

ANNUAL REPORT 2020-2021





PICYS Association Members as at January 2021

Organisation Members

AnglicareWA RUAH Community Services

Black Swan Health – Headspace Salvation Army (Crossroads West)

CREATE Foundation St George's Cathedral

Earthwise St. Vincent's de Paul WA – Vinnies WA

Foundation Housing Starick Services Incorporated Living Proud – LGBTI The Inner Ninja Foundation

Magenta TrainSmart

Mission Australia TransFolk of WA

Palmerston Association Victoria Park Youth Accom Inc
Peer Based Harm Reduction WA Women's Health & Family Services

PFLAG WA WAAC
RDP Enterprise Solutions Wanslea

Red Cross WA Youth Affairs Council of WA

Rise Network YouthLink

Individual Members

Anna Presser Mat Jovanou

Ashleigh Lin Mikayla-Jay McGinley

Ben Tay Misty Farquhar

Bev Jowle
Bradley Kelly
Christina Jones
Clay Morse
Daisy Ashworth
Nic Hastings-James
Paul Fitzgerald
Rebekha Hanna
Robert Gough
Ryan Fernandes

Damien Smith Ryan Scott

Danae Basley Salli Higham

Danica Scott Steve Archibald

Darryl Milovchevich

Duane Smith

Frankie Valvasori

George Davies

Teale Prus

Wanjie Song

Vanessa Harvey

Yvonne Hunt

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WHO WE ARE

Who We Are

OUR VISION

"Our vision for young people is that they will have the opportunity to make positive choices in their lives and realise their own potential".

OUR MISSION

"PICYS is committed to working with young people in a non-judgmental and holistic way that fosters a belief in empowerment, integrity and collaboration, and which provides a safe and secure environment."

Youth work is a practice that places young people and their interests first.

Youth work is a relational practice, where the youth worker operates alongside the young person in their context.

Youth work is an empowering practice that advocates for and facilitates a young person's independence, participation in society, connectedness, and realisation of their rights,

PICYS staff work under the Youth Work WA Code of Conduct

OUR VALUES

Respectful of all young people and their individual differences

Empowerment of young people about their own lives

Responsiveness of service provision

Person-centred services for young people, inclusive of their families, partners, friends, and environment

Equity of access to services on a non-discriminatory basis

Collaboration with young people and the community

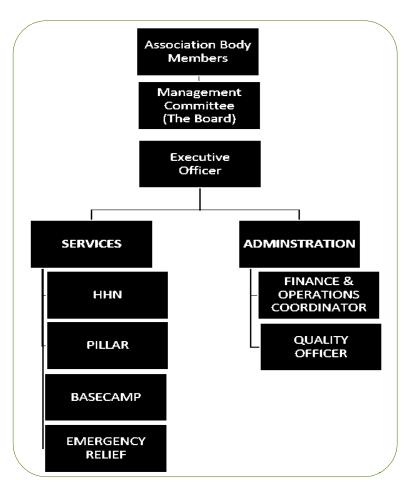
Care and commitment for environment and environmentally sensitive living

We acknowledge Aboriginal people as the traditional custodians of country throughout Australia and pay respect to them and their cultures, and the Elders past, present and emerging.



ORGANISATIONAL CHART & STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

Organisational Chart



Our Strategic Directions

(from PICYS ON POINT 2021-2025)





- 1. Provide young people with quality person-centred services, reflective and respectful of culture, lived experience and identity.
- 2. Provide safe and engaging places for young people, both environmental and relational.
- 3. Give "voice" to young people and their life journeys.
- 4. Continually improve services based on reflective practice, informed by evidence and research.
- Seek revenue to strengthen our work and provide a sustainable service to young people.

All our endeavours and activities pursue outcomes in the above strategic directions, working within our values framework and focusing on our primary beneficiary – young people.

Chairperson's Report 2020/2021

as presented at the 2021 AGM

Welcome once again to all members and friends of PICYS in marking an extraordinary year of benchmark service to young people in need of support. As PICYS Chair, I am proud to present our Annual Report, highlighting PICYS' exceptional response to the COVID-19 pandemic challenges in continuing to provide an authentic and responsive service to vulnerable young people facing homelessness and mental health difficulties. To this end, PICYS was able to secure significant extra funding to expand and reinforce our unique model of relational, trauma-informed strengths-based youth work demonstrating that the PICYS model is both effective and therapeutic which is supported by both ongoing research and tributes of clients and colleagues. In 2020/2021, PICYS garnered several accolades, being announced the Winner of the 2021 Community Sector Excellence Award for a Small Organisation, a finalist in 2020 ShelterWA Awards as an "Organisation (which) developed and implemented an innovative solution with focus on outcomes for people" and was invited, as a specialist organisation, to join the City of Perth inaugural LGBTIQ+ Advisory Committee, with the City's draft plan endorsed in August 2021.

COVID-19 placed special pressures on young people who already face difficulties finding stable employment and affordable housing in our community, both in terms of economic stresses such as tightening employment and housing markets and the emotional toll of lockdowns, family stress and existential fears. To respond more effectively to the challenges of the pandemic, PICYS was awarded extra funding through the Mental Health Commission, more than doubling the reach of PILLAR via the OPP40 Program, together with a grant from Woodside, enabling Household Network to expand its program and partner with the Salvation Army to support extra young tenants during the COVID period. Lotterywest funding assisted with the additional staffing and administrative needs of the enlarged program, including new office space at Oasis Lotteries House in Nedlands. Increased funding from a generous private donor also extended PICYS' capacity to provide more services to more young people.

PICYS has continued to pursue an innovative approach to securing stable long-term housing for young people as a primary foundation underpinning capacity to address the complex tasks of adulthood while healing from trauma. This strategy of "housing first" has led to productive partnerships with housing partners including the Salvation Army, St Vincent de Paul and private property owners wanting to support PICYS work. The move away from landlord roles has enabled PICYS to support young people to negotiate "real world" tenancies and problem-solve their difficulties as they arise. Number 22 Blencowe Street remains an important social and community hub that offers safe social, recreational, and personal growth opportunities, where professional support can be accessed in a low-key, de-institutionalised way, as it has done for nearly 40 years. The home-like nature of Number 22, nestled into its quiet community setting, also extends the reach of important support partners, who can use the space to ensure young people have easy, non-threatening access to the care they need.

Preserving this important role of providing housing and psychosocial support to young people from Number 22 required substantial energy in 2021. I am grateful for the many hours committed by PICYS staff, Board, supporters, and pro-bono professional expertise to prepare for and attend mediation and subsequent two-day State Administrative

Tribunal hearing. These were often tedious and frustrating tasks and PICYS extends its gratitude for the generous pro-bono work of Castledine Gregory Law and Mediation, who gave so unstintingly of their expertise, in assisting with negotiations with the Town of Cambridge and preparation and representation for mediation and State Administrative Tribunal hearings. I would also like to gratefully mention the pro-bono expertise provided by Allerding Associates and Len Legge Civil Engineering for their assistance with parking and building plans, and expertise in helping us to meet council requirements relevant to the Change of Use approved by the State Administrative Tribunal. I would like also to acknowledge the professionalism and dedication shown by our Executive Officer in doggedly pursuing every avenue necessary to stabilise PICYS future despite the Town's constantly shifting goalposts.

