

THE DRUM

Youth Services





Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the First Peoples of Australia. We acknowledge they have never ceded sovereignty and remain strong in their connection to land, culture and in resisting ongoing colonisation.

The DRUM respectfully acknowledges that we deliver services and programs on the stolen lands of the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung and Boon Wurrung people as the traditional Custodians and true sovereigns of the land now known as Yarra. We also acknowledge the significant contributions made by other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to life in Yarra. We pay our respects to Elders from all nations and to their Elders past, present and emerging.

As a team and organisation predominately comprised of settlers, we are committed to supporting First Nations people in their quest for decolonisation and sovereignty.

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A word from our CEO, Karen Field

» Thinking about young people who live work and play across the City of Yarra

At the DRUM, we have long embraced a framework that emphasises the health and wellbeing of young people and utilised it to shape our work, ensuring the best possible support for all those we engage with, especially the young individuals, within the context of their families and communities of those who live, work and play in the City of Yarra. Throughout decades of research, we have consistently discovered that positive home environments, strong connections to school and peers, and a sense of belonging play a pivotal role in mitigating life's inevitable challenges. This knowledge has not only been relayed to us through research but has also been echoed by the young people themselves.

Our continuous effort to amplify the voices of young people has enabled us to improve and evolve over the years. We remain committed to co-design and establish partnerships with local governments, including the City of Yarra, based on the feedback and insights shared by young people and their families. However, the past two years have brought unprecedented changes for everyone, particularly for those already facing additional obstacles in their developmental journey.

While lockdowns are more and more becoming a distant memory, the impacts of them have lingered, leaving a lasting imprint on the lives of young people. The DRUM has witnessed the ongoing repercussions caused by these prolonged restrictions. Despite the easing of lockdown measures, many young individuals continue to face challenges in reconnecting with peers and schools. The disruptions caused by the pandemic have had far-reaching effects on the social connections and overall well-being, particularly those who faced hard lock downs.

The DRUM team have witnessed an alarming rise in distressed families due to income and housing insecurity. The escalating cost of living has had a significant impact on families, exacerbating everyday stresses and placing additional strain on their well-being. At the DRUM, we recognise the importance of our programs as a haven away from these pressures. Our safe and supportive environment offers respite and relief, providing families with practical and emotional support to navigate the challenges of affordability. By fostering a sense of belonging and connection, we empower young people and their families to find solace, resilience, and a renewed sense of hope amidst the financial burdens they face.

Despite navigating all that comes with working with young people experiencing hardship and other challenges, the DRUM has remained steadfast in maintaining crucial connections with young people. We extend our heartfelt appreciation to our dedicated team of youth practitioners who have consistently provided vital practical and emotional support. Their contributions range from delivering essential health information to assisting with community and systems navigation, all while creating a safe and nurturing space where young people feel heard and connected. Many young individuals have expressed that participating in our programs each week has been a highlight, serving as their sole source of connection and validation.

The Drum endeavour to continue our universal engagement and preventative initiatives to ensure that young people can readily access local support when needed. By increasing collaboration and applying an intersectional and place-based lens to our collective work, we aim to ensure that all young individuals, regardless of their identities and diverse lived experiences, do not have to defer their dreams or limit their potential. This pandemic has taught us that nothing is certain, but it is our responsibility to make a positive and active difference in the lives of the young people we directly support.

The exceptional dedication and creativity of our team at the DRUM, led by Marie Iafeta, deserve our heartfelt gratitude. We deeply appreciate your unwavering commitment and to our funders, we thank you!

Warm regards



Karen Field
Chief Executive Officer
Drummond Street Services



The DRUM survey [young people]

Satisfaction surveys

98

A recent snapshot: Young people who attend **the DRUM** programs across multiple locations including the City of Yarra and the City of Melbourne completed an anonymous survey via QR codes to provide feedback as part of our commitment to genuine co-design. The Surveys are inclusive of the two LGA's as it recognises that some of our young people can travel to multiple programs, the information was disseminated via **the DRUM** staff, who encouraged young people who attended programs over this period to complete it in-program. A QR code was created to help young people to complete the form online directly; however, the young people also used printed out paper forms.

The surveys asked:

- » Their level of general satisfaction with **the DRUM**
- » What they most liked about **the DRUM**
- » Which activities they wanted to have
- » What supports they would be interested in

What young people told us about the DRUM

The survey responses suggested that the programs run by **the DRUM** have had an influence on building and strengthening the relationships between young people. A significant majority of young people reflected on how the programs run by **the DRUM** were a gateway to meeting new people and forming new friendships.

"I liked it when I meet new people"
[Young Person]

The programs offer significant opportunities to learn social and broader life skills and emphasise the importance of companionship, community and belonging.

"I enjoyed being able to create the Drum hoodie."
[Young Person]

This can also be illustrated through the common thread of "meeting new people" that young people reflected on as being a positive about the programs being run at **the DRUM**.

The comments made by young people about **the DRUM** programs included "fun", "amazing", "cool", "interesting and exciting". This highlights how the programs were beneficial for shifting the energies of young people throughout the week as they look forward to their programs.

"performing"
"Photographers coming to performance, making album covers"

Throughout the reflections, young people were encouraged to give feedback on what they would like to see more of from **the DRUM** programs with a large majority commenting on new activities and excursions throughout Victoria.

"It would be good to get out of the city and do some bushwalking, camp[ing] or hiking when we can."
[Young person]

"I would like more food available at program" [Young person]

"I would like to see a PS5"
[Young person]

80%

of respondents identified that connecting socially was the main thing they appreciated about being part of the DRUM.

All survey respondents agreed that returning to face to face programs was more enjoyable.

What young people told us they're looking forward to

The survey ended by asking young people what they were most looking forward to

in the future. The majority emphasised "meeting new people and going new places". One young person expressed how they are enjoying a "bigger space at **the DRUM** so more people can come" which demonstrates both the resilience and strength instilled within the young people at **the DRUM** in being optimistic about the future, despite what has occurred in the past year.

The level of satisfaction was identified as 4.52 star rating with 92% said they felt good about themselves when attending the program.

