

Annual Report 2023 - 2024



Swan City Youth Service Inc.

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Message from the CEO

Welcome everyone,

This is my first annual report as CEO for Swan City Youth Service.

I would like to start by thanking Ray Tanielu for his amazing work over 11 years with SCYS, from the music guy to General Manager, he always had our young people as his priority and focus.

At SCYS our focus has always been young people, particularly vulnerable, and at-risk young people. As a service we need to respond quickly to the changing needs of these young people, and our ability to do this is highlighted by our programs and our relationships with other service providers. Thanks to the commitment of our staff, volunteers, and supporters, we've been able to deliver critical services to more young people than ever before.

Our focus for the past 12 months has been to ensure the financial viability of the service, we were able to secure a funding commitment from a private donor for our Education Program for the next 5 years. This commitment means that we can continue to offer this much needed program without financial strain on the organisation.

This year, we expanded our education program delivery to include the GATE program, we built on our successful music program with workshops and performances, and we developed a throughcare program to support young people exiting the justice system. From our cultural mentorship programs delivered in local schools, to case management and wraparound care, we have seen firsthand the impact that can happen when we invest in the potential of young people.

We are proud that we can offer such a diverse range of programs, care and support to any young person that comes through our doors.

As we look to the year ahead, we will continue to innovate, adapt, and deepen our impact for young people. There is always work to be done, but with your continued support, we will keep empowering the next generation to achieve their full potential.

Thank you for believing in the future of our young people and supporting us to deliver this vital service.

With thanks,



Rachel Robertson
CEO



About SCYS

Our Mission Statement

Working Together to Secure a Better Future for Young People.

Our Values

Safety
Advocacy
Partnership
Empowerment
Excellence

Our Priorities

Creating a Safe Space
Navigating the Journey
Educating Young People
Health and Wellness
Engaging Stakeholders

Our Vision

A vibrant youth service that provides inclusive, innovative and sustainable programs that seek to change a young person's horizons by improving physical, mental and emotional health and wellbeing. A place where doors open, not close.

Our Child Safety Statement

At Swan City Youth Service we prioritise the safety and well-being of children. We recognise our responsibility to create an environment that is safe, nurturing, and conducive to the healthy development of every child whilst in our care.



Music Studio

This is Rush's second year leading our Music Program, which now runs two days a week. With his extensive experience as a music facilitator, Rush has infused the program with fresh energy and innovative ideas, helping our young participants thrive both musically and personally.

Thanks to the continued support of the Alcohol and Drug Foundation (ADF), the music program has expanded, attracting young people not only from the City of Swan but also from as far as Mandurah to Two Rocks and beyond. Its growing popularity enables us to engage participants musically while providing crucial support as they navigate challenges such as alcohol and drug issues, mental health concerns, and the transition from adolescence to adulthood.

A standout feature of the program is the integration of informal drug and alcohol sessions and counselling within the music activities. This unique approach fosters a safe, non-traditional space where young people can express themselves and discuss sensitive issues through music. The music studio setting, as opposed to a formal counselling environment, allows participants to seek support in a comfortable and approachable way, breaking down barriers for those who may otherwise hesitate to reach out.

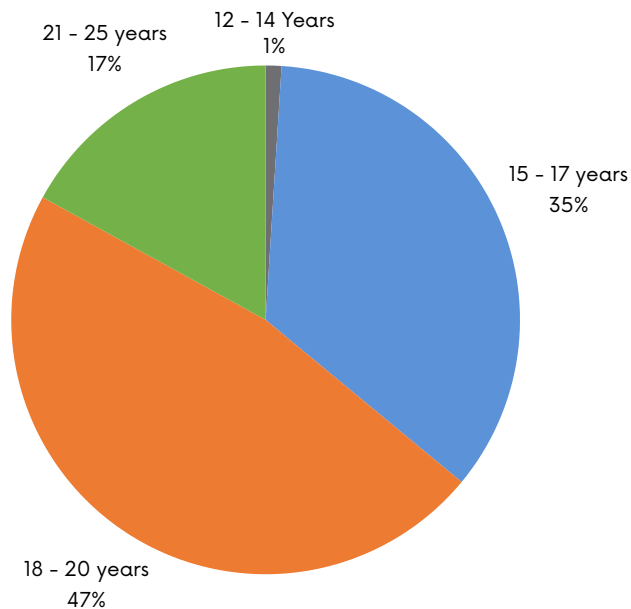
The music participants have also become role models for others, drawing new young people to the studio. Moving forward, we aim to develop the program further by encouraging young people to take on more responsibility in facilitating their own music sessions and honing their skills in music production.

The program has become a cornerstone of SCYS, and we are excited to see its continued growth and impact in the years to come.