The successful State Administrative Tribunal decision cements PICYS' historic place in the community, providing a secure future as a community purpose building, from where it can continue to provide a homely, accepting space where young people can feel safety, warmth and community belonging. However, the change of use process required a substantial dedication of time and other resources, severely straining PICYS capacity for other development and improvement. Despite this, the organisation managed to almost triple its capacity, while staying on budget and finishing the year with healthy reserves that will provide a buffer against inevitable maintenance, and unpredictable environment and political shifts that affect service delivery. To this end, the Board has current intentions to allot funds to service long-term maintenance at Number 22, asset improvements and replacements, ongoing Aboriginal engagement, bolstering the piloted private rental model and continuing to foster research development, in alignment with the On Point Strategic Plan 2021-2025.

In 2021, the Board welcomed three new directors, Lucy Ledger, Joanna Harper, and Alana Dowley, who bring expertise in the areas of mental health advocacy, youth policy, suicide prevention, building development and law. The Board engaged in strategic planning to grow and develop organisationally and to respond to emerging challenges. PICYS Board and staff leadership participated in strategic planning – Social Impact training with Professor Paul Flatau from UWA. This assisted the Board's further development of the planning document PICYS ON POINT ("PICYS Optimising Impact Now and Tomorrow"), with emphasis on optimising social impact and achievements for young people individually and collectively.

PICYS is fortunate to have a team of Board, staff and volunteers equally dedicated to delivering a warm, responsive best practice service and it gives me great pleasure to acknowledge the unstinting efforts of both our long-term and new staff members, whose skills, knowledge, and compassion underpin this amazing service. These have been difficult times on so many levels, but our staff team has always equalled the task, and the response of young people to the Most Significant Change research has been consistently positive. Staff can be proud of the esteem in which the young people hold them, and the high degree of trust evidenced in our Results Based Accountability data. We have benefited from the energy and commitment of our Executive Officer, Andrew Hall, who has not only provided leadership but also encouraged key staff to build their leadership potential. I am grateful to our funders, the Mental Health Commission, the Department for Communities, and Lotterywest, who have supported the PICYS model with continued funding, and especially to our generous private donors, who enable with their gifts for PICYS to value-add in important ways. Special thanks go this year to our Blencowe Street neighbours, whose valuable and humbly received

backing for our place in our neighbourhood upheld the need for vulnerable young people to have access to this kind of community support. I also extend my grateful thanks to Board members, old and new, who have given so generously and collaboratively of their time and energy to steer this wonderful organisation through an unusually challenging year and look forward to your valued contribution in 2021/2022.

In closing, I would like to acknowledge the young people within the PICYS network, whose vibrant participation gives meaning to PICYS, and whose courage in the face of trauma inspires us all. I wish you all a wonderful 2021/2022 and look forward to working with you again.

Salli Higham PICYS Chair



PICYS Wins 2021 Community Sector Excellence Award for Small Organisations



Social Impact training day with Professor Paul Flatau from UWA

General meeting attendance during 2020/2021 financial year.

Name	Title	Attendance
Salli Higham	Chair	13
Frankie Valvasori	Deputy Chair & Secretary	9
Ryan Fernandes	Treasurer	12
Paul Fitzgerald	Director	6
Jane Knox-Robinson	Director	10
Mikayla McGinley	Director	7
Yvonne Ward	Director	8
Denae Beasley	Director to AGM 2020	3
Lucy Ledger	Director	12
Alana Dowley	Director – Coopted June 2021	1
Joanna Harper	Director – Coopted June 2021	1

In addition, Board members have participated in working sub-groups on financial management and auditing, strategic development, fundraising and sponsorship, and the Executive Officer performance review.



Zac, a PICYS Youth Peer Faciliator with Yvonne Hunt – Director at 2020 AGM

Executive Officer's Report – Year in Review

2021 sees PICYS entering its 39th year since incorporation, with our 40th anniversary coming next year in January 2022.



The 2020/2021 year has been like no other year we have experienced with the world learning to cope with and live with the COVID-19 pandemic and its evolving strains. It has been a year of "unknown unknowns" in many respects, for people's health and wellbeing, for families, and for the communities and economies we live within locally as well as the broader worldwide impacts and challenges. If this past year has taught us anything, we now know how challenging it can be to live with constant uncertainties and adjustments in how we as humans go about our everyday living and interpersonal relationships.

In respect to PICYS, our purpose and people, I acknowledge the resilience and fortitude of my every day work colleagues, the PICYS team, in always considering and striving to do our collective best for the benefit of the young people engaged with PICYS.

I acknowledge how resilient young people are, in our society that often sees them as subsets of families and communities and forgets they are also equal unique human beings in their own right.

SERVICES

PICYS continues to have two primary Service Agreements with Government bodies to deliver services. Firstly, the longstanding Household Networks which has been operating since the early 1980's and secondly, PILLAR, a personalised psycho-social mental health service which has been operating since 2006. In addition, PICYS continues to deliver Emergency Relief through both Lotterywest State Government funding and community donations.

PICYS also provides Base Camp regular open drop-in sessions as part of creating a safe community space for young people. Base Camp has several different sessions enabling a variety of strategic activities to be undertaken including a neighbourhood youth center facility, offering specific invited sessions for gender diverse peer support, psychoeducation, advocacy and community education and awareness raising activities.

Household Network (HHN)

In 2020-2021 HHN actively supported 56 young people, all of whom presented either as experiencing, or at risk of, homelessness, and all with added psycho-social complexities. This is a 37% increase on the previous year of 41 young people. An overview is provided below.

Ages of HHN Young People

0-2	16 years	17 years	18 - 19 years	20 - 24 years
1	5	9	20	22
1.8%	8.8%	15.8%	35.1%	38.6%

Statistics HHN Young People	Numbers	Percentage
Male	26	45.6%
Female	27	47.4%
Other	4	7%
Accompanying Children	1	
Identify as LGBTI	14	25%
Trans and Gender Diverse	7	12.5%
Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander	13	23%
Born outside Australia	7	12.5%
Primary Income Source - Centrelink	51	91.7%
No Income	3	5.3%
Transitional Housing	40	
PILLAR Assisted with psycho -support	16	

In line with PICYS' intentional focus to support LGBTI and trans and gender diverse young people, we are pleased to report this trend is continuing within PICYS.

Through partnerships with Foundation Housing, Rise, St. Vincent de Paul, Salvation Army, and Red Earth Property Group, young people were accommodated in our transitional housing properties throughout this twelve-month period. As a further sign of PICYS' integrated and collaborative approach, sixteen of the housed young people were provided with additional psycho-social support from our sister program, PILLAR, further ensuring the provision of a wrap-around service to some of the most vulnerable young people.

