



2025

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR KIDS

Artwork by Jordan Fraser – “Valued” Art Competition Winner.



Welcome to YouthCARE's 2025 Annual Report, for kids!

Come and meet your Annual Report tour guides, Ben and Lucy. They can't wait to show you all the amazing things YouthCARE Chaplains and volunteers do for kids like them, and their families, all across Western Australia.

Hello, my name is Lucy and I'm in Year 2. Last week I turned 8!

I live in Kalgoorlie with my whole family. They've lived here for a loooooong time...before I was even born.

I love school and I love my teacher, Miss Kelly. She's helping me grow into a strong reader. I've read 16 books this year! It's my favourite thing to do. Miss Kelly loves books, too. She always helps me pick my next book. This year she worked with Chaplain Maddy to organise our Book Week parade.

School isn't always fun. Sometimes my classmates pick on me. When Chaplain Maddy ran BUZ in class, my friends learned that their words and actions are powerful. They said sorry.

On Monday mornings Chaplain Maddy makes us free pancakes at Breakfast Club. Her local church donated money for my school jacket this year, too. Mum says it's a big help, because last year dad lost his job. Today mum and dad sent me to school with a thank you letter for Chaplain Maddy.

Hey, I'm Ben. I'm 14 and I'm in Year 9.

I live in the Perth hills.

I find it hard to concentrate, so school can be difficult. In fact, last year I was diagnosed with ADHD. It didn't really come as a surprise, but now my family and teachers know how to better support me at school.

Even though school can be tough, I love kicking the footy with my mates at lunch. We're big into AFL. Chaplain Hayden joins in, too. We both love the West Coast Eagles. After I graduate, I want to be an umpire. Chaplain Hayden says I can do it.

This year, after my brother got sick, my parents separated. With dad working FIFO, we're never all together anymore.

When Chaplain Hayden chats with me and my mates at school, I know he cares about us.



2025 YouthCARE art competition



YouthCARE's 2025 Art Competition created an opportunity for students across Western Australia to share their creative talents and be featured in our Annual Report.

We asked students from both primary and secondary school to create an artwork that depicted the themes of **Valued** and **Trust**, and as a result, we received over 200 inspiring artworks.

We were delighted to congratulate Jordan Fraser from Leeming Senior High School, whose artwork is featured on the cover of this report, and Robyn Santos from East Butler Primary School, on their winning works of art.



Jordan Fraser
Leeming Senior High School

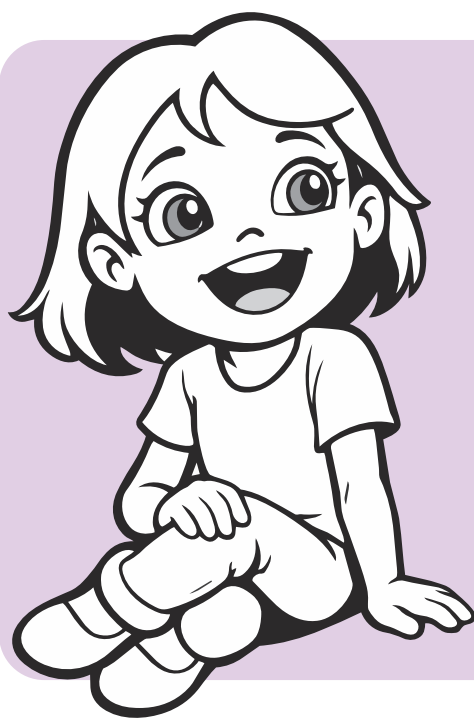


Robyn Santos
East Butler Primary School



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Everything YouthCARE
does comes from their

**mission,
vision &
values.**

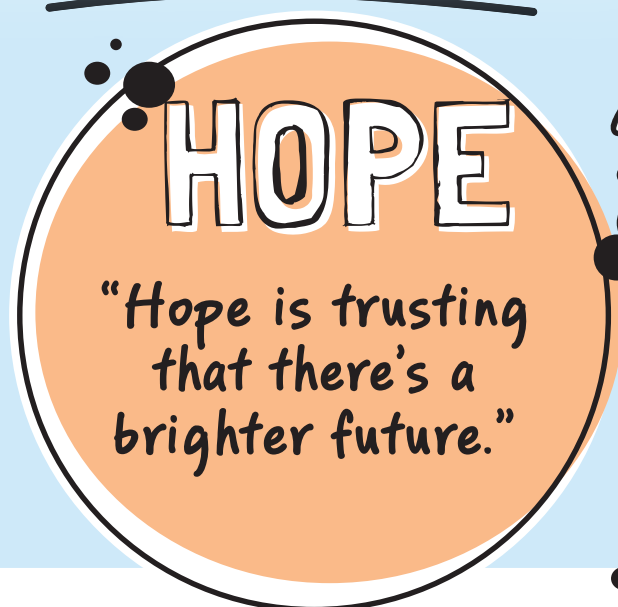


Empowering generations to flourish by feeling
Connected, Supported & Valued.

