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Office of the Advocate for  
Children & Young People

# **Review of the NSW Strategic Plan for Children and Young People**

**2016-2019**

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of country throughout Australia and recognise their continuing connection to land, waters and culture. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.

We would also like to acknowledge the important role of Aboriginal people and culture within the NSW community.

ACYP advises Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander readers this report may contain images of people who may have passed away.

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# About ACYP



The Advocate for Children and Young People (ACYP) is an independent statutory appointment overseen by the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Children and Young People. ACYP advocates for and promotes the safety, welfare, wellbeing and voice of all children and young people aged 0-24 years in NSW, with a focus on the needs of those who are vulnerable or disadvantaged.

*Under the Advocate for Children and Young People Act 2014, the functions of the Advocate include:*



Making recommendations to Parliament, government and non-government agencies on legislation, policies, practices and services that affect children and young people;



Promoting children and young people's participation in activities and decision-making about issues that affect their lives;



Conducting research into children's issues and monitoring children's wellbeing;



Holding inquiries into important issues relating to children and young people;



Providing information to help children and young people; and



Preparing, in consultation with the Minister responsible for youth, a three-year, Strategic Plan for Children and Young People (the Plan).

# Introduction



## Introduction

As mandated by legislation, the Advocate has the responsibility to 'prepare in consultation with the Minister(s), a three year strategic plan for children and young people in the State.' This Plan represented the first legislated whole of Government Strategic Plan in Australia focusing specifically on children and young people.

When developing the NSW Strategic Plan for Children and Young People, (the Plan) the Advocate wanted to ensure that the direction and themes of the Plan were set by children and young people. Consequently, in 2015 and early 2016, the Advocate undertook an extensive consultation tour of the State gathering the views and feedback from over 4,000 children and young people.

**Children and young people were asked a series of open ended questions including;**

- **What is and is not working well for children and young people in your community?**
- **What the priorities should be for Government?**
- **What are the qualities of a good society for children and young people?**
- **Consultations were conducted in preschools, schools, youth services and youth clubs, often being led by children and young people themselves.**

Recognising the important role that organisations and service providers play in supporting children and young people, the Advocate held regional consultations in Central Coast, Mid – North Coast, Far West NSW, South Western Sydney, Illawarra-Shoalhaven and the Hunter New England Region.

Alongside children and young people, these consultations were specifically aimed at ensuring that those who would be responsible for young people on a day to day basis had input into the themes, directions and priorities of the Plan. These stakeholders included; local non-government organisations, state government agencies operating at the regional level, local councils, schools and community groups.

In addition to the 4,000 children and young people the Advocate consulted with, these regional consultations allowed the Advocate to hear from over 500 people who work with children and young people. This group canvassed many different areas of life including education, transport, natural and built environment, planning, healthcare, child protection, training and employment, Aboriginal services and creative arts.



## Introduction

The themes of the Plan as set by children and young people were:



**Safe**



**Connect**



**Respect**



**Opportunity**



**Wellbeing**



**Voice**

Government strategies and plans for children and young people in Australia and internationally were reviewed to highlight innovative and successful practices. This included a comprehensive study of current initiative and strategies by the NSW Government to ensure the Plan aligned with the focus and direction of the Government.

Key stakeholders responsible for the implementation of the Plan were convened into an Interdepartmental Advisory Group (IDAG). This group included a representative from each Government department who could provide oversight and guidance on the Plan. This group selected five indicators against each of the themes by which the Plan could be monitored and evaluated. In each stage of the process feedback was continually received from children and young people to ensure the Plan represented their experiences and needs.

ACYP acknowledges that the timeframe of the Plan was 2016-2019, however an overarching objective of the Plan was to create cultural change at an organisation and systemic level. As a result, some organisations and agencies have included information outside the Plan timeframe. This demonstrates that the overall objective of the Plan, to embed the needs, perspective and experience of children and young people in all aspects of their lives is being considered and, in many cases, practiced.

Following the development process, the Plan was endorsed by Cabinet and officially launched by then Minister Responsible for Youth, the Hon. John Ajaka in July 2016.

Upon endorsement ACYP committed to conducting an evaluation of the Plan at its completion. This review includes reports on all the new initiatives committed to under the Plan, and the 30 indicators of progress. The data has been sourced from agencies responsible for the respective initiatives and indicators across the NSW Government.



# Summary

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## summary


Overall, significant and meaningful progress has been made by the NSW Government in supporting the needs and values of children and young people across NSW. Built into the Strategic Plan in 2016, were a series of planned initiatives aligned with the themes of Safe, Connect, Respect, Opportunity, Wellbeing and Voice and 30 indicators determined to measure the progress of the NSW Government against these themes.

The NSW Government has been successful in implementing all of the new initiatives committed to under the Plan. Agencies also noted implementation of 18 additional initiatives related to the wellbeing of children and young people.

The Departments responsible for the original initiatives were given the opportunity to note any additional actions they had taken, and some supplied the ACYP with further information about

their work while others did not. As such, this report is a good reflection, but may not be a complete history, of the support the NSW Government has provided over the past few years to children and young people across the state.






There was also great progress against the indicators laid out in the Plan. The following typology is used to categorise progress against the indicators.






 <b>Achieved</b>	Where the goal had an associated hard metric, this metric has been met. Where the goal required implementation of programs or a non-metric improvement, this has been met.
 <b>Improved</b>	Considerable progress against the indicator
 <b>Stable</b>	Marginal change against the indicator, for instance, by less 1% where there is a hard metric described.
 <b>Not achieved</b>	Where change in the indicator was negative against the goal






Throughout the course of the plan, of the 30 indicators, 23 have been achieved or shown improvement, with a further four indicators showing stable results. There were two indicators that were not achieved. These indicators may provide a starting point for consideration within the next Strategic Plan. One indicator's timeframe falls outside the duration of the Plan and is not due to be completed until 2025.







*We do note that a few of the goals were set against programs that were yet to be implemented, or where the time period for measurement falls outside of the period of the Plan. We have endeavoured to make this clear where that is the case.*

A summary of achievements against the indicators is outlined on the following pages.





safe				
Indicator	Goal	Benchmark	Update	Status
<b>Percentage of children and young people re-reported at risk of significant harm</b>	Decrease benchmark by 15% down to 34.4%.  <i>Note: This goal was given the timeframe of 'by 2020' under the 2015-2019 Premier's Priorities.</i>	<b>40.4%</b>  (2014/15)	<b>36.2%</b>  (2018/19)	 <b>Improved</b>  <i>(Decreased by 10.4%)</i>
<b>Proportion of domestic violence perpetrators re-offending within 12 months</b>	Reduce by 5% down to 10.7%  <i>Note: This goal changed within the 2015 – 2019 Premier's Priority to: 'Reduce the proportion of domestic violence perpetrators reoffending by 25% by 2021 (based on the 2019 cohort of perpetrators)</i>	<b>14.2%</b>  (2013)  <i>Note an increase to 15.7% at 2017</i>	<b>14.3%</b>  (2019)	 <b>Stable</b>  <i>(Increased by 0.1% since 2013 but decreased by 1.4% since 2017)</i>
<b>Number of work-related injuries and fatalities to young workers aged 15-24 years.</b>	Reduce total number annually	<b>13,620</b>  (2017/18)	<b>14,226</b>  (2018/19)	 <b>Not achieved</b>  <i>(Increased by 606 injuries – figure includes fatalities)</i>
<b>Number of deaths and serious injuries among children and young people, particularly in relation to road accidents</b>  <i>(including young drivers and passengers, pedestrians and cyclists) and alcohol.</i>	Reduce total number annually	Data for this indicator are complex and include multiple metrics. Detail is included in this report. Regarding rates of deaths and hospitalisations, there were decreases in younger age cohorts though increases in older age cohorts.		 <b>Stable</b>  <i>(Note an improvement in indicators for those in younger age cohorts but decline for older age cohorts.)</i>
<b>Number of OOHC agencies that meet the minimum standards for accreditation as a designated agency on time.</b>	<i>Increase number of agencies meeting accreditation</i>	<b>5</b> <i>agencies' accreditation deferred in 2016</i>	<b>4</b> <i>agencies' accreditation deferred in 2019</i>	 <b>Improved</b>






connect				
Indicator	Goal	Benchmark	Update	Status
<b>Attendance of children and young people at cultural venues and events in NSW</b>	<i>Increase percentage of young people aged 15-24 by 15% by 2019.</i>	<b>33.9%</b> (2013/14)	<b>87.6%</b> (2017/18)	 <b>Achieved</b> <i>(Increased by 53.7%)</i>
<b>Percentage of children and young people with a disability who have participated in social activities outside their homes</b>	<i>Increase percentage – no specific target set.</i>	<b>35%</b> (2017/18)	<b>49%</b> (2019/20)	 <b>Achieved</b> <i>(Increased by 14%)</i>
<b>Number of Aboriginal young people getting and retaining a driver's license.</b>	<i>Increase the total number annually</i>	<b>6,038</b> <i>L, P1 and P2 holders</i> (2016/17)	<b>6,253</b> <i>L, P1 and P2 holders</i> (2018/19)	 <b>Achieved</b> <i>(Increased by 215 young people annually)</i>
<b>Number of young people participating in high-quality programs that build community resilience and social cohesion to protect them from violent extremist influences.</b>	<i>Increase participation in Multicultural NSW COMPACT Program</i>	<b>Program was implemented during the Plan</b>	<b>21,000 young people engaged through schools from 2016-18</b>	 <b>Achieved</b>
<b>Number of children and young people utilising digital platforms to access information from the NSW Government.</b>	<i>Increase use of the Department of Customer Service website Implement Our Local website</i>	<b>7,486</b> <i>users</i> (2019)	<b>110,666</b> <i>users</i> (2020)	 <b>Achieved</b> <i>(Increased by 103,180 users)</i>

respect				
Indicator	Goal	Benchmark	Update	Status
<b>Number of children and young people participating in Aboriginal language programs.</b>	<i>Increase the total number of participants each year</i>	<b>5,300</b> participants (2016 Nest data)	<b>7,759</b> participants (2019 Nest data)	 <b>Achieved</b>  <i>(Increased by 2,459 participants)</i>
<b>Customer satisfaction with key government services every year, this term of government.</b>	<i>Improve customer satisfaction as reported through the Customer Satisfaction Management Survey</i>	<b>76.7%</b>  consumer rating	<b>80.6%</b>  consumer rating	 <b>Achieved</b>  <i>(Increased by 3.9%)</i>
<b>Number of services assessed as child and youth friendly</b>	<i>Implement the Children and Young People Inspectors Program (CYPI). Increase the total number of services assessed by children and young people</i>	Implemented the CYPI over the course of the Plan Developed the 'Engaging Children and Young People in Your Organisation Participation Guide'		 <b>Achieved</b>
<b>Number of children and young people participating in respectful relationship education programs.</b>	<i>Increase the total number of participants</i>	<b>'Life Ready' course implemented for grades 11 and 12.</b>	<b>Data on participation is not yet available, though the course is mandatory</b>	 <b>Achieved</b>
<b>Number of government and non-government service providers undertaking training on how to proactively and respectfully engage with children and young people.</b>	<i>Increase the total number of providers</i>	ACYP ran Child Rights 120 training sessions with government and non-government organisations		 <b>Achieved</b>

opportunity				
Indicator	Goal	Benchmark	Update	Status
<b>Proportion of children who are developmentally vulnerable on one or more domains in the Australian Early Development Census.</b>	<i>Reduce the proportion reported in the census</i>	<b>20.2%</b> (2015)	<b>19.9%</b> (2018)	 <b>Stable</b> <i>(Improved by 0.3%)</i>
<b>Participation rate of children aged 4-5 years in early education programs.</b>	<i>Increase the rate of pre-school enrolment</i>	<b>50.9%</b> (2016)	<b>52.1%</b> (2019)	 <b>Improved</b> <i>(Increased by 1.2%)</i>
<b>Proportion of NSW students in the top two NAPLAN bands for reading and numeracy</b>	<i>Increase by 8%</i>	<b>32.7%</b> <i>(average across grades for 2013/14)</i>	<b>35.7%</b> <i>(average across grades for 2019)</i>	 <b>Improved</b> <i>(Increased by 3%)</i>
<b>Proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students in the top two NAPLAN bands for reading and numeracy</b>	<i>Increase by 30%</i>	<b>Reading:</b> 10.6%  <b>Numeracy:</b> 7.6%  <i>(average across grades for 2013/14)</i>	<b>Reading:</b> 11.1%  <b>Numeracy:</b> 8.5%  <i>(average across grades for 2018)</i>	 <b>Stable</b> <i>(Reading increased by 0.5% Numeracy increased by 0.9%)</i>  <i>As an overall measure this has been noted as improved. Note that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander test scores for grades 3 and 5 improved while older cohorts decreased marginally (&gt;1%)</i>
<b>Proportion of people completing apprenticeships and traineeships</b>	<i>Increase completion rate to 65% by 2019</i>	<b>0.56</b> <i>Completion to enrolment ratio</i>  2016	<b>0.51</b> <i>Completion to enrolment ratio</i>  2019	 <b>Stable</b> <i>Note that the data included here is indicative of change but is not a precise measure of completion rates, which are complex to track. See report for more detail.</i>
<b>Number of new jobs created in NSW.</b>	<i>Create 150,000 new jobs in the four years to March 2019.</i>		<b>423,615</b> <i>new jobs created since 2015 (2019)</i>	 <b>Achieved</b>



wellbeing				
Indicator	Goal	Benchmark	Update	Status
<b>The percentage of Aboriginal young people in custody</b>	<i>Reduce the average daily proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people compared to non-Indigenous young people in custody</i>	<b>54%</b> (2015/16)	<b>48%</b> (2018/19)	 <b>Achieved</b> (Reduced by 6%)
<b>Proportion of young people who move from Specialist Homelessness Services (SHS) to long term accommodation</b>	<i>Increase by 10%</i>	<b>29.3%</b> (2013/14)	<b>34%</b> (2018/19)	 <b>Improved</b> (Increased by 4.7%)
<b>Overweight and obesity rates in children</b>	<i>Reduce by 5% over 10 years (2015-2025).</i>	<b>21.5%</b> (2014)	<b>23.0%</b> (2019)	<b>Initiative ongoing</b> (Increased by 1.5%)
<b>Percentage of patients processed through emergency within four hours.</b>	<i>Improve service levels to facilitate 81% of patients through emergency departments within four hours</i>	<b>74.3% of 2.66</b> million patients (2014/15)	<b>73% of 2.88</b> million patients (2017/18)	 <b>Improved</b> (Decreased rate by 1.3% but increased number by 0.22 million)
<b>Number of schools receiving evidence based specialist mental health early intervention programs for children aged 5-8 years with conduct problems and their families.</b>	<i>Increase the number of schools receiving the Getting on Track in Time (Got It!) program</i>	<b>48 schools</b> (2016/17)	<b>92 schools</b> (2017/18)	 <b>Achieved</b> (Increased by 44 schools)

voice				
Indicator	Goal	Benchmark	Update	Status
<b>Number of youth-led and youth-driven community projects and activities</b>	<i>Increase uptake of Youth Opportunities and Youth Frontiers initiatives</i>	<b>28</b> projects with Youth Opportunities (2016)  <b>1,200</b> young people mentored through Youth Frontiers (2017)	<b>36</b> projects with Youth Opportunities (2019)  <b>1,491</b> young people mentored through Youth Frontiers (2019)	 <b>Achieved</b>
<b>Proportion of 18-25 years olds enrolled to vote</b>	<i>Increase the proportion</i>	<b>74.1%</b>  (Data supplied for those 18-24)	<b>72.2%</b>  (Data supplied for those 18-24)	 <b>Not achieved</b>  Decreased by 1.9%
<b>Number of NSW Government departments and agency strategies and plans that have been informed by engagement with children and young people.</b>	<i>Increase the total number</i>	<b>ACYP has partnered with NSW departments to encourage cultural change and engagement with children and young people</b>	<b>CYP voices were included in at least 22 plans, policies or strategies across 9 NSW Government departments.</b>	 <b>Achieved</b>
<b>Uptake of the Tell Them From Me Survey</b>	<i>Increase uptake of the survey</i>	<b>55 schools</b> Pilot phase	<b>1,630 schools</b>	 <b>Achieved</b>
<b>Number of volunteers aged 15-24 years</b>	<i>Increase the number of student volunteering certificates distributed through the Premier's Volunteer Recognition Program for grades 9-12.</i>	<b>5,598 Students</b> (2016)	<b>7,439 Students</b> (2018)  In 2019 the program expanded to grade 7-12. 8,500 students participated.	 <b>Achieved</b>  (1841 more students participated)

# Safe

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***Objective: Children and young people in Australia are free from abuse, neglect, violence and serious injury.***



Creating safe environments for children and young people to learn, develop and engage is a central building block to supporting them to reach their potential.

Children and young people have told us about the areas that they feel could be targeted to improve their sense of safety; these include bullying, safety on public transport, domestic and family violence, crime, and drug and alcohol use.



*The Plan included initiatives to support children and young people to be and feel safe at home, at school, out in the community, on roads and transport, and at work and leisure.*

Over the course of the Plan, all four initiatives were implemented. Two of these indicators were improved, two remain stable and one was not achieved.

While there was not as much movement against the indicators as hoped, there was significant progress. Two of the five indicators have already been carried over as ongoing Premier's Priorities and there is further work to be done on each.