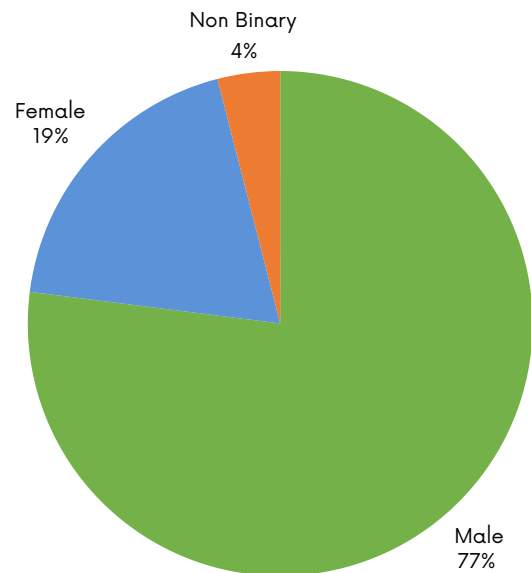


Music Studio

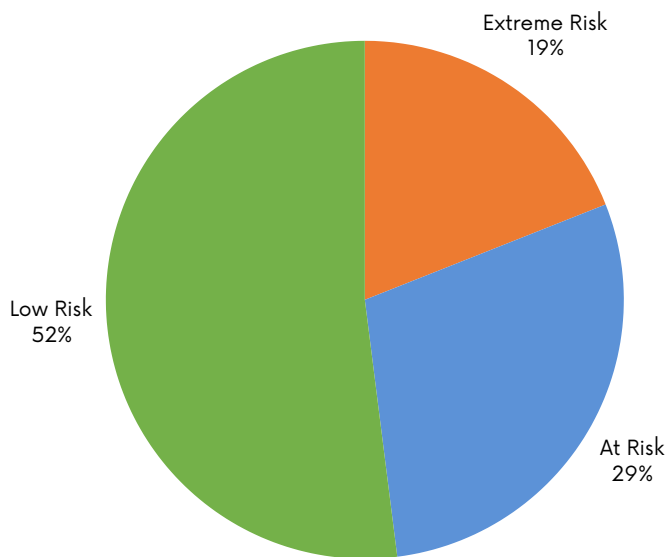
Music Studio Overview



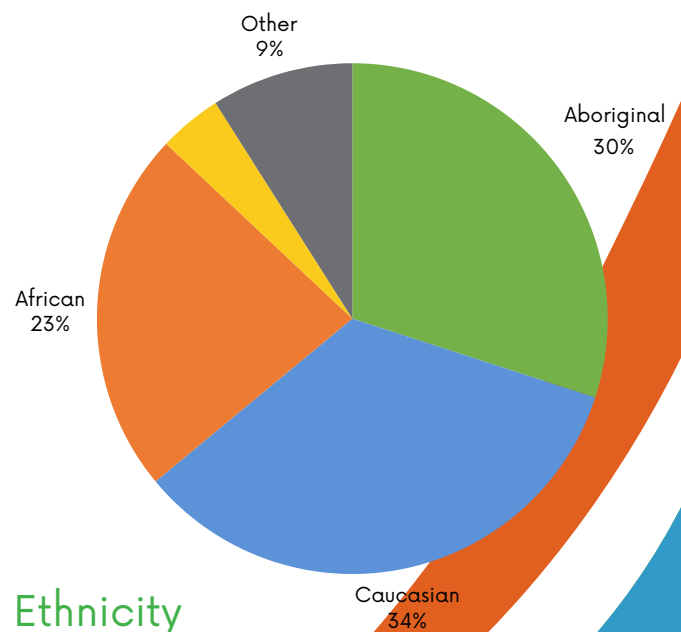
Age



Gender



Risk



Ethnicity

Unsigned Hype 2024

After the success of the inaugural event in 2023, Unsigned Hype returned in 2024 as a key highlight of our Music Program, providing young musicians with a platform to showcase their talents in a safe and supportive environment. This event is designed to give participants the opportunity to express themselves freely, while being guided by experienced mentors who nurture their growth as artists.

Unsigned Hype not only allows these young people to demonstrate what they've learned in the studio, but it also helps them build confidence by performing in front of a live audience. The event is structured as a family-friendly, community-driven experience, where attendees are encouraged to support and celebrate the achievements of these emerging artists. It's a space for young performers to connect with other artists, broadening their network and growing their audience.

The progression from the studio to the stage is a natural step, giving young musicians something to work towards and a tangible goal to achieve. The event serves as a milestone for many of the participants, representing the culmination of their hard work and dedication throughout the year.

This year's event was hosted at Leederville HQ, with Patrick Osias capturing the event through his photography, and the talented Mana, also known as Stutter Saiyan, serving as MC. Unsigned Hype continues to grow, offering a platform that empowers young people to thrive creatively while connecting them with a larger artistic community.



Alcohol
and Drug
Foundation

Education

SCYS continued to provide the Certificate I and II in General Education this last year in conjunction with North Metro TAFE. We have had the highest number of students over the last twelve months and for the first time, students were needing to be waitlisted. There are twenty-six students enrolled in the CGEA Certificate I and twenty-four in the Certificate II. We are also on track to have the highest number of graduates by the end of the calendar year.

Whilst in the past the highest number of students have been from public schools, we have started to notice more students having come from private schools as well. The reasons for this appear to be due to bullying, not only in schools, but via social media outside of school hours. There has also been increasing numbers of students that have social anxiety, as well as other mental health issues, that has not allowed them to stay engaged in mainstream schooling.

SCYS has been able to help these students by providing partition desks (which offer students privacy) or private rooms for those that have extremely high anxiety, as well as the opportunity to engage in one-on-one counselling and Case Management. Many have also used the Music studio, Centrelink and accessed Food Hampers which are kindly supplied to us by Oz Harvest. Over the last six months, we have seen increasing numbers of families accessing the hampers due to the high financial burden that they are facing.