What young people told us they need

Young people's needs included (listed in no particular order):

- » Social connection opportunities
- » Running face-to-face community events
- » Strong advocacy and support
- » Some mental health education (helping friends) and leading health promoting initiatives (bush walking and camping)
- » Coping strategies with reconnecting
- » Opportunities to meet in a space that feels like theirs and projects to make a change in their environments.
- » Increase food supplies during programs
- » Up to date technology (PS5 game)

The DRUM survey [staff]

Our staff survey asked:

- » The biggest struggles they saw for young people
- » How young people dealt with these challenges
- » What program participants missed out on
- » What young people wanted more of going forward
- » What government, schools, communities and families could do for young people or with young people
- » What they felt most positive about

What staff told us about young people they worked with

We have seen a lot of financial difficulties within families on the public housing estate stemming from things like, the completion of Job Keeper payments, and unemployment. Since the restrictions for Covid 19, have finished and we are coming to terms with a new COVID-19 normal we have seen a large increase in the numbers of participants for programs. With this young people have continued to rebuild relationships within the team, leading to more disclosures of family distress and increased levels of support. We hope with the recent release of compensation for residents of the public housing estates, there will be continued growth in relationships and trust within the community.

This past year has been challenging for young people from the public housing estate, it is clear with the feedback that there appears to increased anti-social behaviours on display at the public housing estates. This has been observed with young people and the team. Identifying the need for increased supports relating to:

- » Housing challenges – Unsafe environments, unhygienic environments, over crowding
- » School challenges – disengagement from school due to: bullying, school is culturally unsafe, familial responsibilities, family not able to get young people to school
- » Family challenges – DV, parentified roles within family, feeling misunderstood, parents/carers unable to care for them (substance use, mental health)
- » Access to materials for school, recreational sport, fun
- » Gaining employment

- » Vapping
- » Parent supports
- » Increased behavioural supports for young people

When staff were asked
“What achievements have you seen over the past year in youth services?”:

- » Increase in number of participants
- » Program space being open consistently and with a visual presence
- » Increased number of participants in co-designed led programs
- » Increased confidence of young people
- » Increased numbers and interest in camps
- » Inclusion across cultures, religion and gender within the program

Staff identified their proudest moments to include:

“Seeing young people self-managing and showing respect to new staff members and peers”

“Seeing young people give challenges a go”

“Having young people seek support in challenging situations”

“The end of year showcases, the engagement of young people and seeing the pride in the work they have achieved”

It is clear that more resources will be needed to support some of the most vulnerable people within our community going forward. whilst ensuring there is available practical supports and resources available for not only young people but also families.

Young people continue to cope with the challenges they are facing by utilising the support of their peers, family, and **the DRUM** to support service navigation.

Common feelings young people expressed to **the DRUM** staff included:

- » A sense of excitement for programs and events
- » Reconnecting with friends
- » A want for more up to date technology such as PS5
- » Ongoing requests for the presence of more food supplies at program

Looking ahead to the future

Looking ahead, the young people have expressed that they would like more school holiday programs, camps and similar excursion activities during regular programs. Activities such as the Camps, Hoodie design and art workshops received lots of praise during feedback sessions with the young people.

We know our program participants need to be regularly informed about the potential for a change in programs and circumstances. They need support to stay connected with their peers, their education and community support services.

Government

What can governments do? Governments can provide adequate housing needs are met whilst recognising the needs on the public housing estates. Further support by providing adequate funding to youth work organisations and youth-led programs, co-creating youth-led systemic changes that utilise the feedback and skills of young people, therefore increasing young people to gain experience and opportunities. These may be within government organisations, or through provision of accessible financial assistance, whilst ensuring bureaucratic systems are simpler to navigate and access, with increased service options for the middle young years who are often limited with service pathways due to availability. **The DRUM** staff are very aware of the major issues that families, many headed by sole females have in terms of the level of community safety on the estates. Drummond Street would like the state governments to take on their responsibility of providing safe and healthy public housing, and this will be a major advocacy focus in the coming year.

It is also recognised with the challenges operating youth programs within public housing estates and the level of supervision required to support safe programs as there is often situations that unfold on the public housing estate that is not seen in other locations, such as:

- » Drug paraphernalia
- » Personal items being thrown out of the high-rise windows
- » Police raids
- » Riots
- » Violent exposures (Stabbing and shootings)



Community residents

Community residents can lead by example. They need to ensure young people are stimulated and encouraged, with healthy risk-taking activities and supports, providing spaces that are youth-led and co-created where young people can feel a sense of ownership over the space.

Parents, teachers and carers

Parents, teachers and carers can provide consistent support, ensure preventative measures are being put into place, check in regularly on the mental health of young people, listen more, and be honest and real about uncertainties in the future (for example, ongoing home schooling). With the diverse presentation of the City of Yarra young people the schools could also benefit from cultural sensitivity training for their staff.

Young people

Young people can provide consistent support to their peers through regular check-ins, encouragement to attend youth spaces, and holding their peers accountable for mistakes without the unnecessary involvement of authority figures.

How staff feel about the future

The young people that attend **the DRUM's** programs have showed an amazing level of resilience and drive through an incredibly challenging few years. Their positive attitudes have been so inspiring, and this makes us feel positive about working alongside young people who are committed to their growth and connecting within their community regardless of the circumstances they're facing. Additionally, young people continue to show a deep commitment to social justice issues and are open to change for a more inclusive environment.

Future visions

It is hoped with the increased needs of supports that **the DRUM** is able to increase program delivery through the week, continuing to offer a safe space for young people to connect, develop skills that continue to offer supports and increase overall help seeking behaviours.

The DRUM's City of Yarra youth programs

The DRUM team continued to run co-designed early intervention programs during the school term and each school holiday period. In alignment with our co-design model, young people plan, guide and participate in the program development, delivery and evaluation cycle.

Program Logic:

Objectives:

- » To use place-based approach and assertive engagement activities to meaningfully support young people (YP) and families experiencing structural forms of disadvantage.
- » To enhance safety through providing safe places, relationships and opportunities for young people (YP) to grow, learn and lead.
- » To work alongside young people (YP) to elevate their voices in advocating against structural disadvantage.

