cohort in WA.

Identified Opportunity for Improvement: Investigate how the Program can more effectively support and sustain participant employment outcomes.

5.4.4 Identified Progress Toward Goals

Sixty percent of participants recorded some or significant progress towards their individually identified goals, while 30% recorded no progress. Progress was evident across a range of life domains aligned

⁹ ABS (2025) Education and Work, Australia. Accessed at <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/education/education-and-work-australia/latest-release#data-downloads>.

¹⁰ ABS (2026) Labour Force, Australia. Accessed at <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/labour/employment-and-unemployment/labour-force-australia/latest-release>.

with individual needs. Limited progress is likely associated with participant complexity or by structural constraints such as limited housing availability.

5.4.5 Outcome Summary

Despite a challenging housing market, Home Stretch WA has produced a moderate and positive impact on housing outcomes – reducing unstable arrangements and increasing participants in independent living. Education and employment outcomes show limited overall change across the active cohort, while participants who complete the full Program (ageing out) show more tangible improvements. Goal progress data indicates meaningful forward movement for the majority of program participants.

5.5 Value for Money

A Cost-Benefit Analysis (CBA) was undertaken covering the program period 2022/23 to 2024/25, with benefits assessed over a 20-year period. Net Present Value (NPV) and Benefit Cost Ratios (BCR) were calculated at real discount rates of 4%, 7%, and 10%, in line with WA Treasury and Australian Government Office of Impact Analysis guidelines.

Benefits were assessed in two categories: element-related benefits (those accruing to participants during the program) and indirect/long-term benefits (post-program or flow-on effects).

The following key assumptions underpin the cost–benefit modelling.

Table 26 CBA Assumptions

Assumption	Value
Assessment Period	20 years (post initial year)
Cost per Hour of Counselling and Coaching	\$155 ¹¹
Cost per Hour of Training	\$250 ¹²
Soft Skills and Informal Training Weighting on Training	25% ¹³
Annual Lone Person Expenditure	\$47,683 ¹⁴
Health, Social and Personal Care Share Lone Person Expenditure	16.3%
Consumer Surplus Share of Social Assistance Expenditure	80%
Median Weekly Rent One Bedroom Apartment	\$580 ¹⁵
Externality Cost Savings for Lower Income Households Securing Accommodation (per day)	\$53.7 ¹⁶

¹¹ Psychotherapy and Counselling Federation of Australia (2021) PACFA Survey 2021 accessed at <https://pacfa.org.au/portal/Portal/Community/Therapy-Costs.aspx>. Adjusted for inflation to 2025 dollars.

¹² Based on desktop research of non-certificate training costs per hour for soft skills such as communication, teamwork, problem solving, adaptability, critical thinking, time management and interpersonal skills.

¹³ Recognises that reduced per hour value of soft skills developed through informal processes and training.

¹⁴ ABS (2017) Household Expenditure Survey 2015/16, Lone Person Household, adjusted to 2025 by CPI, www.abs.gov.au

¹⁵ REIWA (2024) Median Rents, reiwa.com.au

¹⁶ SGS (2023) Give Me Shelter, Cost Benefit Analysis Report accessed at <https://sgsep.com.au/assets/main/SGS-Economics-and-Planning-Give-Me-Shelter.pdf>. Adjusted for inflation to 2025 dollars.

Per Person Value of Loneliness	\$1,753 ¹⁷
Social Assistance Services Supply Chain Multiplier	29.6 ¹⁸
Average Gross Value Added Per Worker in WA (2022/23 excl. Mining)	\$196,989 ¹⁹

5.5.1 Benefits Statements

The following table provides a statement of the identified benefits included in the CBA as well as their description and method of calculation.

Table 27 Benefits Statement

Corresponding Element	Benefit	Description	Calculation Method
ELEMENT-RELATED BENEFITS			
Transition Coach	Transition Coaching Participation Benefit	Benefits to participants from dedicated coaching support. Includes informal education and training benefits and associated support.	Measure based on 4 hours per coaching participant and valued based on Perth/WA hourly rate counselling/coaching cost benchmarks. Applied to all accepted referrals.
	Soft Skills Development Benefits	Benefits to participants from the development of essential soft skills as part of transition coaching activities.	Measured based on transition cost per participants and valued using average per hour non-certificate level training costs, adjusted down to 25% to reflect informal training environment.
A Smooth Transition	Support Service Access Benefits	Benefits to participants in accessing otherwise separate and disparate support services. Includes benefits from accessing free and accessible services as well as securing services of which participants may otherwise have not been aware.	Measured using share of annual lone household expenditure on Health, Social and Personal Care for a lone person household. Multiplied by number of users with a 50% attribution.
Invest In Me Fund	Consumer Surplus of Personal Investment	Empowerment of young people to pursue education, training, or entrepreneurship opportunities leading to higher future earnings. Provision of a safety net for crisis situations, reducing the likelihood of negative outcomes such as	Valued based on estimated consumer surplus of 80% of value of investment across relevant participants.

¹⁷ KPMG (2022) Connections Matter accessed at <https://www.groundswellfoundation.com.au/post/connections-matter-a-report-on-the-impacts-of-loneliness-in-australia>. Adjusted for inflation to 2025 dollars.

¹⁸ IO models and economic multipliers are derived using the latest Australian Input/Output Multipliers from <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/economy/national-accounts/australian-national-accounts-input-output-tables/latest-release>. WA transaction tables are developed based on employment/industry location quotient estimates from ABS for the State, concordance with Input/Output Product Groups. Program expenditure is then multiplied by the first round GVA multiplier to estimate the value of the expenditure that will be captured in regional supply chain benefits.

¹⁹ REMPLAN (2023) EDA WA Worker Productivity accessed at <https://app.remplan.com.au/?search=eda-westernaustralia>

Corresponding Element	Benefit	Description	Calculation Method
		homelessness or involvement in crime.	
Staying on Agreement and Subsidy	Living and Housing Benefits	Housing security benefits to the participants from both the extension of foster care living arrangements from 17 to 21 and/or the provision of housing allowances.	Valued using private rental costs (affordable levels) as a proxy for housing security benefits. 100% savings to Participants maintaining current living arrangement.
	Personal and Social Wellbeing Externality Benefits	Benefits of the fostering of personal wellbeing to participants by maintaining familial and social networks during transition. In this context, 'externality' refers to non-monetary benefits to the individual, including social, psychological and physical wellbeing benefits.	Value based on health care, social assistance, justice, education and other costs savings due to the participants securing accommodation/housing (based on low income household profile).
Housing Allowance	Living and Housing Benefits	Same as Staying On Agreement and Subsidy. Private rental cost proxy halved due to fortnightly subsidy paid to landlord.	
	Personal and Social Wellbeing Externality Benefits		
Social Circles	Social Interaction and Loneliness Prevent Benefits	Prevent of loneliness among the participants due to a lack of social connections, resulting in cost savings relating to mental and physical health and other services.	Valued based on KPMG estimates of per person loneliness costs to the individual and community. Applied to all accepted referrals.
INDIRECT AND LONG-TERM BENEFITS			
Whole of Program	Social Services Supply Chain Benefits	Economic benefit to the Western Australian social assistance and services sector due to Program related expenditure.	Measured based on first round and industry support GVA economic multipliers. Applies to year in which expenditure is incurred.
	Economic and Social Participation Benefits	Benefit to the economy and community of increased long-term participation by the participants post program.	Applies a 0.25% increase in the long-term economic productivity of participants based on non-mining GVA per worker average for WA. Commences 10 years after participation.

5.5.2 Cost-Benefit Analysis Results

The Cost Benefit Analysis covers the program's activities between 2022/23 and 2024/25. To date, the program has received approximately \$70m in funding, however much of this is for future financial

years. Only grant funding with a grant start/end date between 1 July 2022 and 30 June 2025 was included in the program costs for the purpose of this assessment. For grants that are partially within this period, their costs were apportioned. For example, a grant beginning on 1 July 2024 and ending on 30 June 2027 with a value of \$210,000 would only have \$66,000 included as costs in this analysis.

Program funding during the evaluation period amounted to \$28,272,865 over three years.

As such, benefits are applied to all care leavers participating in the program between 1 July 2022 and 30 June 2025. The evaluation extends over a 20-year timeframe to include long-term benefits that yield to these participants as a result of their participation in the program during the evaluation period. This evaluation is limited to participants in this 3-year timeframe and as such only includes costs relating to these participants. Future program costs are linked to future program participants and are not included in this evaluation.

As shown in Table 28, the present value of costs (post-discount) ranges from \$25.12m (10%) to \$26.91m (4%).

Table 28 CBA Results

	4% Discount Rate (\$m)	7% Discount Rate (\$m)	10% Discount Rate (\$m)
Total Costs	\$26.91	\$25.98	\$25.12
Total Benefits	\$70.50	\$65.03	\$60.87
Transition Coach	\$20.74	\$19.94	\$19.20
A Smooth Transition	\$11.55	\$11.09	\$10.66
Invest In Me Fund	\$0.28	\$0.28	\$0.27
Staying On	\$19.32	\$18.48	\$17.69
Housing Allowance	\$3.05	\$2.90	\$2.77
Social Circles	\$2.31	\$2.26	\$2.22
Social Services Supply Chain Benefits	\$4.20	\$4.13	\$4.06
Long-Term Economic and Social Participation Benefits	\$9.05	\$5.96	\$4.00
Net Present Value (NPV)	\$43.59	\$39.05	\$35.75
Benefit Cost Ratio (BCR)	2.62	2.50	2.42

The largest benefit is Transition Coaching (\$19.94m at 7%), followed by Staying On (\$18.48m) and A Smooth Transition (\$11.09m). Element-related benefits account for 84% of total benefits; long-term post-program benefits account for 16%. All NPV results are well above zero, and all BCR results exceed 2.0 – a threshold regarded as highly favourable.