Claire Cowan (retired Speech Pathologist) has continued to volunteer her services which has proven to be invaluable for the lecturer and families, as she has uncovered many undiagnosed issues such as dyslexia and auditory processing issues, which can be attributed to students struggling in mainstream schooling. This has allowed SCYS to engage in volunteers from the Read, Write, Now program to provide one on one support to the students as required.

As of the second semester of 2024, a new program was introduced to SCYS. The Gaining Access To Employment (GATE), is also a North Metro TAFE initiative. In this program students develop resumes, cover letters and other skills required to enter the workforce. With the assistance of SCYS and North Metro TAFE, we help the students search for work experience opportunities so they can develop skills required in the future when they do find employment. Status Employment will also be visiting the GATE students to assist in further Tickets, Qualifications and Employment options. Status Employment has also been regularly coming in on Wednesday fortnightly visits, and many of our students have accessed this beneficial service.

Slewrig Construction have generously continued to fund the Breakfast Club and we have seen that students have accessed this more than ever before. They are provided with nutritious breakfasts on attendance days which in turn helps with their concentration and work output.

Mitsubishi Australia have also once again donated funds that have allowed us to purchase eight more laptops, bringing the total amount of laptops purchased over the last two years to sixteen. This has alleviated wait times as student numbers continue to grow.

The City of Swan have continued to allow us to access space in the Midland Youth Hub to allow students to work independently and in a quiet environment.

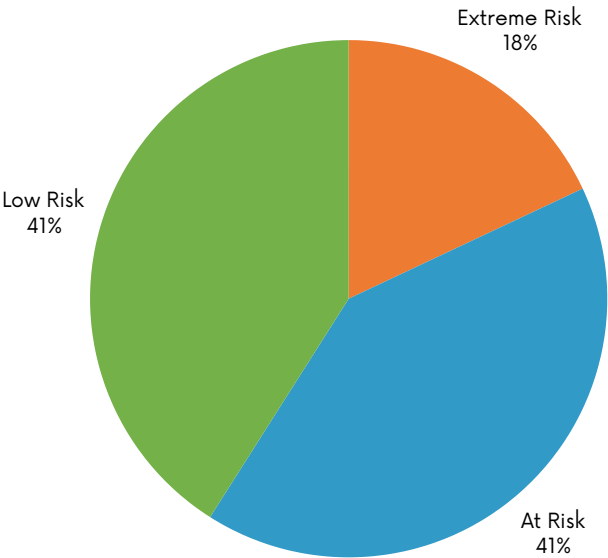
With the higher number of students starting to disengage from mainstream schooling, we envisage that these numbers will continue to grow in the future.



