



Government of **Western Australia**  
Department of **Health**



# WA Youth Health Policy 2018-2023

## Child and Youth Health Network

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**WA**

**YOUTH**

*Strong body, strong minds  
- stronger youth*

**HEALTH POLICY 2018 - 2023**



**WA**

**YOUTH**

**HEALTH POLICY 2018-2023  
Companion Resource**

*Strong body, strong minds - stronger youth*

**Understanding young people  
in Western Australia**

# Young People in WA

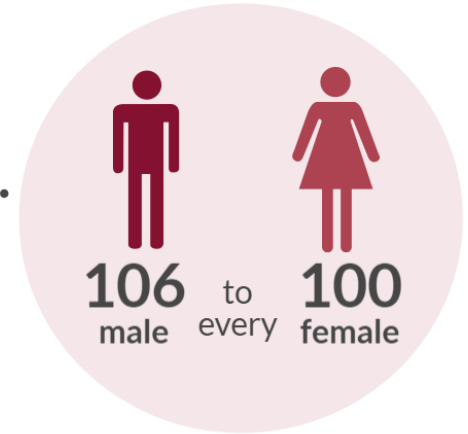


**496,000**

young people aged 10-24 live in WA



That is  
**19%**  
of the entire  
population of WA



**6%**

identify as Aboriginal  
or Torres Strait Islander



**11%\***

identify as LGBTQI  
\*estimated



**1 in 2**

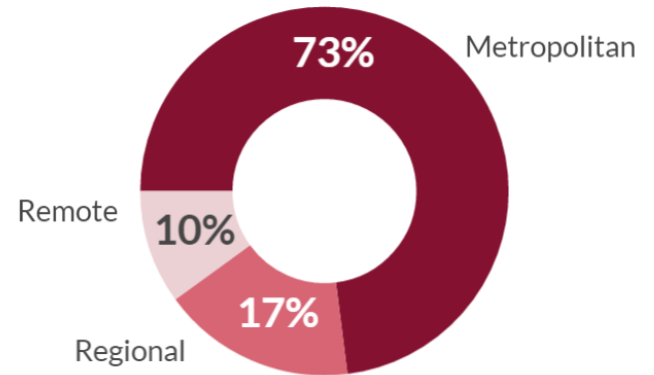
have at least one  
parent born overseas



**1 in 11**

young people aged  
13-17 live with disability

Where do young people in WA live?



# Why WA needs a Youth Health Policy?



## Vision

To optimise the health and wellbeing of young people in WA.

## Purpose

The Policy aims to drive equitable, effective and coordinated health services that optimise the health and wellbeing of young people in WA.

- ❖ Align with the [National Strategic Framework for Child and Youth Health](#).
- ❖ Address the gap in health outcomes for identified priority populations.
- ❖ Provide a platform to voice the health and wellbeing needs of young people aged 10-24 years.

# Policy content

- The Policy outlines the key elements to improve health services for young people, including:
  - ❖ providing youth friendly health services
  - ❖ improving access to health services
  - ❖ building knowledge and promoting participation
  - ❖ achieving equitable health outcomes
  - ❖ collecting comprehensive data
  - ❖ building skills for effective interactions with young people.



# Goals and priorities for youth health in WA





# Supporting vulnerable young people – video

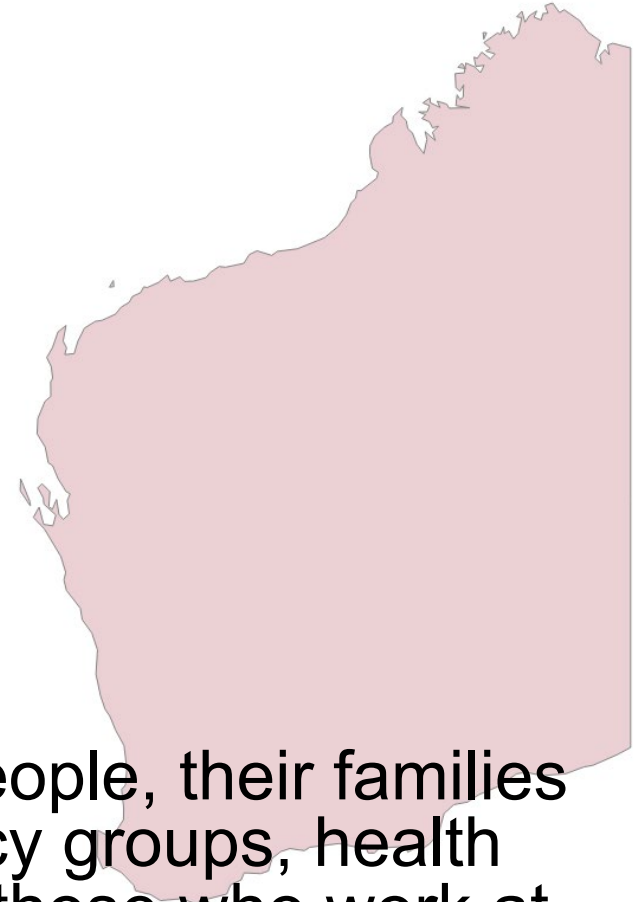
[Link](#)



