

Model Integrity Framework

Home
Stretch
WA



Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Communities**

Produced by:
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Home Stretch WA
Community of Practice
Team – current March 2025

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What is Home Stretch WA?

Home Stretch WA gives young people transitioning from Out-of-Home Care the right to continue to be supported up to the age of 21 years. It is a significant reform of the child protection system; and provides continuity and stability during a difficult transition period.

The principles and practice approaches that underpin the Home Stretch WA model have been extensively co-designed with young people with lived experience of transitioning from care, with a particular emphasis on ensuring the service model was built around the expressed needs and experiences of Aboriginal young people and their families across WA.

The Department of Communities commissions community service organisations and Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (Home Stretch WA service providers) across WA to deliver the Home Stretch WA model young people in their local community.



Since 2018, young people have been at the heart of every aspect of the co-design, development and scaling of Home Stretch WA.

Anglicare WA has worked partnership with Yorganop to lead the Home Stretch WA Trial, and the facilitation of a Community of Practice. This Community of Practice ceased in December 2024. This Model Integrity Framework is a key artefact of this period.



Maintaining a Commitment to a Common Vision and Shared Understanding

Home Stretch WA is not a program, but part of a system response. For Home Stretch WA to work and provide young people some equity in service provision, there needs to be a common understanding and consistent service offer regardless of where the service is delivered. Home Stretch WA was designed around the needs of young people and Aboriginal families across WA.

The Home Stretch WA Model Integrity Framework was designed to support the Community of Practice membership and broader system to maintain a common understanding of the consistent and fixed elements of the Home Stretch WA service offer, and a commitment to working together and in partnership with young people whenever there is a need to change those things.

This Framework has been independently revised, developed and compiled with young people with lived experience since its first iteration in 2019. The Framework reflects the specifications for effective and efficient services, and standards that should be applied to create a consistent service system.

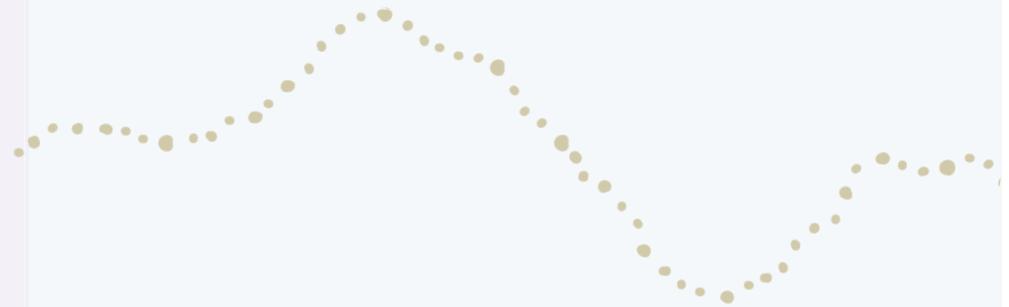
It communicates a shared understanding of what a Home Stretch WA service must offer in WA to be considered a Home Stretch WA service. The Framework also describes how Home Stretch WA should be delivered based on the evidence base and insights shared by members of the Home Stretch WA - Community of Practice.

This Framework is underpinned by the 'Transition Coach – Practice Principles', and the 'Nitja Nop Yorga Ngulla Mia' System Principles that reflect the voice and expressed needs of young people and Aboriginal Communities who guided the co-design of the Home Stretch WA model.

Despite the funded Community of Practice backbone ceasing in December 2024, it is intended that Home Stretch WA providers will work together as a self-sustaining Community of Practice to ensure the model continues to evolve to meet the needs of young people across Western Australia.

As part of embedding a culture of transparency and supporting transparency, it is proposed that after 12 months of service delivery, Home Stretch WA teams undertake a Model Health Check against the standards described in the Framework as part of maintaining a culture of continuous improvement, transparency and accountability that is shared across the system.

This approach is derived from best practice in implementation science, and learnings from the evaluation of other jurisdictions that failed to effectively implement extended care. It is also a commitment made to young people by the Department of Communities, outlined in the "Home Stretch WA Youth Engagement Plan".



Adapting for Regional & Remote Young People

The Home Stretch WA Trial strongly recommended that a regional co-design process be undertaken to prepare the Home Stretch WA Model for regional communities, where most young people in care are Aboriginal.

While the state-wide rollout time frames did not include time or resourcing for a regional trial, the Community of Practice backbone team worked intensively with Aboriginal organisations in regional and remote settings to develop and test a number of model adaptations and innovations.

Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations are best placed to understand how the Home Stretch WA practice approaches might be adapted or improved to draw on the strengths of Aboriginal culture, families and communities.

The commissioning of regional Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations to deliver the Home Stretch WA service has now enabled local Aboriginal communities in these regions to play a key role in guiding and adapt how the service is offered.

Empowering Aboriginal Ways of Working

Yorganop was the first commissioned provider of Home Stretch WA building on the insights from the “Nitja Nop Yorga Ngulla Mia Home Stretch WA mode trial and the principles that underpin it. Co-located with the Community of Practice and established with intensive support by this team, Yorganop have established a high-fidelity Home Stretch WA service that has led the introduction of the service offer in Perth metropolitan district areas.

As the first Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation to deliver Home Stretch WA, Yorganop has played a critical role in strengthening and shaping the Home Stretch WA model so that it

can be delivered through a strong cultural framework, and in a way that is appropriate for Aboriginal Transition Coaches and community controlled organisations.

As a partner in the facilitation of the Home Stretch WA Community of Practice, Yorganop supported the employment of an Aboriginal Practice Lead to work in respectful partnership with other Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations delivering Home Stretch WA across the state, enabling sharing across the network on how local country, culture and community are at the heart of the delivery of Home Stretch WA services.

Aboriginal Ways of Working and Sharing Knowledge

“Home Stretch is what our young people need, but now we have to make it look like us and sound like us to make it ours”

Aboriginal Transition Coach from the Kimberley.

- In July 2022, Yorganop became the first Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation in WA to deliver services to young people leaving care. By the end of June 2024 there were 11 different ACCOs delivering the Home Stretch WA service offer to young Aboriginal people in their communities.
- These organisations have shared their wisdom, experiences, insights and reflections as Aboriginal Organisations, Aboriginal staff and and non-Aboriginal staff from every stage of their journey. This has been a key focus of model fidelity improvements to date, to improve the Home Stretch WA model.
- The Home Stretch WA Community of Practice backbone team developed a respectful approach to onboarding Home Stretch WA providers by working respectfully with Yorganop's Aboriginal leaders to develop a range of practice and policy, building off the work undertaken in 'Nitja Nop Yorga Ngulla Mia' and evolving and re-shaping the service model.
- Learnings were explored and captured in fortnightly ACCO Yarning Circles. Intensive co-design support was provided during commissioning processes, followed by establishment workshops to link Child Protection Districts and Home Stretch WA teams. Visits to each region provided establishment and ongoing support. Deliberate Model Adaptation work was undertaken with Kimberley providers to address specific system challenges. The establishment of a peer-led Model Health Check process supported the iteration of the Model.
- These insights and learnings have been collated, themed and compared to the insights from the 'Nitja Nop Yorga Ngulla Mia' principles that have guided the work of the Community of Practice and commissioning of Home Stretch WA services to-date.
- **Service adaptations;** While some organisations are ready to progress towards developing and implementing adaptations, others are continuing to deeply listen and reflect how they might make Home Stretch WA become more reflective of their country and community, without losing the key features that have been working for young people. This includes adapting how Home Stretch WA is described and communicated, and identifying resources and practice approaches that allow each organisation to embed and share how they approach working in culturally strong and empowering ways with young Aboriginal people.

'Nitja Nop Yorga Ngulla Mia' – System Principles

The original 'Nitja Nop Yorga Ngulla Mia' system scaling principles were developed through a co-design journey with Aboriginal Young People, their families and community.

Led by Yorganop and supported by Anglicare WA during the Home Stretch WA Trial, they were integrated into the approach taken to working with each Aboriginal Organisation to assist them establishing their Home Stretch WA service. The principles are outlined below;

1. **The young person is the focus of the coaching relationship**
2. **Home Stretch WA must have the capacity to support young people to heal and connect when they are ready. (repair loss and reduce inter-generational trauma)**
3. **Young Aboriginal people and their families must have the choice to receive Home Stretch WA supports through an Aboriginal Organisation**
4. **Aboriginal organisations need to lead and deliver the Home Stretch service. They are the experts, and we must work alongside them to deliver a culturally safe service**
5. **Home Stretch WA must offer support to young people to know and/or connect with their family when they are ready and want to. (This is an important connection to culture - know your mob to know your place/culture)**
6. **Organisations who deliver Home Stretch WA must use a trauma-informed approach, and must ensure their staff understand the impact of racism and unconscious bias in child protection practice**
7. **Home Stretch WA recognises that Aboriginal and Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) young people need to navigate between two worlds**
8. **Home Stretch WA must have the capacity to support young people to continue to build cultural knowledge and learning**
9. **The Home Stretch offer must be a choice, flexible and individualised to meet young people where they are at**
10. **The Home Stretch WA offer should respect and strengthen existing relationships between young people and their carer and community**
11. **Home Stretch WA must respect and support young people's roles within family and community. They are equally helpers as requiring help**

Shared Decision Making and Escalation - Governance of Home Stretch WA Model Integrity Framework

The Home Stretch WA Guiding Panel provides practice advice, strategic support and guidance to ensure that the Home Stretch WA Community of Practice is a strong and collaborative network with a shared vision for establishing high-quality Home Stretch WA services for young people across WA.