Furthermore, of the 56 young people actively engaged in Individual Support Plans, key contributing factors to experiencing homelessness were:

Key Reason for Seeking Assistance	Frequency	Percentage
Mental health issues	8	13.3%
Housing crisis (e.g. eviction)	4	6.7%
Time out from family/other situation	2	3.3%
Relationship/family breakdown	14	23.3%
Domestic and family violence	4	6.7%
Lack of family and/or community support	6	10.0%
Transition from foster care/residential placements	5	8.3%

The above graph shows a total of 26 (46.5%) young people engaged have experienced relationship/family breakdown, lack of family support, family/domestic violence, or needed time out from family/other situation, signifying an overall high rate of disconnection from a supportive family. A further 5 young people (8.3%) left care or residential placements and did not experience connection with their family of origin.

Of the 56 young people there were 60 active Support Period in the 12 months. The table below highlights the length of the 27 closed support period during the year.

Length of Closed Support Period in Year	Frequency	Percentage
>2 to 14 weeks	7	25.90%
>14 to 26 weeks	6	22.20%
>26 to 52 weeks	6	22.20%
>52 weeks	8	29.60%
Total	27	%

Of the 27 young people who completed Support Periods, the young people were accommodated in:

Houses/Townhouses/Flats	Emergency	Transitional	Adult Correction Facility
24	1	1	1
88.8%	3.7%	3.7%	3.7%



Key Achievements

- → Providing a high level of psycho-social support to fifty-six extremely vulnerable homeless young people in our community, working in conjunction with our sister service PILLAR
- → Four HHN young people gained long-term housing. These properties came through our partnerships with RUAH 50/50 Project, Department of Housing, and the National Homelessness Partnership Agreement
- → PICYS entered into a new MOU with housing provider Red Earth Residential Group who are managing our privately owned accommodation option
- → Fifteen (37%) of young people were nominated on the lease, in their own long-term housing at the end of their support period
- → Twenty-five young people were living in a HHN transitional property and receiving PICYS support as of 30 June 2021

- → Forty young people were accommodated in HHN transitional properties in partnership with Rise, Foundation Housing, Salvo House, Vinnies Housing and Red Earth Property Group
- → Fifteen young people were supported by Ruah in The Zero Project (formerly 50/50), which made them eligible to access the program's After-Hours Support Service
- → HHN increased their transitional supported bed capacity by partnering with Salvo Housing and Woodside Energy increasing the housing stock by nine places. Through this partnership HHN were able to support an additional eleven young people
- → Fifty-five case managed young people maintained their accommodation, with only one young person returning to homelessness
- → HHN supported one student to complete their final year ECU Social Work internship
- → One young person graduated with a degree in nursing
- → Twelve young people commenced employment

Issues/Trends

- → Ongoing lack of suitable accommodation options for young people with complex needs, such as AOD and mental health issues
- → Ongoing lack of clinical mental health support options for young people who have complex mental health issues and who are experiencing homelessness
- → No youth crisis accommodation options for young couples
- → No youth crisis accommodation options for young people with pets (pets can be an essential protective factor)
- → Rental crisis in Perth metropolitan area putting increased pressure on homelessness services
- → Lack of clear transition pathways for young people moving from youth to adult AOD or mental health services resulting in poor transition outcomes
- ightarrow NDIS system is not properly equipped to support young people with complex psycho-social issues coupled with disabilities
- → The emergence of health, social and economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. This includes the long-term effect which will see young people with limited immediate or on-hand support networks, experiencing greater hardships
- ightarrow Longer wait times for public/community housing will mean longer stay times in our transitional properties
- → Increased number of referrals for HHN housing, sadly demonstrating an increase in young people presenting homeless in Perth

PICYS still seeks the support of the State Government to formally double the capacity of HHN to a minimum of 24 transitional supported accommodation beds.

PILLAR

PICYS delivered a scaled-up PILLAR Youth Mental Health from the core contractual outputs of engaging and providing individualised psychosocial support and case

management/community care plans to 15 individual young people up to 40 individual young people. Optimising PICYS PILLAR to 40 **OPP40**.

During the 12-month period there were 60 individual young people actively engaged with Individualised Support Plans, an 88% increase up from 32 young people in the year prior. This meant there was a large influx of new young people and staff at the beginning of forming relationships and a larger scale of PICYS' community.

Ages - PILLAR Young People

YEARS												26
TOTAL	1	3	9	12	11	10	5	2	1	2	3	1

PILLAR Young People	Numbers	Percentage
Identify as LGBTI	14	25%
Trans and Gender Diverse	7	12.5%
Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander	5	8.33
HHN Housing	16	27%
Engaged with YouthLink/Youth Reach South	32	54%
Engaged with other Clinicians	26	43%
Not engaged with Clinicians	2	3%

There were 24 young people who entered the period as existing open cases with a further 36 young people being opened as a new case in the period. All 36 new cases were aged between 15 and 20 years at intake. There are 36 active open cases carrying forward into Financial Year Ending 2022.

A total of 97% the 60 young people engaged and or maintained engagement with mental health clinical professionals.

Of the 60 young people there were 60 active Support Period in the 12 months. The table below highlights the length of the 24 closed support period during the year.

Length of Closed Support Period in Year	Frequency	Percentage
> 3 months	3	12.5%
4 - 6 months	10	41.6%
7 -9 months	1	4.2%
10 -12 months	2	8.33%
13 -18 months	3	12.5%
19 - 24 months	-	-
2-3 years	1	4.2%
3 - 4 years	1	4.2%
4 - 5 years	2	8.33%
5 - 6 years	1	4.2%
6 years plus	-	-
Total	24	%

The main presenting issues at referral were:

Young	People	Main Presenting Issue
18	(30%)	Suicidal Ideation
16	(26%)	Homelessness
5	(8.3%)	Self-harm
4	(6.66%)	Financial
4	(6.66%)	Relational/Family Domestic Violence
3	(5%)	Alcohol/Other Drug Use

If we combine main and second presenting issues, the leading presenting issues amongst the 60 young people were:

Young People	Leading Presenting Issues
24	Experiencing homelessness
21	Suicide ideation
16	Self-harming
11	Financial
10	Alcohol & other drug use
9	Experiencing anxiety

This is consistent with the leading four main reason in the previous year.

The leading primary diagnosis amongst the 60 young people were:

Young People		Primary Diagnosis		
21	(35%)	Anxiety		
17	(28.3%)	Depression		
8	(13.3%)	Post Trauma Stress Disorder		
7	(11.6%)	Borderline personality/Emerging Unstable Personality Disorder		

When considering both first and second diagnosis, there were 70% diagnosed with anxiety and 61.6% diagnosed with depression. This is consistent with the previous year.

