

The finalists



Organisational Achievement Award

Dismantle Inc, West Leederville

Dismantle uses the bicycle as a tool to reconnect young people to education and employment pathways. Their BikeRescue program allows young people to work alongside mechanics to fully restore two old bicycles in a mentored workshop environment. One bike is donated to a local charity, the other 'earned' by the participants for themselves.

Since the first pilot with Midland PCYC in 2011, Dismantle's BikeRescue Team have delivered 30 programs in partnership with 35 different funding and participation agencies. In total, 315 at-risk and highly disengaged young people have completed the accredited course, learning the skills to build their own bike as well as increasing their connection to the services provided by Dismantle's partners.

Foyer Oxford, Leederville

Foyer Oxford is one of the newest additions to the WA Youth Sector, having been in planning for seven years, small-scale trial for two years and now in operation for 20 months. With 98 apartments available to young people experiencing homelessness, Foyer Oxford is now the largest supported accommodation service for young people in Australia.

Foyer Oxford combines high quality housing, with 24/7 personalised support services and opportunities to connect with Employment and Training, which helps drive long-term outcomes for young people. In the last six months, 33 young people transitioned out of Foyer Oxford's support. Whilst these are early results, 85% transitioned to long term, positive accommodation with more than half of those going into private rental. 77% of singles who exited were continuing their connection with Employment or Training. In short, Foyer Oxford offers young people a realistic exit from homelessness.

Youth Involvement Council Inc, South Hedland

The Youth Involvement Council (YIC) is recognised as being the primary and most successful organisation for the provision of holistic support for young people in Hedland. Although the Council targets young people at risk, and 95-98% of clients identify as Aboriginal, the YIC is available to all young people in Hedland.

The Council's vision is to empower young people in Hedland to create positive life pathways and become contributing members within a safe community. It delivers seven programs including 'Birds and Bees', developed for 10-15 year olds who are coping with a range of teenage issues and 'Mingle Mob', a street patrol operating from 6pm-10pm to reduce anti-social and criminal behaviour.

The Council is committed to providing young people with a voice, building their pride and instilling a sense of belonging.

Headspace Bunbury, Bunbury

headspace Bunbury is one of ten independent WA headspace Centres and officially opened its doors in January 2013. Since opening the Centre has supported over 1500 young people and their families with mental health issues for over 8000 occasions of service. The Centre also supports young people with issues around alcohol and other drugs, sexual/general health and vocational support.

The Centre has a Youth Reference Group that provides input to make the Centre youth friendly and also helps promote mental health awareness to young people and the community. The Centre also partnered with local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations, community and young people to create the "Bunbury Spirit" hip hop music video which helped promote social and emotional wellbeing.

headspace Bunbury has a small and dedicated team of staff, volunteers and service providers committed to making a difference in the lives of young people in Bunbury and the surrounding region.

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The Youth Partnership Project's Youth Leadership Roundtable, West Perth

The Youth Leadership Roundtable (YLR) is the 'youth voice' of the Youth Partnership Project. Currently, the group is comprised of a group of 13 inspiring young leaders, aged between 16-25, who provide clear direction, advice and support to the YPP to ensure it is in line with the priorities and needs of young people within the region.

In 2015, the YLR coordinated and facilitated the largest youth advocacy event during National Youth Week WA called the 'Speak Out for Change: Youth Voices on Youth Issues' Summit, which consisted of Youth2Youth Consultation Workshops on 16 key youth issues that were attended by over 100 young people from across the Perth region.

The membership includes two of tonight's finalists, Preston Colbung and Danikka Calyon, and is chaired by a 2014 WA Youth Awards finalist, Jenna Woods.

Edmund Rice Camps for Kids Volunteers, Salter Point

Edmund Rice Camps provide residential and non-residential recreational camp experiences for children between the ages of 7-17 years who need a holiday due to their family, financial or social circumstances. The camp experience seeks to achieve both personal and social relationship outcomes for each young person.

