



YouthCARE

IMPACT REPORT 2025

Empowering generations to flourish by
feeling connected, supported and valued.

HOPE • RESPECT • COMPASSION • SERVICE

IMPACT

that lasts

When we invest in young people, we strengthen the schools, families and communities around them.

In 2025, the shared commitment of government, partners, businesses and generous donors enabled YouthCARE to provide consistent, on the ground support in more than 600 school communities across Western Australia. At the heart of this work are our chaplains and volunteers – a trusted, steady presence walking alongside young people and families each day.

The result is meaningful, lasting change: young people strengthened in hope, connection and belonging; families supported through difficult seasons, and communities better equipped to help the next generation thrive. This impact is only possible because schools, families and communities continue to trust us to stand beside them when it matters most.

Longstanding partnerships show what sustained commitment can achieve. For example, over 25 years, the City of Gosnells' support has significantly strengthened chaplaincy services in more than 10 schools each year, expanding access to vital social and emotional support, while growing impactful wellbeing programs that create lasting benefits across school communities.

Our collaborative work with Lifeline WA and Telethon 7 has produced SWELL – Strategies for Wellbeing – a practical skills program that equips young people with tools to cope when life gets tough, and fosters stronger connections between school and home.

Across metropolitan, regional and remote Western Australia, relational, preventative and early intervention support is strengthening student engagement. It helps schools identify concerns sooner and creates school communities where young people are seen, heard and valued.

Looking ahead, our focus is clear. We will strengthen and deepen our partnerships and relationships to make a lasting impact.

It is my pleasure to present the 2025 YouthCARE Impact Report.



Tamsyn Cullingford
YouthCARE Chief Executive Officer

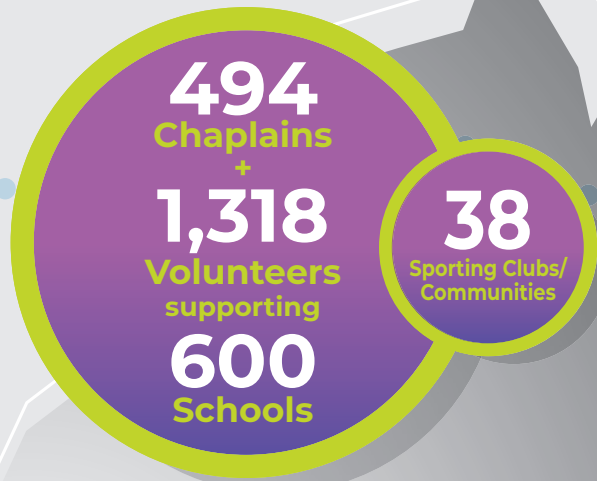
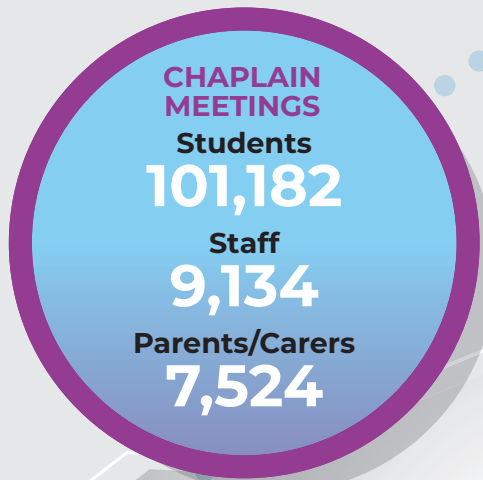


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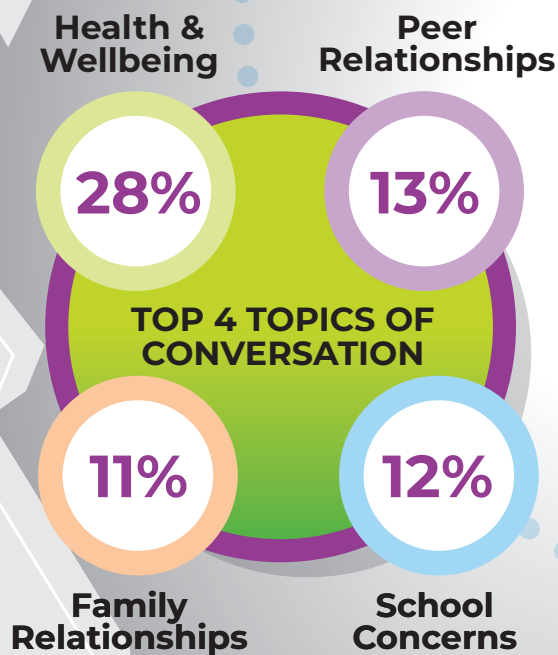
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Hear from students about the impact YouthCARE had in their lives in 2025.





