Yangebup Family Centre

Annual Report 2025 – 2026

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Kaya Wanju

On behalf of the Yangebup Family Centre, it is our pleasure to present the 2024–2025 Annual Report.

This year has been one of growth, connection, and community spirit. Across the past 12 months, we have welcomed families, children, and community members to a wide range of programs and activities that continue to support wellbeing, learning, and belonging. From playgroups and early learning programs to sustainability workshops, to community eats, cultural celebrations, and capacity-building initiatives, our Centre has remained a vibrant place where people of all ages and backgrounds can come together.

We are proud of our staff, volunteers, and community partners, whose commitment ensures that the Centre continues to respond to the changing needs of our community. Together, we have created opportunities for learning, inclusion, and support that strengthen our community connections.

Looking forward, our vision for reconciliation is at the heart of our work. Guided by respect for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and Country, we are deepening our commitment to building meaningful relationships, acknowledging history, and fostering understanding through our programs and everyday practices. By embedding reconciliation in all that we do, we aim to create a welcoming and culturally safe space for everyone who walks through our doors.

We thank all those who have contributed to the life of the Yangebup Family Centre over the past year—our staff team, committee, volunteers, community members, partners, and funders. Your support and collaboration allow us to continue making a positive difference in the lives of families and the wider community.

Together, we look ahead to another year of growth, connection, and shared purpose.

Educators attended the Embedding Culture in the Early Years workshop presented by Belinda Cox and Little Green Steps at the Centre in May 2026.

Acknowledgement of Country

The Yangebup Family Centre acknowledges the Traditional Custodians, the Whadjuk Noongar People of Beeliar Boodjar. As a place that supports children, families, and community, we recognise the strength, wisdom, and resilience of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. We honour their deep and ongoing connection to Country - its lands, waters, skies and stories - and we pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging in the spirit of reconciliation.

Cover Photo: *Inaugural Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) Working Group*

2025-2026 Management

In 2025-26 the following individuals volunteered their time and skills to the Yangebup Family Centre Management Committee:

Office Bearers

Chairperson	Tracy Pearson
Vice Chairperson	Lyn Wright/Kelly Hutton
Secretary	Nesci Ward
Treasurer	Cyla Maguire

Committee Members

Ann Gerlach, Julie Taylor, Kym Maloney

Myrto Robert, Nicola Todd,

Shelley Granger, Shenae Gaudet

Zoe Crowest

Staff Team

Manager	Samantha Williams
Children's Services	Joanne McGillivray
Community Dev	Joanne McGillivray
Finance	Rachael Chenhall
Educational Leader	Rebecca Apelgren
Educators	Deanne Bartlett
	Jo-Marie Salmond
	Elena Crump
	Taylah Casserly
	Lisa Gallon
	Merridee Lawrence
	Samantha Locantro
	Yulia Lugovskaya
Assistant	Debbie White
Cleaner	Karri Willis-Fulford / Emma Hopkins

Major Partners

Department of Communities

City of Cockburn

Waste Authority

Foodbank

Linkwest

Community Groups

Belly Dancing

Child & Adolescent Community Health

Diverse Women

Perth Portuguese Language School

Craft n Chat

Sewing Artistry

Yangebup Progress Association

Women's Circle

Yoga

Memberships

ACNC

Australian Childcare Alliance WA

Australian Neighbourhood Houses and Centres Association

Linkwest

Reconciliation WA

About Yangebup Family Centre

The Yangebup Family Centre was established in 1992 to promote connection and wellbeing in the local community. The Centre is a cultural hub where all members of the community can embrace diversity and belonging.

Our Centre is community led, community driven and builds on our communities' strengths. We provide a warm and welcoming environment where social connections are fostered through the provision of activities, programs, networks, partnerships, events, and initiatives.

OUR VISION

INSPIRE • GROW • STRENGTHEN

Empowering individuals in taking an active role in their community.

OUR MISSION

The Yangebup Family Centre is a community managed not for profit organisation that promotes connection and wellbeing in the local community. The Centre is a cultural hub where individuals, families and community groups can embrace diversity and belonging.

OUR VALUES

Chairperson's Welcome

There is always something exciting happening at the Yangebup Family Centre!

From the wildly successful Community Eats Program, in partnership with the City of Cockburn and various volunteer organisations, once again funded by Semple Property Group, to our consistent and highly sought-after children's programs, the financial year 2025-26 has focused on consolidation and playing to our strengths.

This report marks the second year of a five-year funding cycle through the Department of Communities' 'Empowering Communities Program'. Throughout the year, the Centre has proudly delivered numerous projects, all of which will be highlighted in this document.

As we continue to advance the Centre's Strategic Plan for 2024 – 2029, we've made significant progress on initiatives across our community themes: collaboration and leadership, connected community, empowered individuals, and caring for children.

A key achievement this year has been the implementation of the Centre's inaugural Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP), culminating in our NAIDOC Week Community Event in July. The RAP working group has devoted considerable effort throughout the year to create deeply meaningful experiences for staff, volunteers, and children, honouring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture. We are grateful for the support of local Indigenous businesses that have generously shared their wisdom and time to guide us on this journey.

I have been particularly thrilled to witness the gradual transformation of the Centre's front outdoor area, thanks to a re-election commitment from our local Member for Cockburn, David Scaife MLA. This project, which includes new signage, seating, and landscaping, will provide a welcoming and refreshed entrance to the Centre, while also enhancing the area's utility for hosting the weekly Mobile Foodbank service and light lunches organised by our volunteers. This initiative, along with the community share trolley, plays a vital role in addressing the rising cost of living challenges faced by our community members.

