

The logo for Home Stretch WA is a circular emblem with a blue-to-purple gradient. It features the text "Home Stretch" in a large, white, sans-serif font, with "WA" in a smaller font below it. A decorative arc of white dots is positioned at the bottom of the circle. The emblem is accented with a pink dot at the top and an orange dot at the bottom.

**Home
Stretch**
WA

The text "Info session" is written in a large, white, sans-serif font, centered horizontally on the right side of the image. The background behind the text consists of overlapping, curved shapes in shades of blue and purple.

Info session

Acknowledgement of Country



We wish to acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land we are meeting on, the Whadjuk (Perth region) people. We wish to acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of this city and this region.

Housekeeping

In this Home Stretch WA Infosession?



What is Home Stretch WA?

I need more information!

Service Providers?

How does Home Stretch WA work?

Referral process?

Eligibility?



What should being 18 feel like?

Activity: Write on your sticky note how turning 18 made/makes you feel?

You can write down or draw anything! For example, emotions, goals, things you're excited for!





Turning 18 should be a
positive and exciting
experience.



This is what **Home Stretch** is helping
make happen.

What is Home Stretch?

Home Stretch offers you the choice to access higher levels of support until you reach the age of 21.

It extends the supports from the care system, without meaning you have to stay 'in care'.

The Department of Communities is partnering with community service organisations and Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (Home Stretch WA service providers) to deliver the program across the State.



How & Who Designed Home Stretch WA?

Through a combination of "Lived" and "Learned" experience!

- Since 2018 over 137 Young People have been consulted in design.
- 37 Young People in the Home Stretch Trial helped test and refine the model
- A Youth Advisory Group help lead the design and review of the model
- Front Line Practice Experts
- Research and Best Practice from across the world

We use Human Centred Design Methodology to ensure **young people** remain at the centre.



Home Stretch WA is Strong in Culture

Nitja Nop Yorga Ngulla Mia – System Design

We sought permission. We co-created our approach. We listened deeply and respectfully. We made sense of it together.

We were Aboriginal Young People, Families, Community, Elders and Practice Experts

We co-created a set of principles to guide Home Stretch in WA.

These principles have guided the development of the Home Stretch WA Model.

These principles have guided the plan for the future.



Home Stretch WA Model



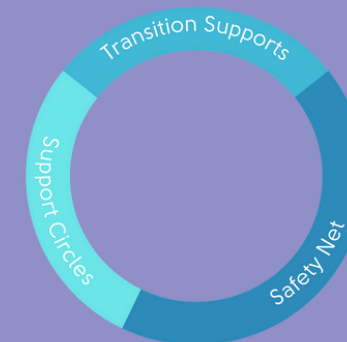
Young people are at centre of support.
Everyone is treated as an individual



