



2025

ANNUAL

REPORT



Collaboration. Evidence. Impact.





ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Young and Resilient Research Centre acknowledges the Burrumattagal people of the Dharug Nation as the traditional custodians of the land on which we carry out our work. In our work with young people and their communities, we are committed to listening to and learning from the insights of past, present, and emerging elders. We recognise the importance of young people as emerging elders. They play a vital role in preserving and revitalising First Nations culture, language, and practices; enriching our communities and guiding us toward a more inclusive, respectful, and resilient future.

OUR COMMITMENT TO RECONCILIATION

Y&R is deeply committed to reconciliation. We understand that true reconciliation involves working with, not just for, Indigenous communities. By fostering meaningful collaboration through co-creation and amplifying Indigenous insights and experiences, we strive to build a more inclusive and equitable future for all. As a team, we are actively working to improve our understanding of the complex and vast history and cultural heritage of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, to learn from Indigenous knowledge and develop cultural competency within our Centre. Although we're only at the start of this journey, we're excited about where it will take us.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Young and Resilient Research Centre would like to acknowledge and thank our community of staff, members, external advisory board, student interns and collaborators, youth co-researchers, partner organisations, and of course, the children, young people and their families who contribute to our research. We are also grateful for the ongoing support of the Institute for Culture and Society, and Western Sydney University.



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Our vision is a world where all young people and their communities can flourish and reach their full potential in digital societies.

ABOUT THE YOUNG AND RESILIENT RESEARCH CENTRE

Our mission is to understand and support young people and their communities - through research, collaboration, and advocacy - to build knowledge and capabilities that help them thrive in digital societies.

Today's globalised world holds significant prospects, but it can be tough for young people. They face many immediate and long term challenges - from high costs of living and debt to long term economic disadvantage, climate change and mental health difficulties. At the same time, technology is playing an increasing role in young people's lives.

The Young and Resilient Research Centre, housed within the Institute for Culture and Society at Western Sydney University, was established in 2019 to explore how to enhance young people's resilience in the face of these challenges - and to understand the role that digital technology can play.

OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



EXCELLENCE

Consolidate our position as world-leaders in the fields of childhood and youth, technology and resilience.



CAPACITY

Build capacity among our members for outstanding research and leadership.



IMPACT

Positively impact the lives of young people.



PARTNERSHIP

Foster meaningful partnerships that deliver benefits to all parties.



REPUTATION

Exemplify WSU's reputation for high impact research locally, nationally and internationally.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR



We live in a world shaped - and sometimes shaken - by digital technology. In 2025, that reality has never felt more urgent. Young people are navigating social media algorithms that influence their health, misinformation that clouds their judgement, and digital environments that were rarely designed with them in mind.

And yet, amid these pressures, young people are also forging identities, finding communities, and asserting agency in ways that are creative, courageous, and often overlooked. Meanwhile, governments and platforms are scrambling to respond, sometimes with blunt instruments, sometimes in performative ways, sometimes with fear rather than evidence and not always with young people’s voices at the table.

This is precisely why the work of the Young and Resilient Research Centre matters so much.

Our vision — a world where all young people and their communities can flourish and reach their potential in a digital society — is not aspirational rhetoric. It is a call to action, and one that our extraordinary team pursues through rigorous research, meaningful collaboration, and fearless advocacy.

I am proud to reflect on a remarkable year for Y&R. In 2025, we welcomed our largest cohort of new members since the Centre’s establishment in 2019 — a powerful affirmation that our work resonates far beyond the academy. We deepened our partnerships through initiatives including the Research Alliance and

internationally significant projects such as Decolonising Digital Design, which remind us that thriving in digital societies must be understood through diverse cultural lenses.

I warmly welcome the two young people, Angelica Ojinnaka-Psillakis and Planning Saw, who joined our External Advisory Board this year. Their presence is not tokenistic; it is essential. And I extend my sincere gratitude to our outgoing board members for their wisdom and generosity of spirit.

None of this work happens without the dedication of our staff, members, partners, and - above all - the young people who trust us with their experiences and insights. To all of you: thank you.

As we look to 2026, I am energised by what lies ahead. The questions Y&R is asking are the ones that matter most. I look forward to pursuing them alongside you.

Lesley Podesta

Chair, Young and Resilient Research Centre
External Advisory Board

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CO-DIRECTORS



In a world characterised by polycrisis, in which young people and their communities are navigating many entrenched and new challenges, we often get asked ‘what gives you hope that things can be different?’ This is a reasonable question – one that we ask ourselves every day.

The answer is simple: the energy, commitment and sheer drive of our partners, our members and the young people we work with to understand and address the big issues of our time – and to unlock our collective imagination, creativity and collaboration.

In 2025, this hope was fueled by strategic collaborations, research excellence with real-world impacts, and amplifying our work with decision-makers and the public. As this Annual Report details, through youth-centred research, our team and members are empowering young people in civic life, improving health and wellbeing and advancing safer, viable digital and climate futures.

We were guided again by a stellar External Advisory Board and welcomed four new members to this entity, including two outstanding young people. The Centre’s academic membership was boosted by a record number of new members. We have grown our network of youth researchers and associates who are unanimous in reporting that they experience positive outcomes and long-term impacts from working with us and our partners.

As we look ahead to 2026, we know our strength is collaborating with young people and the organisations, communities, governments, and industries that serve them. This is not easy work. It requires a steadfast commitment to aligning on vision, to navigating all the fabulous messiness that characterises meaningful collaboration, to lifting each other up, and to always staying true to our core value of centring children’s and young people’s knowledge, experience, and expectations. In many contexts youth-led research is still new and disruptive - but nonetheless necessary. If we can increase opportunities to learn from one another, to be creative in how we tackle big challenges and opportunities while being accountable to children and young people for how we represent and activate the knowledge we create together, we can make urgent and lasting, positive change.

We are delighted to share with you how, alongside a vibrant community of partners, and children and young people, we delivered on these commitments in 2025.

Professors Philippa Collin & Amanda Third
Co-Directors, Y&R

A MESSAGE FROM A YOUTH CO-RESEARCHER



Logan is a 20-year old youth co-researcher with Y&R and a proud Darkinjung man.

What ultimately motivated me to work with Y&R was my strong passion and ongoing commitment to educating others about the histories, cultures, and contemporary issues faced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Across everything I do – whether in my

university studies, employment, or volunteer roles – I strive to centre First Nations voices in ways that are meaningful, respectful, and impactful. Y&R’s values and approach closely align with my own, particularly its emphasis on lived experience, youth leadership, and meaningful participation, which made joining the organisation feel like a natural fit.

The team at Y&R is, without a doubt, the best group of people I have ever worked with. Everyone is considerate, passionate, and highly professional, creating a work environment that feels both supportive and inspiring. The project teams I’ve worked with have consistently made me feel proud, included, and valued. Y&R mentors, leaders, and supervisors continually inspire me through their integrity, care, and commitment to ethical practice. One aspect of Y&R that I deeply appreciate is the active encouragement and support for my use of my traditional language, Darkinjung, in emails, Acknowledgements of Country, and other aspects of my work.

The list of things I have learnt since joining Y&R feels truly endless. I have strengthened existing skills such as teamwork, communication, and


problem-solving, while also developing many new capabilities. These experiences have not only enhanced my confidence but have also expanded my understanding of ethical, collaborative, and youth-led research practices. Since joining Y&R, my skills in research and professionalism have grown substantially. As I continue working with Y&R, I hope these skills will further develop into a broad and versatile skill set that supports my future aspirations.

In my view, Y&R is a powerhouse that is making a tangible difference almost every day. What truly sets Y&R apart is its genuine commitment to youth-led and youth-informed work, where young people are not simply consulted, but trusted, respected, and recognised as knowledge holders. Y&R creates spaces where lived experience is valued as expertise and where diverse voices can meaningfully influence policy, research, and practice. I see Y&R actively reshaping how institutions engage with young people, challenging traditional power dynamics, and modelling what ethical, collaborative, and decolonising research can look like in practice.

Logan Culley
Y&R Youth Co-Researcher

2025 HIGHLIGHTS





\$1,217,364*
EXTERNAL RESEARCH INCOME

*figures based on actual income received in Y&R cost centre.

21 ACTIVE PROJECTS

including:

- 4 new projects
- 5 completed project
- 21 ongoing projects



15 PROPOSALS SUBMITTED

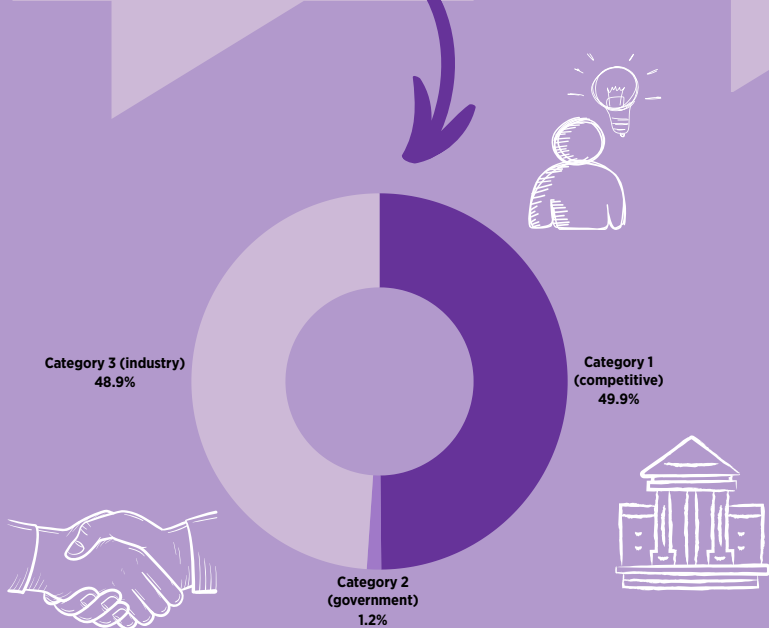
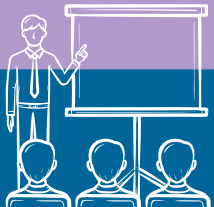



Figure 1: Y&R’s 2025 external research income by type.

28 PRESENTATIONS

- 18 invited speakers
- 4 invited panelists
- 5 contributed presentations
- 1 panel chairs



52 PUBLICATIONS

- 2 books
- 4 book chapters
- 14 journal articles
- 18 reports
- 9 non-traditional outputs
- 5 Conversation articles



COLLABORATORS

15

countries

60

partners

59

facilitators

trained (in our creative methods)

27 new
33 existing



Australia | Bangladesh | Brazil | Chad |
India | Indonesia | Lebanon | Nepal |
Philippines | Poland | Rwanda | Solomon
Islands | Sri Lanka | Venezuela

RESEARCH PARTICIPANTS

1984

children
and young
people

133

adult
stakeholders

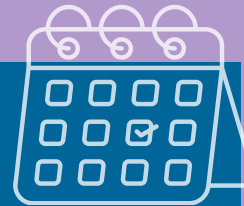


Dr Madison Shakespeare awarded
Runner up (Second Place) for Best
Oral Abstract in the Australasian
Gastro-Intestinal Trials Group
(AGITG) Best of the Best Competition

23

EVENTS

- 3 launches
- 10 seminars
- 6 stakeholder workshops
- 2 showcases
- 2 public events



**INCREASED
ENGAGEMENT**

- 125 media mentions
- 25,225 website visits
- 115m+ media reach
- 836 new fans and followers

1. OUR RESEARCH





OUR RESEARCH

In 2025, Y&R continued to deepen the reach of our research, strengthening both its quality and real-world impact. Aligned with Western Sydney University’s Western 2030 strategy—particularly the priority to drive research and innovation—our work advances rigorous, collaborative inquiry that responds to the complex challenges shaping children’s and young people’s lives.

Across issues spanning climate justice, nutrition, education and online participation and safety, we generate evidence that is academically robust and practically relevant, while expanding partnerships locally and globally.

Our participatory approach engaged children and young people across many countries, ensuring their perspectives directly shape our outputs. We also partnered with young people as collaborators and co-researchers, embedding youth-centred methods that strengthen the relevance and impact of our work. The projects featured in this section reflect our commitment to research that not only advances scholarship, but informs policy, practice and more equitable, youth-centred digital societies.

In what follows, each project is denoted by a symbol representing the research stream and SDG that the project is most closely aligned with. Our streams and SDGs are cross-cutting and our projects almost always contribute to multiple streams and goals simultaneously!



Figure 2: Y&R’s research streams

NEW PROJECTS

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE FOR THE EARLY YEARS



This ARC Discovery-funded project, led by the Australian Catholic University, aims to generate new knowledge about Artificial Intelligence (AI) for the Early Years. AI is already being used by educators to assess development and provide suggested learning experiences and practice, and it is also being applied in digital games and content for children. However, little is known about how AI interfaces with children’s play, learning and development outcomes and how to ensure children are provided with AI that is safe, equitable and trustworthy.

In 2025, the project team commenced planning for fieldwork to begin in 2026. This will involve a participatory design process with children, families and educators to generate insight about AI, play, learning and development in early childhood care. Recommendations for a new AI for the Early Years Statement will be developed based on insights from the design process, and subsequently trialled with partner organisations.