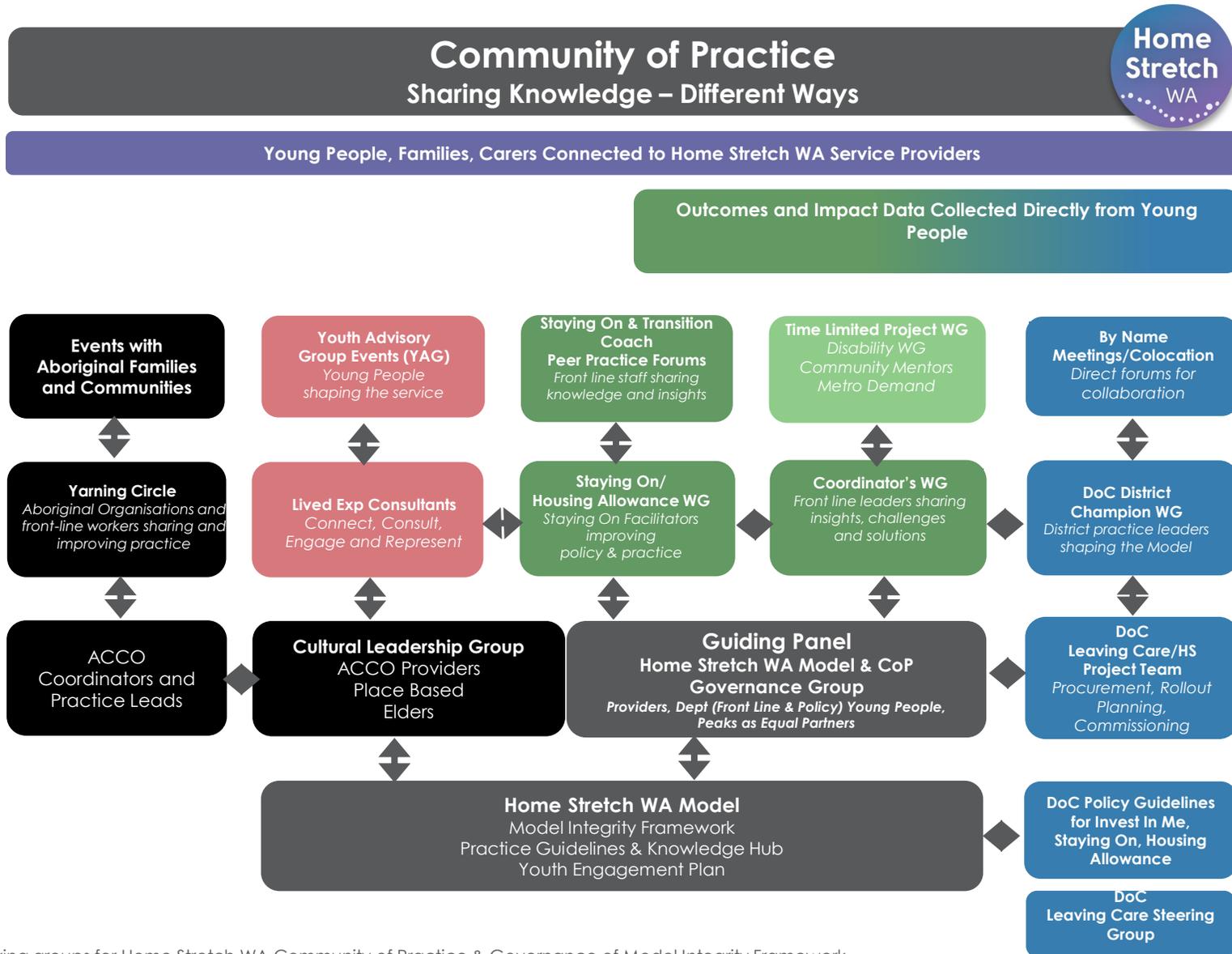
The Guiding Panel recognises the fundamental right of self-determination for Aboriginal young people and families, and together recognises that Aboriginal Community must be guiding the work of Home Stretch WA in relation to supporting Aboriginal people.

The Guiding Panel also values the input and guidance of young people with lived experience as equal partners in the ongoing development and delivery of service to young people.

In a practical sense the Guiding Panel plays a critical role in supporting the Community of Practice to work together and meet the needs of each of the Home Stretch WA providers. It serves as an escalation point for decision making and consultation around practice and policy related to Home Stretch WA services, should issues arise and not be resolved in the implementation working groups.

As the only regular governance forum in which leaders from Home Stretch WA service providers, lived experience representatives and Department of Communities representatives meet, the Guiding Panel holds responsibility for defining the Home Stretch WA Model through the Home Stretch WA Model Integrity Framework.

Shared Decision Making and Escalation- Governance of Home Stretch WA Model Integrity Framework



Home Stretch WA Model



Young people are at centre of support where everyone is treated as an individual



Support or connection is offered in all areas of life



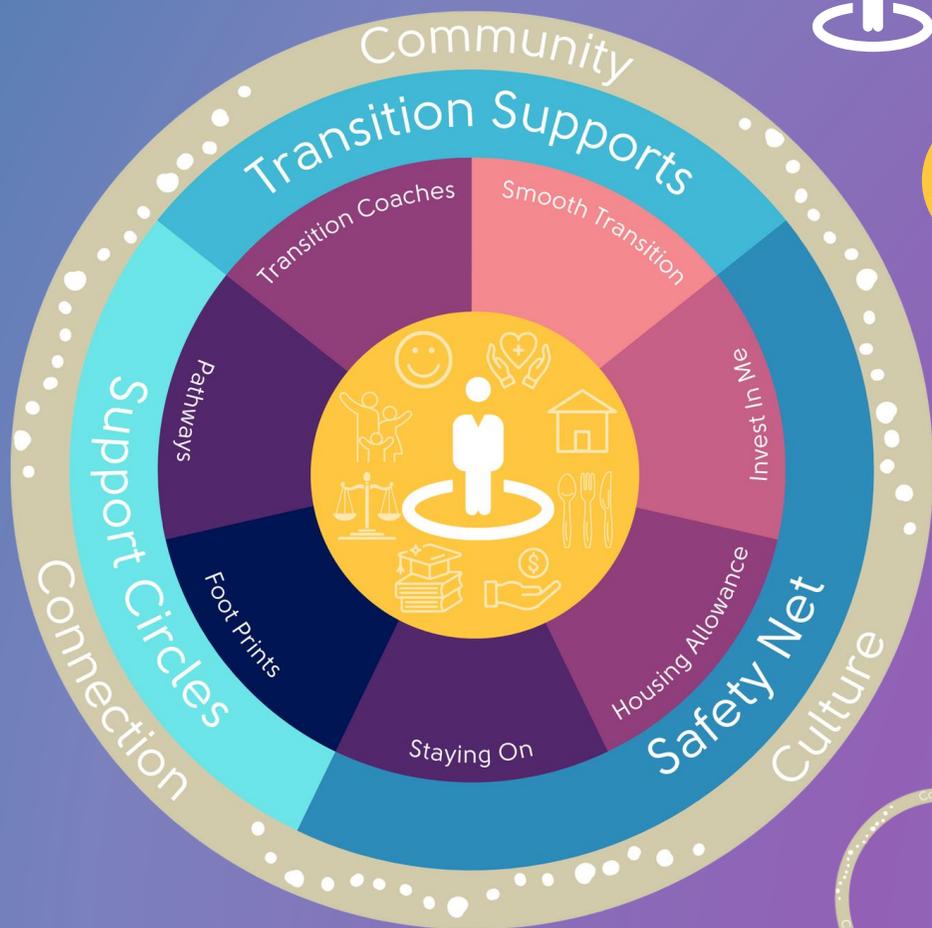
Support is delivered in specific ways (Practice Approaches) that work for young people



Home Stretch WA focuses on three practice areas of support



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



Home Stretch WA Service Offer

Home Stretch WA provides young people leaving out of home care at 18 with the option to continue to receive support up until the age of 21 years.

There are three key elements to the service offer that must be consistently available to young people through a Home Stretch WA service. These elements must be integrated and offered to a young person through their relationship with their Transition Coach:

Transition Support

Flexible, holistic, one-to-one support focused on coaching towards interdependence

Financial Safety Net

Access to a viable safety net of resources that housing, foster care, health, education and other life skills

Support Circles Approach

Supporting young people to grow and maintain an enduring network of personal family and community connections

These key elements were co-designed, tested and refined in the Home Stretch WA Trial and Interim Rollout. Designed to be delivered in an integrated way, these practice approaches are not intended to be offered as stand-alone services.

Over time service providers will develop and enhance each of the practice approaches, working in partnership with the Home Stretch WA Community of Practice through a number of working groups.

The Home Stretch WA Community of Practice provides a central hub and backbone resource to support providers to learn how to deliver the service, and then strengthen the model through innovation, reflective practice and a shared commitment to continuous improvement.

Practice Approaches - Definitions

Transition Support

Smooth Transition	Working together with the Department of Communities to ensure every young person is offered an opportunity to make an informed choice about accessing Home Stretch WA. To support a smooth transition into the Home Stretch WA program and a seamless continuation of support until the age of 21 years. Ensuring young people are aware of their rights and can independently access support they are entitled to until the age of 25 years.
Transition Coach	A consistent, reliable and skilled support worker providing flexible, one-to-one support focused on coaching a young person towards interdependence. A transition Coach is typically skills and training in work with young people the young person access to the range of resources and financial payments available through Home Stretch WA. They work from a set of practice principles to ensure the support they provide is consistent and focused on building a young person's self-reliance, living skills, connection to community, culture and country.

Safety Net

Staying On	Young people can be supported to continue 'staying on' with a carer to ensure they have a stable living arrangement until the 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. These payments will be administered by Communities.
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.
Invest In Me Funding	Pooled funding with an average of \$2500 per young person per annum, 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.