# Policy audience

- WA health system
- other WA government agencies
- commissioning bodies
- charitable organisations
- educational bodies
- non-government organisations.

The policy will be useful to young people, their families and carers, community and advocacy groups, health professionals, general practice and those who work at a service young people access.





# Evaluation

Youth Friendly Health Service Checklist		
No.	Requirements	By when
1	Identify the youth health advocate within your organisation who has responsibility and accountability for overseeing and evaluating youth friendly health services.	Oct-18
2	Develop a youth friendly health service plan which:	Dec-18
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>defines and articulates the aims and objectives of youth health service delivery</li> </ul>	Dec-18
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>outlines priorities and key strategies to optimise youth health and wellbeing</li> </ul>	Dec-18
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>measures the value of services to young people using evaluation to inform service improvements.</li> </ul>	Apr-19
3	Young people are active co-creators in the design, delivery and review of services, policies and programs that affect them.	Dec-18
4	Policies relating to confidentiality, privacy, mature minor status and consent are easily accessible to young people.	Dec-18
5	Demonstrate increased numbers of staff who have undertaken youth health training.	Apr-19
6	Support optimal transition of young people from paediatric to adult care by:	Dec-18
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>identifying who is/are responsible for transition coordination responsibilities</li> </ul>	Dec-18
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>developing and implementing individual transition plans.</li> </ul>	Dec-18

# Developing the Policy

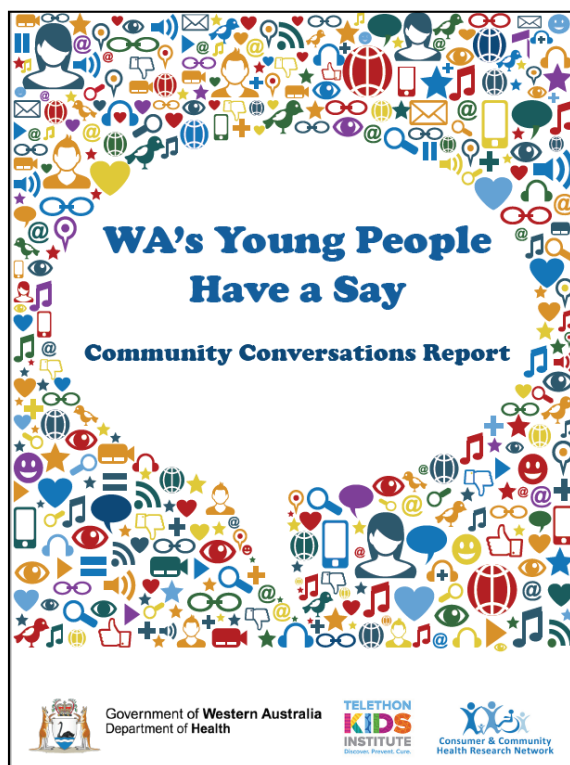
- Broad working group membership
- Engagement/collaboration focus
- Key relationships



**Commissioner for Children and Young People**  
Western Australia

# Community Consultations

- Over 100 young people (aged 13-24) across WA had a say (Armadale, Broome, Bunbury, Subiaco & Mirrabooka)
- Recruitment focus on priority youth populations