Inputs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Multicultural team - including youth peer leaders » Volunteers » Student placements » Young people » Infrastructure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Resources » Collaborative service and corporate partnerships » Funding » Drummond Street broader services » Co-design committee
Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Individual support and referral brokerage » Young people are invited to identify their goals and begin to work toward them » Young people offered paid opportunities to facilitate various sessions which provide work experience and possible employment pathways » Young people involved in developing their support plan » Young people provided with skills to help and/or maintain wellbeing » Young people are referred to other appropriate services as needed » Young people involved in co-designed activities to contribute to the design of their programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Programs delivered by and for young people across inner-north and west Melbourne, for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collingwood drop in • Richmond Girls • Richmond Mix • RYMS • Monday Drop in • Holiday programs » Provide opportunities for families/parents/carers with psychoeducation and tools to promote young person and family wellbeing » Advocacy » Evaluation of services

Short term outcomes (immediate)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Young people feel a sense of ownership of program design and delivery » Young people have conversations that matter to them » Young people are exposed to different backgrounds and experiences of other young people, which challenges stigma and leads to new relationships » Young people feel comfortable in diverse social interactions » YP develop relationship skills through activities with their peers, peer leaders and staff » YP begin to develop skills [life skills, team skills, relationship skills, work skills, leadership skills, etc.]. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Youth voices are elevated to promote change. » Consistent service delivery builds trust and provides YP with opportunities to be heard, seen, nourished and lead. » Young people are exposed to healthy coping strategies and positive help-seeking techniques, via staff modelling and program content » YP have meaningful employment opportunities. » Our workforce reflects the communities we serve. » Parents/carers are connecting with others with shared experiences of parenting young people and are aware of services available to their families
End of service term outcomes (these are what we measure)	<p>What we see change in the young people by the end of their engagement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » YP have a sense of achievement through the role they have played in co-design and delivery » YP starting to feel confident to lead, feel listened to, respected, valued » Young people have improved knowledge of social systems and the ability to question and challenge discrimination and embedded social norms. » Enhanced emotional management » Improved communication skills » Improved interpersonal relationships » Expanded positive social networks » Enhanced problem-solving skills 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Increased ability and willingness to seek and engage with support again when/if needed » Increased understanding of personal agency. » Increased confidence for positive risk taking (trying new things) » Mastery of things that matter to the young person » Ability to articulate and advocate for themselves » Trust built and the knowledge of where to find services that fit them » Consistent service delivery builds trust and engagement with families and enhances family level protective factors (and reduces risk factors)
Long term outcomes (these are what we assume will happen if the end of service outcomes happen – we don't measure these)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » YP have confidence and skills to contributed to their communities [addressing structural inequalities] » YP become positive role models in their community » YP have long term career opportunities. » YP and their families have positive risk seeking behaviours. » Advocacy efforts reduce discrimination and structural inequalities. » Improved community cohesion » Increased leadership and pride in the young person's community » Reduction of stigma and prejudice in the wider community 	



The Drummond Street Framework recognises sub-populations or community groups contend with higher risks or vulnerabilities. Our service responds to these with both skill, individual supports, community development responses, affirmative employment plans and utilising internal referral pathways to programs such as, AVITH, the zone, Queerspace youth, Queer mentoring, family supports programs (supporting families, children and young people), live wires, therapeutic parenting, complex trauma programs, disability services, institutional abuse programs. Collectively the programs that we currently have on offer to support communities operate to emancipate and build efficacy, agency, safety, inclusion and access to services with a place-based response and resources for those navigating risks.

In addressing the social determinants of health our key approaches include the following approaches and activities;

- » Services for vulnerable young people, families, and communities
- » Capacity building activities to enhance pro social behaviours and increase daily functionality
- » Use of developmental and family life course approach-supporting individuals through vulnerable transitions, this is often seen with the transition from Live wires through to the Drum
- » Deliver interventions across the spectrum of interventions (including promotion, prevention-universal and selective, early interventions, treatment and recovery supports) with a focus on prevention and early intervention
- » Targeting risk and protective factors for wellbeing
- » Centralised intake service, and providing pathways for suitable services
- » Family inclusive supports
- » Increasing opportunities for place-based supports at various locations



Our popular City of Yarra funded programs include:

Collingwood Youth Drop-In – a weekly program that engages Collingwood young people aged 8–15 in youth-led activities and projects.

Individual Supports – individualised supports for young people and their families. This can include, one on one supports, wellbeing check-ins, service navigation, behaviour management strategies, referrals to specialised supports.

Richmond Mix – a weekly program that engages Richmond young people aged 8–18 in a range of youth-led activities and projects.

Richmond Girls Club – a fortnightly program that engages Richmond young women aged 8–18 in youth-led workshops that address female-specific issues and needs.

Monday fortnightly drop in (New) – no longer operating

a fortnightly program, developed at the request of young people in the Collingwood public housing estate. This program is based on a drop in model for young people aged 8-18, due to lack of engagement and at the request of young people, this program changed to enhance the youth committee programs.

We also run **School Holiday Programs** – activities are guided by participant ideas; we offer delivery and/or support of a minimum of three activities each holiday period including a minimum of one activity on each estate and one excursion. Many of the Drum school holiday programs are partnered with the Yarra Youth Services

however we also offer holiday programs for the Collingwood locations

Within every year, we revisited our long standing aims and were able to strategize on how we could still achieve these, in different ways:

- » We are continuing to employ young people with connection to the estates in Peer Leader roles
- » We provide individual support, referrals and pathways for young people and their families
- » We create opportunities for young people and support them to access opportunities beyond the estates, and promote chances to become involved within their community
- » We promote young people's work and achievements to the wider community, including via our social media and other platforms
- » We lead and engage in advocacy to elevate the voices of young people from the estates.

The Drum has a long-standing partnership with Yarra Youth Services which provides an opportunity of familiar faces, youth workers that are recognised across programs ensuring the same information is shared with young people whilst supporting young people engage in programs across location increasing youth participation and engagement. **The DRUM** recognises and appreciated the Yarra Youth Services ongoing support and commitment in a shared working relationship meeting the needs of young people and community.