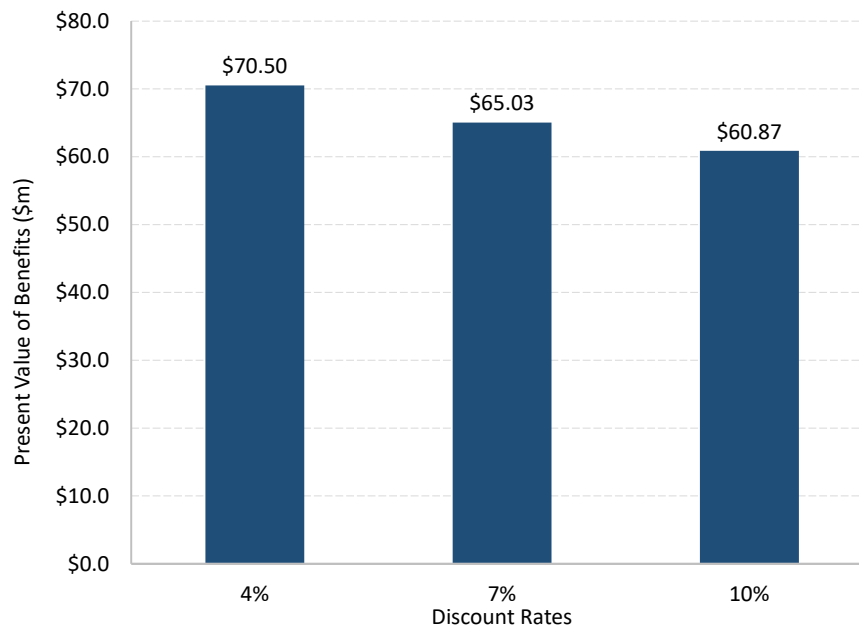


Figure 5 Present Value of Benefits, by Discount Rate

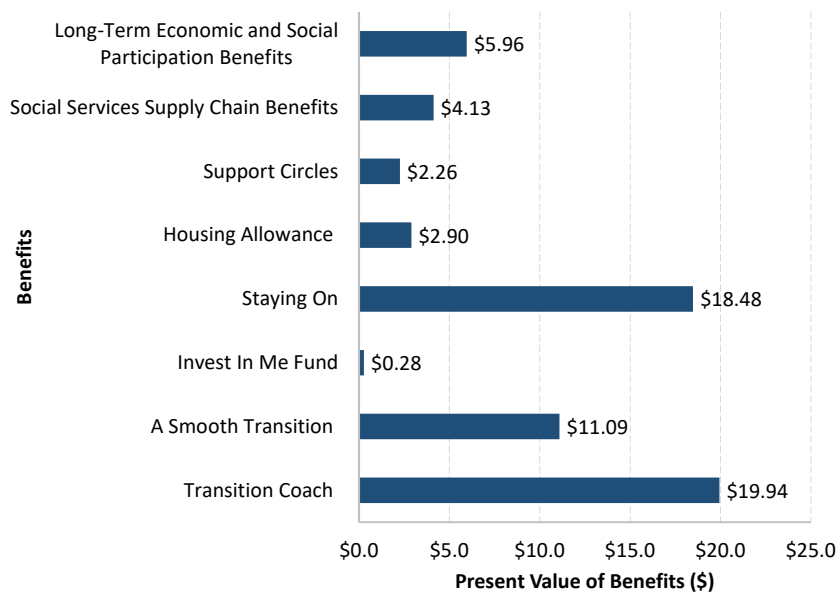


Figure 6 Present Value of Benefits, by Benefit, at 7% Discount Rate

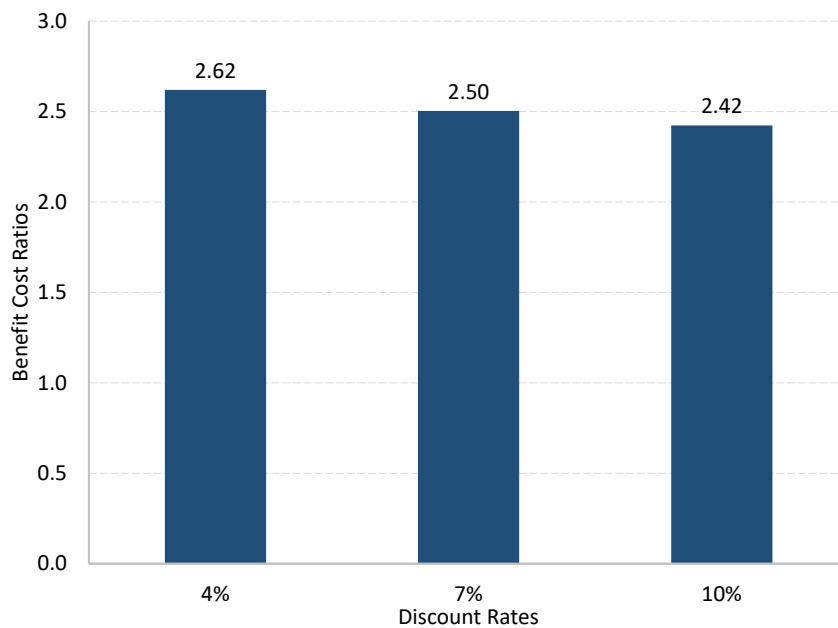


Figure 7 Benefit Cost Ratios, by Discount Rates

As shown below, two sensitivity tests were then applied to assess the resilience of results.

Table 29 Sensitivity Tests

Sensitivity Test	Description	BCR at 7%
Main Scenario	All benefits included	2.50
Test 1 – No Employment Benefits	Remove Invest In Me and Long-Term Economic/Social Benefits	2.26
Test 2 – No Housing Support Benefits	Remove Staying On and Housing Allowance benefits	1.68

Both sensitivity tests confirmed positive value for money. Test 1 confirmed that core value is driven by wellbeing support and housing rather than employment outcomes. Test 2 demonstrates that housing support is an important value driver, while also confirming that even without this benefit, the Program still generates more value than it costs.

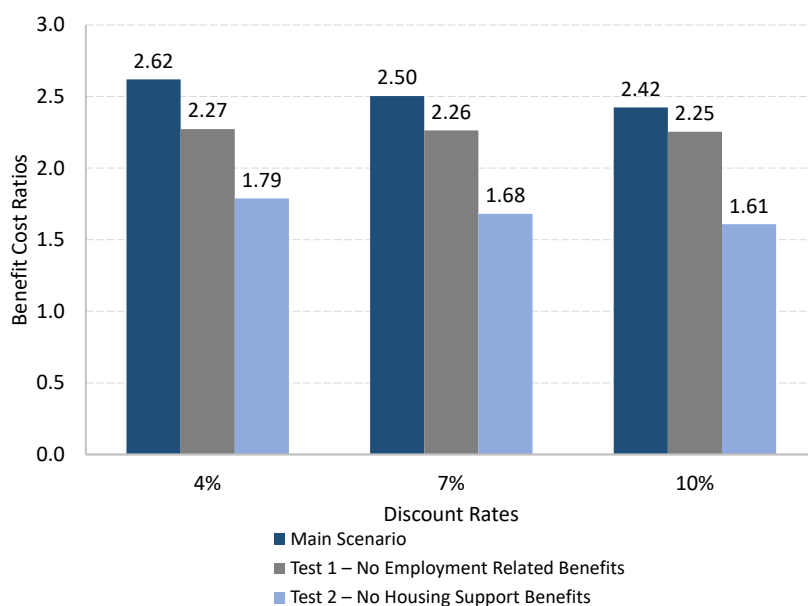


Figure 8 Benefit Cost Ratios, Main Scenario and Sensitivity Test, by Discount Rate

5.6 Service Data and Value for Money Conclusions

A synthesis of the evaluation's key cost-benefit findings and service data review is provided below.

1. **Broad reach and participation:** The Program has approached and recorded data for 1,103 young people, with approximately 400 referrals per year – broadly corresponding with the number ageing out of foster care annually in WA. Only 161 eligible young people declined to participate across the evaluation periods.
2. **Reaching the most vulnerable:** Over 52% are Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, over 35% have NDIS eligibility, and 12.6% are young parents.
3. **Frequent and sustained engagement:** Most participants meet their Transition Coach at least fortnightly, and the majority engage for at least one year. The disengagement rate of 26% appears relatively low for such a vulnerable cohort.
4. **Housing outcomes tangibly improved:** Independent living increased from 7% to 17% across the cohort. Unstable arrangements decreased, indicating that the Program has mitigated the risk of unstable housing and homelessness for many participants.
5. **Education and employment outcomes were stagnant overall** – but improve significantly for those who complete the full Program: Participants who aged out (remained until 21) saw unemployment drop from 62% to 34%, and education participation rise from 19% to 26%.

6. **Most participants progress towards their goals:** 60% of participants recorded some or significant progress towards their individually identified goals.
7. **Strong, resilient value for money:** The Program delivers \$2.50 in benefits for every \$1 of cost (BCR 2.50 at 7% discount rate), rising to \$2.62 at 4%. This result is resilient when employment-related benefits are removed (BCR 2.26).

5.7 Core Challenges Impacting Education and Employment Outcomes

5.7.1 Overview

Analysis of the STT data highlights a clear need to examine how Home Stretch WA can strengthen both employment outcomes and engagement in education and training. Most participants were not employed or enrolled in formal education or training at either their first or last observation point, with little to no overall movement across the cohort. In effect, education and employment outcomes remain negligible, signalling an area where the Program could explore how to achieve greater impact.

This notwithstanding, this pattern may reflect the developmental stage many young people are in during the Program. For a significant proportion, the early focus is on securing stable housing, building foundational life skills, and addressing immediate wellbeing needs – preconditions for later engagement in work or study.

Young people and providers consistently cite pre-existing educational gaps, housing instability, regional constraints, trauma, disability, mental health and low motivation as barriers. These undermine readiness despite reported access to opportunities.

1. **Limited Education and Training Opportunities:** Many young people enter Home Stretch WA with significant educational gaps, reducing readiness for further study or vocational training. Both service providers and young people highlighted incomplete schooling, low qualifications, and limited access to training pathways as barriers. Young people described disrupted education while in care, while providers noted that unmet foundational needs (including housing) impact the ability to focus on learning. As one provider noted, “much of the TC’s time is spent addressing immediate crises rather than supporting long-term development”.
2. **Employment Barriers:** Regional job scarcity, limited experience, skills gaps and competition hinder access. Unstable housing, mental health and caring roles further complicate job-seeking, while high complex needs demand intensive effort in connecting young people to appropriate supports.
3. **Motivation, Engagement, and Complex Needs:** Trauma histories, anxiety, disability (often NDIS-linked) and unstable relationships erode confidence, motivation and commitment. Vulnerable participants often need to prioritise crises over goals, requiring sustained, tailored encouragement.
4. **Structural and Systemic Constraints:** Realities including transport gaps, TAFE/health waitlists, inconsistent pre-18 preparation and weak school-to-TAFE pipelines lie outside the Home Stretch

WA model, reflecting broader structural gaps in the service system, and amplifying readiness barriers for interviews and placements.

5.7.2 Priorities for Strengthening Education and Employment Outcomes

Stakeholders prioritised:

- Beginning engagement earlier (e.g., from age 16) to build skills and confidence
- Increasing IIM investment in education and training
- Creating dedicated roles to support education and employment pathways
- Strengthening cross-sector collaboration with schools, TAFEs, ACCOs and employers

These insights shaped the set of actions presented below, which were consequently integrated into the comprehensive Opportunities for Improvement table (Table 30 and section 6.3).

1. **Formalise Cross-Sector Partnerships:** Develop Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) with TAFEs, Jobs and Skills Centres, NDIS coordinators, and ACCO-led programs such as Wunan Foundation's Talent Pool Academy to secure priority enrolment pathways and culturally secure transitions. Partner with Vocational Training Services to deliver joint foundational skills workshops across metropolitan and regional WA.
2. **Tailor Supports for Aboriginal and Regional Young People:** Embed partnerships with Indigenous Skills and Employment Program (ISEP) providers – including Real Futures, Wunan Foundation and East Kimberley Job Pathways– to deliver culturally grounded, hands-on training and employment pathways in sectors such as mining, hospitality and community services.
3. **Strengthen Employer Engagement:** Establish a Home Stretch WA Employer Network across ACCOs, key industries and local governments. Offer IIM-funded incentives for supported internships and job-shadowing placements, with Transition Coaches providing workplace mentoring to reduce dropouts and ensure equitable support for Aboriginal and neurodivergent young people.
4. **Engage / Appoint Dedicated Navigators:** Establish an education and training navigation function within Home Stretch WA to coordinate education and employment plans, liaise with schools, TAFEs and training providers, and deliver one-to-one support for young people. Include practical, structured help through investigating the use of a piloted digital tool (e.g., adapted from MyPath or Goal Mama), funded via Invest in Me (IIM) to ensure access for remote participants.
5. **Enhance Funding and Practical Aids:** Leverage IIM to fund tutoring, bridging courses, micro-credentials, pre-apprenticeships, and essential employment enablers such as driver's licences, white cards, police clearances, work clothing, and transport. Begin access at age 15–16 to build early momentum and reduce mobility-related barriers.
6. **Incorporate Peer Mentoring and Co-Design:** Integrate alumni peer mentoring to provide relatable, practical guidance – including virtual options to support remote participants – and partner with the Home Stretch WA Community of Practice and organisations such as CREATE Foundation's youth advisory groups to co-design activities and ensure youth-led decision-making.
7. **Track and Evaluate Outcomes:** Use shared dashboards (e.g., Salesforce cloud platform) to monitor

enrolment, participation, placements, and job retention. Conduct annual evaluations using young person and provider feedback to refine approaches and strengthen accountability.