This year marks my fourth as Chairperson and my ninth on the management committee. I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to all staff, committee members, and volunteers for their unwavering commitment and dedication to the Centre.

Tracy Pearson
Chairperson, Yangebup Family Centre 2025-2026

Treasurer's Report

It is my pleasure to present the Treasurer's report for the financial year 30th June 2026. The Centre is in a strong financial position, finishing with a surplus result of $80,433 which is greater than last year by over $38,000.

The cash reserves held by the Centre on June 30 are $640,262 which is split between daily accounts, online saver, term deposit and receivables due.

The State recurrent grant provided $136,954 which is committed funds for the Empowering Communities Program. Other grants received are $86,096 with over $70,000 allocated towards the revitalisation of the Centres front area and community space.

Equipment is capitalised to the balance sheet with the cost released to the P&L via depreciation over the life of the assets. The equipment is currently valued at $242,559 compared to $193,877 in 2025.

The statement of cash flows shows that spending on plant and equipment increased to $73,481 compared to $1,253 in 2025 with $72,399 of that currently sitting as work in progress. Overall expenditure increased by just over $61,800 or 9.7%. Wage and superannuation expenses rose by 11.7%, which was expected due to standard increases. Office costs increased only slightly over the period while repairs and maintenance saw a noticeable decrease.

Total income has increased by $101,236 or just over 14.9% coming from several areas but note a significant increase in grants along with higher earnings on fees and interest.

The Centre will enter the new financial year with adequate cash reserves to meet its future obligations. In accordance with our Australian Charities and Not-For-Profits Commission (ACNC) obligations, the 2025 / 2026 Financial Statements have been audited. Our auditor William Buck (WA) Advisors Pty Ltd have reported that the statements fairly reflect the financial performance, financial position and cash flows of the Centre and comply with relevant Australian Accounting Standards. In addition, no major internal control issues were identified which is a credit to the Centre's strong financial management.

Now finishing up my second year as Treasurer at Yangebup Family Centre it has been great working with the management and the committee to keep our finances strong. I am still so impressed by the hard work and heart that go into making the Centre such a friendly and welcoming place for everyone.

Thank you to the staff for all your hard work in keeping the Centre thriving and to the committee for the help and skills everyone shares. I look forward to continuing as Treasurer into 2027 and helping with the Centre's success.

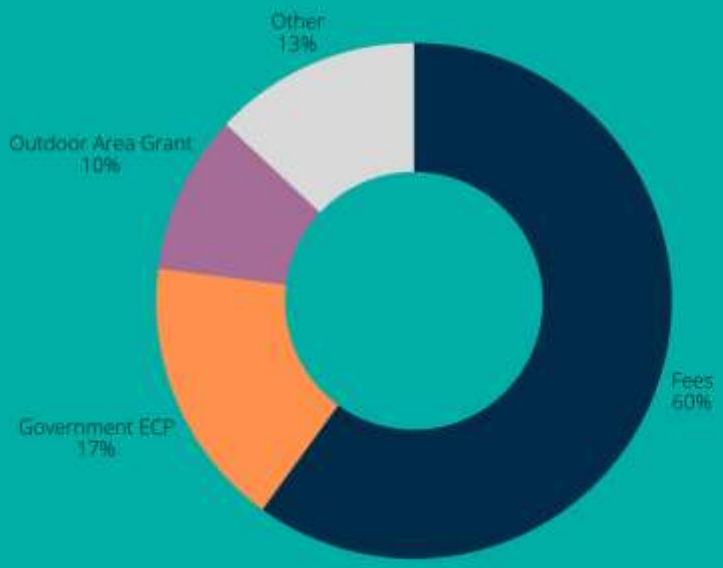
Cyla Maguire
Treasurer, Yangebup Family Centre 2025-2026

Statement of Profit and Loss and Other Comprehensive Income
For the year ended 30 June 2026

	Note	2026 $	2025 $
Income			
Fee income		468,884	459,504
State Government recurrent grant		136,954	131,661
Other Grants	2(a)	86,096	12,069
Other income	2(b)	89,139	76,603
Total Income		**781,073**	**679,837**
Expenditure			
Wages and Salaries	2(c)(i)	(576,832)	(516,614)
Consumables		(16,040)	(12,900)
Administration expenses	2(c)(ii)	(82,969)	(82,209)
Depreciation expense		(24,799)	(27,106)
Total Expenditure		**(700,640)**	**(638,829)**
Net current year surplus		**80,433**	**41,008**
Other Comprehensive Income for the year		-	-
Total Comprehensive Income for the year		**80,433**	**41,008**