2025 SNAPSHOT STATEWIDE



PROGRAM TOTALS



Meals Served in
Breakfast Club



Social & Emotional
Sessions



Christian Values Education
Students/Week

260,000+ People supported

494 chaplains and 1,318 volunteers supporting 600 school and 38 sporting communities across millions of km²

Western Australia is expansive, and YouthCARE's reach spans from the Kimberley in the North, through to the Pilbara, down to the Great Southern, and out to the Goldfields: YouthCARE's presence extends to every corner of WA.

Some YouthCARE Chaplains travel via plane to cover 220,000km², connecting with families in remote locations with encouragement and resources. Others live a short drive from their school. All our chaplains and volunteers deliver wrap-around support, services and programs that make a substantial contribution to their communities.

693,876

Meals served in Breakfast Club

It's a sad reality that many students across WA come to school hungry. Hunger affects the whole child; from their physical wellbeing to their ability to concentrate, and their interactions with others. Breakfast Club's impact extends beyond providing a healthy meal. It provides a positive space to serve, belong and connect in community for all students.

"This year we have found families and students are doing it particularly tough financially, with an increasing number experiencing homelessness and instability," says one YouthCARE Chaplain. "Breakfast Club is busier than ever with many hungry kids."

117,840

Chaplain meetings with students, staff and parents/carers

As a trusted presence in school communities, YouthCARE Chaplains are often the first point of contact for students, staff, and families experiencing hardship, emotional distress, or other concerns. They provide skilled care in one-on-one chaplain meetings, and connect with specialist services so students, staff, and families get the wrap-around support they need.

All YouthCARE Chaplains hold professional qualifications in pastoral care, mental health, and referral pathways, combined with significant life experience.

The
IM

30,760

Social and emotional wellbeing group and individual sessions

In 2025, YouthCARE Chaplains connected with students during compassionate pastoral sessions. Chaplains provided space for students to share about peer relationships, identity, social life, and mental health. Students from all walks of life attended these sessions, including Indigenous, Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD), LGBTQI, and refugee students.

Through both individual and group sessions, chaplains helped students feel heard and valued at school, equipping them to flourish in all aspects of life.

PACT

our chaplains and volunteers have across WA schools and other communities

1,723

Students learning values from a faith perspective

Our Christian Values Education program, Everyday Matters, provided space for students to grow in connection and confidence as they explored topics they may face every day. Volunteers who ran the program nurtured character building, resilience, and respect. The change was clear in students' kinder interactions with one another and stronger enthusiasm for the program. One child put it simply: "I can't wait 'til next week!"

9,707

Community Referrals

YouthCARE Chaplains play a valuable role in the prevention and early intervention stages of the wellbeing journey, and are a critical component of the wider student services team. In this work, referrals are key in providing young people and families with support in times of need.

In 2025, YouthCARE Chaplains identified the needs of WA students and responded by partnering with service providers like GIVIT and NDIS. Through these referrals, we have seen students and their families access housing and cost-of-living support, connections to Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) support, English as a Second Language (ESL) programs, and gain the relevant tools they need to feel supported throughout their education journey.

STORIES

from our chaplains



Behind the numbers are powerful stories of individuals, families and communities impacted by the service of YouthCARE Chaplains and volunteers. Each story reflects our shared commitment to empower generations to flourish by feeling connected, supported and valued.

Connection and compassion bringing hope

Enrolling in an Education Support Centre can feel overwhelming, with long waitlists, significant costs, and uncertainty about where to begin. James'* family faced that very challenge.

"When [James] came to pre-primary [at a local Government School], he couldn't stay in the classroom. He couldn't hold a conversation. He would often get really frustrated," recalls YouthCARE Chaplain Michelle Wilson.