5.8 Service Level Outcome (SLO) Assessment

Overall, the 2025 evaluation indicates that Home Stretch WA is largely achieving its designated Service Level Outcomes (SLOs) and making clear progress toward medium-term outcomes (2+ years) as outlined in the Program Logic (created in 2023, presented at Appendix 7.1). This reflects the Program's positive impact on care leavers' transitions to adulthood, with evidence of enhanced personal stability, independence, wellbeing, and relational support. Quantitative ratings (e.g., effectiveness scales) and qualitative themes indicate consistent overall progress, including in relational and cultural domains, while persistent systemic challenges – such as housing shortages, waitlists, program capacity, and regional disparities – continue to affect outcomes in some areas and highlight opportunities for refinement.

Achievements for outcomes have been assessed qualitatively as follows: **High** (strong, consistent evidence), **Moderate** (partial evidence with variability or gaps), or **Low** (limited evidence or major barriers).

5.8.1 Facilitating a successful transition to adulthood for young people - SLO 1

- **Degree Achieved: High.**
- Consistently high ratings across stakeholder groups for preparation for adulthood (91–93% combined "Effective/Moderately Effective") demonstrate enhanced personal wellbeing, independence, and life skills development.
- Carers (63.9% "Effective") and service providers (43.4% "Effective") highlighted improved mental health, goal achievement, and emotional stability, with qualitative feedback emphasising the Program's role in easing age-18 challenges. This aligns with medium-term evidence of smooth transitions for the majority of initial users (see Medium-Term Outcome 2 below).

5.8.2 Responsively addressing service users' needs and expectations - SLO 2

- **Degree Achieved: High.**
- High satisfaction with financial (64% "High Degree" from carers) and non-financial supports (67% "High Degree"), alongside positive ratings for meeting needs (59–67% "Effective"; 92–97% combined "Effective/Moderately Effective"), underscore responsiveness.
- Surveys, open-ended comments, and external stakeholder feedback praised the relational coaching model, person-centred approaches, and practical guidance (e.g., navigating Centrelink or mental health services) as empowering and adaptable to complex needs like trauma or disabilities.
- Evidence suggests needs are being consistently met over time, although waitlists and regional workforce turnover introduce some variability (Medium-Term Outcome 1).

5.8.3 Young people have stable housing and health care, can pursue education, training and employment, and are supported to build and sustain strong cultural and community connections- SLO 3

- **Degree Achieved: Moderate to High.**
- Results are mixed but generally positive: stable accommodation scored highest from carers (72% "Effective"), with financial aids credited for preventing homelessness and enabling tenancy; education/training/ employment opportunities rated well overall (78–85% combined "Effective/Moderately Effective").
- However, providers (20% "Effective") and DoC staff (5% "Effective") rated accommodation/health care lowest, reflecting systemic barriers like housing crises, waitlists, and regional issues rather than program weaknesses. This echoes moderate access evidence in medium-term sub-elements (see Medium-Term Outcome 5).
- The evaluation also provides evidence that Home Stretch WA is helping young people build and maintain a robust sense of identity and connection. Among Aboriginal young people, 90%+ reported feeling respected and supported, and more than 85% agreed that staff listen to their story and encourage cultural expression, with longitudinal data showing statistically significant improvements in cultural learning support between 2023 and 2025. Case studies further illustrate young people reconnecting with family, strengthening cultural identity and benefiting from ACCO-led, place-based support.

5.8.4 Services are culturally responsive, place-based, and person-centred- SLO 4

- **Degree Achieved: High.**
- Among the strongest outcomes, with 49–69% "Effective" for cultural responsiveness and high combined positives for person-centred delivery.
- Stakeholders, including significant Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander representation (25–32% across surveys), commended cultural leads, trauma-informed practices, and identity/community-building efforts.
- Some respondents identified opportunities to strengthen culturally matched mentoring and regional coverage, aligning with moderate-to-high progress in cultural and place-based elements (Medium-Term Outcomes 4 and 8).

5.8.5 Collaboration with the Community of Practice (CoP) for systemic reform - SLO 5

- **Degree Achieved: Moderate to High.**
- Providers' and DoC staff confidence in organisational delivery (55–62% "Effective") and inter-agency collaboration (62% "High Degree" from DoC) support effective partnerships, shared learning, and continuous improvement commitments. Operational challenges like administrative burdens and staff turnover were acknowledged.
- Overall, findings indicate progress toward stronger integration within the leaving care continuum, though full system embedding is still evolving (Medium-Term Outcome 9).

5.8.6 Overall assessment

Overall, SLOs 1, 2, and 4 are achieved to a high degree, with SLOs 3 and 5 showing moderate or moderate-to-high progress impacted by external factors. This confirms Home Stretch WA's high-level success in delivering transformative outcomes, reinforcing calls for targeted enhancements in housing, capacity, and equity.

5.9 Specific Commentary on Medium-Term Outcomes (2+ Years)

The medium-term outcomes build on SLOs, assuming 2–3 years of Program operation by 2025. Evidence shows consistently strong relational and cultural outcomes, while systemic barriers (housing, workforce capacity, regional inequity) and data gaps create variability in other domains. These patterns support stakeholder recommendations for extended eligibility, strengthened regional capacity and improved outcome tracking.

5.9.1 Home Stretch WA persistently meets service users' needs.

- **Degree Achieved: High.**
- Strong combined ratings (92–97%) and qualitative praise demonstrate sustained responsiveness and adaptability. Variability is primarily driven by regional capacity constraints rather than program design.

5.9.2 Majority of Home Stretch WA service users make a smooth transition to adulthood.

- **Degree Achieved: Moderate to High.**
- High preparation ratings (91–93% combined) and qualitative case examples indicate strong transition experiences for the majority of participants. However, variability linked to housing access and complex needs is impacting uniform outcomes.

5.9.3 All SLOs are robust and consistently achieved.

- **Degree Achieved: Moderate.**
- Predominantly positive ratings (80%+ combined) show robustness in most areas, but SLO 3 inconsistencies (e.g., 20–5% "Effective" for housing) highlight unevenness across regions.

5.9.4 Home Stretch WA is appropriate, effective and culturally responsive; efficiency and value for money are emerging.

- **Degree Achieved: High for appropriateness/effectiveness; Moderate for efficiency/value.**
- Strong cultural and person-centred ratings (49–69% "Effective") and high satisfaction (94% from carers) demonstrate perceived effectiveness and appropriateness. Efficiency is moderated by administrative burden, workforce turnover and national housing market pressures

5.9.5 Evidence of high-quality service and improved life outcomes.

- **Degree Achieved: Moderate to High (varies by sub-element).**

- **High quality service: High** – strong satisfaction (64–67% “High Degree”) and consistent qualitative praise indicate a mature, relationally strong service model.
- **Access to stable housing and health care: Moderate** – The Program contributes meaningfully to tenancy stability and service navigation, but systemic housing shortages and regional disparities significantly constrain overall impact.
- **Employment, training and education: Moderate** – Engagement is supported and facilitated, yet enduring outcomes remain uneven due to labour-market conditions and limited quantifiable tracking.
- **Wellbeing: High** – Robust evidence of improved mental health, emotional regulation and confidence, with reduced transition-related stress consistently reported.
- **Identity and community connection: Moderate to High** – Strong cultural and community-building outcomes where culturally responsive practice is embedded, though access varies across regions.
- **Independent living skills: High** – Clear, sustained gains in budgeting, tenancy management and daily living skills, strongly aligned with preparation-for-adulthood outcomes.

5.9.6 Quantifiable evidence of enduring participation in education, training and work (e.g., # enrolments, graduations, jobs).

- **Degree Achieved: Low to Moderate.**
- Qualitative progress is evident, with moderate ratings (61–30% “Effective”), but lack of specific metrics (e.g., enrolment count, completion rates, employment tracking) limit the strength of evidence.

5.9.7 Aboriginal young people can choose support from a preferred ACCO.

- **Degree Achieved: Moderate.**
- Praise for cultural leads/ACCOs (25–32% Indigenous respondents), but regional disparities (e.g., northwest WA) limit full choice in some areas; more coaches/partnerships needed.

5.9.8 ACCOs deliver culturally appropriate, place-based support.

- **Degree Achieved: Moderate to High.**
- High cultural ratings and inclusive practices (e.g., trauma-informed reconnection) show progress, tempered at times by resource/remote access challenges.

5.9.9 Home Stretch WA is integrating into the leaving-care continuum.

- **Degree Achieved: Moderate.**
- (a) High delivery confidence (81% “Fully/Mostly”) and reform calls (e.g., NDIS links) indicate progress, but capacity and administrative pressures continue to constrain full system integration.

- (b) Advancing collaboration (62% "High Degree"), with external stakeholders noting service distinctions, although capacity pressures and rushed transitions limit full system integration.

5.9.10 Summary and Implications

The integrated assessment reveals substantial achievement across SLOs and medium-term outcomes, particularly in fostering responsive, culturally safe transitions that empower care leavers. Home Stretch WA is increasingly embedding within Western Australia's leaving-care system, with clear strengths in relational coaching, cultural safety and practical, flexible support that drive high satisfaction and wellbeing gains.

At the same time, moderate progress in housing access and quantifiable education and employment outcomes, alongside capacity and equity gaps, highlights the need for system-level responses. Stakeholder recommendations – including extended eligibility, strengthened regional outreach, streamlined administration and enhanced cultural mentoring – offer practical pathways to elevate outcomes and ensure sustained equity and impact for all young people leaving care.

6. Conclusion

This summative evaluation – drawing on surveys of young people, carers, service providers, Department of Communities staff and external stakeholders, alongside case studies, longitudinal paired data and comprehensive STT analysis – provides a comprehensive, multi-perspective assessment of the Home Stretch WA Program.

The central finding is conclusive: Home Stretch WA is a highly valued, effective and demonstrably cost-beneficial program that is transforming the trajectories of young people transitioning from care in Western Australia.

6.1 Key Findings

6.1.1 Program Reach and Participant Profile

Since inception in 2022, the Program has approached and recorded data for 1,103 young people across metropolitan and regional WA, with (a) 753 subsequently onboarded, and (b) around 400 new referrals each year – broadly matching the estimated number of care leavers ageing out of the system in WA each year. The cohort reflects the Program's strong alignment with its most vulnerable intended population: 52% of participants are Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, over 35% have NDIS eligibility, and 12.6% are young parents. Only 161 eligible young people have declined to participate across the full evaluation period – a notably low non-engagement rate for a cohort of this complexity.

6.1.2 Relational Practice and Engagement Quality

The relational coaching model is the Program's defining strength and the finding most consistently endorsed across all stakeholder groups. Young people, carers, service providers, Communities staff and external partners all identified the Transition Coach relationship as central to the Program's impact – providing trust, continuity and practical advocacy at a critical life stage. Most participants (75.8% of survey respondents) had been engaged with the Program for over a year, and 26% of Program exits were attributable to disengagement – a low rate given the mobility and vulnerability of the cohort. Seventy-five percent of participants who opted out had engaged for at least a year before doing so, further reflecting the Program's capacity to sustain meaningful relationships.

