

Home Stretch WA – Community of Practice

Frequently Asked Questions

The Home Stretch WA Community of Practice (CoP) is a group of service providers working together with young consultants and practice experts to roll out the Home Stretch WA Model across WA.

What is a Community of Practice (CoP)?

*'Communities of Practice are groups of peers who share a concern or a passion for something they do and learn how to do it better as they interact regularly.'*¹

*A CoP is primarily established to enable and promote social learning and thinking together. It occurs when people collaborate to share ideas, strategies and develop solutions regarding a similar issue over an extended period. This promotes innovation, knowledge sharing and process improvement.*²

There are three essential elements to a successful CoP:

- 1. Members share a common area of interest*
- 2. Members regularly interact and learn together*
- 3. Members are practitioners who develop a shared repertoire of resources.*³



“ A CoP is primarily established to enable and promote social learning and thinking together ”

Why develop a Home Stretch WA CoP?

Young people and Aboriginal Community have been at the centre of the design and development of the Home Stretch WA model. They have entrusted us with their hopes and vision for a better system for transitioning from Out of Home Care. The agreement to expand Home Stretch WA across the state, includes a commitment to ensure the expansion remains true to the model of practice that young people helped create.

System reform is challenging. The introduction of a new way of working across a system requires support and resourcing to achieve the intended outcomes. Evaluations of similar reforms in the United Kingdom, Canada and the United States recommend an approach that invests in workforce development, program monitoring, accountability, and a focus on embedding a cultural change in leadership to overcome the challenges of wide scale reform.

In May to July 2021, a review of the learnings and insights from the Home Stretch WA Trial was undertaken by all involved stakeholders. Following the review, a universal recommendation was that a CoP would be a critical foundation for the effective scaling of Home Stretch across WA.

How is Anglicare WA involved with the Home Stretch WA CoP?

Anglicare WA has worked in partnership with Yorganop, CreateWA and the Department of Communities to co-design the service model through the Home Stretch WA Trial, a project that will continue until the end of 2023. Anglicare WA will not be a Home Stretch WA provider.

Anglicare WA will build on this partnership approach to establish the Home Stretch WA CoP, inviting key stakeholders to join our work and collective commitment to creating a better service system for young people leaving care.

What is the purpose of a Home Stretch WA CoP?

The purpose of the CoP is to ensure young people have access to a high-quality Home Stretch service wherever they are in WA.

The CoP will establish a knowledge hub centred on workforce development and the sharing of practice resources and information about what works. The CoP team will work alongside providers to improve the Home Stretch model, using outcomes data collected and shared by providers to keep things on track.

Who are the members?

The members of the CoP will be staff employed by organisations delivering the Home Stretch WA service to young people e.g. Transition Coaches, Staying on Facilitators, Home Stretch WA Coordinators. CreateWA will also have an important role in ensuring young people have independent representation and support.

Child Protection workers, Foster Carer support services, CreateWA, Peak Bodies, and other stakeholders will also have space to join in CoP activities.

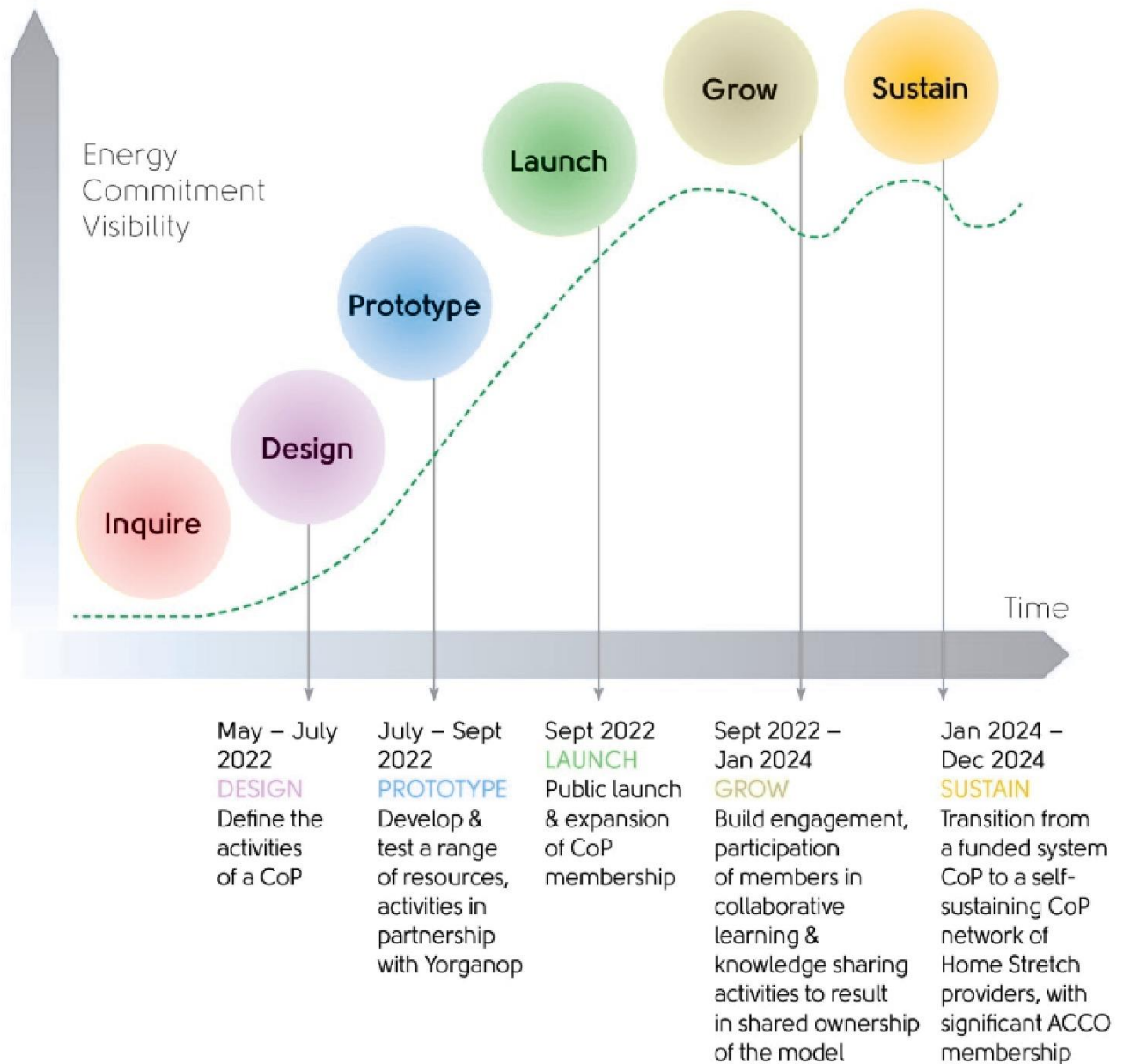
How and when will the CoP be established for Home Stretch WA Providers?

