



MEDIA RELEASE



1 September 2025

Youth Focus to run headspace Manjimup

headspace Manjimup is one step closer with Youth Focus awarded the contract to establish and operate the service.

headspace Manjimup will provide the full range of headspace services including mental health, physical and sexual health, work and study support and alcohol and other drug services.

As the operator of WA's three Primary Health Networks, WA Primary Health Alliance selected Youth Focus as the lead agency to establish and operate the site following a competitive open tender procurement process.

The service is expected to open in the first half of 2026.

Comments attributed to WA Primary Health Alliance Executive General Manager Commissioned Services, Mark Cockayne:

"headspace Manjimup will build on existing youth support services in Manjimup and surrounds, and Youth Focus is well placed to achieve this given their strong networks and experience operating headspace services across metropolitan and regional WA, including Midland, Albany, Geraldton and Northam."

Comments attributed to Youth Focus CEO, Derry Simpson:

"Youth Focus is delighted to be the lead agency for the new headspace Manjimup, supporting young people in the region to access the mental health care they need – when and where they need it."

"Young people are at the centre of everything we do. At headspace Manjimup, we'll work alongside each young person to understand what kind of support feels right for them, and create a safe, welcoming environment where they can access integrated services designed to give them the skills and support they need most."

"With over a decade of managing headspace centres, and more than half of our services delivered in regional and remote areas of WA, including in the South West region, we know just how important it is for support to be available locally. By combining our experience with the deep local knowledge of partner organisations, we will deliver truly meaningful, integrated, and accessible support for the young people of Manjimup, and their families"

Comments attributed to headspace Chief Clinical Officer and Acting Chief Executive Officer Vikki Ryall:

"headspace is proud to be working with Youth Focus and WA Primary Health Alliance to bring a headspace service to young people in Manjimup. We know that young people in regional communities can face unique challenges, so it's vital they have access to support that is inclusive, tailored to young people's needs, and close to home."

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"This new service will help local young people with their mental health, physical and sexual health, alcohol and other drug use, and work and study goals, ensuring they can access support early and build a strong foundation for the future."

This activity is supported by funding from WA Primary Health Alliance through the Australian Government's PHN Program.

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About Us: WA Primary Health Alliance shapes, strengthens and sustains primary health care through partnerships and strategies that improve people's access and health outcomes. As the operator of WA's three Primary Health Networks – part of the Australian Government national PHN program – we help communities and people most at risk of poor health to get better access to care closer to home. We achieve this by supporting general practice to deliver the highest quality patient care, funding local primary health care services based on community needs and connecting local services to simplify the health care system. Along with our strong partnerships, our statewide structure allows us to deliver better health, together for the benefit of the WA community. For more information, visit www.wapha.org.au

About headspace

headspace is the National Youth Mental Health Foundation providing early intervention mental health services to 12-25-year olds. Each year, headspace helps thousands of young people access vital support through our headspace services in 172 communities across Australia¹, our online and phone counselling services, our vocational services, and our presence in schools. headspace can help young people with mental health, physical health (including sexual health) alcohol and other drug services, and work and study support. For locations of headspace services, as well as factsheets and resources for young people and their families and friends, please visit the headspace website: headspace.org.au

¹ As at May 2025 and inclusive of licensed headspace centres, satellites and outposts.