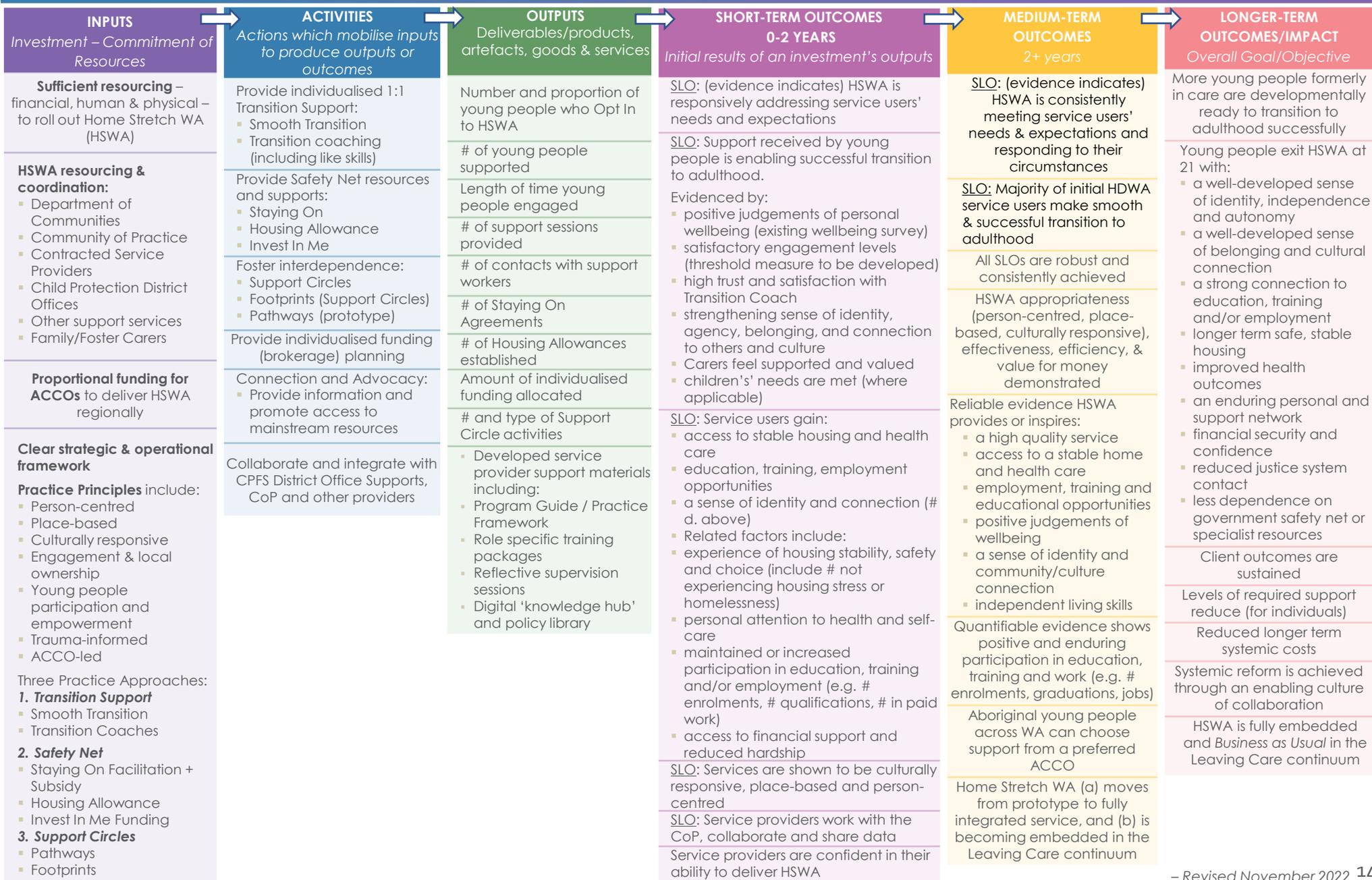
Support Circles

Support Circles Approach	A primary focus of all support provided to young people is to grow and maintain an enduring network of personal, family and community connections beyond the child protection system. This practice lens should be applied to every aspect of service delivery, it recognises the trauma that many young people have experienced and encourages a focus on helping a young person to heal and connect when they are ready.
Footprints (prototype)	Walking alongside young people to help them understand and explore the people, places and connections that are important to them. Mapping out the footprints that represent their life story, and helping them to identify opportunities to build new connections or heal and repair old ones.
Pathways (early prototype)	Walking alongside young people as they navigate their connections to family, community, culture and country. coaching young people to develop the skills they need to reconnect with biological family, and providing safety and control for them if things don't work out how they had intended.

Summary of the Home Stretch WA Payments

Payment	Details	Amount & Frequency	Recipient	Payer
Staying On	A fortnightly payment that provides a continuation of part-payment of the foster care subsidy paid to approved foster and family carers. Supports the costs of a young person to continue staying on in the living arrangement with their carer. Young people are encouraged to make voluntary contributions towards the families living costs, but are not formally contracted to pay their carer for housing or accommodation.	\$450 p/fn (1st year rate from 1 July 2022) Regular Payments Year 2 – 75% Year 3 – 50%	Foster/Family Carer who the young person has previously lived with while under 18.	Department of Communities
Housing Allowance	A fortnightly payment made to a landlord or organisation (student housing, boarding, lodging etc.) to subsidise the housing costs paid by the young person to the landlord/organisation/person.	Up to \$450 p/fn (1st year rate from 1 July 2022) Regular Payments Year 2 – 75% Year 3 – 50%	Landlords and Housing Providers *Excludes NHHA funded housing, Public Housing & Subsidised Housing based on percentage of income	Department of Communities
Invest In Me	Brokerage funding to support young people to achieve their goals, or assistance to help them in times of crisis or emergencies.	Funded at \$2,500 p/a. Capacity for additional funding on a case-by-case provider discretion One-off, discrete payments *Replaces access to leaving care funds for Home Stretch WA Participants	Goods and service providers	Delegated to Home Stretch WA Provider

Home Stretch WA Model Program Logic



Transition Coach – Practice Principles

The practice principles provide Transition Coaches with strong foundations for their practice and should always guide their approach to working with young people. The principles were developed through genuine collaboration with young people through the Home Stretch WA Trial, and with Aboriginal Community through 'Nitja Nop Yorga Ngulla Mia'.

Home Stretch providers must deliver their service in line with the Transition Coach practice principles to maintain model integrity and their commitment to deliver the model the way it was designed with young people.

1. A reliable source of support is your right

It's your choice to join and you can choose to come and go.

This Means

- Your Coach is a reliable source of support and someone you can speak to directly about your choices.
- You can access a range of financial supports directly through your Coach and the Home Stretch WA team, someone who knows you and what you are trying to achieve.
- Home Stretch WA support is flexible, and responsive, it adapts to meet your needs.
- It is your choice to access Home Stretch WA, and you can Opt-out at any time.
- Home Stretch WA support includes a focus on investing in you and your future, funding to help with your goals and to deal with emergencies.
- It also includes a Housing Allowance that can financially help you to Stay On with a foster carer, or to help you find a stable and safe place to live
- We will teach you about your rights, and the range of resources available to you beyond the Child Protection system. You will build the skills and knowledge you need to access them after 21.

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

Our support is unconditional

This Means

- We will listen to you and be guided by what you say, and how you want to be supported.
- Your Coach will look for the strengths within and around you, and help you find opportunities to test yourself and grow.
- Failure and bad choices are learning opportunities. We will encourage you to try and test new things, to learn by doing and to create your own path.
- We will be a safety net to help when things go wrong, helping you to find a way forwards no matter what has happened.
- You have the right to complain, and have your concerns taken seriously and responded to by Home Stretch WA.
- You have the right to make complaints about Home Stretch WA to people who don't work for Home Stretch WA. This includes the Child Advocate and the Department for Child Protection.

Transition Coach – Practice Principles

3. "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

This Means

- We want you to take charge of your life, to be smart with your money. We also want to invest in you and make sure you have the things you need to succeed.
- We will make sure you have an income and help you to become financially independent over time.
- We will ask you to 'Chip In' whenever you access financial support through Home Stretch WA.
- Sometimes that will mean putting your own money towards your expenses and Home Stretch WA providing the rest.
- Other times it will be about you putting in time and effort to build your skills, knowledge and experience. Every person and situation is unique.
- In times of crisis and emergency, it may be about dealing with the problem first and then working out what you might do differently next time.
- You have the right to challenge decisions you think are unfair, we will work through it together

4. 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

This Means

- You can watch a video, read a flyer or talk to someone about how Home Stretch WA works.
- You will be given clear information about Home Stretch WA during your Leaving Care planning so you can understand your options & make a choice. There are other ways to be supported & no negative consequences if you change your mind.
- You can choose to leave and then come back for support anytime before you turn 21.
- You will have a chance to have your questions answered before you join Home Stretch WA.
- Your Home Stretch WA Coach will be clear with you about their responsibilities, and your rights.
- From 17 ½ to 18 we will work with the important people in your life so you can get to know us before you turn 18.
- The option to extend your living arrangement will be discussed before you turn 17 so you have plenty of time to decide.

5. Your Coach will be consistent & persistent but not intrusive

"Like a text message, not a knock on the door"

This Means

- Your Coach will follow through on things you have agreed they will do
- Your Coach will always let you know they are there, even if they haven't heard back from you. After 3 months of no contact, we might assume you have chosen to leave support.
- You agree on how you will be supported, how often and where.
- Your Coach will support you in locations where you feel comfortable.

Transition Coach – Practice Principles

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

This Means

- We understand that important moments and transition points can be different for each person, culture, family, and community.
- Your Coach will work with you to understand which moments are significant for you, including getting to know any cultural mile-stones which may be important to you.
- Your Coach will recognise and celebrate your growth and development. This includes growth in how you see yourself and how you are seen by your family and community.
- We will support you to celebrate important moments with friends, family and other important people in your life.
- Your Coach will offer opportunities to celebrate important moments such as going on a camp or returning to country.
- Your Coach will be mindful that what might be a milestone or celebration for some can be difficult for others.

7. 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

This Means

- Your Coach will learn about who and what is important to you. We will make sure they are part of your support circle.
- Your Coach can help you strengthen your relationships and find and build new connections.
- If there are people that you don't want in your life, we will respect this.
- Your Coach will support you to understand and develop boundaries that will help you stay strong and safe

8. Culturally Safe

Home Stretch WA recognises Aboriginal and CaLD young people must navigate between two worlds

This Means

- We will make sure you have access to your story and help find the right people to help you understand your family, country, community and culture.
- Coaches will be trained to understand how trauma impacts, racism and unconscious bias so that they can be aware.
- Your Coach is a shoulder for you to lean on. They will check in with you and help you be the best person you can be.
- We recognise that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are the experts in providing culturally responsive services to Aboriginal families.
- You will be given information that will help you choose which Agency will best support your needs.
- You will have the option of being supported by an Aboriginal Community led Agency, with Aboriginal staff. Mob helping Mob.
- Coaches will help you to understand how you move between and join your different worlds.

Transition Coach – Practice Principles

9. 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

This Means

- Your mob represents your connection to land, family, identity, culture and community.
- Your Coach will help you find out your story when you are ready to hear it.
- They will walk alongside to help you understand and explore the people, places and connections that are important to you.
- Your Coach will offer to map out the connections and relationships that matter, building on the knowledge you have and the genograms and cultural plans that may have been made for you.
- You will decide who in your birth family you want to connect with, how, when and where.
- It is your choice to connect to your family and community. When you are ready your Coach will help support you to build connections to people and places.
- Your Coach will support you in finding culturally safe organisations and programs.

