

# working together in **integrated teams**

**In 2021-22 we embarked on two exciting integration projects, creating new multi-disciplinary approaches that bring together the supports families need to thrive.**

We drew on our knowledge about what young parents need to design and trial a wraparound approach focused on young families, and we embedded housing specialists with our existing family support teams across the region to address escalating levels of housing crisis.

**A Family Practitioner, Housing Support Worker and an Employment and Education Mentor from the Step by Step team worked together to support Meera and her children.**

**“You guys are doing great here. I think a lot about you working as a team. If I go back and think of how we were before we met you guys... I’m more hopeful for the future now.”**

*Meera - Step by Step client*





Our story:

## Teamwork backs young parents to thrive

In July 2021 we embarked on a major integration project, in partnership with Hand Heart Pocket, the Charity of Freemasons Queensland.

Building on our learning from our 2019-21 Thriving Families demonstration project, we designed a custom team to equip young parents to achieve goals across many areas of life.

Our existing Step by Step young family resourcing team now incorporates specialist workers focused on housing, education and employment, peer support and therapeutic intervention.

Combining these skills enables the team to help young parents stabilise their situations, develop coping skills and work towards individual goals.

In the first 12 months of the project, 130 young parents participated. Outcomes include significant improvements in stability, wellbeing, safety and confidence. In 2022-23 we will undertake a rigorous evaluation of this initiative to identify a model for future work with vulnerable young people and their children.



2021-22 Highlights:

## Integration in action

Families linked with YFS' family support teams now have access to a housing specialist working alongside our family workers. Funding from the Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy enabled us to embed housing workers in our family support, family therapy and domestic violence teams in Logan and the Scenic Rim. As the housing crisis escalated this decision was reinforced, with up to 47% of families experiencing homelessness or significant housing concerns.

Our Responsible Men program brings together behaviour change facilitators who specialise in working with men who use violence and abuse, alongside Women's Advocates. The facilitators deliver group activities that equip men to be accountable for their behaviour and learn new ways to relate to their families. Meanwhile the Women's Advocates check in on group participants' current and former partners to offer support and monitor their safety and wellbeing. In 2021-22 YFS began providing Women's Advocacy services for the partners of men in behaviour change programs in custody through a partnership with Queensland Corrective Services.

Our YFS Connect Hub brings together Financial Counsellors and Financial Capability Workers within our homelessness and financial crisis response team. This integration approach ensures people in financial difficulty have access to support to increase their financial literacy as well as address current financial problems such as debts.

## Quick statistics



75

families supported by our Integrated Family Housing Team



578

people engaged with financial capability and financial counselling



486

men participated in Responsible Men behaviour change programs