



Tips

Sustaining youth engagement

Below are some examples and tips around sustaining youth engagement from the WH&Y Commission's practice.

Communication:

- The WH&Y Commission uses multiple platforms to communicate our upcoming events/workshops. We use a combination of Google calendar invites, email, SMS, a closed Facebook group and private WhatsApp groups to communicate with each other. We have multiple platforms because we use the young person's preferred method of communication and acknowledging that everyone's preferences are different.
- During the application process, we asked the young people to elect their preferred method of communication. In the WH&Y Commission, email was the main source of communication, followed by SMS.
- All events will be sent to the WH&Y Commissioners and WH&Y CRE Researchers as calendar invites
- We have 4 Whatsapp groups to support informal conversations that are not specifically related to our research, or when researchers/staff have opportunities with tight turnarounds. We have one WhatsApp which combines all the WH&Y Commissioners from all states, and 3 other WhatsApp groups for state-based WH&Y Commissioners.
- The WH&Y Commission has a closed Facebook group (60 members – which includes WH&Y Commissioners, WH&Y CRE Researchers and WSU support staff). The research team schedule any upcoming events via Facebook events and posts reminders using Facebook posts.
- Across Facebook and Whatsapp, we have 2 members of staff present/ is always a member of these groups group.



Rapport-building:

- At the beginning of our 2021 & 2022 induction of WH&Y Commissioners, we asked young people the following questions:
 - What are some goals and skills you would like to learn with the WH&Y Commission?
 - What skills and knowledge do you bring?
 - What would you like to achieve through your role as a WH&Y Commissioner?
- In the first 5-10 minutes of a workshop, we spend some time getting to know each other, and if time permits, do an ice-breaker activity which is usually suggested by members of the group each session.

Organisation/ coordination of research activities:

- At the beginning of the year, the research team works with the WH&Y Commissioners to develop a schedule for the year which outlines what mini-projects will be and the times and dates meetings.
- Researchers and young people are reminded about the workshops maximum 2 weeks before the workshops.

Creating a comfortable space:

- We encourage young people to have their pronouns.
- Our location has cultural considerations (E.g. prayer room).
- We acknowledge the world/local events that may impact young people's engagement/health and wellbeing on the day. We reached out to the WH&Y Commissioners to check in during times of hardship and will refer them to the appropriate services for further support.