# Initiatives



Increase support into early adulthood for young people leaving out of home care (OOHC) to address the high levels of homelessness, unemployment and incarceration and low levels of educational attainment



Implement the Care Leavers Line – 1800 number and mailbox where those who are in or have left care can find information and advice



New funding of \$190 million over four years to reform the child protection and out-of-home-care systems through targeted early intervention and building on Safe Home for Life child protection reforms.

*This includes expansion in evidence-based intensive intervention programs targeting family preservation and restoration*



New funding of \$370 million over four years to meet increased demand for out-of-home-care through funding additional out-of-home-care placements

## Increase support into early adulthood for young people leaving out of home care (OOHC) to address the high levels of homelessness, unemployment and incarceration and low levels of educational attainment

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The NSW Government's leaving care and aftercare programs are structured so each young person in care receives an Individualised response that meets their needs as they transition to independence up to age 25, and beyond where necessary.

The legislative responsibility to support young people who exit Out of Home Care (OOHC) until they reach 25 years of age to improve their safety, welfare and wellbeing exists under section 165 (1) of the Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act (1998).

The term 'leaving care' simply refers to the expiration of the order allocating care to the Minister. Any young person leaving care is able to remain with their carers after the age of 18 if both the young person and their carer agree. In addition, OOHC placements may also be extended beyond 18 while the young person completes their Higher School Certificate (HSC).

The Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) is testing a new approach to support improved outcomes for care leavers through the Futures Planning and Support (FP&S) model pilot.

*The FP&S service model features three intensities of support:*

### **1. Connection Service**

proactive contact for all young people leaving and who have left care to promote access to services, supports and opportunities to engage and connect with culture and community.

### **2. Futures Coach**

advice and mentoring for those young people who lack protective factors to help them make decisions about their futures and to access supports and opportunities which can improve their prospects for the future.

### **3. Intensive Case Worker**

case management to ensure those with multiple and more complex needs have access to more intensive supports to address their needs.

Brokerage funds are also available for care leavers who are receiving support from either a Futures Coach or an Intensive Case Worker, specifically to assist them to achieve their goals.

FP&S service model is designed for young people leaving, and who have left, out of home care (OOHC) and is being piloted on the Mid North Coast.

The design for the FP&S model followed a literature review of evidence based service models, and the design process involved a large number of stakeholders including care leaver groups, Aboriginal stakeholders and service providers.

The FP&S pilot is funded for three years at a total cost of \$8,135,249 (excl GST).

The successful service provider for the pilot is Burrun Dalai Aboriginal Corporation in partnership with Uniting. The partnership will provide care leavers with more choice of Futures Coaches (Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal) in the pilot.

The Permanency Support Program includes Leaving Care and 15+ Reconnect packages. These packages provide additional funding across three years (ages 15-17) to:

- **Provide additional casework hours to engage the young person and help them explore their goals and plan their future;**
- **Provide services to support the young person in their transition e.g. job readiness training;**
- **Develop independent living skills e.g. obtain a driver's licence;**
- **Connect with family, culture and community;**
- **Establish a personal support network with people other than paid professionals.**

Through collaboration with other agencies the Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) continues to enhance care leavers' access to entitlements and opportunities.

This has included securing free entry to the Safer Driving Course provided by Transport NSW, expanding eligibility to Revenue NSW's Work and Development Order (WDO's) program for clearing fine debt and access to free Smart and Skilled scholarships through TAFE and university scholarships with the University of Western Sydney. Work is continuing to have other agencies recognise care leavers as a vulnerable cohort and to provide them with concessions or additional services.

The Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) partners with non-government organisations to provide programs to address care leavers' needs or help them grow in confidence and skills.

These may include living skills, counselling, and reconnection with family and significant people in their lives. An example is the Ladder Step Up program in Western Sydney which is an education, employment and training program delivered in partnership with the Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) and the Australian Football League (AFL) industry.

A Care Leaver's Charter of Rights has been developed in collaboration with Youth Consult for Change, a group of young people who use their own experiences in care to give expert advice to improve the care system. The charter contains powerful messages from young people about what is important to them as they transition from care and what they expect from the system and their caseworker.





## **Implement the Care Leavers Line – 1800 number and mailbox where those who are in or have left care can find information and advice**

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The NSW Government has implemented the Care Leavers Line, an 1800 number and mailbox where people who have left care or are about to leave care can access information and advice.

Operated by the Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) the Care Leavers Line assists people as they transition out of care. The Care Leavers Line can be reached on 1800 994 696 or by emailing [careleaversline@facs.nsw.gov.au](mailto:careleaversline@facs.nsw.gov.au).

## **New funding of \$190 million over four years to reform the child protection and out-of-home-care systems through targeted early intervention and building on Safe Home for Life child protection reforms. This includes expansion in evidence-based intensive intervention programs targeting family preservation and restoration**

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In 2016, the NSW Government committed an additional \$560 million over four years for children and young people in, or at risk of entering, out-of-home care. This included funding to reform the child protection and out-of-home-care systems. Further, in the 2017/18 budget, \$52 million was allocated for implementation of a new service model as part of the Tune Reform 'Their Future Matters' to improve family preservation outcomes.

In the 2018/19 budget, \$39.2 million was allocated to help keep families together through evidence-based models, as part of Their Futures Matter Reforms. This includes improving family preservation through Multi-systemic Therapy for Child Abuse and Neglect (MST-CAN) and Functional Family Therapy for Child Welfare (FFT-CW) services to help at least 900 families a year.

## New funding of \$370 million over four years to meet increased demand for out-of-home-care through funding additional out-of-home-care placements

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The \$560 million committed in 2016 also included \$370 million over four years to support an expected increase in the number of children and young people in need of out-of-home care.

In response to the increasing number of children in out-of-home care, the Permanency Support Program was introduced in late 2017. The Permanency Support Program represents one of the most significant reforms to the NSW child protection and out-of-home care systems in decades. The Program aims to:

- **maintain children and young people at home, minimising entries and re-entries into care;**
- **find permanent homes for children and young people currently in care through restoration, guardianship and adoption;**
- **address the over-representation of Aboriginal children and young people in the care system by maintaining connections with family and kin, community, language, culture and country, and**

- **invest in higher quality support and provide more targeted and therapeutic support to address individual needs.**

The Permanency Support Program reform shifts from the placement-based service system to a child and family centred service system. Through targeted support packages the specific needs of individual children, young people and their families are able to be met. This is important in achieving better safety, permanency and wellbeing outcomes for children and young people.

During 2018-19, close to 9,000 funding packages were provided for children being case managed by service providers, which is approximately 50% of children in out-of-home-care.

# Indicators



Decrease the percentage of children and young people re-reported at risk of significant harm by 15% by 2019



Reduce the proportion of domestic violence perpetrators re-offending within 12 months by 5 percentage points



Reduce the number of work-related injuries and fatalities to young workers aged 15-24 years




Reduce the number of deaths and serious injuries among children and young people, particularly in relation to road accidents (including young drivers and passengers, pedestrians and cyclists) and alcohol



Increase the number of OOHC agencies that meet the minimum standards for accreditation as a designated agency on time

## Decrease the percentage of children and young people re-reported at risk of significant harm by 15% by 2019

benchmark	update	status
40.4% (2014/15)	36.2% (2018/19)	 Improved (Decreased by 10.4%)


The baseline used for this indicator was 40.4% according to the 2014/15 cohort.

In 2016-17, nearly 120,000 children were reported to the child protection helpline, of which 72% were at risk of significant harm. From June 2016 to June 2017, Family and Community (FACS) caseworkers helped more than 10,000 children reported at risk of significant harm to achieve their goals.

By June 2018, 36.2% of children were re-reported at risk of significant harm, a reduction of over 10% from baseline.

In recognition of the continuing work that must be done, this indicator has been transferred to the 2019-2023 Premier's Priorities with a new target set to decrease the proportion of children and young people re-reported at risk of significant harm by 20% by 2023.

# Reduce the proportion of domestic violence perpetrators re-offending within 12 months by 5 percentage points

benchmark	update	status
<div>14.2%</div> <div>(2013)</div> <div>(*increase to 15.7% at 2017)</div>	<div>14.3%</div> <div>(2019)</div>	<div>  </div> <div>Stable</div> <div>(Increased by 0.1% since 2013 but decreased by 1.4% since 2017)</div>

The baseline used for this indicator was 14.2% based on the 2013 cohort of offenders which were 1,974 individuals reoffending within 12 months.


Over the following three years (2014-2017), the rate of reoffending within 12 months increased to 15.7% which equated to 2,419 individuals reoffending in 2018.

The rate of reoffending has now started to decline. As of June 2019, the data has the rate of domestic

violence perpetrators reoffending with 12 months resting at 14.3%, with 200 fewer reoffenders in 2019 than 2018.

Acknowledging the progress and ongoing work of this indicator, this priority was transitioned to the new Reducing domestic violence reoffending Premier's Priority, which has the more challenging target to reduce the number of reoffenders by 25% by 2023, or around 450 reoffenders per year.

## Reduce the number of work-related injuries and fatalities to young workers aged 15-24 years

benchmark	update	status
<b>13,620</b> (2017/18)	<b>14,226</b> (2018/19)	 not achieved (Increased by 606 injuries - figure includes fatalities)


The available data, depicted in the table below, shows an increase in work-related fatalities and injuries during the period of the Plan. Work is ongoing in this area. Currently a National Injury Prevention Strategy is being developed which includes the reduction of workplace injuries as a key objective.

NSW departments and agencies, along with community sector organisations and academics, are currently collaborating on how NSW can link in with the national strategy and ensure reductions in injuries to children and young people.

### Work-related Injuries and Fatalities by age

Age group	Fatalities		Work-related injuries		Work-related injuries Including Fatalities	
	2017/18	2018/19	2017/18	2018/19	2017/18	2018/19
<b>years</b>						
<b>15-19</b>	1	2	3,888	4,198	3,889	4,200
<b>20-24</b>	3	6	9,728	10,020	9,731	10,026
<b>total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>13,616</b>	<b>14,218</b>	<b>13,620</b>	<b>14,226</b>

## Reduce the number of deaths and serious injuries among children and young people, particularly in relation to road accidents (including young drivers and passengers, pedestrians and cyclists) and alcohol

benchmark	update	status
<p>Data for this indicator are complex and include multiple metrics. Detail is included in this report.</p> <p>Regarding rates of deaths and hospitalisations, there were decreases in younger age cohorts though increases in older age cohorts.</p>		 <p>Stable</p> <p>(Note an improvement in indicators for those in younger age cohorts but decline for older age cohorts.)</p>

Data on overall deaths and hospitalisations due to injury (including poisoning) of children and young people in NSW, shows the rates during the period of the Plan are overall stable relative to the previous three years.

Rates of deaths and injuries have decreased in younger age brackets and increased in older age brackets. Rates of hospitalisations specifically due to alcohol related injuries have increased. Numbers of injuries in road accidents have decreased.

### *Rates of deaths per 100,000 of children and young people in NSW:*

age	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
<b>0-4</b>	89.2	80.0	72.4	65.9	73.0	66.1
<b>5-9</b>	8.4	8.6	10.2	6.0	8.1	7.5
<b>10-14</b>	7.9	8.7	7.1	9.0	9.9	8.9
<b>15-19</b>	26.2	26.6	31.7	25.3	32.6	29.4
<b>20-24</b>	36.2	40.3	30.9	39.9	37.2	40.7

*Rate of hospitalisations per 100,000 due to injury and poisoning of children and young people:*

age	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
<b>0-16</b>	1440.1	1424.3	1401.6	1400.2	1407.6	1380.6
<b>17-24</b>	2107.9	2176.5	2192.8	2209.1	2211.8	2205.6

*Rate of hospitalisations per 100,000 due to alcohol-related injury of children and young people:*

age	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
<b>0-4</b>	0.2	0	0	0	0
<b>5-9</b>	0	0	0	0	0
<b>10-14</b>	4.3	2.9	4.0	2.4	3.4
<b>15-19</b>	204.9	195.1	189.9	195.3	211.6
<b>20-24</b>	339.0	353.6	357.3	350.4	403.6

*Injuries from road accidents for ages 0-25:*

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
<b>Total Injuries</b>	7,543	7,029	6,034	5,640	5,452	4,558



## Increase the number of OOHC agencies that meet the minimum standards for accreditation as a designated agency on time

benchmark	update	status
5 agencies' accreditation deferred in 2016	4 agencies' accreditation deferred in 2019	 improved

Under Clause 47 of the Children and Young Person's (Care and Protection) Regulation 2012 (the Regulation), the Children's Guardian may, by notice in writing to an agency, defer determining the agency's application for accreditation renewal. Under clause 62 of the Regulation, a deferral extends the agency's current period of accreditation until a determination of its application for accreditation renewal is made.

Agencies must meet the accreditation criteria in order to be accredited or to renew their accreditation. The criteria are the NSW Child Safe Standards for Permanent Care (the Standards), approved by the Minister under clause 48 of the Regulation. Agencies must satisfy all 23 of the Standards in order to become accredited or for their accreditation to be renewed.

Determinations are usually deferred when an assessment of an agency's practice indicates that the agency does not have the capacity to meet

all of the Standards prior to the expiry of its current accreditation period. An agency may be deferred if one or more of the Standards are not met. Deferring a determination provides the agency with additional time to provide evidence of compliant practice and enables them to continue to provide statutory out-of-home care.

Where the Children's Guardian has concerns about risks to children and young people placed in a deferred agencies, a request may be made to the Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) to suspend further placement referrals of children and young people to that agency. The Children's Guardian may also impose additional conditions on the agency's accreditation.

As of 30th June 2016, the Children's Guardian deferred determining five designated agencies application for accreditation, and four Designated Agencies were deferred as at June 2019.

# Connect

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***Objective: Children and young people have a sense of belonging and connectedness with people and place both on and offline.***



Having a sense of belonging and connection to people and place supports the development of positive and supportive relationships with others and helps to foster cohesive communities.

Children and young people told us that parks and playgrounds, youth centres, groups, and PCYCs were working well for many, while connection to culture was a key theme raised by Aboriginal children and young people. However, children and young people often raised a lack of things to do in their local areas as a major issue, particularly for those in rural and regional areas, and they wanted to be able to easily access information about activities online.



*The Plan includes initiatives to support children and young people's participation in local activities and events, connect with opportunities, build community harmony, and enhance connections with the natural and built environments.*

Since the implementation of the Plan, all three initiatives were implemented and all five of the goals set against the indicators were achieved.

There was also an additional initiative noted by the NSW Department of Education (DoE) that has been included in the summary below related to the Assisted School Travel Program.

# Initiatives



Develop the My Local website portal for information about local youth facilities and activities and community consultation



Implement the Aboriginal Community Land and Infrastructure Program to work with Aboriginal communities across the State to provide necessary infrastructure like roads and communication facilities to enhance connectedness of remote Aboriginal communities for faster and more reliable service delivery



Develop a comprehensive package of community cohesion programs to build community resilience and social cohesion to empower young people to stand united against hateful, divisive and extremist influences



Committing an additional \$15 million in 2016-17 to support the Assisted School Travel Program to assist students with disability travel to and from school

## Develop the My Local website portal for information about local youth facilities and activities and community consultation

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During consultations held across NSW, children and young people from a diverse range of backgrounds, interests and experiences expressed the need to have an easy way to access local and state-wide opportunities, activities, services and events. Through ongoing consultations, polls and focus groups, access to this information continues to be raised by children and young people as a priority for them.

There are thousands of opportunities, activities, services and events provided by NSW Government and non-government partners who work with, by and on behalf of children and young people. For this reason, an online portal was developed to bring this information together into one place. During development the name of this resource was changed to Our Local.

Our Local is a website co-designed with children and young people to help them find support services and things to do within their community. The website is a directory of local opportunities, activities, services and events that are relevant for children and young people under the age of 24 in NSW.

On Thursday 28 February 2019 as part of the 2019 Participation Conference at NSW Parliament House, Mr Glenn King, the former Secretary of the Department

of Customer Service (DCS), together with the previous Advocate, Mr. Andrew Johnson, launched Our Local.

Children and young people are able to search their suburb or council on [www.ourlocal.nsw.gov.au](http://www.ourlocal.nsw.gov.au) to access more than 16,000 listings. There are 88 categories of opportunities, activities, services and events to choose from, including from homelessness and mental health services, to libraries, internships, parks and festivals. Our Local operates across 4,600 suburbs, 620 postcodes, and 130 councils, with 60% of the listings in regional areas.

NSW Government and organisations that receive government funding or grants to provide opportunities, activities, services and events for children and young people in NSW are able to be listed on Our Local. There are over 900 NSW Government and non-government organisations who work with, by and on behalf of children and young people included on the platform.

Representatives from NSW Government departments provided advice on the project through the Our Local inter-departmental steering committee. Children and young people co-designed and directed the website.