YouthCARE's
values
{THE THINGS THAT GUIDE HOW WE ACT}

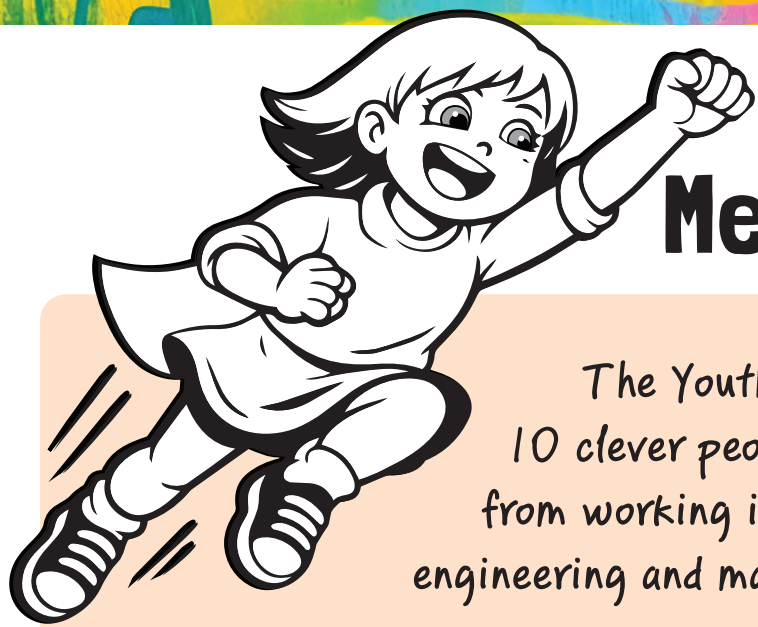


YouthCARE's values are
Hope, Respect, Compassion and Service.
We asked some of our friends
what these values
mean to them.



What are your school's values?





Meet the YouthCARE board

The YouthCARE Board is made up of 10 clever people with heaps of experience: from working in hospitals and churches, to engineering and marketing firms.

Together, they have a lot of knowledge about how organisations like YouthCARE run best. When YouthCARE needs to make important decisions about the future, the Board is here to **save the day!**



glenn bergsma chair of the board

The Board feels so encouraged that YouthCARE met so many of its goals in 2025. Meeting goals helps YouthCARE grow to be strong and stable for the future. YouthCARE has grown in the way we make decisions as a team, manage risks, and solve problems. When we're **better** at these three things, we can better care for our communities.

Principles guide us when we work together as a team, make **decisions**, and take responsibility. Not school principals. Principles. A principle is a guiding idea or truth that helps us make great decisions and reach goals with respect. Our principles **come from** two great places – Christian Ministry Advancement, and the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

Last year, we aimed to show unity, courage and humility in every decision we made, especially when we faced challenges and change. We made wise decisions by listening thoughtfully, asking great questions, and standing by YouthCARE's mission.

Thank you, fellow Board members, committee advisors, and everyone else who helped us work as a team in 2025. Thank you to our Chief Executive Officer, and all the other leaders at YouthCARE, for **caring about** our mission to express God's love and presence in schools and other communities across Western Australia. Next year, we want to continue showing **hope, respect, compassion, and service** as we help lead YouthCARE into the next chapter of our journey.

- MR GLENN BERGSMA
CHAIR OF THE BOARD
- PS DONNA KIPPS
CHAIR OF STRATEGY & RISK COMMITTEE
- MR BERNIE O'SHEA
CHAIR OF FINANCE COMMITTEE
- DR SUSMITA THOMSON
BOARD MEMBER
- REV STEVE FRANCIS
BOARD MEMBER
- MS LI AI OH
BOARD MEMBER
- PS JASON SCHROEDE
BOARD MEMBER
- MR BRIAN HOLME
BOARD MEMBER
- MS GRACE MCSKIMMIN
BOARD MEMBER
- MRS TAMSYN CULLINGFORD
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

tamsyn cullingford chief executive officer

News headlines can sometimes tell a sad story about young people, education, faith and the future. And yet, I'm more hopeful than ever before. I see **hope** in the quiet courage of our chaplains and volunteers who support students, families, and communities, every day. I see it **in** schools that bring connection and care to their communities. And I see it in young people who show remarkable resilience, creativity, and courage when they feel safe, seen and supported by the people around them.