10. Heal and Connect

When you are ready

This Means

- Your Coach will be trained in understanding the pain, grief, loss and trauma that can come from being taken into care.
- Your Coach will be guided by you, what you want and what you are ready to explore. This includes exploring your family, history, culture, country and community.
- Your Coach can support you to access programs and people who will build your knowledge of culture and community.
- Your Coach can help you to connect with different options for support around trauma, grief and loss. This will include traditional approaches to healing.
- We can find and connect you with Elders and community members to help reconnect you to your family and culture.

Glossary

Term	Definition
Carer	Every living arrangement is different, and each young person will define their relationships using their language. For the purposes of Home Stretch WA, carers refers to the person/people a young person lives with in a Staying On agreement. Staying On is different to foster carer, but we They are essential supports to young people contributing to their cultural, social, emotional and physical well-being
Extended Care	<p>'Care' in the context of child protection system carries many implications, and often is understood as the legal guardian relationship between the child protection system and the children and young people who are placed in its care.</p> <p>'Extended care' is often communicated as the goal of Home Stretch WA in public advocacy, but should be interpreted as an extension of the rights of young people to access support and resources rather than an extension of the legal guardian relationship between the Department of Communities and the child.</p>
Interdependence	Home Stretch WA used the term 'interdependence' rather than 'independence' in order to reflect a notion of shared care, responsibility, mutuality and reciprocity between young people leaving care, their families, friends, workers, and the broader community.
Natural Networks	The people, communities and supports that are connected to a young person that are not funded services, or professional helping relationships.
Practice Approach	A defined way of working with young people and their support circles, built from practice frameworks, tools, processes and other resources.
Provider	Community Service Organisations or Aboriginal Community Controlled Community Organisations that are contracted by the Department of Communities to deliver the Home Stretch WA service.
Support Circle	The people, places, community, culture and country that every individual is connected, contributes and belongs to, and in turn is supported and strengthened by. An inclusive term that is used across the Home Stretch WA Model to ensure that every relationship and connection is valued and the young person is supported to strengthen, broaden and build their support circles as they journey towards interdependence.
Support Circle Approach	The mindset and practice lens that guides how a Transition Coach approaches their work with young people, encouraging them to see their primary role as supporting young people to broaden and build their support circles and enduring natural networks, rather than maintain a dependence on the specialist child protection system.
Young People	Young people aged between 17.5 and 21 years of age who participate in the Home Stretch WA service at a critical period of transition from out-of-home-care to interdependence.

Service Standards

The following section provides a summary guide of the standards that must be followed by Home Stretch WA providers in order to ensure they are delivering a high-quality Home Stretch WA service.

The standards were first developed through a combination of lived and learned expertise, bringing together the knowledge and learnings from the Home Stretch WA Trial and 'Nitja Nop Yorga Ngulla Mia' co-design project, the Community of Practice Backbone Team, Aboriginal Practice Leads, Lived Experience Consultants, and founded on the work of the Home Stretch WA Trial Youth Advisory Group.

The Home Stretch WA Youth Engagement Plan, developed by young lived experience consultants in consultation with the Youth Advisory Group, sets out expectations for Home Stretch WA providers to undertake reviews of their service against model integrity and the standards documented.

These standards are a living document and will be updated and refined by the Community of Practice through the input and insights of the different implementation working groups, and under the governance of the Guiding Panel. Over time, emerging adaptations will be tested and integrated into the model by the Community of Practice backbone team as part of its role to support continuous improvement of the Home Stretch WA model. Practice resources are provided as examples for providers to use and adapt to meet the service standards.

Fixed

Critical features of the Model

Fixed – A critical feature of the Model that should be prioritised. These concepts were non-negotiable for young people and will be expected of providers delivering Home Stretch WA services.

Flexible

Opportunities for innovation and adaptation

Flexible – An opportunity to integrate the strengths and knowledge of organisations and local communities, adaptation and innovation are encouraged but should remain aligned with the principles that underpin Home Stretch WA.

Service Standards for Transition Support

1. Smooth Transition - Fixed

<p>What is a Smooth Transition?</p>	<p>Home Stretch WA team working together with a young person and their support circle from age 17.5 years, to ensure a smooth transition into the Home Stretch WA program, and a continuation of support until the age of 21 years.</p> <p>Young people are supported to become interdependent in the community, whilst also exercising their rights to independently access the resources they are entitled through the child protection system.</p>
<p>What does it mean for young people?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand what Home Stretch WA is, what it offers and how the service works <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can access information about Home Stretch WA through a range of different channels in culturally relevant ways • Are provided with information about Home Stretch WA as part of early leaving care planning from 15 years • Understand and are provided information on their choice, and what other supports they might access as a care leaver • Make an informed choice to access Home Stretch WA anytime until they turn 21 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have the choice of an Aboriginal Home Stretch WA provider in their community • Do not feel pressured to Opt-In or Opt-Out to meet the needs of others (carer, provider, district) • Include their carer and other supports in helping them to make choices • Experience continuity in support and planning, with an emphasis on relationships <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand what supports are accessible through the Transition Coach and the Department of Communities. • Are informed and have some control over what information is shared by the Department of Communities and what is not. • Have an opportunity to build trust with a Transition Coach over time • Are actively involved in any planning related to transitioning support or sharing information. • Develop confidence and skills in being able to independently access supports and resources from mainstream services and a district office by the time they reach 21 years.

What does the Service need to do to provide a Smooth Transition (i.e. Practice Standards)?	Example Resources to Support Services	Training/Forums
<p>1.1 Communicate the Home Stretch WA offer in a way that is appropriate and clear for each individual young person and their support circle</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe the Home Stretch WA offer to each young person in an individualised info session • Clearly communicate how support is offered using resources and content that is designed and developed with young people, for young people • Work with a young person's support circle and respectfully engage them to support a young person to make an informed choice • Ensure that cultural protocols are respected and followed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Smooth Transition Practice Guidelines • Referral and Onboarding Flow Chart • Home Stretch WA Fact Sheet - Young People • Home Stretch WA - Explainer Video 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Smooth Transition Referral Training
<p>1.2 Give the young person an informed choice to engage in Home Stretch WA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow the Home Stretch WA Referral and Onboarding Practice Approach created with the Department of Communities • Collaboratively Develop a By Name List approach that ensures every young person is offered the opportunity to connect • Ensure there is consent from each young person before accepting a referral • Respect young people's right to privacy to decide when information is shared, • Establish clear pathways to return for young people who decline/opt-out of the service offer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Referral Stage I Form • Referral Stage II Planning tool • Provider Release of Information Form • Consent to Participate and Collect Information • Consent to Obtain and Store Records • By Name List Resources 	<p style="text-align: center;">21</p>

Service Standards for Transition Support

1. Smooth Transition – Fixed cont.

What does the service need to do to provide a Smooth Transition (i.e. practice standards)?	Example Resources to Support Services	Training/Forums
<p>1.3 Work collaboratively with a young person and their child protection case manager</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work collaboratively with the young person's Case Manager following the Working Together Protocols from 17.5 to 18 years. • Work collaboratively with a foster or family carer's supports to transition support to the Staying On Facilitator • Seek understanding of a young person's cultural needs & supports through engaging with the Aboriginal Practice Lead (APL) or other cultural experts, as part of referral and onboarding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protocols for Transition Coach and Case Worker - Working Together • Working Together Resource Planning Timeline 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Smooth Transition Referral Training for Transition Coaches & Providers
<p>1.4 Support and empower young people to maintain and grow their confidence in independent accessing resources available to them in the community, and their future entitlements to seek financial assistance to the age of 25 under the Children and Communities Act</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply a Support Circles approach whenever helping young people to identify possible supports and resources independently seeking support outside the child protection system. • Smoothly transition support to specialist services as part of planning after Home Stretch WA, from 20 years of age 		
<p>1.5 Proactively connect and develop trust with each Child Protection District Office team</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intentionally build and maintain a positive and transparent relationship with local district and establish a working relationship through an establishment workshop with the Community of Practice team • Ensure Transition Coaches and Routinely connect and co-locate with child protection workers in district offices • Work collaboratively with district offices to build clear pathways for young people to engage with the service 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protocols for Transition Coach and Case Worker - Working Together • Working Together Resource Planning Timeline 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practice Forums and Working Groups with Community of Practice
<p>1.6 Complete a Handover Summary Document with every young person who Ages Out, Opt-Out or if they transition to receiving primary support by another Home Stretch WA provider.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Handover Summary Document should be developed in collaboration with young people, helping them to reflect on their achievements and future aspirations, and clearly articulate the strengths and connections support circle. • As a minimum require and to support young people's awareness and ability to independently access the Leaving Care Fund • Offer them an opportunity to reflect s the is that is must be provided to the local District Office, A copy of the handover summary must be submitted to the District Office they have the most positive connection with. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Handover Summary Guidelines • Handover Summary with Finances Document 	

Service Standards for Transition Support

1. Smooth Transition – Flexible

Improving Pathways and Access

Home Stretch WA staff work together with the Community of Practice to ensure that information about the service offer, and pathways to choose to access and engage in Home Stretch WA are relevant for young people in their context.

Rationale

Young people from regions may need to be able to access the Home Stretch WA service offer through different mechanisms. Some young people living in a regional areas can make an informed choice about the service.

What does the Service need to do to provide a Smooth Transition (Practice Standards)?

1.7 Adapt the referral process to meet regional or remote contexts, or the cultural and language needs of local Aboriginal Communities.

- Each Home Stretch WA Provider should develop location and region-specific resources and client-facing information about the service offer
- Work with the Community of Practice to develop new resources that communicate the Home Stretch WA offer to young people and their communities.
- Develop unique protocols with local communities and district offices to ensure that Home Stretch WA is a visible and viable option for all young people.

1.8 Adapt the referral process to improve access for specific cohorts of young people including;

- Young people living in residential care
- Young people living with a disability
- Young people supported by Safe Places or in Wrap Around Care.
- Young Aboriginal people who have disengaged from the care system
- Work with the Community of Practice and young people with lived experience to design and develop alternative pathways for young people to access information and make a choice about Home Stretch WA services.