## **Implement the Aboriginal Community Land and Infrastructure Program to work with Aboriginal communities across the State to provide necessary infrastructure like roads and communication facilities to enhance connectedness of remote Aboriginal communities for faster and more reliable service delivery**

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Working with Local Aboriginal Land Councils (LALC's), the Aboriginal Community Land Infrastructure Program focuses on improving planning outcomes for Aboriginal communities. The program seeks to:

- **Develop policies and initiatives that unlock the economic potential of Aboriginal community owned lands;**
- **Educate Aboriginal people about the planning system and empowering them with the tools and information they need to gain a greater economic benefit from their land;**
- **Develop the cultural competency of the planning sector to improve service delivery and address barriers faced by Aboriginal communities.**



## **Develop a comprehensive package of community cohesion programs to build community resilience and social cohesion to empower young people to stand united against hateful, divisive and extremist influences.**

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The Multicultural NSW Community Partnership Action (COMPACT) Program aims to inspire and empower young people to stand up and stand united for Australia's peaceful and harmonious way of life. From a community development perspective, the COMPACT program aims to build community resilience when individuals, groups and communities are faced with hate, fear and division. These are explicitly addressed in the four objective of the COMPACT program, which are to:

- **Inspire and empower young people to stand up and stand united against extremist, hate, fear, and division as champions for community harmony.**
- **Support communities and build resilience to threats to community harmony in NSW arising from local and global issues.**
- **Build robust, sustainable networks, relationships and partnerships across communities.**
- **Promote community understanding of the value and benefit of cultural diversity.**

From 2016 to 2019, 24 youth engagement projects were funded under the COMPACT Program, involving close to 60 partner organisations. The projects were selected based on their capacity to address one or more of the COMPACT Program objectives. An estimated 40,000 young people were engaged in the first three years of the program.

A first independent evaluation of the COMPACT Program conducted in August 2018 found the program to be a first-of-its-kind initiative that has made significant progress towards its aims of building social cohesion and community resilience in a short period of time. The evaluation found evidence that COMPACT contributes to greater respect for others, improved engagement in learning, and greater community participation among young people. There is also early evidence COMPACT has contributed to an increased sense of agency among young people, improved school attendance and greater participation in civic life, including take up of leadership roles, involvement in community activities and increased volunteering.

## **Committing an additional \$15 million in 2016-17 to support the Assisted School Travel Program to assist students with disability travel to and from school**

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The Department of Education (DoE) Assisted School Travel Program (ASTP) plays a significant role in meeting the needs of eligible students with disability by providing free specialised transport to and from school where parents and carers are unable to provide or arrange transport for the student either fully or in part.

The program provides around 3,000 individual transport services daily through our contracted service providers, free of charge to approximately 10,500 students across NSW.





# Indicators



Increase the attendance of children and young people at cultural venues and events in NSW by 15% by 2019



Increase the percentage of children and young people with disability who have participated in social activities outside their homes



Increase in the number of Aboriginal young people getting and retaining a driver's licence




Increase the number of young people participating in high-quality programs that build community resilience and social cohesion to empower them to stand united against hateful, divisive and extremist influences



Increase the number of children and young people utilising digital platforms to access information from the NSW Government

## Increase the attendance of children and young people at cultural venues and events in NSW by 15% by 2019

benchmark	update	status
33.9% (2013/14)	87.6% (2017/18)	 achieved (Increased by 53.7%)

Data relating to the indicator for the attendance of children and young people at cultural venues and events in NSW includes:

- **In 2017/18, 894,900 individuals aged 15-24 years attended at least one cultural event or venue**


This shows a marked increase from the available baseline data that in 2013/14, 311,700 individuals aged 15-24 years in NSW participated in at least one cultural activity.

Create NSW in partnership with Service NSW also delivers the Creative Kids Program, which provides access to a \$100 voucher for parents, guardians and carers of school-aged children (4.5-18 years) that can be redeemed for participation in eligible creative and cultural activities. Since its launch in 2019, 350,052 children and young people have used a voucher to participate in a Creative Kids activity.

Many Creative Kids providers were affected by the restrictions introduced in NSW as a result of COVID-19. Create NSW and project partner Service NSW launched the \$1 million Creative Kids Digital Small Business Grants program, which allows Creative Kids providers to apply for funding of up to \$5,000 to support their digital transition, to help mitigate the restrictions and ensure continued access to programs and activities.

Create NSW also continues to support arts organisations, programs and projects that provide opportunities for young people to actively engage in creative arts participation through its Arts and Cultural Funding Program.

## Increase the percentage of children and young people with disability who have participated in social activities outside their homes

benchmark	update	status
35%	49%	 achieved (Increased by 14%)
(2017/18)	(2019/20)	

Data from the December 2019 COAG Disability Reform Council Quarterly Report 2019-20 highlights that there has been a 14% increase (from 35% to 49%) in participation in community and social activities over the three years for young people 15 years and older.

Some NDIS participants may also have access to dedicated capacity building supports, which work to help build independence and skills to help reach long-term goals. Data from the monthly NDIS performance reports provides an overview of investment in social and capacity building activities for children and young people with an active NDIS plan.

### Social community and civic participation

These funds are to provide assistance with social and community participation, as part of a plan's 'core supports', for example, when a support worker assists a child or young person to participate in social and community activities.

*Table 3* shows the number of young people participating in the NDIS at 31 December, 2019 and the amount of funding they are receiving for selected support activities in relation to social and civic participation as part of their plans.

**Table 3: Investment in (NDIS) children and young people participating in social activities outside of home\***

Age group	Funded participants	Total funding (\$)	Average funding per participant (\$)
0-6	393	680,093	1,731
7-14	8,642	42,103,461	4,872
15-18	5,956	83,759,170	14,063
19-24	8,845	269,935,682	30,518

\*Breakdown of total funding provided for individual plans as at 31 December 2019

## Capacity building

Capacity building supports help build a participant's independence and skills, to help them reach their long-term goals, including social participation, assistance with

employment and home living and establishing positive behaviors.

### Capacity building – relationships:

This funding helps participants develop positive behaviors and interactions with others.

**Table 5: Investment in (NDIS) children and young people capacity building funding – relationships\***

Age group	Funded participants	Total funding (\$)	Average funding per participant (\$)
<b>0-6</b>	116	710,149	6,122
<b>7-14</b>	4,714	25,888,512	5,492
<b>15-18</b>	1,705	11,796,704	6,919
<b>19-24</b>	1,889	12,704,029	6,725


### Capacity building – Social community and civic participation:

This item is used for the development and training to increase participant skills to engage in community, social and recreational activities. For children and young people, total investment as of 31 December 2019 is as follows:

**Table 6: Investment in (NDIS) children and young people for social community and civic participation capacity building funding\***

Age group	Funded participants	Total funding (\$)	Average funding per participant (\$)
<b>0-6</b>	173	129,149	747
<b>7-14</b>	4,289	13,984,695	3,261
<b>15-18</b>	2,342	13,159,986	5,619
<b>19-24</b>	2,289	16,099,802	7,034

## Increase in the number of Aboriginal young people getting and retaining a driver's licence

benchmark	update	status
<b>6,038</b> <b>L, P1 and P2 holders</b> (2016/17)	<b>6,253</b> <b>L, P1 and P2 holders</b> (2018/19)	 achieved <i>(Increased by 215 young people annually)</i>

The Driver Licensing Access Program helps remove the barriers that prevent Aboriginal people and other socially excluded communities in NSW from entering the licensing system.

This program assists Aboriginal and other socially excluded people to obtain and retain their driver's licence and remain safe and legal drivers. Obtaining a driver's licence contributes to improved access to education, employment, health and other community participation services.

The NSW Government offers 1,000 free places on the Safer Drivers Course each year to help young learner drivers from disadvantaged backgrounds and Aboriginal communities.

The fee exemption allows those who are financially disadvantaged to benefit from the road safety outcomes of the Safer Drivers Course.


The course helps young drivers on their L-plates prepare for driving solo when they graduate to provisional licences. The course teaches learners how to reduce road risks and develop safe driving behaviour.

During the period of the Plan there have been increases in the number of Aboriginal young people holding Learner and Provisional P2 car licences.

### Number of Aboriginal young people holding driver licences

Age group	2016/2017	2018/2019
<b>P2</b>	1,765	2,031
<b>P1</b>	1,961	1,803
<b>L</b>	2,312	2,419
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,038</b>	<b>6,253</b>

**Increase the number of young people participating in high-quality programs that build community resilience and social cohesion to empower them to stand united against hateful, divisive and extremist influences**

benchmark	update	status
Program was implemented during the Plan	21,000 young people engaged through schools from 2016-18	 achieved

As described above, the Multicultural NSW COMPACT Program addresses this important area. COMPACT had a first independent evaluation in August 2018 and at that time it had reached over 21,000 young people across schools, universities, youth services, religious organisations, events, and online activities.

As the evaluation noted, this is a significant achievement considering the relatively short lifetime of the Program at that point (2016-2018). The COMPACT Program was initially funded for four years (2016-2020). The program evaluation provided evidence for the NSW Government to expand the proven COMPACT Program in 2020-21.



## Increase the number of children and young people utilising digital platforms to access information from the NSW Government

benchmark	update	status
<b>7,486</b> users (2019)	<b>110,666</b> users (2020)	 achieved <i>(Increased by 103,180 users)</i>

As specified within the Strategic Plan, ACYP had a responsibility to work with Government Departments to develop the Our Local platform (previously called My Local). Our Local was launched in February 2019, and received 94,000 page views during the first round of promotion.

In addition to managing the Our Local Website, ACYP supports Youth Week in a variety of ways, specifically related to this indicator is management of the Youth Week Website. ACYP developed a new website in 2017. In recent years, the events on the Youth Week Website, have also been transferred to the Our Local Website.

This indicator was further enhanced through the creation of the Customer Service Cluster which seeks to rapidly expand the one-stop-shop for the customer across Government services and information. The new Cluster has the authority to plan, priorities, fund and drive digital transformation and customer service

across Government. This indicator can be further enhanced in the future by the consolidation of Government websites to a more centralised point, in a similar manner achieved by the Our Local project.

With the introduction of the Department of Customer Service (DCS) within the Plan timeframe, the [nsw.gov.au](https://nsw.gov.au) website has seen a significant uptake in visits. The website team at the Department of Customer Service (DCS) has advised that the [nsw.gov.au](https://nsw.gov.au) users in the 18-24 age group have increased 1378.31% year on year from 7486 in Sep 2019 compared with 110,666 in Sep 2020. The [nsw.gov.au](https://nsw.gov.au) users in this age group now make up 14.05% of users on the website, compared to 5.65% in the previous year.

These figures are expected to improve further with the release of the new Youth Portal landing page.

# Respect

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***Objective: Children and young people are treated with respect, demonstrated by supporting and valuing their strengths, diversity and potential.***





Respectful relationships and interactions enable children and young people to feel that they belong and that they have access to the supports they need to thrive in their environments. Children and young people told us they seek mutual respect from their peers and adults, and they want to live in a society where everyone is treated equally, feels included and is free from discrimination and racism.



*The Plan includes initiatives to enhance service providers' capacity and capability to engage with children and young people and develop cultural competence, and supports the development of respectful relationships.*

Throughout the Plan, all three of the set initiatives were implemented. However, on initiative, Patchwork, was decommissioned in 2019 after usage showed it was not the most efficient tool frontline workers were using to connect with one another. All five of the indicator goals were achieved throughout the Plan.

There are additional initiatives noted below, including the Department of Education's (DoEs) Every Student, Every School, the Department Family and Community Services' (FACs) ChildStory system, and The Advocate for Children and Young People's guide to encourage engagement with children and young people.

# Initiatives



Improve the capacity of schools and teachers to meet the diverse educational needs of students with disability through the implementation of Every Student, Every School



Develop a Quality Assessors program to train children and young people to review services and provide feedback directly to service providers and government



Revolutionise the IT system that FACS caseworkers use by implementing ChildStory to enable children and young people to have access to more information about themselves and their circumstances



Embed Patchwork as a standard web-based practice tool amongst frontline workers to support practitioners collaborate and coordinate services around vulnerable children and young people



Enhance government and non-government service provider skills to proactively and respectfully engage with children and young people through targeted training



Address communication barriers and issues regarding access to programs and services for youth victims, witnesses and offenders from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds

## Improve the capacity of schools and teachers to meet the diverse educational needs of students with disability through the implementation of Every Student, Every School

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Every Student, Every School (ESES) has enabled the Department of Education (DoE) to increase opportunities for professional learning and support for teachers and other staff in our schools to understand and respond to the additional educational needs of students with disability.

As a result of ESES, every mainstream school receives an allocation of resources, known as the Low Level Adjustment for Disability, designed to support students with or without a formal diagnosis of disability who have additional learning and support needs and their teachers.

This allocation includes the allocation of a specialist learning and support teacher to every mainstream school and an annual flexible funding allocation that is based on the size of the school and the learning needs of their students.

In 2019, the annual spend in resources directly allocated to NSW Government schools for learning and support was more than \$288 million.

In addition to these resources, schools have access to targeted support for individual students with disability who have moderate and high level learning support needs.

ESES delivered increased professional learning options for our teachers and support staff.

Since 2016, the Department of Education (DoE) has developed new courses for staff supporting student wellbeing and mental health; and another around personalising learning with technology. These courses are in addition to courses already developed under ESES which focus on dyslexia, autism spectrum disorder, speech language and communication, supporting behaviour, motor coordination, hearing loss, and personalised learning and support.

In addition, since 2013, all staff have been able to access accredited training in the Disability Standards for Education. In that time, approximately 121,000 training courses have been completed by staff. More than 300 ESES Learning and Support scholarships were taken up by teachers to gain postgraduate qualifications in special education. At the end of 2019, as a result of ESE scholarships, more than 200 teachers had completed their master's degree in special education.

The elements of ESES are embedded in the NSW Department of Education's School Excellence Framework.

The Framework identifies quality practice across the three key domains of education – learning, teaching and leading – to help schools plan and monitor strategies for ongoing improvement.

The NSW Government developed and released its Disability Strategy in February 2019. The Disability Strategy sets the vision for an inclusive education system, and commits the Department of Education (DoE)

to an agenda for achieving strong educational and wellbeing outcomes for students with disability in NSW public schools.

This includes strengthening support for schools and teachers, promoting inclusive practices, measuring outcomes, tracking progress and building the evidence base for what works, and improving the educational experience for student with disability and their families/carers.

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*Through the Disability Strategy the Department has:*

- **Launched the Inclusive Education Statement for students with a disability in August 2020, outlining the Department's position on inclusive education;**
- **Mandated that all school leaders, including Directors Educational Leadership (DEL), Principals and school executive staff, complete the Disability Standards for Education training every three years;**
- **Piloted a new professional development course in trauma-informed practice for Departmental staff. This pilot will be completed in 2020 and the course will be made available for Departmental staff in 2021;**
- **Launched the new Inclusive Practice in Education Scholarship, increasing the number of teachers with post graduate qualifications in inclusive education. In the first year of the scholarship (2019/2020) over 160 scholarships were offered to teachers across the state;**
- **Launched the Specialised Allied Health Provider Scheme. The scheme provides a panel of prequalified allied health and specialist behaviour practitioners that can be easily searched for, and accessed by schools that are seeking to engage additional specialist support for their students or staff.**

## Develop a Quality Assessors program to train children and young people to review services and provide feedback directly to service providers and government

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A quality assessors program has been developed and trialled by ACYP. The Children and Young People Inspectors Program (CYPI) trains children and young people to assess how services engage with and meet the needs of children and young people. CYPI seeks to ensure that children and young people are being meaningfully represented and involved within Government, Non-Government organisations and corporations.

The Children and Young People Inspectors Program (CYPI) was trialled by ACYP in 2016 with 11 young people reviewing two NSW services. This program has the potential to be expanded which in turn will open up government agencies, non-government organisations and corporations wanting to learn more about meaningful engagement with children and young people.

## Revolutionise the IT system that FACS caseworkers use by implementing ChildStory to enable children and young people to have access to more information about themselves and their circumstances

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Implementation of ChildStory commenced in late November 2017. As at March 2020, over 46,300 people use ChildStory across NSW, including:

- **Family and Community Services (FACS) practitioners, and key child protection practitioners in Police, Health and Education, through ChildStory Casework;**
- **Non-government organisations and other government agencies, through ChildStory Partner;**
- **Mandatory reporters, through ChildStory Reporter.**

While the initial plan was to also provide an opportunity for children, young people in care to access information directly from ChildStory through ChildStory YOU and their families and carers through ChildStory Caring this has yet to be achieved. There is some more legal and policy work to be done to ensure when these options are available to children, young people, their families and carers the information is appropriate, accurate and inclusive and has the child and young person's safety, welfare and wellbeing at the centre.

## **Embed Patchwork as a standard web-based practice tool amongst frontline workers to support practitioners collaborate and coordinate services around vulnerable children and young people**

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Work to embed Patchwork as a tool for frontline workers occurred through the period of the Plan. However, in 2019, Patchwork was decommissioned. While initial uptake of Patchwork by practitioners was high when it formally commenced in 2016, by 2018 the number of users had significantly decreased.

Practitioners are encouraged to utilise existing local relationships to continue coordinated and integrated care for shared clients.

## **Enhance government and non-government service provider skills to proactively and respectfully engage with children and young people through targeted training**

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As part of work to enhance government and non-government organisations' engagement with children and young people, ACYP has developed specific training for government and non-government organisations to better assist them improving in this area. ACYP's training is designed to show organisations how to respectfully engage with children and young people and involve them in decision making processes. ACYP delivers face-to-face training on a range of areas including child rights, meaningful participation and engagement with children and young people, advocacy and media.

ACYP has also developed modules and tools to assist organisations with engaging with children and young people. In 2018, ACYP launched the guide 'Engaging with Children and Young People in your Organisation' which covered a large scope of areas including top ten tips for participation, checklists for CEO's, boards, NGO front line workers and contract managers.

