



youth options
young lives transformed

YEAR IN REVIEW AND IMPACT REPORT

2024 - 2025



Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land on which Youth Options and our team work and live, the Kaurua people, and recognise their continuing connection to land, water, and community. We pay our respects to Elders past, present, and emerging, and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

YOUTH OPTIONS!



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OUR VISION

Creating pathways to living a life of purpose.

OUR MISSION

To support diverse young South Australians to transform their lives by developing the confidence and skills to learn, earn and live.

OUR VALUES

AUTHENTICITY:

We live and breathe our culture of being genuine and real, from our board and our leadership team right through to our service delivery team.

BELONGING:

We welcome people in and accept them as part of our community with kindness and empathy.

INTEGRITY:

We act consistently with the values we uphold.

LEARNING:

We learn from our clients and each other to produce better outcomes and greater impact.

UNCONDITIONAL POSITIVE REGARD:

We demonstrate an ongoing belief in a young person's potential to achieve their goal.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

- Financial stability
- Door opening opportunities
- Impact
- Optimisation
- Expansion

INTRODUCTION FROM THE CHAIR AND CEO

Since 1988, Youth Options has stood as a steady presence in the lives of young South Australians—through economic shifts, social change, and global uncertainty.

This year, as the world continues to grapple with environmental disasters, conflict, and political unrest, our mission remains clear:

To support diverse young South Australians to transform their lives by developing the confidence and skills to learn, earn and live.

South Australia faces a pressing challenge. As highlighted by the South Australian Productivity Commission:

“South Australia does a much worse job than the national average at giving our young people the skills and support they need to successfully transition out of school into work or education that is meaningful to them.”

Currently, 43% of South Australia’s long-term unemployed are aged 15–24, nearly double the national average. Each year, 3,100 more young South Australians fall into long-term disengagement than would be expected if we met national benchmarks—costing \$53 million to government and \$141 million to the community annually.

This is not only an economic imperative - it is a social justice issue. As also highlighted by the South Australian Productivity Commission, a young person’s chance of success is alarmingly shaped by their parents’ level of education and where they live.

At Youth Options, we are committed to changing this trajectory. Our programs offer more than pathways - they offer belonging, purpose, and hope. Whether through education, employment, wellbeing, or community connection, we walk alongside young people, helping them navigate barriers and build futures they can be proud of.

While the need in our community continues to grow, the not-for-profit and charity sector is finding it increasingly challenging to keep pace with demand. Fundraising has become much harder as the rising cost of living impacts donors’ capacity to give, and at the same time, the cost of delivering high-quality services has climbed sharply. Unfortunately, government service fees have not kept pace with these rising expenses, placing additional strain on organisations striving to support those who need it most.

This report reflects the strength of our team, the dedication of our partners, and the resilience of the young people we serve. We are proud of what has been achieved and remain committed to evolving with the needs of our community.

Thank you for being part of this journey.



Doug Layng
Chairperson

Michelle Braham
CEO

BOARD MEMBERS



Doug Layng – Chairperson

Doug has been in people management and involved in Rotary for over 30 years with experience in business management, leading teams in sales, leading and encouraging volunteers.



Tracey Newman – Deputy Chairperson

Tracey is a Director at Impacto Consulting and shares with Youth Options her extensive experience in senior leadership, team transformation, client centredness, and innovation.



Stephen Noble – Treasurer

As a Chartered Accountant, Financial Adviser and Registered Company Auditor, Stephen brings a wealth of experience and knowledge.



Sanja Hendrick – Public Officer

With over 12 years of experience as a board member across various sectors, Sanja brings expertise in business literacy, advocacy, and capacity building to Youth Options.



Kylie Luciano – Member

Kylie has a wealth of knowledge and experience as a senior executive in disability and mental health.



Leanne Isaacson – Member

A passionate advocate for South Australia's youth, Leanne brings extensive experience in business management, community development, and education.



Mehmet Kavlakoglu - Member

With close to a decade of experience advocating for Australian young people and a background in Psychology and Law, Mehmet has worked in a variety of roles servicing young people directly and informing policies at a local, state and national level



Jo Shearer - Member

Jo is a University of Adelaide researcher focused on inclusive education, with a career spanning disability services, government, and schools, driven by lifelong commitment to community and youth development.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES 2024-2028

Youth Options is excited to unveil our new strategic plan, developed in collaboration between our Board and leadership team. This plan reflects the insights and feedback from staff and service users, as well as external stakeholders including parents and referral partners. We are committed to enhancing our services and impact, guided by the voices of those we serve and collaborate with. We extend our heartfelt thanks to Dr. Karen Miller from Leading Growth for her exceptional facilitation of workshops and unwavering support throughout this process.