Young adult volunteers and leaders from the ages of 16-25 years provide Edmund Rice Camps services. Young adult volunteer leaders are available for each 'camp' program at a 1:1 ratio, providing opportunities for close supervision and highly accessible volunteer staff contact and support.

Edmund Rice Camps for Kids has five staff but over 250 volunteer leaders actively engaged in delivering programmes, planning activities, raising funds and awareness and taking part in events. These volunteers help deliver the service to over 1000 young people every year.



Active Participation Award

Wahida Samim, Woodlands

Wahida was born in Afghanistan, and moved with her father to Australia as a refugee. At just 19, she has overcome the challenges of a new country through hard work and resilience, and is now an active member of the Western Australian community.

Wahida joined the Perth Multicultural Organisation at the age of 17, and in just two years initiated and managed a range of projects including the coordination of English tutoring classes for Asylum Seekers and Refugees. Earlier this year, she organised a charity event and collected enough funding for a school in Afghanistan to provide them with a projector in order to improve the educational level.

She also volunteers with Teach Learn Grow, committing time to tutor children in remote Western Australia. She has been influential in the establishment of Salsaal Integration Association, is passionate about the active participation of women within the society, and believes in the theory, give me a good mother and I will give you a good nation.

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Kirsten Beidatsch, Mt Barker

Kirsten Beidatsch is described as being a remarkable person. She has been a carer for her sister since she was twelve, did not complete high school due to her sister's medical commitments, but has gone on to study a Bachelor's in Anthropology and Management at the University of Western Australia with a Distinction average.

Kirsten is a farmer, has been a wild-life carer, and is an exhibited artist. Kirsten has spent years working to create equality of access, involvement and support in her community, and is the head of two community organisations. Under her leadership, the Mount Barker Community Garden has developed a policy of inclusiveness to all members of the community. As manager of the Mt Barker SES unit, Kirsten has brought the unit back from the brink of closure by revitalising the membership. A third of our members are twenty-five or under, and a number of members have either physical or mental health issues. She also serves on the Shire's Disability Access Committee, dealing with the very real problems of physical accessibility for people with disabilities.

Cassie Endris, Alfred Cove

Cassie has a lived experience of Borderline Personality Disorder and Anorexia Nervosa, and it is this experience that has led her to become an active advocate and volunteer for mental health. She is passionate about pushing for improved care and better access to services for those with mental health issues, providing input from a consumer perspective and improving community awareness of mental health.

Cassie first ventured into volunteering in the field of mental health by becoming a ReachOut.com Youth Ambassador in 2009. As a peer moderator she responded to young people who posted on the forums looking for support, encouraged help seeking, and helped to build a positive online community. She joined the Fremantle headspace Youth Reference Group in 2010 and contributed to the coordination of the Youth4Youth Forum, an open space forum in which young people had the opportunity to talk about the issues that matter to them.

In 2014 Cassie became a member of the Lived Experience Advisory Group, advising on the implementation of the new Mental Health Act 2014. She does all this while also studying as a fourth year occupational therapy student at Curtin University.

Jay McLean, Caversham

Jay is a Year 12 student from Kiara College who has displayed outstanding dedication, leadership and valour in making a positive change to his community. He is a young Aboriginal man with Koori ancestry, and lived on public reserves as a child due to a lack of Government housing availability for his mother and family, times that he considers as some of the happiest of his life.

He has demonstrated an outstanding ability to overcome great challenges to become an inspiring and motivated young leader who has had an incredibly positive impact on his peers and his school community. His teachers and peers describe him as "a true leader - caring, deeply respectful, talented and humble", and he has played an instrumental role in enhancing the reconciliation between Aboriginal students and the school and wider community.

He is committed to reconciliation, and his greatest desire is to have Australia recognise itself as one people, without discrimination or separation due to race, culture or skin colour. He created a traditional Aboriginal dance group called Baldja Moort and uses performance as a way to inform and educate audiences about Noongar culture.

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Commissioner for Children and Young People Participate Award

Emily Hardbottle, Attadale

At only 14 years old, Emily founded the Melville Wheelchair Basketball Program after identifying a need in the community for more sporting opportunities for people with physical disabilities, especially teenagers. The program caters for teenagers with and without disabilities from 10 to 18 years of age.