- The CoP is guided by a six-phase process (Figure 1) based on the work of Richard McDermott and Etienne Wenger on establishing CoPs
- This will integrate and build on planning already undertaken by the Home Stretch WA project team with continued collaboration with the Department of Communities, Yorganop Association Incorporated and key stakeholders.
- Further work will explore how existing trial resources and ongoing input from the Anglicare WA Home Stretch WA Trial team can provide a foundation for the rapid establishment of the Yorganop Home Stretch WA service.

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Lifecycle phases of the CoP with indicative timeframes



What are the intended outcomes of the CoP?

Short term Outcomes (by December 2023)	Intermediate Outcomes (by December 2024)	Long term Outcomes (3-5 years post funded CoP)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased awareness and access of the Home Stretch WA model by young people across WA • Home Stretch WA providers have access to quality resources, support and training • Home Stretch WA providers are contributing and satisfied members of the CoP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Home Stretch WA model is defined and integrated into the leaving care continuum • Home Stretch WA providers have increased knowledge and skills to deliver a culturally competent, responsive model of support • Home Stretch WA providers are contributing and satisfied facilitators of the CoP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home Stretch WA continues to be delivered by a strong and capable workforce with ongoing successful outcomes for young people • Aboriginal families and young people have improved trust in Home Stretch WA providers • Home Stretch WA providers have an embedded culture of collaboration, knowledge sharing, and continuous improvement and are leaders of the CoP

“ Home Stretch WA providers have an embedded culture of collaboration, knowledge sharing, and continuous improvement ”



How will we know if the CoP is successful?

The CoP will have a monitoring and evaluation function, to ensure outcomes and impact data is effectively captured and shared, driving quality service provision and continuous improvement. This will include the development of a data dashboard to capture and share this information with CoP members.

Outcomes measures need to provide meaningful indicators, reflecting an Aboriginal worldview and young people's unique perspectives and definitions of success. The measures to be used will be refined over the first year in partnership with CoP members and other stakeholders.

What do I need to do as a Home Stretch WA provider and CoP member?

Examples of quantitative and qualitative data that may be captured to demonstrate the success of the CoP are listed below:

- Number of Home Stretch WA providers
- Number of Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOs)
- Number of CoP members
- Number of Young people engaged with Home Stretch WA
- Number and type of workshops, training and support delivered
- Number of people attending workshops, training and support
- Satisfaction measures
- CoP member surveys/interviews
- Number and types of resources developed
- Number of community partnerships
- Number of reports/frameworks
- Number of co-design activities
- Actively participate in training and practice development workshops
- Contribute your experience and share your learnings and ideas.
- Share a commitment to empowering Aboriginal Communities and organisations to deliver Home Stretch.
- Ensure young people have a voice in how your service works, and participate in continuous improvement of Home Stretch in WA.
- Collect and share outcomes data (as part of service agreements).

What are the primary functions and activities of the Home Stretch WA CoP?

The primary functions and activities resourced through the CoP are captured within five pillars of support, drawn from best-practice evidence, to support the locally designed Home Stretch WA model. Refer below:

The 5 Pillars – CoP Functions and Activities