Survey results from 230 young people showed consistently high agreement across core program elements. Across experience statements, 83–88% of participants reported their coach is respectful, helps them get things done, and takes their strengths into account. Aboriginal young people specifically highlighted culturally affirming practice, with 77% reporting their coach makes time to listen to their story and 63% reporting encouragement to express their culture.

6.1.3 Housing Outcomes

Against a backdrop of severe housing market pressure – much of it reflecting national-level system constraints, with Perth's rental vacancy rate at 2.6% in December 2025 and no affordable rentals available for people on income support – the Program has produced meaningful and measurable improvements in housing stability. Independent living increased from 7% to 17% of the cohort between

participants' first and last recorded living arrangement. Unstable arrangements decreased. For a cohort where 30% of care leavers nationally experience homelessness within their first year of leaving care, the 32 transitions to instability recorded across 753 onboarded participants represents a substantial protective effect.

The Housing Allowance and Staying On Agreement subsidies emerge as critical enablers: 35% of participants who achieved independent living had Housing Allowance support in place, and 29% of participants in supported arrangements had an active Staying On Agreement – arrangements that likely mitigated many potential transitions to instability. At the time of reporting, 179 Staying On Agreements and 79 Housing Allowances were recorded as active.

6.1.4 Education and Employment Outcomes

Education and employment outcomes present a more mixed picture at the cohort level. Overall, 57% of participants were not engaged in formal education and 56% were not employed at any point recorded in the STT. Across the full active cohort, shifts between first and last observations were negligible – 67% unemployed at first observation compared to 63% at last; 231 in education at first observation compared to 211 at last.

However, this cohort-level result conceals a more encouraging finding for participants who complete the full Program. The 50 participants who aged out (remaining until age 21) saw unemployment drop from 62% to 34% and education participation rise from 19% to 26%. This pattern strongly suggests that sustained program duration – rather than the Program's design – is the limiting factor for education and employment outcomes at the cohort level. Many participants are in an earlier stabilisation phase, where housing security and foundational life skills are the appropriate developmental focus, with employment gains emerging as a downstream benefit of program completion.

These patterns are consistent with stakeholder evidence: young people and service providers consistently cited disrupted schooling, low qualifications, regional job scarcity, trauma, disability, and lengthy health system waitlists as the primary barriers. Dedicated cross-sector pathway coordination – not more intensive coaching of an already stretched workforce – is the response the evidence supports.

6.1.5 Wellbeing, Goal Progress and Personal Development

Sixty percent of participants recorded some or significant progress towards their individually identified goals. Longitudinal paired survey analysis of 23 participants who completed surveys in both 2023 and 2025 identified statistically significant improvements ($p < 0.05$) in access to health care, mental wellbeing, physical wellbeing, and cultural learning support. Marginal positive shifts were also observed in community belonging, family and community connections, and cultural expression and engagement.

Case study analysis – guided by the Aboriginal Our Way, Our Being framework – reinforced these quantitative findings, with trajectories across all 18 case studies illustrating movement from crisis response toward stability, autonomy and cultural connection. Housing stability, continuity of Transition Coach support, and access to the IIM funding were consistently identified as the enablers of progress across life domains.

6.1.6 Value for Money

The Program delivers strong and resilient value for money. A cost-benefit analysis covering the 2022/23 to 2024/25 program period assessed benefits over a 20-year horizon. Against total delivery costs of approximately \$26 million, the Program is estimated to generate between \$60.9 million and \$70.5 million in present value benefits – a Benefit Cost Ratio of 2.50 at a 7% discount rate (range: 2.42 at 10% to 2.62 at 4%). This represents approximately \$2.50 in quantifiable benefits for every \$1 of program cost.

Sensitivity testing confirms the robustness of this result. Removing employment-related benefits reduces the BCR only marginally to 2.26, demonstrating that the Program's core value is driven by wellbeing, housing and relational support rather than employment outcomes alone. Even removing all housing support benefits still yields a positive BCR of 1.68. The three largest benefit streams are Transition Coaching (\$19.94m at 7%), Staying On Agreements (\$18.48m) and A Smooth Transition (\$11.09m), which together account for the substantial majority of program value.

6.1.7 Service Level Outcome Achievement

Three of the five Service Level Outcomes are being achieved to a high degree: successful transitions to adulthood, responsiveness to young people's needs, and culturally responsive, place-based delivery. Progress is more moderate for housing, health care, education and employment access – where outcomes are heavily constrained by external system and market conditions – and for collaboration toward systemic reform. The evaluation concludes that the Program's SLO performance accurately reflects what a well-designed, well-delivered program can achieve within current structural limits, not a shortfall in program design or practice quality.

6.1.8 Consistency of Findings Across Stakeholder Groups

One of the evaluation's most significant methodological findings is the high degree of consistency in perspectives across all five stakeholder groups – young people, carers, service providers, Communities staff, and external partners. All groups endorsed the relational coaching model and cultural responsiveness as core program strengths; all identified housing availability, regional inequity, workforce capacity and education/employment pathway gaps as systemic constraints; and all shared broadly similar priorities for program enhancement. This degree of cross-cohort alignment substantially strengthens confidence in the evaluation's conclusions and provides a clear, evidence-based mandate for targeted investment in the Program's continued development.

6.2 Overall Conclusion

Home Stretch WA is a valued and effective program that is delivering measurable benefits for young people transitioning from care. Across multiple data sources and stakeholder groups, the evidence indicates that the Program's relational, culturally responsive model is strengthening wellbeing, successfully stabilising housing, and building the foundational capabilities required for longer-term independence.

The Program's most consistent impacts are evident in relational continuity, cultural responsiveness, and housing stability. Among young people who remain engaged until age 21, gains in employment and education outcomes are more pronounced, indicating that sustained engagement is a key factor in achieving longer-term socioeconomic improvement. Across the full cohort, however, shifts in education and employment outcomes are more modest.

The cost–benefit analysis demonstrates that the Program generates benefits that materially exceed its delivery costs under a range of discount rates and sensitivity tests. Importantly, the Program's value is not dependent solely on employment outcomes; relational support, housing stability and smoother transitions to adulthood account for a substantial proportion of estimated benefits. This strengthens confidence that the Program's core model is economically sound as well as socially beneficial.

At the same time, the evaluation identifies structural constraints that limit the pace and scale of some outcomes. Systemic factors such as housing supply shortages, regional labour market limitations, workforce capacity pressures, and fragmented service pathways sit largely beyond the direct control of the Program. The findings indicate that Home Stretch WA is performing strongly within these constraints, but that further improvements in housing, education, and employment outcomes will depend on coordinated, cross-sector responses.

Overall, the evaluation concludes that Home Stretch WA is delivering on its intended purpose: extending care in a way that improves stability, strengthens relationships and enhances young people's capacity to transition successfully to adulthood.

6.3 Opportunities for Improvement

The following opportunities identify areas where the Program may further enhance its impact and sustainability (also refer to Table 30). These should not be interpreted as any sign of program failure; instead, they point to structural and operational refinements appropriate for a maturing initiative working within constrained conditions.

Evaluation evidence confirms Home Stretch WA's strong performance as a vital safety net for care leavers, with consistently high satisfaction in relational support, cultural affirmation and housing stability. The 2023 formative evaluation similarly endorsed the core model, meaning the improvement focus is on targeted refinements – including regional tailoring – rather than structural redesign. Drawing on stakeholder insights, STT data and case studies, the evaluation identified nine thematic areas where practical enhancements can strengthen outcomes. These themes are outlined below.

Table 30 Opportunities for Improvement

Finding	Finding Theme	Opportunities for Improvement (OFI)
1. Some young people engage with the Program later than ideal timeframe, with pre-18 years preparation and handover varying in consistency	Early Engagement and Transition Preparation	OFI 1: Engage participants earlier (e.g., ages 16–17) to improve awareness, preparedness and smoother transition into Home Stretch WA. This could include: 1.1 Enhancing structured pre-18 years planning to build foundational skills including education and employment readiness. 1.2 Expanding early access to education and employment readiness supports, including targeted use of IIM where appropriate. 1.3 Embedding foundational tasks and achievements (e.g., ID, education and employment planning, Centrelink, health checks) as standard pre-18 years milestones. 1.4 Improving structured pre-onboarding engagement to reduce delays, actively monitor pipeline volumes, and support young people who decline or step back (noting the large pre-onboarding pipeline identified in the evaluation).
2. Education, training and employment outcomes appear limited, with many participants not engaged in work or study during the Program	Education, Training and Employment Pathways	OFI 2: Develop mechanisms to improve identification, entry and sustained participation in education, training and employment. This could include: 2.1 Establishing a dedicated education and employment navigation function within Home Stretch WA to coordinate pathway plans, liaise with providers, and support participants to identify, commence and sustain relevant opportunities. 2.2 Formalising partnerships with TAFEs, Jobs and Skills Centres, ACCOs, NDIS coordinators and employers to secure priority enrolment pathways, warm handovers and coordinated support. 2.3 Strengthening culturally grounded employment pathways through collaboration with ISEP providers (e.g., Wunan Foundation, Real Futures). 2.4 Developing structured employer engagement mechanisms (e.g., internships, apprenticeships, job shadowing, Home Stretch WA Employer Network).

Finding	Finding Theme	Opportunities for Improvement (OFI)
		2.5 Enhancing IIM utilisation for essential employment enablers (e.g., licences, white cards, police clearances, equipment, transport, tutoring, bridging courses, micro-credentials). 2.6 Integrating alumni mentoring and youth co-design, including collaboration with organisations such as the CREATE Foundation and youth advisory groups. 2.7 Improving STT tracking of enrolment, placements, participation, completion, and job-retention outcomes. 2.8 Expanding regionally tailored supports, including transport subsidies, job-readiness programs and culturally responsive programs.
3. Housing shortages persist across all regions, with instability impacting wellbeing and hindering education, employment, and other life domain engagement	Housing Availability and Stability	<i>OFI 3: Explore strategic partnership development with housing providers, community housing organisations and relevant ACCOs to expand stable accommodation pathways. This could include:</i> 3.1 Enhancing flexibility within rental assistance, advocacy supports and Housing Allowance settings in tight housing markets. 3.2 Strengthening youth-specific pathways, including transitional and supported accommodation. 3.3 Developing regionally tailored housing pilots and priority access arrangements, including culturally secure options for Aboriginal young people. 3.4 Improving integration between housing support, planning and education/employment pathways to stabilise broader life outcomes.
4. Many young people continue to experience financial stress despite available supports	Financial Wellbeing and Cost of Living	<i>OFI 4: Embed structured financial capability development as a core component of Home Stretch WA financial support. This could include:</i> 4.1 Strengthening integration between financial wellbeing supports and employment participation planning, including budgeting aligned to study or work transitions. 4.2 Improving visibility of financial stress indicators within the STT to enable early intervention. 4.3 Reviewing IIM flexibility and indexation to reflect and keep pace with cost-of-living pressures.