Her awareness of the physical and social benefits of participating regularly in sport, in addition to watching her sister having to travel long distances to participate in sport at a local community level was her motivation for action. She coordinates sponsorship and fundraising, and arranges coaches.

Emily is also part of her local Youth Advisory Council, is a volunteer at Young Carers WA and was recently announced as the Young Carer representative for Western Australia.

Aaron Johnston, Mandurah

Aaron is a Year 9 student at John Tonkin College enrolled in the Surf Science Specialist program. The program encourages students to take responsibility for their own learning and become involved in various research projects. The focus of the projects is the Mandurah Estuary.

After being inspired by his study of dolphins in the Estuary, Aaron took it upon himself to develop the Dolphin Fin Guide for the Mandurah Dolphins, used by the community to identify dolphins and record sightings, with data used by scientists and researchers. He also coordinated a local forum to share information about the dolphins to launch the Estuary Guardians group, which he founded.

Not only passionate about marine life and the environment, Aaron is also a corporal at 504 Mandurah Army Cadets, represented the school in the State Schools Sailing Championships, is a student councillor and a Bush Ranger Cadet.

Shannika Martino, Morley

Shannika Martino is a 15-year-old Aboriginal girl with a positive nature and a bright future. A Year 10 student at La Salle College, Shannika is dedicated to her education and a long-term goal of attending University. Outside of school, she dedicates a considerable amount of time towards her Gymnastics club and is passionate about building an inclusive and enjoyable community through exercise and recreation.

Shannika has recently taken on a youth leadership role with the youth mentoring charity, Leading Youth Forward, where she acts as a voice for her peers, and assists the charity to continue delivering positive experiences to some of Perth's most 'at-risk' youth.

She has developed a passion to address the challenges facing children living in out-of-home care, and participated in Uni Camp for Kids, is a gymnastics teacher and represented Western Australia at CREATE's National Conference, "Youth for Change".

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Danikka Calyon, Armadale

Danikka is a proud Noongar 17-year-old girl from the Armadale community, and is an active role model for Aboriginal young people in her community. Currently completing Year 11, Danikka has successfully completed a Women's Leadership program, participated in the BHP Billiton Indigenous Leadership program and completed the Australian Indigenous Mentoring Experience program.

Her leadership within her community was formally recognised with paid employment at the City of Armadale and Save the Children as a mentor and coach for young people, in charge of mentoring the younger members, in addition to coordinating set up, staff briefing, administration, running the tournament (?), refereeing, food provision and transportation.

She has been elected to the Youth Partnership Project Youth Leadership Round Table, and in September, had the opportunity to be Save the Children's Youth Delegate to the United Nations General Assembly in New York. She has been elected as a prefect at Mercedes College in 2016, and is working hard to meet her stated goal of becoming a Marine Biologist.



ECU Community Leadership Award

Rida Ahmed, Greenwood

Born in Pakistan and brought up in Australia, Rida Ahmed represents both countries with pride and honour. Earlier this year, Rida was appointed the conference convener for WA's first international Model United Nations conference, an event which provided learning opportunities for WA's aspiring diplomats.

She is also a member of Pakistani's in Australia, and has worked on several projects including the Fitness on Run to promote physical fitness.

During a gap year, she volunteered full time with Red Cross WA and the Australian Youth Climate Coalition Perth. She also took on the role of Vice President (Youth) for Ethnic Communities Council of WA.

In her first year at UWA, she was elected as a Guild Councillor, and joined and eventually became the President of the DESI Student Society of WA. She founded the UWA International Relations Society, and lead the UWA Delegation on numerous UN Simulations around the world. She received Active Citizenship Award from City of Joondalup and was a finalist for Pride of Australia (WA).

Conrad Liveris, Carine

Conrad is described as an advocate, adviser and researcher on the politics and economics of diversity. He holds a longstanding commitment to inclusion and community empowerment.