## Address communication barriers and issues regarding access to programs and services for youth victims, witnesses and offenders from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds

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This initiative was also a key priority for the NSW Police Force Multicultural Policies and Services Program (MPSP) for 2016-2019 for both young people and the broader adult population. To address it, the Police Force implemented or continued to support the following:

An externally run qualitative research program to hear from victims of crime. Participants reflected the communities participating in the research in terms of culture, age and gender diversity. Opportunities for improvement were determined around empathy, explaining procedures, providing follow up, using technology well and creating processes for frequent victims such as businesses.

Findings were incorporated into the Action Plan for the Victims of Crime and Customer Service portfolios;

The Multicultural Community Liaison Officer (MCLO) Program that employs civilian officers to coordinate on key issues and strengthen relationships between the police and the community. This existing program received ongoing support and at 2019 included 33 Multicultural Community Liaison Officer's (MCLOs) working across 20 Police Area Commands and Districts.

The Multicultural Community Liaison Officer (MCLO) Conference in 2019 provided specific opportunities for police and Multicultural Community Liaison Officers (MCLOs) to learn from International Students;

'Juice with the Youth' was an Multicultural Community Liaison Officer (MCLO) initiative that hosted local police officers and young people in the Bankstown area to build connections and strengthen relationships;

Production of Guides to the Plain English Apprehended Violence Orders (AVOs) to help victims and offenders understand the conditions of Apprehended Domestic Violence Order's (ADVOs). These were developed in 32 languages in addition to English and available as audio or text files. They were also developed as Auslan videos, and in Easy Read formats for those with low literacy or comprehension;

Increased focus on media that is accessible for Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) communities, including use of interpreters, social media channels such as WeChat and Weibo in addition to Facebook and Twitter, and celebration of events, holidays and festivals such as for Diwali, Ramadan, and Chinese and Vietnamese New Year.

# Indicators



Increase the number of children and young people participating in Aboriginal language program



Improve customer satisfaction with key government services every year, this term of government



Increase in the number of services assessed as child and youth friendly




Increase the number of children and young people participating in respectful relationships education programs



Increase the number of government and non-government service providers undertaking training on how to proactively and respectfully engage with children and young people



## Increase the number of children and young people participating in Aboriginal language programs

benchmark	update	status
<b>5300</b> participants (2016 Nest data)	<b>7759</b> participants (2019 Nest data)	 Achieved (Increased by 2,459 participants)

Through the five Aboriginal Language and Culture Nests (see below) 57 preschools, primary and secondary schools have delivered Aboriginal language programs to an additional 2,593 students. Aboriginal Language and Culture Nests have delivered Aboriginal language programs to 7,759 students since the initiatives commencement in 2013.

- **Bundjalung based in Northern NSW**
- **Gamilaraay/Yuwaalaraay/Yuawaalayaay based in Lightning Ridge**
- **Gumbaynggirr based in Coffs Harbour**
- **North West Wiradjuri based in Dubbo**
- **Paakantji/Baakantji based in Wilcannia**


In relation to Nest data, the student figures year-by-year are as follows:

- **2019: 7,759 students learning an Aboriginal language**  
(end 2019 figure)
- **2018: A total of approximately 6,759 students – 2,214 Aboriginal students and 4,545 non-Aboriginal students – were learning an Aboriginal language**  
(mid-2018 figure)
- **2017: More than 6,390 students – 2,196 Aboriginal student and 4,201 non-Aboriginal students – were learning an Aboriginal language**  
(late 2017 figure)
- **2016: More than 5,300 students learning an Aboriginal language**  
(late 2016 figure)

Total data on Aboriginal Language learners (both within and outside Nests) is available only for students in years K-6. This data is as follows:

- **2019: 9,672 students**
- **2018: 8,777 students**
- **2017: 7,181 students**
- **2016: 6,578 students**

Improve customer satisfaction with key government services every year, this term of government

benchmark	update	status
76.7% Consumer rating	80.6% Consumer rating	 Achieved (Increased by 3.9%)


The Customer Satisfaction, Management Survey measures consumer and business satisfaction on an annual basis. The survey captures feedback on 23 different NSW Government services, including education, transport and housing.

The baseline for the consumer rate was 76.7 out of 100. Over the course of the Strategic Plan, there has been a year on year improvement in customer and business satisfaction. In 2019, consumer satisfaction was recorded as 80.6 out of 100.

In recognition of the continual success of this indicator, this has been continued in the 2019 – 2023 Premier’s Priorities with a focus on increasing the number of government services where citizens of NSW only need to ‘Tell Us Once.’ The 2019-2023 Premier’s Priorities are also focused on implementing best practice and increasing digital capacity within the public service.



## Increase in the number of services assessed as child and youth friendly

	status
<p><i>Implemented the CYPI over the course of the Plan</i>  <i>Developed the 'Engaging Children and Young People in Your Organisation Participation Guide'</i></p>	 achieved

In accordance with the Plan, the NSW Government developed a quality assessor program which trained children and young people to review services and provide feedback on how they may better engage with their cohort. The Children and Young People Inspectors Program (CYPI) was trialled by ACYP in 2016 with 11 young people reviewing two NSW services.


Over the duration of the Plan, ACYP collated resources and materials to assist organisations and agencies in increasing the opportunities where young people

can assess their programs and services. This culminated in the Engaging Children and Young People in Your Organisations Participation Guide published in January 2019. The resource makes an effort to systematise this sort of quality assurance feedback across government and non-government sector. It includes how to run events, top ten tips for participation, and checklists for CEO's, boards, NGO front line workers and contract managers. Further information can be found via the link below.



[www.acyp.nsw.gov.au/  
participation-guide](http://www.acyp.nsw.gov.au/participation-guide)

Increase the number of children and young people participating in respectful relationships education programs

benchmark	update	status
<i>'Life Ready' course implemented for grades 11 and 12.</i>	<i>Data on participation is not yet available, though the course is mandatory.</i>	<div> Achieved</div>

Respectful Relationships Education is required to be taught every year from Kindergarten to Year 10 as part of the Personal Development, Health and Physical Education (PDHPE) curriculum. In 2018, the Department of Education released Life Ready, a 25-hour mandatory

course for public school students in Years 11 and 12.

This program extends students' learning on respectful relationships, replacing the previous Crossroads program.

Increase the number of government and non-government service providers undertaking training on how to proactively and respectfully engage with children and young people

status
<div><i>ACYP ran Child Rights training sessions with government and non-government organisations</i></div> <div> Achieved</div>

During the period of the Plan, ACYP regularly conducted training for government and non-government organisations to better assist them with engaging with children and young people. The Advocate delivered face-to-face training on a range of areas including child rights, meaningful participation and engagement with children and young people, advocacy and media. Over the course of the Plan, the Advocate or ACYP staff conducted over 120 training sessions with Government and Non-Government organisations. In addition to structured training

programs conducted by ACYP, over the course of the Plan the Advocate spoke at over 100 events which included elements of child rights and participation training with stakeholders and children and young people. This included information on how to involve children and young people in decisions that affect them, child rights perspectives and considerations as well as information on the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). Over the period of the Plan, ACYP ran training sessions and made keynote addresses about these issues to over 10,000 people.

# Opportunity

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***Objective: Children and young people have relevant skills for life, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship.***



Ensuring children and young people have opportunities to develop social, emotional, cognitive and communication skills is the foundation for setting them on a pathway to success, and developing relevant technical and vocational skills supports effective transition into employment.

Children and young people feel strongly they should be afforded the same opportunities, regardless of their background, and they also want to learn important skills for life to prepare them for adulthood.



*The Plan included initiatives to support children and young people to effectively access, engage and transition into education, training and employment opportunities, including extra support for disadvantaged children and young people.*

All three of the initiatives outlined in the Plan were successfully implemented. While two of the indicators remained stable, and two saw improvement, one of the indicators – the number of new jobs in NSW – was not only achieved but far exceeded the goal.

There are also five additional initiatives outlined below related to life skills, youth scholarship programs, pathways for education, training and employment for young people in regional areas, investments in school infrastructure and the new Sydney School of Entrepreneurship.

# Initiatives



Provide students with opportunities to learn skills for life such as managing finances, writing a resume and raising a family. The review of the PDHPE curriculum may identify opportunities for strengthening the skills children and young people need for life in addition to integrating real life examples into appropriate school courses where applicable



Expand the Youth Scholarship Program for young people living in social housing or on the NSW Housing Register to complete their HSC or TAFE equivalent



Provide viable pathways into education, training and employment for young people in regional areas, including through the provision of career mentoring support, work experience, career transition planning and brokering pathways to training and employment



Reduce the gap in educational achievement between rural and urban schools, through the Rural and Remote Education Blueprint for Action



Expansion and development of the NSW Literacy and Numeracy Action Plan to reach more students across the state with early, tailored intervention and explicit teaching of literacy and numeracy from kindergarten to Year 12

# Initiatives

continued



Committing \$100 million over two years to the new Smart, Skilled and Hired initiative that will target the State's highest areas of youth unemployment and respond to the high demands for skilled workers in the construction and disability sectors through mentoring and incentives for early school leavers and at-risk groups



Substantial investment in new schools and school upgrades



A new Sydney School of Entrepreneurship will be established to bring together high performing students from all disciplines to learn, collaborate and experiment as part of their undergraduate degree or TAFE course



**Provide students with opportunities to learn skills for life such as managing finances, writing a resume and raising a family. The review of the PDHPE curriculum may identify opportunities for strengthening the skills children and young people need for life in addition to integrating real life examples into appropriate school courses where applicable**

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The NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) commenced a review of the mandatory PDHPE curriculum in 2016 to strengthen opportunities for students to develop skills for life. The new PDHPE K–10 syllabus was published in 2018 for implementation from 2019 for Years 7 and 9, with full implementation for Kindergarten to Year 10 from 2020. The study of PDHPE continues to provide students with opportunities to develop skills required to apply for work including developing a resume, analysing job advertisements, completing a job application and investigating interview techniques.

NESA also commenced a review of elective courses in 2017, including Child Studies and Commerce, with updated syllabuses published in 2019.

The Child Studies course provides students with opportunities to study a variety of modules relating to raising a family including preparing for parenting, newborn care, family interactions, child growth and development, and food and nutrition in childhood.

The Commerce course provides opportunities for students to learn about financial responsibility and future financial planning, for example: consumer and financial decisions; earning an income; spending and saving income; borrowing money; managing finances; investing money; investment planning, superannuation, taxation; and the financial considerations involved in running a business.

In the study of the mandatory Mathematics K–10 syllabus students develop knowledge, understanding and skills relating to financial literacy including learning about money, financial transactions, investments and income.

## Expand the Youth Scholarship Program for young people living in social housing or on the NSW Housing Register to complete their HSC or TAFE equivalent

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The Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) Scholarships program launched in 2017 is one of the Service Improvement Initiatives (SII) under Future Directions for Social Housing in NSW, delivered with the assistance of the Department of Education (DoE). The program assists young people living in social housing and in out-of-home care who are enrolled in education or training to complete their studies by offering \$1,000 to help with school expenses and secondary support services.

The program targets students in high school in Years 10, 11 or 12. Students who are successful in getting a scholarship are able to receive continued funding if they remain in studies, this includes vocational training and tertiary education and are still a social housing client. The program will grant a minimum of 200 new scholarships each year for a total of approximately 1,440 scholarships by 2023.

### *Young people are eligible to apply if they are:*

- living in social housing (which includes public, community or Aboriginal housing), on the NSW Housing Register, receiving Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) private rental assistance or rent choice product, living in crisis/supported accommodation, or living in out-of-home care;
- studying in Year 10, 11 or 12 at a NSW high school or TAFE, completing a school based apprenticeship or traineeship, or studying a VET subject at school in 2020.

### *Scholarship funds can be used towards:*

- text books, workbooks, study guides and stationery;
- computers or laptops, iPads or smartphones;
- specialist equipment (e.g. art, music or photographic materials);
- course costs (including materials), excursions, study camps, sporting costs;
- computer software, printers, internet;
- childcare and transport;
- medical and support needs;
- other relevant educational materials or services.

In 2020, the Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) awarded 841 scholarships (341 Returning and 500 New) across NSW to eligible social housing students enrolled in education or training.

The 841 recipients comprise of 341 returning students who applied to receive an additional year of support from the 2017, 2018 and 2019 group and 500 new students.

This year reached its target of 54% returning students, an increase from

24% in 2018 and 49% in 2019. 40% of overall scholarship recipients are Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.

22% of overall scholarship recipients are living in Out of Home Care.

*The profile of the 841 recipients is shown on the following page:*

*Recipients of the Youth Scholarship Program 2020*

Demographic	Total		Returning	New
<b>ALL 2020 recipients</b>	841	100%	341	500
<b>Female</b>	491	58%	193	298
<b>Male</b>	349	41%	148	201
<b>Transgender / Other</b>	1	0%	0	1
<b>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander</b>	311	40%	105	206
<b>Non English Speaking Background</b>	148	18%	88	60
<b>People with disability</b>	161	19%	75	86
<b>Refugee background</b>	79	9%	45	34
<b>Out of home care</b>	189	22%	64	125
<b>Year 10</b>	156	19%	n/a	156
<b>Year 11</b>	273	32%	82	191
<b>Year 12</b>	277	33%	132	145
<b>HSC at TAFE</b>	8	1%	0	8
<b>Tertiary</b>	127	15%	127	n/a

## **Provide viable pathways into education, training and employment for young people in regional areas, including through the provision of career mentoring support, work experience, career transition planning and brokering pathways to training and employment**

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The NSW Government has a range of initiatives underway to support young people in regional NSW including:

- **\$61.7 million for eight additional Connected Learning Centres to help young people in regional areas attend TAFE;**
- **Skills for Recovery Program – Skills Broker Initiative;**
- **Opportunity Hubs;**
- **Commitment to retain teachers in drought affected areas;**
- **\$8 million for five new Country University Centres, with locations announced for Grafton, Griffith, Leeton, Narrabri and Moree to reduce geographical barriers to attending university;**
- **100,000 fee-free apprenticeships to further TAFE training;**
- **\$34 million in capital expenditure over two years to establish a pilot program for two senior secondary vocational schools, including one on the North Coast to support young people to build skills and get into a trade.**
- **Regional Industry Education Partnerships to coordinate employment opportunities between industry and schools;**
- **Committed greater than the 50% of the \$100 million Round Three Stronger Country Communities Fund to regional youth programs and projects;**
- **Delivered NSW’s first Regional Youth Framework, endorsed by Cabinet in April 2020 and publicly released in July 2020, informed by regional young people. The Framework sets out the Governments strategic priorities to improve outcomes for youth in regional NSW against the four pillars ‘Work Ready’, ‘Wellbeing’, ‘Connectivity’ and ‘Community’;**
- **Developed and driving NSW first Regional Youth Action Plan which underpins the Regional Youth Framework, outlining whole of government initiatives against each of the four pillars over the next five years and beyond.**

## Reduce the gap in educational achievement between rural and urban schools, through the Rural and Remote Education Blueprint for Action

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The Rural and Remote Education Blueprint for Action allocated \$80 million over four years from 2014 to improve student learning in regional and remote public schools. The allocated funds were broken down in the following ways:



Over \$30 million over four years to provide new incentives to attract and retain quality teachers and school leaders in rural and remote schools;



\$15 million over four years to support student wellbeing by establishing 15 specialist centres to offer coordinated inter-agency health and wellbeing services;



\$8 million over four years to give students in rural and remote schools access to a broad range of curriculum opportunities, including for gifted and talented students, through the creation of a virtual secondary school;







\$4 million over four years to strengthen early childhood education for children in rural and remote communities.



Connecting Country Schools program, installing high-quality internet and wireless services in more than 13,000 learning areas across 900 rural schools. This enabled schools to access cloud and internet-based teaching applications in the same way as metropolitan students.

**The Blueprint has the following elements:**

-  **Provide quality childcare services for rural students in the year before school;**
-  **Attract and retain quality teachers and school leaders through assistance to rural and remote schools in providing quality professional experience;**
-  **Facilitate student access to a range of quality curriculum that enhances opportunities for transition to further education and employment;**
-  **Develop effective partnerships to provide quality professional learning to school staff and support the needs of individual students.**

**The Department of Education (DoE) is currently involved in consultation processes to better understand what is working and the changes required to continue to improve rural education.**

The final evaluation report of the Rural and Remote Blueprint was published on Tuesday, 26 May 2020 and is available at: <https://www.cese.nsw.gov.au/publications-filter/evaluation-rural-and-remote-education-blueprint>.

It is important to note that some of the Rural and Remote program elements were adjusted to increase traction after an interim evaluation was completed in 2016.

The scope of the CESE final report was to look at the period 2014 – 2017 when many of the major initiatives adjustments had not yet been implemented and adopted into practice. Department of Education (DoE) continues in 2020 to build on its 10 year program of reducing the educational gap between rural students and their metropolitan counter parts.

## **Expansion and development of the NSW Literacy and Numeracy Action Plan to reach more students across the state with early, tailored intervention and explicit teaching of literacy and numeracy from kindergarten to Year 12.**

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The NSW Literacy and Numeracy Action Plan (LNAP) focuses on schools where students in Kindergarten to Year 2 are at risk of falling behind in literacy and numeracy. Commencing in 2012, the focus of the LNAP was:

- **Instructional leadership;**
- **Diagnostic assessment;**
- **Differentiated teaching;**
- **Targeted tiered intervention.**

From 2012-2016 the Action Plan was implemented with \$261 million funding across 448 schools. From 2017-2020 the Action Plan is being implemented with \$340 million funding across 668 schools.