In 2025, YouthCARE grew. Not just in the number of people and communities we support, but in the strength of our relationships with supporters old and new, from local **schools** to politicians. When we connect and work together, impact **grows**. Our training programs and State Chaplaincy Conference connected educators and chaplains, helping them develop the tools, **confidence**, and encouragement to serve their communities well.

These achievements are made possible by our dedicated team of chaplains, volunteers and staff, whose commitment to hope, respect, compassion and service is evident in all they do. I'm also deeply grateful **for** our partners, supporters, churches and Board members who stand alongside us, strengthening our work and extending our reach across Western Australia.

Hope is not invisible. It is seen in strong relationships, in small moments of trust, and in the steady presence of those who show up when it matters most. YouthCARE will continue this work in 2026, growing connection, strengthening communities, and supporting people to flourish.

I'm so grateful to lead an organisation committed to bringing hope where it is needed most. Together, let's create **a brighter**, more hopeful **future** for young Western Australians.

Can you find the hidden sentence in Glenn's message?

Can you find the hidden sentence in Tamsyn's message?

finance + operations

Students, staff, and family members bring their personal stories to Western Australian state schools every day. In over 600 schools, YouthCARE Chaplains are there to listen.

Community donations, church fundraising, and state and federal government funding gives YouthCARE Chaplains the time to have over 100,000 chaplaincy conversations each year, meeting the pastoral needs of students and their families in moments of sorrow and celebration.

With your continued support, even more people in our school communities can connect with a chaplain, giving them hope and confidence to thrive.



My community raised enough money for Chaplain Maddy to have an extra day at my school!

She says it's all thanks to the support of our local YouthCARE Council.

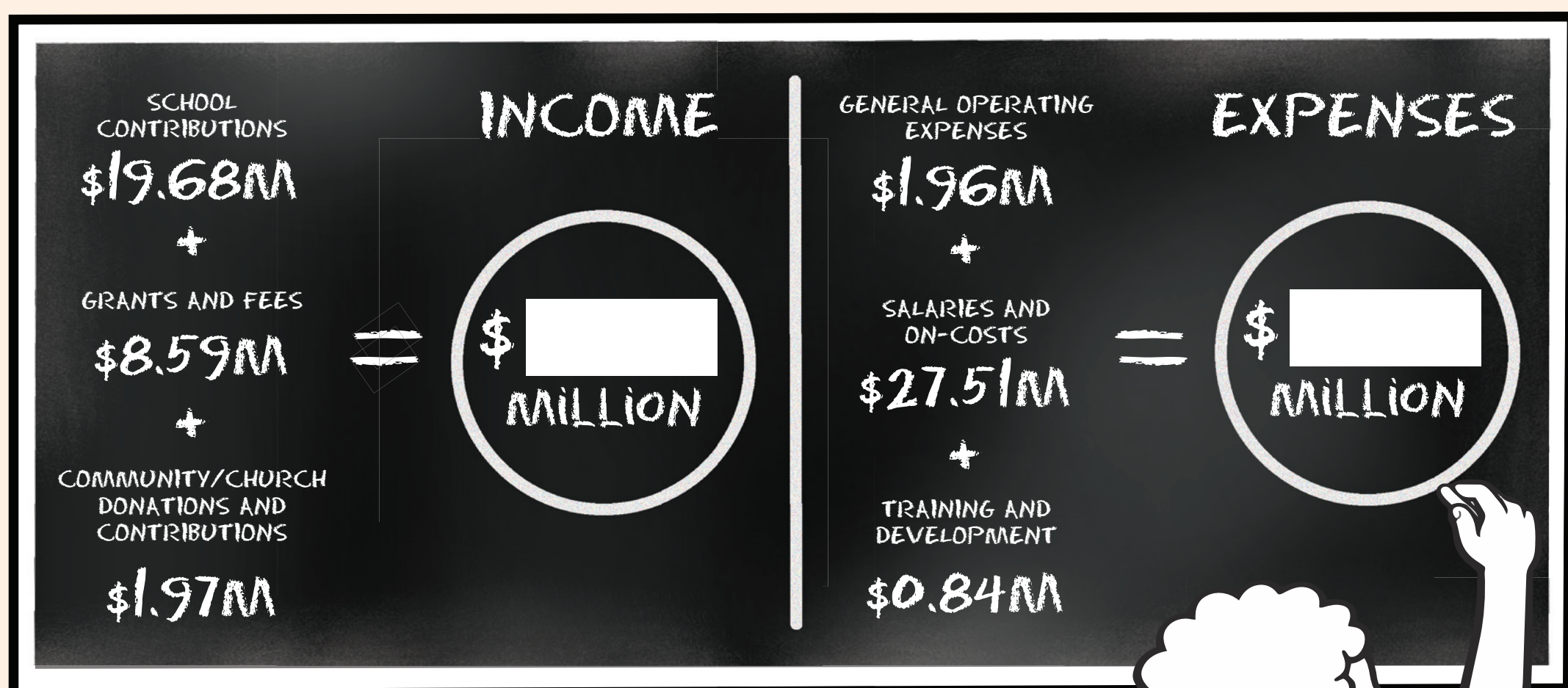
In 2025, YouthCARE...