All young people engaged with PILLAR who had periods of hospitalisation were supported in their return to community with planned hospital discharge meetings, safety planning for return to community including follow up in their residence. PILLAR staff also encouraged engagement within the PICYS community, Base Camp, and other activities. From July 2021 PILLAR is recording the number of hospitalisations of young people open/engaged in case management.

Of the 60 young people 98% had either a Centrelink income or no noted income at all upon entry to PILLAR.

Key Challenges

→ PILLAR's rapid expansion to forty did not have any correlating increased resourcing to partner organisations that were already operating at capacity with long wait lists, therefore PILLAR played an active role in provision of mental health support until young people could access Youth Mental Health Services. The coordinator and team had to explore other interim holding/support options such Adult Community

Mental Health services - Acute Treatment Team (ATT) and Community Treatment Team (CTT)

- Bed shortages at major hospitals resulted in short admissions or no-admission, with some young people being discharged prematurely whilst still expressing suicidal intent. PICYS remained the point of contact while the young person was unwell which required extra resources to provide the increased level of support needed to manage their mental health
- → There is no youth Step-Up-Step-Down Services (alternative community-based option to hospital) for those under 18 years
- → Affordability of psychological services there is limited free or low fee-paying psychological services available for young people. The financial gap and the barriers to seeking psychological health care needs to be addressed
- → With the expansion and the rapid influx of young people at the initial startup we were able to offer support to those facing multiple complex barriers. Referrals typically were highly complex in nature with comorbidity issues (AOD, mental health and physical health), physical health issues (seizures, Fibromyalgia, POTS), mental health (complex mental health with AOD issues), and as a result PICYS paid for urgent ambulance cover for a higher proportion of young people during this time than previously
- → Limited housing stock was an issue, with limited options and opportunities for young people to move into other housing. The private rental market is too expensive and very competitive. For people needing crisis accommodation we have found there were no vacancies in a crisis. On numerous occasions, PICYS paid for emergency relief accommodation (for a night or two at a hotel/backpackers) until accommodation became available. Department of Housing's waitlist remains long with a 3-5 year wait for priority housing
- ightarrow Uncertainty around COVID lockdowns has had a flow on effect on finances, accommodation, and mental health. Staff have an intentional focus on these areas of support

Achievements

- → PILLAR delivered a scaled-up service, optimising to forty young people (OPP40).
 PILLAR supported sixty young people
- → Be Well Group was established and provided a needed opportunity for informal group psychoeducation and support. Be Well group has been operating for twelve months on a fortnightly basis with an average of five to six young people attending regularly
- → Centrelink Community Team now visit PICYS the first Wednesday of the month to assist young people with ID and completing form issues. Financial hardship is a major stressor for young people
- PILLAR coordinator liaised with hospital Mental Health Units, i.e. MHEC and MHOA to assist with smooth hospital admissions. MHEC presented at a PICYS staff meeting to discuss hospital admissions. It was an opportunity to provide a holistic viewpoint of the complexity of some of PICYS young people's situation and to expand our network with allied health providers
- → Formalised an internally published Youth Mental Health Resource for PICYS staff

- → Several young people are now engaging in employment, education, and training
- → Eighty percent of young people reported improved mental health and wellbeing
- → PILLAR has provided support and advocated for young people in need of accommodation during this difficult period with limited housing options, achieving long term housing for some young people
- ightarrow Ninety percent of young people reported they trusted PICYS to support them through periods of instability
- → Working collaboratively with other services and with partners
- → Expansion of the PILLAR staff team (two members to five) has introduced new skills, ideas, and networks
- ightarrow Strengthened internal integrated team approach across HHN and PILLAR. This has been a core strength during COVID-19 while resources are stretched
- → PILLAR has continued sector development with three students on placement during this period. These students were studying Behavioural Science at Notre Dame University, Youth Work and Psychology at Edith Cowan University, and Youth Work and Counselling at Edith Cowan University
- → PILLAR facilitated their annual Mental Health Week event, which showcased a very cute animal farm, a stylist for the young people, wellbeing show bags and a sausage sizzle lunch. Attended by thirty to forty young people, it provided a sense of belonging and community engagement as well as enjoyment and fun
- → PILLAR, in partnership with Youth Axis and YouthLink, organised training on "Emotional Unstable Personality Disorder" to the PICYS staff

Trends

- → Since the COVID-19 supplement payment ceased and benefits payments returned to prior standard levels, more young people are struggling financially. This has culminated in PICYS providing more emergency relief for food and prescribed medication
- More young people are presenting with emotionally unstable personality disorder diagnosis
- → More young people are expressing a negative experience during hospital interventions, due to short stays or non-admission
- → Noticeable increase in physical health issues that are psychosomatic or co-morbid with mental health diagnosis. As a result, there is a trend in young people looking to access NDIS. Whilst several young people would be eligible, the NDIS assessment process is hugely taxing on the staff resource levels at PICYS
- As psychological health awareness surges (with COVID-19 and media awareness), people have become more aware of how psychological support can improve lives and make people happier and healthier. The stigma associated with seeing a psychologist or mental health support service is starting to subside as people are seeing their mental health as important as their physical health

Emergency Relief

Lotterywest was again, our primary source of emergency relief funding with an annual grant. Key areas of emergency support included case management support, health care, travel assistance, and provision of food. The food was supplemented by donations from Second Bite, Food Bank, Woodside staff, Rotary Clubs, churches, and other community groups. Hygiene supplies, face masks and hand sanitiser also featured highly. All young people received personalised birthday and Christmas gifts.



These wonderful members, from Mill Point Rotary, have prepared home-cooked meals for more than a year for PICYS young people

The Club also purchased a brand-new freezer so that the young people did not run out of these great home-cooked nutritional meals

ER is supplemented by donations from private individuals, churches, community groups and service organisations.

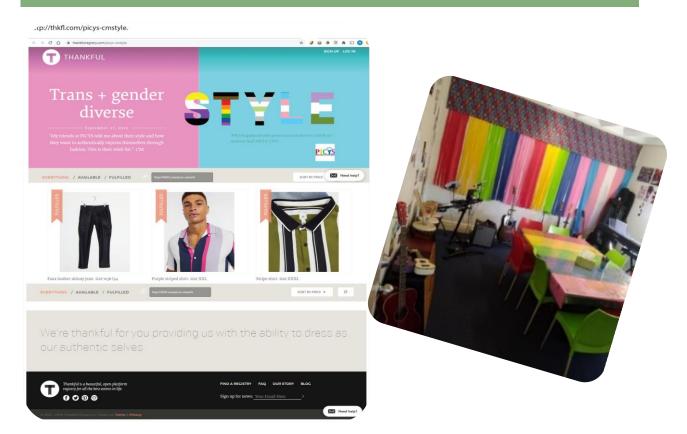
We thank you on behalf of the young people who benefit

Base Camp

Base Camp open drop-in times on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays had 190 unique young people attend, including 95 young people who had an active Individualised Support Plan, plus a further 95 young people who were not engaged in Support Plans with PICYS, which highlights the inclusive, zero-criteria nature of accessing open Base Camp sessions. The total number of Base Camp contacts throughout this period was 1,223 up from 769 in the prior year, a 59% increase.