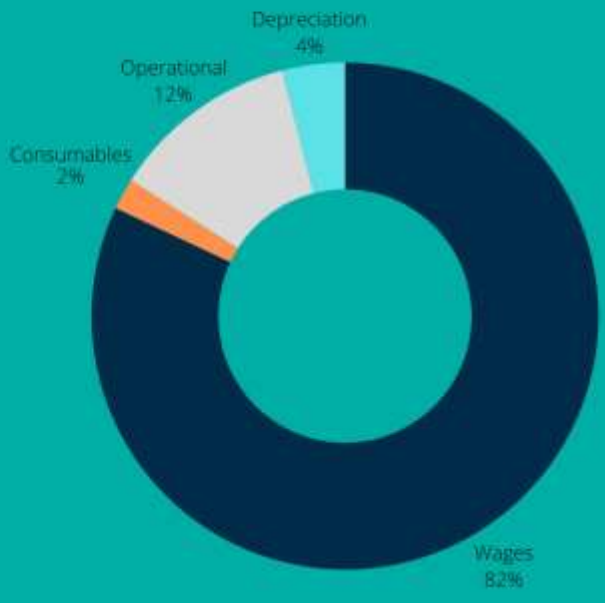
Revenue for the year

Total income for the financial year $781 073



Expenditure for the year

Total expenditure for the financial year $700 640



Statement of Financial Position
As at 30 June 2026

	Note	2026 $	2025 $
Current Assets			
Cash and Cash Equivalents	3a	146,553	316,054
Financial Assets	3b	486,120	315,041
Trade and Other Receivables	4	7,589	9,694
Total Current Assets		**640,262**	**640,789**
Non-Current Assets			
Property, Plant and Equipment	5	242,559	193,877
Total Non-Current Assets		**242,559**	**193,877**
Total Assets		**882,821**	**834,666**
Current Liabilities			
Trade and Other Payables	6	18,637	47,451
Income received in advance	7	1,479	11,666
Employee Provisions	8	32,439	26,749
Total Current Liabilities		**52,555**	**85,866**
Non-Current Liabilities			
Employee Provisions	8	6,342	5,309
Total Non-Current Liabilities		**6,342**	**5,309**
Total Liabilities		**58,897**	**91,175**
Net Assets		**823,924**	**743,491**

Want more detail?

The full financial statement can be found on our website:

www.yangebupfamilycentre.org/meetings

Manager's Statement

Connecting Our Community

2025–2026 has been another year of connection, collaboration and community contribution at Yangebup Family Centre.

Throughout the year, YFC continued to provide a welcoming and inclusive place where people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities could come together, build relationships, learn new skills and contribute to their community.

Over the past 12 months, we delivered more than 365 sessions across 30 community activities, creating opportunities for people to connect and participate. From sharing a meal at Food Connections or Community Eats, to learning practical skills through sustainability workshops, enjoying Pop-up Play at local parks or contributing to creative community projects, our activities demonstrate the power of people coming together.

At the heart of YFC is our belief that strong communities are built by local people. We are proud to work alongside our volunteers, community groups, partners and participants to create opportunities that respond to local strengths, interests and needs.

This reflects the Centre's place-based and asset-based approach, with programs designed to strengthen social connections, encourage participation and create opportunities for people to contribute. A great example of this is our Community Sustainability Workshops—with 20 workshops delivered in 2025 thanks to additional funding through the WasteSorted grant.

Our achievements would not be possible without our dedicated staff team. I am deeply grateful for their hard work and commitment. Our Management Committee and all of our volunteers also deserve special recognition for their passion, energy, and ongoing contribution to the life of the Centre.

We are fortunate to have strong and supportive relationships across all levels of government. We thank Josh Wilson MP, David Scaife MLA, His Worship the Mayor Logan Howlett and Councillors Philip Eva, Chontelle Stone and Tom Widenbar for their ongoing commitment to our Centre.

Our regular groups remain a vital part of the Centre, providing diverse opportunities for connection, learning, and wellbeing. I would like to acknowledge and thank Belly Dancing provided by Selina, Child and Adolescent Community Health, Perth Portuguese Language School, Craft n Chat, Yangebup Progress Association, Sewing Artistry and Yoga provided by Alejandra for the important role they play in supporting our community.

We also recognised the importance of collaborations with groups like Foodbank, the Cockburn Chinese Community Association and the Yangebup Progress Association to deliver programs to promote community connection.

This Annual Report highlights just some of the activities, initiatives, and events delivered over the past 12 months. I hope you enjoy reflecting on the achievements of the year as much as we have enjoyed working alongside our community to make them possible.

Samantha Williams
Manager

Children's & Community Services Statement

Connecting, Learning and Growing Together

Throughout the year, the YFC continued to strengthen its commitment to providing a safe, inclusive and welcoming place for children, families and the wider community.

Through professional development, cultural experiences, child safety initiatives, celebrations and community partnerships, the Centre continued to foster connection, learning, wellbeing and a strong sense of belonging.

Staff and committee members participated in a range of learning opportunities to strengthen professional practice and cultural awareness. These included Boodja Biddi at Yangebup Lake with Cyril Yarran, the Boorloo Festival, mandatory child safety training, and professional development in supervision, food safety, documentation and supporting children experiencing big feelings.

Our Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) journey continued to guide our commitment to reconciliation, strengthening cultural awareness and embedding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives into our programs, practices and connections with the community.

Child safety remained a priority, with the Statement of Commitment to Child Safety and accompanying flyer reviewed and updated. A self-assessment against the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations informed revisions to the implementation plan, and the National Model Code was reviewed. Reflective practice and the Quality Improvement Plan (QIP) also continued to develop, with a focus on making the QIP clearer and more accessible to families.