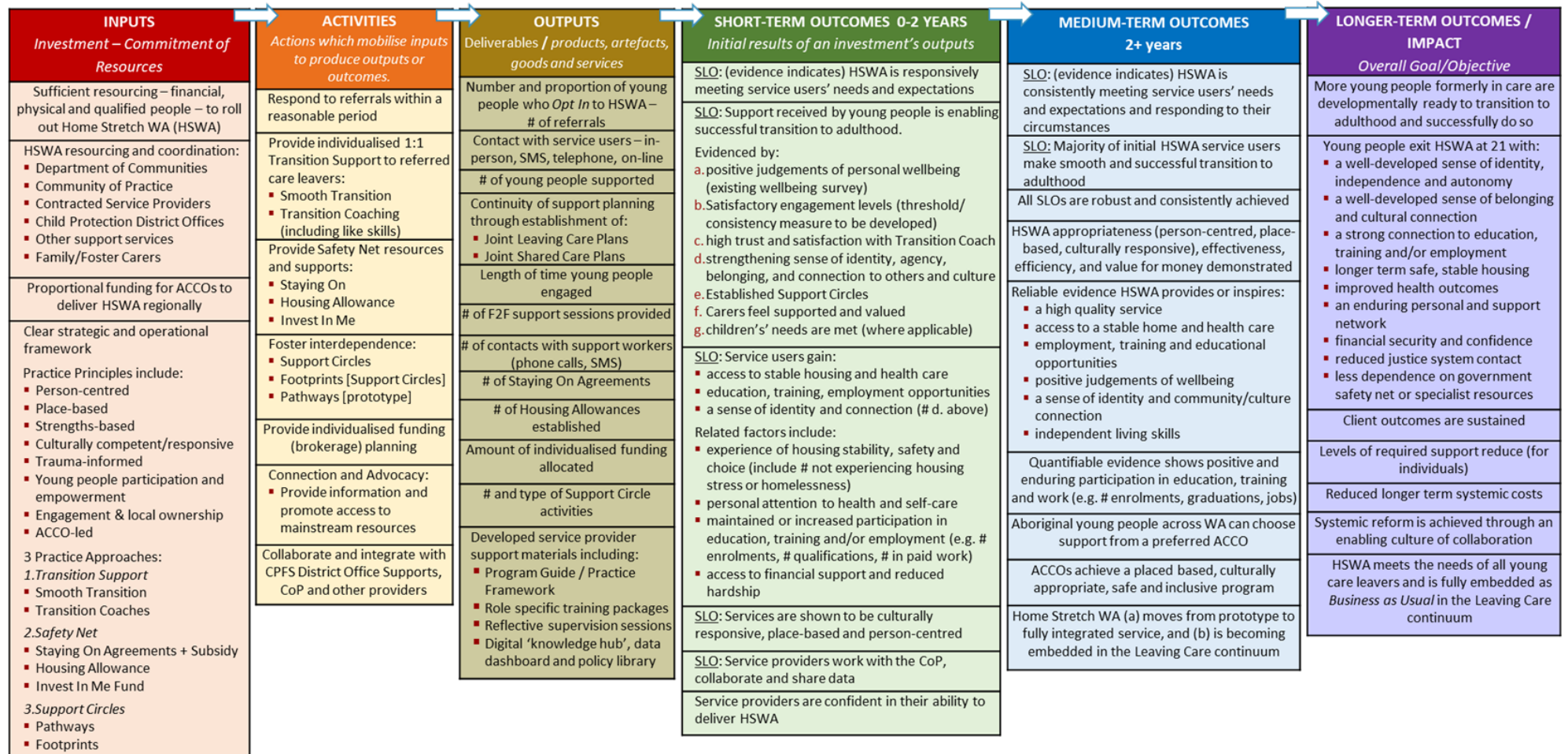
Finding	Finding Theme	Opportunities for Improvement (OFI)
		4.4 Providing targeted supplementary assistance (e.g., transport, utilities, food security) for participants experiencing acute stress.
5. Program support ending at 21 ceases assistance for young people still stabilising	Program Duration and Continuity	OFI 5: Introduce graduated or tapered exit supports to avoid abrupt program cessation for individuals with ongoing high and complex needs, including progressive 'stepping-back' arrangements implemented over an extended eligibility period. This could include: 5.1 Aligning Program duration and exit timelines with developmental trajectories, complexity of needs, education pathways, parenting responsibilities, and NDIS participation timelines. 5.2 Enabling flexible, needs-based extensions where stability is still emerging, particularly for young parents and those with disabilities. 5.3 Strengthening structured 'step-back' pathways for young people who disengage temporarily (noting many step back rather than fully disengage), and improving understanding of disengagement drivers. 5.4 Implementing an exit survey to obtain reasons from exiting participants and to obtain Program feedback.
6. Distance, constrained local services and workforce shortages challenge consistent support delivery across regions	Regional Access and Equity	OFI 6: Investigate and develop region-specific outreach and delivery models reflecting local service ecosystems (place-based). This could include: 6.1 Embedding local mentors alongside coaches to strengthen continuity and cultural grounding in locations where workforce capacity is emerging. 6.2 Exploring flexible commissioning approaches (e.g., clustered contracts, shared staffing). 6.3 Leveraging digital tools to support continuity of engagement in remote contexts. 6.4 Strengthening partnerships with ACCOs, regionally based employment and training (including ISEP) providers to deliver industry-aligned, culturally grounded pathways.

Finding	Finding Theme	Opportunities for Improvement (OFI)
7. Access to cultural learning opportunities and Aboriginal mentoring capacity vary in consistency	Cultural Responsiveness	OFI 7: In locations where workforce capacity is emerging, expand Aboriginal-led cultural mentoring and ACCO partnerships and deepen culturally matched supports for Aboriginal and CaLD young people. This could include: 7.1 Expanding Aboriginal workforce representation, leadership and participation across providers. 7.2 Strengthening return-to-Country supports and structured cultural learning pathways. 7.3 Embedding cultural responsiveness as a measurable program capability. 7.4 Improving cultural data capture within the STT to support monitoring and accountability.
8. Young people value peer connection, but opportunities are limited	Social Connection and Belonging	OFI 8: Further embed peer connection (including facilitation support) as a core protective and developmental factor within Home Stretch WA Program design. This could include: 8.1 Expanding structured peer-engagement activities (e.g., group programs, networks, camps, cultural events). 8.2 Strengthening youth-led initiatives, alumni mentoring models, periodic check-ins and community-building activities, including 'light-touch' post-exit connection pathways. 8.3 Building partnerships with community, cultural and recreational organisations. 8.4 Introducing simple, validated measures of belonging, connection and participation into STT or case review processes.
9. STT data inconsistencies and gaps constrain both real-time and longitudinal analysis and performance tracking	Data Quality and Evaluation Capability	OFI 9: Strengthen data consistency, integration and analytical capability across providers and systems. This could include: 9.1 Standardising data structures, definitions and coding across providers. 9.2 Strengthening cross-agency coordination, data-sharing and joint planning. 9.3 Introducing consistent geographic identifiers and time-series fields to enable trend analysis. 9.4 Enhancing real-time dashboards and longitudinal tracking capability. 9.5 Improving data completeness and analytical capability (including less blank fields) through provider training and system prompts.

7. Appendices

7.1 Home Stretch WA Program Logic

Theory of Change Statement: in providing an enhanced support system for young people (17.5-21) based on established practice principles, including a trusting relationship with a dedicated Transition Coach and access to financial resources, Home Stretch will improve outcomes for young people leaving care in Western Australia.



7.2 Evaluation Methodology

Scope of Work	Approach	Timing
Stage 1 – Mobilisation and Planning		
Inception Meeting and Requirements Gathering	The inception meeting for the summative evaluation will provide a platform to ensure clarity regarding the evaluation scope and deliverables. This will include: ▪ Reflection on the extent to which the M&E Framework (and the various data collected pursuant to the Framework) has actually been implemented over the past 18 months. This will also assist in identifying any data gaps in the whole Program. ▪ Confirmation of deliverables, milestones, timelines and meetings. ▪ Confirmation of key stakeholders for the summative evaluation. ▪ Application of ethical principles in undertaking the evaluation.	22 Sept 2025 (actual)
Evaluation Plan	The Evaluation Plan includes: ▪ Evaluation aim ▪ Stakeholders ▪ Evaluation Principles ▪ Evaluation Objectives, Focus Areas and Approach ▪ Risk Plan ▪ Timeline and ▪ Consultation instruments While the M&E Framework (February 2023) remains the foundational guide for this evaluation, the project team acknowledges that key elements of the Program have since evolved. As the Framework predates the statewide rollout, it may not fully capture the expanded service delivery, increased funding, and strengthened outcome pathways now embedded in the current model. This will be kept in mind when liaising with the CoP.	26 Sept 2025 Submitted Approved 24 October 2025

Scope of Work	Approach	Timing
Stage 2 – Data collection, stakeholder consultation and analysis		
Community of Practice Workshop	Subject to approval of the Evaluation Plan, an early-stage workshop will be held with the CoP to: - Present the objectives and timeline of the summative evaluation. - Confirm the relevance of existing M&E Framework survey instruments, particularly in light of all (more recently) appointed regional service providers. - Foster engagement and buy-in from Home Stretch WA service providers to support effective data collection and participation in the evaluation. A formative evaluation for the Program was completed in May 2023 and a summative evaluation was completed in June 2024. If service providers ask if and when the findings of the previous evaluations can be shared, Communities will be asked to release a succinct high-level findings overview document associated with the 2023 Summative Evaluation. This release would be subject to a final determination by Communities.	Held on 28 Oct 2025
Data Collection	The M&E Framework will be the basis to collect core data for the summative evaluation, focusing on: - Program elements driving positive outcomes for young people - Contribution to broader community and system-level impacts - Key lessons, recommendations, and improvement pathways - Evidence of cost-effectiveness and value for money (refer to section below) The Evaluation Team will work closely with Communities and the CoP to implement data collection tools aligned with the M&E Framework, drawing on the Service Tracking Tool and project reporting. Data collection will focus on: - Longitudinal tracking and analysis - Personal wellbeing measurement, and - Most significant change narratives Collected data will be cleaned and formatted to support service review, value-for-money assessment, and broader analysis. Any gaps will be identified and addressed. Additional datasets – such as ABS, AIHW, and the data/information from the Commissioner for Children and Young People – will be incorporated where possible. Where feasible, data formats will align with the 2023 evaluation to enable robust longitudinal and comparative analysis.	Nov 2025 to 31 Jan 2026

Scope of Work	Approach	Timing
	The outcome will be a comprehensive database of program metrics, supported by surveys and interviews to contextualise and enrich the evaluation findings.	
Stakeholder consultation	Stakeholder consultation, aligned with the M&E Framework, will include a structured survey targeting: ▪ Service providers ▪ Communities' personnel ▪ Carers The Evaluation Team will collaborate with the CoP, service providers and Communities to recruit young people and, where relevant, their families/carers. A culturally appropriate consultation framework – led by Joslyn Eades-Tass – will guide engagement. For young people, interviews/surveys will be conducted by familiar Transition Coaches using tailored materials (e.g., visual analogue scales) and supported by: ▪ Plain English information sheets ▪ Youth consent forms ▪ Disclosure and distress protocols. Interviews will follow a semi-structured, lived experience approach to capture both core evaluation data and emergent themes. A representative sample of the young people in the program will be sought, including, where feasible, the 138 interviewed in 2023 (including any who have exited the Program). Survey data will provide a consistent foundation for qualitative analysis. Post-survey review will identify gaps and inform follow-up consultations as needed.	November 2025 to 31 January 2026
Case studies	Case studies will be undertaken, including (if able) updates to the four profiles from the 2023 evaluation and four new case studies (n=4) featuring young people in the Program – two from metropolitan areas and two from regional WA. Each case study will explore: ▪ Key elements of the Program that supported successful transitions from care ▪ Services that met individual needs and expectations ▪ Challenges faced during transition and Program responsiveness ▪ Areas for improvement ▪ Current status including in employment, education, or training, and	November 2025 to 31 January 2026