Launched MyCARE 2.0, an online portal helping YouthCARE Chaplains, staff, and volunteers efficiently report data, and access up-to-date organisational information.

Increased cybersecurity by rolling out the Australian Government Essential 8 Framework, keeping YouthCARE's computer systems safe from hacking, cyberattack, and data breach.

Expanded Drive In/Drive Out chaplaincy to new places, so even more students from regional and remote schools have access to support in their communities.

Researched with their friends from McGrindle, highlighting the way chaplains help to improve school attendance and NAPLAN results.



Can you use your maths skills to help YouthCARE's accountant total the income and expenditure?

Full details of YouthCARE's accounts are available on the ACNC website under the name, The Churches' Commission on Education (Inc). ABN 70 172 899 396

Answer: Income = \$30.24 million. Expenses = \$30.31 million



sports chaplains



Supporting the wellbeing of Sporting Communities.

Like schools, sporting clubs are at the **heart of our communities**, with 15 million Australians participating in sport each year. Sports clubs offer a space to **build relationships**, work towards shared goals, and **connect with community**.

SportsCARE Chaplains provide a trusted, steady presence in sporting communities, **supporting athletes**, families and volunteers through the **highs and challenges of sport and life**.

Matthew, a SportsCARE Chaplain at West Perth Football Club, says sports chaplains have an opportunity to "[be] there for people when things are going really well, but also when things are a bit tough."

SportsCARE Chaplains work across **38 sporting clubs: from football and netball, to motorsport and surf life saving.**

Chaplains care for all kinds of people, in all stages of life, even athletes!

Over 40 SportsCARE Chaplains are looking out for athletes in heaps of sporting clubs, just like mine.

principals chaplains

Supporting our school leaders, wherever they may be.



I felt nervous talking about my feelings and the things I find hard, but my principal told me he sees a chaplain too!

School principals shoulder tremendous responsibilities in their communities, leading staff and ensuring students receive the best educational opportunities possible.

YouthCARE's Principals Chaplaincy program provides **practical, face-to-face support to school leaders** across Western Australia.

In 2025, YouthCARE Chaplain Beverley Hanrahan was awarded Regional Chaplain of the Year at the Governor's Chaplaincy Awards for supporting the emotional and professional wellbeing of school leaders across 46 schools in the Midwest region. "There is so much pressure on Principals," says

Beverley.

"I hear

some amazing

stories from

Principals, but I also

hear the heartbreak. It is

really important for them to

have a confidential, independent

person to speak to."

Write a note to YOUR principal!

What I love about my school:

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....



How YouthCARE Chaplains connect with WA communities



One regional chaplain supported a mum experiencing trauma and anxiety, providing compassionate care and connecting her with a psychologist.



In the East Kimberley, one chaplain supported a team of Student Councillors. The chaplain organised a special end-of-year dinner to celebrate and honour their service as young leaders.

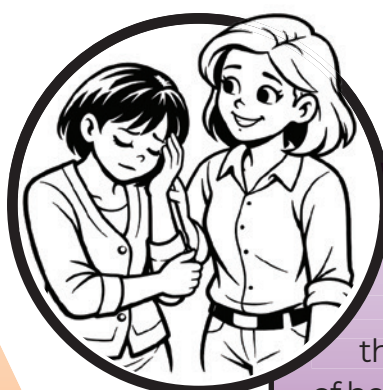
Connect the dots to discover how far YouthCARE's impact reaches.