Co-design

A big part of our programs is the co-design process our Leadership Committee run fortnightly. It is a leadership program where five young people are chosen from those who apply. They attend regular meetings where the content discusses how to be leaders, why they want to be leaders, and how to lead on a program. At the end of the term, they practice their leadership skills by planning and leading their own activity during the program. We adopted many methodologies to obtain feedback and gain a better understanding of what young people want, which included:

- » regular verbal feedback through programs
- » leadership committees
- » paper feedback
- » satisfaction surveys

We ensured there were opportunities for young people to not only extend on knowledge they were interested in but also provided incentives for young people to play key roles at events, which could be a gift card to those who provided regular feedback or for young people who played key roles at events. **The DRUM** values what young people have to say and will use all information to drive the outcome of programs.

Collingwood Youth Drop-In

Collingwood Youth Drop-In is a regular drop-in program. This program offers an opportunity for young people to engage in social connections through fun activities such as; playing basketball, art activities, cooking, or video games. While utilising the

youth space as a safe space where they can feel ownership and safely navigation interpersonal relationships. The aim of this program is to provide a safe space for young people to connect and prevent the chance of unsafe play or risk taking, whilst in the community. It provides an opportunity for staff to role model positive help seeking behaviours, social skills, communication skills and forming interpersonal relationships outside of a young persons recognised networks. The program provides a safe space to learn new skills with support, such as cooking and engaging in new opportunities not normally accessible to young people. A highlight of the drop-in service was having young people develop new friendships with people who attend the same school however have not engaged with each other or cooking new foods in the youth space.

Collingwood drop in has demonstrated ongoing retention in attendance of young people who signed up to program over the year. Young people have become an integral part of the weekly program, and they play active roles in coordinating casual activities during program and displaying positive role-modelling for new or younger participants. The overall structure of the program remains the same week-to-week; a drop-in style session with the indoor basketball court open, and the youth space activated with the PS4, games like UNO or chess, and food. We continued access support from [partnering services such as; Reclink attending weekly, which provided us with some new sports equipment as well. The indoor basketball court is a big engagement factor and is usually used for the entire session in some



capacity. We have found that this space has been really useful in dispelling high levels of energy, which has supported the behaviour management of young people, especially those under 12.

Monday Collingwood Youth Drop-In

The Monday Collingwood Youth Drop-In was a new program initiative, that was identified by some of the older young people as a need and interest. However due to a lack on attendance this program has seen a shift to facilitate the Youth Committee meetings, so we can gain a stronger insight of needs of young people and also gain a better understanding to the barriers of older young people attending programs;

Some of the areas identified to barriers for older young people attending programs included;

- » the increase in middle to younger years young people attending
- » family expectations or parentified roles young siblings have within their families
- » lack of ownership of the space due to increased numbers of the younger young people

Leadership Committee

In collaboration with Engage and the City of Yarra, our Leadership Committee program has continued to grow and develop through the half of the reporting period. Originally the Leadership Committee was supposed to the Monday Collingwood Drop in program, however with discussions with young people and lack of interest from the older young people, it was decided to adapt the program to increase and explore ongoing discussions relating to young people needs.

The Leadership Committee met fortnightly on Mondays in the Collingwood Youth Space, and each meeting focussed on a particular area. Since operating there has been a focus on leadership styles, we have explored how programs are developed, how to be leaders on program and co-designing what our programs should look like. With every Committee meeting there is an ongoing opportunity to hear what young people have to say and input their voices into our programs.

We discussed the internal workings of how programs [like The Drum's programs] are run. A main focus point was around designing programs and how to ensure that our programs reflect what program attendees want. The young leaders offered great insight into these sessions, reflecting on what their peers usually enjoy during program.

Program planning

We then moved on to planning the activities that the young people wanted to run. The three young leaders for Collingwood noted that it would make more financial sense for them to combine their allocated budgets and run a joint activity. They had reflected that young people seem to enjoy cooking sessions, and that a good way to increase engagement is by offering an incentive. Because of this they have a planned to run a MasterChef competition, where the winning teams would get \$10 7/11 vouchers as the prize. They planned out which recipes the young people would cook [pizza and milkshakes] and made shopping lists based on their budgets. It was great to see how thoughtful the young people were in approaching their activities, and how much consideration of other young people they had.

Richmond Mix

The Richmond Mix program is located in a Department of Housing facility. The Richmond Mix program is our other drop-in style program, for young people aged 8-13 living on or around the North Richmond public housing estate. We have engaged

Shout Outs:

- » Yarra Youth Services, offering staff to support larger group numbers
- » Dance teacher and community member Damian Sedd
- » Agung Mango and Play CD: artist facilitators came to RYMS and ran a workshop
- » DJ Skills YYS: Eliza and Gabe from YYS came to RYMS for 4 sessions

young people aged 8-12 predominantly but have seen an increase in young people aged 7 wanting to attend.

This program was consistently highly attended with an average attendance of 24 young people per session, the highest attendance being 30.

This program also demonstrated high participant retention, with young people who signed up the previous quarter continuing to attend regularly. We have also seen an uptake in signups, and have had about 5 new young people sign up and regularly attend. The new engagement has come from peer-to-peer testimonies, as well as parents of existing attendees telling their friends and family about the program as well. We hope to continue this engagement, as we anticipate that some of the older young people will begin to drop off as they age out of this middle-years focussed program.

Richmond Girls Club

Richmond Girls Club [RGC] is a safe space for young women in Richmond between the ages of 8 and 18 to come together for fun activities. Each session, we do a fun activity or project chosen by the group. RGC has experienced a slight drop-off in numbers on return of the program and it has been noted it is possible some participants have become an age where they would rather not attend if the other participants are younger. On average the RGC has seen an average of 10 participants per session. RGC has been a safe place for young girls to build supportive relationships with their peers, with older young women and with female staff. RGC is always guided by the needs and wants of young people and as such, we have been organising activities such as cooking, baking, games, crafts: plushy making, jewellery making, pottery etc.

A highlight of the RGC was a Mother's Day project. To celebrate Mother's Day, we spent the first session of Girls Mother's Day are packs and cards for the mothers or important parental figures in their lives. The young women were able to take home products for themselves. Other activities included; The Little Mermaid excursion, African dancing, Sports etc. RGC is an extremely valuable program that allows young girls to codesign a program that's just for them, develop self-confidence, explore their creativity and discuss topics they may not otherwise be able to when there are boys around. It is noted many of our programs have been supported by Yarra Youth Services. In the future, provided we get more funding for facilitators, the girls have requested some more sport-based activities, more excursions, and writing and recording songs.