BATYR SCHOOLS AND UNIVERSITIES PROGRAM LONGITUDINAL EVALUATION



Y&R set out to undertake a longitudinal evaluation of the long-term impacts of batyr’s school and university program, which has been delivering innovative, high-quality, preventative mental health programs in schools and universities for more than a decade. The project sought to evaluate implementation, outcomes and economic impact of the program.

Due to challenges beyond control, it was not feasible to deliver the full study as originally intended but there was immense value in the process and many important lessons learned. Mental health prevention remains under funded and often misunderstood, but important progress was made in changing this perception. The learnings from this project has enhanced the understanding and capabilities of the Y&R and batyr teams.

CHILD-CENTRED EVIDENCE TO DRIVE MEANINGFUL SOCIAL CHANGE FOR CHILDREN



Robust, child-centred evidence is needed to drive targeted policy and prompt action for children in Australia and the Pacific. With funding from the ARC Linkage Scheme, this project is a collaboration between Y&R, ChildFund, Plan International Australia, Save the Children, UNICEF Australia, SNAICC, and child rights research leaders from 5 universities.

The project will generate a toolkit to engage children in generating evidence about child rights issues, new data sets, and a sustainable implementation model. These outputs will improve civil society coordination around child-rights reporting, and provide evidence to inform policy and services. In 2026, the team will train youth co-researchers, and conduct workshops and yarning circles with children and young people in Australia. They will also produce a National Children’s Report and a First Nations Children’s Report.



COR: SANDBOXING AND STANDARDISING CHILDREN'S ONLINE REDRESS



The COR Sandbox (Children's Online Redress Sandbox) is a two-year international project exploring how children can seek help and fair outcomes when they experience harm online. A "sandbox" is a safe, structured space to test and refine ideas before they are rolled out more widely. Working with child protection organisations, researchers and young people in Greece, Ireland and Australia, we are testing practical, child-centred approaches to complaints, reporting and redress. The aim is to strengthen systems so they are accessible, rights-respecting and responsive to children's lived experiences.

In 2025, partners refined the Listening Framework, mapped existing redress pathways, and sought ethics approval. In 2026, the focus will be on co-designing activities with young people and frontline professionals, piloting and evaluating sandbox tools, strengthening cross-country learning, and producing guidance for policymakers and platforms to improve children's access to effective redress.

GLOBAL ADVISORY SUPPORT TO PILOT CHILD- AND ADOLESCENT-CENTRED NUTRITION INDICATORS IN PAKISTAN



In Pakistan, adolescent girls face a disproportionate risk of malnutrition due to a complex interplay of economic, political, ecological, and social factors. To address this critical health issue, Nutrition International (NI) partnered with Y&R to develop a subset of Child and Adolescent Centred Nutrition Indicators (CAN_I) unique to the nutritional needs and voices of adolescent girls in Pakistan.

In 2025, we engaged 79 girls across four different regions of Pakistan in participatory workshops and conducted four intergenerational focus groups. From this, we were able to develop a context specific subset of CAN_I indicators, which advocate for the nutritional equity and rights of adolescent girls in Pakistan. Alongside the indicators, we produced a report for NI, presentation of the work, and an indicator toolkit to facilitate practical use of the indicators. In 2026, we will continue work with NI to publish on our findings in academic journals.

YOUTH VOICES ON AI: SHAPING A SAFER DIGITAL FUTURE



As Artificial Intelligence (AI) reshapes our relationship to education, work, entertainment, and social interactions, we face a critical challenge: ensuring children and youth have a say in the technologies that will transform their lives. This project expands our partnerships with Save the Children, Common Good AI and the Australian eSafety Commissioner, and is a uniquely innovative initiative using generative AI (genAI) to directly engage children and young people in shaping AI development and regulation.

In 2025, the team worked with members of eSafety's Youth Council to co-design and test the methods and genAI platform (CrowdSmart) that will be used to engage 500 children and young people in 2026. The online engagement will aim to understand young people's use of, attitudes towards, and perspectives on how genAI can prevent child sexual exploitation and abuse (CSEA). Drawing on their insights, we will develop a Youth Constitution for GenAI and Online Safety, as well as industry and child-friendly reports, and policy recommendations for genAI and child safety.

CONTRIBUTING TO NATIONAL YOUTH STUDIES

Y&R had the pleasure of contributing to two large-scale national projects with long-standing partners in 2025: the Australian Youth Digital Index (led by the Telstra Foundation) and the State of Australia's Children report (led by UNICEF Australia and ARACY). Together, we contributed to building national datasets and deepening our collective understanding of issues facing young people in Australia.

STATE OF AUSTRALIA'S CHILDREN REPORT



In 2025, UNICEF Australia and ARACY, with funding from the Minderoo Foundation, launched the first annual State of Australia's Children report (SOAC). Drawing on data from a nationally representative survey of 12-17 year olds conducted by UNICEF Australia and ARACY, the SOAC report

provides a snapshot of what life is like for children in Australia and aims to inform policy and action to ensure Australia is an equitable place for all children to grow up.

To complement the survey, Y&R led a series of play-based, creative workshops with children aged 3-11 years old to understand their lives and experiences of their wellbeing and rights. Data from these workshops provided rich insights and helped to ensure the important perspectives of young children were included in the report.

AUSTRALIAN YOUTH DIGITAL INDEX



The Telstra Foundation's Australian Youth Digital Index (AYDI) aims to identify and annually monitor the key drivers, issues, and opportunities that relate to young people's relationships with digital technology across five key pillars: access, connectivity, skills, safety, and wellbeing. In AYDI's second year

in 2025, Y&R collaborated with the Telstra Foundation to conduct a qualitative deep dive into the role and impact of online news and information on children and young people. The project supports and complements the 2025 AYDI study by providing deep insight about children's and young people's experiences,

In 2025, Y&R conducted three workshops- two online and one face-to-face, with children and young people. The team produced one report including a case study, and collaborated with two youth co-researchers to deliver the project.

“ Being a part of Y&R as a youth co-researcher has meant stepping into a space where my voice is valued as a contributor, rather than being positioned as a participant in the more traditional sense.

What I've appreciated most is the sense of purpose behind every project. The work is grounded in the big issues affecting young people but also highlights the many strengths they bring to the table. Having the chance to try new things, experiment with different research methods, and see how ideas evolve into tangible outcomes has also been very encouraging.

The team has played a huge role in shaping this experience. They're so supportive and open to questions, big or small, which has helped me build confidence in areas I hadn't had a chance to explore before. The experience has helped me develop a stronger sense of who I am in collaborative spaces. Professionally, it's given me skills and insights I know I'll carry forward with and outside of Y&R. But beyond that, it's shown me what respectful, youth-centred research can look like when it's done well. I feel grateful to be part of a team that not only talks about youth voice but actively creates space for it to shape the work.

”

- FIONA, YOUTH CO-RESEARCHER



Play-based workshops delivered for the State of Australia's Children project, with UNICEF Australia. ©UNICEF Australia/UA150069/Robertson

In 2025, several multi-year projects continued research activities and achieved milestones. We showcase highlights from some of these projects below.

CHILD-LED ADVOCACY AND MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION: CHILD-LED RESEARCH



In partnership with World Vision, Y&R worked on a research capacity-building project with 15 Child-Led Advocacy and Meaningful Participation (CHAMP) youth leaders in five countries across the South Asia Pacific (Bangladesh, Indonesia, Nepal, Philippines and Sri Lanka) to equip them with research knowledge and skills to advocate for practical action to address hunger and malnutrition. Participatory workshops held with young people aged 13-18 surfaced adolescent perspectives on nutrition in each country.

In 2025, our work with World Vision was presented at the Philippines Social Science Council – National Social Science Congress and published in a report which was launched with an online panel discussion hosted by the World Vision CHAMP youth leaders. Peer reviewed journal publications are planned for 2026.

DECOLONISING DIGITAL DESIGN: TOWARD SAFE AND INCLUSIVE DIGITAL EXPERIENCES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE



Building on the Culture-Centred Design pilot project, this multi-country study uses participatory and youth co-research methodologies to investigate young people's understandings of culture and how this intersects with their digital media. We will use this information to develop a framework that will guide the design of digital services and products to move towards a better, inclusive internet for young people in diverse cultural contexts.

In 2025, the DDD team engaged with community partners in eight countries and 15 youth co-researchers to conduct participatory workshops involving over 500 participants in urban, rural and remote areas. Youth co-researchers and our team produced a video highlighting the project and capacity-building resources for partners.

EXAMINING YOUTH DIGITAL WELLBEING IN AUSTRALIA AND THE PHILIPPINES



Led by A/Prof Ben Hanckel, this project explores young people's experiences of digital health interventions across Australia and the Philippines, and how they can best enhance young people's wellbeing.

In 2025, the project completed Phase Two, this included interviews and focus groups with 72 young people, across Australia and the Philippines. We presented the findings at three conferences, and two seminar series as well as within researcher networks and with key stakeholders in Australia and Philippines. The project has a youth advisory board (8 young people) and a professional advisory board (7 professionals and experts) guiding the project. In addition to informing journal articles and a chapter, the project also informed the development of a co-authored book: ['Researching with Young People: An Introduction to Youth-Centred Research Methods'](#).

FROM PARTICIPATION TO ACCOUNTABILITY IN HEALTHCARE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE



While there is increased enthusiasm for youth participation in health research, policy and practice, engaging meaningfully with young people is not standard practice. Evidence suggests that focusing on accountability to young people will dramatically increase understanding and practical change required to transform the system. Through our work with the Wellbeing Health & Youth Commission and Accountable Futures Collective (AFC), this project investigates what accountability in health means and develops youth-centred evidence and mechanisms to support change.

In 2025 we worked with AFC and young co-researchers to complete analysis and outputs, including a Youth-Driven Accountability Process Tool, journal articles and a masterclass (delivered in 2026). The team also worked with AFC on a major bid - “Shit Hot Standards for Youth-Driven Accountability” - which secured five-year funding. We congratulate AFC on this achievement and look forward to collaborating.

NEW POSSIBILITIES: YOUNG PEOPLE AND DEMOCRATIC RENEWAL



The New Possibilities project examines how and why Australian young people lead, organise and participate in climate action and advocacy across online and offline spaces. With partners from RMIT, ANU, USyd, and in collaboration with the Australian Youth Climate Coalition, the team are exploring how youth climate action is shaping Australia’s political and democratic culture, during a time of global, social and political change.

During 2025, the project team conducted digital and local ethnography at rallies in three states, conducted 12 interviews, and conducted 2 co-creation and analysis workshops with young people. The research team published 13 scholarly publications, a podcast ([The Silent Majority](#)), held an event in partnership with The Powerhouse for Climate Action Week and delivered seventeen presentations at international academic conferences and invited talks. Eight youth co-researchers and interns collaborated on our project.





In 2025, we funded 5 strategic research development projects for new and existing School and Institute-based members. These funds are used to support research development or engagement activities aimed at fostering new partnerships and grants.

DIGITAL DEMOCRACY: UNDERSTANDING POLITICAL INFLUENCE, (MIS)INFORMATION AND PERSUASION IN DIGITAL SOCIETY

Lead: Michelle Catanzaro

Digital media, online social platforms, and an expanding ecosystem of content creators are increasingly central to political communication and civic learning, a trend evident during the 2025 Federal Election. For many young people and first-time voters, digital content and online engagement were primary sources of information about political issues, processes, and party positions. This project undertakes a literature review and pilot for a 'real-time' study examining the evolving digital media landscape before, during, and after a federal election.

In 2025, the project conducted interviews with young people and undertook Instagram data scraping to analyse how three groups of content creators communicated political information to young audiences during and following the 2025 election. Findings are informing the development of a full-scale project proposal and two peer-reviewed journal articles planned for submission in 2026.

PARENTS' UNDERSTANDING OF THE ROLE OF SPIRITUALITY FOR YOUNG PEOPLES' POSITIVE MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Lead: Katherine Cooper

In Australia, approximately 15% of young people aged 18–24 experience high to very high psychological distress, and 14% of those aged 12–17 experience a mental disorder. Parents and carers play a pivotal role in supporting young people's mental health; however, little research has examined their perspectives, particularly regarding the role of spirituality.

In 2025, this project undertook a literature review exploring parents' understandings of spirituality in supporting young people with mental health conditions. The review identified a significant gap in the evidence base, with no studies directly examining this perspective. Findings will be published in a peer-reviewed journal, and the team plans to seek further funding to investigate what spirituality means for parents and young people and how clinicians can provide sensitive, holistic, and spiritually informed support to families experiencing mental health challenges.

IN LIMBO: WHERE IS MY JOB?

Lead: Karin Louise

This project investigates what constitutes meaningful employment for young people and how employment experiences shape identity, cultural wellbeing, and sense of purpose. Stage 1 focused on a scoping literature review examining definitions of meaningful work, the relationship between employment and wellbeing, and challenges faced by young people, particularly in Western Sydney and Regional NSW. The review identified significant gaps, including limited theorisation of meaningful work, minimal inclusion of young people's voices, and a lack of place-based research addressing socioeconomic disadvantage and intergenerational inequality.

Project activities in 2025 included completion of the scoping review, synthesis of findings, and establishment of an advisory group comprising young people along with community, education, and arts partners. Outputs include a draft journal article for submission in early 2026 and advisory group documentation. Future plans involve seeking funding for Stage 2 research to engage young people in co-designing pathways to meaningful employment using a cultural wellbeing framework, with the aim of informing policy, practice, and youth-led interventions.