A Perth chaplain's partnership with a local church led to the donation of 80 school jackets for kids in need.

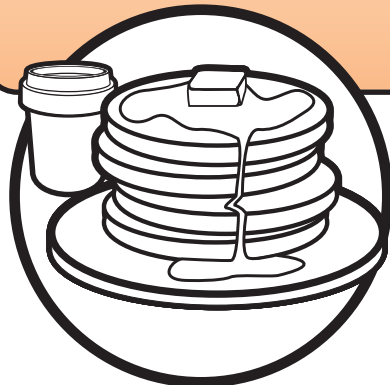


When a Wheatbelt chaplain learned that a student was responsible for caring for her siblings, she taught the student how to cook simple meals. Together, they made enough for the family to have dinner for the whole week.



One Wheatbelt chaplain supported a staff member through the tragic loss of her niece.

One Perth chaplain runs breakfast club three days a week at her school, where the need has doubled in a year. Each day, 80-100 students are supported to start the day with full bellies and ready to learn.

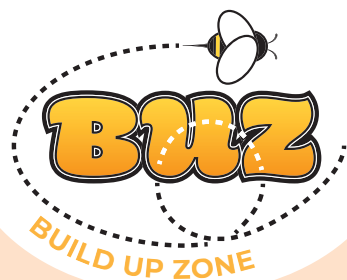


One South West chaplain uses her office as a 'drop off' zone before school, supporting students who are anxious about the day ahead.

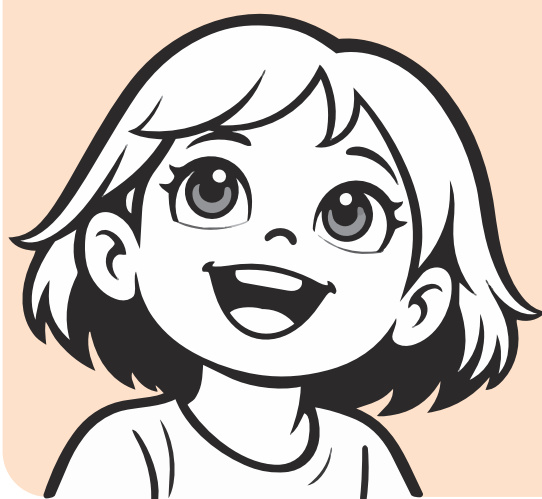
YouthCARE's programs

YouthCARE delivers evidence-based programs for students at every stage of school. They strengthen character, build resilience and support healthy relationships – helping students to thrive.

In 2025, **166 facilitators** were trained to deliver these programs in **121 schools**, from Shark Bay to Kalgoorlie.

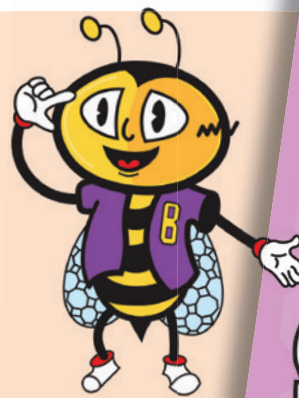


In 2025, BUZ got a cool new look!



BUZ teaches me all about communication and cooperation, and how to make friends through skills like **S.N.A.C.K.**

When I want to make new friends and keep them, I just remember **S.N.A.C.K.**! I've grown in my confidence and made sooo many new friends, like my bestie Caitlin!



YouthCARE launched a new program in 2025, with their friends from Lifeline WA and Telethon 7.



SWELL gives 10–14 year-olds a toolbox of wellbeing skills today, so we can cope if life gets tough tomorrow.

My mate Jarrod shared some awesome ideas from his SWELL lessons, like **dialectical thinking**.

When our thinking is dialectical, we know two things can be true at the same time. You can feel anxious and excited. When we learn to see more than one side, it helps us feel a lot calmer.

Practice your **DIALECTICAL THINKING!**

Look at the image on the right, what do you see? Do you see a vase? Or two heads?