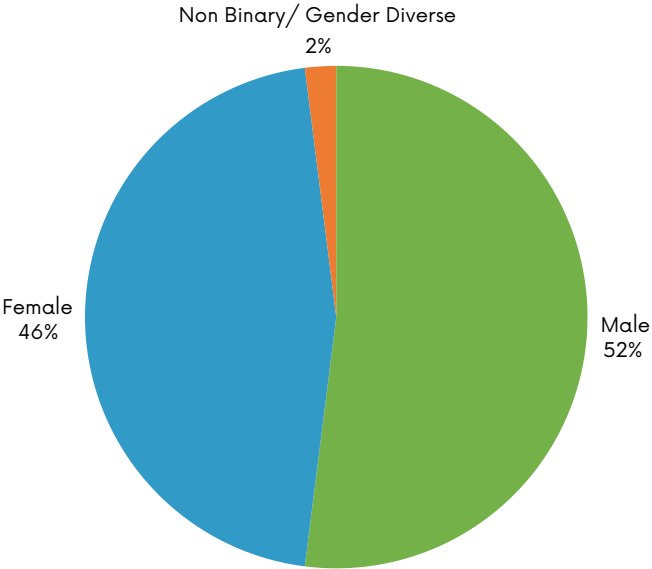
**North
Metropolitan**

Education

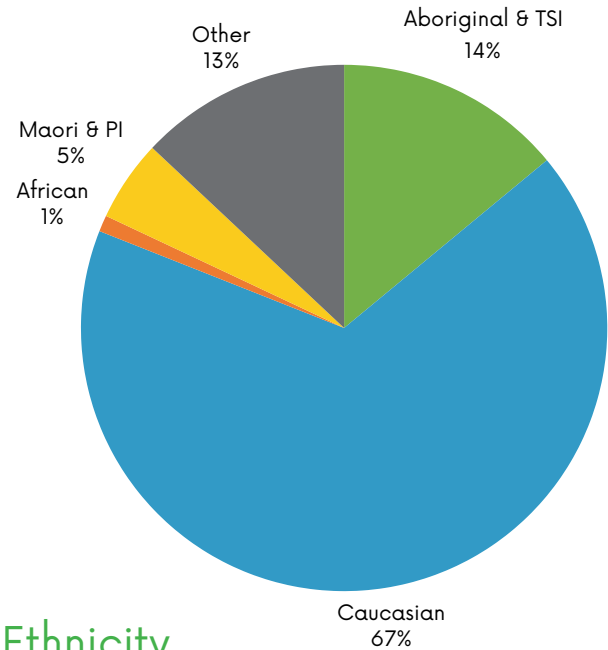
Education Program Overview



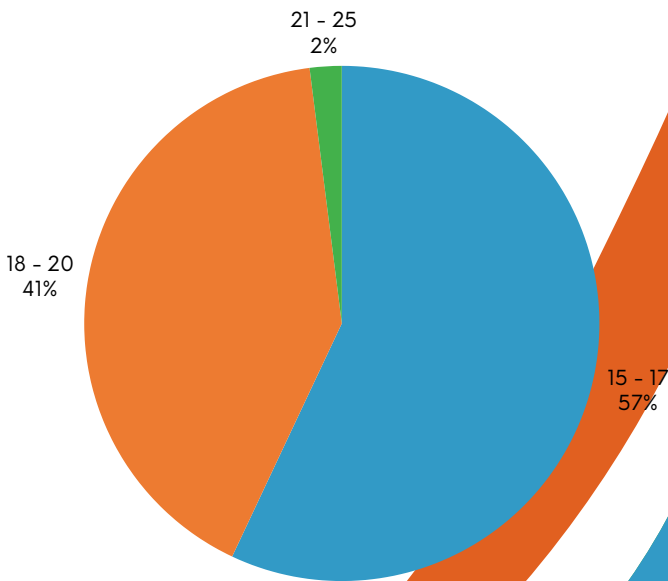
Risk



Gender



Ethnicity



Age

Education



Kadadjing Circle

At Swan View High School

Kadadjing Circle is a highly successful program delivered by Graham at Swan View High School. It engages between 6 to 12 Aboriginal students (Koolangka's) weekly, and a number of these students have been involved since the beginning of the program about four years ago.

The program originally started with the focus of reducing the "right of passage to prison" notion of the young people. Although this is still a part of the program, we now concentrate on more positive stories like learning our own men's motto in Noongar language, employment, education and achieving goals. One student got a job, doing after school and weekend work, another student winning school awards. Watching these young men's body language when telling me about their achievements is just magic.

Moorditj maaman, yirra yaakin, Kaart yirra, djena djooroot koorl, gnalla moort, koora koora.

English: Good men standing tall, holding their heads high, following in the footsteps of our ancestors, long, long time ago.

Artwork:

Doing artwork has always been a very good story telling process which enables the younger students to be involved. We have changed our style of engaging the students who were saying "I can't paint or draw." To asking them if they could draw a line, they all said, "yes" and introducing animal shaped scratch board art. The young people were so impressed with their designs we framed their artwork, so that they could give them as gifts to their grandmothers, mothers and other family members as presents for special occasions. Artwork has built their confidence, changing "I can't" to an "I can" attitude.

Noongar Language:

This involves students delivering Acknowledgment to Country in Noongar then the translation in English at school assemblies and in the wider community. Learning our language is a constant throughout the program.

Making their own Didgeridoos:

This is GOLD. We discussed making didgeridoos over time. As the program coordinator I kept putting it off as I wanted the young men to earn the right of making their own didgeridoo. Not to just give it to them, they had to do the hard yards, meet their commitments and then earn the reward of making a didgeridoo. They did this with flying colours and SCYS purchased some didgeridoos for the program. The commitment the young men put into working on the didgeridoos was amazing. The didgeridoos had come straight from the bush. They needed to be striped of the bark and any other defects. They then worked on the didgeridoos in their own time, and it took about three weeks to get them ready for us to sit down and work out what designs or paintings to decorate them with. Each design will tell a story. The next step for the young men will be learning to play the Didgeridoos. This has been one of the best activities of the program, to watch these young men work with pride, smiles on their faces, talk about culture and achieve a long-life dream of making their own Didgeridoo. As their mentor it does not get any better than this. I am proud of the young men who participated in this activity. - Graham



Kadadjing Circle

At Governor Stirling High School

At Governor Stirling we are continuing on with learning Noongar language, creating artwork, and practicing Noongar dancing following on from previous years. The number of students participating is quite high, although at times some attend just hang out with their mates who we move back to their classroom to bring focus back to the activities at hand. During the program we provide healthy food and fruit juices for the students.

Noongar language:

We are concentrating on learning Acknowledgement of country, family introductions, how to address their mother and fathers, answering the phone in language. The young men are also learning how to play games with numbers and colours in language. We find that they do math and read better in Noongar than English. We have a consistency of speaking language so it will stick with them.

Artwork:

We currently painting a mural of a Black Swan (Maali) and the Swan River (Derbal Yirrigan). The students want to hang the mural in the Maali Centre where we hold our classes. This will be something they can look back on and show to their families in the future. We do scratch board artwork, which is another method of storytelling. When we worked on the Australian map scratch board, we mind travelled around the country to places they would like to go to see in the future e.g. Sydney. We drew lines from Perth to Sydney discussing a plan of how we would get there and what we would need to survive the journey. The students would take artwork home to their mothers and fathers, for special occasions like birthdays, Mother's Day and Father's Day. When the students had finished their drawings, they realised that it looks better than them trying to paint a picture. This would change their attitude from an "I can't" to an "I can" and they wanted to do more of the scratch board animals. This encouraged the students to attend for the right reasons.

Noongar Dancing:

Noongar Dancing started with the group of male students from Kadadijing Circle, they performed and trained during our classes, with one student learning how to play the didgeridoo, that he now plays at school events. Students learnt how to apply the traditional paint to their bodies and get their movements right. Some of our program participants who are not Aboriginal asked if they could perform at many of the events e.g. assemblies, NAIDOC week and other major events held at the school with the others, to which I replied "yes, you are sitting amongst us, today you are one of us, dance your heart away."



School Holidays

The school holiday program provided a diverse range of activities, both off-site and within the service.