VOICES OF THE WEST: YOUNG PEOPLE, WORK AND IMAGINED FUTURES

Lead: Julia Kantek and Sky Hugman

This project examines how young people from Western Sydney, including graduates of Western Sydney University, make decisions about where and how to pursue work, particularly when these decisions involve leaving the region. The project seeks to understand how aspirations, labour mobility, and perceptions of opportunity shape young people's imagined futures and regional attachment.

Activities supported by the funding in 2025 included scoping and synthesising scholarly and grey literature on youth aspirations and internal labour migration; collating demographic and regional trend data; and supporting the development of an ethics application for a mixed-methods study. Outputs include a completed literature report and a refined research strategy. Future plans include submitting the ethics application, collecting survey and interview data, publishing findings in a Q1 journal, presenting outcomes, and developing networks to support an ARC Discovery Grant application.

LISTENING TO YOUTH: A PARTICIPATORY RESEARCH PROGRAM WITH YOUTH-LED ADVISORY BOARDS FOR TYPE 1 DIABETES

Lead: Phoebe Zhou

This project examines the use of complementary and alternative medicine (CAM), including nutritional supplements, among children and adolescents with Type 1 Diabetes (T1D). T1D is a lifelong condition requiring daily insulin management, and many families use CAM despite limited evidence regarding safety or effectiveness for young people. The project aims to conduct a scoping review to systematically map existing evidence on CAM use across different stages of T1D and identify gaps in current research.

Activities in 2025 include completion of database searching and screening, progression to full-text review and data extraction, and preparation of a manuscript for peer-reviewed publication. In parallel, an ethics-approved survey and workshop are being implemented to capture young people's real-world experiences, patterns of CAM use, and perspectives. Outputs will include peer-reviewed publications and evidence summaries. Findings will inform future evidence-based research, partnerships, and funding applications focused on improving guidance and care for young people with T1D.



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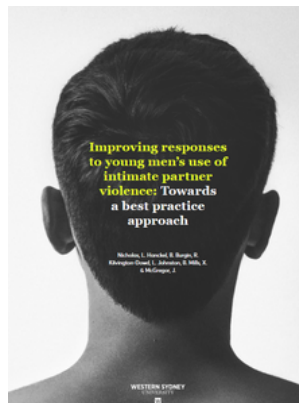
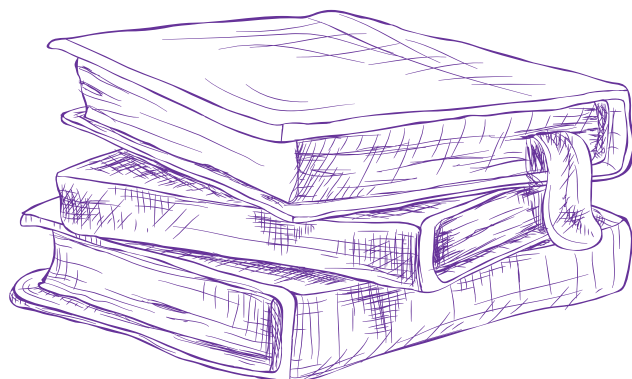
Play-based workshops delivered for the State of Australia's Children project, with UNICEF Australia. ©UNICEF Australia/UA149924/Robertson

PUBLICATIONS

We continued to produce high-quality publications in 2025, contributing to our strategic priority area of building excellence. Our publications spanned a range of themes and audiences.

We produced 2 books, 2 book chapters, 16 journal articles, 19 reports, 15 non-traditional research outputs and 5 The Conversation articles. In this section, we showcase a selection of reports and scholarly publications released in 2025.

See [Appendix 2](#) for a full list of 2025 publications and the [Y&R website](#) for links to full text of all reports.



IMPROVING RESPONSES TO YOUNG MEN'S USE OF INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE: TOWARDS A BEST PRACTICE APPROACH

Featured as one of the Analysis and Policy Observatory's top 10 reports on social issues for 2025, this report examines the current service landscape, and presents research with practitioners working with young people, young men who had used or have not used IPV, and young women victim survivors in Victoria, Australia to identify key drivers and risk factors for young men's use of IPV.




HOPE AND RESILIENCE: YOUNG AUSTRALIAN'S REFLECTIONS ON HOPE IN A COMPLEX WORLD

Produced in partnership with the Alannah & Madeline Foundation and the Centre for Resilient and Inclusive Societies, this report presents findings from research with 1,038 young Australians aged 12–19, exploring their hopes and aspirations across technology, work, education, wellbeing and the environment, and the implications for their resilience and future wellbeing.



THE DIGITAL EXPERIENCES OF AUSTRALIAN YOUTH: ACCESSING TRUSTWORTHY INFORMATION AND NEWS ONLINE

Produced as a companion report to the Telstra Foundation's Australian Youth Digital Index report, this mini report presents the qualitative findings from workshops conducted with young people in Australia to understand their perceptions of trustworthy information and news online, how they access trustworthy sources, and how this information impacts on them.



“ [The] ‘What Matters to Young Australians Through Turbulent Times? Insights from the 2019–2023 What Matters? Writing Competition’ [report] was an outstanding output. It was accessible and rigorous and it addressed issues that were deeply important to the Whitlam Institute. The report provided a compelling, evidence-based account of young people’s experiences and has been extremely valuable for policy, research and public engagement. The outputs have been used as a key reference point in our policy, research and engagement work. ”

- AZADEH DASTYARI, WHITLAM INSTITUTE

MEASURING WHAT MATTERS: CHILD- AND YOUTH-CENTRED INDICATORS



We believe that child- and youth-centred measurement matters because it ensures that what’s measured reflects what children and young people themselves value, experience and need to thrive.

Over the past 10 years, Y&R have developed a substantial and diverse portfolio of indicator frameworks designed to strengthen evidence informed action for children and young people across multiple domains. This body of work spans online safety, violence prevention, nutrition, wellbeing and play, climate change and youth-engaged policymaking and showcases our commitment to child- and youth-centred research.

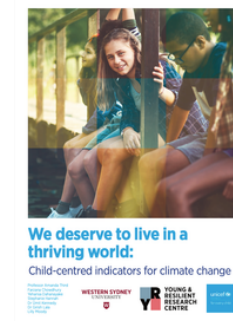
Some of our frameworks assess current states and track progress towards ideal states over time - such as the child-centred indicators for violence prevention, the child-centred climate change indicators framework, and the the global child and adolescent nutrition indicators. Others provide evaluation frameworks, for example the

child online protection evaluation framework, the Swipe Safe online safety indicators, and the children’s digital play wellbeing index.

These frameworks equip a diversity of audiences, including governments, NGOs and industry with actionable tools to understand, measure and improve the lives of children and young people.

In 2025, we began collecting data to inform the development of a new indicator framework for decolonised digital design. We also developed a subset of our child and adolescent-centred nutrition indicators to measure the nutritional needs and experiences of adolescent girls in Pakistan, as well as an accompanying activation toolkit for local implementation. An activation toolkit for the child-centred indicators for climate change was also progressed, for launch in 2026.

Excitingly, we have been developing an online indicator tool which will bring together our indicator frameworks and enable industry, NGO and government partners to engage with existing Y&R frameworks and create their own customised toolkit for specific purposes. More updates to come in 2026!



2.

OUR

IMPACT





OUR IMPACT

At Y&R, youth participation is at the heart of everything we do. Through youth-centred research, partnerships, and knowledge translation, we generate evidence, build capacity, and influence the policies, practices, and systems that shape children’s and young people’s lives.

In 2025, we were proud to launch our new Impact Framework - a major milestone that brings greater clarity and consistency to how we understand, strengthen and evidence the difference our work makes. Grounded in our commitment to youth-centred research and meaningful participation, the framework articulates how our work helps to create thriving children and young people, empowered communities, and responsive institutions.

In this section, we present an overview of our new Impact Framework, and then share case studies that bring it to life across four thematic areas: civic and political participation, online safety, health and wellbeing, and climate change and action.

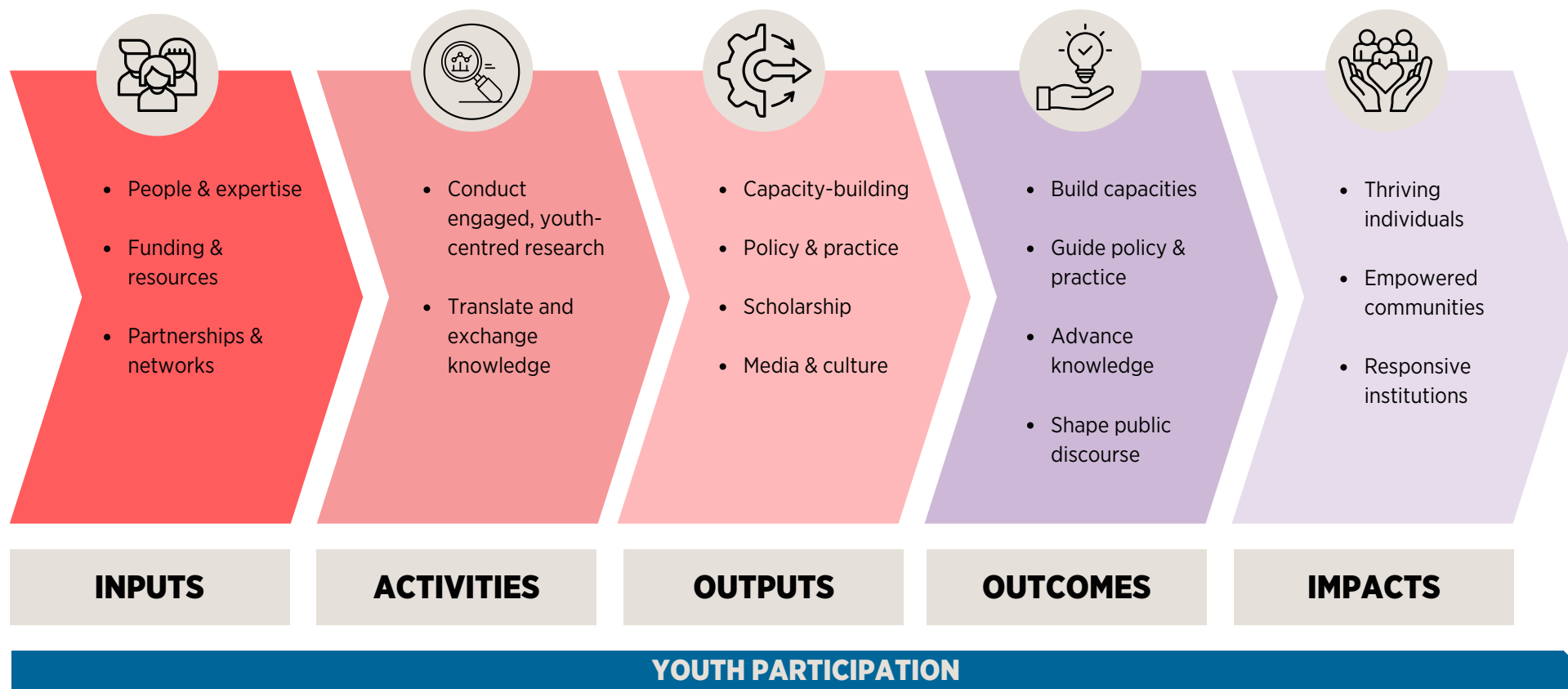
We also present the findings from our Annual Partner and Youth Co-Researcher Surveys - two key impact data collection mechanisms which underpin our Impact Framework - and share feedback from some of the 1984 children and young people who participated in our workshops in 2025.