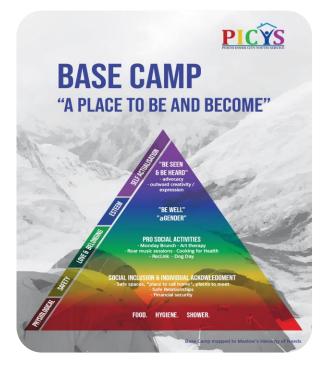




Base Camp aGender focuses on engaging and supporting gender diverse young people. There were 12 sessions with 25 unique young people attending on 86 occasions. This is an increase from 13 young people on 32 occasions in the year prior.

Base Camp Be Well focuses on psychoeducation and was established as part of the expanded OPP40 proposal. There were 29 sessions with 23 unique young people attending on 120 occasions. Young people's feedback on **Be Well** has been highly positive.

Base Camp Be Seen & Be Heard focuses on advocacy and opportunities to voice lived experience and was established with four selected youth peer facilitators who would co-facilitate the group with nominated PICYS staff support. During the year Be Seen & Be Heard organised several consultation visitations to PICYS including YACWA visiting on a roadshow of Youth Accommodation Services, and a presentation on Wear it Purple Day to addition, Woodside staff. In applications were written and awarded to facilitate a Youth Homelessness Week event, "Coming Home" from which the artwork features on this Annual Report cover, and a community graffiti art project in conjunction with the Town of Cambridge.



LGBTI and Trans and Gender Diverse Engagement

PICYS continues its intentional focus of 1 in every 2 young people engaged with PICYS identifying as LGBTI, and 1 in every 3 identifying as trans or gender diverse. This is an affirmative action to address the *real* discrimination and stigma alive in the current service system landscape and within communities and families. It is also important to acknowledge that the LGBTI "coming out" process is unique in every experience for the individual, their family and social connections, and it is a journey walked outside of other "system approaches" like leaving care, detention, or hospital. It is knowing and understanding this and seeing the experiences and adverse impacts in many young people's lives that fuels the PICYS intentional focus.

The table below highlights this ongoing engagement and commitment.

Year	LGBTI and TGD Engagement	HHN	PILLAR	Total
2015	service total	26	21	47
	identify as LGBTI	8 (30 [%])	5 ^(23%)	13 ^{(27%})
2016	service total	30	24	54
2010	identify as LGBTI	8 (27 [%])	9 (38 [%])	17(32%)
2017	service total	24	23	47
2017	identify as LGBTI	12 ^(50%)	14 ^(60%)	26 ^(55%)
2018	service total	28	21	49
2010	identify as LGBTI	12 ^(42[%])	11(52%)	23 ^{(47%})
0010	service total	38	23	61
2019	service total identify as LGBTI	38 17 ^(45%)	23 12 ^(52%)	61 29 ^{(48%})
2019				
	identify as LGBTI	17 ^{(45%})	12(52%)	29(48%)
2019	identify as LGBTI trans and gender diverse	17 ^(45%) 9 ^(4%)	12 ^(52%) 3 ^(13%)	29 ^(48%) 12 ^(20%)
	identify as LGBTI trans and gender diverse service total	17 ^(45%) 9 ^(4%)	12 ^(52%) 3 ^(13%) 32	29 ^(48%) 12 ^(20%) 73
2020	identify as LGBTI trans and gender diverse service total Identify as LGBTI	17 ^(45%) 9 ^(4%) 41 22 ^(54%)	12 ^(52%) 3 ^(13%) 32 20 ^(63%)	29 ^(48%) 12 ^(20%) 73 42 ^(58%)
	identify as LGBTI trans and gender diverse service total Identify as LGBTI trans and gender diverse	17 ^(45%) 9 ^(4%) 41 22 ^(54%) 14 ^(34%)	12 ^(52%) 3(13%) 32 20 ^(63%) 8(^{25%)}	29 ^(48%) 12 ^(20%) 73 42 ^(58%) 22 ^(30%)

What Young People say about PICYS

Taken from "Comments" on PICYS Results Based Accountability surveys:

PICYS PILLAR has been a powerful support in my life, allowing me to accomplish many things including having a stable home, job, coping strategies, positive relationships, and a healthy life in general. I will take these into my future and continue to build on them with what has been taught to me.

I have nothing but good comments about staff procedures and support I have received. PICYS is an amazing service and I think they should receive more funding opportunities as they use everything, they get to help others. Give PICYS an inch, they give a mile. They have helped so many young people and I will forever be grateful; for the service and the workers I have been allocated have been amazingly good people and have supported me to become the best version of myself that I can be at current times.

I'd be dead without PICYS tbh and now I don't want to die so that's good.

There needs to be more places like PICYS for youth to access as it plays a major part in my recovery and I'm sure more youth can benefit from facilities such as this. I feel that people that do not live in the metropolitan area would be missing out as the catchment area is quite specific.

PICYS helps me with my basic needs such as food and housing. It has helped me to grow confident and even attain a job. My mental health has dramatically improved and I'm really grateful for all the opportunities they have opened up for me. Thank you so much PICYS



Most Significant Change

A transformative evaluation reflection

Harmony – 18 years old Male



Since being involved with PICYS what's been the most significant change for you?

Since being with PICYS, many positive and lifesaving changes have occurred for me; this includes things such as I have a strong support network which involves my case manager and other youth who also access the service. I also have access to basic things such as a wide array of food, toiletries, and general household items. Overall, the most signification change has to be that PICYS has given me the will to live, they have done this by providing me with a unit of my own when I had nowhere to go, by believing in me when I don't, by providing a never-ending amount of support when I need someone. My level of gratitude for PICYS cannot be described in words, and I thank you for that.

Youth Workers Reflection

PICYS began working with Harmony in the PILLAR Program in September 2020 after receiving his referral from Youth Axis. When Harmony was first referred to PICYS he was living with his sister but was unable to stay there any longer due to Harmony's mental health impacting his sister's family. Harmony lost his mum at 11 years of age and his father moved to Bali soon after, leaving him with minimal family and a lack of connection and identity in Perth. Harmony has a diagnosis of depression, anxiety, borderline personality disorder and complicated grief. Harmony found it difficult to regulate his emotions and was unable to problem solve when faced with challenges. Harmony had a few mental health hospital admissions in between staying in crisis accommodation and backpackers. Staff assisted Harmony with applying for several transitional accommodation services during this period but was denied due to the complexity of his mental health. In October 2020 a suitable vacancy was available for Harmony within PICYS Household Network, and he was able to move into a PICYS single unit. Harmony's journey of living independently was challenging due to his mental health, but with some clear boundaries, support of the PICYS and Adult Mental Health Treatment team, Harmony's mental health began to stabilise, and as a result Harmony was able to cope better with challenges that came his way. Harmony now has a better understanding of his mental health and can reach out for support when he begins to realise the warning signs that he isn't doing so well. Harmony has much better coping skills around emotional regulation and can now often problem solve on his own. Harmony has really benefited from some conversations and practice around healthy boundaries, with staff, services, friends, and family.