Outings included roller skating, Timezone arcade, and go-karting, all supervised by youth workers who role modeled positive and appropriate public behavior. These outings also gave young people the chance to try activities that are often not financially accessible to them, while encouraging social interaction with their peers in a fun and supportive environment.

In-centre activities included basketball and pool competitions, which promote physical activity and foster good sportsmanship among the young people. Additionally, cooking and baking sessions were held, teaching essential life skills and food safety practices that could be applied in professional settings.



Parents & Bubs

This year, we continued our vital program for young parents and their babies, addressing a significant need in our community. With funding from The City of Swan into its second year, this initiative aims to empower young families through education, support, and social connections.

The Parents & Bubs program features bi-weekly activities, outings, and workshops on important topics like Sexual Health and Contraception, in partnership with organisations such as Sexual Health Quarters. Participants enjoy trips to the Jungle Gym and Zoo, along with special celebrations for holidays like Easter and Christmas.

Understanding the challenges of early parenthood, the program offers a welcoming, non-judgmental space for young parents to seek advice and connect with others facing similar experiences. We are also fortunate to have dedicated volunteers, including a paediatric nurse and a midwife, providing invaluable support and guidance.



TGIF Fridays

The TGIF program was specifically designed for young people living with disabilities, offering them a safe and welcoming space to socialise and engage in recreational activities. The focus was on creating an inclusive environment where participants could feel comfortable, build connections, and enjoy their time with peers.

Each week, the group participated in various activities such as board games and basic sports, promoting both fun and teamwork. Lunch was provided as part of the program, and during mealtimes, participants were encouraged to share their thoughts on what they enjoyed or found challenging, helping to foster open communication and mutual respect. This conversational approach also gave youth workers valuable insights into the participants' preferences, allowing the program to evolve and better meet the group's needs week by week.

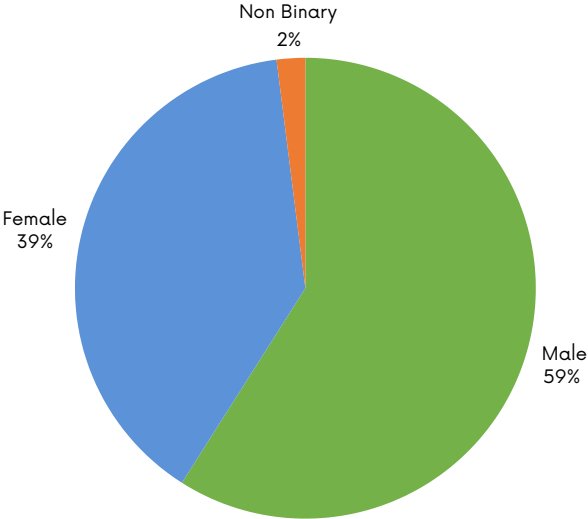
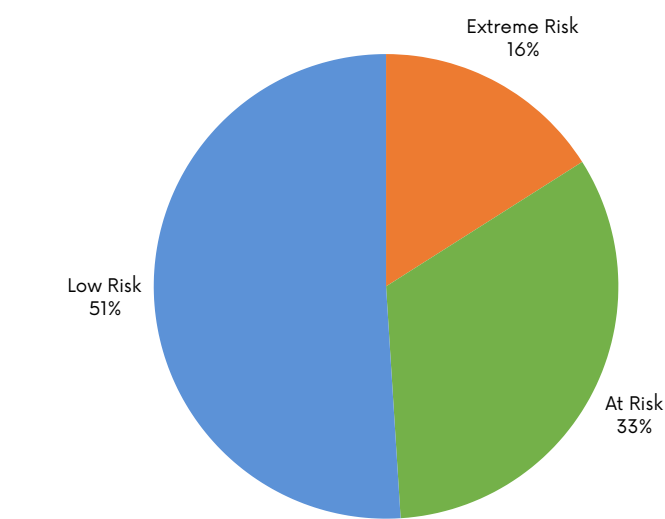
The TGIF program nurtured an accepting and supportive social atmosphere, encouraging young people to step outside their comfort zones, try new activities, and practice patience and kindness with one another. The program's flexible structure, shaped by participant feedback, ensured that it continued to reflect the interests and needs of the young people involved.