“ [Y&R] sets [the] precedent on how young people should be involved in organisational and policy decisionmaking - other organisations can take Y&R’s youth engagement model as gold standard for future work, making real change to young people’s lives and how they are felt and heard by decisionmakers. ”

- YEHANSA, YOUTH CO-RESEARCHER

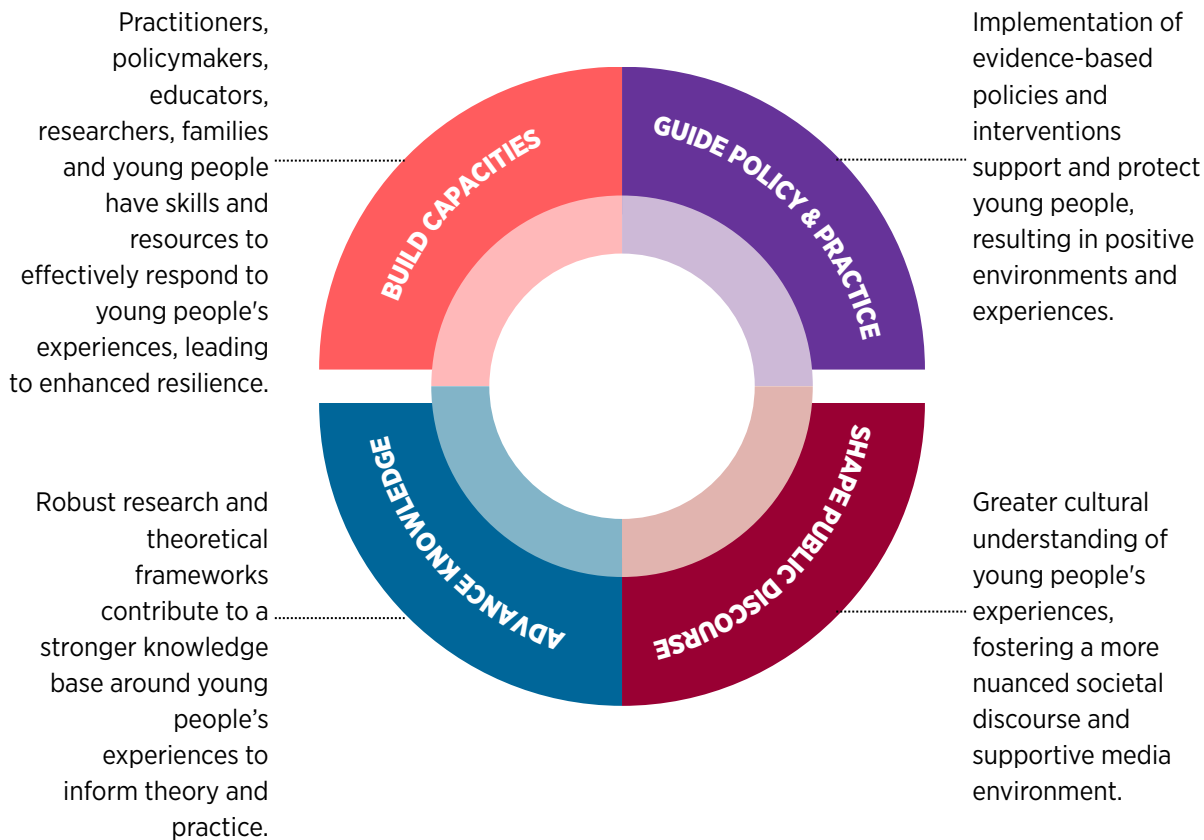
HOW WE CREATE IMPACT

Youth participation is at the heart of what we do. Through engaged, youth-centred research and knowledge translation, we build capacities, guide policy and practice, advance knowledge, and shape public discourse. Our work has ripple effects - helping to create thriving individuals, empowered communities, and responsive businesses, corporations and institutions - leading to a more equitable, informed and resilient digital society where young people thrive.

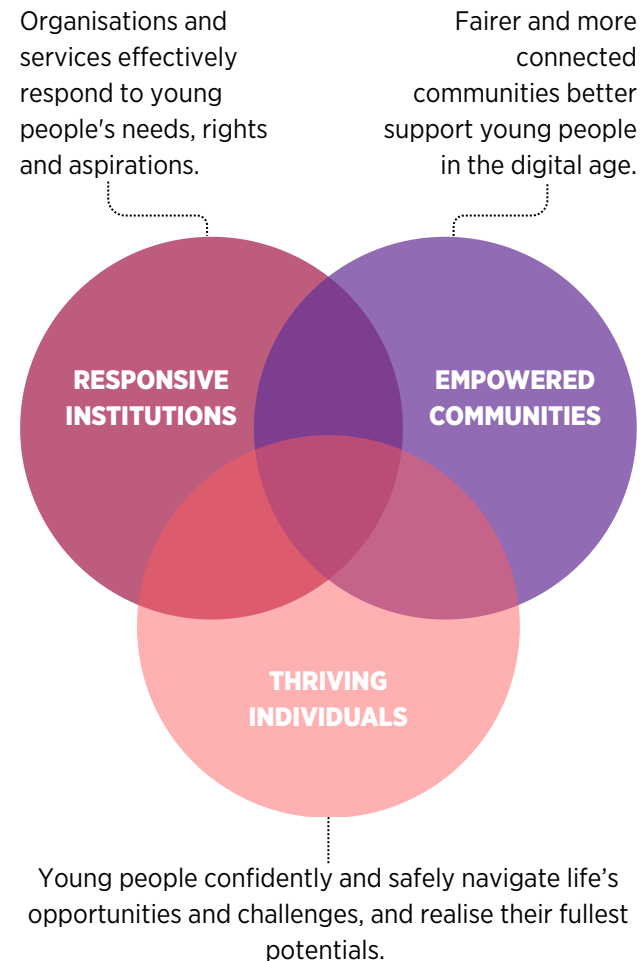


Our impact framework consists of four outcome domains and three impact domains. These are the areas where we aim to tangibly contribute to medium and long-term change.

OUTCOME DOMAINS



IMPACT DOMAINS



MEDIUM-TERM CHANGE

LONG-TERM CHANGE

EMPOWERING YOUNG PEOPLE IN CIVIC LIFE

Young people are often underrepresented in political decision-making, despite being directly affected by the policies and systems shaping their lives – and there is a need for approaches that better support and enable their civic engagement.

Drawing on our deep expertise in children’s and young people’s political participation, we partnered with Whitlam Institute to analyse over 20,000 entries from children and young people in the What Matters? writing competition (2019-2024) to understand which issues they care about most; delivered and evaluated training on research, advocacy and policy to over 175 children in the Liverpool City Council’s deliberative democracy program, the 2168 Children’s Parliament (2022-2025); and in partnership with ANU, RMIT and USyd we analysed protest artworks, surveyed, interviewed and ran workshops with nearly 400 young people to understand their participation in the climate movement.

In 2025, we launched the second What Matters to Young Australians report (with the Whitlam Institute). We published five Conversation pieces

on young people’s political participation and engagement and numerous journal articles on topics such as lowering the voting age and student activism. We shared our research with academic and industry audiences at home and abroad, and contributed to public conversations through our television and radio appearances discussing how young people shaped the 2025 Australian Federal election.

Through this work, we have advanced national and international knowledge on the nature, drivers, and diversity of young people’s political participation, while building the skills, confidence and pathways for hundreds of young people to engage directly in civic and democratic processes. Our findings and partnerships have also guided policy and practice, equipping educators, councils, and community organisations with evidence and tools to embed meaningful youth participation in their work, and contributing to public conversations that recognise young people as informed and active citizens. Our partners at the Whitlam Institute reflect, “The partnership has reinforced the value of grounding policy and practice in young people’s lived experiences...[and the research has been] used in [policy] discussions with

government, NGOs and educators [and in public debate]” - highlighting its role in shaping broader conversations and decision-making.

Over time, these outcomes will support thriving individuals, as young people develop the confidence, capabilities and sense of agency to shape the issues that affect their lives. They will contribute to empowered communities, where young people’s perspectives are valued and acted upon – with partners at Liverpool City Council noting that “collectively, these outcomes [from the 2168 Children’s Parliament training and evaluation] have contributed to a stronger, more empowered community and a more robust foundation for ongoing advocacy and policy influence.” Ultimately, this work will help foster more responsive institutions that listen to, include, and act in the best interests of children and young people, strengthening the foundations of a more inclusive and representative democracy.

“ Young and Resilient plays a unique and critical role in the Australian landscape. In our experience, Y&R combines rigorous, interdisciplinary research with a deeply relational approach that centres children’s rights and accountability to young people in both principle and practice. At a time when institutions are grappling with how to genuinely listen to and respond to young people, Y&R offers more than consultation. It advances frameworks and evidence that help organisations embed young people’s voices into decision making, governance and policy design. While its work in digital contexts is significant, what stands out most is its commitment to ensuring that young people are recognised as rights holders and knowledge holders, not simply service users or subjects of research. The difference this makes is both practical and systemic. Y&R strengthens the capacity of schools, services, policymakers and community organisations to move beyond symbolic participation towards meaningful accountability. Its research translates into tools, partnerships and practices that shift power in tangible ways. In doing so, Y&R contributes to a more just and responsive society, while also enhancing Western Sydney University’s leadership in rights based, socially impactful research. The value of this work cannot be overstated. It positions the University at the forefront of shaping how Australia understands and operationalises accountability to young people in a rapidly changing world.

”

- ACCOUNTABLE FUTURES COLLECTIVE

DESIGNING CHILD-SAFE DIGITAL FUTURES

As digital technologies become embedded in children’s everyday lives, concerns about online safety have intensified.

Policymakers, educators, and families are grappling with how to protect children from harm while supporting their rights to participation and access.

Our team has worked in child online safety for over ten years, partnering with government, non-government, and private sector organisations locally and globally. We’ve engaged more than 4,500 children and young people from nearly 80 countries in participatory workshops to explore their online experiences. In 2025, we used youth-centred and distributed data generation methods to co-design three national child online safety taskforces advising governments in Indonesia, Lebanon and Malawi (funded by the International Telecommunications Union). Our Co-Directors and members served on advisory boards for major technology companies (Meta, Google, Snap, Microsoft) and advised the eSafety Commissioner on social media age restrictions. We also led participatory workshops with young people and parents in Australia to understand

intergenerational perspectives on online safety.

In 2025, we launched reports on Online Safety for Children and Youth in Papua New Guinea (with Save the Children) and Intergenerational Perspectives on Social Media Safety (with Meta). We contributed to industry initiatives including the Frontiers in Digital Child Safety Initiative and hosted workshops with Roblox and PROJECT ROCKIT on improving wellbeing in online games. We shared our research with students at Apple’s Developer Academy and contributed to public debate around social media bans. Meanwhile, our “first of its kind” (UNICEF) online safety evaluation tool (oscap.org) was rolled out internationally, helping ensure “UNICEF Offices have the tools and knowledge to create more impactful child online protection campaigns and assess impact... used in 3 countries to date” (UNICEF Thailand).

Alongside our decade of research, these initiatives have strengthened the evidence base and translated it into tangible change. Our work has influenced how technologies are designed, how policies are developed, and how online safety is taught. Industry partners highlighted a “direct impact on product development that

keeps children and families safer online” and described Y&R as “world-leading... set[ting] the agenda for policy discussions about children’s digital rights... [and] educating the next generation of app developers” (Apple). Industry representatives noted our research has “helped inform our understanding... and support our policy development and implementation” (Microsoft), while internationally “children’s recommendations informed national child online protection strategies” (ITU).

These contributions are laying the groundwork for lasting impact. By centring children’s perspectives, this work is helping young people build the knowledge, confidence and capability to navigate digital environments safely. It is strengthening the ability of educators, families, developers and organisations to support children online, while contributing to more responsive institutions that embed children’s voices into policy, product design and education systems. Over time, this will help create digital environments where children can safely participate, learn, and thrive.

WHAT OUR PARTNERS SAY

Our partnership with Young & Resilient generated significant new knowledge and practical resources that have strengthened both our internal capacities and our contribution to the wider digital rights community in Chad. Beyond our organization, the project introduced new evidence on how youth in Chad perceive digital exclusion, online safety, and digital autonomy. These insights are now informing discussions among local NGOs and networks working on digital literacy, empowerment, and internet governance.

- HOUSE OF AFRICA

Their enthusiasm for advancing children’s wellbeing, strengthening community knowledge, and contributing to meaningful social outcomes is evident in every project we undertake together. Our clients, partners, and stakeholders consistently recognise the Y&R as a trusted and valued collaborator. Their reputation for reliability, integrity, and genuine care has strengthened our collective impact and contributed significantly to the success of our shared goals.

- LIVERPOOL CITY COUNCIL

Y&R contributes knowledge that is unlike any other academic or research institution – because it’s grounded in the lived realities of young people. The research, commentary, and broader thought leadership you folks bring is a breath of fresh air.

- PROJECT ROCKIT

The projects contributed to the national debate on the need to establish participatory frameworks for involving children and adolescents in the implementation of digital public policies.

- CETIC.BR/NIC.BR

IMPROVING YOUTH HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Children and young people’s health and wellbeing are shaped by interconnected social, economic, and environmental factors, yet their perspectives are often overlooked in policies, services, and supports. Rising concerns about mental health, inequities in care, and changing social conditions highlight the need for more holistic, child-centred approaches.

Our interdisciplinary members bring expertise in nutrition, health, and social sciences, combined with youth participatory approaches. With partners including Nutrition International, World Vision, UNICEF Australia, and the Accountable Futures Collective, we’ve used co-research methods to explore what health and wellbeing mean to young people. We’ve trained 15 youth co-researchers in five countries to conduct workshops on nutrition and food systems and identify actions on hunger and malnutrition, and facilitators in Pakistan to deliver workshops with young girls and develop a culturally-tailored subset of our Adolescent-Centred Nutrition Indicators (CAN_I). We’ve also worked with youth co-researchers to design and test mechanisms for youth-centred accountability in

health, and used play-based methods to understand the experiences of wellbeing for children as young as three in Australia, and we conducted interviews with young people in Australia and the Philippines on digital mental health interventions.

In 2025, we published and launched the Right to Food: Young People’s Call to End Hunger and Malnutrition report (with World Vision) and contributed insights from young children to UNICEF Australia and ARACY’s State of Australia’s Children report. We created a CAN_I implementation toolkit for Pakistan and commenced developing a Youth-Driven Accountability Process tool and masterclass for healthcare professionals. Our findings on digital health interventions were shared at conferences, seminars and within researcher networks

Our work in 2025 builds on our longer-term track record in youth health and wellbeing, which over time has delivered outcomes across research, practice, and capacity-building. By equipping young people to lead research and advocacy, our projects strengthened youth leadership. Partners reported “that [youth co-researchers] have become more confident to lead initiatives”

and noted that “15 CHAMP Senior members... will serve as mentors... because of the capacity-building provided by Y&R” (World Vision). Findings are already “used to provide evidence and information for our advocacy work” (WorldVision). The work also shifted how organisations involve young people, showing that “young people have a strong understanding of accountability in health care... [and] feel their knowledge and expertise is valued” (Accountable Futures Collective). In Australia, our collaboration “enabled UNICEF Australia to meaningfully engage and undertake research with young children... for the first time,” informing a national wellbeing report (UNICEF Australia).