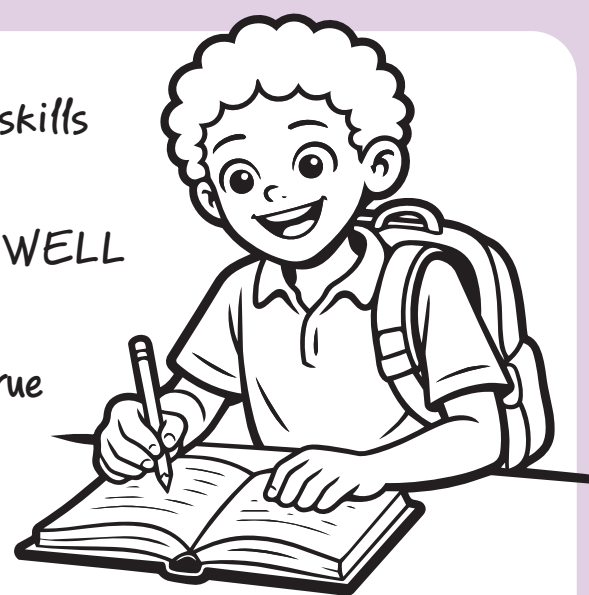
You don't have to choose, both views are true.

Dialectics is about finding the balance between the two ideas, even when they seem opposite.

Write two words that seem opposite but both describe you sometimes. E.g. "I'm quiet around strangers and loud with my friends."

I am _____ and

I am _____.



christian values education

Developing personal values is important for everyone, no matter which school you go to!

everyday matters

Everyday Matters is YouthCARE's Christian Values Education Program – a space to address topics we know students face every day. In 2025, over 100 volunteers worked with schools to help support almost 2,000 students each week, **developing values that grow character, resilience, strong relationships, and respect** for self and others.

Each 30-minute session in the program addresses one of the nine values of Australian schooling.

“I would encourage principals to look at Everyday Matters, particularly if they're examining their values and wanting to find something that fits in really well with what they're doing in the school. Everyday Matters aligns really well with our values”

Principal, Pingelley Primary School

matters of faith

My cousin Zoe goes to a private school. This year, she's been learning about the Bible and Christian values through YouthCARE's new private school Christian Values Education program, Matters of Faith.



WISE FRIENDS



A wise friend.... respects me, listens to me, is trustworthy, has good judgement and helps me make good choices!

Wise friends who help me make good choices:

Wise family members who help me make good choices:

Other adults I trust to help me make good choices:



“If any of you need wisdom, you should ask God, and it will be given to you. God is generous and won't correct you for asking.” James 1:5

Made by:



Everyday Matters
YouthCARE

Who do you turn to for words of wisdom?

We all need wisdom to help us make good choices in life. The book of Proverbs encourages us to search for wisdom as we would search for precious treasure. In Everyday Matters' module Wisdom Matters, students reflect on the importance of seeking wise advice from trustworthy people in our lives.



Here's my favourite activity from Everyday Matters, all about wisdom! Have a go!



When students face challenges, some can feel overwhelmed or unsure how to respond. Through G.R.I.T., students take part in practical, hands-on activities that build perseverance, teamwork and personal responsibility, giving them the confidence to keep going when things feel difficult.

G.R.I.T reached 86 new schools in 2025, spanning from Kalgoorlie's red dirt to Mandurah's breezy coast.

What does it mean to be resilient?

One thing I learned in G.R.I.T. is that a brand-new elastic band can only stretch so far... but if you use it every day, it begins to stretch further. Resilience is the same; every time we try something new, and fail, and try again, we are stretching ourselves and growing.



Friendships and social situations can be complex, and many students need support to navigate conflict. Peer Skills focuses on building communication and problem-solving skills, helping students feel more confident in how they relate to others.

At Jolimont Primary School, YouthCARE Chaplain Katie uses Peer Skills to train and equip the Year 6 Care Councillors.

They learn skills like POOCH, an acronym to remember how to solve problems.



“There's one particular boy that I have noticed a significant change in. Normally he is quite shy and reserved, but after the two-day Peer Skills programme he's keen to do his work, more enthusiastic, wanting to come to school and showing great leadership skills.”

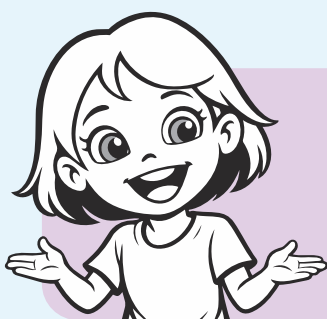
Christy, Special Needs Education Assistant

PCEO

PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY
telethon 7

pastoral care engagement officer

Regular **attendance** and meaningful engagement with school are essential for positive outcomes for young **students**. YouthCARE's PCEO service was developed to provide support to students by increasing their **engagement** and attendance in **schools**, and to promote positive **social** and emotional development.