Scope of Work	Approach	Timing
	▪ Cultural security of services received These case studies will illustrate the program's individual-level impact and inform potential enhancements to the Home Stretch WA service model.	
Data Analysis	Data sets captured through the evaluation will be analysed using a series of statistical methodologies to inform the Service Data Review, Outcome Measures, and Value for Money Assessment. Key analytical approaches will include: ▪ Longitudinal analysis (particularly for metropolitan data given longer service delivery) ▪ Demographic cohort analysis ▪ Geospatial distribution analysis (metro vs regional) ▪ Compositional analysis ▪ Provider-specific analysis (recognising regional vs metropolitan delivery contexts) ▪ Fiscal analysis (program cost by region and activity) ▪ Baseline comparative analysis (against non-participant cohorts) ▪ Survey-based analysis using Likert scale structures Indicators will be aligned with the M&E Framework and build on insights from the 2023 evaluation.	Dec 2025 to 31 Jan 2026
Service Data Review and Assessment	Data analysis will draw on the Service Tracking Tool to examine: ▪ Demographic characteristics of program participants ▪ Living arrangements ▪ Education and employment status ▪ Program support received Trends and changes will be assessed against baseline cohort data, with attention to regional vs metropolitan differences and variations across socio-economic, Aboriginal, CALD, and other specific groups. The assessment will generate a profile of young people in the program and associated service activity, informing a review of Home Stretch WA's effectiveness. Where able, additional data on Service Level Outcomes and value-for-money indicators will be analysed to support outcome measurement and benefit identification.	Dec 2025 to 31 Jan 2026
Outcome Measurement	Program outcomes will be assessed through the Data Analysis and Service Data Review, focusing on SLOs and short-, medium-, and long-term impacts as outlined in the Program Logic and M&E Framework. This impact assessment will examine the extent to which outcomes have been achieved, and identify contributing factors	Dec 2025 to 31 Jan 2026

Scope of Work	Approach	Timing
	to any gaps, based on survey and data insights. Findings will inform potential enhancements to the service model for the 2027–2032 commissioning period. Broader youth population trends – such as housing affordability, employment conditions, cost of living, and access to education – will be considered to contextualise program impact. A scorecard approach will be used to present outcome measurements, supported by longitudinal and comparative analysis.	
Value for Money Assessment	The evaluation will update the Cost Benefit Analysis (CBA) model used in the 2023 Home Stretch WA evaluation to support the current value-for-money assessment. Based on data to December 2023, the model will be refreshed with current datasets and expanded to include sensitivity and scenario testing – particularly forward-looking scenarios to inform future funding submissions and business case development by Communities. The CBA will follow WA Treasury Program Evaluation Guidelines and the Australian Government Office of Impact Analysis framework, applying three discount rates over a 20-year horizon. Benefits assessed in 2023/24 will be reviewed for relevance and completeness, with a revised benefits statement aligned to the M&E Framework. Key benefit categories will include: ▪ Transition Coaching participation ▪ Soft skills development ▪ Access to support services ▪ Consumer surplus from personal investment ▪ Living and housing outcomes ▪ Personal and social wellbeing externalities ▪ Social interaction and loneliness prevention ▪ Social services supply chain impacts ▪ Economic and social participation Final outputs will include Net Present Value (NPV) and Benefit Cost Ratio (BCR) metrics, supported by sensitivity and scenario analysis.	Completed by 31 Jan 2026
Stage 3 – Draft Reporting		
Drafting of findings and recommendations	Data collected through the M&E Framework – including stakeholder themes – will be refined for inclusion in the Draft Summative Evaluation Report. This will inform an overall assessment of the Program’s impact on young people, achievement of SLOs, contribution to broader community and system-level outcomes, and the sustainability of these outcomes	Feb 2026

Scope of Work	Approach	Timing
	over the medium and long term.	
Stage 4 – Socialise Report and Progress to Finalisation		
Draft Report	Provide Draft Report to Communities and discuss findings and associated recommendations.	27 Feb 2026
Final Report	Reflect on feedback and progress to finalise the Report. Submit Final Report	20 March 2026
Present Final Report	Present findings and recommendations of the Final Report	To Be Confirmed

7.3 Home Stretch WA: Young Person Interview Form

Interviewer Discussion Sheet

Interviewer Discussion Sheet

Interviewer Opening Comments

The Evaluation

Thank you for your time today.

Quantum Consulting Australia has been contracted to independently evaluate the Home Stretch WA Program. The main goal is to understand how well the Program meets the needs of the young people involved.

I am helping the evaluation by interviewing young people I am supporting within the Program. The aim is to make this experience as comfortable and uncomplicated as possible. This noted, it is entirely up to you whether or not you participate.

Your input is needed to ensure the best possible outcomes for everyone in the Program. Please feel free to be completely honest in your responses. Even if you have criticisms or rate yourself or Home Stretch low on a particular question, your genuine feelings are what we are interested in. So please be as direct as you like.

Before we start, I want to confirm that you have received a copy of the *Home Stretch WA: Information Sheet – Home Stretch Participants (Young People)* document. (Interviewer to ensure the Information Sheet has been provided).

I also want to confirm that you agree to participate in the evaluation. Have you provided a signed Consent Form? (Interviewer to ensure that the participant has provided a signed *Home Stretch WA: Consent Form – Home Stretch Participants* document).

If you want to withdraw from the evaluation you can – including at any time during this interview. A form is available for you to complete (*Home Stretch WA: Withdrawal of Participation – Home Stretch Participants*).

Gateway decision – Subject to confirmation of the above, proceed as per below:

There are also different ways to complete the survey – either with (a) me asking the questions and filling in your responses (b) me asking the questions and you filling in your responses on a paper copy or (c) me asking the questions and you filling in your responses yourself on an electronic copy of the interview – *show link on computer/lap top*.

All responses will be treated confidentially and no links will be made to specific comments made by individuals.

Home Stretch Brief Overview (If needed/relevant)

Launched back in 2016, the Home Stretch National Campaign sought to extend leaving care arrangements for young people in out-of-home-care to age 21. The subsequent trial in WA has provided the opportunity to design and test an extension-of-care approach which is now underway.

Home Stretch is based around flexible one-to-one individualised support and is guided by a young person's identifying their own goals and priorities. In addition to coaching, it can include obtaining stable accommodation, enrolling in further education, progressing to employment, identifying where to get assistance, accessing health services, building support networks and money management.

For Interviewer:

The interview will generally take around 30-45 minutes (feel free to communicate this).

Present Annexure 4 *Interview Consent Form* for consideration and signing, emphasising that the young person can stop or pause the interview at any time if they wish. Also be familiar with the *Distress Protocol*.

For fixed response questions, please Circle the young person's stated answer.

Young Person (YP) Characteristics		
1.	Does YP Consent to participate?	Yes or No – <i>if No, do not proceed with the interview</i>
2.	YP's Unique Identifier Code (UIC) <i>Note: the UIC is formed by combining, in order, the first 3 letters of a person's <u>last</u> name, <u>first</u> name and their month of birth (2 digits). The UIC of a (fictional) person called Graham Jones born in August would be JONGRA08.</i>	
3.	Name of Service Provider	
4.	Interviewer Name	

5. How much do you agree with the following statements about your experience with Home Stretch from '1' Not at All to '5' Fully. (Pick one per statement only)

				
1. Not at All	2. A Little Bit	3. Sometimes	4. Mostly	5. Fully

The full choices are:

Since joining the Home Stretch Program:

a) I am able to access stable and safe accommodation if needed	1	2	3	4	5
b) I can access health care if needed	1	2	3	4	5
c) I can access education opportunities	1	2	3	4	5
d) I can access training opportunities	1	2	3	4	5
e) I can access employment opportunities	1	2	3	4	5
f) My living arrangements are stable and safe	1	2	3	4	5
g) If I have a problem, I can talk to someone	1	2	3	4	5
h) I am less stressed about money and getting by	1	2	3	4	5
i) I am developing my skills and abilities	1	2	3	4	5
j) I look after my health and wellbeing	1	2	3	4	5
k) I feel more confident	1	2	3	4	5

l) I am working towards the things that are important to me	1	2	3	4	5
m) I am confident to seek out services to support me with any issues or goals I want to work towards	1	2	3	4	5
n) I am well-connected to people who can support me	1	2	3	4	5
o) I can connect with my family/families	1	2	3	4	5
p) I have an open connection to my carer family/families	1	2	3	4	5
q) I feel that I have good control over my life	1	2	3	4	5

6. Is the Young Person a parent? **Yes** or **No** (If No – proceed to question 7)

For Young Parents Only: (Pick one per statement only)

				
1. Not at All	2. A Little Bit	3. Sometimes	4. Mostly	5. Fully

The choices are:

r) I feel that I can call on family to help me	1	2	3	4	5
s) I feel I can reach out for parenting support if needed (e.g. day-care, cultural play groups)	1	2	3	4	5
t) My child is connected to family	1	2	3	4	5

7. Does the Young Person hold additional carer responsibilities for a family member such as a sibling, nephew, niece or cousin? **Yes** or **No** (If No – proceed to question 9)

For Young People who hold additional carer responsibilities Only: (Pick one per statement only)

				
1. Not at All	2. A Little Bit	3. Sometimes	4. Mostly	5. Fully

The choices are:

u) I feel I have a support network I can rely on	1	2	3	4	5
v) I feel I can reach out for carer support if needed (e.g. day-care, in-home support, NDIS)	1	2	3	4	5

w) I am getting enough help being a carer	1	2	3	4	5
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8. If your answer to the previous statement was *Not at All*, *A Little Bit* or *Sometimes*, what supports would you find helpful? (*Otherwise skip this question*)

9. What has been the most positive experience you have had since joining the Home Stretch Program?
Example: I have stable, long-term accommodation.

10. Why was this experience important to you? *Example: I feel safe and closer to family.*

11. How did the experience come about?

12. Personal wellbeing

How satisfied are you with the following areas of your life on a scale from '1' Not at all satisfied to '5' Fully satisfied? (*Pick one per question only*)

				
1. Not at All	2. A Little Bit	3. Sometimes	4. Mostly	5. Fully

The full choices are:

a) Your standard of living?	1	2	3	4	5
b) Your personal health?	1	2	3	4	5
c) What you're achieving in life? (e.g. your goals)	1	2	3	4	5
d) Your personal relationships?	1	2	3	4	5
e) How safe you feel?	1	2	3	4	5
f) Feeling part of your community?	1	2	3	4	5

13. **Possession of Documents** - the following documents/certificates are considered relevant in terms of supporting the young person's transition to independence and adulthood.