These outcomes extend beyond the projects. Young people are emerging as leaders and advocates for their wellbeing. At the same time, the tools and processes developed are helping organisations and policymakers embed children’s perspectives into programs and decision-making. This is strengthening communities and supporting more responsive, inclusive health systems, recognising children and young people as partners in shaping healthier futures.

WHAT OUR PARTNERS SAY

I think our knowledge as a team has been enhanced by working together over the past few years and learning more about best practice methods in participatory and youth-centred/led research that are used at Y&R... We are very aligned as partners in terms of what we are trying to achieve.

- UNICEF AUSTRALIA

Our experience working with the Young and Resilient Research Centre (Y&R) has been extremely positive and strategically valuable. The partnership has been grounded in mutual trust, methodological rigour, and a shared commitment to meaningful child participation. Y&R brought strong research expertise, ethical depth, and a child-centred methodology that significantly strengthened the quality, credibility and impact of our Child Online Protection work. Their approach ensured that children were not simply consulted symbolically, but meaningfully engaged as contributors to policy, guidance and resource development.

- INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS UNION

The partnership influenced our work in two key ways 1) practice -we like the model of including early career researchers with support from senior folks - its a magic mix 2) the views of young people on the topic we explored will shape future investments and storytelling in this area and has been shared publicly and amplified

- TELSTRA FOUNDATION

[My experience working with Y&R is] positive, supportive, interesting, intellectually stimulating and impactful.

- AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

ADVANCING INTERGENERATIONAL CLIMATE JUSTICE

Climate change is already affecting children and young people’s lives and futures, yet their perspectives are often overlooked in climate policy and decision-making. At the same time, young people are emerging as powerful advocates for climate justice, calling for urgent, fair, and inclusive action.

Bringing together expertise in qualitative social sciences and youth-engaged approaches, alongside collaborators in design, law, and climate science, we work with youth co-researchers and partners across academia and civil society to understand young people’s experiences of climate change and action. Drawing on insights from children and young people in three climate-affected areas of NSW, we’ve used our unique child-centred indicator development methods to produce child-centred indicators for climate change. The New Possibilities project has conducted surveys and interviews, analysed social and legacy media to map student climate action, and used creative methods to explore young people’s visual language of climate justice.

In 2025, we co-hosted large-scale public events

centring young people in climate debates: the Australia Pacific Youth Climate Dialogue (with UNCIEF Australia and ANU) which welcomed 50 youth delegates from Australia and the Pacific; a Climate Action Week event (with PHIVE Parramatta and Powerhouse Museum); and the Preparing for Hotter Futures workshop (with ANU). We published articles in The Conversation and academic journals, edited a special issue on youth studies in Australia and the climate crisis, and launched The Silent Majority podcast exploring pathways in times of crises. We also continued the development of an implementation toolkit for our child-centred indicators for climate change (to be rolled out in 2026).

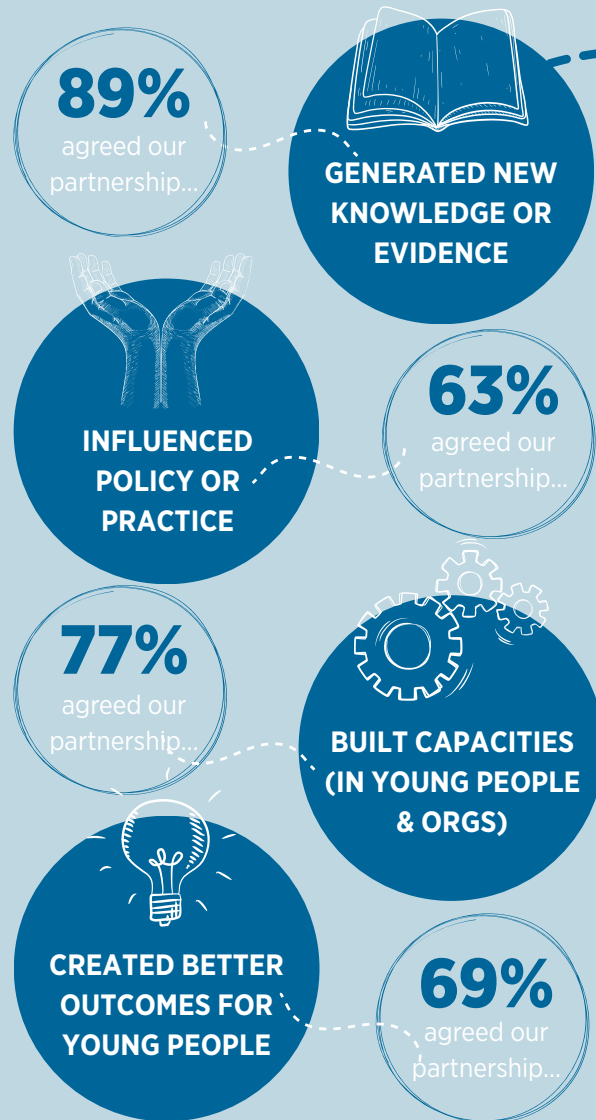
This work has advanced understanding of how children and young people experience and respond to climate change, while creating meaningful opportunities for participation, advocacy, and leadership. Partners highlighted the value of “engagement events [e.g., Climate Action Week] with young people and... opportunities for creativity, expression and advocacy” (ANU). Our research has also “generat[ed] [broader] interest in how [young people] are represented in the community, what

action they take [on climate change], and where their voices are being heard” (University of Sydney). Importantly, this work has helped challenge misconceptions by “affirm[ing] the work of children and young people... and working with [them] to express their view and to act in various political sites [e.g., climate action].” (RMIT).

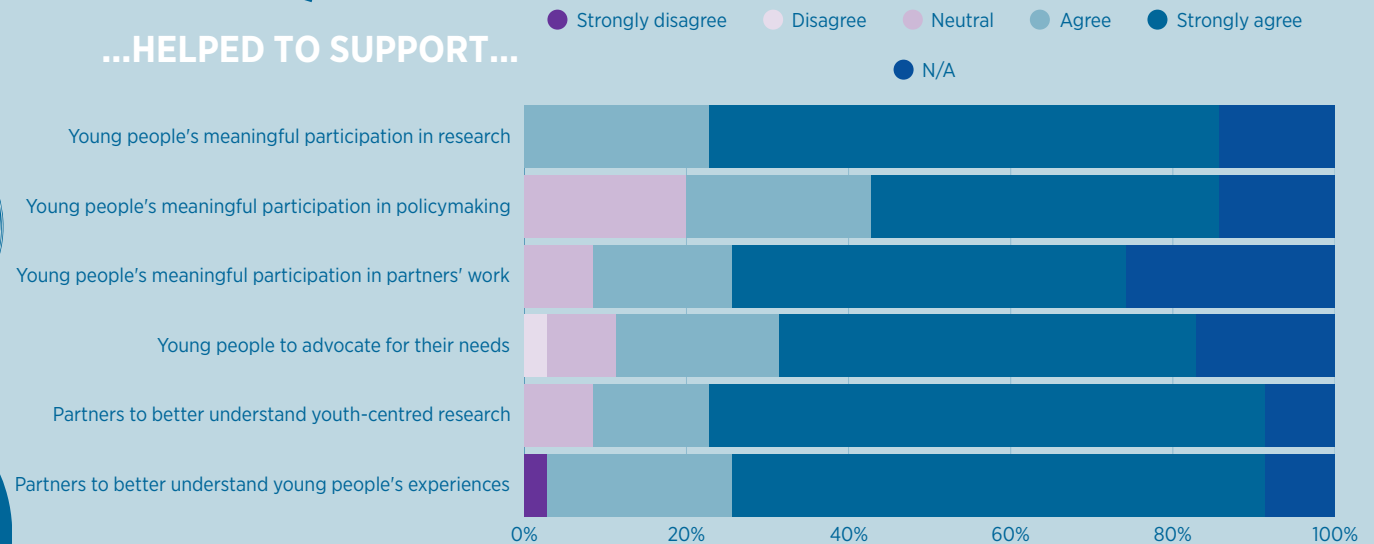
These outcomes are contributing to lasting change. Young people involved are building the confidence, skills, and agency to engage in climate action and shape their futures. At the same time, our indicators, research, and public engagement are equipping educators, organisations, and policymakers with tools to better recognise and support young people’s contributions. Over time, this will help foster empowered communities and more responsive institutions, ensuring children and young people’s voices are embedded in climate responses and supporting more just, inclusive, and effective pathways through the climate crisis.

OUR PARTNERSHIPS IN 2025 (according to our partners)

Our partnerships are central to what we do and their feedback is important to us. In 2025, 35 partners completed our annual survey. This is what they said.



...HELPED TO SUPPORT...



...AND CONTRIBUTED TO ALL 17 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS





MEET OUR YOUTH CO-RESEARCHERS

We are so privileged to have an outstanding team of youth co-researchers contributing to our projects. Their ideas and curiosity energise our work and keep us grounded in the real experiences of young people navigating today’s world.

In 2025, we trained and worked with 40 youth co-researchers - 13 based with Y&R across 8 projects and another 30 youth co-researchers across 14 countries working with partner organisations on two of our international projects.

These young people co-designed our research, conducted interviews, surveys and workshops, analysed data, co-authored reports and academic articles, trained other youth co-researchers, created podcasts and artworks, presented at conferences, and engaged with stakeholders and youth participants. Our work is richer for their contributions.

Read more about our [youth co-researchers’ experiences](#) working with Y&R in 2025.



ALIET AGANY



MERON BERHANE



LOGAN CULLEY



CHARLIE CONNELL-TOBIN



YEHANSA DAHANAYAKE



LINH DANG



DANYA DAUD



FIONA JIANG



JEAN LEWIS



TAMIMA RAHMAN



MIETTA SYMONS-JOYCE



VARSHA YAJMAN



JAE CHARLTON

YOUTH CO-RESEARCHER SNAPSHOT

We surveyed our youth co-researchers to find out more about their experiences working with Y&R, and what impact they feel their involvement has, and will have into the future. This is what they had to say.



10 YOUTH CO-RESEARCHERS
(responded to the survey)

17-25 YEARS OLD

2 RESPONDENTS
JOINED Y&R FOR THE
FIRST TIME IN 2025

OUR YOUTH CO-RESEARCHERS WERE INVOLVED ACROSS ALL STAGES OF THE RESEARCH PROCESS.



“ I love being involved in research and the team is just brilliant to work with. I feel so grateful for the opportunity to see how data is analysed and how we can amplify voices often marginalised. ”

- VARSHA, YOUTH CO-RESEARCHER

“ My experience working with Y&R has been incredibly informing and self assuring. I have felt well supported since I joined the project team and encouraged to share my input throughout various stages of the project. [I have been] encouraged to challenge myself and [can] rely on the project team for feedback and support which has allowed me to grow as a researcher. ”

- MERON, YOUTH CO-RESEARCHER

OUR INTERNATIONAL YOUTH CO-RESEARCHERS



In addition to our youth co-researchers who work directly with the Centre, we support our partner organisations to work with youth co-researchers by providing training and ongoing support.

In 2025, an additional 30 youth co-researchers worked on our projects across 5 continents and 14 countries: Australia, Bangladesh, Chad, India, Indonesia, Lebanon, Nepal, Philippines, Rwanda, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Venezuela.

2025 YOUTH CO-RESEARCHER HIGHLIGHTS

Everything DDD (Decolonising Digital Design project)!

- LOGAN, YOUTH CO-RESEARCHER

Co-facilitating the first ever youth co-research meeting with young co-researchers involved in the DDD project. Seeing individuals come together from different parts of the world and sharing their experience was something I never imagined myself being part of.

- MERON, YOUTH CO-RESEARCHER

Seeing our work with Learning Creates Australia get published in the Medical Journal of Australia!

- CHARLIE, YOUTH CO-RESEARCHER

Presenting at the Countering Violent Extremism workshop in Melbourne.

- DANYA, YOUTH CO-RESEARCHER

Starting the [Silent Majority] podcast!

- VARSHA, YOUTH CO-RESEARCHER

[Attending and presenting at] the [Centre for Resilient and Inclusive Communities] Showcase in Melbourne.

- ALIET, YOUTH CO-RESEARCHER

Hearing from research participants we engaged with in later stages to co-design the report that conversations on broader forms of recognition were occurring in their schools, friendship groups and families after what they had experienced. That agency, advocacy and action was growing!

- MIETTA, YOUTH CO-RESEARCHER

Inputting artworks and voiceovers for the Hope and Resilience Report and marketing materials.

- YEHANSA, YOUTH CO-RESEARCHER

Co-facilitating the child and youth workshops [for the Telstra Foundation Australian Youth Digital Index project] for sure!

- TAMIMA, YOUTH CO-RESEARCHER

HOW OUR PARTICIPANTS FEEL

In 2025, we gathered feedback from 649 participants across 3 projects in 9 countries about the impacts that participating in our research had on them.

Participants said that our workshops made them feel:

Joyful, positive, and optimistic...