With pastoral support from Michelle

and administrative guidance from the deputy principal, James' family began the process of seeking an ASD assessment, seeking to enrol him in an Education Support Centre.

The reality hit hard. A diagnosis through the public system meant a three-to-four-year wait. A private assessment could be completed within six months, but at a cost of \$2,700.

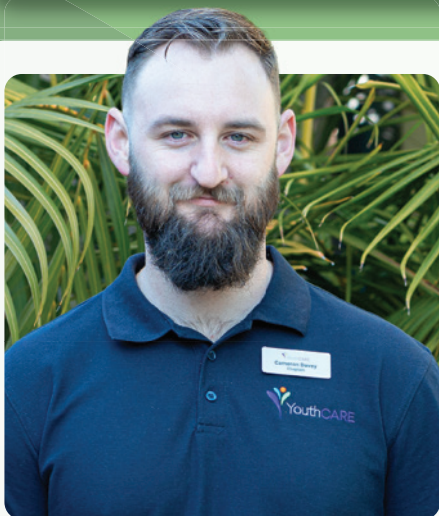
Michelle confidentially shared the family's situation with local businesses. They covered \$1,500. YouthCARE

Pastoral Care Manager Linda Liddelow then contacted James' speech therapist, who generously offered to reduce the assessment fee.

James is now at an Education Support Centre surrounded by educators and carers who understand his needs, and supported by his new YouthCARE Chaplain.

James and his family are now stepping into a future filled with possibility.

*Name changed for privacy.



Quiet, consistent presence

What moves YouthCARE Chaplain Cameron Davey the most is when non-verbal students speak his name.

"There's one kid in particular who I would spend a lot of time with... I would sit near him but make it really non-obvious that [I was] hanging out with him... I did that consistently for probably half the year."

After months of quiet, consistent presence, the student said Cameron's name. "He just looked at me and smiled," says Cameron. "That

was one of the first things I ever heard him say, let alone to me. Now every time I walk past the classroom [he says], 'Hi Cameron, Hi Cameron, Hi Cameron.'"

"It always has a profound effect on me," he says. "To know I have built such a strong and consistent rapport with someone... it's just super encouraging. Once [students] learn to trust that you're going to continue to be there, that's when they'll open up and [feel] comfortable to step out," he says.

Hampers of Hope

At Merriwa Education Support Centre, YouthCARE Chaplain Samantha Crouch made sure every family felt seen, known, and loved at Christmas.

"We have 105 children with diagnosed disabilities," she explains. "Getting to the shops is no easy feat when you have a child with a disability; sometimes the simplest of things are just too hard."

Samantha reached out to all 102 families at Merriwa ESC and created a personalised wish list for each one, reflecting each student's physical abilities, developmental age, and personal sensitivities.

With the support from The Open Church in Merriwa, those 102 wish lists became a reality.

Families were invited to The Open

Church to collect their hampers and meet the people who provided them, over a cup of coffee and conversation. "The pick-up was so beautiful. There were genuine connections," says Samantha. "Our staff and our families have been so blown away. This is a seed that will impact the future," she says.



Helen Hames' meals clubs

At Girrawheen Senior High School, breakfast and lunch clubs are thriving. YouthCARE Chaplain Helen Hames is at the heart of it.

"I started doing Lunch Club when I first came. We'd only have six or seven kids come in. In Term 2 [2024] I fed 189 kids breakfast and over 400 kids lunch," says Helen.

In 2025, the program doubled. "It's just grown and grown. The more kids hear about it, the more kids come. They feel safe here," she says. "It's an absolute joy to do and the children are extremely grateful."

Helen's heart for feeding students and their families doesn't stop at Girrawheen SHS – she also volunteers three days a week at Hudson Park Primary School doing Breakfast Club. Hudson Park is Girrawheen's 'feeder' school, with Hudson Park students transitioning to Girrawheen for high school. "[Families] know a face already and they know that my heart is for kids," says Helen. Fellow YouthCARE Chaplain Kate Tantum serves at Hudson Park Primary School and the two work closely together. "She does a great job," says Helen.