Our Young People

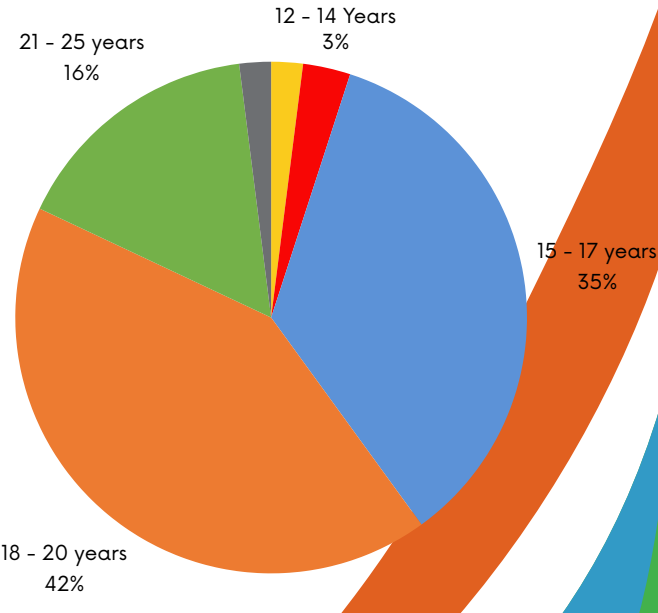
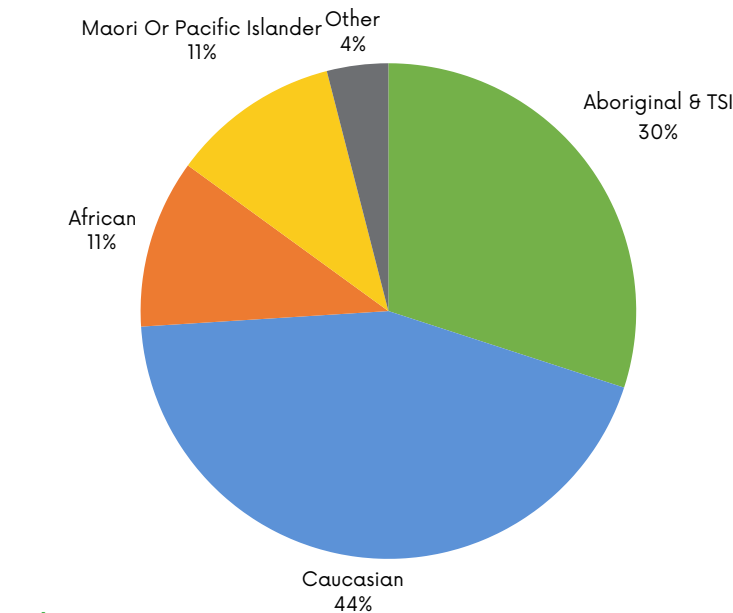
2023 - 2024 Visits Overview

Over the past 12 months, Swan City Youth Service supported 588 individual young people, with over 4,000 individual visits to our service. The graphs below provide detailed insights into the data collected, offering a closer look at the diverse cohort of young people who access our programs and services at SCYS.



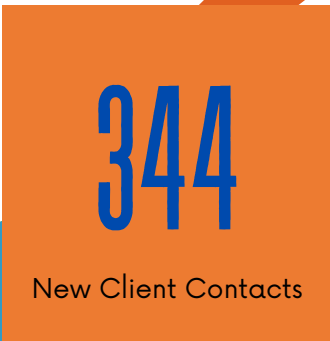
Risk

Gender



Ethnicity

Age



Our Funding



Swan City Youth Service is funded by the Western Australia Primary Health Alliance (WAPHA) to provide Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) Counselling Services for young people aged 12 to 25. These services include free counselling, case management, and access to vital information aimed at supporting young people in addressing substance use challenges. Through a client-centered approach, SCYS ensures that young people receive the necessary care and guidance to make informed decisions, improve their well-being, and achieve positive outcomes in their lives.



Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Communities**

Swan City Youth Service is funded by the Department of Communities to provide case management services for young people aged 12 to 18. These services include free counselling and support, helping young people connect with essential local services to meet their individual needs. By offering personalised case management at no cost, SCYS ensures that young people have access to the guidance and resources they need to overcome challenges and achieve their personal goals.



Swan City Youth Service is partly funded by the City of Swan to offer a free drop-in service for young people. This service provides a safe, inclusive space where young people can engage in various activities designed to foster connection and participation. Qualified youth workers are always present to engage with and support the young people, ensuring a positive and welcoming environment that encourages personal growth and community involvement.

Our Community

Grants



Mitsubishi Australia Ltd. has shown incredible support for SCYS, making a significant impact on our Education Program. Their generous funding allowed us to bring in 16 brand new laptops, enhancing the resources for our growing program.



Donations

Claire, a remarkable 9-year-old from Parkerville Primary School, organised a fundraiser for SCYS as her act of kindness, inspired by her involvement with ROAR INC. She designed a poster and encouraged her fellow students and the local community to donate toiletries and socks, which she collected and delivered to SCYS. These essential items will be distributed to young people in need – thank you, Claire, for being a superstar!



Our Community

Supporters and Sponsors



ST JOHN OF GOD

Midland Public Hospital

In October 2023, Swan City Youth Service was honoured to be selected as St John of God Midland's inaugural Charity of the Year, following a nomination by one of their dedicated caregivers. Over the past 12 months, St John of God Midland has organised a variety of fundraising events in support of SCYS, including an Easter raffle and a caregiver sausage sizzle. We are deeply grateful for their ongoing support and proud to be part of this impactful partnership.



Slewig generously supports our Brekky Club, allowing us to provide healthy and nutritious breakfasts for students attending our education program. Their contribution ensures young people start their day ready to engage and learn effectively.



Earnshaws Real Estate has been a major supporter of SCYS for over three years, as well as ensuring our freezer is always stocked with lunch and afterschool items for the young people who visit. Their ongoing generosity helps us provide essentials for those who need it most.



Storage King has generously provided SCYS with a storage unit for the past four years, helping us manage our storage needs effectively. Their support ensures we have the space to keep essential resources accessible for our programs and saves us over \$4,000 a year which we can then use for our young people.



Midland Junction Alliance supports SCYS by donating funds from container collections, passing the hat around at toolbox meetings, and rallying their networks for cupboard essentials. Their ongoing efforts make a real difference in stocking up much-needed resources for young people.