“ It was fun and interesting. I loved the experience.
- RESEARCH PARTICIPANT, CHAD

This workshop really makes me happy of doing such wonderful activities.
- RESEARCH PARTICIPANT, SOLOMON ISLANDS

[The workshop made me feel that] maybe in the future there will be better internet and a different view of the internet.”
-RESEARCH PARTICIPANT, POLAND

confident, empowered and valued.

“ I felt that my ideas were valued, based on the way the questions were asked.
-RESEARCH PARTICIPANT, RWANDA

It was good because we all got to express our feelings about what is happening.
-RESEARCH PARTICIPANT, AUSTRALIA

I felt more heard, more valued — and learned more.
-RESEARCH PARTICIPANT, BRAZIL

safe, comfortable, and welcomed...

“ It felt like a safe space for you to say your thoughts on the topics.
-RESEARCH PARTICIPANT, AUSTRALIA

I never felt left out, and the activities encouraged me to participate and I felt welcomed.
- RESEARCH PARTICIPANT, RWANDA

[I felt] comfortable, welcome, and happy.
- RESEARCH PARTICIPANT, BRAZIL

They built capacities they need to thrive

“ I learned a lot, including public speaking, staying grounded in my culture, thinking big, playing with others, doing projects/ creating an app, sharing my feelings freely.
- RESEARCH PARTICIPANT, RWANDA

[I learned] Critical thinking about cultural representation in media and the internet.
-RESEARCH PARTICIPANT, INDIA

...and make a difference to society.

“ That I am an effective party in society and I can make a change.
- RESEARCH PARTICIPANT, LEBANON

Yes — if we want to make a difference, we have to think about how we will get there.
-RESEARCH PARTICIPANT, BRAZIL

Change starts with us; be mindful online; promote true culture.
- RESEARCH PARTICIPANT, INDIA

3.

OUR

COMMUNITY





Y&R Senior Research Officer, Louisa Welland

OUR COMMUNITY

Y&R is lucky to benefit from the contributions of our board, staff, academic members, visiting scholars, youth co-researchers and an extensive international network of partner organisations. Together, this intergenerational, interdisciplinary and cross-sector community strengthens the depth, relevance and impact of our work.

In 2025, we welcomed 16 new members, two international visiting fellows, and numerous casual research support staff - while also saying goodbye to some team members. We collaborated with 62 partners on our research projects - 34 with whom we worked previously and 28 new organisations.

We also refreshed our External Advisory Board, bidding farewell to two longstanding board members - Saffron Howden and Amelia Loye - and welcoming new members - Jackie Coates (Telstra Foundation), Nicole Breeze (formerly UNICEF Australia), Maha Krishnapillai - and Youth Board Members - Angelica Ojinnaka (Future Healthy Countdown 2030) and Planning Saw (Global Health Youth Connect).

Our community in 2025 included:

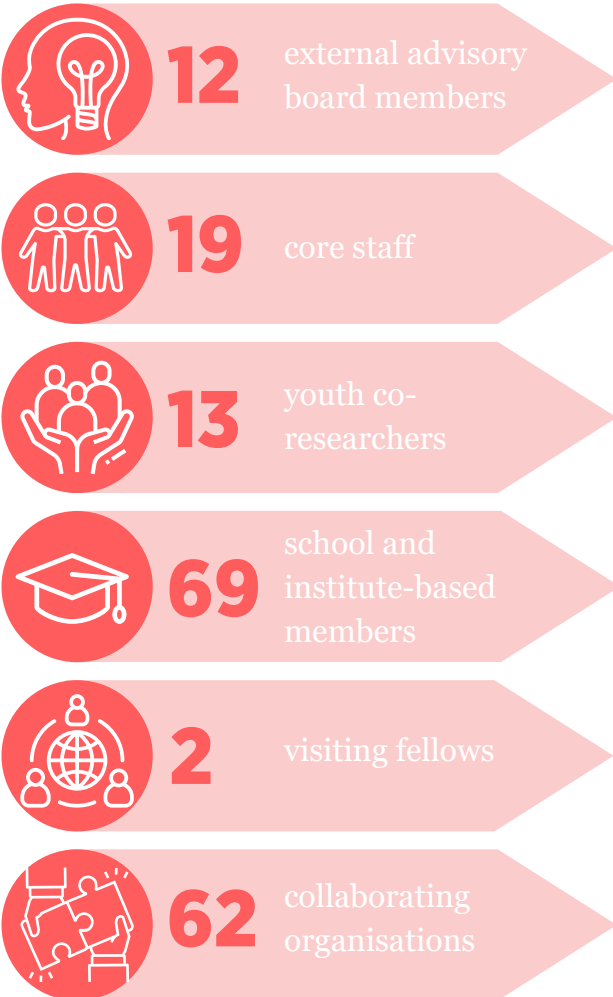


Figure 4: Breakdown of our community in 2025.

OUR EXTERNAL ADVISORY BOARD

Our External Advisory Board reached a significant milestone in 2025 as we reached the end of our members' official terms. Y&R has been privileged to receive guidance and support from this highly experienced panel of experts since 2020.

As part of this changeover, we said farewell to Amelia Loye, who offered strategic insight into government and non-government sectors, and deep experience in engagement and social impact. We are indebted to Amelia for her time, energy and enthusiasm over the five years she served on our External Advisory Board.

We also warmly welcomed four new members - Nicole Breeze, Maha Krishnapillai, Planning Saw and Angelica Ojinnaka-Psillakis. Ms Breeze and Mr Krishnapillai bring extensive experience in the child rights NGO and telecommunications industry respectively. We're also delighted to have our first youth members - Planning and Anjelica - join the ranks, whose leadership and lived experience deepen our commitment to meaningful youth participation.



LESLEY PODESTA
Chair
CEO, Red Mitten



SUNITA BOSE
Managing Director,
Digital Industry Group Inc.



NICOLE BREEZE
Chief advocate for Children,
UNICEF Australia



JACKIE COATES
CEO,
Telstra Foundation



ANNE COLLIER
Executive Director,
NetSafety Collaborative



SUJI KANAGALINGAM
Partner,
Price Waterhouse Coopers



MAHA KRISHNAPILLAI
Board Member, Telecommunications
Industry Ombudsman



JOHN MORLEY
Team Leader, Climate Resilient
Communities Support Unit, DT
Global



ANGELICA OJINNAKA-PSILLAKIS
Manager,
Future Healthy Countdown 2030



PLANNING SAW
Co-Founder,
Global Health Youth Connect



SAM YORKE
Member,
ACMA



JOHN ZOLTNER
Founder & CEO, AI4SocialImpact,
AIChildSafety

OUR TEAM

Our work is made possible by the incredible efforts of a talented, intergenerational team of academic and professional staff.

In 2025, we had a team of 19 core staff members, and numerous casual research support who contributed to a range of projects across the Centre, including:

- Adrijana Tomovic
- Alyce Coleman
- Harper Mackenzie
- Nina Montero
- Rosemberg Franco Orrego
- Rotina Kapini
- Shiva Pourali Roudbaneh
- Tag Yassine

We also farewelled Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Dr Luigi DiMartino and Research Officer Dr Umit Kennedy who both made significant contributions to projects in the Centre during their time with us. We also congratulate Ms Louisa Welland and Ms Claire Absolum on their promotions to Senior Research Officer and Communications Lead roles respectively.



PROF PHILIPPA COLLIN
Co-Director



PROF AMANDA THIRD
Co-Director



LILLY MOODY
Centre Manager



DR LUIGI DIMARTINO
Postdoc Fellow



A/PROF BEN HANCKEL
VC Research Fellow



DR GIRISH LALA
Research Fellow



CLAIRE ABSOLUM
Communications Lead



AMY THAYRE
Senior Administration Officer (Research)



LUCIA BARRERA ARENAS
Research Officer



STEPHANIE HANNAH
Research Officer



DR ANDREW KELLETT
Research Officer



DR UMIT KENNEDY
Research Officer



DR KIM LAM
Research Officer



LINDA MARSDEN
Research Officer



DR NUKTE OGUN
Research Officer



DANIEL PRICHARD
Research Officer



DR PAVITHRA RAJAN
Research Officer



LILLY TATAM
Research Assistant



LOUISA WELLAND
Senior Research Officer



Y&R staff and members. From left (back): Logan Culley, Nadia Taheri, Rosenberg Franco Orrego, Benjamin Hanckel, Andrew Kellett, Louisa Welland, Alyce Coleman, Phoebe Zhou. From left (front): Michelle Catanzaro, Claire Absolum, Lilly Tatam, Philippa Collin, Amanda Third, Lilly Moody, Stephanie Hannah, Amy Thayre, Nicky Evans, Valentina Bau

CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE



DR MADISON SHAKESPEARE

We'd like to congratulate Y&R member, Dr Madison Shakespeare for a stellar year of achievements, including:

- Completing her Doctor of Creative Arts with the highest possible examination outcome and no emendations, following review by internationally renowned scholars Dr Linda Tuhiwai Smith and Dr Frances Wyld.
- Being awarded Runner-Up (Second Place) for Best Oral Abstract at the highly competitive AGITG Best of the Best competition. Selected from 88 submissions, she was one of four finalists invited to present her research: "A Seedpod of Yarning: Indigenous-Led Yarning as a Transformative Approach in Translational GI Cancer Research and Practice" to a panel of internationally esteemed cancer researchers and clinicians at the Adelaide Convention Centre.
- Opening the AGITG 27th Annual Scientific Meeting, convening a panel of her choosing - an historic achievement at one of the world's leading mainstream cancer scientific meetings.
- Holding the 'Care for Country, Care for All' exhibition with Settlement Services International (SSI), which paid homage to marine creatures severely affected by the *Karenia mikimotoi* sea catastrophe — a devastating environmental event impacting South Australian beaches. She also led an On Country Cultural Immersion Day to deepen shared understandings and respect for country, including a collaborative art-making workshop, also with SSI and Inner West Council.

These achievements highlight her leadership at the forefront of Indigenous-led and decolonising methodological approaches.



Y&R staff members on a weekend hiking trip in the Blue Mountains.

We continued our commitment to fostering the professional development of our staff through dedicated funding and programs to support opportunities that build skills and knowledge that advance our team’s careers.

NURTURING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Our Career Development Funding Scheme was offered again in 2025, providing targeted support to professional and academic staff who do not have access to other research development funding sources.

In 2025, the scheme supported:

- Conference presentation at the International Association for Youth Mental Health in Vancouver (Fiona Jiang)
- Professional coaching sessions (Louisa Welland)
- Research and survey development training (Pavithra Rajan)
- Trauma-informed interviewing course (Stephanie Hannah)

MENTORING AND UPSKILLING IN ACADEMIC PUBLISHING

In the second half of the year, we delivered a structured program of mentorship and training on academic publishing to upskill our team of early career research support staff. Each week, we held training sessions on various aspects of scholarly publications - from creating an outline, drafting an abstract, structuring an argument, identifying journals, determining authorship and more. Combined with dedicated writing time and an end of year writing retreat, we progressed 7 publications which we will see through to publication in 2026.

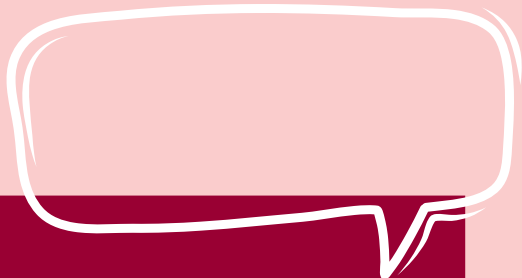
We are grateful to our Research Officer, Dr Kim Lam coordinating this for the team!



Thanks to the career development funding, I completed all ARMS modules and finalised my ARM(F) accreditation case study. The process strengthened my ability to manage complex legal, ethical, and strategic issues in university–industry partnerships, balance competing priorities, and protect academic integrity alongside commercial considerations. It has enhanced my professional skills and supports the Centre’s commitment to rigorous, accountable, evidence-informed decision-making.



- AMY, SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICER (RESEARCH)



“With thanks to the Y&R Career Development Scheme, I was grateful for the opportunity to participate in the STARTTS Trauma-Informed Interviewing course. The program provided a comprehensive understanding of trauma, its impacts, the different types of psychological trauma, how to recognise trauma-related distress, and the importance of boundaries and self-care for professionals. This learning has significantly shaped the way I approach my research—particularly when working with children who have experienced, or may have experienced, trauma. It encouraged me to be more mindful when designing data collection tools and creating workshop environments. Although emotionally challenging, the workshop was incredibly valuable and has enriched my awareness and practice.”

- STEPHANIE, RESEARCH OFFICER

“Y&R’s generous support through the Career Development Scheme made it possible for me to present at the International Association for Youth Mental Health’s conference in Vancouver. It was an incredible opportunity for learning, connecting, and developing my skills, especially as it was my first time attending an international conference. I was able to share my work and Y&R’s projects with a global audience, support the conference as a co-chair, and build networks with leading experts, policymakers, health professionals, and, of course, young advocates. It was eye-opening to see how young people have been meaningfully involved in research and youth mental health, and I’ve brought back many insights that I have since applied in my work.”

Opportunities like this are incredibly important for young people early on in their career journey, yet they’re often inaccessible. Y&R’s commitment to nurturing young people and reducing barriers to meaningful professional development has made such a big impact.”

