

2023/2024

ANNUAL REPORT

**PREPARED BY
DEB TOUGHER**



YP SPACE acknowledges the Dunghutti and Birpai people as the traditional custodians of the land on which we work and live.

We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging, and all Aboriginal People.

We acknowledge the land was never ceded and therefore always was and still is Aboriginal land.





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OVERVIEW

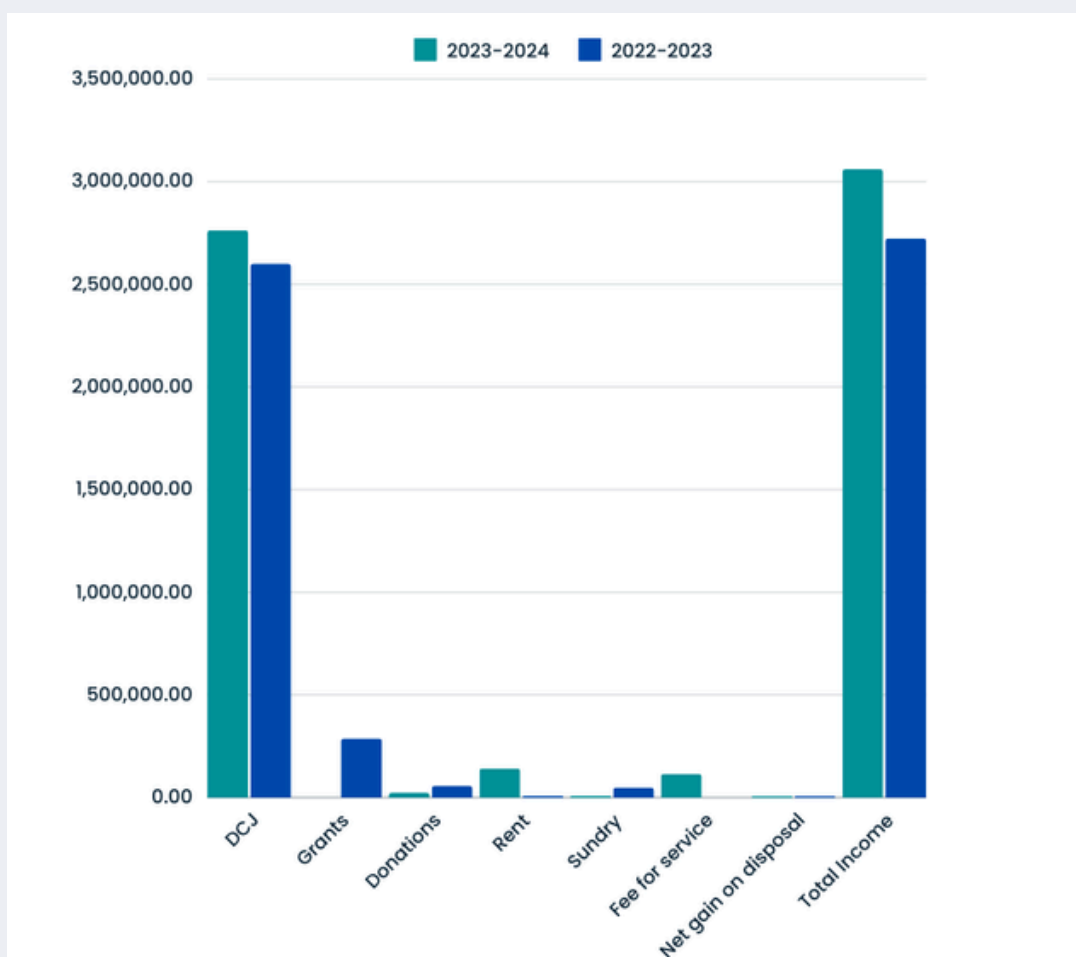
YPS is a Youth Specialist Homelessness Service. We support Children and Young People aged 12 to 25 years who are experiencing homelessness.

We are based in the Kempsey and Port Macquarie LGA's. We support Children and Young People from Laurieton to Macksville on the Mid North Coast.

YPS is a registered charity and not-for-profit organisation. 100% of money raised from donations or corporate sponsorship goes directly to supporting Children and Young People.