Priorities	Objectives
FINANCIAL STABILITY	Operate in an impactful and profitable way enabling investment to build critical core capabilities by: • Securing partnerships with at least three philanthropic organisations, public ancillary funds and/or corporate sponsors. • Build a brand that supports fundraising and attracts annual donations. • Growing successful initiatives to be adapted in new contexts.
DOOR OPENING OPPORTUNITIES	Develop, trial and implement a “pathway to learning and earning” model offering youth the ability to: • Continue to learn within a secondary school environment. • Gain work experience within our social enterprises such as Raising the Game and Youth Options Garden Squad. • Improve resilience and wellbeing needed to engage with life, learning and work. • Introduce a new digital learning platform with interactive resources and personalised learning pathways.
IMPACT	Innovate for impact by involving youth, families, staff and other stakeholders to: • Develop a replicable and scalable model that achieves opportunities to improve pre-defined outcomes for youth within our services. • Co-design and trial a portable toolkit that travels beyond our services. • Implement learnings from our Theory of Change to achieve overall impact of satisfaction with life, living independently and sustained employment. • Involve Board members in listening and learning from our youth.
OPTIMISATION	Ensure the “right” people are doing the “right” work by: • Upskilling staff in innovative teaching techniques and technology integration. • Implementing a performance management system to track and evaluate program outcomes in real-time. • Improving processes, staff digital literacy, capabilities, and satisfaction by implementing professional development and wellness programs for YO staff
EXPANSION	Scale impact and numbers by working across communities in need to: • Open new alternative learning centres in areas of high need. • Increase community engagement and awareness of YO services through outreach events and partnerships.

KEY GRANT - FAY FULLER FOUNDATION

ONE YEAR ON: THE PORTABLE BACKPACK PROJECT WITH FAY FULLER FOUNDATION

Celebrating a Year of Co-Design for Youth Wellbeing

This report marks the first anniversary of our two-year journey, made possible by the Fay Fuller Foundation, to co-design and develop a “portable backpack” toolkit supporting youth mental health and wellbeing. Over the past 12 months, we have built on our 35+ years as a youth charity in South Australia, harnessing strong relationships and trust within our community to drive meaningful participation.

Since launching, we have engaged young people in collaborative workshops and consultations, ensuring the backpack concept responds directly to their needs. Our goal is to provide a practical, adaptable resource that empowers youth to manage their wellbeing beyond our services. Through this co-design approach, we've actively included diverse voices, continuing to shape the project's direction together.

As we celebrate this milestone, the project stands as a testament to the power of youth collaboration. The next year will focus on further refining the toolkit and robustly evaluating its effectiveness, paving the way for a resource that leaves a lasting impact and strengthens the broader youth wellbeing sector.



OUR WHY

Youth Options exists to empower disadvantaged young people in South Australia by helping them plan for, engage with, and achieve their work or learning goals. We recognise that access to sustainable employment is essential for people to realise their life aspirations, contribute meaningfully to society, and reach their full potential. Unfortunately, young people lacking school or post-school qualifications face much higher rates of joblessness, and when they do find work, it is often unstable, low-paid, and low-skilled. As a result, these youth are more likely to experience financial hardship, homelessness, family disruption, and social exclusion.

To address these challenges, Youth Options has a Theory of Change that defines impact using three core measures: satisfaction with life, living independently in a connected world, and experiencing the benefits of sustained employment. Outcomes are mapped across three domains—LIVE, LEARN, and EARN—each reflecting the organisation's mission within distinct timeframes: short-term (0–6 months), medium-term (6–12 months), and long-term (12 months and beyond). This approach guides Youth Options' program evaluation and ensures a holistic, results-driven support model. Importantly, the Theory of Change was co-created with service users, stakeholders, and staff, ensuring it reflects the real needs and aspirations of the youth it serves.

Over the next few pages, you will find:

- A visual representation of our Theory of Change
- An overview of our service user's complexities and needs
- Get to meet our team who bring our unique service model to life
- See how we've fared in the evaluation of our outcomes and impact.

We are excited to share with you the validation of our mission-focused approach as we continue to create pathways to lives lived with purpose!

How are our youth faring?

- Less than one-third (31%) of young people thought that it was likely or extremely likely that they would be able to afford a comfortable place to live in the next 12 months.
- More than two-thirds (62%) of young Australians believed that they will be financially worse off than their parents.
- More than one-third (37%) of young people experienced unemployment at some point in the previous 12 months and 52% experienced underemployment over the same period.
- 21% of young Australians rated their mental health as poor or very poor, and the overwhelming majority (98%) reported having at least one feeling of anxiety or pessimism to some extent in the previous year.

