

# working tOgether across programs

**With our wide range of services, YFS is uniquely positioned to link up the supports people need.**

In 2021-22 we increased our efforts to collaborate across teams to improve the outcomes for people. Structural changes in the way we store and share information across teams improved our ability to work together.

**May found a new job and got her finances back on track with support from the team at YFS.**

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**I believed in my ability to work, but I couldn't do everything by myself. We have to be a team. Everyone had a role.”**

*May - YFS Spark participant*





Our story:

## Collaboration works for women

The Spark Women's Employment Mentoring Program supports women who have experienced domestic violence, homelessness, financial crisis and other adversity to quickly re-engage in work so they can rebuild their economic independence, sense of purpose, social inclusion and confidence.

An evaluation of Spark found that working holistically with other specialist services was a key strength of the program. The Spark team works very closely with Logan's domestic and family violence services as well as with YFS' Financial Counsellors and housing workers to help women get back on their feet fast.

In Spark's first year, we worked with more than 150 women through one-on-one mentoring and skill-building workshops. 51% of mentoring participants obtained employment, 26% enrolled in education or training and 98% improved their work readiness.

The program has received two years funding by the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet through the Women's Leadership and Development Program.



2021-22 Highlights:

## Joined-up services

YFS' three family-focused teams based in Jimboomba increased collaboration in 2021-22. We began a trial of concurrent family therapy and case management through our Intensive Family Support team and our Functional Family Therapy – Child Welfare service, with promising early results. Our Shine domestic and family violence service provided back-up and advice for both teams and the families they support.

YFS brought together support for women and children in court proceedings relating to domestic and family violence. Our YFS Legal team provided duty lawyer support in the Beaudesert Domestic and Family Violence Court to complement the court support service offered by our Shine team, providing more seamless assistance at a very stressful time.

Our Shift youth drug and alcohol team also worked closely with other YFS youth services including Next Step Plus, Youthlink and Community Youth Response to ensure young people had access to specialist substance use support as well as other services. Meanwhile, our Next Step Plus team included YFS housing, employment and financial experts in their life skills workshops for young people leaving out of home care.

## Quick statistics