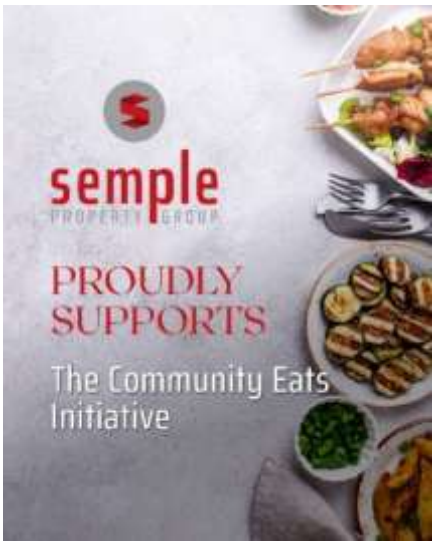
Our staff are at the heart of YFC, and their dedication, care and commitment make the Centre such a special place for children and families. Staff qualifications and certificates are updated throughout the year, supporting our team's ongoing professionalism and high standards of care. We were also proud to see Bec recognised as a finalist for the Families' Choice Outstanding Educator Award, a wonderful acknowledgement of the passion and dedication she brings to her role. We also welcomed Emma to the team as our new cleaner, helping us keep YFC a warm, clean and welcoming place for everyone.

A range of events and celebrations brought children, families and educators together to celebrate culture, learning and community. Highlights included Educators' Day, Lunar New Year, Brekky N Go mornings and Book Week, alongside recognising and respectfully acknowledging significant Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander dates. These occasions provided valuable opportunities to learn, share traditions and celebrate the diversity within our community.

The 2025 Dads and Kids' Pizza Night was another highlight, with Tino's Pizza, door prizes and guest speakers creating a fun and relaxed evening for dads and their children to spend quality time together and build connections with other families.

Community Eats and Food Connections continued to support community connection and provide welcoming opportunities for people to come together over food. These initiatives rely on the generosity and collaboration of valued partners, volunteers and local organisations.

Our thanks go to The Local Church, Yangebup Progress Association, the Cockburn Chinese Community Association, MLA David Scaife and team, the City of Cockburn and our dedicated local volunteers for their contributions throughout the year.



A big thank you to Semple Property Group for sponsoring the Community Eats Initiative, without the support from Semple and our wonderful partners/ host organisations and volunteers, these evenings couldn't go ahead.

We received a $1000 grant from Linkwest supporting Neighbourhood Centre Week, held from 11–15 May. The Centre gratefully received further donations from Commonwealth Bank and Year 6 students at Blue Gum Montessori School. The year 6 students have organised a food drive every year for the past 4 years.

The year has highlighted the strength of Yangebup Family Centre as a place of connection, inclusion and belonging. Through the dedication of our staff, the generosity of our volunteers and partners, and the ongoing support of our community, YFC continues to make a meaningful difference in the lives of children and families. Together, we are building a stronger, more connected community where everyone feels welcome, valued and supported.

Joanne McGillivray
Children's and Community Services Co-ordinator

Celebrating years of Service

Our Centre is very fortunate to have long term dedicated team members. This year we have celebrated two significant milestones.

Taylah Casserly 10 years

Over the past 10 years Taylah has built wonderful relationships with children and families. Her caring and compassionate nature has helped children feel safe, comfortable and confident attending childcare.

Taylah has a wonderful eye for sensory experiences and is always creating beautiful sensory trays, resources and room displays for children to explore and enjoy. Her love of turtles and animals has also brought special experiences to the Centre!

Joanne McGillivray 15 years

Jo's caring spirit and unwavering support have made a lasting impact on our team, our families, volunteers and our community. Thank you for your outstanding service! We're grateful for your heart, your commitment, and all you do.

We are so grateful to have you both as part of our team and appreciate all that you have contributed.

Recognition

Finalist in WA Early Childhood Awards

The Centre was proud to celebrate educator Rebecca Apelgren (Miss Bec), who was named a finalist in the Family's Choice – Outstanding Educator Award at the ECLD WA Sector Awards in March 2026.

With more than 120 nominations received across the awards, being named a finalist was a wonderful recognition of Miss Bec's passion, creativity and dedication to children and families.

Miss Bec was nominated by YFC parent Shenae Gaudet, who highlighted the exceptional care provided by Miss Bec and the Pre-Kindy team. Shenae described the Centre as a place where children and families feel welcomed, valued and supported.

Reflecting on her own first day leaving her son at Pre-Kindy, Shenae shared, "I was welcomed with an empathetic hug and a hot coffee after leaving him, followed up with an email and photo of him having a great day. Such a personal and kind gesture showing just a small part of their values."

Families also praised the creativity and depth of the Pre-Kindy program, where children's interests are transformed into meaningful, hands-on learning experiences. From making pasta from scratch and preparing "Gruffalo Crumble" to exploring cultural traditions and welcoming community members, everyday experiences become opportunities for learning and connection.

One activity that particularly stood out was "Magic with Boxes", where children arrived to discover a room filled with recycled cardboard boxes contributed by families. The children transformed the boxes into spaceships, castles, houses and boats, developing their creativity, communication, problem-solving and teamwork skills along the way.

As Shenae reflected, "This wasn't just craft time, it was a multi-disciplinary exploration of design, communication and creativity."

For Miss Bec, early childhood education is about creating a safe and nurturing environment where children can be curious, confident and themselves. "I believe childhood should be protected as a space of wonder, safety and possibility."

She believes that by fostering "curiosity, imagination and empathy", educators can help shape children who will make a positive contribution to the world around them.

Although Miss Bec did not take home the award on the night, becoming a finalist among so many outstanding educators was an achievement Yangebup Family Centre was immensely proud to celebrate.