PICYS staff have supported Harmony with enrolling in Certificate IV in Community Services and attending the TAFE open day. PICYS staff assisted Harmony with booking and getting to driving lessons and tests to enable him to complete his hours and get his P Plates. Harmony already owned his own car but was unsure on things such as registration and maintenance. PICYS staff have provided this information to Harmony and assisted him with applying for RAC roadside assist, which he has used many times! Harmony has been maintaining his tenancy at his transitional property well, passing all rent inspections and keeping up to date with his payments. In the past few weeks Harmony has begun working on rebuilding relationships with his sisters, that broke down due to his mental health at the end of 2020. Harmony has recently been picked up by YouthLink after a long five months on their waitlist and is attending his weekly

appointments. Harmony has begun working through some of the grief he has been suffering with since the passing of his mother and is starting to build healthy relationships and connections with new friends and family members.

Youth Workers Group Reflection

Since engaging with PICYS, Harmony has shown a clear shift in his ability to manage stressful life events. Harmony has grown in his trust and belief in both himself and workers, becoming open to receiving critical feedback on how his behaviours have impacted on others, and building on his positive help-seeking methods. PICYS provision of practical supports was a conduit for Harmony's deeper work, proving their youth worker's trust, reliability, and usefulness within a consistent and bounded relationships, whilst also providing Harmony the space to be vulnerable. The staying power of the PICYS relationship showed to Harmony that people weren't just going to walk away, building their hope for the future and willingness to work through the past. An important change is Harmony's increased sense of worth, leading to now investing in feeling noticed and recognised, whilst also rebuilding key family relationships. Harmony's focus on his future educational goals is a testament to his significant growth.

Stakeholders Reflection

Harmony's story illustrates the life-changing impact of PICYS' work with young people whose histories of trauma, neglect and deprivation have resulted in severe mental health problems, homelessness, and disruption to the usual developmental goals and achievements of adolescence.

Harmony suffered a major loss at the age of 11, when his mother passed away. The grief of losing his mother was compounded when his father then moved overseas. The loss of Harmony's primary attachment figures was a major disruption to his developmental trajectory and consequently, he experienced significant mental health problems, including depression, anxiety, BPD, and complicated grief. Although Harmony was later accommodated with a sister, this was unsustainable due to his mental health problems, and he experienced both mental health hospitalisation and homelessness.

This story already looks like "a recipe for (mental health) disaster", however Harmony's engagement with PICYS has brought about a very positive change in life direction for this extremely vulnerable young person. PICYS supported Harmony to obtain safe, stable accommodation and during this time, a strong and trusting relationship between Harmony and PICYS began. Although there was a lengthy waiting time before Harmony could access a formal youth mental health service for therapy, the relationship with the PICYS youth worker and the organisation itself, enabled him to start to stabilise his mental health, and to work on coping better with challenges around emotional regulation and problem solving. In this way, PICYS took up some of the vital roles which in other circumstances would be provided by a caring, stable, and supportive family. This led to Harmony developing a better understanding of himself, how to recognise signs that he is not doing well, and how to reach out for extra support. Again, the support to build his self- awareness and maturity, which are often assisted by a positive family, were taken up by the PICYS youth worker and team.

PICYS assisted Harmony in many other ways, both practical, emotional, and interpersonal. Through PICYS support, Harmony was able to commence TAFE studies, work towards - then achieve his driving license, and successfully maintain his tenancy at his transitional property.

Perhaps Harmony's own words express the impact which PICYS has made on his life, when he says that PICYS has given him the "will to live", "believing in me when I don't" and that his level of gratitude to PICYS "cannot be described in words".

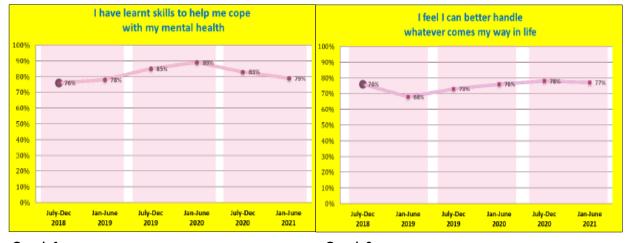
Results Based Accountability

PICYS continues to use *Results Based Accountability* with six monthly surveying of all young people actively engaged in HHN and PILLAR to gain direct feedback and reflections that can guide our continuous service improvement and focus on maximising outcomes and achievements for young people. We continue to have a high participation rate of 95%.

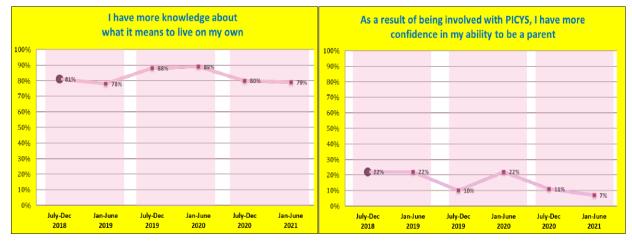
Below are the graphed results of the surveys of the young people engaged in individualised support plans throughout the reporting period.

July 2020 – June 2021 PICYS Headline Performance Measures Report

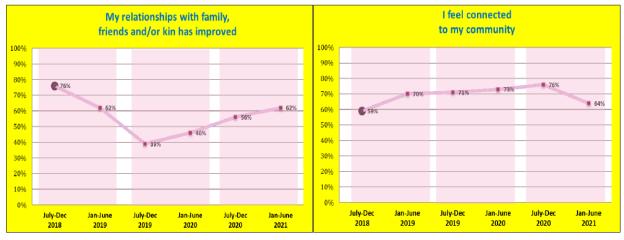




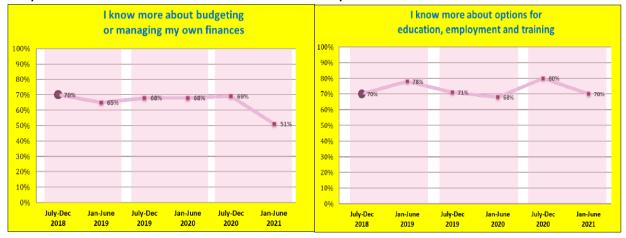
Graph 1 Graph 2



Graph 3 Graph 4



Graph 5 Graph 6



Graph 7 Graph 8



Graph 9 Graph 10

Key points to note from the RBA graphs:

- Graph1 shows a slight decline in the belief in their ability to "cope with my mental health"
- Graph 2 highlights a stability in resilience "ability to cope with whatever comes my way"
- → **Graph 4** shows there is a low number of parents in the cohort
- → Graph 7 shows a significant decline in "ability to budget and manage finances"
- Graph 9 highlights a reduced belief in being able to "care for myself"

→ **Graph 10** highlights the ongoing high trust levels young people feel with their engagement with PICYS people, this is the cornerstone on PICYS work efficacy

After staff receive and collate this feedback from the young people, they meet to reflect on the circumstances influencing the changes and consider how the team can work to continually improve the quality and quantity of positive outcomes for the young people.