Bonnie supporting dads on the sidelines

Bonnie Rodman is the SportsCARE Chaplain at Wanneroo Junior Football Club.

"One of the biggest things I have had this season is dads approaching me, saying, *how can I be more involved in my child's life?*," she says. "Being able to walk alongside these dads and have them allow me to come into that very sensitive part of their life [is wonderful]," she says.

The key to becoming more involved? "Really, to be honest, it's the power of showing up," she says, "saying

good job mate and not critiquing." Bonnie sees the impact on the footy field. "[When] dad shows up, or uncle shows up, the kids play so much harder during their games."

Showing up makes young athletes feel supported off field, too. Bonnie sees it every day in her role as a YouthCARE School Chaplain. "Wanneroo Junior Football Club is connected to the schools I work in. I get to support my families and students in both school and the sports club."

Caring for families in both spaces allows Bonnie to build trust and familiarity with families – and not just with dads and mums. "Aunties and uncles and cousins all come to watch games," says Bonnie.

"As a chaplain, it's so important to connect into your community. What better way to connect in community than with sports," says Bonnie.

For clubs with a SportsCARE Chaplain like Bonnie, the sidelines are a space to be seen, heard, and supported in all of life.

The Jolimont Care Councillors

The Jolimont Care Councillors are a team of Year 6 leaders at Jolimont Primary School, supporting their kindy and pre-primary peers each week at the playground.

"Every day of the week, three of us go to pre-primary and kindy to help the little kids learn the school values, and to help them with making friends and solving problems," says one Care Councillor.

The program is run by YouthCARE Chaplain Katie Almeida.

"Every two weeks we have a meeting with Katie to catch up on how things are going," says one Care Councillor. "We did a course with her about how to solve problems and how to help the little kids."

One student shared that although

they have chores at home, taking on the Care Councillor role at school has helped them become even more organised. "At school, I need to remember that on Thursday, I need to go to Kindy with my team. It's helped me be much more on time."

Deputy Principal, Wendy, has seen the transformation firsthand: "They gain a lot of confidence in supporting the little Kindy and Pre-Primary children. It's a really lovely bonding experience for those older children."

The Care Councillors agree – "It makes us feel more connected," says one student.

Today, with Katie's guidance, leadership is becoming an integral part of Jolimont's day-to-day and will shape its students for years to come.



In their own WORDS

"My chaplain has helped me learn how to set boundaries, and how to really learn to take care of myself. [David's] been a really big help."

High school student on the impact of their YouthCARE Chaplain.

"My son was having some social problems in the playground. [Katie recognised] what he needed and worked with him regularly during the week. She'd help him think through techniques and skills he could use to solve the problems that he was [facing]. Having her available, and having her caring about the kids, and being able to spend time talking with them [goes] a long way. It made a huge difference to [my son]. He's a lot happier, and a lot more confident."

Parent on the impact of a YouthCARE Chaplain

"PCEO has been part of mine and my son's lives for two years. Before working with Alyse, I would fight with him most mornings about going to school. Now, getting him to school is less of a struggle. He's dealing with his emotions better, he's reconnected with me and his brother... we're coming back to a space of having discussions, and he's learning to cope with his feelings. Even the school's noticed the difference in his willingness to participate, talk to others, and be more socially inclusive. The support has been outstanding... Now [he will] go to the office and ask to talk to the principal on his own. It's amazing."

Parent on the impact of their family's Pastoral Care Engagement Officer

"We've had four chaplains at our school, and they bring a great wealth of knowledge and support to our children, our staff, and our parents ... a chaplain has a really important part in a wellbeing team."

Principal, North Balga Primary School



"My chaplain has helped me learn that I can be strong, and I can be confident in myself, [and that] you don't just have to care about your friends, you can also care about yourself."

High school student on the impact of their YouthCARE Chaplain.

"Jacqui's an incredible person. She doesn't go in half-heartedly. She helped me and my family a tremendous amount, especially after the loss of my daughter. She's been there and helped me through the loss, as well as supporting the kids, too, while they're at school."

Parent on the impact of a YouthCARE Chaplain

"It's really important for me as a principal, but also for the community to have that extra support. Having a chaplain gives the kids someone to talk to that isn't their teacher, that isn't their parent. [YouthCARE Chaplaincy is a] great program that I highly value, and so does my community. [Cameron has] been an amazing addition to our school. He's respectful and understanding. He's really become a great part of our school. We hope he'll stay for a long, long time."