Support or connection is offered in
all areas of life



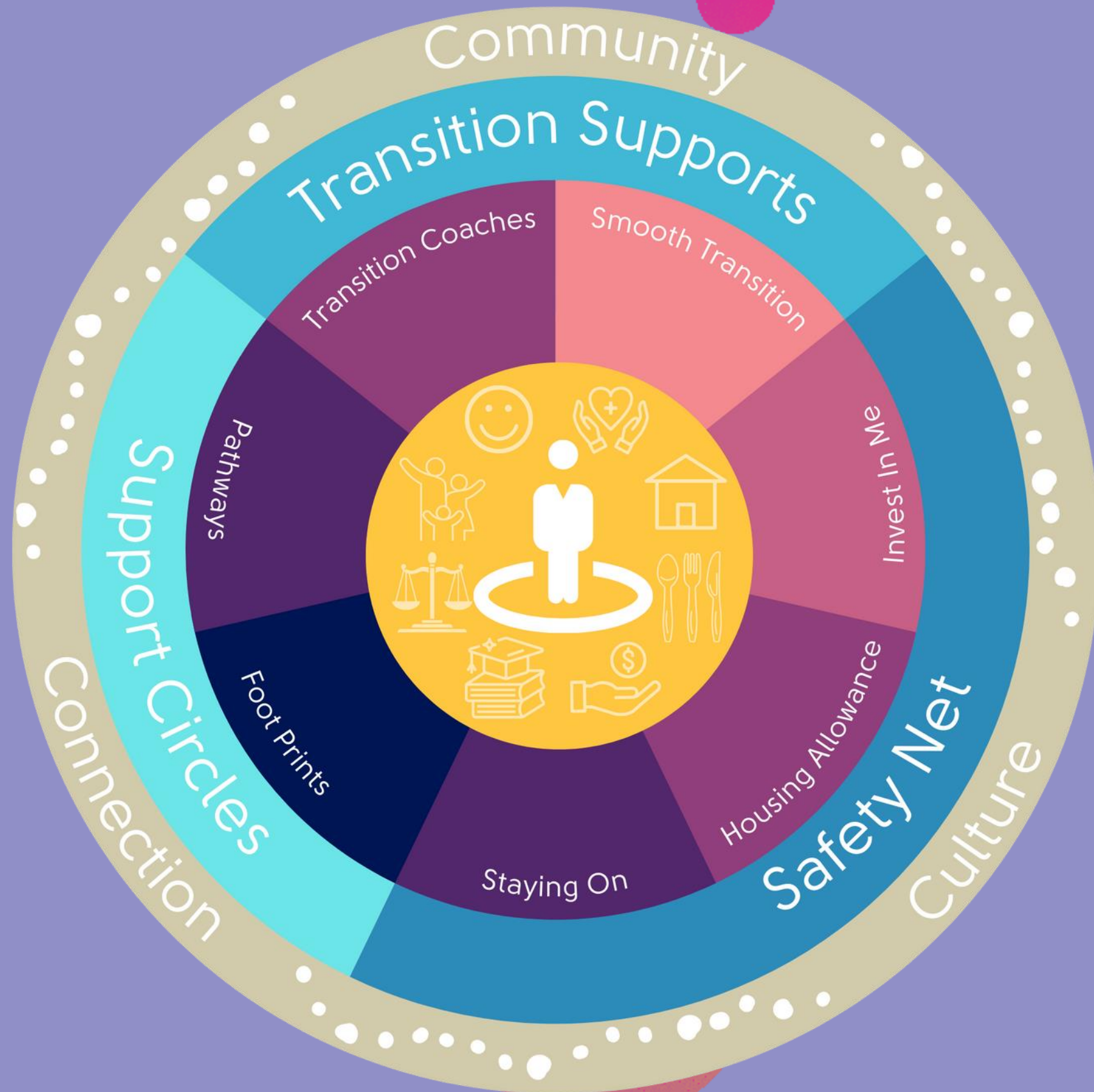
Support is delivered in specific
ways [Practice Approaches] that
work for young people



Home Stretch WA focuses on 3
key elements of support



Home Stretch WA greater purpose is to
connect young people with their
community and culture.



Home Stretch WA - Transition Support

Transition Support is a key element of the Home Stretch program. Flexible, one-to-one support focused on encouraging towards interdependence

This support is offered in two main ways:

Smooth Transition

Transition Coaches

Smooth Transition - (Engagement with the program/Referral)

Working together with a young person and their support circle from age of 17.5 years to ensure a smooth transition into the Home Stretch WA program and a seamless continuation of support until the age of 21 years.

It's also about young people being aware of their rights and being able to independently access support they are entitled to after 21.



Why is Smooth Transition needed?

The current system was failing young people, and did not provide them the supports and resources at the times they needed them most.

Young people involved in the design Home Stretch WA said they wanted to make a choice when they were ready. Referrals at 15 did not give them much choice.

Allowing young people to build trust over time with their Transition Coach was an important learning from the Home Stretch WA Trial.



"I don't want you to look at my case file or leaving care plan, that's not who I am anymore!"

Young Person

Transition Coaches

A consistent, persistent and skilled youth worker who works with young people to provide flexible, one to one support focused on coaching towards independence.

The Transition Coach works from a set of practice principles ensuring support provided is consistent and focused on building a young person's self reliance, skills, capacity and connection to community, culture and country.



The Coach connects young people to resources and supports available through the Home Stretch service model and beyond, helping them navigate their journey to interdependence beyond the child protection system and being seen as a 'care leaver'.

"My Coach has stuck by me, even when I didn't answer messages. Every young person coming out of care should have someone like that."

Youth Advisory Group
Member and Trial
Participant



Home Stretch WA - Safety Net

The right to a visible, accessible and secure financial safety net that ensures access to housing, foster care, health, education and life skills.

This is provided through three different Home Stretch WA service offers...

Housing Allowance

Invest In Me

Staying On Agreement

Housing Allowance

Young people can be supported to access a Home Stretch WA Housing Allowance that can assist them to afford a broader range of living arrangements and includes an emphasis on providing them the skills and supports they need to secure and maintain safe and stable housing.

Transition Coaches work with young people to make a plan for housing and access financial support to make it affordable.



Housing Allowance

How much is the Housing Allowance payment?

The Housing Allowance is reviewed every 12 months and the subsidy amount will reduce to 75% in the second year and 50% in the third year.

Age	Current Maximum Rate
18	\$450
19	\$337.50
20	\$225

Staying On Agreement

Young people can be supported to continue ‘staying on’ with a carer to ensure they have a stable living arrangement until age of 21 years.