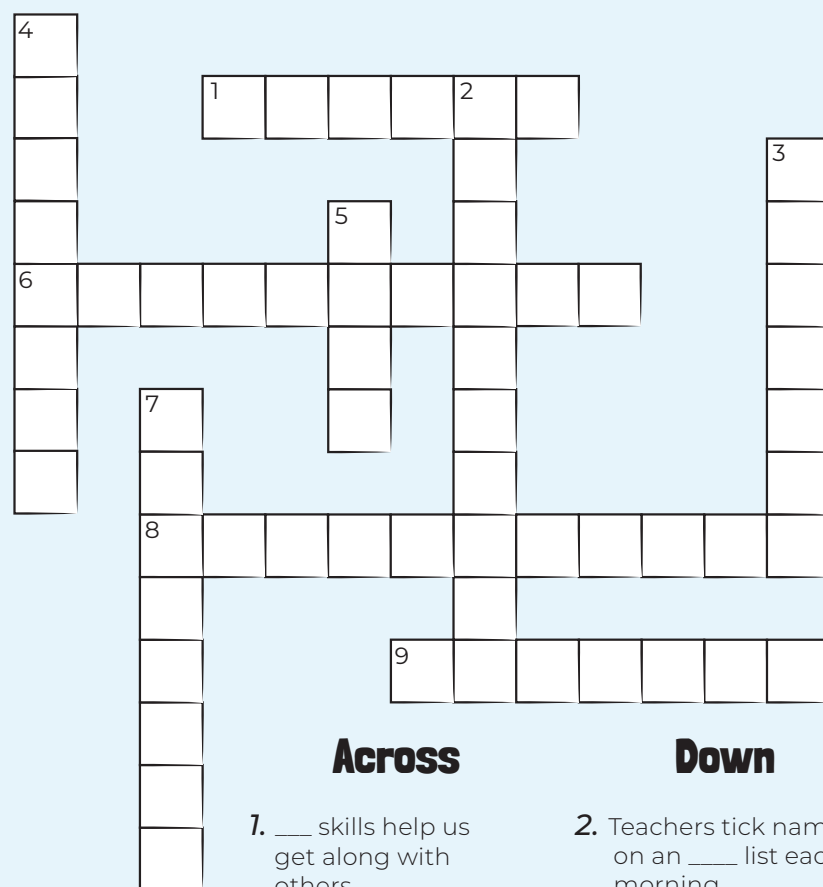
Lauren is a PCEO from Albany. She helped Max feel comfortable at school. Max's mum now feels supported and equipped to help him, too.

PCIR

**pastoral
critical
incident
response**

In time of crisis, a timely and appropriate response eases the burdens for communities experiencing trauma and change. Pastoral Critical Incident Response (PCIR) Chaplains are trained to deliver pastoral care and practical support for **communities**, helping them **heal** and rebuild for the long term.

When a high school in Geraldton was experiencing trauma, PCIR Chaplains showed up every day for two whole weeks to spend time with the community. Everyone got a chance to share their feelings.



Across

1. ___ skills help us get along with others
6. Pastoral Care ___ Officer
8. Groups of people who live, learn, and work together
9. Lend a ___ hand

Down

2. Teachers tick names on an ___ list each morning
3. Places where students learn
4. People who learn in schools
5. To feel better after trauma or crisis is to ___
7. Pastoral Critical ___ Response

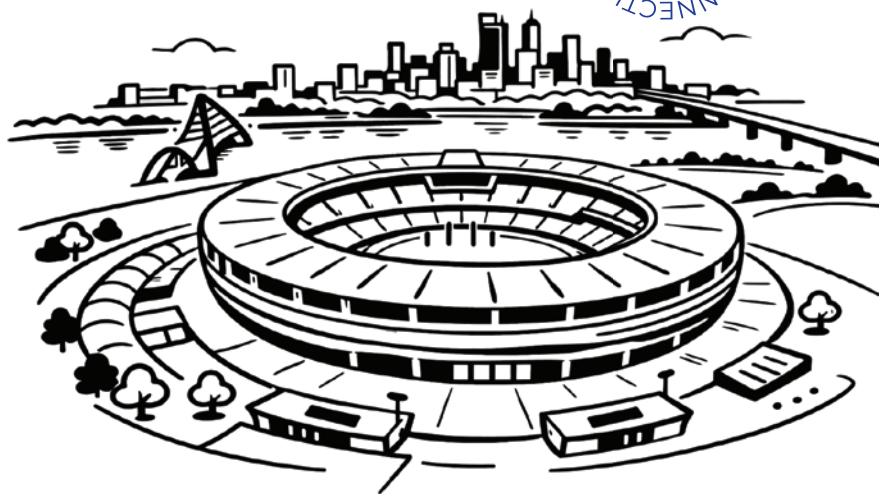
Read all about YouthCARE's PCEO and PCIR services to find more clues to our crossword.