For over ten years, Black Swan Bakehouse has provided Swan City Youth Service with delicious pies, sausage rolls, sandwiches, and rolls each Wednesday. This weekly support allows young people to enjoy a meal at SCYS and take extra food home for later or for the next day's lunch, ensuring they have access to quality food in a welcoming space.



Over the past 12 months, OzHarvest has delivered more than 2,000 kg of fresh fruit, vegetables, bread, and occasional treats to Swan City Youth Service. This incredible support has enabled SCYS to create food hampers for young people and their families, providing essential nourishment and relief to our community.

Our Community

Events

This year, SCYS actively participated in several community events, sharing our story and services with the broader community. We were honored to be part of Midland NAIDOC 2023, the first Bop "n" Shop youth event, and local high school awareness days. These events provided valuable opportunities to connect with young people and families, raising awareness about the support and programs we offer.



Appreciation Night

This year's Appreciation Night was a resounding success, bringing together our Management Committee, Patron, and team to express our gratitude to our supporters. It was a wonderful evening where team members highlighted the significant impact our supporters have had on the services we provide, demonstrating how their generosity truly enhances our work. Additionally, it was a special opportunity for SCYS to thank our longtime supporter, Ann ten Seldam, who continues to generously contribute to our youth after retiring as chairperson a few years ago.



Our Community

Awards



Gallery



Our Team

SCYS Team

Rachel Robertson - Chief Executive Officer
Graham Cox - Senior Youth Worker
Orietta Granitto - Youth Worker
Te Hiiritanga "Rush" Wepiha - Youth Worker
Hannah Burley - Youth Worker
Tiago Armitage - Youth Worker
Jenelle Wairepo - Youth Worker
Zoe Hartley - Youth Worker
Liz Lawrence - Financial Administrator
Kristine Smith - Administration

Thank you and Farewell

Ray Tanielu - General Manager
Frank Ah-Kuoi - Youth Worker
Tua Levi - Youth Worker
Jean Mugee - Youth Worker
Ainslie Keremeta-Hood - Youth Worker



Management Committee

Craig Hollett - Chairperson
Lara Ellson - Vice Chairperson
David Hannah - Treasurer
Sue Waddell - Secretary
Abhinav Agrawal - Committee Member
Peter Bennett - Committee Member
Lindsay Earnshaw - Committee Member

Patron

Hon. Ken Wyatt AM - Former Federal Minister and Member of Parliament

Chairperson's Report

There have continued to be changes happening this year at the Service as we have continued to future proof the Service to make sure it will still be around in another 40 years helping young people.

The Management Committee and staff have continued to be passionate about the Service to make sure the Service remains both relevant and available to the youth who benefit from its very existence. I am forever grateful to the staff and volunteers at the Service and for your contributions to the lives of these young people.

The Service said goodbye to Ray in late 2023 following his resignation from the role of General Manager. On behalf of everyone, I thank Ray for his contributions to the Service over many years in his different roles and wish him all the best in the next chapter of his life.

This created an opening for Rachel to step up into the General Manager role, which the Management Committee decided the role should be renamed to Chief Executive Officer. I am thrilled to say that Rachel has since been appointed permanently to this role. The Management Committee will continue to encourage and support Rachel, who has taken ownership of this role, with a mandate to put her stamp on shaping the vision and future of the Service.

I continue to be impressed at how the Certificate I and II in General Education programs continue to grow, with a new pre-employment course also now available. The Service now has a waitlist of young people who wish to participate in these courses. This success is evidence of a need for these programs to exist in a non-traditional teaching environment. It lends weight to the saying that 'one size does not fit all' in schooling. Congratulations to Orietta and the North Metropolitan TAFE lecturers for the continued growth and success of this program.

I feel my report would not be complete if I did not recognise the continued work of Graham who runs the Kadadjiing Circle program in local schools. This program encourages young Aboriginal people to learn about and reconnect with their indigenous heritage. The significance of Graham's commitment was recognised when Graham was awarded the Employee of the Year Award at the recent Swan Chamber of Commerce Business Awards 2024 night. Congratulations Graham.

The Management Committee continue to see the challenges faced by the Service, both in relation to keeping the Service relevant to youth, but more importantly in making sure that adequate funding can be obtained to fund the programs being run. The funding environment is an extremely challenging one and each year there are more organisations competing for the same funding.

The Management Committee continues to work with Rachel to explore the possibility of more corporate sponsors becoming involved with the Service, in order to offset the ever-shrinking grant pool of government money that is available. I am thrilled to say that this year the Service has been able to secure significant funding for our education program from an anonymous donor that will relieve some of this pressure over the next 5 years. I would like to express my personal thanks to the anonymous donor for their support. I hope to see much more corporate funding being offered to the Service in the future.

The Management Committee has been focusing this year on the strategic direction of the Service and developing a strategic plan for the next few years.

I continue to be grateful for the support of our patron, Hon. Ken Wyatt AM, in the Service over the last 12 months and look forward to continuing working with Ken in the future.

This will be my last report as Chair as I am stepping down from this role at this year's AGM. It brings to a close my involvement over the last 3 ½ years on the Management Committee in various roles. I would like to personally thank each and every person who has helped me or worked with me over that time. I do not intend to name each of you individually as there are too many names to mention.