This includes a continuation of payments and support to foster and family carers with an expectation that a young person will contribute to their living expenses from their independent income.

The focus of Staying On agreements is to support the young person’s emerging independence. A Home Stretch Staying On Facilitator works with each family to setup an agreement about how things work after 18.

These payments are administered by Communities.



Invest In Me

(\$2,500 per young person per year) gives young people the 'right' to a visible and secure financial safety net for resources to support them towards their aspirations and goals, or for crisis relief.

Invest in Me funding is provided through the coaching relationship and administered by Home Stretch WA service providers.

It provides young people with fast access to financial assistance without having to return to a District Office.



How does Invest In Me work?

- Young people can request financial support from their Transition coach towards their goals, or to deal with emergencies. This replaces going to a District Office and requesting money from the leaving care fund. (*Expensive items like braces or airfares may still be funded by the District Office)
- Invest In Me is focused on supporting young people to build their capacity and skills around their finances. Young people are asked to 'Chip In' to their costs. This doesn't always have to be \$\$\$
- For purchases under \$100, the Transition Coach can make the decision. For purchases over \$100, the Coordinator or Manager will review the application and approve it.

Young person in Home Stretch
Trial



It's easier to get support and coaching from Home Stretch, when you call DCP (Department of Communities) you never know who will answer.'

Invest In Me works better because I have a relationship with my Coach, I know him and he knows me so when I call I know he'll answer.

Home Stretch WA - Support Circles

Support Circles are at the centre of all of the support provided by Home Stretch WA. Transition Coaches are focused on supporting young people to grow and maintain lasting connections to the people, places and things that are important to them. This support also include the offer of assistance to map out the past and to help reconnect with family and historic relationships.

The importance of support circles can be seen in every service offer of the Home Stretch WA program. Though it is the specific focus of two areas of support...

Footprints

Pathways

Footprints

Walking alongside young people to help them understand and explore the people, places and connections that are important to them.

Mapping out the footprints and parts of their life story, we hope to find opportunities for them to build new connections or revisit old ones.



Pathways

Walking alongside young people as they navigate their connections to family, community, culture and country. Providing the resources and supports they need to heal and connect when they are ready

Coaching young people in the skills and knowledge they need to build their support circles, encouraging them to explore pathways to reconnect and providing a safety net for them if things don't work out how they had first intended.



Home Stretch Practice Principles

The Home Stretch WA Practice Principles were developed by young people and every Home Stretch WA provider will work from these principles.

Young People
are at the Centre



A reliable source of support is your right!
It's your choice to join and you can choose
to come and go.



Young People
are at the Centre

You are the expert in your life, you
deserve the freedom and respect to make
your own choices.

Our support is unconditional.



Young People
are at the Centre

"Chipping In" is about young people taking charge. This means that young people are asked to invest in themselves - building their skills, knowledge and capacity.



Young People
are at the Centre

You can make an informed choice about the support you receive from Home Stretch WA. There are no shocks for you or the important people in your life.



Young People
are at the Centre

Your coach will be consistent & persistent but
not intrusive.

“Like a text message, not a knock on the door”.



Young People
are at the Centre

Important moments & transition
points in your life are
acknowledged & celebrated.



Young People
are at the Centre

Your Relationships are important.

The important people in your life can be part of your Home Stretch WA experience and we can support you to build new connections



Young People
are at the Centre

Culturally Safe.

Your supports recognize Aboriginal, and CALD young people must navigate between two worlds.



Young People
are at the Centre

Know your mob to know your place.

When you're ready we will help you find ways to
build your connection to family and culture.



Young People
are at the Centre

Home Stretch will help you heal
and connect.

When you are ready.



Young People
are at the Centre

Break Time

(10 minutes)



Who will provide Home Stretch WA services?

Communities is delivering an interim service provision model to deliver Home Stretch WA service across the state through to 2024. Yorganop has been contracted to deliver Home Stretch WA service to young Aboriginal care leavers in metropolitan Perth. Existing Leaving Care Service Providers in metropolitan Perth will be engaged to further support service delivery in metropolitan areas. A gradual roll out in regional.



Home Stretch WA for 2023



Do Home Stretch WA service providers offer after hours support?

- The service provider typically provides support to young people during office hours.
- One of the key elements of Home Stretch WA is to build a young person's interdependence on mainstream services and supports.
- If a young person is struggling with any issues that requires access to supports after hours, their Transition Coach will support them to understand and connect them with appropriate specialist or mainstream supports in the community.
- For vulnerable young people this will be developed and agreed through a safety and wellbeing plan.

Do Home Stretch WA service providers offer after hours support?