On any given night YPS can have up to 54 Children and Young People in residence. We operate two 24/7 crisis accommodation houses, 6 cabins (2-bedroom x 3 & studio x 3) for temporary accommodation and transitional housing. Plus, MOUs with other housing providers.

INCOME SOURCES



VALUES VISION AND MISSION



YP SPACE Vision

“Shelter the homeless – One Child and Young Person at a time”

YP SPACE Mission Statement

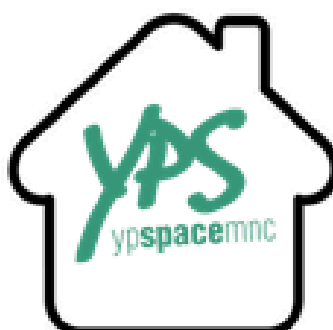
“To support Children and Young People experiencing homelessness through a holistic approach”

COMPASSION

YP SPACE shows kindness, compassion and empathy to every Child and Young Person we support

RESPECT

At YP SPACE, respect is fundamental to everything we do. We honour the dignity and worth of every Child and Young Person we support and this extends to other stakeholders we work with in community



YP SPACE Values

EMPOWERING

YP SPACE strives to empower the Children and Young People we are supporting to realise their potential and create their own path towards a brighter future

INTEGRITY

At YP SPACE, integrity forms the foundation of trust and reliability in our relationships with the Children and Young People we serve and the community we support



NGURRA: A YEAR OF PROGRESS AND GROWTH

Over the past 12 months, we have seen Ngurra truly come into its own as a vital support space for Children and Young People (CYP) on the Mid North Coast. Ngurra, meaning "Where we lay our head, this place be home" in the local Dunghutti language, has evolved into much more than just a housing project—it has become a safe haven for CYP in need of temporary accommodation and holistic, wraparound support.

Currently, Ngurra is operating with six cabins dedicated to Temporary Accommodation (TA) for CYP. These cabins are more than just a place to stay; they offer a full range of supports aimed at addressing housing issues and equipping CYP with the tools and skills they need to transition into stable, long-term housing. Over the last year, we've had some fantastic outcomes, providing essential safety, stability, and hope for CYP at experiencing homelessness.

The progress we've made at Ngurra is a testament to the idea that "if you build it, they will come." We've seen incredible demand for the services offered, and each cabin has been occupied since their opening, proving the critical need for more projects like Ngurra in regional areas.

In February 2024, YP SPACE (YPS) took another significant step forward by purchasing three brand-new cabins for Ngurra. These cabins were purchased through a Regional Youth Grant. These cabins were delivered in March and, in a testament to the efficiency of the team, were fully installed and operational within two days. By the third day, the cabins were ready to provide shelter for CYP, offering immediate impact.

Our work at Ngurra is far from done. In June 2024, we commenced the renovation of the amenities block, which will feature new showers, toilets, and laundry facilities. Importantly, all upgrades will include full disability access, ensuring that Ngurra is an inclusive space for everyone who needs it. This refurbishment is also part of the Regional Youth Grant YPS received to see get Ngurra to where it is today.