Principal, Camboon Primary School

"Something that I've learned from Helen is to be more patient, because she always shows patience to us. When you're talking with others, and when you're making friends, you need to always be patient with them."

High school student on the impact of their YouthCARE Chaplain

Our SERVICES

In 2025, **92 new chaplains** were trained and commissioned to serve in schools. Together, **494 chaplains** served across **600 schools**, supporting more than **250,000 students** each week.

This work is complemented by a range of services responding to the needs of communities across Western Australia; Pastoral Care Engagement Officers addressing school absenteeism, Principals Chaplaincy supporting school leaders, SportsCARE Chaplains serving local sporting clubs, and Pastoral Critical Incident Response caring for communities in crisis.



Pastoral Critical Incident Response®

When crisis strikes, a timely response eases the burden on communities facing trauma and change. PCIR chaplains are trained to deliver pastoral and practical care across Western Australia, working with schools, agencies and families to support recovery and longer-term rebuilding.

During one incident in 2025, **four PCIR chaplains were deployed to a regional Residential College** after a series of deeply distressing events. Recognising that a standard response would not be enough, they worked in coordinated pairs and attended the college each evening for two weeks, offering sustained presence and practical support. The team's work helped settle the school community and prevent escalation, supporting a safer, steadier recovery, and was recognised at the third annual Governor's Chaplaincy Awards.



68

Chaplains deployed to
43 PCIR incidents

Pastoral Care Engagement Officer

Regular attendance and meaningful engagement with school is essential for positive outcomes for young students. YouthCARE's PCEO program was developed to **boost attendance and classroom engagement**.

In 2025, the PCEO program **supported 80 regional students** by placing a dedicated and experienced PCEO into school communities to build trusted relationships with students and families. By improving family connections and reducing barriers to school, PCEOs help children re-engage with learning and sustain attendance over time.



"Sometimes families might not feel comfortable speaking to me or the principal, whereas our [PCEO] has been able to provide that friendly contact with [families] and make meaningful connection, enabling the children to connect with our school and their learning."

Associate Principal at Little Grove Primary School in Albany



PCEO
Pastoral Care Engagement Officer

80

Students supported
across 18 schools



Principals Chaplaincy

Supporting school leaders wherever they may be

Principals Chaplaincy provides **practical, confidential, face-to-face support** to school leaders across Western Australia. Our chaplains offer a steady presence that helps leaders manage stress, reflect on complex decisions, and sustain their capacity to lead. By caring for principals, we strengthen leadership capacity, reduce the risk of burnout, and build healthier school environments for students and staff.

In 2025, YouthCARE Chaplain Beverley Hanrahan was recognised as Regional Chaplain of the Year at the third annual Governor's Chaplaincy Awards. Beverley supports the emotional and professional wellbeing of school leaders **across 46 schools in the Midwest region** and is a steady and supportive force.

"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," says Beverley.

Through compassionate presence and practical care, Principal Chaplains help leaders lead with clarity, resilience and care.



Supporting the wellbeing of the sporting community

SportsCARE brings pastoral care into Western Australian sporting communities, from grassroots level to elite. **Over 40 trained SportsCARE Chaplains support more than 10,000 athletes and their families each week.** They offer a steady presence on the sidelines, building trust, noticing when people are struggling, and linking athletes, families and volunteers with specialist services when additional support is needed.

In 2025, SportsCARE's impact reached major sporting peak bodies, including **Basketball WA, Cricket WA, West Australian Football Commission, and Netball WA.** SportsCARE also maintained key partner relationships with clubs like the West Coast Eagles.

"It's important 'just being a presence' in sporting communities.

Sports chaplains have an opportunity to [be] there for people when things are going really well, but also when things are a bit tough,"

Matthew, SportsCARE Chaplain at West Perth Football Club

Our PROGRAMS

YouthCARE delivers evidence-based, age-appropriate programs that strengthen character, resilience, and healthy relationships at critical stages of development.

In an increasingly complex world, students need practical tools to navigate conflict, manage challenges, and seek support early. Our programs equip young people with skills that strengthen wellbeing not only in school, but into adulthood.