Please indicate which of the following items you have and which training you have completed (*Pick all things that you have – Y = Yes, N = No, NA = Not Applicable*)

Y / N / NA	Birth Certificate	Y / N / NA	Personal Bank Account
Y / N / NA	Child's Birth Certificate (if applicable)	Y / N / NA	Health Care Card
Y / N / NA	Drivers Licence / Proof of Age Card	Y / N / NA	Medicare Card
Y / N / NA	Proof of Citizenship	Y / N / NA	Student Card
Y / N / NA	Smart Rider (for Public Transport)	Y / N / NA	White Card (for working on building sites, issued by RTOs)
Y / N / NA	Resume / CV	Y / N / NA	Centrelink Income
Y / N / NA	Job readiness training/skills	Y / N / NA	Passport
Y / N / NA	Department of Communities (Housing) housing application	Y / N / NA	How to manage and save money

14. How much do you agree with the following statements about your experience with Home Stretch from '1' Not at All to '5' Fully. (*Pick one per statement only*)

				
1. Not at All	2. A Little Bit	3. Sometimes	4. Mostly	5. Fully

The full choices are:

The Home Stretch Program:

a) Is respectful	1	2	3	4	5
b) Takes my strengths and potential into account	1	2	3	4	5
c) Helps me get things done (e.g. encourages me, provides useful information, helps develop skills)	1	2	3	4	5
d) Works with me to identify my dreams and ambitions	1	2	3	4	5
e) Provides support when I'm feeling down or when I'm feeling happy	1	2	3	4	5
f) Overall, is available when needed	1	2	3	4	5

The next question is only for Aboriginal young people who wish to participate: (If Not Aboriginal or CaLD – proceed to question 18. If CaLD, proceed to question 16)

15. How much do you agree with the following statements about your identity? (Pick one per statement only)

				
1. Not at All	2. A Little Bit	3. Sometimes	4. Mostly	5. Fully

The choices are:

a) I feel I belong to my home community, culture and country	1	2	3	4	5
b) Being connected to my home community is important to me	1	2	3	4	5
c) I have a family member or trusted person I can contact if needed	1	2	3	4	5

The next question is only for Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CaLD) young people:

16. How much do you agree with the following statements about your cultural group? (Pick one per statement only)

				
1. Not at All	2. A Little Bit	3. Sometimes	4. Mostly	5. Fully

The choices are:

a) I feel I belong to my community, culture and country	1	2	3	4	5
b) Being connected to my home community is important to me	1	2	3	4	5
c) I have a family member or trusted person I can contact if needed	1	2	3	4	5

The next question is only for Aboriginal and CaLD young people:

17. How much do you agree with the following statements about your experience with Home Stretch?
(Pick one per statement only)

				
1. Not at All	2. A Little Bit	3. Sometimes	4. Mostly	5. Fully

The choices are:

The Home Stretch Program:

a) Makes time to listen to my story	1	2	3	4	5
b) Encourages me to express my culture	1	2	3	4	5
c) Helps me to learn my family's culture and history	1	2	3	4	5
d) Organises cultural opportunities (e.g. connecting with family or Elders) and attendance at cultural events (e.g. for Aboriginal YP – such as NAIDOC, Sorry Day, Reconciliation Week, Survival Day)	1	2	3	4	5
e) Has supported me to return to country and/or participate in important family events, e.g. sorry business, men and women's business, connecting with family	1	2	3	4	5

18. How have you been generally feeling over the last 6 months? (Pick one for each area)

				
1. Bad	2. Not that great	3. Sometimes OK	4. Mostly OK	5. Really Good

The choices are:

a) Mentally (mind)	1	2	3	4	5
b) Physically (body)	1	2	3	4	5
c) Emotionally (heart)	1	2	3	4	5
d) Spiritually (spirit)	1	2	3	4	5

19. How safe do you feel currently? (*Pick one for each area*)

					
The choices are:	1. <i>Not safe</i>	2. <i>Not very safe</i>	3. <i>Sometimes safe</i>	4. <i>Mostly safe</i>	5. <i>Really safe</i>

a) Mentally (mind)	1	2	3	4	5
b) Physically (body)	1	2	3	4	5
c) Emotionally (heart)	1	2	3	4	5
d) Spiritually (spirit)	1	2	3	4	5

20. Overall, is the Home Stretch Program meeting your needs? (*Pick one only*)

					
The choices are:	1. <i>Not at All</i>	2. <i>A Little Bit</i>	3. <i>Sometimes</i>	4. <i>Mostly</i>	5. <i>Fully</i>

21. Please tell us why you chose your answer:

22. What, if anything, do you think needs to be done to improve the Home Stretch Program?

23. Please provide any final thoughts or comments before we finish the interview.

Many thanks, that completes the interview. We very much appreciate your time.

As per the attached Distress Protocol Question #5, ask the following questions at the end of the interview:

- I'm aware that some of the things we talked about today might have been distressing, do you feel that you would like some help today or in the coming week to talk about these things?
- Would you like me to contact you in a day or two and see how you are going?

7.4 Distress Protocol

Interviewer Actions:

1. If the interview participant demonstrates observable signs of distress during the interview, immediately pause (or end) the interview, ask the following questions and note the responses and related concern.

Screening Questions	Yes	No	If YES, follow up questions	Distress or Safety Concern
Do you feel Since inception in 2022, the program has approached and recorded data for 1,103 young people across metropolitan and regional WA, with 753 subsequently onboarded and around 400 new referrals each year would like some help today or in the coming week to talk about these things?			1. Offer support. 2. Assess mental state: a. <i>What thoughts are you having?</i> b. <i>How do you feel right now?</i> c. <i>Are you able to go on about your day?</i> d. <i>Do you feel safe?</i> 3. Determine if person is experiencing emotional distress beyond that normally expected in an interview about a sensitive topic or experience.	
Would you like me to contact you in a day or two and see how you are going?			1. Offer support. 2. Assess mental state: a. <i>What thoughts are you having?</i> b. <i>How do you feel right now?</i> c. <i>Are you able to go on about your day?</i> d. <i>Do you feel safe?</i> 3. Determine if person is experiencing acute emotional distress beyond that normally expected in an interview about a sensitive topic or experience.	

2. If a participant's distress reflects an emotional response akin to what would be expected in an interview about a sensitive topic or experience, offer support and extend the opportunity to:
 - i. Stop the interview [if during interview];
 - ii. Pause to allow participant to regroup and compose themselves;
 - iii. Continue and monitor level of distress.

3. If a participant's distress reflects acute emotional distress or a safety concern beyond what would be expected in an interview about a sensitive topic or experience, but not imminent danger, take the following actions:
 - a. Stop the interview;
 - b. Obtain permission for interviewer to make contact in the next day to see if they are okay.
 - c. Advise that if they would like to speak to some else about anxiety or concerns that Lifeline has a 24 hour contact number 13 11 14; online option - <https://www.lifeline.org.au/>
4. If a participant's distress reflects imminent danger:
 - a. Stop the interview;
 - b. Seek permission to contact mental health provider/GP to notify of concerns.
 - c. If mental status indicates high level of concern, arrange for urgent mental health assessment through ED or Mental Health Services (e.g., Mental Health Emergency Response Line (MHERL) 1300 555 788 (Perth) 1800 676 822 (Peel region). or Rural link 1800 552 002 (4.30pm – 8.30am weeknights; 24 hours on weekends and public holidays).
 - d. If life is in danger, call 000.
5. If the interview is completed – that is; the participant (i) had no observable signs of distress or (ii) their distress reflected an emotional response akin to what would be expected in an interview about a sensitive topic or experience – then ask the following questions and note the responses at the end of the interview:
 - a. I'm aware that some of the things we talked about today might have been distressing, do you feel that you would like some help today or in the coming week to talk about these things?
 - b. Would you like me to contact you in a day or two and see how you are going?

7.5 Home Stretch WA: Information Sheet – Home Stretch Participants (Young People)

Title	Home Stretch WA Program Summative Evaluation
Project Sponsor	WA Department of Communities
Principal Evaluator	Simon Hood (Quantum Consulting Australia)
Associate Evaluators	James Butterworth, Joslyn Eades-Tass, John Gardiner and Mark Wallace (Quantum Consulting Australia)

Part 1 What does my participation involve?

1. Introduction

You are invited to take part in this evaluation project, which is called the 'Home Stretch WA Program Summative Evaluation'. You have been invited because you are a young person who is currently participating in the Program.

This Participant Information Sheet/Consent Form tells you about the evaluation project. It explains the processes involved with taking part. Knowing what is involved will help you decide if you want to take part in the evaluation.

Please read this information carefully. Ask questions about anything that you don't understand or want to know more about. Before deciding whether or not to take part, you might want to talk about it with your Home Stretch Transition Coach, a relative or a friend.

Participation in this evaluation is voluntary. If you don't wish to take part, you don't have to.

If you decide you want to take part in the evaluation project, you will be asked to sign the consent section. By signing it you are telling us that you:

- Understand what you have read
- Consent to take part in the evaluation
- Consent to be involved in the evaluation described.

You will be given a copy of this Participant Information and Consent Form to keep.

2. What is the purpose of this evaluation?

This evaluation has been initiated and is funded by the Department of Communities, who want to know how well the Home Stretch WA Program is working and what it has achieved. The evaluation is being conducted by Simon Hood, James Butterworth, Joslyn Eades-Tass, John Gardiner and Mark Wallace who work for a company called Quantum Consulting Australia.

The main aim of the evaluation is to understand the extent to which Home Stretch meets the needs of young people in the Program. We want to hear your thoughts about how well the Program is working

and what could be done better. The goal of the evaluation is to understand what makes Home Stretch well so that young people are provided with the supports that they need up to the age of 21.

The views of young people are needed to help support the best outcomes for all people in the Home Stretch Program. In this way, if you are OK to participate, we are hoping you will respond as honestly as you can; for example, rating yourself or Home Stretch low on a particular question is absolutely fine – your true feelings are what we are seeking. So please be as open and direct as you like.

3. What does participation in this evaluation involve?

Service Provider Transition Coaches will be interviewing young people they are supporting within the Home Stretch Program. The aim is to ensure this experience is as safe and comfortable as possible for participants and for them to discuss their views with someone who they know and have built rapport and trust with. The venue for the interview will be at a place of the participant's choosing.

The evaluators will not be involved in completing interviews; only the later analysis and reporting of findings.

Formal consent to participate in the evaluation is required from each young person. It is entirely up to you whether or not to participate. Also, if you do take part, you can stop the interview at any time and for any reason.

Anyone who agrees to participate must sign a consent form which will be returned to the evaluation team.

Depending on a young person's comfort and preference, there are different ways to complete the interview – either with (a) the Transition Coach asking the questions and filling in the participant's responses (b) the Transition Coach asking the questions and the participant filling in their responses on a paper copy or (c) the Transition Coach asking the questions and the participant filling in their responses themselves on an electronic copy of the interview – *via an online link on computer/lap top*.

All responses will be treated with the utmost confidentiality by the evaluators and no references will be made to specific comments made by individual people. Participant's names will also not be used or recorded in the data.

The interview will take about 30-45 minutes to complete.

4. Other relevant information about the evaluation project

The evaluation will run from October 2025 until March 2026.

There are no costs associated with participating in this evaluation apart from the time it will take. You will not be paid for participating.

5. Do I have to take part in this evaluation project?

As noted above, participation in this evaluation is voluntary. If you do not wish to take part, you do not have to. If you decide to take part and later change your mind, you are free to withdraw at any stage up until February 2026.

If you do decide to take part, you will be given this Participant Information and Consent Form to sign and you will be given a copy to keep.

Your decision whether to take part or not to take part, or to take part and then withdraw, will not affect your relationship with Home Stretch staff or your relationship with the Department of Communities.

6. What are the possible benefits of taking part?

There will be no clear benefit to you from your participation in this evaluation. However, possible benefits for others may include helping to improve the Home Stretch WA Program for other young people in the future and help them to transition from out-of-home-care.

7. What are the possible risks and disadvantages of taking part?

You may feel that some of the questions that are asked are stressful or upsetting. If you do not wish to answer a question, you may skip it and go to the next question, or you may stop immediately. You can stop at any time and change your mind about participating.

If you become upset or distressed as a result of your participation in this evaluation, the interviewer – your Transition Coach – will make sure that you are comfortable and safe. We will call you with a follow up phone call to check that you are okay. We can also talk with you about other potential support services that you can talk to in your local area.

You can also contact the following organisations for support if you become upset:

- Beyond Blue – 1300 22 46 36
- Lifeline – 13 11 14
- (First Nations only) 13 YARN – 13 92 76.

8. What if I withdraw from this evaluation project?

If you do consent to participate, you may withdraw at any time. If you decide to withdraw from the project, please notify a member of the evaluation team.