## **Committing \$100 million over two years to the new Smart, Skilled and Hired initiative that will target the State's highest areas of youth unemployment and respond to the high demands for skilled workers in the construction and disability sectors through mentoring and incentives for early school leavers and at-risk groups**

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In 2016-17, \$30 million was allocated for the Smart, Skilled and Hired program, a package of initiatives to build skills of those most in need of a job, such as young unemployed people, and actively match them with the sectors that are growing and in need of workers. Targeted industries included construction and disability care.

In 2017-18 \$41 million was allocated for Smart, Skilled and Hired, and \$65 million over three years for the Youth Employment program within Smart, Skilled and Hired which aims to assist young people in four pilot regions into employment.



## Substantial investment in new schools and school upgrades

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The NSW Government is investing \$6.7 billion over four years to deliver more than 190 new and upgraded schools to support communities across NSW. This is the largest investment in public education infrastructure in the history of NSW.

## A new Sydney School of Entrepreneurship will be established to bring together high performing students from all disciplines to learn, collaborate and experiment as part of their undergraduate degree or TAFE course

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Since launching in August 2017, Sydney School of Entrepreneurship (SSE) has welcomed more than 6,000 participants to more than 130 activities across the state and contributed to the success journey of a host of startups, such as Espresso Displays and Diffuse Energy. SSE is growing the entrepreneur talent pool, serving as an open platform for the community, and providing students, academics, professional staff and the general public with capabilities, skills, training and job opportunities. Looking ahead, SSE is evolving its program offering to better prepare individuals and organisations with workforce transformation strategies, helping them to rethink workforce management for the future.

With a partnership base of over 100 organisations from across the diverse ecosystem, Sydney School of Entrepreneurship is working collaboratively across the state, the country and the globe to foster learning capabilities to help individuals respond to and thrive in a rapidly changing world. In 2020, SSE will build on its local and global reputation to develop strategic partnerships to deliver entrepreneurial education and future-of-work capabilities, contributing to Australia's economic growth and productivity.

# Indicators



Reduce the proportion of children who are developmentally vulnerable on one or more domains of the Australian Early Development Census (AEDC)



Increase the proportion rate of children aged 4-5 in early childhood education programs



Increase the proportion of NSW students in the top two NAPLAN bands by 8%, and increase the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students in the top two NAPLAN bands for reading and numeracy by 30%




Increase the proportion of people completing apprenticeships and traineeships to 65% by 2019



Create 150,000 new jobs in the four years to March 2019


## Reduce the proportion of children who are developmentally vulnerable on one or more domains of the Australian Early Development Census (AEDC)

benchmark	update	status
20.2%	19.9%	 stable (Improved by 0.3%)
2015	2018	

According to the Australian Early Development Census, the percentage of children developmentally vulnerable on one or more domain for NSW in 2015 was 20.2%.

According to the Australian Early Development Census (AEDC) in 2018 the percentage 19.9%.



## Increase the proportion rate of children aged 4-5 in early childhood education programs

benchmark	update	status
50.9%	52.1%	 improved (Increased by 1.2%)
2016	2019	

Since 2016 the number of children enrolled in preschool education has seen a steady rise. In 2016 the figure was 102,295 representing 50.9% of children aged 4-5 in NSW according to ABS figures for June 2016. In 2019,

the figure was 105,538 representing 52.1% of children aged 4-5 in NSW in June 2019. Since 2016, NSW achieved the highest growth in enrolments compared to other jurisdictions.

Increase the proportion of NSW students in the top two NAPLAN bands by 8%, and increase the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students in the top two NAPLAN bands for reading and numeracy by 30%

benchmark	update	status
<div>32.7%</div> <div>(average across grades for 2013/14)</div>	<div>35.7%</div> <div>(average across grades for 2019)</div>	<div></div> <div>improved</div> <div>(Increased by 3%)</div>
<div>10.6%</div> <div>reading</div>	<div>11.1%</div> <div>reading</div>	<div></div> <div>stable</div> <div>(Reading increased by 0.5% Numeracy increased by 0.9%)</div>
<div>7.6%</div> <div>Numeracy</div> <div>(average across grades for 2013/14)</div>	<div>8.5%</div> <div>Numeracy</div> <div>(average across grades for 2013/14)</div>	

The baseline used for the first part of this indicator was the average of 2013 and 2014, when the proportion of NSW students in the top two NAPLAN bands for reading and numeracy in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 was 32.7% on average.

The most recent NAPLAN data for 2019 indicates that the target increase of 8% was exceeded in 2019, with an average of 35.7% of students in the top two NAPLAN bands, a 9% increase from baseline.

As a result of this priority, an additional 20,000 students achieved the top two NAPLAN bands in reading and numeracy since 2013–14. Acknowledging the successful ongoing work of this priority, the Premier has announced new priorities which seek to: Increase the proportion of public school students

in the top two NAPLAN bands (or equivalent) for literary and numeracy by 15% by 2023, including through the state-wide roll out of Bump It Up.

In the second part of this indicator there has been improvement, but not to the stated target.

The table below shows the percentage of Aboriginal students in the top two NAPLAN bands for reading and numeracy over time in years 3 to 9. In most cases the proportion has increased, but not by the stated 30% target.

Percentage of Aboriginal students in the top two NAPLAN bands (%)

	year 3		year 5		year 7		year 9	
year	reading	numeracy	reading	numeracy	reading	numeracy	reading	numeracy
2013	19.8	10.6	10.5	6.2	6.8	6.1	4.2	5.1
2014	18.5	12.9	10.8	6.5	8.9	7.2	5.2	5.8
2015	19.4	10.8	10.7	7.4	8.4	5.6	4.5	4.7
2016	20.6	11.5	10.7	7.5	6.5	6.8	5	4.3
2017	23.2	14.6	11.8	6.8	8.3	8.3	4.9	5.4
2018	22	13.8	11.8	7.3	6.1	6.9	4.3	5.8

Acknowledging the ongoing work of this priority, the Premier has announced new priorities which seek to: “Increase the proportion of Aboriginal students attaining year 12 by 50% by 2023, while maintaining their cultural identity.”

## Increase the proportion of people completing apprenticeships and traineeships to 65% by 2019

benchmark	update	status
<b>0.56</b> <b>Completion to enrolment ratio:</b> (2016)	<b>0.51</b> <b>Completion to enrolment ratio:</b> (2019)	 stable

The measurement of completion rates is complex, as too are the factors determining these rates. For example, many students have intermittent enrolment and can take much longer than the prescribed course duration to complete their studies. Alternatively, students often change the course and/or level of the qualification in which they are enrolled. Failing to take this into account will result in misleadingly low apparent completion rates.

*The Department of Education (DoE) has provided the following figures related to enrolment and completion in apprenticeships.*

#### Apprenticeship & Traineeship Enrolment Figures 2016-2019 (as at 30 June each year)

##### Apprenticeships and Traineeships – 24 years and under - Commencements

2016			2017			2018			2019		
Aged <24	Total cohort	<24 as % of Total	Aged <24	Total cohort	<24 as % of Total	Aged <24	Total cohort	<24 as % of Total	Aged <24	Total cohort	<24 as % of Total
32,285	46,890	69%	32,600	46,170	71%	33,210	47,055	71%	31,550	45,640	69%

##### Apprenticeships and Traineeships – 24 years and under - In Training

2016			2017			2018			2019		
Aged <24	Total cohort	<24 as % of Total	Aged <24	Total cohort	<24 as % of Total	Aged <24	Total cohort	<24 as % of Total	Aged <24	Total cohort	<24 as % of Total
57,915	83,010	70%	59,130	83,745	71%	61,330	86,510	71%	60,470	86,080	70%

##### Apprenticeships and Traineeships – 24 years and under - Completions


2016			2017			2018			2019		
Aged <24	Total cohort	<24 as % of Total	Aged <24	Total cohort	<24 as % of Total	Aged <24	Total cohort	<24 as % of Total	Aged <24	Total cohort	<24 as % of Total
17,930	31,315	57%	17,185	27,150	63%	16,110	25,085	64%	16,210	25,910	63%

Source: NCVER data slicer for the period to end of 30 June 2019

While this data does not track individual completion, comparing the ratio of enrolment to completion in any given year can provide an indication of completion rates (i.e. students “in” compared to students “out”), though not the figure itself.

	2016	2017	2018	2019
<b>Enrolment</b>	32,285	32,600	33,210	31,550
<b>Completion</b>	17,930	17,185	16,110	16,210
<b>Ratio</b>	0.56	0.53	0.49	0.51

## Create 150,000 new jobs in the four years to March 2019

status	
423,615 new jobs created since 2015	
(2019)	achieved

Since 2014, one in three new jobs in Australia has been created in NSW. As of January 2019, there were 423,615 new jobs have been created from April 2015, which means that the Government has more almost tripled the 150,000 jobs target.



# Wellbeing

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***Objective: Children and young people are healthy and well through the provision of affordable, accessible and timely services.***





Children and young people's health and wellbeing are underpinned by access to essential services and the basic necessities of life, including housing, healthy food and water, safe environments and health care. Addressing issues early through prevention and early intervention provides the best opportunities for children and young people to thrive.



*The Plan included a number of initiatives to support children and young people's physical and mental health and wellbeing, including supporting healthy eating and physical activity, addressing youth homelessness, and diversion and treatment services.*

All four of the stated initiatives under the Plan have been implemented with an additional five initiatives noted below. Two of the indicators were achieved, two saw improvement, however the metrics for one indicator falls outside the duration of the Plan.

Notably, one of the indicators that was achieved was a reduction in the proportion of young people in custody who are Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander (reduced by 6%). While this indicator still shows significant need for improvement, this is an incredibly important shift that relates to many other health, opportunity, safety and wellbeing principles for Aboriginal young people in NSW.

# Initiatives



Committing \$40 million over four years for youth homelessness initiatives that adopt an investment approach and prioritise young people leaving out-of-home-care with high risk of homelessness



Expand the Rent Choice Youth program to additional locations for eligible 16 – 24 year olds who are homeless or at risk of homelessness to help them to find affordable accommodation, sustain their private rental tenancy, and access educational and employment opportunities



Funding enhancement to youth crisis services to increase intake options for young people and better case management through improved support ratios will provide better paths to independence in the medium to long term which includes young people returning to their families



All public schools implement the new Wellbeing Framework for Schools during 2015-2016 requiring them to explicitly incorporate strategies for improving student engagement and wellbeing into school planning

# Initiatives

continued



Targeted Earlier Intervention Reform Program – redesign the service system to ensure that families receive the support they need and do not reach crisis point



State-wide expansion of the schools-based Getting on Track in Time (Got It!) specialist mental health early intervention program for children aged 5-8 years with behavioural, social and emotional problems and their families



Expand Youth on Track to three new areas. This program is an early intervention scheme to engage young people and their families in casework and services that are targeted at addressing their offending-related needs



Committing \$12 million in 2016-17 for new and existing programs for children and adolescents to tackle obesity



Committing additional funding to drug and alcohol programs to help young people by intervening early and addressing drug addiction

## **Committing \$40 million over four years for youth homelessness initiatives that adopt an investment approach and prioritise young people leaving out-of-home-care with high risk of homelessness**

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In January 2016 the former Premier, Mr Mike Baird, held a Roundtable to discuss strategies for achieving the Premier's Priority "Reducing youth homelessness" target. The Roundtable was attended by representatives from Specialist Homelessness Services (SHS), out of home care (OOHC) and other youth services, peak bodies and other NSW government agencies. Importantly the Roundtable also included young people with a lived experience of homelessness, bringing client perspectives to the consultation process.

Strategies put forward by the Roundtable attendees included prevention, improving support and increasing long-term accommodation options.

Diverting young people leaving from Out of Home Care (OOHC) from entering the homelessness system was a prevention strategy proposed by the group. In May 2016 the Estimates Review Committee (ERC) allocated funding to the development and implementation of the Premier's Youth Initiative.

The Premier's Youth Initiative (PYI) is a pilot program that provides services to young people leaving statutory out-of-home care (OOHC), who are identified as being vulnerable to experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness on exit from care. The program aims to build the long-term capacity and resilience of young people in order to permanently divert them from the homelessness service system.

Young people who receive PYI have access to a personal advisor, education and employment mentoring as well as help to find long-term accommodation. The program assists them to develop strong personal networks and skills to navigate multiple adult support service systems and increase their capacity to manage crises and change as they transition to independence.

The Premier's Youth Initiative (PYI) is offered to young people in Out-of home care (OOHC) aged 16 years and 9 months to 17 years and 6 months, exiting Premier's Youth Initiative (PYI) and likely to be homeless or at risk upon leaving care are screened for eligibility to the Premier's Youth Initiative (PYI).

The program has 446 client places and is active across most of the state. Note, taking into account entries and exits, PYI may deliver to more than this number of young people over the period, however the program has capacity to place 446 clients at once.

The Premier's Youth Initiative (PYI) Client Satisfaction survey aims to provide an opportunity for client feedback into the PYI program, ensuring client voice is embedded in the program's service improvement process.

It allows service providers to assess how clients view the services they are receiving and identify potential areas for improvement. The survey also allows the Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) to see how clients are engaging with the PYI program at a District and state level.

The questions used in The Premier's Youth Initiative (PYI) Client Satisfaction Survey are obtained from the Client Feedback and User Satisfaction Question bank, in the Premier's Youth Initiative: Continuous Quality Improvement Plan. The bank consists of questions based on the Client Satisfaction Inventory (CSI), and the General Practice Assessment Questionnaire (GPAQ).

The PYI Client Satisfaction survey is administered quarterly with all services and service providers receiving their individual results, as well as the state wide results. Results are discussed with Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) , and used to help identify opportunities for change.

The Premier's Youth Initiative (PYI) program is currently under evaluation with the final report due later this year. To ensure client perspectives have been captured in the evaluation process, focus groups have been undertaken with a sample of clients. The focus groups were conducted with clients aged 18 years and over and sought feedback on a number of areas, including their experience engaging with their PYI provider, whether their needs were met and how the service could be improved.

## **Expand the Rent Choice Youth program to additional locations for eligible 16 – 24 year olds who are homeless or at risk of homelessness to help them to find affordable accommodation, sustain their private rental tenancy, and access educational and employment opportunities**

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During the time-limited 36 month Rent Choice Youth (RCY) program, young people receive a subsidy where they pay rent starting at 25% of their income. As their income increases after the initial 12 months, the subsidy they receive is gradually tapered so that at the end of the 36 month Rent Choice Youth (RCY) program they are able to pay the market rent and have the capacity and capability to live independently.

Rent Choice Youth (RCY) is location based and is available in all Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) districts now including in the Far West district where clients can be linked to a support agency which has presence there and is part of an existing Partner Facilitation Groups (PFGs) within the Rent Choice Youth (RCY) program.

There are now 23 Partner Facilitation Groups (PFGs) set up in the 7 Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) regions. The Partner Facilitation Groups (PFGs) are facilitated by the local Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) or Community Housing Provider (CHPs) Rent Choice Youth (RCY) officers and made up of a network of homelessness and other support

services and agencies who provide integrated case management and support to help young people secure a rental property; meet tenancy obligations; and access educational and employment opportunities that will help them increase their income. Partner Facilitation Groups (PFGs) are seen as the most effective way to build and strengthen service responses to youth homelessness through the development of collaborative partnership approaches.

As the number of clients in the Rent Choice Youth (RCY) program expands, it is expected that the number of Partner Facilitation Groups (PFGs) in each region will also increase to cater to clients living, studying or working in those areas within each region.

In 2018/19, Rent Choice Youth (RCY) assisted 698 young people.

## Case Study

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When a client is referred to the Rent Choice Youth (RCY) program, the support agency collaborates with the client to formulate an Independent Support Plan (ISP) which forms part of a signed agreement between the client, the support agency and the RCY program and sets out milestones and goals to be achieved in the program which both parties review and update regularly during the 36 month term of the program in order for them to successfully transition to full independence. The Partner Facilitation Groups (PFGs) provide feedback, input and support when assessing all quarterly client reviews as part of the RCY program as well.

- Tom was nominated for the Rent Choice Youth (RCY) subsidy by his case worker whilst he was completing his Higher School Certificate (HSC) and living in transitional accommodation. Once he was approved for Rent Choice Youth (RCY), the case worker secured private rental accommodation.
- After completing the Higher School Certificate (HSC) Tom secured a job at Australia Post and where he worked in the job for 6 months and was ready to come off Rent Choice Youth (RCY) as he was financially independent.
- While he was on Rent Choice Youth (RCY), a brokerage request was submitted to purchase a bike to enable Tom to travel to and from work and to achieve his personal goals of living healthy and improving his mental health – this was all part of the Independent Support Planning (ISP). The Partner Facilitation Group (PFGs) approved the bike purchase, the bike was purchased and Tom was able to achieve his own financial independence.

## **Funding enhancement to youth crisis services to increase intake options for young people and better case management through improved support ratios will provide better paths to independence in the medium to long term which includes young people returning to their families**

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*Two initiatives addressed this commitment: enhancement funding for Youth Crisis Accommodation providers, and a program for children and young people aged 12 to 15 years.*

### **Youth Crisis Accommodation Enhancement (YCAE) funding**

Youth Crisis Accommodation Enhancement (YCAE) funding enables youth crisis accommodation services to operate 24/7 and provide better levels of care. Better case management through improved support ratios will provide better paths to independence in the medium to long term which could include young people returning to their families.