SIGNIFICANT PARTNERSHIPS IN 2020/2021

Woodside Community COVID-19 Grants

Woodside provided PICYS with a \$200,000 Community Grant that enabled the expansion of supported accommodation places for young people for 12-months with PICYS partnering with Salvo Housing to support nine tenancy placements across five properties.





Salvos Housing Partnership

Salvation Army Community Housing partnered with PICYS to provide five further properties and landlord services enabling nine more tenancy places to PICYS Household Network for a 12-month period to 30 June 2021.

EMBRACE - Telethon Kids Institute

PICYS is a keen partner in EMBRACE formed by the Telethon Kids Institute. EMBRACE is WA's first comprehensive, research-into-practice Centre devoted to the mental health of children and young people aged 0 to 25. This year PICYS was able to provide "Safe Talk" suicide prevention training to eleven young people.

YouthLink – Partnership

YouthLink continues to be a most significant partner across many individual young people's support and care plans, also in providing clinical supervision and consultation to PICYS staff. YouthLink supported the first 12-month OPP40 expansion of PILLAR in May 2020 and the continuation for OPP40 second period of 13 months from 1 June 2021 to 30 June 2022.

Advance to Zero (formerly RUAH 50/50)

Advance to Zero continues to be a significant partner in responding to the young people who experience "rough sleeping" status of homelessness. A recent Advance to Zero publication on the Housing First response provided in WA to young people aged 18-25 years, from the time since 50/50 commenced in 2019 speaks of 110 young people being assisted. Forty-two of the 110 young people had PICYS as their lead support agency, a requirement to participate in the initiative.

Castledine Gregory Law and Mediation

Castledine Gregory Law and Mediation have provided significant pro bono legal and mediation services to aid PICYS resolve a dispute with the Town of Cambridge over limitations imposed in a re-zoning of PICYS Blencowe Street property from residential to community purpose use. Also, notable thanks to Steve Allerding Associates and Len Legge Civil Engineering for their pro bono assistance.

Leadership WA Project

The Leadership WA 2020 project group were successful in preparing a grant application to McCusker Foundation to gain \$16,000 to underwrite private property subsidies and management costs, adding private properties to our Household Network capacity.



Red Earth Property Group

This is a new partnership to property and tenancy manage private rentals in PICYS.

OTHER ACTIVITIES AND POINTS TO NOTE

Coming Home

The Youth Homelessness week activity **Coming Home** was organised by the Be Seen & Be Heard Base Camp participants ably led by the PICYS Youth Peer Facilitators and Youthwork staff. This was a fabulous process and the day itself was attended by over thirty young people. The Annual Report cover page is the design that young people prepared and then painted freehand on a 1.5 x 1.0 meter piece of hard board. This will be mounted on the lounge wall at Blencowe Street, adjacent to the art piece painted by young people engaged back in 2013.

City of Perth LGBTIQ+ Advisory Committee

During the year the City of Perth established a LGBTI advisory committee focused on social inclusion and increased awareness and education within the Council and LGA

constituency. PICYS was the only organisation to be selected as a member of the advisory committee along with residents and business owners from within the municipality. This was and remains a significant advocacy and education strategy to address community discrimination of LGBTI people and work to reduce the onflow impacts of self-stigma and low self-worth. The LGBTIQ+ Plan was launched in August 2021.



OUR PEOPLE



Rhubarb and Adam
Representing PICYS at a UWA
students fundraiser night for PICYS

It is PICYS people that make the culture and the positive, inclusive vibe that people so often tell us they feel. The culture is influenced and supported by active commitment of the Association members, the elected Board, the staff, volunteers, and students. This culture comes from all of us, created by individuals and groups alike, and continuing the foundation that PICYS was built on all those years ago.

The operational team at PICYS are a solid group of fabulous individuals, all willing to work collaboratively and collectively to ensure a cando culture focused on the best interests and wellbeing of the young people. No day is the samethere are similarities, yet the predominant factor is the strength of the culture and commitment.

I wish to acknowledge the brilliant team of people who are the core of PICYS everyday relationships and youth work practice with young people, during this period:



Adam Why Chelsea Bramich Jennifer Van Der Ende Maddison Archer Rhubarb Baptist Zoe Iveson Andrew Hall
Claire-Simone Alexander
Katrina Browning
Matilda Birchmore
Robyn Cardy
& Nelly the Dog

Bryden Beck Dani Wright Toussaint Kelsie Spurr Rachel Marsh Sal Cleveray

Student Most Significant Change

As part of their learning, we ask our students "what they thought their most significant change was during their time at PICYS" – below we share with you Samile's response.

Samille 21

ECU Youthwork Student Placement - April-July 2021

Before I started my placement at PICYS, I honestly wasn't sure if youth work was something I truly wanted to do. Having only been on the books for the past two years of my degree, I'd pretty much already decided that this year, my final year, I would just get through it, give it my all, and move on.

My most significant change with PICYS is easy, I now know that youth work is something I actually want to do, and it's something that I really have become passionate about. PICYS was my first look into the world of youth work, and it's a world that I want to be a part of.

Throughout my time here, I have made connections with so many young people, and it has truly shown me what youth work is about. Youth work is never just black and white, the lines are always blurred, and that's what can make this job so hard, as no young person is ever in the same situation as another. PICYS' approach to young people is something to admire, as they care about an individualised approach, which is something all agencies should apply.

Not only have I felt accepted by the young people, but also by the staff. Every staff member of PICYS has shaped the way I view youth work and young people. They have all made me feel so accepted and each has passed on anecdotal stories to me, and what it was like for them when they first started out in this field. This helped me immensely, knowing that everyone has and will come across tough situations.

I've heard the young people at PICYS say that it feels like home when they come in, and that they're part of a family; and I know how they feel. The community of PICYS is so accepting, positive and wholesome, and it's something that you want to be a part of.

OUR KEY GOALS FOR 2021/2022

- → PICYS first goal is always to provide high quality services and relationships to young people, to achieve PICYS' vision for as many young people as we possibly can and to influence positive outcomes for all youth
- ightarrow To launch PICYS new strategic plan PICYS ON POINT 2021-2025 (PICYS Optimising Impact Now & Tomorrow) to guide our future work
- → Further develop collaborations and capacity with specialist youth services to address identified needs with evidence-based capacity enhancing responses
- → To further progress PICYS relationships and partnerships with Aboriginal Community Controlled organisations and peoples
- → To secure a multi-year service agreement with Communities WA for future provision of Household Network at its optimal service capacity
- ightarrow To secure a multi-year service agreement with Mental Health Commission WA for future years provision of PILLAR at its optimal service capacity
- → To finalise the Community Purpose Use certification and building requirements for Number 22 Blencowe Street

CONCLUSION

This last 12 months has been a time of much uncertainty, yet it has also been a time of people reflecting on what is important to them and who are the people they want to spend time with. In this context, it is a huge privilege to be able to spend time with people who are interested in the wellbeing of others as much as themselves and are willing to put their time and energies into improving and enhancing the quality of life of all people including those they may not normally come across in their everyday journeys. I acknowledge the PICYS Association members, the supporters, the staff, volunteers and students for your commitment and contribution to young people's wellbeing.