If you decide to leave the evaluation project, the evaluation team will not collect additional personal information from you, although personal information already collected will be retained to ensure that the results of the evaluation project can be measured properly and to comply with law. You should be aware that data collected up to the time you withdraw will form part of the evaluation project results. If you do not want your data to be included, you must tell the evaluation team when you withdraw from the evaluation project.

9. Could this evaluation project be stopped unexpectedly?

This evaluation project may be stopped unexpectedly for a variety of reasons. These may include reasons such as withdrawal of funding. This is unlikely, but if it happens we will let you know as soon as possible.

10. What happens when the evaluation project ends?

When the evaluation project ends, we can provide you with a copy of the final report, if you request it. This will be emailed to you as soon as it is formally released.

Part 2 How is the evaluation project being conducted?

11. What will happen to information about me?

By signing the consent form you consent to the evaluation team collecting and using information about you for the evaluation project. We will not collect any information that can be used to identify you. Your information will be stored on an isolated, password-protected computer accessible only by the evaluation team. Participant's names will also not be used or recorded in the data.

The information will be kept for the duration of the project, stored for at least five years afterwards and then destroyed.

Your information will only be used for the purpose of this evaluation project and it will only be disclosed with your permission, except as required by law.

It is anticipated that the results of this evaluation project will be presented within Department of Communities. In any publication and/or presentation, information will be provided in such a way that you cannot be identified.

In accordance with relevant Australian and/or Western Australian privacy and other relevant laws, you have the right to request access to the information about you that is collected and stored by the evaluation team. You also have the right to request that any information with which you disagree be corrected. Please inform the evaluation team member named at the end of this document if you would like to access your information.

Any information obtained for the purpose of this evaluation project will be treated as confidential and securely stored. It will be disclosed only with your permission, or as required by law.

Cultural information includes information about First Nations culture such as traditional cultural knowledge, cultural expressions, secret and sacred materials and other information about First Nations peoples' heritage. We will not collect culturally restricted information from you on purpose. If you do share cultural information with us, you can ask us not to include it in the report or give us instructions about how it should be used.

Your information will be used to inform the evaluation of the Home Stretch WA Program. It will be analysed together with all of the other information collected and used to write a report that outlines how well the project is working and what it has achieved. The information you provide will be de-identified (we won't record your name with your information). This report may contain your deidentified quotes and it may be published.

Information about you may be obtained from your records held by the Department of Communities for the purpose of this evaluation. By signing the consent form you agree to the evaluation team accessing your records if they are relevant to your participation in this evaluation project.

12. Complaints

If you suffer any distress or psychological injury as a result of this evaluation project, you should contact the evaluation team as soon as possible. You will be assisted with arranging appropriate treatment and support.

13. Who is organising and funding this evaluation?

This evaluation project is being conducted by Quantum Consulting Australia. It is funded by the Western Australian Department of Communities.

You will not benefit financially from your involvement in this evaluation project even if, for example, knowledge acquired from your information proves to be of commercial value.

In addition, if knowledge acquired through this evaluation leads to discoveries that are of commercial value, the evaluation team or their institutions, there will be no financial benefit to you or your family from these discoveries.

Quantum Consulting Australia will receive a payment from the Department of Communities for undertaking this evaluation project.

No member of the evaluation team will receive a personal financial benefit from your involvement in this evaluation project (other than their ordinary wages).

14. Further information and who to contact

The person you may need to contact will depend on the nature of your query. If you want any further information concerning this project or if you have any problems which may be related to your involvement in the project, you can contact any of the following people:

Evaluation contact person

Name	James Butterworth
Position	Lead Evaluator
Telephone	(08) 9325 3233
Email	jbutterworth@quantumconsulting.net.au

If you have any complaints about any aspect of the project, the way it is being conducted or any questions about being an evaluation participant in general, then you may contact:

Name	Anne Mathews
Position	Manager Monitoring and Evaluation, Department of Communities
Telephone	0448 417 090
Email	anne.mathews@communities.wa.gov.au

7.6 Home Stretch WA: Consent Form – Home Stretch Participants

Consent Form*Young Person providing own consent*

Title	Home Stretch WA Program Summative Evaluation
Project Sponsor	WA Department of Communities
Principal Evaluator	Simon Hood (Quantum Consulting Australia)
Associate Evaluators	James Butterworth, Joslyn Eades-Tass, John Gardiner and Mark Wallace (Quantum Consulting Australia)
Location	Perth metropolitan area, and service delivery locations in the Peel, South West and Great Southern WA Regions

Declaration by Participant

- I have read the Participant Information Sheet or someone has read it to me in a language that I understand.
- I understand the purposes, procedures and risks of the evaluation described in the project.
- I have had an opportunity to ask questions and I am satisfied with the answers I have received.
- I freely agree to participate in this evaluation project as described and understand that I am free to withdraw at any time during the project up until February 2026 without affecting my future care.
- I understand that I will be given a signed copy of this document to keep.

Name of Participant (please print) _____	
Signature _____	Date _____

Declaration by Interviewer[†]

I have given a verbal explanation of the evaluation project, its procedures and risks and I believe that the participant has understood that explanation.

Name of Interviewer [†] (please print) _____	
Signature _____	Date _____

[†] A formally engaged Home Stretch Transition Coach acting as an appropriately qualified member of the evaluation team must provide the explanation of, and information concerning, the evaluation project.

Note: All parties signing the consent section must date their own signature.

7.7 Home Stretch WA: Withdrawal of Participation – Home Stretch Participants

Form for Withdrawal of Participation*Young person providing own consent*

Title	Home Stretch WA Program Outcome Evaluation
Protocol Number	HREC1259
Project Sponsor	WA Department of Communities
Principal Investigator	Simon Hood (Quantum Consulting Australia)
Associate Investigators	James Butterworth, Joslyn Eades-Tass, John Gardiner and Mark Wallace (Quantum Consulting Australia)
Location	Perth metropolitan area, and service delivery locations in the Peel, South West and Great Southern WA Regions

Declaration by Participant

I wish to withdraw from participation in the above evaluation project and understand that such withdrawal will not affect my participation in the Home Stretch Program, or my relationships with my service provider, the evaluators or the Department of Communities.

Name of Participant (please print) _____ Signature _____	Date _____ _____
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In the event that the participant's decision to withdraw is communicated verbally, the Senior Evaluator must provide a description of the circumstances below.

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Declaration by Evaluator[†]

I have given a verbal explanation of the implications of withdrawal from the evaluation project and I believe that the participant has understood that explanation.

Name of Evaluator (please print) _____ Signature _____	Date _____ _____
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[†] A formally engaged Home Stretch Transition Coach acting as an appropriately qualified member of the evaluation team must provide information concerning withdrawal from the evaluation project.

Note: All parties signing the consent section must date their own signature.

7.8 Carers Survey Proforma

Your Name	
Are you Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander?	Y/N/Prefer not to say
Email Address and Mobile (if happy to provide)	

1. In your view, is the Home Stretch Program working as intended for your participant?
Y/N/Unsure

Please outline the main reasons for your answer:

2. How effective do you consider the Home Stretch Program is being in achieving its intended Service Outcomes. As noted below, please tick one rating for each Outcome.

Service Outcome	Effective	Moderately Effective	Neither/ Neutral	Moderately Ineffective	Ineffective	Unsure
1. Young people are better prepared and supported to successfully transition to adulthood:	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
2. The service meets young people's needs and expectations and responds to their circumstances:	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
3a. Young people: Have access to stable accommodation and health care	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
3b. Have their employment, training and educational opportunities met	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
3c. Have (and maintain and further build) a robust sense of identity and are connected to community and culture (and country and kin)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
4. Services are culturally responsive and place-based, with a person-centred approach	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

3. To what degree do you feel appropriately supported in Home Stretch – financially. *High Degree, Moderate degree, Low Degree, Not at all.*
4. To what degree do you feel valued and appropriately supported in Home Stretch – non-financially. *High Degree, Moderate degree, Low Degree, Not at all.*
5. Do you have any suggestions or ideas for how the Home Stretch Program could be improved?

Thank You

End of Interview

7.9 Service Providers Survey Proforma

Your Name	
Your Organisation	
Position Title	
Home Stretch Role	
Identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander?	Y/N
Email Address and Mobile (if agree to provide)	

1. In your view, is the Home Stretch Program working as intended for Young People? Y/N/Not sure
Please outline the main reasons for your answer:
2. How effective do you consider the Home Stretch Program will be/is being in achieving its intended Service Outcomes? As noted below, please pick one rating for each Outcome.

Service Outcome	Effective	Moderately Effective	Neither/Neutral	Moderately Ineffective	Ineffective	Not sure
1. Young people are better prepared and supported to successfully transition to adulthood:	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
2. The service meets young people's needs and expectations and responds to their circumstances:	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
3a. Young people: Have access to stable accommodation and health care:	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
3b. Have their employment, training and educational opportunities met:	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
3c. Have (and maintain and further build) a robust sense of identity and are connected to community, culture and kin:	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
4. Services are culturally responsive and place-based, with a person-centred approach:	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
5. Service providers work with the Home Stretch WA Community of Practice (CoP), share data and collaborate to enable systemic reform:	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

3. How effective would you consider your own organisation's performance in delivering Home Stretch? *Effective, Moderately Effective, Neither/Neutral, Moderately Ineffective, Ineffective, Not sure*
Please outline the main reasons for your answer:
4. How confident are you in your organisation's ability to deliver Home Stretch? *Not at All, A Little Bit, Moderately, Mostly, Fully, Not Sure*
5. To what degree does your organisation work with the Community of Practice (CoP) and the Department of Communities to collaborate and share data? *High Degree, Moderate degree, Low Degree, Not at all, Not sure*
6. To what degree do you feel supported by a collaborative peer network? *High Degree, Moderate degree, Low Degree, Not at all, Not sure.*
7. Please provide any suggestions or ideas for how the Home Stretch Program could be improved.

Thank You**End of Interview**

7.10 Department of Communities Staff Survey Proforma

Your Name (if happy to provide, otherwise leave blank)	
Your Office Location (City or Town and Communities District)	
Your Position Title (if happy to provide)	
Home Stretch Role	
Identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander?	Y/N/Possibly/Prefer not to say

1. How effective do you consider the Home Stretch Program will be/is being in achieving its intended Service Outcomes. As noted below, please tick one rating for each Outcome.

Service Outcome	Effective	Moderately Effective	Neither/Neutral	Moderately Ineffective	Ineffective	Unsure
1. Young people are better prepared and supported to successfully transition to adulthood:	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
2. The service meets young people's needs and expectations and responds to their circumstances:	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
3a. Young people: Have access to stable accommodation and health care	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
3b. Have their employment, training and educational opportunities met	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
3c. Have (and maintain and further build) a robust sense of identity and are connected to community and culture (and country and kin)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
4. Services are culturally responsive and place-based, with a person-centred approach	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
5. Service providers work with the Home Stretch WA Community of Practice (CoP), share data and collaborate to enable systemic reform	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

2. How effective would you consider your own organisation's performance in supporting the delivery of Home Stretch? *Effective, Moderately Effective, Neither/Neutral, Moderately Ineffective, Ineffective, Not sure*
Please outline the main reasons for your answer:
3. How confident are you in your organisation's ability to deliver positive outcomes for Home Stretch participants? *Fully, Mostly, Moderately, A Little Bit, Not at All, Not Sure*
4. To what degree does your organisation work with the Home Stretch Community of Practice (CoP) and Service Providers to collaborate and share data? *High Degree, Moderate degree, Low Degree, Not at all, Not sure.*
5. Please provide any suggestions or ideas for how the Home Stretch Program could be improved.



Summative Evaluation of the Home Stretch WA Program