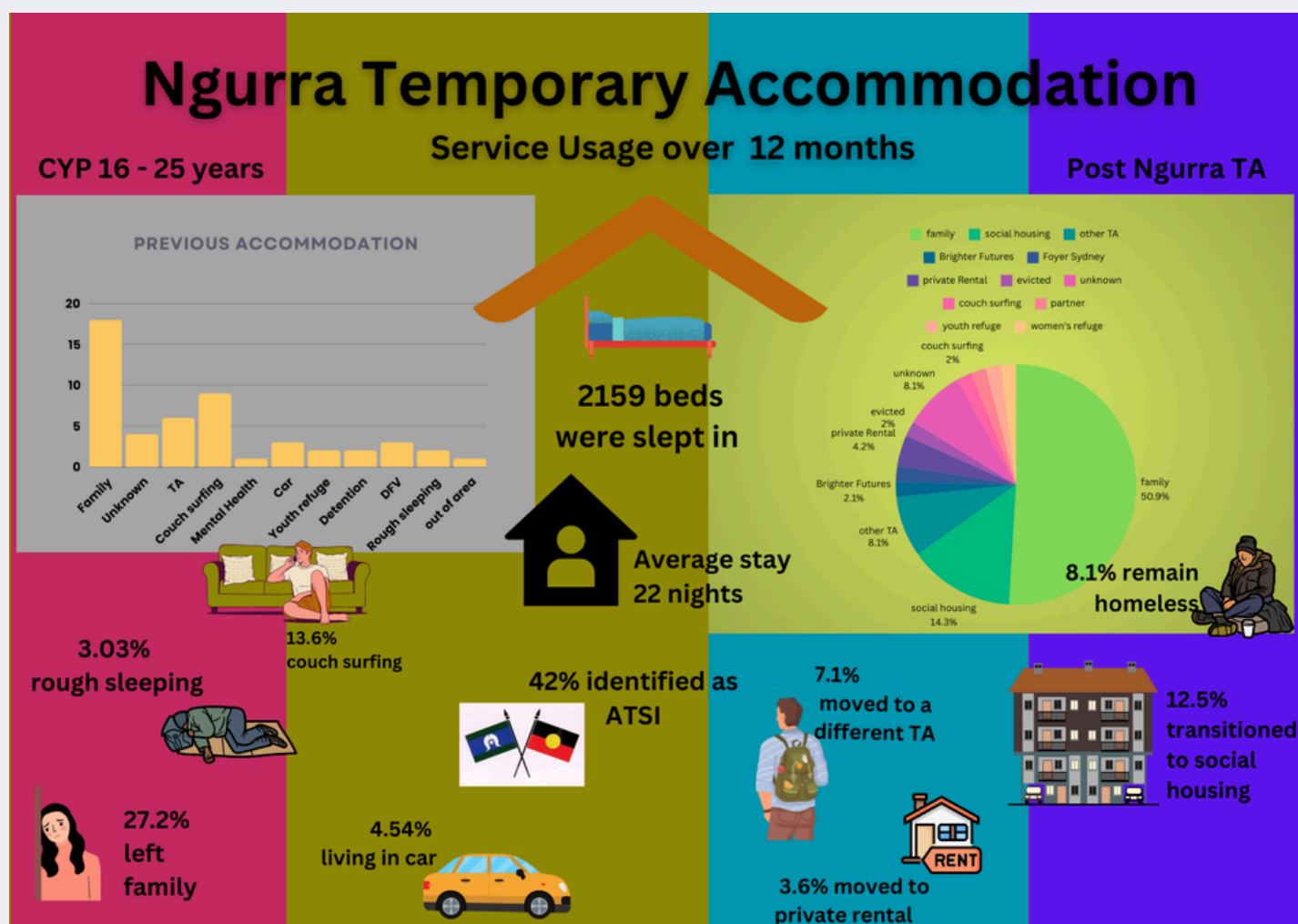
In addition to these practical upgrades, the amenities block will house a drop-in centre where CYP can gather, access resources, attend educational programs and receive support. Once operational, the centre will be a vital community hub offering much-needed services like food hampers, living skills programs, and a safe space for recreational activities. The completion of the amenities block is anticipated by late December 2024.



Looking ahead, Ngurra's future is incredibly bright. Once fully operational, the site will provide 12 cabins for CYP accommodation. It will also feature community gardens, a chicken coop, laundry and shower services, and a drop-in centre. These additions will ensure that Ngurra becomes not just a place of temporary shelter but a community hub offering holistic support and fostering a sense of belonging and growth for the CYP it serves.

Ngurra has already made a profound difference in the lives of the CYP we support, and the last year has been a period of rapid progress and accomplishment. But this is just the beginning. The future of the Ngurra project is limitless, with potential for expansion and sustainability that can serve as a model for other regions in need of similar support.

Ngurra has shown that when you provide a safe, supportive environment for those in need, amazing outcomes follow. I'm incredibly proud of what we've achieved so far and excited to see where the next year takes us.



DIRECTORS

President	Katrina Cameron
Vice President	Kate Moulton
Secretary	Kirsty Atkins
Treasurer	Debbie Gampe
Board Member	Megan O'Neill
Board Member	Kellon Beard
Board Member	Steve Robinson
CEO	Andrea Davidson



PRESIDENT REPORT

As the president of YPS, I often find it difficult to articulate the emotions felt over another year of being part of YPS. There are always challenges to overcome, and the way that YPS overcomes these makes me exceptionally proud.