In 2012, along with three peers, Conrad co-founded the homelessness education and advocacy organisation Street Smugglers, which has engaged over 60,000 people in three years of operation. Conrad also sits on the board of GLBTI Rights in Ageing, which engages and advises aged care institutions in Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender equality. He is actively sought to provide advice to community and commercial organisations on LGBT issues, especially in the workplace.

Since 2014 he has been assisting the United Nations on the updating of their Millennium Development Goals, and is currently the chair of The Cutting Room Floor, a leading independent theatre company.

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Preston Colbung

Preston is a 22-year-old Ballardong and Wileman Nyoongar man, who is active within the community and passionate about equality. As a young person, Preston was faced with issues of homelessness, family drug and alcohol abuse, mental health issues, domestic violence, poverty and racism, all of which were overcome through incredible resilience.

Preston is a Youth Case Worker mentoring young recidivist offenders in Armadale through Save the Children's Strong Tomorrow's program. He also consults to the WA Law Society in their 'Know Your Legal Rights' project and is a research assistant in Murdoch's Kalyakool Moort Research project, which looks to focus on Aboriginal pre-natal mental health. He is also the WA State Representative for the Australian Youth Climate Coalition's Aboriginal stream, SEED, and has been involved with Human Rights advocacy with Amnesty International Australia, and is a committee member of the Nyoongar Tent Embassy.

He is currently enrolled in Indigenous Community Development and Management at Curtin University, and is described as an outstanding role model for young Aboriginal people and the wider Perth community.

Dimitrio Sidi, Manning

Dimitrio Sidi has dedicated himself to the cause of bridging the gap in education for disadvantaged and Indigenous children in rural Western Australia so that their full potential is realised. Whilst studying the Bachelor of Philosophy full time, Dimitrio has taken on a full time workload in a volunteer capacity.

In 2013 Dimitrio joined Teach Learn Grow as a tutor looking to volunteer one week to travel to a remote town and provide one-to-one tutoring to their primary school students as part of a team in the Rural Program. At just 17, he was appointed to the role of coordinator at his TLG school, and now serves as General Manager – the operational head of an organisation with more than 200 volunteers.

He is described as the ultimate professional with an infectious likeability.



Cultural Endeavours Award

Hannah Moran, Tuart Hill

Hannah Moran is an actor, writer, singer, director and producer. She has undertaken tertiary level arts study for five years, and is a graduate of the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts, the WA Screen Academy and Curtin University.

She began acting at a young age, and has acted in lead and supporting roles in more than 30 stage and screen productions. As a film director and producer Hannah has contributed to 31 community projects through WASTV Inc., a non-profit production organisation. Most of these projects have enabled non-profit and volunteer organisations to engage with the wider community and find new volunteers and sponsors.

Hannah commits time to mentoring young artists, runs cinematography, directing and producing workshops free-of-charge to young people and organised the Lights Camera Volunteer! Film Contest in 2014, encouraging school students from all over WA to make a short film about the significance of volunteering in their community.

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Jasmine Mountford, Lynwood

At the age of 21, Jasmine has overcome some significant obstacles to establish herself as a successful arts student. After finding herself homeless at just 18, she is now living independently and looking forward to completing a Fine Art degree at Curtin University.

Aside from her study, she teaches art and craft to children at Ronald McDonald House, and is responsible for planning, preparing and teaching the classes, providing students with a distraction from the daily grind of hospital appointments and illness, and volunteers at her former TAFE coordinating the end of year graduate show.

Jasmine is committed to paying forward the support she has received whilst homeless, and enjoys going back to the Horizon House to visit other residents and provide them with peer-to-peer support.

Zal Kanga Parabia, Winthrop

'Selfless' and 'creative' are two words used to describe Zal. He volunteers his time towards projects supporting local artists and non-profit organisations, and recently founded and produced the Youth Music Program at the Mandurah Performing Arts Centre. This event provided opportunities and one-on-one mentorships to local musicians, filmmakers, stage production teams and artists to work together, create large-scale productions, and inspire a long lost community of rural arts.