- FIONA, YOUTH CO-RESEARCHER

OUR MEMBERS

2025 saw our biggest intake of new members since we were established in 2019. We welcomed 16 new members from across the university - spanning education, health sciences, social sciences, and nursing and midwifery. Our diverse and growing member base reflects the interdisciplinary and inclusive values, and intellectual commitments of the Centre.

We extend our sincere thanks to Dr Luigi Di Martino and Dr Sherene Idriss for convening the Y&R Seminar Series in the first and second halves of the year respectively. Their leadership and coordination ensured a diverse and engaging program that showcased the breadth and depth of research across our membership. It was a pleasure to hear directly from members about their work and to foster meaningful discussion and connection.

It was also encouraging to see strong member participation at our writing retreat. The retreat provided a valuable opportunity for colleagues to connect, share ideas, and dedicate focused time to advancing their research in a supportive and collaborative environment.

- Young and Resilient Research Centre
- Translational Health Research Institute
 - School of Social Sciences
 - NICM Health Research Institute
- School of Nursing and Midwifery
 - School of Medicine
- School of Humanities and Communication Arts
 - School of Health Sciences
 - School of Education
- Institute for Culture and Society
- External (Associate) ● Students

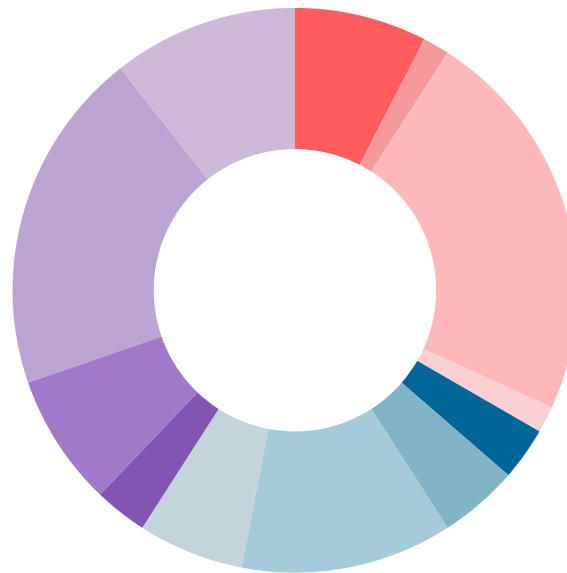


Figure 5: Breakdown of membership based on school/institute affiliation.



Y&R Student Member, Nikky Evans.

NEW MEMBERS



A/PROF AMIT ARORA
School of Medicine, Faculty of Health



DR KATHERINE COOPER
School of Nursing and Midwifery, Faculty of Health



A/PROF DAVID LIM
Adjunct, Translational Health Research Institute



DR UZMA ALEEM
University of Sydney



NICKY EVANS
PhD Student, School of Health Science, Faculty of Health



DR KARIN LOUISE
School of Education, Faculty of SABEL



A/PROF DAVID COLE
School of Education, Faculty of SABEL



DR ANITA LIM
PhD Student, School of Health Science, Faculty of Health



DR EMMA MITCHELL
Macquarie University

NEW MEMBERS



DR NAVIN NAIDOO

School of Health Science,
Faculty of Health



PROF HOWARD SERCOMBE

School of Social Science,
Faculty of SABEL



A/PROF JESS WEIR

Institute for Culture and
Society



DR SHRUTI NAIR

PhD Student, School of Health
Science, Faculty of Health



A/PROF LIZ THYER

School of Health Science,
Faculty of Health



DR PHOEBE ZHOU

NICM Health Research Institute






DR GENEVIEVE RITCHIE

School of Social Science,
Faculty of SABEL

welcome

OUR STUDENTS

Y&R students - including higher degree researchers, interns and placement students - gain meaningful, practical experience through active involvement in our engaged research projects. We are dedicated to creating a supportive learning environment that equips students with the skills, confidence and opportunities needed to develop as the next generation of researchers and professionals.

-  **2** PhD candidates
-  **1** Youth work placement student
-  **1** Work experience student

In 2025, one of our PhD candidates - Linda Marsden - submitted her thesis! We also celebrated the launch of our former PhD graduate, Dr Martyna Gliniecka's monograph. We warmly welcome discussions with community and industry partners looking to co-fund high impact PhD scholarships.

We were pleased to host our first placement student from the new Bachelor of Youth Work at Western Sydney University. Our student conducted foundational research (including background review and interviews) to explore the possibility of a WSU Youth Hub. We are excited about future fruitful collaborations between Y&R and the Youth Work degree.

We also hosted a high school student from Mamre Anglican School on year 10 work experience. This student created a creative work to communicate findings from the New Possibilities project.

These placements provide students with valuable, hands-on experience contributing to engaged research projects that support meaningful outputs and outcomes for policy and practice.



CONGRATULATIONS, LINDA!

Linda Marsden submitted her thesis for her Doctor of Philosophy in 2025, with her thesis on 'Becoming Healthy: Health territories, lines of flight and social media in young people's lives'. We congratulate Linda on this significant milestone and look forward to celebrating her graduation in 2026.

OUR VISITING FELLOWS

We were privileged to have two esteemed researchers - Rosemberg Franco Orrego (Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile) and Suchetana Sinha (Mudra Institute of Communications, Ahmedabad - MICA) - join us as Visiting Fellows in 2025.

Both our Visiting Fellows are PhD candidates undertaking an international immersion component of their degrees. Their fellowships with us further deepened our longstanding relationships with their respective institutions: Y&R has worked with colleagues at the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile for nearly a decade, and Suchetana was the second student from MICA to have undertaken her international immersion placement with us.

During their time at Y&R, our Visiting Fellows contributed to research projects within the Centre, presented their research at our monthly seminar series, and participated in social and other Centre activities. Rosemberg was supervised by Professor Philippa Collin, and Suchetana was supervised by Professor Amanda Third.

We are very pleased to have established relationships with these two emerging scholars and look forward to future collaborations.



ROSEMBERG FRANCO ORREGO

Rosemberg holds a Masters’ degree in Educational Psychology and is currently a doctoral candidate in Educational Sciences at the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile. His research focuses on digital citizenship education, particularly from the perspective of educators who promote socio-emotional learning and wellbeing.



SUCHETANA SINHA

Suchetana is a PhD candidate at MICA in Ahmedabad, India. Her thesis, titled ‘The Subculture of Online Trolling: An Exploratory Study on YouTube’s ‘Reaction’ Content’, explores how reaction videos on YouTube and its audiences co-construct, commodify and normalise the practice of online trolling. Suchetana holds a Masters in Mass Communication from Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University. Her research interests are in digital cultures and online behaviours.



The Centre provides an a really good environment for research and academic discussion. The opportunity to participate in projects was very helpful, especially those related to online safety education.

[One of my biggest learnings] was understanding the distinction between online safety education and digital citizenship education. This helped clarify important concepts for my PhD.

[Y&R] believes in the visiting students who are working with them...I was always seen as a peer, a person with knowledge and ideas to contribute. The Centre promotes horizontal relationships...[the work feels] collaborative and distributed.



- ROSEMBERG FRANCO ORREGO, PONTIFICIA UNIVERSIDAD CATOLICA DE CHILE

GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS: DECOLONISING DIGITAL DESIGN

The ‘Decolonising Digital Design: Towards safe and inclusive digital experiences for children and young people’ project is being delivered through a network of eight global partners who share a common methodological and ethical approach. Drawing on our Distributed Data Generation (DDG) methods, each partner works collaboratively with children and young people in their local contexts.

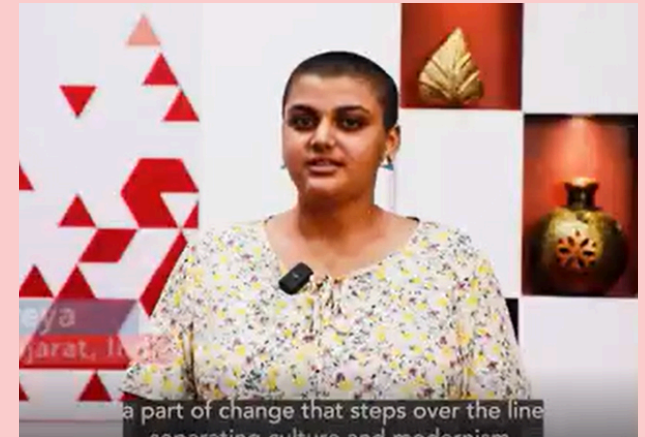
Our partners include university and research institutions (MICA (India), Centre for Social and Economic Research - CASE (Poland)), international NGOs (World Vision (Solomon Islands)), and local NGO, community and indigenous organisations (Daughters of Charity of Saint Vincent de Paul (Lebanon), House of Africa (Chad), RAJIA (Venezuela), Rede Conhecimento Social (Brazil), and Informed Future Generations (Rwanda)). Each organisation is also working with youth co-researchers in their country to deliver workshops and findings.

Using a child-rights, co-research approach, partners are engaging diverse children in urban

and rural settings to explore how digital environments shape culture and identity, and how technologies can better reflect and respect young people’s lived experiences.

The depth, cultural insight, and integrity of this research are made possible by these partnerships; without their local leadership, trust, and expertise, this work would not have the same relevance, legitimacy, or impact.

Watch a video of our DDD youth co-researchers here!





Y&R Executive team - Co-Directors Professor Philippa Collin and Professor Amanda Third, and Centre Manager Lilly Moody - demonstrating our team ethos that doing serious research can also be fun.

4. OUR OUTREACH



In 2025, we hosted workshops and launch events, regional summits and creative showcases. Three of our largest co-hosted events focused on climate change and action. These align with our ongoing commitment to helping achieve sustainability and climate justice for both current, and future generations.



CLIMATE ACTION WEEK

Our first climate event took place in March as part of Climate Action Week Sydney. Professor Philippa Collin and Associate Professor Michelle Catanzaro from Y&R’s New Possibilities project joined forces with Carmel Reyes, Head of Climate Action and Sustainability at Powerhouse Parramatta to co-host a vibrant, interactive event at PHIVE in Parramatta Square. The session brought youth climate activists, artists, designers, journalists and members of the broader Western Sydney community together to showcase climate-themed artworks and to discuss the role of youth climate action in achieving climate justice for future generations.



JOINT ACADEMIES WORKSHOP PREPARING NATURE AND SOCIETY FOR A HOTTER FUTURE

In September, Y&R co-hosted a major transdisciplinary conference in Canberra to tackle the question of how we can best prepare nature and society for a hotter future. The event was one of the first of its kind and was held in collaboration with the Australian National University, Academy of Science and Academy of Social Sciences, the University of Melbourne and WSU’s Hawkesbury Institute for the Environment. The event saw a diverse group of 65 people from research, policy, industry, advocacy and agricultural sectors come together to share their knowledge and innovative ideas on how to tackle the climate crisis.



ASIA PACIFIC YOUTH CLIMATE DIALOGUE

In October, Y&R researchers turned their attention to our region when they co-hosted the three-day Australia Pacific Youth Climate Dialogue event in Canberra, in collaboration with UNICEF Australia and ANU. Y&R’s Co-Director Professor Amanda Third and Dr Nukte Ogun had the privilege of leading the youth engagement and movement-building work at the event with Dr Ogun commenting, “Young delegates from across Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific came together to build momentum for a strong, connected regional movement: meeting decision-makers, amplifying their priorities, and showing what genuine intergenerational collaboration can look like.”



Professor Philippa Collin discussing how youth research can change the world with Rukudzo Chikweche, our year 10 work experience student, at Research Week 2025.

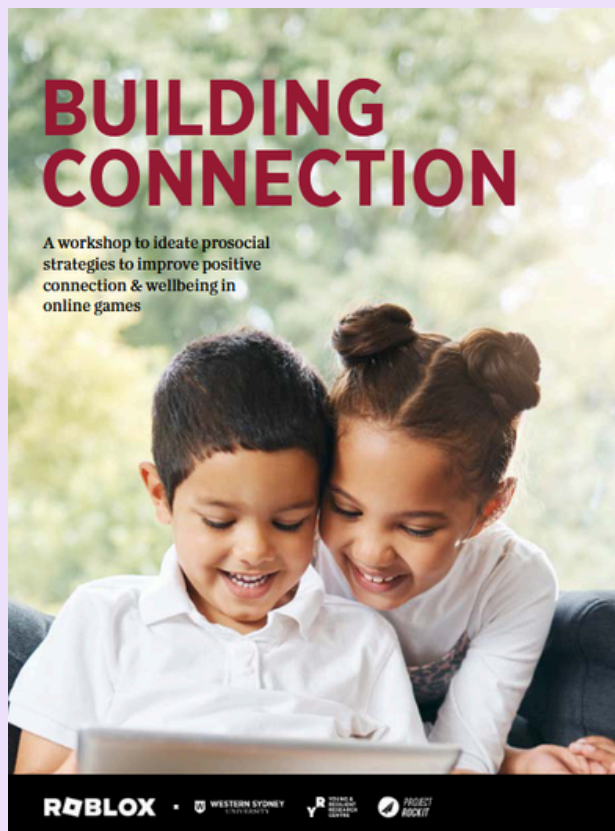
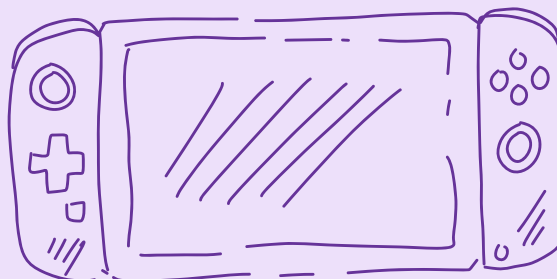
BUILDING CONNECTION WORKSHOPS

in May 2025, Y&R collaborated with Roblox and PROJECT ROCKIT to deliver workshops with 40 young gamers, 20 parents and carers of young gamers, and 37 representatives from academia, government and NGO sectors in Sydney and Melbourne. Participants brainstormed actionable strategies to foster prosocial behaviours and positive connection in online gaming spaces.