Yfoundations, the NSW peak body on youth homelessness, and a number of their members developed the funding model for Youth Crisis Accommodation Enhancements (YCAE). Yfoundations has a youth advisory group with young people as members who have lived experience of homelessness.

### **Homeless Youth Assistance Program**

The NSW Government funds non-government service providers to deliver the Homeless Youth Assistance Program (HYAP) through support and accommodation models for unaccompanied children and young people aged 12 to 15 years who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

The Homeless Youth Assistance Program (HYAP) aims to reconnect unaccompanied children and young people 12 to 15 years of age with their families or wider support networks, or facilitate transitions to more appropriate long-term supported accommodation.

In 2017, the Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) commissioned the Centre for Evidence and Implementation (CEI) and its partners, the Behavioural Insights Team (BIT) and Monash University to conduct an evaluation of the Homeless Youth Assistance



## wellbeing

Program (HYAP). As part of the evaluation, CEI collected and analysed qualitative information directly from clients using focus groups. The HYAP Evaluation was published on 16 October and can be found at:

[https://www.facs.nsw.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0008/792476/Evaluation-of-Homeless-Youth-Assistance-Programs.pdf](https://www.facs.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0008/792476/Evaluation-of-Homeless-Youth-Assistance-Programs.pdf)

Findings from the evaluation will be used to support continuous improvement, as well as informing future commissioning, policy and practice decisions.



## All public schools implement the new Wellbeing Framework for Schools during 2015-2016 requiring them to explicitly incorporate strategies for improving student engagement and wellbeing into school planning

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*The Wellbeing Framework provides schools a basis for reflective decision making about whole school initiatives and future directions to support student wellbeing.*

School plans have three strategic directions which are underpinned by the three domains of learning, teaching and leading of the School Excellence Framework. Wellbeing is an element in the learning domain and schools can choose to have it form the basis of one of their strategic directions.

Schools can consider what strategies are required within each of these elements to improve the effectiveness of their wellbeing approaches/programs. Initiatives including professional learning and wellbeing resource hubs, wellbeing support funding for schools, Positive Behaviour for Learning training and staffing and Networked Specialist Centres have supported this implementation.

Additional resources have been developed to support wellbeing in schools including a suite of professional learning regarding the wellbeing framework and the new 'School Excellence in Action', which supports the Department's new 2021-2024 school planning and external validation cycle.

All of the work undertaken in Learning and Wellbeing within NSW public schools is underpinned by the Department of Education's (DoE's) Strategic Plan 2018-2022 Goal 2: Every student is known, valued and cared for in our schools.

## Latest updates

- **May 2020**  
Facilitator training for the NSW Wellbeing Framework for Schools professional learning begins.
- **March 2020**  
The NESA accredited NSW Wellbeing Framework for Schools Modules professional learning available in MyPL catalogue.
- **March 2020**  
The Wellbeing for School Excellence tool is created. This integrates the Wellbeing Framework for Schools and the School Excellence Framework and underpins the Wellbeing modules professional learning.
- **February 2020**  
The NSW Department of Education DoE's webpages revised and updated to include evidence-based strategies across the five domains of wellbeing.
- **2017-2020**  
As part of the Supported Students, Successful Students (SSSS) reform, 36 PBL positions including 4 DP's PBL and 32 AP/HT Coach Mentors PBL are established.
- **July 2017**  
School Excellence Framework version 2 released with Wellbeing as an element in the learning domain.
- **May 2017**  
Wellbeing Self-assessment Tool and professional learning available
- **May 2015**  
Literature review of student wellbeing released by the Centre for Educational Statistics and Evaluation (CESE).
- **April 2015**  
Wellbeing Framework for Schools released.

## Targeted Earlier Intervention (TEI) Reform Program – redesign the service system to ensure that families receive the support they need and do not reach crisis point

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Over the period of the plan a substantial redesign of the service system for families was planned and consulted on. The resulting Targeted Earlier Intervention (TEI) program commenced on 1 July 2020. The program will deliver flexible support to children, young people, families and communities experiencing or at risk of vulnerability. The Targeted Earlier Intervention (TEI) is a client centred, outcomes-focused program, that is easier for families, young people and communities to navigate.

Services will be delivered under two broad streams:

- **Community strengthening – activities that build cohesion, inclusion and wellbeing across all communities in NSW, and empower Aboriginal communities;**
- **Wellbeing and safety – activities that provide targeted support to children, young people and families, and provide opportunities for personal development.**

The Targeted Earlier Intervention (TEI) program will support increasing use of evidence in service design and delivery, to ensure the Program achieves outcomes for children, young people, families and communities over time.

Targeted Earlier Intervention (TEI) services funded from 1 July 2020 have been commissioned based on local priorities, arising from local consultation processes with communities and service providers, and supported by a range of data sources.

The Targeted Earlier Intervention (TEI) program will report client outcomes data through the Data Exchange. The outcomes data will be used by individual services and at the program level to better understand what works for children, young people, families and communities in the early intervention space, and will allow greater responsiveness to changing local needs.

## State-wide expansion of the schools-based Getting on Track in Time (Got It!) specialist mental health early intervention program for children aged 5-8 years with behavioural, social and emotional problems and their families

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Specialist mental health Got It! Teams deliver specialist mental health early intervention school-based services for children in Kindergarten to Year 2 (K-2) aged 5-8 years old, who display early behavioral, emotional or social concerns and emerging conduct problems. Located across Local Health Districts (LHD's) in NSW, in partnership with the Department of Education (DoE) the program has three components:

- **A universal screening program for all students in Kindergarten to Year 2 and teacher and parent training in social-emotional learning;**
- **Assessment for children identified as at risk of behavioral, social or emotional concerns;**
- **A targeted therapeutic program for a select number of children and families is offered in schools.**

During the pilot phase (2010/11), Got It! programs were established in three diverse geographical locations in rural, regional and outer suburban locations. After a successful pilot, Got It! was expanded across all NSW Local Health District's LHD's under Mental Health Reform in 2016/17.

A Teen Got It! program, offering services to young people aged 11- 16 years has been developed by the Justice Health and Forensic Mental Health Network. This promotes relationships between young people and their carers and aims to prevent negative trajectories for young people at risk of entering the court system.

A pilot of an Aboriginal Got It! program (2017-2022) is being conducted in South West Sydney Local Health District (LHD) and involves the development a cultural adaption of the Got It! model for Aboriginal children and families.

Got It! Teams in all NSW Local Health District's (LHD's) have the flexibility to shape the delivery of the program to suit the geographic, demographic and school contexts in which they work. Got It! Teams have responded to working with Aboriginal communities, small and large school communities, with diverse cultural groups, and routinely involve children and consumers in program development using a range of strategies. Got It! Teams have been successful in engaging with Aboriginal communities by working with Aboriginal Health

workers, Aboriginal Education and Liaison officers, leaders and Elders and develop culturally specific approaches. The development of culturally specific tools and resources as part of Enhancement grants in Local Health District's (LHD's) 5 in 2018/19 was undertaken. Senior Aboriginal Clinicians and health workers provide cultural supervision for Got It! clinicians and teams participate in cultural competence training and other training to improve cultural awareness and adapt program design for Aboriginal children and families has been offered to Got It! Teams.

Got It! Teams have responded to issues of service delivery in rural and remote areas by training rural Mental Health staff to support Got It! Processes, enhancing reach and access of the Got It! Program. The Telehealth-assisted Got It! (TAG) Project with Royal Far West adopted video link to enhance services with parents in more remote areas, with the Murrumbidgee and Southern NSW Local Health District's (LHD's) providing clinical services in remote regions as part of this initiative. The Teen Got It! Telehealth program has provided access to remote youth and families. Other teams have altered work practices by extending workdays and offering overnight stays to allow for face-to-face rural services and have provided extra teacher training about social emotional learning programs to facilitate a whole-of-school approach.

Strategies to work with particularly large or small rural schools have been engaged by Got It! teams, including whole-of-school teacher training, engaging with the parents via community events to improve reach in large communities, offering extra groups and teacher education sessions to account for large school needs, working individually for those not able to attend groups, connecting remote 'small school' families to services for additional support and assisting with transport to allow access to services.

Got It! Teams have developed specific strategies to work with diverse language and cultural groups by using interpreter services as part of assessment and parent groups as needed and providing screening assessments and handouts for parents' group in other languages. Engaging with the local multi-cultural centres and utilising the NSW Health interpreter service to assist with parent engagement, phone calls and interviews has helped families where English is a second language, as has work with culturally specific workers in schools.

Got It! Teams involve children in consultations to assist in the design or delivery of services. Strategies to seek children's views include the use of rating scales and informal feedback sessions and the use of creative media, drawings and storytelling.

## wellbeing

Consulting children, along with parents and teachers, is also undertaken formally via feedback forms and interviews. Information provided by children informs program review and ideas presented by children result in program adjustments, and changes to activities, themes and overall program design. Children's feedback is valued and summarised in final school reports and letters to parents, the suggestions made by children impact decisions made by Got It! Teams as well as schools and families.



## **Expand Youth on Track to three new areas. This program is an early intervention scheme to engage young people and their families in casework and services that are targeted at addressing their offending-related needs**

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Youth on Track is an early intervention scheme for 10–17 year-olds that identifies and responds to young people at risk of long-term involvement in the criminal justice system. The Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ), Youth Justice NSW funds non-government organisations to deliver the scheme in seven locations. Eligible young people are assessed and provided with case management and targeted services that respond to the underlying causes of their offending.

Prior to the Plan the Youth on Track program was operating in three areas:

- **Blacktown (since July 2013),**
- **Hunter (since July 2013),**
- **Mid North Coast (since July 2013)**

Youth on Track has now been extended to four new areas:

- **Central West (since December 2016),**
- **Coffs (since December 2016),**
- **New England (since December 2016),**
- **Riverina (since July 2019)**

Between July 2019 and April 2020, 700 suitable young people were referred to Youth on Track with 325 voluntarily engaging in the program. 97% of all young people who completed Youth on Track reduced their risk of reoffending and 75% who participated reduced or stabilised their formal contact with police in the 12 months following referral to Youth on Track. Youth on Track shows the same positive results for both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal participants.

The Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BOSCAR) is currently undertaking an evaluation to measure the effectiveness of Youth on Track in reducing reoffending, compared to a brief intervention, with a final report due in late 2021.



## Committing \$12 million in 2016-17 for new and existing programs for children and adolescents to tackle obesity

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NSW Health leads a multi-agency approach to tackle childhood obesity:

- **Programs are delivered at scale in childcare, schools and community settings to support children and their families;**
- **An increasing role for clinicians is being established, including training and engaging with health professionals to provide advice for families with children above a healthy weight;**
- **Social marketing strategies support community behaviour change;**
- **Food and physical activity environments are being improved to support people to make healthier choices;**
- **Program monitoring assesses the impact of services to adapt and respond to community needs.**

In 2015, the NSW Premier made it a priority to reduce overweight and obesity rates of children by five percentage points by 2025. Childhood overweight and obesity completed its term as a Premier's Priority in 2019. During this time, significant progress has been made in implementing a suite of evidence-based policies, programs and strategies to reduce childhood obesity. NSW Health will continue its comprehensive approach focusing on children in the early years and consolidate successful policy and program approaches with interagency partners.

The Centre for Population Health, reported a total of \$19.1 million investment into new and existing programs for children and young people in the financial year 2016-2017.

In 2019-20, the NSW Ministry of Health allocated \$36.6 million towards reducing the prevalence of overweight and obesity. Of this, \$24.7 million was for the prevention of childhood obesity.

The Munch & Move program supports the healthy development of children birth to five years attending NSW early childhood education and care services. The program assists preschools, long day care, occasional care services and family day care service providers to implement a fun, play-based approach to supporting healthy eating and physical activity.

The Live Life Well @ School program is delivered in partnership with the NSW Department of Education (DoE) and the Catholic and Independent school sectors. The program supports schools to provide a supportive environment for physical activity and healthy eating, as well as linked curriculum-based learning experiences.

Go4Fun is a 10-week community-based childhood obesity treatment program targeting children aged seven to 13 years and their families. It is delivered across NSW as Go4Fun, Aboriginal Go4Fun and Go4Fun Online. A Go4Fun Graduates program is being developed to respond to families' requests for continued intervention after the 10 weeks. Since 2011, the program has shown statistically significant improvements in BMI, waist circumference, intake of fruit and vegetables and physical activity.

Finish with the Right Stuff is a state-wide initiative that supports junior community sports clubs to provide and promote healthy food and drinks,

before, during and after games. NSW Health is increasing routine growth assessments for children as standard good practice clinical care across NSW Health settings. A comprehensive training package, Weight4Kids, has been developed and promoted broadly to NSW Health staff and clinicians in primary care. Face-to-face training has been delivered to over 850 health professionals, with 6,597 health professionals completing the online module.

Social marketing activity and information ([www.makehealthynormal.nsw.gov.au](http://www.makehealthynormal.nsw.gov.au)) fostered healthy eating and physical activity, focusing on supporting behaviour change within the family. Kilojoule menu labelling with the 8,700 mobile phone application supported young people to make healthier choices when eating out.

The NSW Healthy School Canteen Strategy and Healthy Food and Drink Framework in NSW Health facilities have increased the availability and promotion of healthy food and drink choices for children, adolescents and families in these settings, including the removal of sugar sweetened drinks from sale.

## Committing additional funding to drug and alcohol programs to help young people by intervening early and addressing drug addiction

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In 2016 the NSW Government announced a \$75 million investment over four years to tackle alcohol and other drug misuse in NSW communities.

The 2016 NSW Drug Package investment focuses on supporting more young people into treatment. One of the key components of the Package included \$24 million over four years to help more young people access early intervention, specialist treatment and ongoing care. This includes:

- **\$16 million over four years to expand detox and treatment services for more than 1,000 young people;**
- **\$8 million for the Early Intervention Innovation Fund to help build the evidence-base for early intervention models and support people at risk, with a focus on young people using drugs.**

The funding aims to support integrated service models and strong and assertive partnerships between government and non-government organisations.

An online brief intervention for young people has been developed and is available on the 'eCLIPSE portal, which encourages and supports young people to seek help early for their crystalline methamphetamine use.

The eCLIPSE online portal aims to facilitate free 24/7 access to evidence-based online screening and eHealth treatments for people experiencing co-occurring mental health and substance use problems, and the clinical services supporting them. The continuing development of the site and its eHealth treatments has involved engagement with service providers in mental health and alcohol and other drug (AOD) sectors to create a clinical pathway to care that supports people in their journey to wellbeing. There are plans underway to evaluate the uptake of the eCLIPSE tool.

In order to ensure a needs-based approach to determining the most appropriate models of service delivery, the NSW Ministry of Health established a Youth Treatment Services Advisory Committee, which included representation by young people.

*Following extensive consultation, the 2016 NSW Drug Package investments have supported the following enhancements:*



Eleven non-government organisations to provide services for young people aged 10-19 years across NSW to provide better access to withdrawal management and psychosocial support. Services are located across Sydney and in a number of regional and rural areas including Eurobodalla Shire, Wagga Wagga, Hilltops, Tamworth, Narrabri, Newcastle, Moree, Mid-North Coast and Northern NSW;



Increased capacity for a state-wide withdrawal management service based in Robertson. This is the only residential withdrawal management service specifically for young people in NSW;



Multidisciplinary service hubs delivering treatment to young people and their families have been established in five local health districts and the Sydney Children's Hospital Network;



Increased specialist clinical support is being provided through a Youth Addiction Medicine Fellowship Program operating from three sites in NSW including Sydney Children's Hospital Network (2 positions) and John Hunter Children's Hospital (1 position). The Fellowship Program aims to build the state-wide capacity of the NSW child and adolescent specialist workforce to holistically address the harms related to young people and substance use;



Support for families (biological or chosen) of young people undergoing treatment, to develop resilience and coping strategies, and provide them with information and referral to appropriate family support services.

From program commencement in 2017 to 31 December 2019, NGOs funded to provide services for young people under the Drug Package provided Alcohol Other Drug (ADO) treatment for over 1,175 clients. Client reported experience measures show high levels of satisfaction with the services.

Prior to the Drug Package investment, there were very few services in NSW available for young people at risk of harm from alcohol and other drug use. The services funded under the Drug Package work closely with other parts of the health system including Youth Health Services, mental health services and primary care organisations such as Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services and Headspace, to ensure that young people are provided with appropriate care at point of access.

Local partnerships have also been established with other agencies including Department of Education (DoE), Youth Justice, Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ), to ensure that young people who are using alcohol and other drugs are being engaged across different parts of the system.