1.9 Develop protocols and practice guidelines to govern how best support young people who Opt-in and Out of the service



Service Standards for Transition Support

2. Transition Coach - Fixed

What is a Transition Coach?	A consistent, persistent and skilled support worker who provides flexible, one-to-one support focused on coaching towards interdependence.
What does it mean for young people?	<p>Young people are empowered and build their self-reliance, skills, capacity and connection to community, culture and country</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can access support from a skilled and experienced worker who understands how to support them effectively <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience a helping relationship that has good boundaries • Feel they have dignity and agency around their life and choices, including risk and safety concerns. • Are supported in a consistent and reliable manner • Have access to workers who understand their culture and how to navigate the different expectations of their culture and the mainstream culture. • Understand the role and limitations of the Transition Coach <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand how a Transition Coach works and the principles they work from • Can hold their service accountable • Understand that a team is working together to help them and provide the best support possible <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stay connected to a Home Stretch WA Team • Receive consistent support regardless of who is available • Are supported through a Smooth Transition when staff turnover or change

What does the Service need to offer Transition coaching (i.e. Practice Standards)?	Example Resources to Support Services	Training/Forums
<p>2.1 Ensure Transition Coaches actively work within the Practice Principles to reflect how young people wanted to be supported.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure every Transition Coach is familiar with the principles and how they should guide how they support to young people, • Facilitate reflection and regular use of the Principles in group and individual supervision, and decision making about their approach to supporting young people. • Use the practice principles as a guide to support the development continuous improvement of the Home Stretch WA Model. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transition Coach Practice Principles • Supervision Template • Group Case Discussion Guidelines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Core training with Community of Practice • Practice Forums and Working Groups with Community of Practice
<p>2.2 Employ suitably qualified and/or experienced Transition Coach who are able to work effectively with young people in the community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Directly recruit and employ Transition Coaches to work in a Home Stretch WA Team, in alignment with the standards in the Transition Coach position description • Involve suitably trained and supported young people with lived experience of care in the recruitment and selection of new Transition Coaches • Include and consider how Aboriginal ways of working, and local cultural knowledge are considered and reflected as important advantages for recruitment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home Stretch WA JDFS 	
<p>2.3 Transition Coaches are trained and onboarded in the Home Stretch WA Model in ways that work for them</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand the core elements of the Home Stretch WA Model and their role and responsibilities in the team. • Ensure Transition Coaches have completed core training modules and activities in the Transition Coach Training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home Stretch WA - Transition Coach checklists and training 	

Service Standards for Transition Support

2. Transition Coach – Fixed cont.

What does the Service need to offer Transition coaching (i.e. Practice Standards)?	Example Resources to Support Services	Training/Forums
<p>2.4 Ensure the Home Stretch WA team is focused on achieving outcomes for and by young people in all areas of their lives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transition Coaches take a holistic approach and use strengths based approaches tools and activities that help the build an understanding of a young person's strengths and needs across all life domains identified in the Home Stretch WA Model. • Young people are supported to develop this skills of planning and goal settings. This is achieved through offering young people different options for developing an action. • Young people's situation and progress is reviewed by the Home Stretch team in a formal case discussion meeting at least once a year. • Transition Coaches reflect on progress and engagement with young people regularly through their individual practice supervision. • In reviewing cases, the team acknowledges and celebrate successes and positive transitions in young people's lives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home Stretch WA - Transition Coach – Stages - Practice Guide • Home Stretch WA – Practice Guides • Home Stretch WA - Group Case Discussion - Practice Guide • Home Stretch WA - Supervision Template 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Core training with Community of Practice • Practice Forums and Working Groups with Community of Practice
<p>2.5 Support to young people is shared across the Home Stretch WA team</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young people should have opportunities to meet and connect with other team members to provide some flexibility and choice in their supports • Allocate a secondary Coach to young people with complex support needs • Where possible, Aboriginal young people are offered support through an Aboriginal Worker • Staying On Facilitators to assist with family mapping and reunification • Allocate only Home Stretch WA trained Transition Coaches to deliver the Home Stretch WA service offer to young people • Offer the option of changing Transition Coach when necessary or requested. 		



2. Transition Coach – Flexible

What does the Service need to offer Transition coaching (i.e. Practice Standards)?

2.6 Develop and improve culturally appropriate approaches to providing transition support that are consistent with how support is provided within an Aboriginal community by Aboriginal people

- Develop and improve the Transition Coach 50D role, including any specific responsibilities or activities that might need to be included to strengthen access to support around culture for young people
- Explore alternative ways to broker or establish cultural knowledge and healing through community and elders.

2.7 Establish service infrastructure to support Transition Coaches

- Payment mechanisms and process for Invest In me (incl under \$100 discretionary)
- Access to outreach cars
- Access to IT and mobile phones for staff
- Access to an organizational social media sites to assist in communicating with young people
- Protocols for working remotely from districts and outreach locations

2.8 Develop a supportive team culture

- Provide regular 1:1 supervision
- Develop a culture of reflective practice and a growth mindset
- Ensure Transition Coaches have freedom to bring their own strengths and skills to their work
- Support the team to debrief and seek peer support regularly
- Facilitate clear digital communication channels for the team to collaborate while working remotely or on outreach
- Provide Transition Coaches with trust and some flexibility and autonomy to work independently with young people

2.9 Ensure good Practice Governance is maintained

- Define clear policies around risk, safety and financial governance
- Develop escalation and consultation pathways for Transition Coaches to seek advice and expert input on practice (internal or external)
- Ensure client records and files are maintained and available for audit

Service Standards for Safety Net

3. Invest In Me - Fixed

<p>What is Invest In Me?</p>	<p>Funding for the young person towards achieving their personal goals, is provided through the coaching relationship and administered by Home Stretch WA service providers</p>	
<p>What does it mean for young people?</p>	<p>Young people have the 'right' to a viable and secure financial safety net for resources to support them towards their aspirations and goals, or for crisis relief</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand how Invest In Me works <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have access to resources to achieve Aspirational Goals • Have rapid access to financial support in times of crisis • Experience consistency in support and decision making around financial issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are part of the decision-making process and understand how and why decisions are made • Are provided with clear avenues and options to appeal decisions and give feedback • Build knowledge and confidence in accessing financial supports and resources outside of the child protection system • Trust the Invest In Me process and learn to effectively negotiate access to leaving care funds until they turn 25 	
<p>What does the Service need to do to implement Invest In Me (i.e. Practice Standards)?</p>	<p>Example Resources to Support Services</p>	<p>Training/Forums</p>
<p>3.1 Make consistent and objective decisions when providing Invest In Me funding by following the practice guidelines for Invest In Me</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure young people are supported to grow their capacity and become financially self-reliance • Base the funding on need and not on exhausting allocation • Communicate to young people their right to appeal funding decisions • Support young people to develop skills in self-advocacy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invest in Me - Flowchart • Invest in Me - Practice Guidelines • Invest in Me - Decision Matrix- Practice Guide • Invest in Me - Data Definitions for Funding • Home Stretch WA Service Tracking Tool – Invest in Me Data tracking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community of Practice- core training
<p>3.2 Retain delegated authority around expenditure within the Home Stretch WA Team</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure delegated authority to approve Invest In Me expenses is held by a Home Stretch WA Coordinator or another manager who follows the Invest In Me guidelines. • Ensure the delegated authorising manager makes objective and transparent funding decisions, in accordance with the Invest In Me practice guidelines • Maintain Transition Coaches delegated authority to pay for costs (under \$100) in accordance with the Invest In Me recommended practice guidelines 		

Service Standards for Safety Net

3. Invest In Me – Fixed cont.

What does the Service need to do to implement Invest In Me (i.e. Practice Standards)?	Example Resources to Support Services	Training/Forums
<p>3.3 Improve young people's awareness and confidence in accessing mainstream financial support and resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain an up-to-date knowledge of available financial supports for care leavers and young people • Ensure that Invest In me is not the first or only resource explored and used. • Provide information and support to young people around mainstream financial supports for emergencies and for long term aspiration. • Ensure young people are able to access reduce costs for education, health and other government funded services 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practice Forums and Working Groups with Community of Practice
<p>3.4 Ensure that financial support is provided through the Invest In Me funding for, rather than the Leaving Care Fund</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicate to young people that the Leaving Care Fund is only used for significant costs beyond the capacity of the Invest In Me Fund • Work together with district offices to communicate and provide financial supports in a consistent way • Ensure after-hours financial support provided by district offices (Crisis Care) is tracked and reported to Home Stretch WA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working Together Protocols Transition Coach & Case Worker • Working Together Guide - Financial Support from the Leaving Care Fund • Invest in Me - Leaving Care Fund Form 	



3. Invest In Me - Flexible

What does the Service need to do to implement Invest In Me(Practice Standards)?

3.5 Establish an Invest In Me Payment Mechanism for the Home Stretch program and its staff. This system meets the minimum criteria;

- Payments are flexible and can be made on the spot, online, over the phone or in person
- Maximum 24hr turnaround for payment towards crisis and emergency relief needs
- Capacity to track, monitor and audit monthly spending for each young person, and by each Coach

3.6 Pool program funding as required to provide access to more than \$2500 per annum to young people with higher support needs

- Establish protocols and policy to govern the pooling of fundings
- Manage funding amounts and usage proactively and in consultation with Department of Communities to improve the future commissioning of services
- Ensure that unspent funding is rolled over each financial year, rather than being spent unnecessarily and unnecessarily increasing the cost of service provision

3.7 Maintain good financial governance

- Develop clear policies around delegated authority and spending limits.

