

## WHAT DO WE NEED?

Locally based youth services for young people at risk of harm and poor life outcomes living in the City of Wanneroo including the delivery of:

- A Target 120 Program for the City of Wanneroo, with intake encompassing all suburbs that currently do not have access;
- Increased provision of low barrier intensive case management services to facilitate access to wraparound supports; and
- Increased provision of locally based secondary supports<sup>1</sup> in the City of Wanneroo including specialised services.

## WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

- The City of Wanneroo has the highest youth population of any local government area in WA with over 34,000 young residents (aged 10 to 19) in 2024 and this is forecast to grow to over 52,000 in 2046.
- The City has the highest number of juvenile offenders across all WA local government areas<sup>2</sup>, however the State Government's key diversionary program for young offenders, Target 120, is only available in Girrawheen, Koondoola, Alexander Heights and Marangaroo.
- Many suburbs in the City have high levels of disadvantage placing young people at higher risk of harm and poor life outcomes. This includes high concentrations of low-income households, disengaged youth and long-term unemployment.
- Eight suburbs in the City's central and northern regions have higher than average Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander populations requiring services to ensure meeting of Closing the Gap targets [Two Rocks (4.5%), Merriwa (3%), Yanchep (2.9%), Butler and Clarkson (2.3%), Quinns Rocks and Sinagra (2.2%) and Banksia Grove (1.9%)].

- Consultation with local and out of area service providers has identified gaps in the City for targeted initiatives for diversion of at risk youth from punitive justice responses.
- Additionally, service providers have advised that additional low barrier intensive case management services and secondary supports are required for young people with complex intersecting challenges at the earlier stages of the risk continuum prior to police and statutory service response.
- Service providers have advised that existing low barrier case management and secondary support services, which are often delivered out of area or via outreach, are at capacity and have waitlists.
- Local services will support the achievement of goals in the State Government's At Risk Youth Strategy 2022 – 2027 through targeted initiatives, early intervention and improved access to secondary supports improving outcomes for at risk young people in WA's fastest growing LGA.

## HOW CAN WE MAKE IT HAPPEN?

### State and/or Federal Government commitment to appoint and fund an appropriate agency or agencies to deliver:

- A Target 120 Program in the City of Wanneroo, located in a centrally accessible location for at risk families.
- Additional low barrier case management services across the City of Wanneroo.
- Increased provision of locally based secondary supports.

<sup>1</sup> As outlined in the WA At Risk Youth Strategy 2022 – 2027 (Figure 2)

<sup>2</sup> Telethon Kids Institute, Child Development Atlas