### **The Early Intervention and Innovation Fund comprises two Grants Schemes:**

- **Non Government Organisation's (NGO's) Evaluation Grant Scheme – for Non Government Organisation's (NGO's) in the Alcohol Other Drug (AOD) sector to evaluate existing programs to build the evidence base.**
- **Alcohol Other Drug (AOD) Innovation Grant Scheme – for Non Government Organisation's (NGO's) and partners to specifically drive Alcohol Other Drug (AOD) innovation, with a particular focus on young people who are vulnerable to using drugs or are already participating in risky drug use.**

Two rounds of grant funding were administered in 2017 and 2018. A summary of grant recipients and projects can be found here:

<https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/aod/programs/Pages/aod-innovation-fund.aspx>

# Indicators



Reduce the percentage of Aboriginal young people in custody



Increase the proportion of young people who successfully move from Specialist Homelessness Services to long-term accommodation by 10%



Reduce overweight and obesity rates of children by 5% over 10 years




Improve service levels in hospitals by facilitating 81% of patients through emergency departments within four hours



Increase in the number of schools receiving evidence-based specialist mental health early intervention programs for children aged 5-8 years with conduct problems and their families

## Reduce the percentage of Aboriginal young people in custody

benchmark	update	status
<b>54%</b> (2015/16)	<b>48%</b> 2018/19	 achieved (Reduced by 6%)

The overrepresentation of Aboriginal young people in custody is a key issue that influences the ability of many young Aboriginal people to live a full, happy and safe life. The metrics mentioned below reflect the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people in custody relative to the number of non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as an indicator that this is a systemic issue.

Note that the population of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people aged 10-17 in NSW is estimated at 46,019 persons, which is 6.3% of the total population of that age group in NSW (Based on data from the ABS 2016 census).

While acknowledging there is still significant progress to be made, the average daily number and percentage of young people of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander background in custody has been decreasing since 2015/16.

Over the 16 months from January 2019 through April 2020 the average daily number of Aboriginal young people in custody by month has shown a statistically significant downward trend.

Over this 16 month period the percentage of Aboriginal young people in custody has decreased from 52% in January 2019 to 41% in April 2020. This indicates a larger decrease in the number of Aboriginal young people in custody in comparison to Non-Aboriginal young people in custody.

*Young people in custody who are Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander – Daily Average*


Year	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander young people as a percentage of total young people in custody (%)	Daily average number of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander young people in custody
<b>2015/16</b>	54.1%	158
<b>2016/17</b>	53%	144
<b>2017/18</b>	47%	134
<b>2018/19</b>	48%*	127
<b>In April 2020</b>	<b>41%</b>	<b>99</b>

*\* Note that although the percentage for 2018/19 was higher than in the previous year, the actual figure is at its lowest point due to an overall reduction in the daily average of young people entering detention.*





## Increase the proportion of young people who successfully move from Specialist Homelessness Services to long-term accommodation by 10%

benchmark	update	status
29.3% 2013/14	34% (2018/19)	 Improved (Increased by 4.7%)

The baseline in 2013/14 was 29.3% of young people who successfully moved from Specialist Homelessness Services (SHS) to long term accommodation.

The target increase was achieved a year early, and by June 2019, more than one in three (34 %) of young people moved to stable housing after using Specialist Homelessness Services (SHS).

This meant over 200 additional young people in stable long-term accommodation.

This target has been embedded into agency business as usual, and recognising the work of this priority, the Premier announced in her 2019-2023 Premier Priorities the target of reducing street homelessness across NSW by 50% by 2025.

## Reduce overweight and obesity rates of children by 5% over 10 years

benchmark	update	status
21.5% 2014	23.0% 2019	Indicator ongoing (Increased by 1.5%)

The baseline to measure this indicator was 21.5% or 247,000 children in 2014, with a target of 16.5% in 2025.


To support this target, over 1 million Active Kids vouchers were created in 2019, representing more than half of school children in NSW, helping reduce childhood obesity.

To date, the prevalence of overweight and obesity in NSW children has remained

relatively stable (since 2009), with a current rate of 23.0% in children (aged 5-16 years) in 2019.

Childhood overweight and obesity completed its term as a Premier's Priority in 2019. NSW Health will continue its comprehensive approach focusing on children in the early years and consolidate successful policy and program approaches with interagency partners.

## Improve service levels in hospitals by facilitating 81% of patients through emergency departments within four hours

benchmark	update	status
<b>74.3%</b> <i>of 2.66 million patients</i> (2014/15)	<b>73%</b> <i>of 2.88 million patients</i> (2017/18)	 improved <i>(Decreased rate by 1.3% but increased number by 0.22 million)</i>

As of June 2018, the total number of patients progressing through emergency departments within four hours has increased from the baseline, though we note that expressed as a proportion of total patients, this rate has decreased. This indicates that the system is becoming more efficient, however the number of patients is increasing at a greater rate than this efficiency can account for.

In 2014/2015 the baseline was 74.3%. In 2017/2018 the percentage was 73%. Of the 2.88 million patients presenting to NSW's emergency departments in 2017/18, over 2.1 million moved through in four hours. This was 40,000 more than the previous year and almost 105,000 more over the life of the priority.


Over the same period, an additional 224,000 patients have presented to emergency departments across NSW.

Acknowledging the importance of this work, this indicator has transitioned to the 2019-2023 Premier's Priorities with the target focusing on time to treatment for Emergency Department (ED) patients in most need. The new target seeks to have patients receive treatment in time based on their triage category.

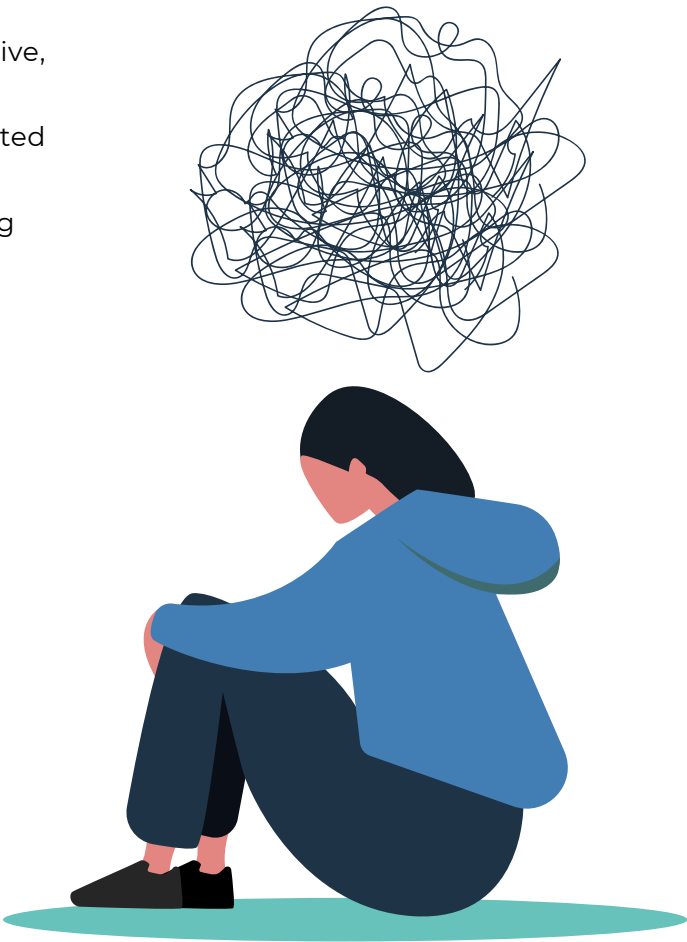
By 2023, the Government aims to have 100% of Category 1 (or the most severe) through emergency in time. For the Category 2 patients, the government aims to have 95% through emergency on time. For the third category, the Government aims to have 85% through in time.

The 2019-2023 Premier's Priorities, also places an increased focus on outpatient and community care, by reducing preventable visits to hospitals by five percent through to 2023, by caring for people in the community.

Increase in the number of schools receiving evidence-based specialist mental health early intervention programs for children aged 5-8 years with conduct problems and their families.

benchmark	update	status
48 schools (2016/17)	92 schools (2018/19)	 achieved (Increased by 44 schools)

Getting on Track in Time (Got It!) is an evidence-based specialist early intervention program delivered in the school setting by Child and Adolescent Mental Health clinicians. The program is for Years K-2 children who display emerging conduct problems such as defiant, aggressive, and disruptive behaviours. During 2016/17, 48 schools completed the Got It! Program. This had increased to 92 schools completing the program in 2018/2019.



# Voice

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***Objective: Children and young people are empowered to be involved in the decisions that affect them.***



Programs and services that impact on the lives of children and young people are more likely to be successful when children and young people have been involved in the planning, development and delivery of them. Children and young people have told us that they want to have their voices heard, be treated with respect and to be taken seriously. The Plan included a number of initiatives to support the voices of children and young people to be heard in decision-making processes, including through consultations, surveys, youth advisory groups, and in the design and delivery of services.



*Over the course of the Plan, all three new initiatives listed were implemented and the report below notes four additional initiatives. Of the five indicators, four were achieved, while one goal was not achieved.*

# Initiatives



Embed participation with children and young people in government consultations



Involve children and young people in the design and delivery of services that meet their needs within government and in contracted services, including those with disability and from disadvantaged backgrounds



Youth arts roundtable to provide young people with an opportunity to voice their ideas and plans for improving arts and cultural participation and support



Maximise benefits and establish strong links between existing and new youth advisory groups and networks, such as the NSW Youth Advisory Council and the Multicultural Youth Network



Geography “Lesson Plans” on urban and regional planning for students in years 7 and 8 will encourage young people to be aware of and understand the natural and built environments in which they live, and give them the knowledge and skills to play an active and positive role in their communities both now and in the future

# Initiatives

continued



Through the National Disability Insurance Scheme, children and young people with disability will be empowered to have choice and control over their lives and the supports they receive



Implement the second NSW Volunteering Strategy to better recruit, support and recognise volunteers

## Embed participation with children and young people in government consultations

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Over the period of the Plan a range of activities have ensured that the participation of children and young people have been embedded in government consultations, some of these are summarised here.

### *ACYP Consultations*

A core function of the ACYP is to conduct consultations with children and young people to ensure that their rights are upheld and their voices are included in all aspects of Government.

To date, ACYP has heard back from over 30,000 children and young people, 10,000 of these in face-to-face consultations across approximately 130 consultations.

ACYP has conducted consultations with Aboriginal children and young people, young people in juvenile justice, young people with experiences of homelessness and OOHC, refugee and migrant children and young people and children and young people living with a disability.

### *Regional Youth Taskforce*

Appointment of a Regional Youth Taskforce, a ministerial advisory group that informs the Minister for Regional Youth on issues affecting youth in regional NSW.

The Regional Taskforce is made up of 18 regional young people, with two members from each region of NSW, aged 12-24 years. The Regional Youth Taskforce has diverse representation in age, gender, cultural, linguistically, religiously, geographically and sexual identity. The Regional Youth Taskforce informed:

- **The Regional Youth Summer School Holidays Program, identifying mental health, lack of activities and employment opportunities. This led to the following being delivered over the December 2019 and January 2020 school holidays:**
- **Five fully subsidised camps were delivered to 262 young people aged between 7 – 15 years**



- 452 registrations were received in 24 hours and the young people that could not be accommodated were given places for subsequent camps;
- Sport clinics were delivered in 14 communities;
- BBQ and Beats was delivered in 20 rural locations, with over 1,330 young people participating and 442 parents and carers attending;
- 500 enrolments were received in the training hubs delivered in 33 drought affected community by eight training providers;
- 30 councils received grants to extend pool hours, offer reduced or free pool admission, train and employ lifeguards and pool staff, outdoor cinema and fitness programs;
- Insights into Education Reform;
- Insights into the impact of the drought and the recommendations by UNICEF Youth Summit;
- Improvements to the Service NSW Youth Hub, which brings together information to connect young adults to relevant content and government services in one location, and improved connection with young adults through the Services NSW mobile phone app;
- Informed the unique challenges young people have with regional transport and providing input to practical solutions which are now being considered by Transport for NSW.

## **Youth Advisory Council**

The 12 member NSW Youth Advisory Council (YAC) plays an important role in advising the NSW Government on issues that are relevant to young people across the state. Membership of the Youth Advisory Council (YAC) is open to all children and young people between 12 and 24 years of age residing in NSW. Applications are sought from diverse locations, backgrounds and life experiences.

The functions of the Youth Advisory Council (YAC) under the Advocate for Children and Young People Act 2014 are:

- **To advise the Minister and the Advocate on the planning, development, integration and implementation of government policies and programs concerning young persons;**
- **To consult with young persons, community groups and government agencies on issues and policies concerning young persons;**
- **To monitor and evaluate legislation and government policies and programs concerning young persons and to recommend changes if required;**
- **To conduct forums, approved by the Minister, on issues of interest to young persons;**
- **To collect, analyse and provide the Minister and the Advocate with information on issues and policies concerning young persons.**

## **Involve children and young people in the design and delivery of services that meet their needs within government and in contracted services, including those with disability and from disadvantaged backgrounds**

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Over the period of the Plan a range of activities have ensured that children and young people have been involved in the design and delivery of services that meet their needs, some of these are summarised here.

### ***Youth Opportunities Program***

The Youth Opportunities Program provides one-off, time-limited grants between \$10,000 and \$50,000 to not-for-profit organisations and local councils for youth-led and youth-driven community projects that have a positive youth development focus.

Funded projects from previous rounds have focused on giving young people the opportunity to develop a range of skills, including life skills and healthy behaviours; leadership, communication and teamwork; event management and planning; and providing volunteering opportunities that link young people to further education and training.

From figures up to December 2019, since the program was launched in 2012, Youth Opportunities has provided \$11.8 million in funding to 247 projects across NSW.

### ***School Infrastructure***

School Infrastructure NSW is committed to involving children and young people in their projects where they can be.

Recently, a pilot program was run as part of a major upgrade project. Students were invited to attend and participate in Local Character Workshops, with students from all year groups represented in forums conducted in December 2019 and June 2020. The outcomes of these forums and workshops were positively received by both the project team and school community.

During the workshop, students expressed the desire to engage in the planning and design phases of the project. In response to this idea, a Student Co-Design Committee will be formed. Local high school students will be given the opportunity to provide feedback from schematic to detailed design phases, and School Infrastructure NSW will benefit from the ability to

capture and represent the student voice. Acting as a reference group, recommendations from the Student Co-Design Committee will be submitted to the Project's Project Reference Group for consideration.

Other projects have sought input from students as part of the design process. For example, on another upgrade projects, School Infrastructure NSW asked students for feedback on what they wanted to see in the project, with their ideas considered by the design team.

Young people have also been involved in the delivery of some projects. The Arthur Phillip High School redevelopment facilitated visits to the construction site and talks by representatives from the building contractor, while the upgrade to Armidale Secondary College gave students enrolled in construction subjects the opportunity to work on site for a few hours a week as trades assistants.

In addition, School Infrastructure NSW has a dedicated program called Infrastructure Pathways, which is aimed at finding multiple avenues for students to learn about, and become involved in, the infrastructure industry.

This program provides real life opportunities for students from a range of ages, with a focus mainly from Year 7 onwards, to be involved in:

- **A workshop with School Infrastructure NSW (SINSW) to co-design a practical activity for students to test their design and construction skills and build a complicated obstacle course;**
- **Construction projects through site visits and classroom talks teaches students about the diverse careers in infrastructure. Students consider the principals of architecture, engineering and construction and develops student's ability to apply what they learn during the 10 week program.**

Students have also participated in a Tradie Talk, where they spoke to a project construction team and learnt about diverse careers and pathways available. Two students completed work experience and reviewed plans, attended meetings and reported that they had a positive and meaningful experience in the program.

## ***Health Initiatives***

The Centre for Population Health has ensured that children have been involved in the design of a range of initiatives including:

- **Go4Fun program design and review (families including children);**
- **Formative program work for Finish with the Right Stuff (children);**
- **Design of the Drug Package (young people with lived experience of alcohol and/or other drug use);**
- **Some service providers have ongoing youth consumer involvement.**



## ***Children and Young People with Disability***

Consultation with people with disability, their families and carers underpins all NSW disability action planning and inclusion activities. This is consistent with state investments in relation to National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) programs and funding.

One example of this was the NSW Department of Education Disability Strategy. Children, young people, their parents and disability support providers were involved in ongoing consultation to develop the strategy and their feedback was central to its design.

The NSW Government complies with the Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998, including providing for the participation of children and young people in the decisions that have a significant impact on his or her life and that our practitioners are responsible for providing children and young people (as pursuant under the Act) with the following:

- Adequate information, in a manner and language that he or she can understand, concerning the decisions to be made, the reasons for the Department's intervention, the ways in which the child or young person can participate in decision-making and any relevant complaint mechanisms;
- The opportunity to express his or her views freely, according to his or her abilities;
- Any assistance that is necessary for the child or young person to express those views;
- Information as to how his or her views will be recorded and taken into account;
- Information about the outcome of any decision concerning the child or young person and a full explanation of the reasons for the decision;
- An opportunity to respond to a decision made under this Act concerning the child or young person.

## Youth arts roundtable to provide young people with an opportunity to voice their ideas and plans for improving arts and cultural participation and support

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The Youth Arts Roundtable is a key action in Create NSW: NSW Arts and Cultural Policy Framework. This youth engagement represents Create NSW's commitment to providing young people with opportunities to actively shape the future directions of programs and policies that contribute to increasing participation in creative arts activities for young people across NSW.

During 2017-2018, Create NSW formed the Youth Arts Working Group and delivered three youth roundtable forums and six consultations events. Create NSW engaged with over 100 young people and around 60 youth arts workers at these roundtables and events, providing a platform for a diversity of youth perspectives on arts engagement. 200 surveys were also completed by young people aged 12-25 between August – December 2017.