Service Standards for Safety Net

4. Staying On – Fixed

What is Staying On?	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
What does it mean for young people and their carers?	<p>Young people can be supported to 'stay on' with a carer to ensure they have a stable living arrangement until age 21</p> <p>Young people:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make an informed choice to Stay On as part of Home Stretch WA • Access supports directly from the transition Coach based on their needs and circumstances • Are recognised as a young adult, and have a voice in negotiating the details of any Living Arrangement • Have access to support around the safety and stability of the living arrangement • Can end the Agreement when they choose <p>Carers make an informed choice about whether Staying On is the right choice for them, their family and the young person.</p> <p>Carers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are provided information about Home Stretch WA and Staying On early on in leaving care planning • Are consulted and included in conversations about Staying On and Home Stretch WA services for their young person • Understand how Home Stretch WA works with young people and families before they consent, including the potential financial implications of receiving a subsidy • Feel like their strengths and values as a parent are reinforced and supported by the Home Stretch WA team • Understand their responsibilities through Staying On Agreements • Experience a smooth transition of supports, and can access additional supports to help with problems that arise • Can end the Agreement when they choose

What does a service provider need to do to offer Staying On (i.e. Practice Standards)?	Example Resources to Support Services	Training/Forums
<p>4.1 Communicate Staying On as a choice for young people and their carers in ways that are respectful of the strengths and values of the family</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore the best way to approach engaging with the family and carer as part of the Smooth Transition Stage II process. • Offer an information session about Home Stretch WA directly to the carer by the Staying On Facilitator if necessary. • Ensure how Staying On works is clearly and directly communicated to carers and young people before they consent to the subsidy payment • Clear explain the rights and responsibilities of the carer regarding subsidy payments to young people and their carers • Clearly articulate the roles and responsibilities of a Home Stretch WA team. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staying On Facilitator - Role in Onboarding - Flow Chart • Staying On Practice Guidelines • Staying On Guide for Young People & Carers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Core Training - Community of Practice

Safety Net

4. Staying On – Fixed cont.

What does a service provider need to do to offer Staying On (i.e. Practice Standards)?	Example Resources to Support Services	Training/Forums
<p>4.2 Staying On is understood as only one part of the Home Stretch WA offer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All young people in Staying On Agreements have access to a transition Coach and other parts of the service offer The level of support provided by the Coach can be adapted to meet the needs of the family, but some commitment to engagement and ongoing communication between the Coach and the young person is required. 		
<p>4.3 Staying On Practice Guidelines are followed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staying On Agreements are negotiated by a Staying On Facilitator Young People are offered support by the Transition Coach to prepare for the agreement Staying On Agreements are negotiated for every placement, regardless of the living arrangement Agreements are reviewed at least every 12 months 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staying On Practice Guidelines Setting up a Staying On Agreement Discussion Guide Staying On Agreement Template Staying On Subsidy Application Form Staying On Review Template 	

Safety Net

4. Staying On – Flexible

What does a service provider need to do to offer Staying On (i.e. Practice Standards)?	Example Resources to Support Services	Training/Forums
<p>4.4 Provide carers ongoing support through a Staying On Facilitator until the young person turns 21</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and improve protocols to support a smooth transition of support between CSO Foster Carer Supports and Home Stretch WA providers Provide carers with brokered access to mainstream and specialist supports around relationships, parenting young adults and trauma Ensure after hours and emergency supports are signposted and provided to carers and young people to assist in times of crisis 		

5. Housing Allowance – Fixed

What is the Housing Allowance?	Funding support accessible to young people that can assist them to afford a broader range of living arrangements
What does it mean for young people?	<p>Young people can develop the skills and access the supports they need to secure and maintain safe and stable housing</p> <p>Young people:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can access safe, stable and affordable housing regardless of their current living arrangements • Increase their awareness of how to find, establish and maintain safe and stable housing • Learn about how to pay rent and take responsibility for managing their own housing costs • Explore opportunities to build their support circles or develop new connections through brokered opportunities created with support from the Housing Allowance • Can set up Living Arrangements with extended family, that include support from a Staying On Facilitator, but are not Staying On Agreements. • Develop a rental history and can sustain housing options that were previously unaffordable • Build their financial self-reliance and capacity to manage paying for their own housing costs • Explore safe and stable housing options within their support circles

What does a service provider need to do to offer Housing Allowance (i.e. Practice Standards)?	Example Resources to Support Services	Training/Forums
<p>5.1 Empower young people to explore and make choices about their living arrangements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure young people are empowered to understand and determine what is safe and stable, while helping them avoid being exploited. • Encourage young people to explore a broad range of living arrangements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing Allowance Practice Guidelines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing Allowance Training
<p>5.2 Identify and Explore Housing Options that are safe, stable and affordable</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete Housing Allowance Applications in full, including a budget and housing pathway plan. • Ensure young people are responsible for their own costs, and can afford the living arrangement. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing Allowance Application Form • Housing Allowance Information Sheet 	
<p>5.3 Ensure young people understand they must be engaged with a Transition Coach to access the payment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicate the conditions and agreement that underpins payment of the Housing Allowance clearly. • Ensure the Housing Allowance is reviewed 6 weeks before the end of the payment period 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing Allowance Practice Guidelines 	
<p>5.4 Ensure Housing Allowances are not used by providers to subsidise already subsidised housing programs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing Allowance Practice Guidelines 	

Support Circles Approach

6. Support Circles – Fixed

What are support circles?	Supporting young people to build an enduring network of personal, family and community connections that includes the offer of assistance to map out connections to family, community and culture, and to be supported to reconnect with people from their past if they wish to do so.		
What does it mean for young people?	<p>Young people develop the skills and capacity to build an enduring network of supports in their community, and to have the confidence to seek help from mainstream services</p> <p>Young people:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are invited to engage in family finding or mapping exercises only when they feel safe and ready enough to do so • Are seen equally for their capacity to contribute and support others, as well as being a recipient of supports • Are offered the option to connect with cultural support and mentoring from someone within their culture, or access Home Stretch through an Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation in their region • Have access to living arrangements that strengthen their connections to community, culture and family 		
What does a service provider need to do to implement Support Circles (i.e. Practice Standards)?	Example Resources to Support Services	Training/Forums	
<p>6.1 Offer opportunities for young people to be supported to map out their connections to community, culture, family and country</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with every young person to help them map their Support Circle as part of a Smooth Transition using the Footprints Tool (or similar practice approach) • Work sensitively with young people around reconnecting with their biological family. • Complete mapping as part of preparing the Handover Summary prior to ageing out at 21 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support Circles Approach • Footprints Practice Resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All core training integrates and references a Support Circles Approach • Practice Hours on Footprints and Support Circles 	
<p>6.2 Support young people to heal from trauma and connect with culture, family and community when they are ready</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide opportunities for young people to connect with their cultural identity and grow their cultural knowledge through activities and relationships with people who share their culture. • Provide support to young people to reconnect and repair relationships with biological family. • Explore Cultural Healing and Traditional Healing Options if appropriate for the young person • Support young people to understand their connections to country and connect with native title and land rights. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partnerships and relationships with Aboriginal and CALD community, support groups and leaders. • Home Stretch WA Cultural Practice Frameworks - (to be developed with each ACCO) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yarning Circles and Practice Hours with ACCO • Integration of Cultural Practice into core training 	
<p>6.3 Adopt a Support Circles approach in all aspects of service delivery, ensuring that every intervention is considered an opportunity to broaden and build a young person's support circles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage with a young persons' support circles when undertaking planning and goal setting. • Where appropriate encourage a young person to consider their natural networks and mainstream services for assistance and resources, before approaching specialist services. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support Circles Approach embedded in all practice guidelines. • Footprints tool 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All core training integrates and references a Support Circles Approach 	

Support Circles Approach

6. Support Circles – Fixed

What does a service provider need to do to implement Support Circles (i.e. Practice Standards)?	Example Resources to Support Services	Training/Forums
6.4 Focus reflective practice activities on understanding how a young persons Support Circles might be activated as part of Case Reviews/Group Supervision/Individual Supervision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group and Individual Supervision Resources 	
6.5 Offer information and supports to strengthen the capacity of a young person's support circle <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide Staying On carers with brokered access to mainstream and specialist supports around relationships, parenting young adults and trauma Ensure after hours and emergency supports are signposted and provided to carers and young people to assist in times of crisis. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staying On Practice Guide Staying On Agreement 	

Support Circles Approach

6. Support Circles – Flexible

What does a service provider need to do to implement Support Circles (i.e. Practice Standards)?	Example Resources to Support Services	Training/Forums
6.6 Home Stretch WA teams' build partnerships and strengthen referral pathways with other services and programs that young people might access <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An emphasis is placed on creating pathways into safe and stable housing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stakeholder Mapping Service Directories 	
6.7 Home Stretch WA Teams work from a Trauma Informed Approach; every staff member has a well-developed understanding of the impact of trauma (including intergenerational) on young people's development and how they might relate to the world. This knowledge is always used to guide responses and practice approaches.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transition Coach Practice Guidelines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Core Training around Trauma informed Practice
6.8 All staff employed by Home Stretch WA providers understand how to set and role model appropriate and healthy boundaries with young people and their support circles		
6.9 Home Stretch WA providers work to create a positive, safe and supportive team culture that celebrates and values the lived, learned and cultural expertise of members <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is a focus on identifying and celebrating the strengths of each individual team members and finding ways to build on them as part of professional development. Individual Reflective Practice Supervision is offered to all staff on a consistent basis (typically 90 mins every 6 weeks for full-time front-line staff) There are clear pathways and processes to respond to serious issues and critical incidents as they arise. Risk are responded to in ways that respect the dignity and agency of the young person and the safety and wellbeing of workers and others. 		

Service Standards for Youth Participation

7. Youth Participation Standards- Fixed

What is Youth Participation?

Young people employed as lived experience consultants developed a Youth Participation Plan that details how young people continue to guide and shape Home Stretch WA. The plan is a commitment shared between the Department of Communities, Home Stretch WA providers, the Home Stretch WA Community of Practice and young people participating in Home Stretch WA services

What does a Service Provider need to do to provide (i.e. Practice Standards)?

7.1 Young People as Equal Partners

- Young people feel heard, understood and their lived experiences are respected in the Home Stretch WA Service
- Every young person knows their feedback and ideas are important, and there are clearly communicated channels within and outside Home Stretch WA and the District to give feedback and make complaints.

Home Stretch WA “ Commitment to young people” - Values

Empowerment- Young people are equal partners and have a meaningful voice in anything Home Stretch

- Lived Experience is valued alongside the learned experience of practice experts and policy makers.
- Young people have the right to be involved in making decisions about Home Stretch WA
- Young people have the right to have opportunities to lead activities and develop leadership opportunities.

Transparency- Young people are informed and have access to information about Home Stretch WA

- Young people have a right to access Home Stretch WA as a permanent part of the system
- Young people have a right to access information on how home stretch WA is going, how many young people are being supported and who may be missing out.
- Young People have a right to hear about Home Stretch from young people with lived experience

Accountability- Home Stretch WA is what it says it is. When young people feel that it isn't what they were told they are empowered to give feedback through a trusted person or advocate

- Home Stretch WA delivers on its promise and will continuously involve the voice of young people
- Young people have the right to hold Home Stretch WA providers accountable to deliver the model the way it was designed with young people
- Young people have the right to give feedback and make complaints using the feedback and complaints process for Home Stretch WA.