Answers:
1. Social
2. Attendance
3. Schools
4. Students
5. Heal
6. Engagement
7. Incident
8. Communities
9. Helping

YouthCARE events

State Chaplaincy CONFERENCE

CARING THROUGH
CONNECTION



In 2025, YouthCARE not only trained YouthCARE Chaplains, but chaplains from a range of areas like healthcare, aged care, and street chaplaincy.

In October, more than 500 chaplains gathered at Optus Stadium for the West Australian State Chaplaincy Conference. Hosted by YouthCARE, the two-day conference **equipped, connected, and inspired** the vibrant community of chaplains from across sectors.

In between sessions with experts like Dr Justin Coulson and Dr Bruce Robinson, chaplains spent time connecting with those outside their usual network, sharing stories and wisdom.



The Governor's Chaplaincy Awards honours the tremendous service of chaplains across Western Australia, shining a light on profound stories of impact that often go unnoticed. At this year's awards, nine YouthCARE Chaplains were recognised for their contributions to metro and regional communities, with **four overall winners from YouthCARE** across eight categories.

Last year, my chaplain helped me celebrate when AMAZING things were happening in my life.

At the Governor's Chaplaincy Awards, a whole ballroom of people got to celebrate everything she does to help support kids just like me.



RUOK?

My mate's chaplain is Bonnie. On RUOK? Day, he said she organised the best ever morning of music, games, and prizes at their school.

The Free Coffee Friday van rocked up, and so did the West Coast Eagles!



Free Coffee Friday is a school-wide event organised by YouthCARE's staff, volunteers and chaplains, to **give back to local school communities** across WA.

Parents are invited to start the day at their children's school, enjoying free barista-made coffee supplied by YouthCARE. Meanwhile, students get to hang out with their chaplain and take part in games and giveaways. The space helps the school community connect, **encouraging parents to engage** within the school grounds.

“ [Free Coffee Friday] was a great way for our families, teachers and community to connect. It's always easier to connect when you have something in your hand, so it was great to have the coffee as a conversation starter. It was nice that some of the families got to talk to some teachers that [they haven't talked] to before, because teachers are usually busy running events. ”

Principal, Balga Primary School



Telethon 7 has generously supported YouthCARE for over two years, funding the SWELL program and Pastoral Care Engagement Officer service.

As part of the Telethon7 community, YouthCARE held a stall at the Family Festival in the city. Even in the rain and mud, thousands of people came by to play games, win prizes, and learn about YouthCARE's **mission and impact in schools** across WA.



partners, patrons & churches



YouthCARE couldn't care for hundreds of THOUSANDS of families without support from their friends.

word search

Can you **find** some of the **people**, **churches** and **organisations** that helped Ben, Lucy and **250,000** other **kids**, through **YouthCARE** last year?

p s k t e l e t h o n u j c e
s o m s f g h p z k m n h i n
h n c a t h o l i c p i o t i
i s k v m r x v e u y t p y l
r h u i u d l w e o b i m o e
e i j y s f p e i r g n z f f
o n w e c a o k a a n g a k i
f e p m a n g o v w k m o w l
g d v h t u j z d o g a e i k
i g q v e r t e z b r o m n f
n l r d e n g b x z a y b a t
g o v e r n o r i c s n s n e
i n t a s b u e l o e t k a o
n e q a n g l i c a n z a n k

anglican
catholic
city of kwinana
food bank
government
governor
lifeline
muscateers
shire of gingin
sonshine
telethon
uniting

Scan the QR codes below to find out more about YouthCARE's patrons and view their full list of partners and member churches:



Partners



Member Churches

If you'd like to hear
more stories about how
YouthCARE makes a
difference in schools and
other communities...



Suite 17/162 Colin Street
West Perth, WA 6005
9376 5000
youthcare.org.au



...or to find out how
you can help create brighter,
more hopeful futures for
young Western Australians,
scan the QR code.