- Young people are also supported to understand their rights and to access assistance in an emergency.
- During office hours this would be provided through the Home Stretch WA service provider. After hours young people can contact Crisis Care and identify themselves as a care leaver and part of a Home Stretch WA service program.
- Young people's engagement in Home Stretch WA will be flagged and recorded on ASSIST database so that any after-hours support that is provided can be communicated to the relevant Home Stretch WA service provider.

Who is eligible for Home Stretch WA?



- Turning the age of 18 years on or after 1 July 2022
- Connected to a Department of Communities district office that has a commissioned Home Stretch WA service provider.
- Eligibility for Home Stretch WA is also determined by a young person's eligibility for leaving care support legislation set out in Children and Community Services Act 2004

Are young people who were on Special Guardianship Order eligible for Home Stretch WA?

Young people who were placed **on a Special Guardianship Order after turning the age of 15 years** are eligible for Home Stretch WA and leaving care support.

Young people who are placed on a Special Guardianship Order before they turn age of 15 years will **not** be eligible for leaving care or Home Stretch WA services due to not meeting legislation requirements under section 96.

Are young people living in a regional area eligible for Home Stretch WA?

Home Stretch WA is being rolled out across the state in stages.

As of August 2022, Home Stretch WA service providers are only available in the Perth metropolitan area. The program will be available in all regional areas in the coming months as Communities secures service providers in regional locations through its staged roll out.

Are young people with disabilities eligible for Home Stretch WA, including those under the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)?

Yes, if they meet the eligibility criteria. For young people living with a disability that limits their capacity to live independently, or for young people who have complex care needs (NATS 5), the following criteria must be met:

- The young person must have the capacity to make an informed choice about engaging with Home Stretch WA service provider.
- NDIS support packages must be in place and appropriately resourced to meet the daily living needs of the young person.
- A funded coordination function must be included in the NDIS package.
- Subsidy payments required to support a young person to Stay On with carers are equal to or less than \$450 per fortnight limit.

Can young people be supported by a Leaving Care Service Provider and Home Stretch WA service at the same time?

No, young people cannot access one-on-one support from both Leaving Care Services and Home Stretch WA at the same time.

How much information about a young person's progress is shared with the District office while they are supported by Home Stretch WA?

Young people involved in the co-design identified that they would like to have control over what information is shared between the district office and the Home Stretch WA service provider after they turn the age of 18 years.

Transition Coaches will negotiate with young people what information they would like shared with staff in a district office.

Referral?

All referrals are to be made by a **district office**, either by a young person's case manager or the relevant leaving care team member.

The referral form is a simple process that provides basic information about a young person's circumstances and their potential level of support. While the referral doesn't require a young person to sign the referral form, they must provide consent to the referral.

This referral is sent to the relevant Home Stretch WA service provider who will allocate a Transition Coach to follow up the referral and invite a young person to meet for an initial information session.

Any eligible young person, with assistance from their carer or other support people, can request to be referred to a Home Stretch WA service provider at any district office.



A Transition Coach will follow up for a maximum of six weeks to engage the young person. As part of this engagement, the Transition Coach will seek input and guidance from a young person's carer or other support people to inform how best to offer the service to them.

How to Refer a Young Person

Supported by Home Stretch 18

Awareness from 15

Referral from 17

Choice

Onboarding from 17.5

District Office



Documents & Touchpoints

- Home Stretch WA Fact Sheet (Young People)
- HSWA Explainer video
- Staying On Guide for Carers and Young People
- Home Stretch WA Fact Sheet (Young People)
- Smooth Transition - Information Session - Practice Guide
- Home Stretch WA Fact Sheet (Young People)
- Referral Stage I Form
- Referral & Onboarding Flow Chart - Providers
- Referral Stage II Form
- Home Stretch WA Engagement Plan with Locator Contacts
- Home Stretch WA Fact Sheet (Young People)
- Provider Release of Information Form
- Consent to Participate & Collect Information Form
- Home Stretch WA - Explainer Video
- Consent to Obtain & Store Records Form
- Practice Principles - Flash Cards
- Protocols for Transition Coach & Case Worker - Working Together
- Transition Coach - Stages - Practice Guide
- Leaving Care Plan
- Cultural Plan
- Cultural Map
- Protocols for Transition Coach & Case Worker - Working Together
- Onboarding Checklist
- Next Step - Goal Plan
- Outcome Measure Tool
- Footprints Ecomap
- Invest In Me Application Form - Over 100
- Child History File



Questions

Contact Us:

Email: homestretchwa@communities.wa.gov.au

Home Stretch WA FAQ Sheet:

<https://www.wa.gov.au/organisation/departments-of-communities/home-stretch-wa-roll-out>

You can also ask us for a copy of the presentation! We can email it to you.



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