Recommendations for Youth Participation in Home Stretch WA (Youth Participation Plan Recommendations September 2024)

1. **Governance & Decision Making**- Meaningful Lived Experience representation on governance groups for decision making for Home Stretch
2. **Monitoring & Evaluation**- Lived Experience to participate in model health checks, collecting success stories and outcomes and have access to Home Stretch WA progress data and feedback and complaints
3. **Advocacy & Community**- Young people have opportunities and support to do advocacy and work in community & there is a need for peer mentoring roles
4. **Communications & Training**- Young people play an important role in communicating the service offer and should have opportunities to be involved in communicating Home Stretch WA to other young people. Young People should have access to training on lived experience and staff should have training in supporting lived experience young people.

Maintain the Home Stretch WA Minimum Data Set

It is imperative that we understand the difference the Home Stretch WA program is making for young people and capture this pivotal change across the sector.

Providers contribute data about their Home Stretch WA service to the Department of Communities. All this information will come together to tell an important story of how Home Stretch WA is meeting the needs of young people.

Providers will record and maintain a minimum data set through the Service Tracking Tool established by the Community of Practice.

The Community of Practice has also supported providers to understand and use this data within a Results Based Accountability framework that will enable services to measure their impact to answer three fundamental questions:

1. How much have we done?
2. How well have we done it?
3. Is anyone better off?

Supporting Data Collation Documents

1. Service Tracking Tool
2. Providers existing Client Management System

Quarterly Data Sharing:

1. Service Tracking Tool
2. Invest In Me Funding and Change Story template

Support to interpret data to inform continuous improvement

What makes a Home Stretch WA Team work?

A Home Stretch WA Team works together to deliver the Home Stretch WA service, and provide supports to young people and their carers. Each team should aim to develop a strong culture that is aligned to a common vision of what Home Stretch means for their community.

While each organisation will bring its own unique culture and identity, Home Stretch WA teams should be supported to develop an identity that aligns with others delivering Home Stretch services and supports the development of a community of practice.

Historically, there can sometimes be challenges for Community Service Organisations working within the Child Protection System, and it's important that there is a focus on building strong and healthy relationships with every district office through co-location and working together.

Like many youth specific programs, Home Stretch WA teams work best where there is a sense of trust, safety, and empowerment of individual strengths and approaches to work.

Vicarious trauma and compassion fatigue are significant risk factors for teams, and leaders should recognise and promote opportunities to create a healthy team culture that includes humour, fun and an intentional celebration of good outcomes.

Often working alone as outreach workers, Transition Coaches can really benefit from using technology to communicate throughout their day, and leaders should create digital spaces for both formal and informal debriefs and check in activities throughout each day.



How to recruit a Home Stretch WA Team

Home Stretch WA can be an inspiring role, but brings many challenges for professional youth and social workers. Compassion fatigue and vicarious trauma, and the challenges of working in a system that perpetuates trauma.

- Attracting and recruiting
- Using JDF's and other resources that describe the role well
- Recruiting for cultural fit and longevity (3-4 years), Aboriginal people and valuing
- Involving Young People in Recruitment Panels

Team Roles & Responsibilities - Fixed

The quality of a Home Stretch WA service is intrinsically linked to the quality and capability of the team, and the staff employed in each of the key roles.

The roles in a Home Stretch WA Team include:

- **Coordinator**
- **Transition Coach**
- **Transition Coach (50D)/Cultural Practice Advisory**
- **Staying On Facilitator**
- **Administrative Support**

The Community of Practice has developed and provided JDF, Job Ads, Interview Schedules and onboarding checklists.

The scale of the service provision in some regions may mean that responsibilities may be shared across one role, or even across a region. The Coordinator and Staying On Facilitator roles have been integrated successfully in smaller teams.

It is important that the Transition Coach role remains a discrete role in a team, and where possible it avoid integrating with other program roles in Out-Of-Home-Care services.

Coordinator – Fixed

Coordinators hold a critical role in ensuring good practice across a Home Stretch WA Team. They establish a safe and supportive team culture, and ensure the team have the tools and resources they need to do their jobs.

What they do: *Manage a Home Stretch WA Team*

- Support and supervision of Transition Coaches (Usually up to 5)
- Support and supervision of Staying On Facilitator (Usually 1)

Practice/Program

- Manage intake and referrals directly and in collaboration with district offices
- Lead program management activities including staff recruitment and line management
- Approval of Invest In Me Fund applications
- Approval of Housing Allowance Applications
- Data tracking and reporting on progress and outcomes

Collaboration

- Maintains communication channels with district offices
- Maintains connections with practice expertise and knowledge (Cultural, Specialist)
- Practice Governance and Risk Management
- Works with Community of Practice to localise Model with district offices as needed
- Ensures team members engage with training and Supervision Groups
- Attends Home Stretch WA Community of Practice Leaders/Coordinators Group

Transition Coaches – Fixed



Transition Coaches are at the centre of the service Model. They are skilled and experienced helping professionals, with experiences and knowledge in individualised support and case coordination.

While the name might suggest otherwise, these roles are not entry level roles, should be well remunerated and require similar levels of skill and experience to a Case Manager in a Leaving Care Team.

What they do: Provide 1:1 support to young people

Caseload: Up to 12 Young People + 2 Secondary Support

1:1 Transition coaching aligned with Practice Principles

- Primary access to Home Stretch WA offer
 - Smooth Transition
 - Housing Allowance/Staying On
 - Support Circles
 - Invest In Me
- Direct administration of Invest in Me Fund access
- Collects and monitors outcomes
- Records and tracks individual work with young people

Secondary support for complex cases

Collaboration:

- Works in close collaboration with district office staff and Young People's Support Circles
- Develops Handover Summary with young people as they transition out of Home Stretch WA
- Builds connections and relationships with district offices in Region
 - Fortnightly co-location
- Completes Core Training with Community of Practice
- Attends Group Supervision with Community of Practice
- Participates in Knowledge Hub for reflective practice discussions, Q&A and contributes to shared practice knowledge across network

Transition Coach (50d) – Cultural Practice Advisor – Fixed

Aboriginality and culture knowledge and connection to the local community is a key requirement of these roles. They take on an important position within an ACCO service provider and work with a reduced case load to allow them to provide support to young people who are Coached by non-Aboriginal workers.

What they do: Provide 1:1 support to young Aboriginal people, Cultural support to other Transition Coaches and young people they support

Caseload: Up to 5 Young People + 7 Secondary support

1:1 Transition coaching aligned with Aboriginal Practice Principles

- Young People Needing Aboriginal Worker
- Cultural Identity or Family Mapping as Primary Need

Secondary Support Cultural Identity Support

- Support other young people with cultural identity or cultural healing
- Capacity for group or 1:1 Interventions

Secondary Support to Establish Support Circles

- Family/Cultural Mapping
- Footprints & Pathways to Reconnect

1:1 Transition coaching aligned with Practice Principles

- Primary Access to Home Stretch WA offer
 - Smooth Transition
 - Housing Allowance/Staying On
 - Support Circles
 - Invest In Me

- Direct administration of Invest in Me Fund access
- Collects and monitors outcomes
- Records and tracks individual work with young people

Practice/Program

- Directly works with Transition Coaches and can be invited to provided additional supports to young people.
- Assistance with Staying On/Housing Allowance Agreements and process of supporting these to succeed
- Assistance with connecting and promoting opportunities for young people to (re)connect with culture and country

Collaboration:

- Works in close collaboration with Aboriginal Practice Leads and district office Staff and Young People's Support Circles
- Develops Handover Summary with Young People as they transition out of Home Stretch WA
- Builds connections and relationships with district offices or Cultural Centres
- Fortnightly co-location
- Completes Core Training with Community of Practice
- Contributes cultural knowledge and expertise to the teams implementation of the Aboriginal Cultural Practice Framework
- Attends Group Yarning Circle with Community of Practice Aboriginal Practice Lead
- Participates in Knowledge Hub for reflective practice discussions, Q&A and contributes to shared practice knowledge across network

Staying On Facilitator - Fixed

Staying On Facilitators enjoy working with families and family systems, and provide a different perspective and skill set to a team that is mostly focused on empowering young people. They primarily work with carers, but can play an additional role in supporting young people to reconnect with biological family as needed.

What they do: Broker and Support Staying On Agreements

Caseload: Up to 35 Staying On Living Arrangements

Work within **Staying On Practice Framework**

Practice/Program

- Primary contact and support for carers/families
- Establishes, coordinates and reviews Staying On Agreements
- Facilitates intervention to manage conflict/issues in relation to the living arrangement
- Manages signposting and warm referrals for ongoing therapeutic work (including NDIS)
- Provides support for Housing Allowance Agreements and applications (Host Homes/Family Agreements)
- Administration & management of subsidies and reviews

Secondary Support (In Non-ACCO Services)

- Provides assistance to Transition Coach and young people around family mapping/finding, reunification/contact with biological family

Collaboration

- Works in close collaboration with district Placement Officers/CSO Support Workers for smooth transition of carer support.
- Liaises with Subsidy Payment Unit oversight of Subsidy Payments to carers
- Completes Core Training with Community of Practice
- Participates in Knowledge Hub for reflective practice discussions, Q&A and contribute to shared practice knowledge across network.

Administrative Support - Fixed

Home Stretch WA providers carry a significant responsibility for managing and monitoring spending through Invest In Me, as well as contributing outcomes data and information to the Community of Practice and the Independent Evaluation. The roles allow for front line staff to focus on front line work.

What they do: Support Home Stretch WA Team

- Assistance with Communications and Secretarial Support
- Processes and tracks spending, receipts & payments made through Invest In Me

- Assistance to track and monitor outcomes data collection.
- Assistance to track and monitor Staying on & Housing Allowance Subsidy data and reviews

Adapting for Remote Delivery – Hub and Spoke Partnership Approach



“The model works up here but now we need to make it look like us and sound like us in order to be ours.”

