



MercyCare Youth Reference Group Information Sheet

MercyCare is looking to establish a **Youth Reference Group (YRG)**. It is important to us that young people who use our services are at the centre of designing what this YRG looks like and how it runs.

MercyCare is recruiting **eight young people aged 16 to 25** that will consult with MercyCare staff and design policies and procedures to set up how a **Youth Reference Group (YRG)** will run long-term.

What you will do as part of the Youth Reference Group

As part of the YRG, you will **meet approximately 13 times** during the project and the meetings will run for two to three hours. In these sessions, the group will:

- Plan interviews and focus groups with staff to understand MercyCare's needs and organisational structure
- Develop a framework that outlines how a YRG can sit within MercyCare's organisational structure
- Create a package of policies and procedures that will ensure the YRG can function well long-term
- Receive training based on the YRG's needs and interests

You will also have opportunities outside of the meetings to interview MercyCare staff, co-facilitate focus groups and potentially work on other areas of your interest.

The policies and procedures package and framework that we develop will be the foundations for a long-term YRG. The young people involved in this project will likely have the opportunity to stay on the long-term YRG once it is established.

Your commitment

As a member of the youth reference group, you will need to be able to commit to attending the project meetings at **MercyCare, 38 Ord Street, West Perth**. There is a CAT bus that stops nearby.

The meetings will likely be fortnightly on **Thursday evenings from 4pm to 7pm**. They will run from the **end of August 2022 to the end of January 2023**, with weekly meetings towards the end of the project. There will also be a few additional commitments throughout the project and opportunities to do additional small pieces of work.

We will aim to be as **flexible as possible**, giving you options to attend in person, participate online if needed and we will also be mindful of busy periods in your life, such as exams or cultural holidays and plan around those.

What do you receive as part of the youth advisory group?

As a member of our youth advisory group, you will be employed on a short term, casual contract. This will be paid at the relevant award— **SCHADS level 1.1 (\$28.95 per hour)** and paid hourly (with a three-hour minimum shift).

We want to give you the opportunity to upskill and have the capacity and confidence to participate fully in the group, so based on the needs and interests of the members, the YRG will **receive training** and have the opportunity to **hear from guest speakers**.

If you are at high school, participation in this project can form part of your community service hours. We will provide **food and drinks at all of the meetings**. We can also provide a certificate at the end of your work, and you are able to list this role on your resume.

Who is eligible to be part of the youth advisory group?

To be eligible you must meet the following criteria:

- Be 16 to 25 years old (with possible exception)
- Be a current or previous client of MercyCare or have engaged in MercyCare's services
- Have an interest in youth engagement and a willingness to share ideas
- Be able to commit to attending the sessions listed above
- Have support networks in place that will enable you to participate in the group
- Be willing to apply for a Working with Children Check if you are aged 18 or over (the application fee will be paid for, and we will help you with this process)
- Have parent/guardian consent to participate if you are under the age of 18

How to apply

To apply to be part of the Youth Reference Group, please complete either the paper application form and email it to caitlin@yacwa.org.au or complete the online form

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MercyCareYRG> by **Thursday August 25th, 2022**.

You can have someone help you fill out the application (such as a youth worker, teacher, coach, elder, or family member). You can also call Caitlin on 0466 966 060 to go through the form on the phone if you prefer.

We want this youth advisory group to be representative of young people at MercyCare and their **diversity of experiences**. We strongly encourage applications from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, people of colour, LGBTQIA+ people, people living with a disability, young parents and carers, and people from culturally diverse, refugee and migrant backgrounds.