- Aboriginal
- Carers of others
- Culturally or linguistically diverse
- Homeless or at risk of homelessness
- LGBTIQ +
- Living with a chronic condition or rare disorder
- Living with a disability
- Living with mental health or emotional wellbeing issues
- Living in a regional or remote area
- Migrants/refugees
- Pregnant or parenting
- Residing in or have left out-of-home care

# Online consultation

- An online survey open to all stakeholders including:

## Youth health service providers

- ✓ North, South, WA Country, Child and Adolescent and, East Metropolitan Health Services
- ✓ private organisations
- ✓ not-for-profit organisations
- ✓ advocacy / charitable organisations

Young people



Subject matter experts/  
health professionals

Parents and carers



**Alternative Frequencies** CHECK OUT THE ONLINE MEDIA ARCHIVE

## FITTER | HAPPIER and the Youth Health Policy for W.A.

THURSDAY 3RD MAY / PRESENTED BY JORJA KEAY

Almost half a million young people aged 10 to 24 years are living in Western Australia; and it's of vital importance we ensure we meet the health needs of this demographic. The recently launched WA Youth Health Policy 2018-

FITTER | HAPPIER AND THE YOUTH HEALTH POLICY FOR W.A.

# Media



https://www.telethonkids.org.au/news-events/news-and-events-nav/2018/april/teletho... FITTER | HAPPIER and th

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## Telethon Kids welcomes new WA youth health policy

The Telethon Kids Institute welcomes the launch of Western Australia's first policy on youth health – a significant document which will give young people a voice in the planning of health services that affect them.

The Institute is proud to have contributed to the development of the WA Youth Health Policy 2018-2023, launched at the Institute today by Minister for Health Roger Cook.

Telethon Kids researchers including [Dr Melissa O'Donnell](#), [Heather Jones](#), and [Professor Roz Walker](#) were members of the Department of Health's Child and Youth Health Network working group which began work on the policy in 2016, while Professor Walker and [Dr Tracy Reibel](#) were involved in the Commissioner for Children and Young People report which helped guide the policy. Dr O'Donnell, Professor Walker and Dr Ashleigh Lin also contributed to the companion document to the Youth Health Policy.

In addition, the Consumer and Community Health Research Network at the Institute facilitated a series of community conversations with 122 young people across WA to seek their views on what they need to achieve positive health and wellbeing, and how services can most effectively address their needs.

The Institute's Youth Advisory Group, established in 2016 and made up of 23 young people aged 15-25, played a key role in developing the questions for the community conversations and giving feedback to the WA Department of Health on the draft policy. A report on the community conversations is a companion document to the policy.

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## New youth health policy reflects increased priority on young people's health in Western Australia

17 April 2018

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/ New youth health policy reflects increased priority on young people's health in Western Australia

I am pleased to support the release of WA's first Youth Health Policy which has been driven and informed by my office's consultation with young people in 2013, and demonstrates the WA health system's commitment toward the health and wellbeing of our state's children and young people.

In 2013, my office initiated a youth health project and consulted with more than 1,000 WA young people about health and health services, their experiences with services and opportunities for improvement.

This consultation led to the release of the [Young People's Experiences with Health Services report](#) and the [Position Statement on Youth Health](#) which stressed the need to focus on young people in health policies and services.

Much work has been done since this consultation by the Department of Health and the Consumer and Community Health Research Network at Telethon Kids Institute, which has led to the development of the formal policy.

- RTR
- The West
- ABC radio
- Community news
- Media releases – TKI & CCYP



# Policy Working Group

- Aboriginal Health Council of WA
- Adolescent physician representation
- Carers WA
- Child and Adolescent Community Health
- Child and Adolescent Health Service
- Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service
- Commission for Children and Young People
- Communicable Disease Control Directorate
- Consumer representation
- Department of Communities – Child Protection and Family Support
- Department of Education
- Department of Justice
- East Metropolitan Health Service
- Freedom Centre, WA AIDS Council
- Non-Government Organisations (Youth Affairs Council of WA)
- North Metropolitan Health Service
- Population Health
- Research and Academia
- South Metropolitan Health Service
- Telethon Kids Institute
- University of Notre Dame, Fremantle Campus
- WA Country Health Service
- WA Primary Health Alliance
- Youth Disability Advocacy Network
- Youth Health and Wellbeing Alliance
- Youth Mental Health