In 2025, **166 facilitators** were trained to deliver YouthCARE programs across **121 schools**, from Shark Bay to Kalgoorlie. By embedding trained facilitators within school communities, we expanded access to structured social and emotional learning for thousands of students across Western Australia.

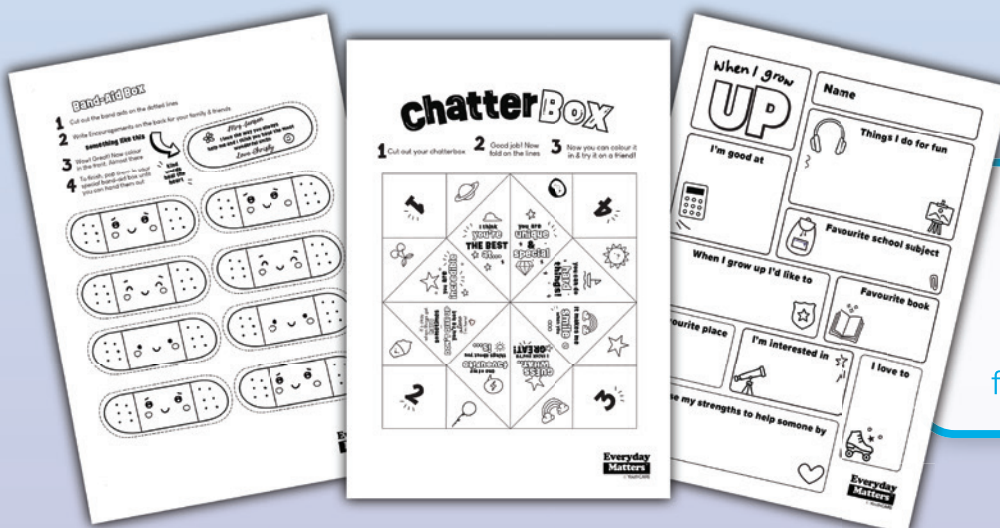
Christian Values Education

Hope spoken today, can shape a life forever. YouthCARE's Christian Values Education programs are designed to speak into the everyday challenges students face. Aligned with the Nine Values for Australian Schooling and the Western Australian Curriculum General Capabilities, these programs support schools by nurturing character and resilience, fostering respect for self and others, and strengthening healthy relationships.

More than **100 dedicated volunteers** delivered these programs to **1,723 students**, investing into young lives at a formative stage. The impact is significant. By building strong values today, we are helping shape a generation equipped to lead with integrity, compassion and hope tomorrow.

"To any principals out there who might be looking at Christian Values Education in their school, for Forrest Crescent Primary it has been a natural fit and really promotes our values across our school community."

Andrew Holmes
Principal



1,723
Students learnt values
from a faith perspective

SWELL is a skills-based program, providing students with wellbeing strategies and tools today, so they can cope tomorrow. It's based on the four overarching themes of Dialectical Behaviour Therapy: mindfulness, distress tolerance, emotional regulation and interpersonal effectiveness. SWELL-trained chaplains, working closely with their school's student services team, run small groups in their schools for vulnerable and at-risk students aged 10-14, aiming to reduce the likelihood of self-harm and suicidal ideation.

SWELL promotes wrap-around support for students by fostering a shared understanding of the skills learned throughout the program. With access to program resources, parents and caregivers are equipped to continue the conversation at home.

As a joint initiative between YouthCARE and Lifeline WA, SWELL is generously supported by Telethon7 and patrons His Excellency the Honourable Christopher Dawson AC APM, Governor of Western Australia and Mrs Darrilyn Dawson.

"Across the 10 weeks, [students] shared times they had used the strategies, or taught others the strategies. Some of the students had been in many of the small group intervention programs their school had run. They shared that they liked [SWELL] the best, as they learnt the most amount of practical skills to be able to help themselves,"

YouthCARE Chaplain running the program

17%

Average improvement in student self-regulation across SWELL's pilot sessions

Peer Skills

Peer Skills strengthens communication and problem-solving skills, helping students build and sustain positive relationships. By teaching conflict resolution, emotional awareness, and help-seeking behaviours, the program contributes to safer classrooms and stronger peer networks.