As we all know, times are tough for many people right now, and this is particularly the case for the Children and Young People(CYP) we serve. Rising costs of living in general and the significant shortage of affordable housing has meant more stress and put more young people at risk or into homelessness.

The team at YPS work tirelessly at several levels to support these CYP during these times. Working to provide support and case management is the core business of YPS. However, it is important to remember the tireless individual and community advocacy that also occurs to make changes at the systemic level for change. This includes attending community meetings and events, conferences and at all times increasing the awareness of CYP's resilience and challenges.

Providing real and meaningful opportunities is also an important role YPS has continued to make over the last year, with group work and additional programs.

Ngurra continues to grow, providing more beds than ever before for CYP, including young families. The determination to continue to grow this project by the team and the Board has been seconded by community support, for which we are most grateful. The statistics provided within this report support how this innovative project has supported the community.

I would like to take the opportunity to congratulate the team on another year of growth, resilience. A particular congratulations must go to Andrea Davidson, who has proceeded to come up through the ranks of YPS, to step in to what I would consider, her rightful position as CEO!

I would like to thank the members for their contributions and look forward to working in partnership into the future with new members!

Thank you for allowing me to be part of such an amazing organisation!

Katrina Cameron
YP SPACE MNC
President



CEO REPORT

Another year has flown by, and what a remarkable year it has been! I want to begin by extending my heartfelt thanks to the Board of YP SPACE (YPS) and all our dedicated staff for their unwavering support as I stepped into the CEO role. It's been an incredible journey, and I'm deeply grateful for the guidance and encouragement I've received.

Over the past year, the number of Children and Young People (CYP) accessing our services has notably increased, reflecting both the rising needs within our communities and the trust placed in YPS as a vital support system. Our Team Leaders and Casework Team, operating across Kempsey and Port Macquarie, remains the heart and soul of our organisation, unwaveringly advocating for CYP experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

The residential work teams are dedicated to helping CYP develop essential living skills and independence by providing emotional and practical support through outings and social engagements. They also ensure that crisis accommodations remain operational after hours, offering a safe and supportive environment during challenging times. Equally, the management and admin team plays a crucial role by attending network meetings to build connections, advocating for resources, and seeking additional funding to expand YPS. Their ongoing commitment to maintain Ngurra and ensure that both staff and CYP are well-supported. The passion, commitment, and relentless advocacy of our casework, residential, admin and management teams make YPS the vital service it is today.

One of the most remarkable features of YPS is the sense of teamwork that resonates throughout every level of our organisation. The feedback we've received from the CYP we serve this year has been truly outstanding. Many have highlighted how supported, heard, and valued they feel under the care of our team, which is a testament to the genuine compassion and personalised attention our caseworkers provide.

It's worth taking a moment to celebrate the exceptional team morale we've witnessed this year. The trust, communication, and mutual support shared among staff have been a key factor in our success. This collaborative spirit isn't just reflected in the success stories of the CYP we work with, but also in the professional growth and camaraderie within the YPS team. I want to commend each and every one of you for fostering such a positive and effective working environment. You are the driving force behind everything we do, and I'm incredibly proud to work alongside such a dedicated group of people.



While this year has been full of successes, we've also faced significant challenges. The housing crisis that has gripped the nation has had a direct impact on the CYP we serve. We have seen a consistent rise in the number of CYP seeking support, with the leading causes being family breakdown, domestic and family violence, mental health struggles, and housing affordability. These issues continue to drive the demand for our services to unprecedented levels. Despite these challenges, we've achieved fantastic outcomes, thanks to our case managers and support teams who work tirelessly to ensure that every CYP is given the best chance to succeed. We are seeing CYP not only stabilising their housing situations but also gaining the skills and confidence they need to move forward in life.

As we look toward the year ahead, I am filled with optimism and determination. We know that the challenges posed by the housing crisis are ongoing, and the demand for our services is likely to remain high. However, I have every confidence that YPS will continue to rise to meet these challenges head-on. We are committed to adapting, growing, and evolving our services to ensure that every CYP in our community has access to the support and resources they need.

We are also excited about the expansion of the Ngurra project, which will not only provide much-needed housing but will also serve as a community hub offering vital services to CYP and the broader community. This project represents the future of YPS and our ability to think creatively and sustainably about how we support CYP in need.