Shout outs to:

- » Reclink
- » Sampa the Great is a Zambian singer, songwriter and rapper
- » Drummond Street Services [Mental health program, counsellors, AOD supports, adolescent family violence supports
- » 4 young people from the community were hired to deliver their African Dance workshop
- » Yarra Youth Services

RYMS – Real Youth Music Studio

RYMS is funded by the City of Yarra Engage/Creative Yarra

The young people who attend RYMS have had an amazing year and have gathered some incredible momentum since in-person programs and performance opportunities have been consistent and without lockdowns. Since the beginning of the year there has been an average of 15 attendees of the program and the young people have written over 30 verses completing an average of two songs per session. This year alone there have been 11 performances with an average of 10 young people performing at each.

Returning to consistent face-to-face programs, there were some behavioural issues, as to be expected, but the re-introduction of clear expectations of both participants and staff in to the space (which are reiterated weekly) as well as the All Star system (volunteers and staff pick a couple 'All Stars of the day' to reward good behaviour) have seen a marked decrease in major behavioural issues and an increase in good behaviour, creativity and a 'give it a go' attitude in young people. Furthermore, young people took it upon themselves to introduce staff All Star, where they highlight staff and volunteers who have supported them each week.

RYMS has completed at least 26 songs or verses recorded over 6 months, with new recordings and writing each week, weekly sessions, regular communication with young people about programs and upcoming events via social media and liaising with parents, social media posts, liaising with bookers, finalising mixing and mastering young people's songs and young people for performances, and hiring dance facilitators every few weeks to teach dancing and stage presence.

This year, there has been a strong focus on building relationships between RYMS and YYS in order to foster clear pathways from RYMS in to Rising High [YYS studio]. Recently, RYMS and YYS have collaborated on three events in order to bring RYMS in to YYS and help the young people associate YYS with music making and familiarise them with the staff and space at YYS before they age out of RYMS. These events included a visit from renowned Chicago DJ and inventor of the genre of 'Footwork', RP BOO, a school holiday program which included beat making, recording, graffiti artwork and DJing, as well as a showcase included RYMS, Rising High, and DJ



Skills participants. These events were all very successful and feedback from the young people was very positive.

Our programs would not be possible with the support from community, **the DRUM** appreciates the support and looks forward to the continued partnership to offer increased supports to young people.



Shout outs to:

- We continued our partnership with Yarra Youth Services and Richmond Youth Hub
- Family Service Team
- Parenting Program
- Orange Door
- Uniting Victoria
- Collingwood College
- Richmond high
- Richmond West Primary School
- St Josephs
- The PUSH
- Collingwood yards
- YSAS- building rapport with young people on program
- The Wellington
- Ableton
- Seventh Gallery
- RMIT
- Merri Bek Council
- Collingwood Neighbourhood house
- Local Artists: Mulalo, Srirachi and Woodlemz
- DJ Style and Grace
- Cultivating Communities
- MAV

The DRUM

[program stats and facts]

Real Music Youth Studios (RYMS)

8-13 age group:
a firm group of **35**, with an average of **14** per week.

attendance:
a consistent average of **14** attending per week.

Richmond Mix

8-15 age group:
a firm group of **37**, with an average of **23** per week.
[increased from **17** per week at the beginning of the contract year]

cultural backgrounds:
Somali, Sudanese, Vietnamese, Thai, Australian

gender identification:
50/50 identifying as male/female

Collingwood Drop-in

attendance:
Young people aged **8-15** attend this session, with an average of **28 per week**, which is an increase from **25** attendances at the beginning of the contract year.

cultural backgrounds:
Sudanese, Australian, Aboriginal, Vietnamese, Kenyan, Egyptian, Chinese, Somali

Total number of individual supports provided.

286

Total number of young people registered for programs for the year

216

Richmond Girls Club

8-18 age group:
27 attendees with an average of **15** each fortnight.

Since the beginning of the contract year the RGC attendances have increased from an average of 2 to an average of 16 weekly attendances.

Monday Drop-In

8-18 age group:
new program operating fortnightly

Total number of sessions completed.

136

Not including holiday programs which the DRUM supports Yarra Youth Service to facilitate

Total number of young people to referred to external services

- » 4 Resume writing
- » 12 service navigation supports
- » 12 family supports, behaviour management and referral pathways
- » 64 check-in calls
- » 6 \$100 food vouchers
- » 25 families to nourishing neighbours
- » 2 referrals to Uniting Victoria
- » 3 Family violence supports
- » 1 housing supports
- » 12 Conflict resolution with young people
- » 1 referral to the Zone
- » 1 supports for child safety service
- » 7 family supports, referral pathways including counselling with DS, the Zone
- » 38 Mother's Day supports including self-care products
- » 2 cleaning supports
- » 32 COVID tests and masks
- » 20 Back packs
- » 6 disengagements from school

- » 5 Lunch boxes
- » 5 Stationary supports
- » 15 Girls hygiene packs

Number of COVID supports offered to young people and families

- » Provided over 32 RATs
- » Provided 6 \$100 food vouchers (Woolworths and Aldi)
- » 32 care packs (face masks, RATs, stress balls, information re
- » Regular information on where to get vaccinated and where to locate additional financial supports are

Top five reasons for seeking supports

- » Mental Health
- » Financial
- » Family issues
- » School Issues
- » Behavioural challenges

Special events we ran

- » Leadership groups get together
- » Regular school holiday programs, in partnership with Yarra youth Hub and just with the Drum
- » School holiday Camps [19]
- » Sunny stones Camp [10]
- » NAIDOC celebrations
- » Play station competitions
- » Youth consultations and co-design sessions
- » Harmony Day
- » Block parties
- » Movie nights
- » PlayStation competitions
- » RYMS show cases and presentations
- » Access to music Studio Session
- » Sports events
- » Cooking programs
- » T-shirt design
- » Safety discussions with BANH and the Neighbourhood Justice Centre
- » Performances at Melbourne Recital Centre, Local Swerve
- » Moon lantern Festival
- » Art Exhibition at Seventh Gallery
- » **16** weekly RYMS sessions were delivered
- » **1** school holiday program was implemented
- » **7** performance opportunities were provided to young people, including **2** end-of-term showcases **250** audience participants in total