Source: Australian Youth Barometer



Our Theory of Change

Phase 1

Inputs

-  >350 Participants
-  >50 Referring Agencies
-  Safe and Positive Environment
-  Values Driven Qualified Staff

Phase 2

Domains

-  Social and Emotional Learning
-  Learning Ability and Skill Development
-  Work Preparedness

Outcome

Phase 4

Immediate (0-6 months)

-  Sense of belonging
-  Willingness to try
-  Hope for the future

Outputs

Phase 3

- # Case Management/Mentoring
- # SACE Support
- # Independent Living Skills
- # Practical Work Skills
- # Career Guidance
- # Work Experience
- # Learning Pathways
- # Employment

Phase 5

Outcome

Medium term (6-12 months)

-  Health + wellbeing
-  Learning mindset
-  Aspiration + motivation

Phase 6

Outcome

Longer term (12 months +)

-  Resilience + Self Esteem
-  Further Education and Training
-  Maintaining Employment



Key assumptions

- Young South Australians
- Aged 14 – 30 years
- Referred by external source
- Living with multiple complexities causing detachment from community, education and employment

Impact

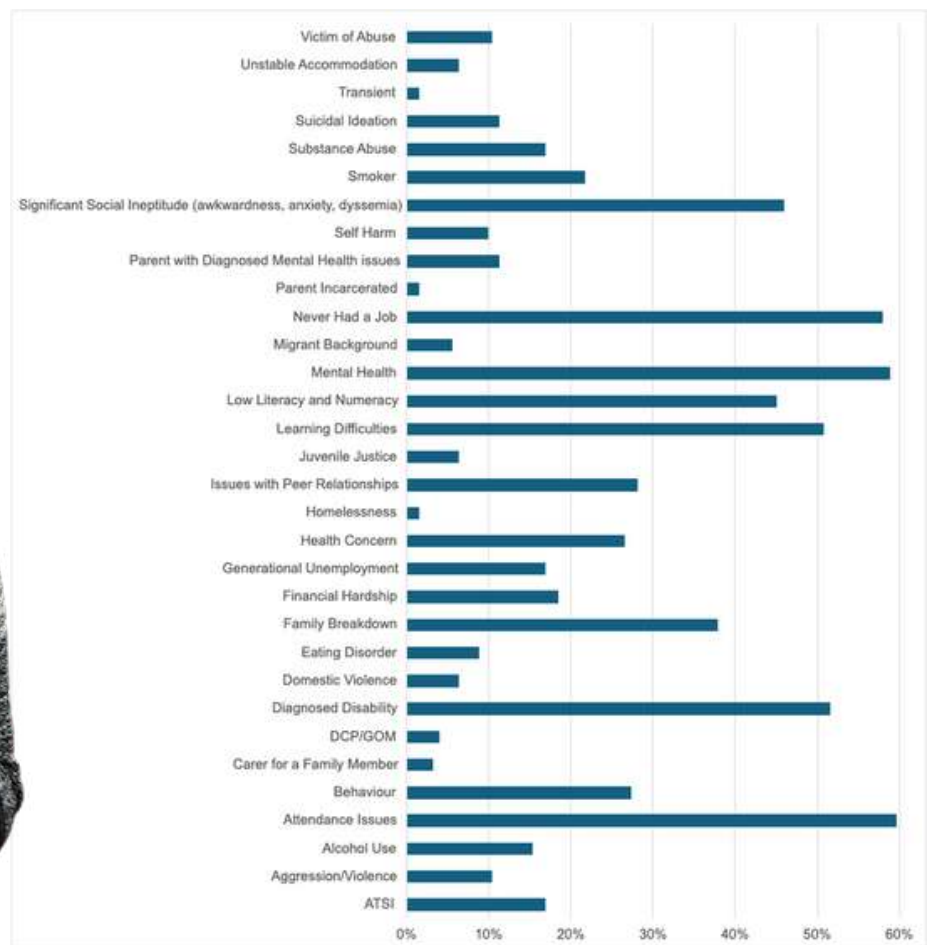
-  Satisfaction with life
-  Living Independently in a Connected World
-  Benefit from Sustained Employment

OUR SERVICE USERS

Youth Options is committed to supporting young people who face significant challenges and complexities in their lives. Our data shows that 22% of our service users present with more than ten complexities, while a further 53% have between five and ten complexities. These figures highlight the considerable vulnerability within our cohort and underscore the need for tailored, responsive support.

Without holistic intervention, our service users are at real risk of lifetime marginalisation, meaning their ability to live with purpose is compromised because of limited access to resources and opportunities needed to fully participate in society and to live a decent life.

Recognising the vulnerabilities faced by our service users, we place a strong emphasis on hands-on, experiential learning that taps into individual interests and strengths. This approach fosters genuine engagement, builds confidence and skills, and supports each young person in reaching their fullest potential.



Complexity of the 2024-25 cohort: Female 35% Male 60% Non-Binary 2% Trans 3%

MEET TEAM YOUTH OPTIONS



At Youth Options, our innovative approach to service delivery is powered by a diverse and passionate team, united by their commitment to helping young South Australians thrive. Every member of our team brings not only expertise but genuine care, ensuring we continue to make a meaningful impact in the community.

Service Delivery Team

Our frontline team is made up of professionals with formal qualifications in counselling, psychology, social work, youth work, career development, education, training, and community services. Alongside these credentials, our team members offer hands-on experience in specialised areas such as driver education, barista skills, welding, woodwork, automotive maintenance, computers and IT, and quality assurance for gaming. This rich blend of qualifications and practical know-how enables us to deliver engaging and relevant learning experiences to the young people we support.