The year ahead will undoubtedly bring new challenges, but with the continued support of our incredible team and the community we serve, I am confident that we will continue to provide life-changing services to the CYP who need us most. Together, we will keep building a brighter, more hopeful future for the CYP we support.

Andrea Davidson
YP SPACE MNC
CEO

OPERATIONS REPORT

Specialist Homelessness Service (SHS) and Homeless Youth Assistance Program (HYAP) report.

The case management team across Kempsey and Port Macquarie do an absolutely amazing job and are what makes YP SPACE so special with their consistent approach and undeniable passion when advocating for Children and Young People (CYP) that are homeless or at risk of homelessness. Without our case management team, there would be no YP SPACE.

I want to shout out to all the team for not only all the amazing outcomes that have been achieved over the past year, but also the team work and support they give each other. There is definitely no “I” in team within this organisation and it shows with the feedback we receive from our CYP. The team morale is commendable and should be celebrated. Well done!

Case Workers support and case manage between 8-12 CYP at any one time which ranges from Crisis Accommodations, Transitional Properties, Temporary Accommodation at Ngurra and Outreach Support. YP SPACE believes in quality over quantity and with lower numbers per worker, we can be more holistic in our case management standards and approach.

The top four reasons CYP are accessing YP SPACE are family breakdown, domestic and family violence, mental health and the housing crisis. The numbers of CYP requiring our assistance has increased dramatically over the past year and for the first time ever, Port Macquarie had to close down new referrals because of the high numbers on their waitlist. This was a stressful period for the team, however with hard work and persistence, they were able to work through the waitlist and get the referral lines open again.

YPS has access to several housing products to assist with affordable housing and ongoing wrap-around supports for CYP. This is through housing agreements with My Foundations Youth Housing, Mission Australia Housing and Community Housing LTD. We also have access to Rent Choice Youth, a program that helps CYP ages 16 to 24 find a private rental or stay in a currently rental with a 3-year tapering rent assistance and ongoing support during the 3 years.



The Case Work team participates in ongoing training to ensure skills are kept up to date and relevant. This training includes;

- Mental Health at Work
- Coercive Control training
- First Aid and CPR
- BASS training
- Sticky Stuff
- Child Protection training
- Trauma Informed Practices.

YP SPACE understands the need for the team to have an outlet to debrief and reduce the chance of burn out, compassion fatigue and vicarious trauma. The Case Work Team has access to scheduled Supervision, Debriefing whenever needed, EAP and yearly staff wellbeing retreats. Team Leaders at both locations have been keeping careful observation of case workers and encouraging breaks, team lunches and group handovers at morning and afternoon to ground and release the day. I know the team is very grateful for the options we have and is one of the reasons we have retained some diligent workers for long periods.

Well done to the team again. Keep striving! Keep Passionate! Keep Advocating! Keep Being You!

Our Children and Young People need people like you.

Alicia Gordon
YP SPACE MNC
Team Leader



2023-2024 IMPACT (16-25)



Children &
Young People
supported



Total support
days



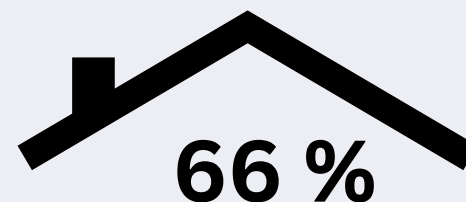
Average days
support period
per CYP



Nights in crisis
accommodation



Nights in
medium
/transitional
accommodation



CYP achieved
goals created in
their case plan

2023-2024 IMPACT (12-15)



**Children &
Young People
supported**



**Total support
days**



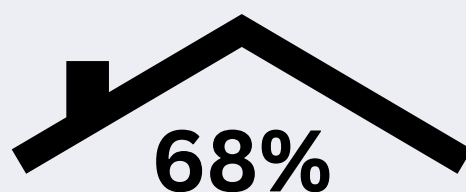
**Average days
support period
per CYP**



**Nights in crisis
accommodation**



**CYP achieved
goals created in
their case plan**



**CYP started
study or
training**

GOOD NEWS STORIES

A Young Person was residing at Ngurra due to a family relationship breakdown which left her homeless. She was supported by her case worker to further her education with an enrollment into university to study a Bachelor of Nursing. Employment progression was also a strong focus to utilise her current Certificate III in Individual Support to gain employment with NSW Justice Health and increase her affordability for housing and living expenses.

