



7 RIGHTS OF SUPPORT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Home Stretch WA isn't just a program – it's a right to supports. It was created based on what young people and Aboriginal families in Western Australia said they needed after care.

These rights of support make up Home Stretch WA and what young people should expect from Home Stretch WA Services who are walking along side them in their leaving care experience.

Home Stretch WA is a choice for all young people leaving care in Western Australia and can be accessed from the ages 17.5 - 21. If a young person meets eligibility, they can stay in the program for as long as they need support. They can also come back to the program before they age out.

Young people should be made aware of their after care rights up until they turn 25.



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- 1. Smooth Transition** - From age 17.5, transition coaches start working with the young person and the important people in their life to get ready for turning 18, making sure the young person's support continues smoothly in the program up until they turn 21. Young people should also be supported by coaches to transition out of program smoothly, aware of their rights and the supports they can access after 21.
- 2. Transition Coach** - A skilled youth worker providing one on one support to a young person to achieve their goals. Coaches should be consistent and focusing on building a young person's confidence, skills, capacity and connection to community, culture and country.
- 3. Support Circles** - Supporting young people to build an enduring network of personal, family and community connections. This includes help to map out connections to family, community and culture, and to be supported to reconnect with people from their past if the young person wishes to do so.
- 4. Staying On** - Payments and support to the foster or family carer with an expectation that a young person will contribute to their living expenses from their independent income. The program will support the young person to create a staying on agreement which works for them and their living arrangement and builds their independence.
- 5. Invest in Me** - Home Stretch WA offers young people the 'right' to a visible and secure financial safety net for - goals, times of crisis and to build their financial independence through things like "chipping/chucking in". The coach supports a young person to access the funding through the service as well as look at community supports to help young people thrive independently in the future.
- 6. Housing Allowance** - Financial support young people can access to help them to secure a broader range of living arrangements. Young people can access support to find and maintain safe, stable and affordable housing. A coach will help the young person to apply for it through the program.
- 7. Young People are Equal Partners** - Young people are informed in their decision making and have opportunities to safely express any issues or supports they may need. This includes Home Stretch WA services providing young people with information they're entitled to in the program, including the Feedback and Complaints process, the 7 Rights of Support for Young People and any changes in the program itself.

Smooth Transition

- When a young person at 17.5, Home Stretch WA will start working with them if they choose to opt into the program.
- Transition Coaches talk to the important people in the young person's life.
- Coaches help the young person get ready to turn 18 and that support continues. The young person can choose if a coach talks to the department or not.
- Home Stretch WA will keep supporting the young person until they turn 21 and plan a smooth transition out of the program.
- Young people shouldn't be pressured to opt in or out of the program at any time.
- Young people can choose an Aboriginal Home Stretch provider in their community.

Transition Coach

- The young person has a Transition Coach who is, skilled (knows how to help), reliable (shows up and follows through) and consistent (there for you regularly).
- Coaches give the young person one-on-one support to work on goals, learn skills, create healthy boundaries and become independent.
- If the transition coach changes, Home Stretch WA will still support the young person in the same way.
- Coaches should be consistent and focusing on building a young person's confidence, skills, capacity and connection to community, culture and country.
- Coaches should work from the Transition Coach Practice Principles.

Support Circles

- Home Stretch WA helps young people build a strong support network. This means reliable support when the young person needs it. This can include family, friends, community, culture, country and support services.
- Coaches can support and walk alongside the young person when they are ready to explore, understand and reconnect with the people, places, connections and identities that are important to them.

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Staying On

- Foster and family carers can keep getting payments and support after a young person turns 18 to support the living arrangement if the young person chooses to stay.
- The young person is expected to help by paying some of their own living costs if they have their own income (like a job or Centrelink).
- The program supports the young person to create a staying on agreement which works for them and their living arrangement and builds their independence.

Invest in Me

- Home Stretch WA offers young people the 'right' to a visible and secure financial safety net to help with their goals (like study, work, or learning new skills), in times of crisis and to build their financial independence through things like "chipping/chucking in".
- Young people can talk about their goals with their coach.
- The coach helps a young person to access the funding through the service as well as look at community supports to help young people thrive independently in the future.
- The young person can also get money to connect with their culture and learn about their cultural identity.

Housing Allowance

- Financial support young people can access to help them to secure a broader range of living arrangements.
- Young people can access support from their coach to find and maintain safe, stable and affordable housing. Including skills like paying rent, bills, maintaining a property, and other relevant life skills.
- A coach will help the young person to apply for funding through the program.

Young People are Equal Partners

- Young people are informed in their decision making.
- Young people have opportunities and know how to safely express any issues or supports they may need. This includes Home Stretch WA services providing young people with information they're entitled to in the program, including the Feedback and Complaints process, the 7 Rights of Support for Young People and any changes in the program itself.