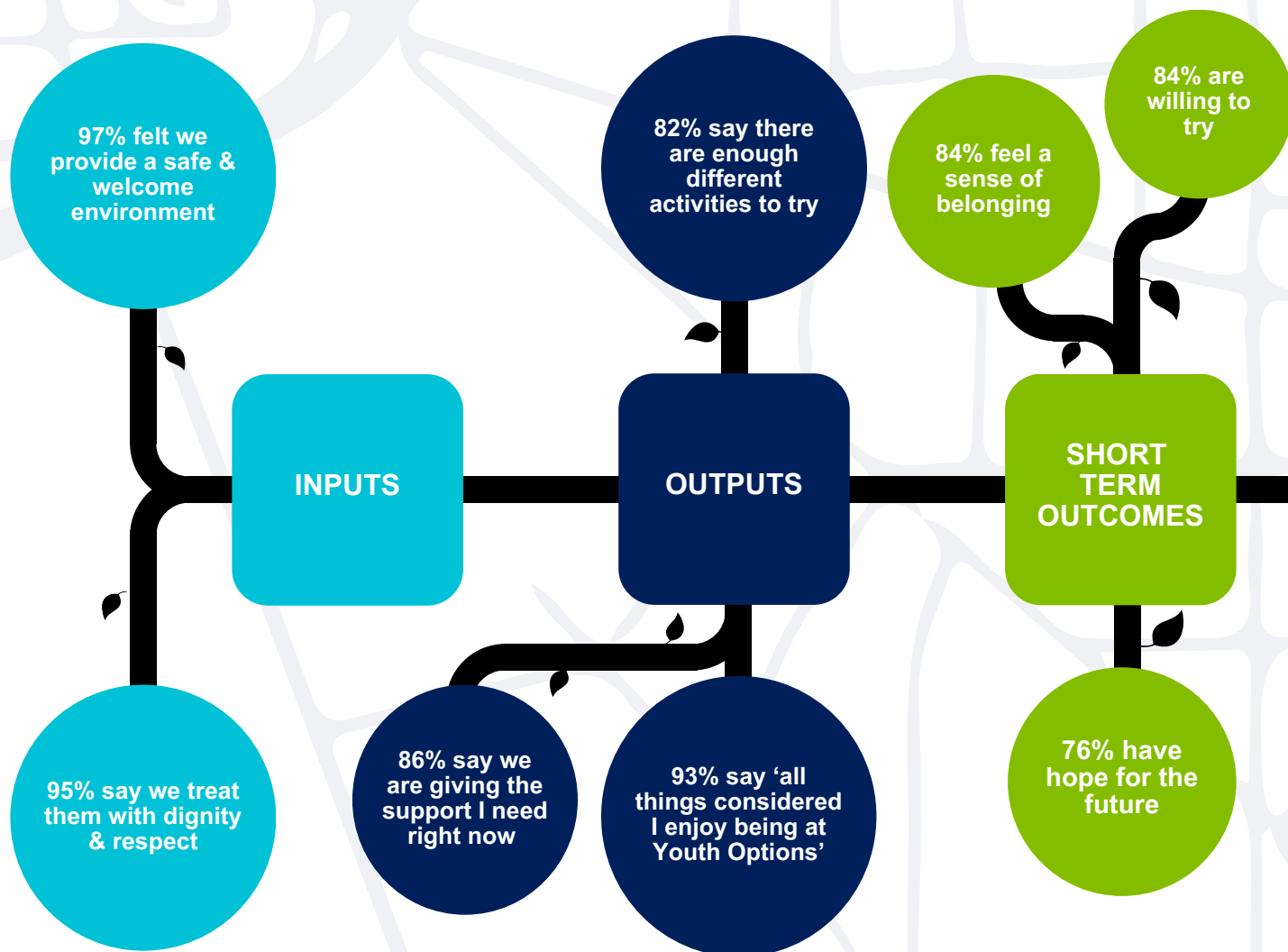
Internal Services Team

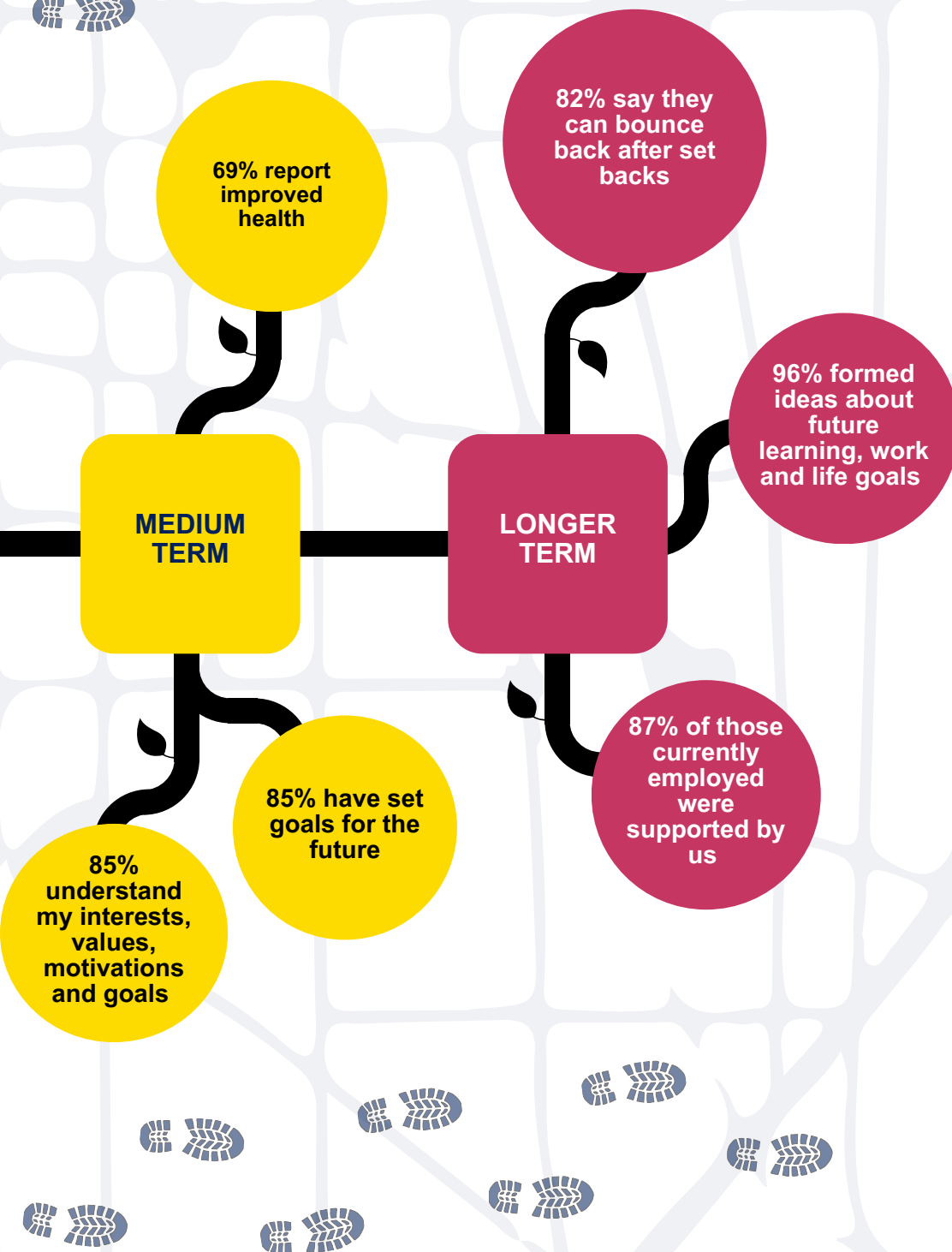
Behind the scenes, our internal services team ensures Youth Options remains a safe, organised, and welcoming place for staff, volunteers, and service users alike. This dedicated group includes both staff and volunteers with expertise in business management, leadership, accounting, human resources, information technology, research, and service design. Their ongoing support is vital to the smooth operation of all our programs and services.

Our Collective Strength

Together, our team's broad skill set and experience empower young people to build confidence, develop new skills, and move closer to achieving their aspirations. Youth Options is proud to be a place where professional excellence meets genuine community spirit, driving positive outcomes for South Australia's youth now and into the future.

VISION: TRANSFORMED YOUTH PATHWAYS





IMPACT QUOTES

"Good place, good support and a lot of opportunities for younger people to experience."

"Testament to Youth Options who have given H a safe, non-judgmental environment to grow and succeed, but above all, staff with genuine passion of supporting and empowering young people to achieve their goals."

"Youth Options have really supported in so many ways, especially during when W was leaving school and in transition. Thank you again for helping him, supporting him and thinking outside the box to provide him with the best experience and confidence moving forward."

QA GAMING MICRO-CREDENTIAL TRAINING

PROGRAM: FIRST YEAR SUMMARY

The inaugural year of the QA for Gaming Micro-Credential Training Program, established with support from the JFM Fund, marked a significant step forward in addressing workforce needs in the gaming industry. The pilot not only delivered targeted training modules but also established a social enterprise to connect participants with employment opportunities, with a particular focus on young people, including those with disabilities.

The program comprised six micro-credentials: Gameplay Tester, Game Bug Tester, Lead Gameplay Tester, Test Case Writer, Test Plan Writer, and Freelance Game Tester. Training was designed for accessibility and industry relevance, with flexible formats and practical guidance. A notable feature of the program was collaboration with local indie game studios—Catalyst, Hell Bytes, Ship It, and Octoverse. These partnerships provided participants direct exposure to real-world development environments and opportunities to engage with professional game developers, greatly enhancing their learning experience.

For many participants, working with unfinished games presented an entirely new challenge. Initial frustration gave way to deeper understanding as they developed critical QA skills, learning to navigate the complexities and iterative nature of the game development process.