Andrew Hall JP

PICYS Executive Officer



Artwork design for a bus stop on Cambridge Street, painted by PICYS Young People

Special Acknowledgements

Key Partners

CrossRoads – Salvation Army TransFolk of WA

Foundation Housing Telethon Kids Institute

Leadership WA Vinnies WA

Rainbow Community House Youth Mental Health WA

Red Earth Property Group YouthLink

Rise Network Youth Reach South

RUAH 50 Lives 50 Homes Youth Mental Health WA

Salvation Army Housing WA

Funders, Sponsors and Donors

Allerding Associates Mental Health Commission

Bakers Delight – Myaree store - Fred McCusker Foundation

Castledine Gregory Law and Mediation Mill Point Rotary Club

Courtney Mills St Anselm's Anglican Parish Kingsley

Department of Communities Subiaco Rotary Club

FoodBank Second Bite

Homeless Perth We Care Town of Cambridge – Community Services

Individual Anonymous Donors United Way

Legge Civil Engineering Uniting Church Parish Floreat

Local Drug Action Group West Perth Rotary Club

Local Residents Woodside

Lotterywest



TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer's Report Overview of Fiscal Year ended 30 June 2021

FY21 was a challenging year due to COVID-19. Despite this, PICYS continued to grow with the number of young people actively case managed increasing from 73 in FY20 to 116 in FY21.

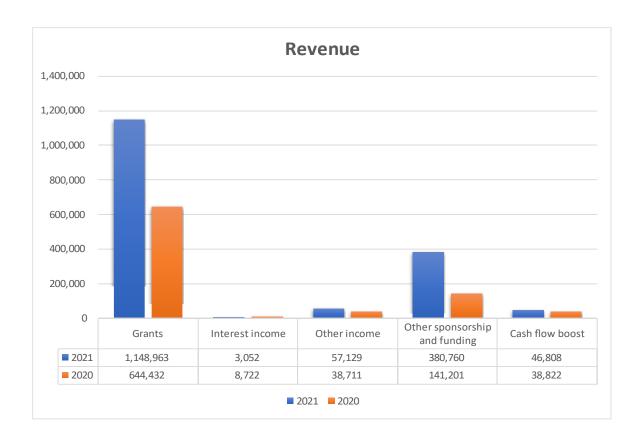
For FY21 PICYS recorded a surplus of \$396k despite the growth in the services provided and the increase operation costs because of the Equal Remuneration Order. This was due to the several one-off grants and donations including \$200k from Woodside, a \$170k from a private donor and \$47k from the PAYG cash flow booster. Accounting standards mandated that these funds were accounted as revenue during this financial year even though the planned utilisation of these grants and donations will span multiple years. The Board is currently planning to use these funds to ensure the long-term viability of operations by providing for future period costs. Current plans by the Board included utilising these funds as follows:

- 1. \$150k for long-term maintenance and improvements in FY22 for the PICYS owned Blencowe Street property and building as part of the change of use of this property from residential to community use.
- 2. \$100k for ongoing Aboriginal Engagement in line with PICYS ON POINT Strategic Plan 2021-2025 and working draft Reconciliation Action Plan.
- 3. \$50k for non-property capital assets improvements and replacements to ensure continued sustainability.
- \$40k for engaging private rental properties for use in PICYS Household Network, building on trialed model in line with the On POINT Strategic Plan 2021-2025.
- 5. \$10k for Research and Development, to enable PICYS to engage with and leverage research and design opportunities aligned with the On POINT Strategic Plan 2021-2025.

Obtaining funding is always a challenge for organisations like PICYS, particularly given the current economic state of Western Australia, and I would like to thank all our donors for their continued support. With the increase in services provided we will be in a strong position to negotiate additional Government funding in the next round of service agreement procurement.

The PICYS primary Government funded programs operated comfortably and within its means, continuing to deliver the valuable services it is recognised for. From a cash flow and management perspective, PICYS cash position increased year-on-year by \$391k as a result of the surplus left over for the 2021 year, putting PICYS in a strong financial position.

TREASURER'S REPORT





TREASURER'S REPORT

Summary

Overall, the financial performance remained within the expectations of the Board as PICYS continues to strengthen its service delivery and customer service. PICYS recognises that the current market environment continues to remain unclear and uncertain.

At the same time, PICYS faces various areas of increased costs therefore placing importance on broadening current base of means of obtaining funds. To that effect PICYS has secured continued funding from the state government for FY22 enabling continued operations in FY22.

The Board is satisfied that PICYS remains on track, with continual improvement of financial policies, procedures, and management.

Together with the Chairperson, I wish to thank all our donors and supporters once again for their continued support. PICYS is making a difference to the local youth community in Perth and its strong financial position ensures that it will be able to continue to support them in the future.

Ryan Fernandes

PICYS Treasurer



Pledge Form

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I (we) pledge a total of \$					
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I (we) wish to have our gift remain anonymous.					
	Signature(s) Date				

Please make cheques payable to:

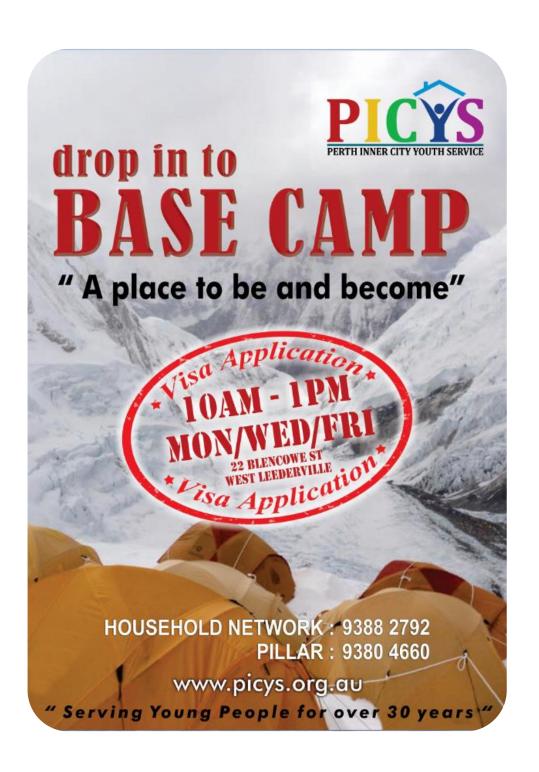
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