The roundtables were held at different locations to ensure access and participation by young people from across NSW including:

- **Western Sydney Youth Arts Roundtable (November 2017)**
- **Metropolitan Youth Arts Roundtable (November 2017)**
- **Regional Youth Arts Roundtable (April 2018)**

Create NSW consulted with youth representatives from the arts, screen and cultural sectors including from Shopfront Arts Co-Op, Australian Theatre for Young People, Westwords, Regional Youth Support Services, Curiousworks and Tantrum Youth Theatre.

Create NSW also engaged with conferences and forums including the NSW Local Government Youth Council Conference (Macquarie Uni), National Youth Arts Summit (Carclew Adelaide), The Boundless Writers' Festival (Bankstown), Youth Action What's Up West Western Sydney Conference (Bankstown) and the Museum of Contemporary Arts Youth Committee (CBD).

In these conversations, young people shared their experiences of creative arts making, the impact it has on their creative learning, development and future career prospects as well as expressing their enjoyment of participating in arts, screen and cultural activities. Youth participants requested more access to opportunities in their communities and noted that their major barriers to access were around transport, cost, differing support from families and teachers and differing opportunities and information.

## **Maximise benefits and establish strong links between existing and new youth advisory groups and networks, such as the NSW Youth Advisory Council and the Multicultural Youth Network**

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Multicultural NSW and ACYP partnered to create one of the biggest Youth Week events in 2017 – IDEATION – Create Your Campaign.

Through consultations, children and young people have told the Advocate for Children and Young People that they want to be part of the solution to increasing inclusion in NSW. Children and young people requested a youth-led campaign to increase inclusion and a sense of belonging for all children and young people in NSW. The core objective and outcome, of this event, was to design such a campaign.

This one-day event took place on 7 April 2017 at the State Library of NSW. At IDEATION, more than 100 young people from across NSW came together to share their views on how to improve inclusion in NSW.

This event included speeches by the Hon. Ray Williams MP, former Minister Responsible for Youth and Mr. Hakan Harman, former CEO of Multicultural NSW.

The previous Advocate, Mr Andrew Johnson, spoke with participants about the key elements of campaign development, statistics relating to inclusion among young people and factors affecting inclusion in NSW. The participants also had an opportunity to listen to a panel of young people who spoke about their experiences of inclusion.

In the afternoon, participants then heard from a panel of people who were experienced in running campaigns.

Finally, participants worked in groups throughout the afternoon to set the themes and foundations of a government-run campaign to improve inclusion throughout NSW. All feedback given by participants was collated and presented back to them for review before the close of the event.



## **Geography “Lesson Plans” on urban and regional planning for students in years 7 and 8 will encourage young people to be aware of and understand the natural and built environments in which they live, and give them the knowledge and skills to play an active and positive role in their communities both now and in the future**

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The NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) published a sample unit for teachers for the Geography Stage 4 (Years 7 and 8) syllabus topic ‘Place and Liveability’. It includes ideas for teaching, learning and assessment, and

provides opportunities for students to investigate the liveability and environmental quality of places, and strategies for enhancing liveability in their local community.



## Through the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), children and young people with disability will be empowered to have choice and control over their lives and the supports they receive

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The following resources have been produced to assist young people with disability to access the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS):

- **Getting ready for My NDIS Plan:** A booklet for children aged from 7-14 encouraging them to reflect on the supports they receive and how well they are working for them;
- **NDIS KidsBooket 15+:** A booklet for young people aged 15+ with disability to help them to think about how they'd like to live their life with a focus on preparing to leave OOHC;
- **NDIS KidsBooket 4-6yr:** A booklet for 4-6 year old children introducing a "words and pictures" storyboard approach that creates an illustrated narrative for children helping them to express what's important to them in their life;
- **NDIS KidsHandout A4: NDIS and Me 15+ -** Poster explaining NDIS basics to young people. Main topics: When will I be contacted by the NDIA, What if something changes, How will I talk to the NDIA;
- **The NDIS and Me:** Poster explaining NDIS basics to young people. Main topics: When will I be contacted by the NDIA, What if something changes, How will I talk to the NDIA.

Some National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) participants may have access to dedicated capacity building supports, which work to help build independence and skills to help reach long-term goals. Data from the monthly National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) performance reports provides an overview of investment in social and capacity building activities for children and young people with an active National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) plan.

**Capacity building - choice and control:** This supports active participants to better manage plans, funding and paying for services.

*Table 4: Investment in (NDIS) children and young people capacity building funding - choice and control\**

Age group	Funded participants	Total funding (\$)	Average funding per participant (\$)
<b>0-6</b>	3,713	5,411,607	1,457
<b>7-14</b>	7,465	10,946,822	1,466
<b>15-18</b>	3,005	4,498,486	1,497
<b>19-24</b>	3,620	5,862,212	1,619

Outlined in the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) December 2019 Quarterly Report to Council of Australian Governments (COAG) Disability Reform Council, selected choice and control indicators for children and young people are as follows:

*Table 2. Examples of young people exercising choice and control over their lives through the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)– progression from 2016 to 2019*

Participants age 15 to 24	Dec-16	Dec-17	Dec-18	Dec-19
<b>% who are happy with the level of independence/control they have now</b>	43%	40%	38%	36%
<b>% who choose what they do each day</b>	42%	43%	44%	45%
<b>% given the opportunity to participate in a self-advocacy group meeting</b>	22%	22%	22%	21%
<b>% who want more choice and control in their life</b>	69%	76%	80%	80%
<b>% with no friends other than family or paid staff</b>	26%	28%	29%	30%

## **Implement the second NSW Volunteering Strategy to better recruit, support and recognise volunteers**

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Under the second NSW Volunteering Strategy 2016-2020, the NSW Government has continued to promote connections to community life through volunteering, including the participation of young people in volunteering. It has done this through:



The redevelopment of the NSW Volunteering Website and the addition of a NSW Volunteer Recruitment Portal on the website, which is accessible for free, and users (including young people) are able to search available volunteering opportunities, and find out more about volunteering;



The redevelopment and distribution of promotional collateral that includes diverse images of young people volunteering;



Through direct marketing to volunteer involving organisations, the promotion of youth participation in volunteering;



Enhancement and promotion of volunteer recognition initiatives including the Premier's Volunteer Recognition Program and the NSW Volunteer of the Year Awards;



Recognition of the contributions made by young people during National Volunteer Week and International Volunteer Day celebrations.

# Indicators



Increase in the number of youth-led and youth-driven community projects and activities;



Increase in the proportion of 18-25 year olds enrolled to vote;



Increase in the number of NSW Government department and agency strategies and plans that have been informed by engagement with children and young people;



Increased uptake of the Tell Them From Me Survey which supports student voice;



Increase in the number of volunteers aged 15 to 24 years.

## Increase in the number of youth-led and youth-driven community projects and activities

benchmark	update	status
<b>28</b> <b>projects with Youth Opportunities (2016)</b> 1,200 young people mentored through Youth Frontiers (2017)	<b>36</b> <b>projects with Youth Opportunities (2019)</b> 1,491 young people mentored through Youth Frontiers (2019)	 achieved

The youth participation and inclusion initiatives referenced in the Strategic Plan include:

- Youth Opportunities
- Youth Frontiers

Both support the implementation of youth-led and youth-driven community projects and activities and are the responsibility of the Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ).

### Youth Opportunities

The Youth Opportunities program provides one-off, time-limited grants of between \$10,000 and \$50,000 to non-government organisations and local government councils in NSW. Funding is for new projects that enable young people to lead and participate in community development activities.

The number of youth-led and youth-driven community projects supported by Youth Opportunities is:

- 2016 - 28
- 2017 - 29
- 2018 - 34
- 2019 - 36

The number of young people that participated in Youth Opportunities funded projects:

- 2016 – 21,481
- 2017 – 15,403
- 2018 – 14,425  
*(interim figure – 3 projects have extensions till end of 2020 total figure won't be available until February 2021 due to impact of COVID-19)*
- 2019 – Projects still underway.  
*This figure won't be available until August 2021.*

## Youth Frontiers

The Youth Frontiers mentoring program was established by the NSW Government in February 2015 and has been delivered throughout NSW each year since. Youth Frontiers aims to establish and support quality mentoring relationships that in turn increase opportunities for young people's active and meaningful participation in their communities. Young people aged 12 – 16 years who participate in Youth Frontiers, work with mentors to identify ways they can make a difference in their communities and put these ideas into action.

The number of youth-led and youth-driven community projects supported by Youth Frontiers is:

- 2017 - 895
- 2018 - 283
- 2019 - 341

While the total number of projects decreased over this time period, Youth Frontiers actually increased its scope in terms of the number of young people being mentored. The number of young people that participated in Youth Frontiers (mentees):

- 2017 – 1,200
- 2018 – 977
- 2019 – 1,491



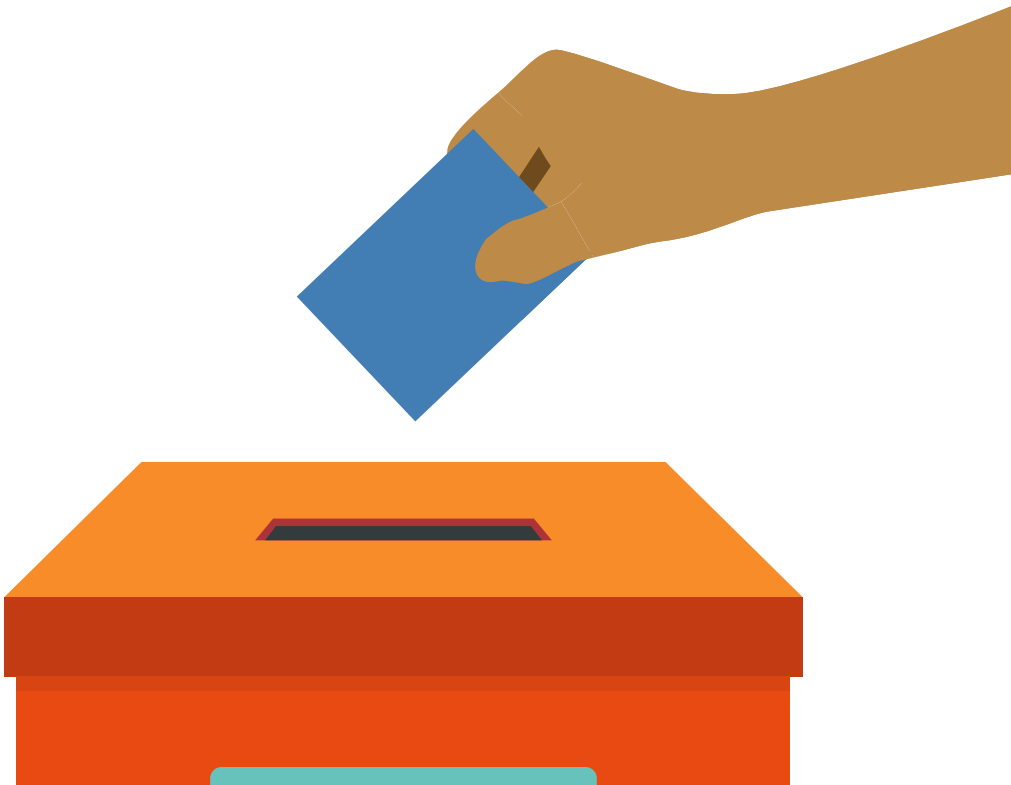
# Increase in the proportion of 18-25 year olds enrolled to vote

benchmark	update	status
<div>74.1%</div> <div>(data supplied for those 18-24)</div>	<div>72.2%</div> <div>(data supplied for those 18-24)</div>	<div><div></div></div> <div>not achieved (Decreased by 1.9%)</div>

Data collected by the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) demonstrates that there has been a decrease in the proportion of young people aged 18-24 in NSW who are enrolled to vote.


*Young people (aged 18-24) enrolled to vote in NSW at 30 June*

	2016	2017	2018	2019
<b>Voters as a % of total young people 18-24</b>	74.1	72.7	70.8	72.2
<b>Total number</b>	<b>534,968</b>	<b>534,868</b>	<b>530,241</b>	<b>548,489</b>





## Increase in the number of NSW Government department and agency strategies and plans that have been informed by engagement with children and young people

benchmark	update	status
<p><i>ACYP has partnered with NSW departments to encourage cultural change and engagement with children and young people</i></p> <p><i>CYP voices were included in at least 22 plans, policies or strategies across 9 NSW Government departments.</i></p>		 <p>achieved</p>

Over the duration of the Plan there has been significant work undertaken across Government to ensure the voices of children and young people are included in strategies and plans for Departments and Agencies. These have included but are not limited to:

### **Department of Education (DoE):**

- Bullying of Students – Prevention and Response Policy
- Anti-Bullying Plan
- School Uniform Policy & School Uniform in NSW Government Schools Guidelines
- Regional and Remote Early Childhood Strategy

### **Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE):**

- Greater Sydney Commission District
- A number of Local Government Plans, including: Cumberland Council, Junee Shire Council and Parramatta City Council

### **Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ):**

- Police Youth Strategy
- Domestic and Family Violence Strategy
- Wyong Service Reform
- Foundations for Change – Homelessness in NSW
- NSW Women's Strategy
- Sexual Assault Strategy

### **Ministry of Health:**

- Youth Health Framework
- NSW Healthy School Canteen Strategy

### **Department of Transport:**

- Future Transport Strategy
- Road Safety Plan 2021
- Transport Disability Inclusion Action Plan

### **Department of Regional NSW (DRNSW):**

- Regional Youth Framework
- Regional Youth Action Plan

### **Department of Finance Services and Innovation:**

- NGO Benchmarking Model


### **Safe Work NSW:**

- Action Plan for the Work Health and Safety Roadmap 2022

### **Multicultural NSW:**

- Refugee Youth Initiative

# Increased uptake of the Tell Them From Me Survey which supports student voice


benchmark	update	status
<div>55 schools</div> <div>Pilot phase</div>	<div>1,630 schools</div>	<div></div> <div>Achieved</div>

In 2019, almost 330,000 students from 1,630 NSW public schools participated in Tell Them From Me. The Tell Them From Me student survey is an opportunity for young people to have their say in their schooling and for schools to capture information about their students' engagement and wellbeing.

Tell Them From Me has been offered in NSW public schools since 2013 when 55 schools participated in an initial pilot of the program. Since then, the program has grown steadily and in 2020 almost 1,800 schools signed up to participate. This important initiative provides schools with valuable data to support school planning and improvement and helps to ensure that all students have a voice and are able to thrive at school.



## Increase in the number of volunteers aged 15 to 24 years

benchmark	update	status
<b>5,598</b> students (2016)	<b>7,439</b> students (2018) <i>In 2019 the program expanded to grade 7-12. 8,500 students participated.</i>	 Achieved (1,841 more students participated)

The recognition of young volunteers through the Premier's Volunteer Recognition Program has grown since 2016. The recognition of student volunteers has increased year on year with students in years 9, 10, 11 and 12 being nominated by their schools to receive recognition certificates. The Premier's Volunteer Recognition Program has recognised the following numbers of students:

Total number of student volunteering certificates distributed:

- **2016 – 5,598**
- **2017 – 6,000**
- **2018 – 7,439**
- **2019 - 8,500 (students)**

Grades 7 – 12 were able to be recognised for the first time, it is proposed that this will continue in future years of the program).

The Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) (formerly Department

of Family and Communities Services(FACS)) has carriage of the NSW Volunteering Strategy and has actively been developing the third NSW Volunteering Strategy 2020-2030.

The forthcoming Strategy once approved will help to grow volunteer participation, throughout life, more often. This includes the participation of young people. The forthcoming Strategy will work to break down the barriers to inclusion experienced by a range of population groups including young people. The Strategy recognises the importance of young people's participation in volunteering if the sector is to remain vibrant; and if young people are to experience the benefits of volunteering. Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) will work in collaboration with relevant stakeholders to develop initiatives that stimulate and support young people's participation in volunteering.

# Conclusion



The Office of the Advocate for Children and Young People (ACYP) consulted with more than four thousand children and young people across the state to hear what matters to them. These concerns were then taken to the Government, who listened and who have taken those concerns on board. The result was the NSW Strategic Plan for Children and Young People 2016-2019.

The Plan was designed as a roadmap – it outlined what the Government was doing for children and young people in NSW and how it would do it. The Plan also represents a cultural change – instead of different departments looking after the specific needs of children and young people – every Government department has come together through this Plan to address the needs of children and young people as a whole. Importantly, the Plan contains measurable indicators to track progress, which have been used to inform this review.

As this report shows, significant and meaningful progress has been made across all areas of the Plan. All of the new initiatives committed to under the Plan have been implemented by the government departments and agencies responsible, with some additional initiatives also included. The results of these activities can be seen in the indicators of success that were set out in the Plan. Of the 30 indicators, 23 have been achieved or shown improvement, with a further

four indicators showing stable results. There were two indicators that were not achieved. One indicator's timeframe falls outside the duration of the Plan.

While this Plan has much success, it has also identified that work needs to continue in a number of key areas. To this aim and in accordance with their mandate, ACYP is currently in the process of developing a new Plan. In a similar manner to the original Plan, it is our intention to undertake this project in partnership with Government and non-government agencies and organisations. With a commitment to continually embed the voices and experiences of children and young people in everything we do, we look forward to consulting with them as we develop a Plan that is measurable, achievable but most importantly continues to improve the lives of all children and young people in NSW.

**acyp.**

Office of the Advocate for  
Children & Young People