In addition to the support from the JFM Fund, the program also received funding from AUDA, the domain authority for the .au web address. This contribution is being used to develop a dedicated QA portal for managing, communicating, and monitoring QA testing activities among our QA Testers. The portal will streamline workflows, enhance communication, and provide greater oversight across all testing projects.

The pilot program demonstrated strong engagement and completion rates, establishing a foundation for ongoing workforce development and inclusion in gaming QA. Partnerships with local studios not only enriched training, but also gave participants unique insights into the realities of game development. Continued refinement and stakeholder collaboration will drive future success.



Meet Grant, one of our graduates in the QA for Gaming Program!

Grant has been focusing his talents on testing mobile games—an area that comes with its own unique set of challenges.

He's really enjoyed this part of the program, especially the hands-on nature of bug testing and the insight it's giving him into how games are built behind the scenes.

He said “the course gave him a whole new appreciation for how games are made”, and he's excited to see how he continues to grow as he keeps building his skills in the weeks ahead!

QA GAMING STATISTICS

The inaugural year of the QA for Gaming Micro-Credential Training Program not only delivered strong engagement, but also demonstrated meaningful skill progression and industry exposure for participants. Learners advanced through multiple levels of training, with several gaining formal recognition toward their SACE studies. The program also created employment pathways through substantial peer mentor hours, reflecting its commitment to hands-on learning and workforce readiness. Collaboration with four local game development studios further enriched the experience, giving participants direct insight into professional workflows and real game-testing environments, an opportunity rarely available in traditional training settings.

	Commenced	Completed
Game Play Tester	36	34
Game Bug Tester	34	27
Lead Game Play Tester	27	26
Test Case Writer	26	25
Test Plan Writer	25	21
Freelance Game Tester	14	7
Students who gained SACE points	3	3
Peer mentor employment hours	587.54 hours	
Game development studios involved	4	

**statistics from July 2024 until August 2025*



Photo is at Graduation event with Youth Options micro-credentialed testers, Staff and Hell Bytes studio representatives.

NDIS

HAMISH: POWERING ON WITH CONFIDENCE TOWARDS NEW OPPORTUNITIES!

Hamish's journey with Youth Options demonstrates how responsive, integrated supports translate into job-readiness and real employment outcomes. Over three years, his service plan has evolved with his interests and confidence—from early pathway exploration in woodworking to adding welding, delivered through twice-weekly workshop sessions that built both technical capability and core employability in a small-group setting.

Recognising that sustained work requires social confidence and effective communication, Hamish engaged in our Dungeons & Dragons social skills capacity-building program. This lifted his confidence markedly and equipped him to adapt his communication for different settings. When adaptability to change and functional numeracy emerged as barriers, our resilience program targeted these directly. He learned strategies to manage unexpected changes and began independently practising maths via an online platform, strengthening a key prerequisite for trade pathways.

Youth Options' case-management model underpinned this progress. A consistent, shared plan across mentors ensured reinforcement of resilience strategies in every workshop session, accelerating skill transfer from simulated to real environments. The approach is scalable and replicable across cohorts, aligning individual goals with clear labour-market pathways.

Results are tangible. Hamish has commenced paid work with Show Support in the event-hire industry, gaining practical experience while continuing to build his capability for trades employment. He is now enrolled in our Fitness for Work program to improve health and work capacity specific to welding and is concurrently undertaking a Certificate II in Engineering Pathways. With a longer-term goal of set production, he's drawing industry insight from a woodworking mentor with film-prop credentials, ensuring training remains directly connected to employer expectations.

Hamish's trajectory evidences Youth Options' value proposition: responsive design, coordinated delivery, and targeted capacity building that convert engagement into qualifications, industry exposure, and employment—progress along a credible, in-demand trade pathway.



LOCAL JOBS PROGRAM – MANNUM

MID MURRAY ROAD TO RIVER RECOVERY

Luke was referred to the Mid-Murray Road to River Recovery Program stage 3 through SYC Mannum to gain new skills and to explore employment and training opportunities and to define a pathway to future employment.

Luke showed a great work ethic and was a consistent hard worker, always punctual and a strong team player. He also showed great attention to detail and had a strong commitment to communication that complemented his already present skills and knowledge.

Luke has a strong desire to get back in the workforce, he completed his learners permit during the program and has been having regular driving lessons with a registered driver training school in Murray Bridge.

An element of the MMRRR program was fit for work gym sessions with PT Zac at the Mannum Leisure Centre twice a week. Luke was given the most improved participant during the fitness program final assessment.

Luke also has a background in customer service roles, now that he has a lot of new skill sets, this will increase his chances of finding a wider variety of employment opportunities.

The training delivered in the MMRRR program has passed on significant skills that are very transferable and appropriate for successful employment outcomes, this has included:

- Career development
- Prepare to work safely in the construction industry
- Plan and organise work
- Carry out manual excavation
- Spread and compact materials manually
- Use hand and power tools
- Work safely and follow WHS policies and procedures
- Operate Plant and Equipment
- White card
- Apply chemicals under Supervision
- First aid (except CPR)

A strong practical focus in this training has been very positive for all involved.