The East Kimberley Region has been the subject of extensive co-design and implementation support, after rapid commissioning processes were undertaken under pressure resulted in Each team should aim to develop a strong culture that is aligned to a common vision of what Home Stretch WA means for their community.

While each organisation will bring its own unique culture and identity, Home Stretch WA teams should be supported to develop an identity that aligns with others delivering Home Stretch WA services and supports the development of a community of practice.

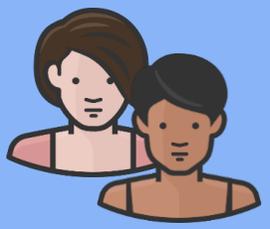
Historically there can sometimes be challenges for Community Service Organisations working within the Child Protection System, and it's important that there is a focus on building strong and healthy relationships with every district office through co-location and working together.

Like many youth specific programs, Home Stretch WA teams work best where there is a sense of trust, safety, and empowerment of individual strengths and approaches to work.

Embedding Aboriginal Ways of Working

Home Stretch WA can be an inspiring role, but bring many challenges for professional youth and social workers. Compassion fatigue and vicarious trauma, and the challenges of working in a system that perpetuates trauma

- Attracting and recruiting
- Using JDF's and other resources that describe the role well
- Recruiting for cultural fit and longevity [3-4 years], Aboriginal people and valuing
- Involving Young People in Recruitment Panels



Hub & Spoke Partnership Approach

Improves access
Reduces costs
Builds Connections

MG Corporation
Service Delivery is targeted at Kununurra

Jungarni-Jutiya
Service Delivery is targeted at Halls Creek



Home Stretch WA – Draft Stage I Referral Map

Diagrams are not indicative of specific geographic boundaries of service delivery and are used to reflect the realistic capacity of a transition Coach to travel directly to a community within their region.

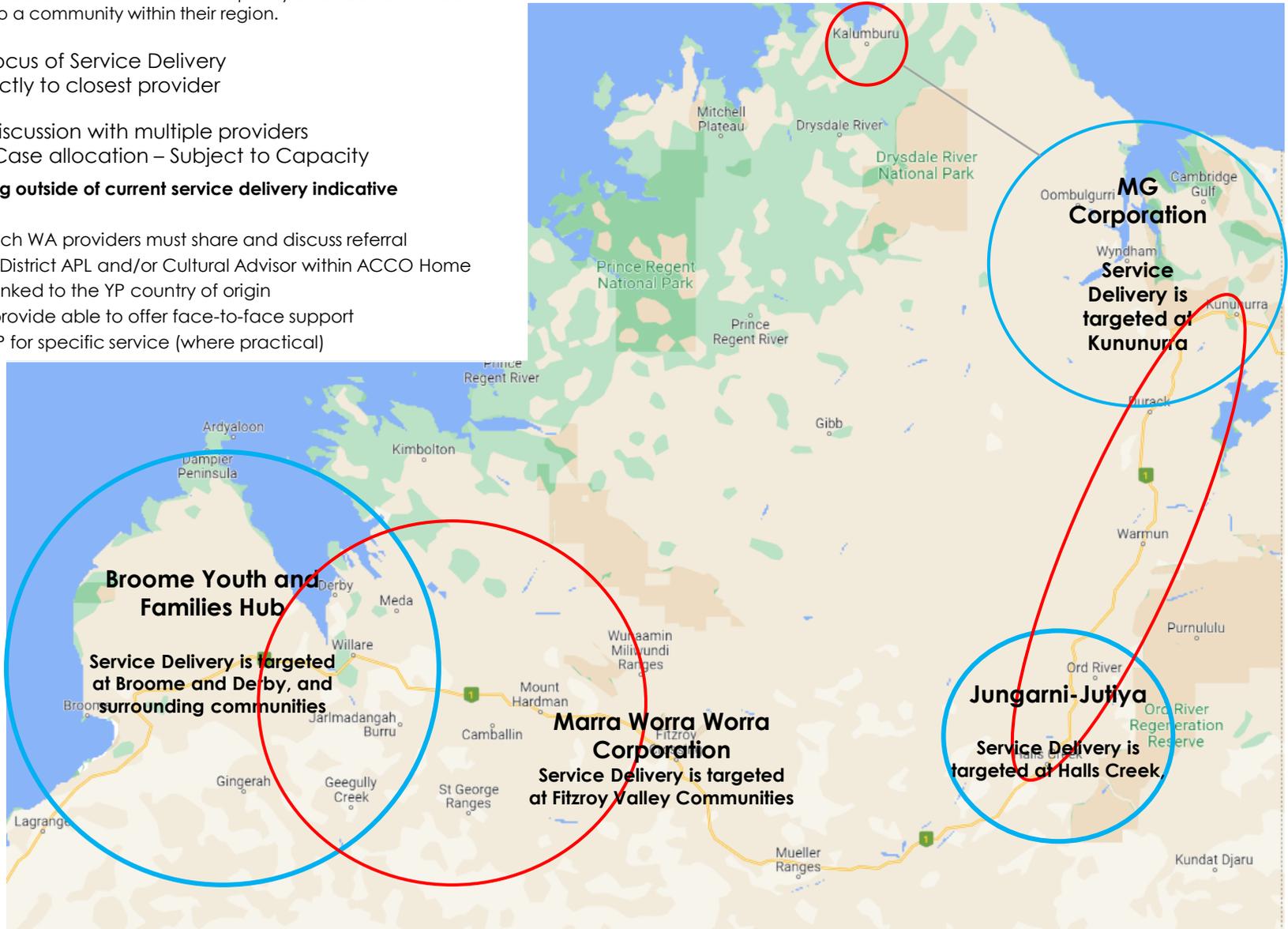
 Primary Focus of Service Delivery
Refer directly to closest provider

 Referral discussion with multiple providers
Case by Case allocation – Subject to Capacity

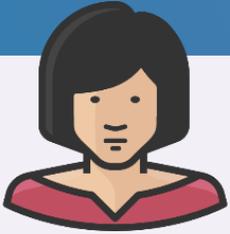
Young People living outside of current service delivery indicative boundaries

Closest Home Stretch WA providers must share and discuss referral

- Guidance from District APL and/or Cultural Advisor within ACCO Home Stretch service linked to the YP country of origin
- Preference for provide able to offer face-to-face support
- Preference of YP for specific service (where practical)



Youth Program Manager - Coordination



Program Manager

- 0.5FTE Home Stretch WA
- 0.5FTE Target 120

Example of Service Integration in Regional ACCO

What they do: Manage practice governance for the local team and collaborate with the District Office and Community of Practice

Leadership

- Service Establishment and Management
- System and Stakeholder Engagement

Manage Intake/Referrals

- Meet with the District Office to review By Name List and Identify Potential Young People
- Work with District around Eligibility/Appropriateness of Stage I Referrals with NDIS
- Allocate/Monitor Home Stretch WA Referrals in Weekly Internal Meetings

Practice Governance

- Practice Supervision of Staff
 - Review 1:1 Work with Young People
 - Provide Individual Practice Supervision with Transition Coaches (6 weeks)
 - Lead Case Discussion Meetings – Reflect as an integrated team on work
 - Manage serious issues/incidents, response planning and reporting
 - Review and Approve Housing Allowance Applications

Community of Practice

- Collaborate with CoP and District around model design and service adaptation
- Guiding Panel Representation at CoP Meetings

Transition Coaches



The two Transition Coaches work directly with young people, and are supported by the broader team of support workers at the ACCO.

Transition Coach

- Home Stretch WA funded
- 2 x 1.0 FTE



What they do: responsible for connecting with young people, providing 1:1 support, and providing access to the resources available through Home Stretch WA.

- Smooth Transition
- 1:1 support for up to 12 young people
- Develop Action Plans with young people & share with secondary supports
- Case Coordination and collaboration with other services
- Documenting work completed
- Support young people to apply for Invest In Me Funds
- Support young people to apply for Housing Allowance/Staying On

Secondary Support

- Provide back up support to other young people with higher needs or in crisis

Cultural Support

- Assist young people to build their connection to culture and country.
- Consult with Local Cultural Expertise to develop Cultural Plans/Activities and reconnect young people to families.

Example of Service Integration in Regional ACCO



Administration and Project Support

- 0.5 FTE Home Stretch
- 0.5 FTE Target 120

What they do: Supports Transition Coaches with data and administration of financial safety net funds for young people

Administration and Data Collection

- Collates data from Transition Coach's work with young people during regular meetings and for quarterly reporting
- Liaise with CoP to share data that is collected
- Assists Transition Coaches to Negotiate Housing Allowance/Staying On Agreements
- Administers Staying On payment

Practice Support Around Living Arrangements

- Conducts & administers 3 monthly Staying On Allowance & Housing Allowance payment reviews
- Provides Access Point for Carers to seek support
- Approves young people's Invest In Me \$100+ Funds Applications
- Monitors Invest In Me spending for each young person
- Provides support to the Home Stretch WA team around planning for training and practice development needs.



Support Worker

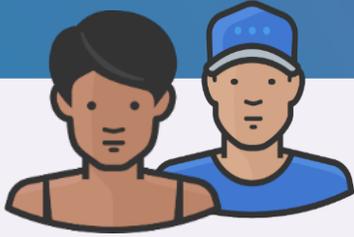
- Aligned Youth Program - Funded Separately
- 1.0 FTE
- Strong Local Cultural Knowledge/Connections
- Trusted by families

What they do: Provide Cultural Advice and Support to Home Stretch WA Transition Coaches

- Assist with Family Finding/Mapping Activities for young people
- Guidance around cultural protocols and responding to families and elders
- Broader engagement with local community to build trust and engagement with ACCO.

Secondary Support

- Available to respond to drop in/phone in requests and follow up with Coach
- May assist during times of crisis or when Transition Coaches are unavailable



Target 120 Support Workers

- T120 Funded
- 2 x 1.0 FTE

Primary role is to provide support to young people and families who are part of Target 120.



What they do: Support Transition Coaches to engage young people. Provide secondary support for young people at risk or who have high support needs

- Support known families and young people to engage with Home Stretch WA
- Encourage young people to engage with their Transition Coach

Secondary Support

- Provide back up support to Transition Coach when working with young people with higher needs
- Respond to Young People in crisis when their Coach is unavailable
- Support Transition Coach in working with families of young people in funded Living Arrangements
- Assist the Transition Coach with safe outreach and assertive follow-up
- Joint Case Discussion