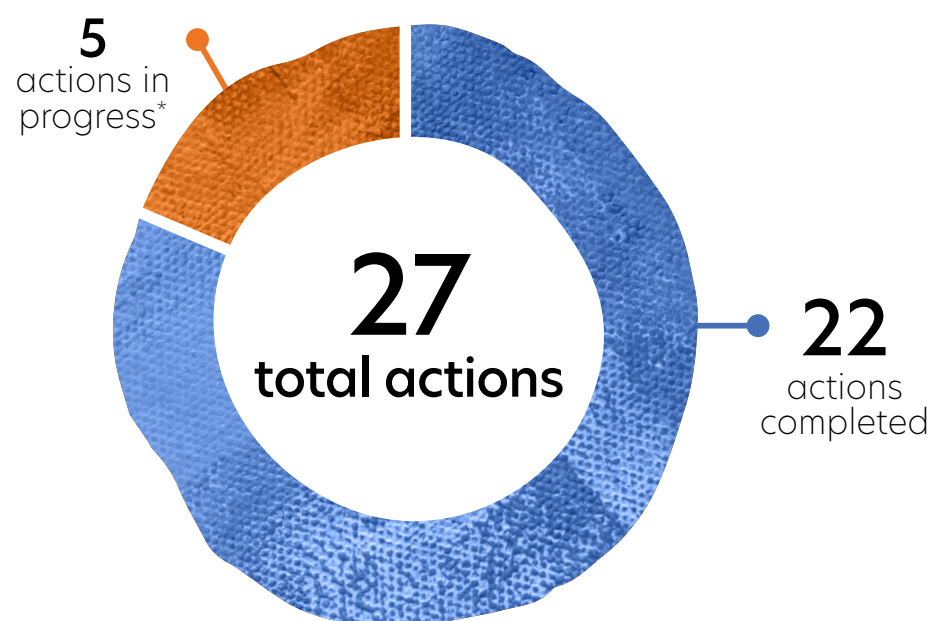


Beyond 2020

WA Youth Action Plan 2020-22

The **Beyond 2020: WA Youth Action Plan 2020-22** (Beyond 2020) was released in January 2021 and outlined a range of State Government actions across seven priority areas aimed at ensuring that young people in Western Australia (WA) were supported and provided with opportunities they needed to flourish, particularly through the COVID-19 pandemic.

Government actions to improve outcomes for young people during 2020-2022



Please note that five actions (marked *) are long-term construction/capital works projects that will take some time to deliver. These projects have been impacted by the strain on the construction industry over the last three years during the pandemic. For the purpose of this report, these actions have been marked as completed as the intent of the action has been met.

The impact of COVID-19 was far reaching. Young people were disproportionately affected by compounding issues such as job losses, insecure employment, social isolation, and limited access to digital technology. Beyond 2020 provided an important foundation and road map to assist WA young people on the road to recovery and beyond, with many initiatives focused on equipping young people with a voice and the skills they need to thrive and reach their potential.

We recognise that achieving improved outcomes for young people in WA is a whole of government responsibility. A snapshot of the status of the actions and initiatives in Beyond 2020 to improve outcomes for young people during 2020-2022 is provided below.

Key Priority Areas

A voice for young people



4 total actions

Reaching your potential



3 total actions

Jobs



4 total actions

Climate change



3 total actions

Mental health and wellbeing



6 total actions

A secure place to live



4 total actions






Help where it is needed most



3 total actions

Beyond 2020 WA Youth Action Plan 2020-22

Status in 2020

	Reaching your potential <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Women make up 16 per cent of STEM-qualified Australians. Enrolments in the most challenging mathematics subject (Mathematics Specialist) has declined in WA and Nationally.¹
	Jobs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth unemployment in WA in November 2020 had fallen to 14.7 per cent from a high of 17 per cent during COVID-19.¹ The percentage of workers below 25 years of age in casual positions increased from 48.2 per cent in 2001 to 54.1 per cent in 2017.¹
	Climate change <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 30 per cent of young people identified the environment as one of the most important issues in Australia.²
	Mental health <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 71 per cent of young people know where to get mental health support in school, 63 per cent know where to get support online, 51.5 per cent said they know where to get support in their local area.² 31 per cent of WA young people reported being stressed most of the time, with a further 11.6 per cent reporting being stressed all the time over the past four weeks.²
	Help when its needed most <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nearly three in 10 (28.2 per cent) young people from WA reported they had been treated unfairly in the past year. A higher proportion of WA females than males reported they had been treated unfairly in the past year (35.7 per cent compared with 20.7 per cent).²

Because...