- » **26** songs were written by young people
- » **26** young people participated in performances
- » **5** dances were choreographed by young people
- » Harmony day (**80**)
- » Moon festival (**100**)

Referral pathways

- » Front Yard
- » Launch
- » Future Pathways
- » The Zone
- » Uniting Victoria
- » Drummond Street, Family services
- » **The DRUM** individual supports
- » Berry street counselling
- » Child Safety services, social workers
- » Alfred CAHMS
- » Royal Women's hospital maternity social workers
- » Nourishing neighbours
- » The associations Child with disabilities
- » NDIS
- » Centrelink
- » Foundation house

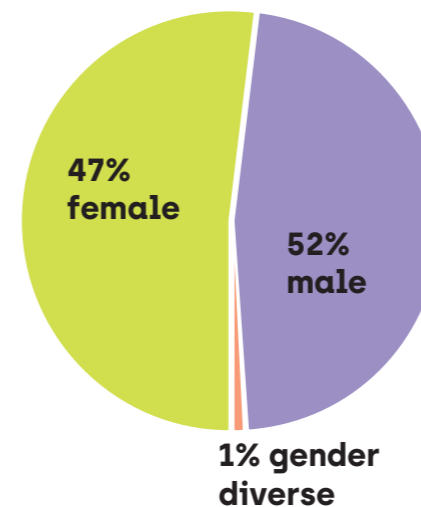
Program locations

- Collingwood • Richmond • Collingwood Yards

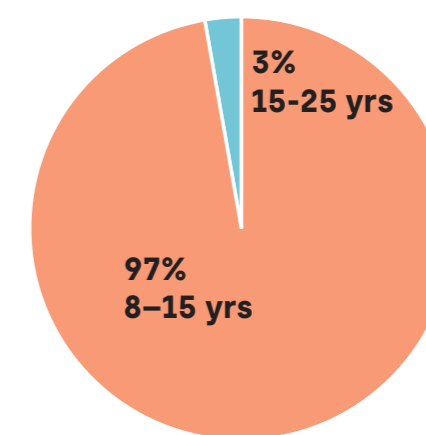
Total number of Contacts at programs over the year

1834

Gender of young people

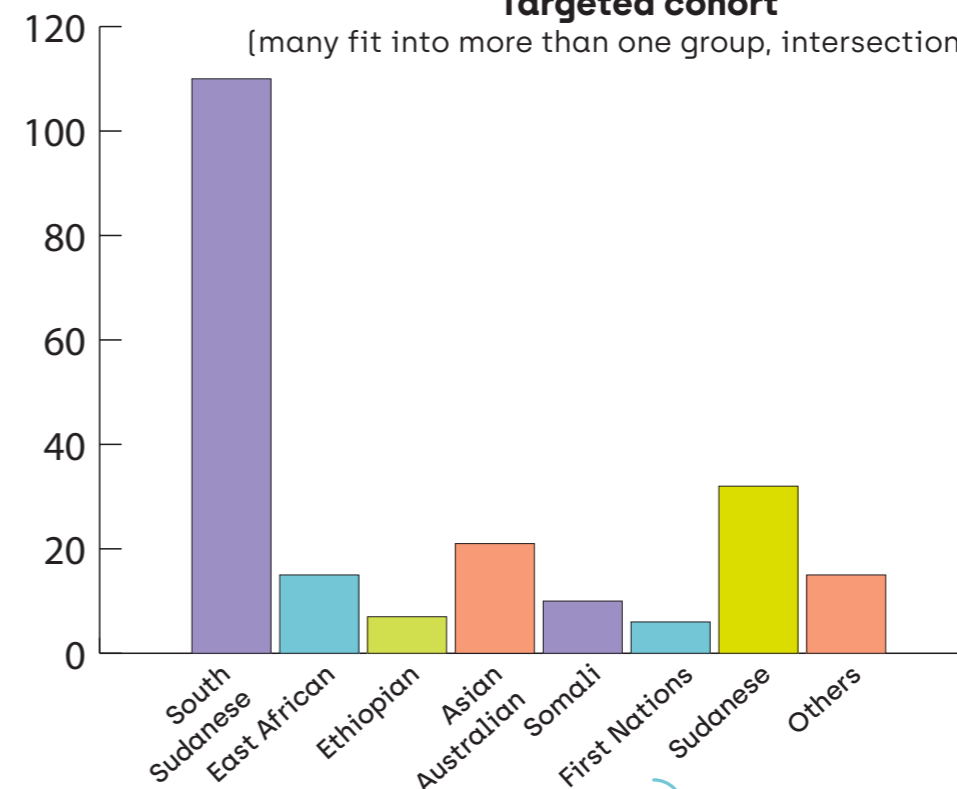


Age of young people



Targeted cohort

(many fit into more than one group, intersectionally)



Over the years comparison over The Drums programs

2020-21 [COVID 19]	2021-22 [Coming out of COVID 19]	2022-23 [Post COVID]
<p>Total number of young people who attended program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Richmond Mix: 37 [average 17 per week] » Collingwood Drop In: 30 [average 15 per week] » Richmond Girls Club : 27 participants [average 15 a fortnight] 	<p>Total number of young people who attended program face to face only 1583</p>	<p>Total number of young people who attended program face to face only 1834</p>
<p>Total number of individual supports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » 1200 care packs » Covid related supports » Food supports 	<p>Total number of individual supports 1859 mostly covid related</p>	<p>Total number of individuals supports 286</p>
<p>Due to Covid programs mostly online</p>	<p>Number of programs 62</p>	<p>Number of programs 136</p>
<p>Total number of young people registered 94</p>	<p>Total number of young people registered 168</p>	<p>Total number of young people registered 216</p>

Over the past year the drum has worked hard to increase program accessibility and reconnect young people. We have increased our methodologies in gaining feedback and we have actively adapted our programs to meet the identified needs of young people. Through this comparison you can see a significant increase in programming and engagement from community with a more targeted response for individual supports.

Through positive experiences and positive relationships, we have supported young people's positive development, through the following outcomes.