Miss Bec may not have won the award, but she is definitely a winner in our eyes! We are grateful for the care, creativity and compassion she brings to the children, families and wider community of Yangebup Family Centre.

Strategic Plan 2025-2029

The YFC Strategic Plan 2024-2029 was developed over 2023-2024 through a comprehensive review, engagement and planning process. The plan was launched in September 2024 with the following Community Themes.

Theme	Outcomes	Key Achievements 2025-2026
Collaboration and Leadership	**A community focused, sustainable and progressive organisation**	• Upgrade of front outdoor area to create a welcoming and inviting space commenced • Build and maintain existing relationships and identify new partners including the Waste Authority, Milliyaan Aboriginal Service, Semple Property Group, Sewing Artistry
Connected Community	**A vibrant, inclusive and connected community.**	• Community Eats and Food Connections very successful and well attended • Inaugural RAP launched, actions include providing a NAIDOC Week event partnering with local organisations • Partnering with CoC to provide Diverse Women's group weekly in 2025-2026
Empowered People	**Community members are supported to have valued roles and fulfilling lives**	• Waste Wise Workshops delivered with funding provided by WasteWorted grant • Waterway Walkway project delivered with funding from City of Cockburn (CoC)
Caring for Children	**Quality programs are provided for children and families**	• Regular meetings held to update the Quality Improvement Plan (QIP) • Pop-up Plays sessions held in partnership with Yangebup Progress Association (YPA) • Additional staff training to build confidence in updating the QIP

Our Year in Numbers 2025-2026

Community Programs

$248K
in total funding and donations received

365+
sessions delivered across over 30 community actvities

30,000+
participant interactions with over 5K unique particpants

Early Learning and Care

4,864
participant interactions

261 sessions of care

Staff Team

18 part-time staff provide 5.5FTE

6 staff with over 10 years at YFC

Food Connections

700+
lunches provided

8 volunteers

Volunteers

75+ volunteers

3,500+ hours per annum

$165K value per annum

Community Eats

6
dinners

5
community groups

40+
volunteers

800+
dinners provided

Our Community Story

A Place to Connect, Participate and Belong

At Yangebup Family Centre, community is at the heart of everything we do.

For more than 34 years, YFC has been a place where people can come together, build relationships and feel a sense of belonging. We believe strong communities are built when people have opportunities to connect, share their skills, support one another and play an active role in shaping the places where they live.

Throughout 2025–2026, we continued to provide a welcoming and inclusive space for people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities. From young children taking their first steps into early learning through our Pre-Kindy and Occasional Care programs, to families connecting through play and community activities, and adults coming together to learn, create and share a meal, YFC has provided opportunities for people to participate in ways that are meaningful to them.

Over the past year, more than 365 sessions across 30 community activities created over 30,000 opportunities for connection and participation. Behind these numbers are friendships formed, skills shared, conversations had and community members discovering that they have something valuable to contribute.

Our work is guided by an asset-based approach, which means we recognise and build on the strengths, knowledge and skills already present in our community. Whether it is a volunteer preparing a meal, a community member sharing a creative skill, a local group leading an activity or families coming together at a community event, we see the incredible value that people bring when given the opportunity to participate.

We also recognise that communities face changing challenges. This year, we continued to see increasing financial pressures and social isolation affecting many people. In response, YFC has focused on providing accessible, low-cost and free opportunities for people to connect, access support and participate in community life.

We are proud that YFC is more than a place where services are delivered. It is a place where community happens. A place where people are welcomed, relationships grow and everyone has the opportunity to contribute.

As we reflect on the year that has been, we are grateful to the staff, volunteers, community members, partners and supporters who have helped make YFC a vibrant and connected community hub. Together, we are continuing to build a community where people feel connected, valued and empowered to participate.

Highlights 2025-2026

We continue to prioritise strong partnerships to ensure coordinated service delivery and to enhance community outcomes.

Food Connections & Community Eats

Sharing Food, Building Connections

Food continued to bring our community together throughout the year. Through our longstanding partnership with Foodbank, the Mobile Foodbank visited YFC each Monday, providing access to affordable essentials for local community members.

Our dedicated volunteers added something special to the experience by preparing and sharing a light lunch, creating a welcoming space for people to sit, talk and connect. Over the past year, more than 700 meals were shared through Food Connections.

Yangebup Community Eats also continued to demonstrate the strength of community collaboration. Six community dinners brought together more than 800 people, supported by over 40 volunteers and a wide range of local community organisations. These free shared meals provide much more than food—they create opportunities for neighbours to meet, friendships to grow and community spirit to flourish.

The local community organisations that have been involved in the Yangebup Eats initiative this year include;

- Cockburn Chinese Community Association
- The Local Church Yangebup
- Yangebup Progress Association

“Community is built through the everyday moments of connection—sharing a meal, learning something new, lending a hand and knowing there is a place where you belong.”

Waste Wise Workshops – Sustainability in Action

Learning Together for a More Sustainable Future

Building on community interest in sustainability, YFC continued to provide practical, hands-on opportunities for people to learn new skills and reduce waste.

Our community-led sustainability workshops explored creative ways to reduce food and textile waste, including fermentation, textile repurposing, styling and making the most of leftovers. Across 20 workshops, 207 people came together to learn, share ideas and build their confidence.