Workshops with stakeholders drew on the Responsible Innovation in Technology and Ethics for Children play and wellbeing framework, co-developed with Y&R, to envision the ideal state, map challenges and opportunities for prosocial online gaming environments, and devise future strategies and initiatives to support children’s collective and individual wellbeing online.

Our colleagues at PROJECT ROCKIT led workshops with children and young people to understand how online gaming environments can be improved to ensure young gamers can thrive. Participants highlighted key principles and ways to enhance prosocial engagement.

The partners produced a [report on the findings](#), which is directly informing Roblox’s work to strengthen users’ safety, wellbeing and resilience.



What is needed to ensure that online gaming spaces are positive, fun and optimal for young people’s individual and collective wellbeing?

OUR MEDIA ENGAGEMENT

In 2025, our research featured in 125 media engagements, spanning news coverage, television, radio, and commentary, and our researchers were featured in local and international media outlets.

Prof Amanda Third and Prof Philippa Collin each appeared live on BBC News Worldwide, reaching an estimated 115 million people across more than 200 countries and territories.

Professor Phillipa Collin was also a prolific contributor to The Conversation in 2025. Over the course of the year she published five articles on subjects ranging from what matters to young people, to youth climate movements and a profile of Australia’s youngest senator. Read these articles [here](#).

Media engagements brought attention to the work and ideas of our community, covering topics such as:

- Intergenerational problem-solving
- How technology impacts mental health
- Online safety education



WHAT IMPACT WILL A HIGHER PROPORTION OF YOUNGER VOTERS HAVE ON THE FEDERAL ELECTION?

Source: BBC News Worldwide, 3 May 2025

Australians took to the polls in 2025 to vote in the federal election. In the lead up, there was much public discussion about the fact that for the first time, Gen Z and Millennials would outnumber Baby Boomers and Gen Xers at the ballot box. Prof Philippa Collin gave a number of media interviews on this issue on BBC Worldwide, SBS World News, ABC Radio, in [the Guardian](#) and at the [Newcastle Institute](#) where she highlighted that far from being disengaged, young voters are an increasingly active political force in Australia.



HOW EFFECTIVE WILL THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT’S SOCIAL MEDIA BAN BE?

Source: BBC News Worldwide, 10 Dec 2025

The government’s under 16s social media ban made headlines when it came into effect on December 10, 2025. Prof Amanda Third was invited to appear on a panel discussion on BBC World to debate the pros and cons of the legislation. Prof Third called for stronger regulation of harmful social media features and for the establishment of international standards and transnational digital governance mechanisms to help support children’s digital experiences online, arguing that a blanket ban would not be an effective way to address many of the core issues that can lead to negative impacts when young people use social media.

APPENDICES



APPENDIX 1: RESEARCH PROJECTS

NEW PROJECTS IN 2025

The below research projects were awarded and commenced in 2025

CATEGORY 3

‘COR, Sandboxing and Standardising Children’s Online Redress’, Safe Online, administered via Smile of the Child, Professor Amanda Third

‘State of Australia’s Children: Children’s Consultations’, UNICEF Australia, Professor Amanda Third

ACTIVE PROJECTS AWARDED PRIOR TO 2025

The below projects were awarded prior to, but were being delivered in, 2025.

CATEGORY 1

‘Artificial Intelligence for the Early Years’, Australian Research Council (Discovery), administered via ANU, Professor Amanda Third

‘Child-centred evidence to drive meaningful social change for children’, Australian Research Council (Linkage), Professor Amanda Third

‘Examining Youth Digital Wellbeing in Australia and the Philippines’, Australian Research Council (DECRA), Associate Professor Ben Hanckel

‘New Possibilities: Student Climate Action and Democratic Renewal’, Australian Research Council (Discovery), Professor Philippa Collin, Associate Professor Michelle Catanzaro

CATEGORY 3

‘Australian Youth Digital Index: Survey Review and Consultations’, Telstra Foundation, Professor Amanda Third, Professor Philippa Collin

‘batyr Schools and Universities Longitudinal Evaluation’, Balnaves Foundation, administered via batyr, Professor Philippa Collin

‘Centre of Excellence Seed Funding: Google Proposal’, Google Australia, Professor Amanda Third, Professor Philippa Collin

‘CHAMP child-led research’, World Vision, Dr Catharine Fleming, Professor Amanda Third

‘Child-centred indicators for climate change: Australia Phase 2’, UNICEF Australia, Professor Amanda Third

‘Children’s rights in relation to the digital environment: Spotlight on Africa’, London School of Economics, Professor Amanda Third

‘Dangerous Challenges and online hoaxes’, TikTok, Professor Amanda Third

‘Decolonising Digital Design: Towards safe and inclusive digital experiences for children and young people’, Internet Society Foundation, Professor Amanda Third

‘Youth Voices on AI: Shaping a Safer Digital Future’, Safe Online, Professor Amanda Third

PROJECTS AWARDED IN 2025 AND COMMENCING IN 2026

The below projects were awarded in 2025 but are due to commence in 2026.

‘Exploring Intergenerational Online Safety Perspectives’, Meta, Professor Amanda Third

CATEGORY 2

‘National Centre of Excellence in Youth Mental Health Evaluation: Advisory’, Department of Health, Disability and Ageing, administered via Scyne, Professor Philippa Collin

‘From Participation to Accountability in Health Care for Young People’, Sydney Children’s Health Network, Professor Philippa Collin

CATEGORY 3

‘Global advisory support to pilot youth centred indicators (CAN-I(A) in Africa’, Global Alliance for Improved Health, Dr Catharine Fleming

‘Global Advisory Support to pilot adolescent centred indicators (CAN-I) in Pakistan’, Nutrition International, Dr Catharine Fleming

‘ITU child online taskforces’, International Telecommunications Union, Professor Amanda Third

‘Online safety for children and young people in Papua New Guinea’, Save the Children, Professor Amanda Third

‘The power of recognising more: Action-research study - Young Person Cycle’, Learning Creates, Professor Philippa Collin

‘What Matters to Young People?’, Whitlam Institute, Professor Philippa Collin, Dr Sky Hugman

APPENDIX 2: PUBLICATIONS

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APPENDIX 3: ADVISORY ROLES

Collin, P. Dialogos Sur Sur, Organising Committee Member	Hanckel, B., Parramatta Queer Forum	Third, A., MICA International, External Advisory Board
Collin, P. Evaluation of National Centre of Excellence in Youth Mental Health	Hanckel, B., Rainbow Western, Co-Convenor	Third, A., Online Safety Exchange, Director
Collin, P., Fitbit, Youth Experiences Advisory Group	Third, A., 2168 Children's Parliament, Advocate	Third, A., Pymble Ladies College, WisePhone Expert Advisor
Collin, P. National Suicide Prevention Outcomes Framework CoLab	Third, A., AI Ally, Advisory Board Member	Third, A. Safe Online, Technical Review Panel
Collin, P., Raising Children Network, Scientific Advisory Board	Third, A., Australian Living Labs Innovation Network, Co-Founder/Co-Director	Third, A., Snap, Online Safety Advisory
Hanckel, B., Health Sociology Review, Associate Editor	Third, A., Child Online Redress Sandbox, External Advisory	Third, A., System2, External Advisory Board Member
Hanckel, B., ICS Queer Cultures Research Program, Co-Convenor	Third, A., Child Rights Taskforce, Steering Committee	Third, A., Telstra and ReachOut, Technology and Wellbeing Roundtable Member
Hanckel, B., Journal of Applied Youth Studies, Co-Editor in Chief	Third, A., eSafety, Online Safety Advisory	Third, A., YouTube, Youth and Families Advisory
Hanckel, B., Meta, Combatting Hate Speech Advisory Board	Third, A., Global Kids Online, Advisory	
	Third, A. International Telecommunications Union, Online Safety Advisory	
	Third, A., Meta, Advisory for the Pacific Strategy	

APPENDIX 4: MEMBERS

Uzma Aleem, University of Sydney	Anna Denejkina, Translational Health Research Institute, WSU	Stephen Healy, Institute for Culture and Society, WSU
Amit Arora, School of Health Sciences, WSU	Milissa Deitz, School of Humanities and Communication Arts, WSU	Rachel Hendery, School of Humanities and Communication Arts, WSU
Peter Bansel, School of Social Sciences, WSU	Nida Denson, School of Psychology, WSU	Sky Hugman, School of Social Sciences, WSU
Valentina Bau, Institute for Culture and Society, WSU	Luigi Di Martino, Young & Resilience Research Centre, WSU	Kate Huppertz, School of Social Sciences, WSU
Shiva Chandra, University of Sydney	Kevin Dunn, School of Social Sciences, WSU	Donna James, School of Social Sciences, WSU
Michelle Catanzaro, School of Humanities and Communication Arts, WSU	Nicky Evans, School of Health Sciences, WSU	Joshua Kalemba, School of Social Sciences, WSU
David Cole, School of Education, WSU	Catharine Fleming, School of Health Sciences, WSU	Alanna Kamp, School of Social Sciences, WSU
Philippa Collin, Young and Resilient Research Centre, WSU	Rosemberg Franco Orrego, Pontificia Universidad Catolica de Chile	Julia Kantek, School of Social Sciences, WSU
Jenna Condie, School of Social Sciences, WSU	Martyna Gliniecka, Young and Resilient Research Centre, WSU	Sukhmani Khorana, University of New South Wales
Katherine Cooper, School of Nursing and Midwifery, WSU	Ben Hanckel, Young & Resilient Research Centre, WSU	Girish Lala, Young & Resilient Research Centre, WSU
Louise Crabtree, Institute for Culture and Society, WSU	Phillipa Hay, School of Medicine, WSU	Anita Lim, School of Health Science, WSU
Ann Dadich, School of Business, WSU		David Lim, University of Technology Sydney

Karin Louise, School of Social Sciences, WSU

Liam Magee, Institute for Culture and Society, WSU

Linda Marsden, Young and Resilient Research Centre, WSU

Ingrid Matthews, University of Sydney

Kate McBride, School of Medicine, WSU

James McDougall, Australian Child Rights Taskforce

Kate McIntyre, ChildCentred

Emma Mitchell, Macquarie University

Rachel Morley, School of Humanities and Communication Arts, WSU

Navin Naidoo, School of Health Sciences, WSU

Andrew Page, School of Medicine, WSU

Genevieve Ritchie, School of Social Sciences, WSU

Shanthi Robertson, The Insight Centre

Ned Rossiter, Institute for Culture and Society, WSU

Katrina Sandbach, School of Humanities and Communication Arts, WSU

Karen Soldatic, School of Social Sciences, WSU

Dinusha Soo, School of Humanities and Communication Arts, WSU

Madison Shakespeare, School of Humanities and Communication Arts, WSU

Howard Sercombe, School of Social Sciences, WSU

Skye Tasker, Young and Resilient Research Centre, WSU

Liz Thyer, School of Health Sciences, WSU

Amanda Third, Young & Resilient Research Centre, WSU

Khandakar Al Farid Uddin, School of Social Sciences, WSU

Jessica Weir, Institute for Culture and Society, WSU

Josh Whitkin, Josh Whitkin Consulting

Emily Wolfinger, School of Social Sciences, WSU

Phoebe Zhou, NICM Health Research Institute, WSU

APPENDIX 5: COLLABORATING PARTNERS

EXISTING PARTNERSHIPS

	Mtoto News	World Vision Bangladesh
Accountable Futures Collective	Multicultural Youth Advocacy Network	World Vision Indonesia
Alannah and Madeline Foundation	Online Safety Exchange	World Vision Nepal
Australian National University	Plan International Australia	World Vision Phillipines
Australian Youth Climate Coalition	Project ROCKIT	World Vision Sri Lanka
batyr	Powerhouse Museum	NEW PARTNERSHIPS
Centre for Multicultural Youth	Queensland University of Technology	AI Child Safety
ChildFund Australia	ReachOut	Allama Iqbal Open University Islamabad
Digi	RMIT	Annandale Public Vacation Care
Learning Creates	Save the Children	Australian Catholic University
eSafety Commissioner	Telstra Foundation	Australian Childhood Foundation
Liverpool City Council 2168 Children's Parliament	UNICEF Australia	Centre for Digital Policy at University College Dublin
Meta Global	University of Melbourne	Centre for Social and Economic Research (CASE)
MICA	University of Sydney	CHI (Child Helpline International)
	World Vision Australia	

Crowdsmart

Flinders University

House of Africa

Informed Future Generations

ISPCC (The Irish Society for the Prevention of
Cruelty to Children)

Kids Early Education Auburn

Macquarie University

Monash University

Nutrition International

RAJIA

Rede Conhecimento Social

Roblox

Smile of the Child

SNAICC

Snap

Temple University

The Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul &
Higher Council for Childhood Lebanon

The Kids Institute

University of Edinburgh

World Vision Solomon Islands



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