1. Increase in young people's sense of safety, identity and belonging and develop their skills Safety, identity, belonging and skills-building are key to positive youth development, particularly for young people from the Richmond and Collingwood Estates who experience a range of socioeconomic disadvantages that negatively impact these areas. This also includes nurturing young people's agency and enhancing platforms for their voices to be heard.
2. Increase in young people's confidence and capacity to access individual and family support services Support services are important protective environmental factors which strengthen young p's resilience. Through building young people's confidence and capacity, we can connect young people into the intensive and/or specialized services to meet their present day needs as well as encourage positive help seeking behaviours that carry into adulthood.

3. Increase in young people's connection to their community Civic engagement is an expression of positive youth development. For Richmond and Collingwood young people, connections and belonging to their immediate communities on the Estates is important as is participating in and contributing to their wider communities across Yarra and beyond. This also includes building a sense of community with peers who share lived experiences.
4. Increase community awareness of young people's achievements and contributions. A disadvantage that young people face, which is compounded for Estate young people, is negative perceptions and stereotypes associated with their social identifies. Raising Estate young people's profile within the wider community through storytelling will challenge the stereotypes and stigma that negatively affects them, their ability to effectively participate in the community and future aspirations.

The DRUM [our team]

The **DRUM** delivers programs for young people and communities connected to Collingwood, and Richmond public housing estates. We also deliver individual-based and family supports.

MEET OUR TEAM

Marie Iafeta

Youth Service Manager [she/her pronouns]

Marie utilises her experience co-developing, delivering, and coordinating innovative social change activities and campaigns to support and enable the work of the youth, community and the DRUM team. Drawing from her passion for working alongside young people deftly navigating structural barriers, and from theoretical knowledge from as a registered Social Worker, she remains committed to identifying and responding to these systemic challenges. Young people continue to inspire and teach her.

Akolda Bil

Peer Leader [he/him pronouns]

Akolda is an artist, youth worker and community leader of South Sudanese background. Akolda spent his early childhood living in Egypt before settling in Newcastle, NSW in 2003, later relocating to Fitzroy in Naarm/Melbourne in 2011. Akolda recently finished his Diploma in Community Services and is driven by a want to work side-by-side and empower young people. He wants to be a positive male role model for his community, something he lacked when he was growing up. For Akolda, music, art and connecting with community has been important for his personal development and this motivated him to pursue a career in youth work.

Faly

Peer Leader [he/him pronouns]

Faly is our Peer Leader who works on our Collingwood Drop-In and Richmond Mix programs. He is passionate about uplifting young people and building community. He recently graduated with a bachelor's degree in International Development as he has plans to go home to Madagascar to run locally based projects, however his focus is currently dedicated towards empowering young people in Naarm. In his spare time, he enjoys listening to music, playing sport and socialising with friends and family.

Semir Imam

Peer Leader [he/him pronouns]

Semir is a Casual Peer Leader for our Youth Programs. Semir grew up in Eritrea and Egypt and moved to Melbourne as a teenager. Semir has strong connection and respect for the community he works in. Semir enjoys sports and can be found playing Futsal on the weekends. His energy, sportsmanship and respect helps to build positive relationships within the programs.

Ria

Youth Development Practitioner [she/they pronouns]

Ria has been working alongside young people since she was young. She started working as a youth facilitator when she was 17 and learned a lot about what it means to listen to and work with young people of all identities. She has prioritised supporting young POC and has worked with development agencies based in India to promote sexual health and autonomy. They now co-run a Naarm- based non-profit that focusses on engaging young people in social change through local arts and music, and also loves to DJ at events in Naarm. She brings her passion for community engagement, creativity and youth empowerment to her role as Youth Development Practitioner on **the DRUM's** Drop-In programs in Collingwood and Richmond.

Christobel

Youth Development Practitioner (she/her pronouns)

Christobel is the Youth Development Practitioner for the DRUM Yarra Team – she supports our Richmond Girls Club program and is the founder and lead worker on RYMS (Real Youth Music Studios). She also works with our friends FLN Youth (Fitzroy Learning Network Youth) on their Youth Sewing Program. She is a DIY producer and vocalist and has been supporting young people to make music since 2017. Christobel also has a bachelor's degree in psychology and is super interested in how music and creative practices benefits wellbeing.

Leyla Pacheco

Youth Development Practitioner (she/her pronouns)

Leyla grew up in public housing herself which drives her to provide great and memorable experiences for young people. Completing a Bachelor of youthwork, Leyla is largely driven by trauma-informed frameworks and is passionate about mental health, Advocacy and creating culturally safe programs. Leyla has previously been involved in a variety of other youth services, where she has learnt an array of transferable skills, she brings to her role today. Leyla is currently working as an Interim youth development practitioner in the COY. Leyla loves to create street art and play guitar, and is a passionate and charismatic individual who has had a wealth of experiences in her personal and professional life.

SUPPORTING PARTNERSHIPS, DONORS AND SUPPORTERS

As a service of Drummond Street services, **The DRUM Youth Services** has partnered with multiple services to ensure that young people within the community have an opportunity to access a seamless pathway into accessing supports. This has not only supported referral pathways into **The DRUM Youth Services** but also into external services through the support of navigated services with not only young people but families also.

The support of such programs means we are able to provide a youth service as part of a greater service meeting young people at all ages and staged creating a more flowing pathway into the next stage of life with familiar people.

Some of the services we have partnered with include:

LiveWires

The after-school program for primary school aged children on Collingwood Housing Estate. This program has been supporting and engaging the children of this community for 15 years. Many of the first participants have grown up and gone onto peer and leadership positions in community organisations and now want to give back. LIVE WIRES is credited with supporting children and encouraging school engagement, giving them a break from family and promoting social skills. In the past, LIVE WIRES ran four nights per week, and it continues to be popular with a waitlist of families wanting their children to attend. At present, it runs 3–6pm Wednesdays and Thursdays. There are also activities during the school holidays.

LiveWires is a place-based, unique community development program. It seeks to build the resilience of children, teach life skills and respectful relationships, promote creativity and enhance the healthy development of the Collingwood Estate's children. The program also provides children with opportunities to learn.