The impact extended beyond the workshops. Participant feedback showed a significant increase in knowledge about reducing waste, while new sustainable practices were introduced at the Centre, contributing to a 33% reduction in Centre waste.

Most importantly, the program demonstrated how local people can share their skills and knowledge to create positive change within their community.

Pop-up Play

Community Connection in Local Spaces

YFC continued to take opportunities for connection into the community through our Pop-up Play program. Delivered in partnership with the Yangebup Progress Association, these free sessions brought families together in local parks for sensory play, conversation and fun.

By providing activities in accessible local spaces, Pop-up Play helps reduce barriers to participation while encouraging families to connect with one another and feel part of their local community.

The program is also a wonderful example of how partnerships can grow. Following the successful revitalisation of the Yangebup Progress Association, our collaboration is creating new opportunities for local residents to become involved and shape activities in their community.

Culturally inclusive programs - Celebrating Diversity and Inclusion

A Place Where Everyone Belongs

YFC is proud to be a place where people from diverse backgrounds can connect, participate and feel welcome.

During the year, our partnerships supported a range of inclusive programs, including the City of Cockburn's Diverse Women's Friendship Group, now looking ahead to its next chapter as Women of the World**,** alongside language classes, cultural activities and programs designed to bring people together.

We recognise that social connection is particularly important for people who may be new to the area or living without family support nearby. By creating welcoming spaces and opportunities to meet others, YFC helps build a stronger and more connected community.

Creative community projects - The Waterway Walkway Project

Creating Something Beautiful Together

Creativity brought our community together through a new Waterway Walkway Project, supported by the City of Cockburn. Community members and Craft n Chat participants shared their skills and created handmade pieces inspired by the plants and animals found in our local waterways.

The project has provided opportunities for people to learn, create and contribute, while transforming the Centre into an even more welcoming and vibrant community space. The completed Waterway Walkway will celebrate the creativity and generosity of the volunteers and community members who helped bring the project to life.

Volunteers

Our volunteers are at the heart of Yangebup Family Centre.

Every week, volunteers contribute their time, skills, ideas and energy to help create a welcoming and connected community. From preparing meals and supporting community events to sharing skills, facilitating activities and contributing behind the scenes, their generosity makes an enormous difference.

We thank every volunteer who has contributed to YFC this year. Your time, commitment and community spirit help make the Centre a place where people can connect, participate and thrive.

Partnerships and Collaboration

Better Together

Strong partnerships remain central to the work of Yangebup Family Centre. By working alongside local organisations, community groups, government agencies, volunteers and residents, we can create more opportunities and achieve stronger outcomes for our community.

We sincerely thank all of our partners and supporters for their collaboration, generosity and shared commitment to building a connected and inclusive community.

Supporting Aboriginal Businesses

The Centre is proud to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders organisations and businesses and businesses that support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders in our community.

- Australians Together
- Cyril Yarran, Milliyaan Aboriginal Services
- Dreamtime Kullilla-Art
- Indigenous Literacy Foundation
- Julianne Wade, Whadjuk Artist
- Kakadu Plum Company
- Songlines Art, Culture, Education
- Tucker Bush
- Yarn

Empowering Communities Program

The YFC was successful in receiving support through the Empowering Communities Program (ECP) from the State Government through the Department of Communities. The funding was originally for five years and commenced on the 1 July 2019. We have recently received an additional five years for the program to continue to the 30 June 2029. The funding provides us with the opportunity of continuing to provide place-based programs and initiatives that promote connection and build capacity in our community.

Vision

Communities are connected and inclusive places where people feel they belong, are valued and contribute.

The ECP aligns with our community themes of Connected Community and Empowered People. We achieve this through providing activities, programs, events, and initiatives.

Aims

- Empower Local People
- Strengthen Social Connections
- Foster Collaboration

We have provided an example Case Study: WasteSorted Community Workshops

Outcomes

Waste Wise Workshops

In 2023, Yangebup Family Centre conducted community consultation inviting locals to suggest workshops or activities they wanted to see in 2024. A strong interest in sustainability emerged, particularly around reducing textile and food waste. In response, community members worked together to design a program of workshops, with additional sessions delivered by local experts. The program delivered nine workshops with five facilitators and engaged 120 participants.

Due to the success of the workshops in 2024 the Centre sort additional funding through the WasteSorted Community Education Grants to support ECP funding so further workshops could be provided at a low cost to participants.

Through funding from WasteSorted Community Education Grants 2024-25 we developed a series of waste education workshops to address high rates of waste generation in our community. Our program promoted "Be a GREAT sort" including strategies that encourage our community to reduce food and textile waste by repurposing, reducing and creating alternatives. We aimed to deliver 18 workshops over 12 months, with the goal of engaging 10+ people per workshop.

Between March and November 2025 we held 20 workshops teaching creative ways to reduce food & textile waste. Workshops included fermentation, textile crafts, styling masterclasses and cooking with leftovers.

Outcome 1	Outcome 2	Outcome 3	Outcome 4	Outcome 5
Participants built new friendships through shared workshop activities, reducing isolation and fostering a sense of belonging.	Over 200 people engaged in workshops, with many involved in planning and expressing interest in future events at the Centre.	Attendees gained practical skills in reducing textile and food waste, with all reporting increased sustainability knowledge.	Community members helped deliver workshops, shared their skills, and supported the successful application for future program funding. The workshops fostered community involvement and encouraged skill-sharing.	The Centre provided a welcoming and inclusive space, where participants felt comfortable learning, connecting, and contributing.