- Young people were disproportionately affected by COVID-19
- A range of strategies and action plans exist that directly or indirectly support young people in WA. Some are led by Department of Communities, others are the responsibility of other State Government agencies.
- These priorities, services and supports require coordination and alignment through a whole of government approach.
- There are a range of challenges for young people in WA as a result of the lack of alignment. Young people:
 - Often feel voiceless
 - Have less opportunity for jobs or training
 - Are not always able to meet their basic needs
 - Lose hope or face isolation
 - Face issues accessing a stable place to call home
 - Are unable to access help when it is needed.

It is understood that...

- Young people in WA are a diverse group with different needs. A youth friendly community needs to:
- Recognise the diverse interests of young people in WA
 - Support areas of interest including environment
 - Help young people to reach their potential and access employment opportunities
 - Reduce inequalities
 - Protect those who are most vulnerable
 - Promote a voice for young people and their inclusion and contribution to all areas of community life.

To meet this diversity of needs, everybody (government, communities, individuals) play a role in supporting young people across the seven priority areas.

So...

- The WA Government developed Beyond 2020 focussed on actions to improve the outcomes for young people aged 10 – 25 years in WA.
- Through Beyond 2020, key actions and initiatives aligned to the needs of the diverse set of young people in WA are implemented.

Leads to...











- Young people supported to:
- Have a voice
 - Reach their potential
 - Be employed
 - Engage in their interests e.g. climate change
 - Have positive mental health and wellbeing outcomes
 - Have a secure place to live
 - Access to help when it is needed most.

Strengthened interagency collaboration and harnessed opportunities for improved outcomes.

AND... Resulting in

Increased oversight, successful delivery of joint commitments and progress towards the priority areas of the Beyond 2020.

Status in 2021 and 2022

	Reaching your potential <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Women make up 19 per cent of STEM-qualified Australians. Enrolments in the most challenging mathematics subject (Mathematics Specialist) has increased in WA.³ 	
	Jobs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth unemployment in WA in January 2023 had fallen to 8.1 per cent from a high of 14.5 per cent during COVID-19. This equates to an average of 19,600 unemployed young people in the State over the past 12 months.⁴ 	
	Climate change <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 51 per cent of young people identified the environment as one of the most important issues in Australia, compared with 38 per cent in 2021 and 30 per cent in 2020.⁶ 	
	Mental health <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 67 per cent of young people in WA know where to get mental health support in school, 59.6 per cent know where to get support online, 47.6 per cent said they know where to get support in their local area.⁶ 32 per cent of WA young people reported moderate levels of psychological distress, with a further 29.3 per cent reporting high levels of psychological distress over the past four weeks.⁵ 	
	Help when its needed most <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 27.1 per cent of young people were treated unfairly or discriminated against in the last year, most commonly due to gender, race/cultural background and mental health.⁵ 	

		
Increase since 2020 – improved outcome.	Decrease since 2020 – improved outcome.	No improvement since 2020.

1. Beyond 2020 – WA Youth Action Plan (WA Youth Action Plan), [Beyond 2020 – WA Youth Action Plan \(www.wa.gov.au\)](https://www.wa.gov.au/beyond-2020-wa-youth-action-plan)
 2. Mission Australia Youth Survey 2020 Western Australia, [Mission Australia Youth Survey Report 2020.pdf](https://www.missionaustralia.org.au/mission-australia-youth-survey-report-2020.pdf)
 3. Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2021 Census – Counting Persons, Place of Usual Residence, 'QALFP Non-School Qualification: Field of Study by SEXP Sex' – [Population: Census, 2021 | Australian Bureau of Statistics \(abs.gov.au\)](https://www.abs.gov.au/population/census/2021)

4. Australian Bureau of Statistics, Table 16, Labour Force, Australia, January 2023 – Annual Average of Original Data; [Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, January 2023 | Australian Bureau of Statistics \(abs.gov.au\)](https://www.abs.gov.au/labour-force-australia-detailed-january-2023)
 5. Mission Australia Youth Survey 2022 Western Australia, [Youth Survey Dec 2022 – WA Sub-report.pdf](https://www.missionaustralia.org.au/youth-survey-dec-2022-wa-sub-report.pdf)
 6. Commissioner for Children and Young People, 2022, Speaking Out Survey 2021 – the views of WA children and young people on their wellbeing – a summary report [Report]. <https://www.ccp.wa.gov.au/our-work/speaking-out-survey/>