Ready Steady Family

Our Drummond Street Family Services program has 24 experienced and qualified professionals from a range of cultural backgrounds providing individual and family counselling. These teams have family therapists, psychologists and mental health professionals who are able to come to the Yarra sites, work with parents and others involved with the family and help make long term changes where mental health, family violence, financial issues and other problems are impacting. Drummond Street provides counselling services at no cost to all young people and families who attend our youth services programs in Yarra.

We would also like to thank our former team members for their hard work and commitment.

We thank them for their hard work in building connections in community, strengthening networks with other organisations and helping build a strong future for the DRUM and its participants in challenging times.

Mukhtar Mohamed-Saeed

Lisa Bremner

Thanks to our wonderful students:

- Sarah
- Amy
- Iftine Omar
- Christine Allawu
- Nyea Pritchard
- Etsub Tadesse

Other partnerships included:

Belgium Avenue Neighbourhood House

BANH Inc. is a community organisation which operates Neighbourhood Houses on the Collingwood and North Richmond Public Housing Estates. The houses are a friendly meeting place for the local community and offer regular activities like community choirs and lunches. BANH Inc. runs special events throughout the year and works with local residents to support them to produce their own events – everything from roller discos to political theatre. BANH Inc. also partners with locally based community organisations such as Caringbush Adult Education and Concern Australia to offer programs including English classes and after-school programs held at the houses. This team are an ever present and valued support to our youth services, and we continue to partner with them on new funding opportunities to further support the estate communities.

Every Little Bit Helps

- » Donated 10 boxes worth of makeup, dental care, hair products, socks, shampoo/conditioner, soap and other toiletries for us to use as material support and to stock our bathrooms.

Yarra Youth Services

- » We work closely with Yarra Youth Services during school holidays as they lead the programming and we support with staff, engagement and some resources
- » We also work in tandem with the Richmond Youth Hub on Tuesdays, as we run the younger years drop in while the 14+ drop in is run at the same time.

Grill'd Restaurant donations jar

- » We were able to take part in some community fundraising by getting our young people involved in the Grill'd community fundraising initiatives.

The Period Project

- » They donated over 100 handbags with gift items from the Body Shop and other places as Mother's Day gifts
- » They have also donated toiletries for us to stock our bathrooms at the youth centre

RYMS: Yarra Youth Services

- » Collaborating with School Holiday Program and Showcase, staff from YYS visited one week to introduce themselves to young people. YYS and Liquid architecture brought in famous Chicago DJ RP Boo and we collaborated with them so the YP could meet him.
- » **The Push** where we are located visit RYMS so the YP can familiarise themselves with them
- » Performance opportunities given to YP through BAHN Inc, YYS and Collingwood Neighbourhood house.
- » Local Grill'd jar competition winner

Dodgeball with John

- » John is a member of the Richmond community and has run really fun and well-received dodgeball sessions in both Richmond and Collingwood.
- » Raffael from [Judah Tribe](#)

Seventh Gallery (Richmond):

- » supporting art projects for young people.



Reclink:

- » Reclink Australia provides evidence-based sport and recreation programs to disadvantaged Australians to create socially inclusive, life-changing opportunities. In partnership with more than 500 community organisations, Reclink Australia's programs create pathways to improved health and wellbeing, education and employment outcomes for all participants.

OUR PARTNERS

Riverslide, Signal Arts, Hotham Mission, the Venny, Skate Victoria, YMCA

OUR CHAMPIONS

Deka (interviewing politicians), Sabrina (live from lockdown), Khadija (hosting panel discussions)

OUR BELIEVERS AND FEARLESS CHAMPIONS

Karen Field and Helen Rimington, Drummond Street

Rupert North and Sandra Tay, City of Yarra

Paula Butcher, YMCA

OUR DONORS

- Two Birds
- Engage
- Freeza
- Bunnings
- Reclink
- Helping Hoops
- Ikea
- Kensington Neighbourhood House
- Lush Northland, Lush Melbourne Central and Lush Southland
- Nike
- The Little Bookroom
- Aesop
- Nova Cinemas
- Culture kings
- Grill'd
- Sony



OUR FUNDERS

- City of Yarra
- Engage funding from Department of Premier and Cabinet
- FReeZA funding from Department of Premier and Cabinet



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS

- Australian Muslim Social Services Agency
- Baker Boy
- Queerspace Youth
- Collingwood Neighbourhood house (BANH)
- Capital City Local Learning and Employment Network
- Yarra Libraries
- Recreation and Leisure Services Youth Network
- Richmond Youth Hub
- CoHealth
- Collarts
- Department of Human Services Flemington
- Kensington Legal Centre
- Front Yard
- Good Cycles
- Helping Hoops
- High Rising Hip Hop
- Inner Melbourne Community Legal
- Inner West Children and Youth Network (formerly Kensington Children and Youth Committee)
- Islamic Youth
- Jesuit Social Services
- Koorie Heritage Trust
- Minus18
- RiS'N
- School Focused Youth Services SIGNAL
- Spectrum Intersections
- St Joseph's Flexible Learning Centre St Joseph's Primary School
- Strong brother, strong sister youth org
- Study Melbourne
- The Push
- The Wellington
- Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Association
- The Village
- Visionary Images
- Youthlaw
- YMCA Kensington YSAS
- Zoe Belle Gender Collective
- Joshua Tavares
- Koula Fotinos
- Universal Studios

CONNECT WITH US

We are evolving and working with how organisations and clients can contact us. The great thing about working with young people is they are extremely skilled and knowledgeable about connecting.

Please see our websites and social media for ways you can find us and some of the programs we run as well!

Social media

The DRUM

<https://thedrum.ds.org.au/>

<https://www.facebook.com/thedrumyouthservices/>

<https://www.instagram.com/thedrummyelb/>

in]visible for young QTPoC

<https://www.facebook.com/invisiblethedrum/>

<https://www.instagram.com/invisible.thedrum/>

Queerspace youth

<https://www.facebook.com/queerspaceyouth/>

<https://www.instagram.com/queerspaceyouth/>

Only in the Fam Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com/onlythefam.thedrum/>

City of Yarra

<https://www.yarracity.vic.gov.au/services/young-people>

VoiceFest

<https://www.facebook.com/VOICEFESTdifferenceisstrength/>

<https://www.instagram.com/voicefest.thedrum/>





Proudly funded by the City of Yarra