Early Learning Programs

Nurturing Children and Supporting Families

Our Children's Services continued to provide a welcoming, nurturing and inclusive environment where young children can learn, play and develop, while families are supported to connect with their local community.

Our OCC Childcare and Pre-Kindy programs provide flexible and accessible early childhood experiences that recognise the importance of play, relationships and children's individual strengths and interests. Through meaningful learning experiences, children are encouraged to develop confidence, independence, curiosity and a sense of belonging.

Our childcare program continues to provide an important service for families who need flexible care arrangements. The program offers children a safe, welcoming environment to play, learn and connect with others, while providing parents and carers with valuable support and flexibility. Whether families access childcare regularly or when the need arises, the program helps children become familiar with an early learning environment and build confidence through positive relationships with educators and other children.

Our Pre-Kindy program provides children with a supportive introduction to early learning in a small and caring environment. Through play-based experiences and everyday routines, children have opportunities to build social skills, develop independence and confidence, and explore the world around them. The program also supports families as their children prepare for the transition to Kindy, creating opportunities for parents and carers to connect with educators and other local families.

Our Commitment to Quality Improvement

Continuous improvement remains an important part of our Children's Services. Guided by our Quality Improvement Plan (QIP), we continue to reflect on our practices, listen to children, families and educators, and identify opportunities to strengthen the quality of the experiences we provide.

During the year, our focus on quality has supported ongoing reflection across key areas including:

- Creating safe, inclusive and welcoming environments for every child and family
- Supporting children's learning, development and wellbeing through play-based experiences
- Building strong and respectful relationships with families
- Encouraging children's voices, interests and individual strengths to inform our programs
- Supporting educators to reflect, learn and continually improve their practice
- Strengthening connections between Children's Services, the wider Centre and our local community

Our QIP provides a valuable framework for ensuring that quality is not simply something we measure, but something we actively work towards every day. We are proud of the commitment of our educators whose care, professionalism and dedication help create positive early experiences for the children and families who attend YFC.

Our Curriculum

We believe children are capable, curious and active participants in their own learning. Our curriculum is designed to encourage children to explore, wonder, discover and develop lifelong learning skills.

Our indoor and outdoor learning environments are thoughtfully planned to provide a variety of spaces, resources and experiences. Educators consider children's interests, strengths, abilities, ideas, cultures, relationships and individual needs when creating environments that promote belonging, being and becoming.

Our educational programs are guided by Belonging, Being and Becoming: The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia (EYLF V2.0). The EYLF recognises the importance of play-based learning and intentionality, children's agency, secure and respectful relationships, inclusion, cultural responsiveness, sustainability and partnerships with families and communities.

Responsive and Intentional Curriculum

Our fortnightly programs are developed in response to each child's interests, strengths and individual needs. Educators draw on observations of children's learning and development, information shared by families, children's cultures and backgrounds, intentional teaching opportunities, spontaneous learning and relevant events and experiences.

While our programs are planned, they remain flexible and responsive. Educators follow children's interests and respond to "teachable moments" that arise naturally throughout the day. Learning happens not only during planned experiences, but also through play, conversations, routines, transitions, relationships and everyday experiences.

Educators use intentional teaching strategies such as modelling, demonstrating, questioning, encouraging, explaining, scaffolding and extending children's thinking. At the same time, children are supported to make choices, take the lead in their play, develop their own ideas and influence their learning experiences.

Documenting Children's Learning

Educators document children's learning in a variety of ways, including observations, learning stories, photos, reflections, program documentation and information shared with families. Documentation helps make children's learning visible and supports educators to understand and respond to each child's learning and development.

Each child will have at least one documented cycle of learning each term. This provides an opportunity to capture a child's learning journey, identify their strengths and interests, plan meaningful experiences and consider appropriate next steps.

The cycle begins with observation and gathering information about the child, followed by assessment and planning. Educators then implement learning experiences, observe children's responses and reflect on the learning. This reflection informs future planning and helps ensure that learning opportunities remain meaningful, responsive and intentional.

Families are an important part of this process. Information, knowledge and insights shared by families help educators develop a deeper understanding of each child and contribute to curriculum decision-making. Families are encouraged to share children's interests, achievements, cultural experiences, significant events and learning from home.

OCC Childcare Learning Journey

Exploring Healthy Foods

At the beginning of Term 4 2025, educators engaged the children in discussions about healthy eating and making healthy food choices. The children showed a strong interest in learning about different foods and talking about the foods that help to keep our bodies healthy.

During mat sessions, children explored a range of food flashcards and were encouraged to identify and discuss foods they thought were healthy or unhealthy. Children shared their existing knowledge, experiences and ideas, while educators extended their thinking through open-ended questions and conversations.

To build on this interest, we introduced a Healthy Food Plate activity. Children selected from a range of pre-cut food pictures and created their own healthy food plate. As they made their choices, educators encouraged discussions about different types of food, children's favourite foods and the importance of eating a variety of foods.

Building on this learning, the children worked together to make a fruit salad using a variety of fresh fruits. Children participated in preparing the fruit, adding ingredients to the bowl and sharing the finished fruit salad with their peers. This hands-on experience encouraged children to explore different fruits, talk about their likes and dislikes, and consider trying new foods.