YP was successful with her application for housing and is now residing in a 5-year MFYH+ property, attending uni and enjoying her new role within Justice Health. YP is grateful for the security of having a Transitional Plus property, and the continued support of her caseworker that allows her to focus on achieving her goals.



A Young single parent and small child had been struggling with homelessness for several years due to Domestic and Family Violence. They varied between couch surfing and staying in Temporary Accommodation(TA).

After many months of support from YPS, they have secured a private rental through the Rent Choice Start Safely Program. This program provides short to medium term private rental assistance for people who do have a stable and safe place to live due to domestic and family violence.

The young parent and child have settled in and can now focus on other goals such as employment and education.



A 22 year old male has secured his first private rental property after experiencing homelessness off and on for 8 years. He is also studying full time and has a part time job.

The young man has complex combination of a disability and mental health issues. YP SPACE has supported him for the 8 year journey and is very proud of his achievements. He is currently linked disability support services.

The Hope Shop has supplied furniture and household items to make his new house a home.



OUTREACH REPORT

This year has been the busiest yet for YP SPACE Outreach, as we expanded our presence at community events, saw an increase in workshop participation, and engaged more actively in conferences and forums. The primary objective of Outreach remains to boost YP SPACE's brand visibility, raise awareness about youth homelessness, and combat the stigma associated with it.

One major achievement was the completion of our event trailer. After a few necessary adjustments, it was ready for use at the Ride the Wave Festival in May. This trailer has significantly streamlined our event preparation, making it easier to attend community gatherings and ensuring our materials and displays are protected from wear and tear.



Event Highlights and Participation

Community Events: We attended 35 community events this year, nearly doubling last year's 19 events.

Workshops: Our workshops saw 105 young people participating, a significant increase from last year's 69 attendees.

Our Place Sessions: We held 21 sessions, up from 16 the previous year.

Social Media Growth

Our social media following has grown significantly across all platforms, including Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, and TikTok. Social media is a powerful tool that not only amplifies our brand but also helps secure future corporate partnerships, raise awareness, and strengthen grant applications. This growth has expanded our digital reach, enhancing our efforts to educate the public and engage new supporters.

Key Events

Youth Homelessness Matters Day (YHMD): Held on April 17, 2024, at the Town Beach Amphitheatre, YHMD was the highlight of our year.

We had 300 people pre-register via Humanitix and 150 additional registrations on the day. The event featured a vibrant colour bomb, representing the 300 Children and Young People who are homeless in our region each night. The event was covered across multiple outlets including NBN, 7 News, Port News, Council website & Facebook, and MMM.

Major Sponsors: Port Macquarie Hastings Council, Mid Coast Uniforms, Rotary Port Macquarie, Rotary Port West, Make A Difference

Uncle Bill welcomed us to Country, Niko Lipovac mc'ed and the Port Macquarie Wauchope RSL Pipes and Drums kept the crowd entertained. Brave Young People (Laura, Tyson, Aiden) shared their stories before the raffle. Several local services joined us on the day holding stalls and activities such as Blue Sky Silent Disco.

Port Macquarie Hastings Homelessness Collective Recognition: Another highlight was our collective receiving the Australia Day Community Group of the Year award for "Our Place," also known as The Homeless Hub. As the cost of living rises, we've seen an increase in people accessing the hub, which has become a vital resource for our community.



Homelessness Week: We co-organised and attended key community events in both Kempsey and Port Macquarie.

- **Kempsey Community Connect Day:** Aimed at helping those in need, where we distributed clothes, toiletries, books, sheets, towels, and popcorn.
- **Homelessness Awareness Day in Port Macquarie:** Focused on spreading awareness about the growing number of people experiencing homelessness due to rising living costs. The “Fill A Tent” initiative was an overwhelming success, resulting in several weeks of sorting through donations before distribution could begin.