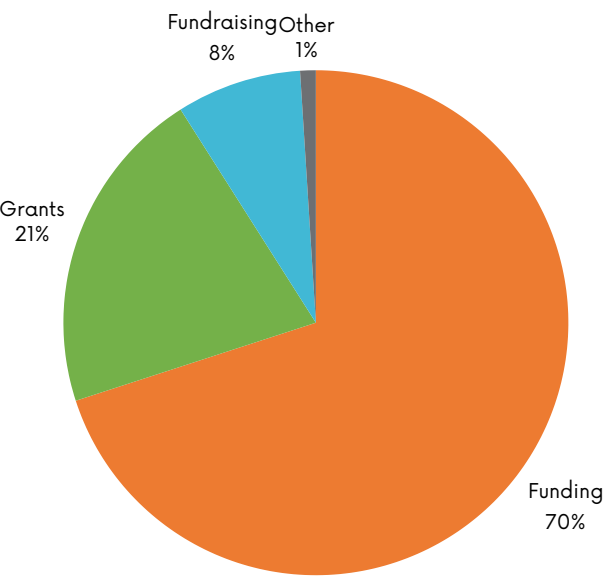
I am confident that in handing over the reins to the incoming Chair at the AGM that I have left the Management Committee and the Service in a strong position for the future. I feel honoured and privileged to have been involved with the Service over this time and will continue to support the Service in the future.



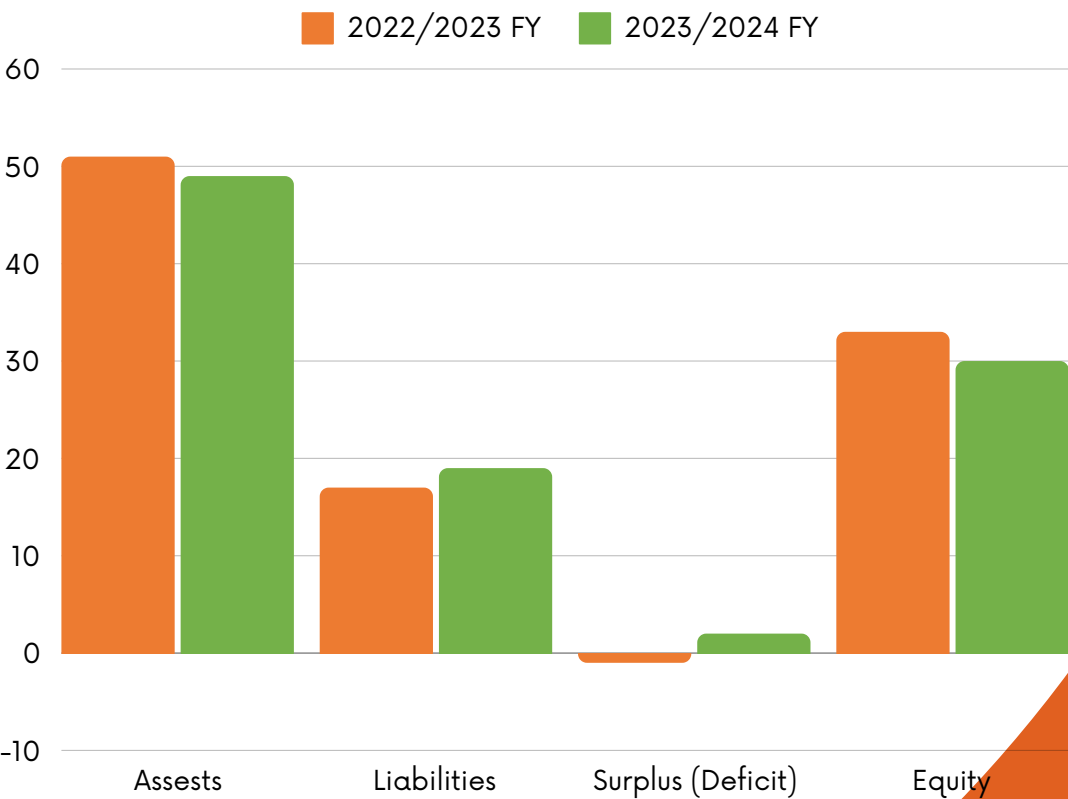
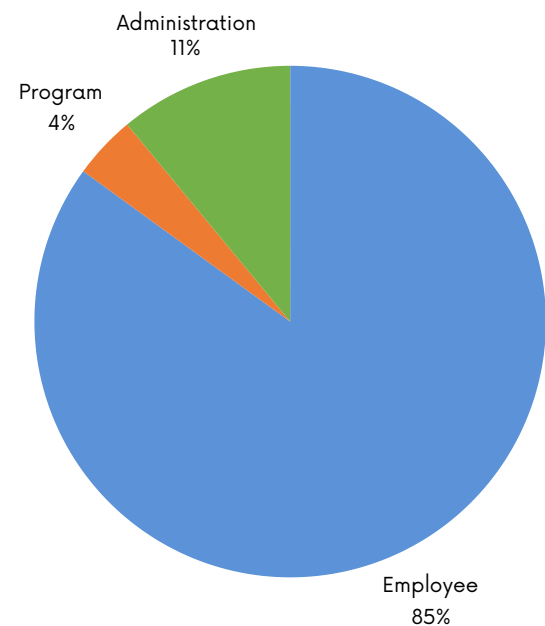
Craig Hollett
Chairperson
SCYS Management Committee

Financial Overview

Income 2023/2024



Expenses 2023/2024



All figures are from Audit Accounts. Audited accounts are available on request

Our Community

Supporters



LOCAL MATTERS