Throughout the learning journey, children developed an emerging understanding that some foods are everyday foods that help our bodies grow and stay healthy, while other foods are sometimes foods. They also developed confidence in making choices, participating in food preparation and sharing their experiences with others.

The children particularly enjoyed the practical and hands-on nature of the experiences and being actively involved in creating and sharing their fruit salad. Through these experiences, children developed their understanding of the importance of good nutrition and healthy food choices as part of caring for their bodies and wellbeing.

Throughout this learning journey, children demonstrated curiosity, confidence, participation and cooperation. They were encouraged to share their ideas, make choices, try new experiences and learn alongside their peers.

Deanne Bartlett
Educator

Pre-Kindy Learning Journey

Yaakin – The Long-Necked Turtle

One of the favourite parts of our Pre-Kindy program is Storytime. Educators begin by singing our special Storytime song, signalling that a story is about to begin. The children gather around, ready to listen, as educators bring stories to life through props, expression and engaging dialogue.

In September 2025, our educators enjoyed a walk with Uncle Cyril from Milliyaan Aboriginal Services, where he shared his family's story of Yaakin – The Long-Necked Turtle. With permission, we brought this special story into our classrooms during Kambarang, the season when reptiles begin to emerge.

Using animal figures, kylies (boomerang) and a coolamon, educators brought Yaakin's journey to life. The children watched as Yaakin was helped by his friends when he became stuck, eventually emerging with flippers, a hard shell and a long neck. Over the two weeks that we shared this story, the children became increasingly familiar with the characters and began learning and using the Noongar names for the animals. They also made meaningful connections to the large Yaakin they had seen at the Bibra Lake playground.

In 2026 as our Centre began preparing for our Water Walkway, the learning continued beyond Storytime. Children from across the Centre were invited to create and decorate their own ninni yaakin (little long-necked turtles). Using wooden materials, paint and collage items, the children expressed their creativity while bringing their own little turtles to life.

Through this beautiful story, the children explored storytelling, language, creativity and connections to Country, deepening their appreciation of Noongar culture and the natural world around them.

So, as you wander around our Centre, keep your eyes open! You might spot a yaakin moving about to lay its eggs during Kambarang, or, if you look closely, you may just discover a ninni yaakin making itself at home.

A Colourful Learning Journey

In our Pre-Kindy rooms, we wanted to make learning about colours as fun, hands-on and interactive as possible. To bring this learning to life, we introduced our Colour of the Week initiative.

Each week, educators selected a colour, often linking it to significant events on our calendar, such as red for Red Nose Day and yellow for R U OK? Day. We invited children, families and staff to join in the fun by wearing and exploring the colour of the week.

Our rooms became a colourful celebration! Doors were decorated with vibrant streamers, and children and educators arrived dressed in the featured colour. Outfits included colourful clothing, shoes, jewellery, hair accessories and, of course, plenty of tutus! Some children even brought lunches featuring the colour of the week, creating an exciting opportunity to explore their lunchboxes together and discover colourful foods.

Educators extended this learning through a variety of engaging experiences, including playdough, collage, painting and sensory exploration. We also connected colours with familiar stories, such as The Tiger Who Came to Tea, and offered opportunities for children to see, smell and taste a variety of colourful fruits, vegetables and spices.

The Colour of the Week initiative provided a joyful and meaningful way for children to develop their colour recognition, explore their senses and learn through play. It also encouraged wonderful participation from families and staff, strengthening our sense of community and shared learning.

Our Colour of the Week journey has been a vibrant success, and we look forward to continuing this initiative across the whole centre in the years to come!

Rebecca Apelgren
Educational Leader

Our Reconciliation Journey

Continuing Our Reconciliation Journey

In October 2025, Yangebup Family Centre proudly launched our inaugural Reconciliation Action Plan. Developed with input from staff, committee members and the local community, the RAP provides a meaningful framework for strengthening relationships, deepening our understanding and creating opportunities for connection and participation.

Throughout the year, our RAP Working Group continued to guide this journey and build relationships with local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members and organisations. We look forward to continuing this important work and learning together as a community.

Thank you to our Working Group members – Deanne Bartlett, Joanne McGillivray, Rebecca Apelgren, Samantha Williams, Marissa Verma, Ann Gerlach and Tracy Pearson.

Looking Ahead

As we look to the year ahead, YFC will continue to respond to the strengths and changing needs of our community. We will focus on providing free and low-cost opportunities for people to connect and participate, strengthening support for people experiencing financial hardship and isolation, and creating opportunities for local people to learn new skills and contribute to their community.

We will continue to build strong partnerships, seek new funding opportunities and support community-led initiatives that help make Yangebup and the wider Cockburn community a welcoming place for everyone.

Our Team

We have a wonderful staff team, many of whom have been with the Centre for more than 10 years providing consistency of care and connection. Thank you to Karri Willis-Fulford for her contributions to the Centre and welcome to our new staff member Emma Hopkins.

The YFC has a strong volunteer Management Committee with well-established systems that support its activities and service delivery to the local community.

Our Management Committee consists of eleven community members who volunteer their time, experience, and expertise to provide governance and strategic direction of the organisation.

The YFC is a leader in the Neighbourhood Centre network having won multiple awards. Through strong volunteer leadership the Centre has increased programs offered, engagement with the community and membership.

Committee Members received recognition as part of National Volunteer Week in May 2026.

Partners

We are proudly supported by the following partners and we greatly appreciate their assistance.

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Supported by

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