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

Special Needs
Education Assistant

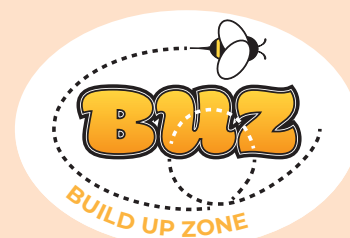


G.R.I.T. equips students to approach challenges with confidence rather than avoidance. Through experiential activities, students develop skills of perseverance, teamwork, and personal responsibility.

"When one of my students who is growing in personal confidence and social skills was paired with their G.R.I.T partner for a school activity, she proudly shared with her relief teacher that they had been G.R.I.T buddies, and both were excited to work together."

Chaplain

Moments like this show the confidence and connection that can grow through G.R.I.T.



BUZ strengthens social and emotional competencies in primary-aged students through programs focused on friendship, cooperation, conflict resolution, emotional regulation, and responding to bullying. By building these foundations early, BUZ contributes to improved self-regulation and stronger peer relationships across whole year groups.

"Our school has run the BUZ program school-wide over the last 10 years. The students find the social skills to be relevant and easy to grasp the way they are presented."

Teacher/Health
Curriculum Coordinator



GOVERNOR'S CHAPLAINCY AWARDS

The Governor's Chaplaincy Awards presented a unique opportunity for joint patrons, His Excellency the Honourable Christopher Dawson AC APM and Mrs Darrilyn Dawson, in partnership with YouthCARE, to recognise the good work and inspiring stories of chaplains across diverse industries such as aged care, defence, education, emergency services, health, mining, social services, and sport.

The ceremony, held at the Government House Ballroom, celebrated and recognised chaplains across the state who went above and beyond the expectations of their role, building up those facing challenges, disadvantages and trauma.

Among those honoured was YouthCARE Chaplain *Desirè Atkinson*. When a student was missing school for fear of her mother's safety in a violent home, Desirè walked alongside the family to provide food hampers, counselling referrals, and regular check-ins. Today, the child has returned to school, the mother has found safety, and the family is rebuilding their lives.

It was an honour to be able to connect with likeminded organisations and individuals in support of chaplains like Desirè, who serve our Western Australian communities with compassion and purpose.

2025 Award Recipients

CHAPLAIN OF THE YEAR

Aimee-Clare Oudman
Fiona Stanley Hospital

REGIONAL CHAPLAIN OF THE YEAR AWARD

Beverley Hanrahan
YouthCARE

COMMUNITY CONNECTION AWARD

Brian Newing
Bunbury Regional Prison

CHAPLAINCY IMPACT AWARD

Desirè Atkinson
YouthCARE

OUTSTANDING RESPONSE TO A CRITICAL INCIDENT AWARD

Allison Nixon
YouthCARE

CULTURE CAPABILITY AWARD

Janelle Butler
Scripture Union

CHAPLAINCY LEADERSHIP AND INNOVATION AWARD

Linda Liddelow
YouthCARE

CHAPLAINCY PARTNERSHIP AWARD

Kwinana Early Years Services (KEYS)

COMMENDATION AWARD

Clare Muller, Naomi Warth, Beverley Hanrahan, Peter Hanrahan
Outstanding Response to a Critical Incident
Phillip Glossop
Regional Chaplain of the Year



Our PARTNERS

We are deeply grateful to our government, corporate and community partners for your continued support throughout 2025. Your partnership does more than fund activity. It sustains vital services and enables us to grow programs that meet young people where they are. Because of you, students feel heard and are better equipped to learn, families are connected to the help they need, and communities are strengthened.

We also recognise the difference that even one person can make, and we thank every partner and donor for standing alongside young Western Australians.



Our full list of partners and patrons appears on our website:

www.youthcare.org.au/patrons-partners

or simply scan the QR code.



Our PATRONS

His Excellency the Honourable
Christopher Dawson AC APM
and Mrs Darrilyn Dawson



Together, we can make a lasting impact in schools, families, and communities, so they feel connected, supported, and valued.



Make a **donation** to bring hope to our WA communities



Make time to **volunteer** and support students



Build a **career** in making a difference in WA school communities

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