Luke is now better off with a brighter future, through participation in the program he also has developed stronger life skills and is able to cope and see the world in a more rewarding way.

Luke said *"The MMRRR program has strengthen me Mentally, Physically and Emotionally"*.



The Road to River Recovery program received support and funding from Mid Murray Council, SYC Mannum and The Department of Employment and Workplace Relations (Australian Government).

TAILORED LEARNING

SETH SETS HIMSELF UP FOR SUCCESS

Meet Seth, one of our fantastic Tailored Learning students whose Youth Space journey is a testament to the power of an individualised learning pathway, which is undergirded by wraparound mentoring supports. Since landing at Youth Options as a Year 11 student, Seth has been encouraged and supported to identify and explore his giftings, talents and skills. This has translated into Seth's purposeful and enthusiastic participation in our suite of experiential-learning programs. Our Cooking, Workshop, and Intro to Auto programs have helped to develop Seth's capacity for independent living as a young adult making his way in the world. Seth has also been a regular attendee of our Health and Fitness program and Creative Arts programs - he has certainly had a full timetable!

Seth's TL pathway has included the opportunity to access accredited learning opportunities as part of his timetable. This year, Seth achieved success in a variety of stackable learning opportunities we facilitate for students, achieving both his Provide First Aid and White Card qualifications. Seth's stellar efforts in our micro-credentialled QA for Gaming and Barista Skills programs have also allowed him to accumulate SACE credits towards his overall learning portfolio.

Perhaps the greatest success that Seth can lay claim to in 2025 is an increasing sense of self-awareness, resilience, confidence and charm. This maturing of character, which in Seth is obvious to all, is the primary goal of what is the beating heart of our Tailored Learning service - a safe, inclusive and supportive mentoring relationship which provides wraparound care for our young people. Through regular mentoring sessions with our team members this year, Seth has clarified his future goals, sharpened his focus and has taken a leading role in designing a learning pathway which speaks to his interests and strengths.

Following on from his success in our Intro to Welding program this year, Seth has been enrolled to undertake a Certificate II in Engineering Pathways in 2026 - with the ultimate aim of combining this with the achievements of the past year to secure entry to an apprenticeship pathway in the future. We have every confidence that Seth will keep driving himself to ongoing success and flourishing (quite literally, as he is building up his required driving hours with the help of our Youth Options' driving program!). We feel privileged to be playing our small part in Seth's journey - and can't wait to see what the next twelve months have in store!



DRIVING PROGRAMS

Throughout 2024-2025 Youth Options continued its work with young people addressing a key employment barrier : not having a driving licence.

Driving programs spanned Tailored Learning (was called FLO in 2024-2025), NDIS programs and the Local Jobs program at Mannum and consisted of a number of elements including

- **Gaining your L's** – support with the MyL's system (within Tailored Learning and Local Jobs).
- **Experience in the driving simulator** (and an assessment with Torrens University).
- **Fatal 5 Road Safety Workshop** (delivered as a group for Tailored Learning participants or 1:1 for NDIS participants)
- **Intro to Auto** (A NDIS version and a Tailored Learning version – basic car ownership / maintenance).
- **Drive Me** – on road driving mentorship (supported by authorized supervising driver).

We would like to acknowledge funding support through National Road Safety Action Grant, Department of Human Services and from a number of Individual Donors.

Key Statistics 2024-25

Hours of in vehicle supervised sessions - **1702.5 hours**
Students participate in 6 hour road safety training - **35**
Participants enrolled in MyLs - **63 (Tailored Learning and Local Jobs)**



Deacon and Kara with Brett at Wright Street Auto
– Real World Learning



Scarlet after passing driving assessment.



Local MP Lucy Hood experiencing
our Driving Simulator



Steven after passing driving assessment with
In House driving Instructor Paula.

YOUTH OPTIONS GARDEN SQUAD: GROWING SKILLS AND COMMUNITY IMPACT

The Youth Options Garden Squad (YOGS) has flourished from a pilot program for 15 NDIS participants into a thriving initiative that nurtures skills, confidence, and community spirit. By introducing six micro-credentials in horticulture, landscaping, and gardening—delivered through practical and online learning—participants gain formal recognition for their abilities, including the opportunity for recognition of prior learning (RPL) supported by video evidence.

YOGS delivers three core outcomes:

- **Job Skills and Experience:** Participants build essential work skills like teamwork, problem-solving, and self-reliance through hands-on projects.
- **Skill Achievement:** Developed with the Action Learning Institute, micro-credentials allow young people, including those with disabilities, to demonstrate and be acknowledged for their skills at their own pace.
- **Community Belonging:** YOGS fosters a sense of inclusion, connection, and lasting friendships.