Zal has also participated in Home Is Where My Heart Is, guiding youth who have experienced homelessness as a mentor to tell their stories through photography. He is passionate about his local community, performing and volunteering at events including the Crab Festival, Stretch Festival, Fairbridge Festival and Pinjarra Festival.

In 2013, he was awarded the Lesley Couzens Arts Fellowship grant, and travelled to London to be mentored by world-renowned artists.

Shaquille Walker, Wellard

From a young age, Shaquille has been able to express his infectious personality through his incredible love for dancing! He has competed in the Kwinana Dance Festival in the hip-hop solo dance category, winning the category four years in a row, and recently entered Battlegrounds Perth, and was awarded the top hip-hop male dancer at the competition out of 200 entries.

Shaquille currently facilitates the Kwinana Youth Hip Hop dance group, which targets youth who are disadvantaged and at risk in Kwinana. The program's vision is to build self-esteem for those young people who lack confidence or the ability to express themselves. Dance becomes their platform.

He is described as a natural leader, and uses his lived experiences to educate his peers through dancing, building self-confidence in others encouraging them to express their personality.

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Minister for Youth's Outstanding Youth Worker Award

Lorraine Drew, Middle Swan

Lorraine is currently employed at Rise Network as a youth worker and case manager within the Outreach Support Services, providing ongoing support to young women who have suffered from family and domestic violence.

Since commencing with the Outreach service in 2013, she has supported over 70 young women to live safely in the community and working with them to achieve their goals. This has included 321 referrals to external service providers to allow these young women to reach their individualized needs.

She was recently a key driver in the development of a three-bedroom home in metro Perth that provides transitional accommodation for those who need it. As one young woman put it, "Lorraine is awesome."

Tim Lanzon, Joondalup

Tim arrived on the youth work scene in 2011 commencing his studies at Central TAFE. After being offered a part-time position by YACWA - coordinating the WA Youth Awards in 2013 - Tim commenced working at The Freedom Centre with young people who identified as being lesbian, gay, bisexual, transsexual, intersex or diverse equality. His peer mentoring approach was supportive yet incredibly empowering for young people and allowed them a safe place to talk, debrief and develop.

In 2014, he became part of the Youth Futures Comet alternative Ed Program, and earlier this year, started a full time role as Drug Education and Support Worker. In this role, he has used his creative flair to develop innovative ideas with great success.

Tim strongly believes that there is no such thing as a bad egg, rather there are bad situations and disenfranchised young people that find it hard to speak up when they are surrounded by people whose voices are much louder than their own. He is described as an outstanding professional Youth Worker who demonstrates dedication, consistency, reflection and ethical Youth Work practice.

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Christine George, Hamilton Hill

Christine has worked as the Youth Project Officer at the City of Fremantle for the past five years, helping create opportunities for young people to actively contribute to the city, and providing a range of programs and events that encourage a greater participation of young people in community life.

She initiated a new 25 under 25's developing artist award, which is now in its fourth year and facilitates National Youth Week events annually. However, her biggest achievement is the establishment of the Esplanade Youth Plaza, a nationally recognised facility which is a family friendly play space that includes elements of skateboarding, parkour and other physical activities as well as space for safe social interaction. Christine managed the \$1.6 million project, which involved youth and community engagement.

Christine is passionate about the youth sector and is continually seeking to develop her skills to innovate and create opportunities for the participation of young people in Fremantle.

Nikki Wormald, Perth

Aged just 18 and in her 3rd year studying social work at Curtin University, Nikki is has already had a tremendous impact in the area of social work, particularly with Aboriginal young people. As part of her work with Curtin University volunteers, she has travelled to Leonora, Laverton and Wiluna, organising discos, people, sports carnivals and worked in the youth centre.

She has also volunteered with Noongar Sports, the Australian Indigenous Mentoring Experience, her local PCYC and coordinated Sorry Day activities.

Nikki is currently employed at PCYC, Fremantle Fitness Centre, and provides workshops for at risk young people, and those recently out of juvenile detention centre. She also provides informal counselling, referrals, healthy eating programs, mental health workshops, and lifestyle programs for the kids. She is described as a positive role model who is thoroughly dedicated to helping young people.