Community and Cultural Events

Beyond homelessness-focused events, we proudly supported a range of community and cultural events, reinforcing our commitment to inclusion and youth empowerment. This year we participated in:

- NAIDOC Week
- Year 6 Cultural Day
- Birpai Women’s Festival
- It’s OK on the Macleay

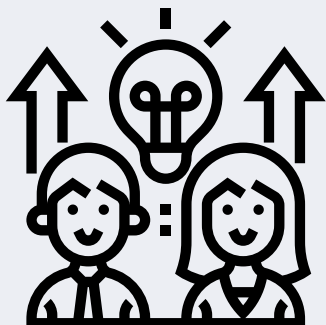
One of the standout events was the Neami Cup, which focuses on mental health. Local services compete in a soccer tournament, complete with dress-up and best stall competitions. We were thrilled to win the "Most Colourful Team" category, showcasing our vibrant spirit and strong community presence.

As we look ahead, we remain committed to increasing our outreach efforts, building stronger community ties, and raising awareness about Child and Youth Homelessness.

Deb Tougher
YP SPACE MNC
Outreach Manager



ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Number of YP attending workshops

Reality Rentals 31

Money Minded 25

Coaching YP for Success 49



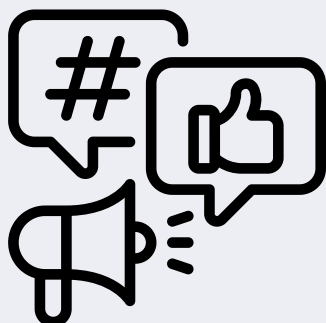
Community Events Attended

35



Conferences/ Forums Attended

10



Social media Platforms

Facebook

Instagram

LinkedIn

Tik Tok



“Our Place” Homeless Hub sessions

21

**Community Group of the Year
Australia Day Award**



DONATIONS

The generous donations from organisations and individuals are the foundation of our ability to provide outstanding care and support to the Children and Young People we support. These contributions significantly enhance our programs, enabling us to offer not just essential services but a holistic and impactful support system. Without this crucial backing, our ability to maintain the high standard of care we provide would be greatly limited. Their commitment reflects a shared responsibility for the well-being of our community's youth and demonstrates the profound impact of collective compassion in driving positive change.

We are immensely grateful for the generosity of the following clubs, groups, and individuals that allows us to make a meaningful difference in the lives of the Children and Young People we support.

Give Now (via website) \$2463.55

Geoffrey Graham \$870

CBA Community Donation \$500

Kempsey Shire Council \$1000

Greater Bank \$500

Rotaract Mental Health Ball \$4000

Services Australia staff \$2242.50 + clothing

Werrin Aboriginal Corp \$280

Rotary Port Macquarie Sunrise \$2000

Rotary Club of Port Macquarie West winter woolies

Yarns and Yarns Gold Coast: Knitted winter woolies

Share the Dignity: Feminine Hygiene Supplies

Thread Together: New Clothing

Street Smart Australia: sets of sheets and towels

West Port Club uniforms and formal wear

Gladstone CWA assorted goods + time flat packing

Rotary Club of Port Macquarie cot + accessories, blankets

Rotary Club of Port Kempsey West blankets

Mid Coast Connect assorted office equipment

Hike for Homeless Sponsorships \$5000 Integer IT



The following generous businesses donated goods and services for the Youth Homelessness Matters Day Raffle:

Benny's Barber Studio
 Folk Road
 Sarah Race Acupuncture
 Mahalo Interiors
 Sweet Slumber Antiques and Collectables
 Woolworths Port Macquarie
 Woolworths Lake Cathie
 Coles Port Macquarie
 Ghanda Clothing Port Macquarie
 Timeless Saige Tones
 Kmart Port Macquarie
 Beach Life Crescent Head
 Utopian Bazaar
 Colour Bomb
 Book Face Port Macquarie
 Beyond Styles Barber
 Bunnings Port Macquarie
 Mid Coast Uniform Solutions
 Ken Little's Fruit and Veg
 Helloworld Travel
 Miedecke Motor Group
 Bethel Church Wauchope
 Munster Street Bakery
 Munster Street Quality Meats
 Harvey Norman Flooring
 Harvey Norman Computers and Technology
 Billabong Zoo
 Inner Vision Surf n Skate
 Salt Water Wine
 EB Games
 Shape up with Suzie





Outreach

2023-2024



FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YP Space MNC

ABN: 53 796 715 437

Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

Samantha Buchanan
Finance Manager YP Space MNC