"The verge upgrade at 62 Mills Tce has exceeded our expectations. Huge thanks to Matt and his team, SK Gardens, and Youth Options for their professionalism, communication, and craftsmanship. Residents have been overwhelmingly positive, and we're thrilled with the final result."
- Darryl Graham

A standout success is Hamish Jackson, who joined YOGS eager to pursue horticulture. The skills and experience he gained led to a trainee role with the City of Adelaide Council, where he continues to thrive and contribute to the community.

In 2024/2025, nine dedicated young squad members participated in 17 projects with the City of Adelaide, contributing 243 hours of work. They planted around 1,500 plants and seedlings, germinated 500 native seeds, laid 500 metres of irrigation, and improved 1,700 square metres of green space through weeding and mulching. The team also connected with 40 residents and 30 businesses, promoting environmental stewardship and community engagement.



Supported by the Morialta Charitable Trust, YOGS continues to make a positive difference for young people and the wider community.



Morialta Charitable Trust

MARKETING & EVENTS COLLABORATION

The Marketing & Events Collaboration Team is a structured, rotating initiative designed to enhance Youth Options' marketing and events delivery while providing practical experience for emerging professionals. Interns join the team in three-month cycles, contributing to real-world campaigns and supporting key organisational events during their placement.

Throughout 2024-25, the team supported a wide range of marketing and events activities. This included helping plan and maintain the organisation's marketing calendar, coordinating event logistics, and assisting with both digital and print content development. Videography was another key focus, with interns contributing to scripting, filming, and editing projects that captured Youth Options' impact in action.

Interns were actively involved in every stage of campaign development. From early brainstorming and concept design to scheduling, asset creation, and post-campaign analysis, they were given the opportunity to apply their ideas and build confidence in a practical setting. This hands-on involvement not only contributed to the success of various projects but also provided meaningful learning opportunities aligned with their career goals.

At Youth Options, we believe in learning by doing and the Marketing & Events Collaboration Team is a testament to that. This rotating three-month program brings together marketing interns and staff to create real campaigns, run events, and share the stories that shape our work.

Interns are given meaningful responsibilities from day one. They help plan our marketing calendar, coordinate events, create social media and print content, and even take part in producing videos that showcase the journeys of young people we support. From brainstorming creative ideas to analysing how a campaign performed, interns are involved every step of the way. Each outgoing group supports the next, passing on what they've learned and building a culture of collaboration, leadership, and shared purpose. It's not just work experience, it's a space where young creatives grow in confidence, sharpen their skills, and see the impact of their work in real time.

This collaboration gives Youth Options a vibrant voice and extended reach, while offering interns a meaningful, real-world experience. It's a partnership built on learning, contribution, and shared success.



SALISBURY SITE



NDIS: Youth Options expands northward!

It is with great excitement that we announce the long-awaited opening of our new Northern site in Salisbury. Located in the City of Salisbury's Twelve25 Youth Centre, our new site has already commenced delivery of several NDIS capacity-building programs, with more on the way!

Our new site is currently open on Tuesday and Wednesday each week. Currently, we are delivering our Barista Skills program in our newly refurbished Barista space, complete with two industrial coffee machines. This is in addition to our Resilience program and Dungeons and Dragons group.

The new site comes with a range of fantastic facilities, including an industrial kitchen (for future Cooking programs), indoor and outdoor relaxation spaces, a basketball court, as well as recently installed technology suite. Our new location is closely located to public transport and has free parking nearby.

For more information on our Salisbury site, check out our video Introduction or scan the QR code:

<https://tinyurl.com/YOSALISBURY>



You can enquire about our new Salisbury site programs and services here:

<https://tinyurl.com/YOEOSALISBURY>



FUNDRAISING AND EVENTS

This year, Youth Options hosted a series of vibrant fundraising events that brought together our community in support of local young people. From the sun-soaked fairways of Talent Academy's Charity Golf Day at Mount Lofty to the lively brain-battles at BNI United's Quiz Night, each gathering buzzed with generosity, laughter, and a shared mission. Thanks to our passionate golfers, quizmasters, sponsors, and volunteers, every swing and every answer helped raise crucial funds to empower youth enabling them to join our driving program and access life-changing opportunities.

Our Movie Nights at Wallis Cinemas added a dash of excitement, welcoming families and friends for blockbuster evenings while raising support for Youth Options. With competitive spirits, friendly chats, and a stack of prizes from gourmet hampers to handcrafted tables these events weren't just about fun, but about making a real difference.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone involved! Your support helps us pave the way for young people to grow, learn, and chase brighter futures. We look forward to another year of impact and plenty more memorable moments, captured in photos and in hearts.

Wallis
Cinema

BNI
Business Network International

 Talent
Academy
Perform | Create | Express



**THANK YOU!
WE COULDN'T HAVE
DONE IT WITHOUT YOU!**

BENT CREEK
MCLAREN VALE AND ADELAIDE HILLS
AUSTRALIA

**Wallis
Cinema**



Strategix



Skills SA



TABOR



youth options
young lives transformed



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