

2022 Annual Statement of Impact Report



PCYC vision

Australia's pre-eminent youth organisation working with Police and the community to empower young people to reach their potential.



PCYC mission

We get young people active in life.

We work with young people to develop their skills, character and leadership.

We reduce and prevent crime by and against young people.





GOVERNMENT HOUSE
SYDNEY

Message from
Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC KC
Governor of New South Wales

In 2022, Dennis and I, as joint Patrons, were pleased to witness firsthand the positive impact of the work of PCYC across New South Wales. From the city to the bush, we saw the ripple effect of the PCYC mission “to get young people active in life and to develop their skills, character and leadership”.

Mid-year, we visited the Walgett club on Gamilaroi country in the far north of our State, touring the new facilities and talking to young people and staff. The GRIT Program there was a standout, helping young people to be better equipped to cope with life’s ups and downs and assisting them to develop an optimistic approach to daily life. Over the year the rollout of GRIT was expanded throughout NSW.

Thankfully, 2022 saw PCYC events which had been disrupted because of COVID, make their comeback, including the BlueStar leadership camps, aligned with the Duke of Edinburgh awards, and the flagship event, Nations of Origin, which brought together nearly 1,500 young people from across the State for tournaments in Rugby League, Football 5s, Netball, Basketball and Gymnastics.

That is not to say it wasn’t a year without its own disruptions. Flooding throughout the State hit clubs in Lismore and Maitland particularly hard, with Parkes, Gunnedah and Moree also adversely impacted. We extend our best wishes to all those communities as they continue to rebuild and recover.

Later in the year it was my honour to participate virtually in the opening of the new club in Wagga Wagga. What a wonderful facility that is with its four playing courts, gym and fitness centre, Out of School Hours areas and Youth Hub, delivering services befitting the city’s proud heritage in sport, and building on almost sixty years of engagement with young people in the region.

Dennis and I congratulate PCYC on all that was achieved in 2022 to empower the young people of New South Wales to reach their potential.

Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC KC
Governor of New South Wales

Mr Dennis Wilson

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Chair’s report

It gives me immense pride and great pleasure to present the 2022 Annual Statement of Impact Report for PCYC NSW. When I took over as Chair of the PCYC NSW Board at the start of 2022, I felt privileged to join an organisation whose tangible impact has made a life changing difference to so many young people’s lives. I have now visited 23 clubs, witnessing first hand the incredible benefit of the long-standing partnership between NSW Police and PCYC. In 2022, PCYC celebrated its 85th year, which is a tremendous achievement. I would like to thank my predecessor Alex Harvey, whose guidance over six years was instrumental in building PCYC’s governance and commercial performance platform that has set the foundation to enable an acceleration of the impact that we witnessed in 2022.

As the state’s pre-eminent youth organisation, PCYC is equipping the next generation of Australians with the skills and attitudes fundamental to navigating the challenges they face both today and in the future.

Central to delivering these is our unique and valued partnership with NSW Police. I recognise the leadership of Commissioner Karen Webb, APM, whose Our Focus, Our Future Strategy prioritises youth and First Nations peoples engagement as one of her five priorities for NSW Police. I also recognise the enormous contribution of Assistant Commissioner Gavin Wood, APM and Superintendent Sam Crisafulli, whose leadership, focus and direction of NSW Police Youth Command make a life changing difference to young people’s lives. We are honoured by the partnership with Youth Command and grateful for this support.

2022 marked several key achievements in the PCYC journey, not least of which was weathering the carry over impacts of COVID in the first quarter. The PCYC team, led by CEO Dominic Teakle and the Executive, rallied the organisation again to showcase its commitment and resilience. 2022 also heralded the launch of AC Wood’s inspired Sporting Industry Partnership program. Building on the current Fit for Life program, it brings sporting organisations and PCYC clubs together to provide positive role models for young people at risk of anti-social behaviour or criminal offending. It’s a great example of how – together – we are delivering life changing outcomes by supporting people at risk of adverse outcomes. It also marked the launch of the Police-led anti-violence presentations and I was thrilled to join the Commissioner for the Blacktown PCYC team HAKA performance at a Penrith Panthers game.

Demand for our activities and facilities amongst the community more broadly has seen us continue expanding our engagement to all ages. Today, we are the largest provider of sport and recreational facilities in NSW, delivering a wide range of sports and music activities, life skills and self-development projects, homework clubs and much more on a daily basis. This year, over 1.3m million visits occurred across the 66 PCYC clubs in NSW.

To meet this growing need we opened our biggest club built to date, a \$A23 million state-of-the-art, multi-purpose community facility in Wagga Wagga. This is a truly first-class facility that will benefit the health, wellbeing, social resilience, and sporting needs of this vibrant community for many years to come.

We also launched our new 5-year Better Together strategy, which outlines our aspiration to deliver more evidence-based programs while building future sustainability through improved commercial operations, grant funding, fundraising, and corporate support. We are a charity, so this support is critical. By 2027, we aim to be a network of 69 clubs, impacting over 10,000 young people through our Rise Up, Job Ready and GRIT programs, and over 20,000 young people in early intervention and diversionary programs.

I continue to be inspired by the amazing, life changing work delivered by our team of passionate people right across PCYC. On behalf of the Board, I would like to thank and recognise the contribution of the PCYC management team, our staff, volunteers, and members who give so much, and to our generous benefactors without whom our impact would not be possible.

As the importance of what PCYC does and demand for our work continues to grow, I am privileged and honoured to be leading it into its next chapter. I look forward to working with the Board, Executive, NSW Police and the PCYC team to deliver on our vision to empower young people to reach their potential.

Nicole Sorbara
Chair



CEO's report

It is with great pleasure that I have the privilege of presenting the 2022 Annual Statement of Impact Report which clearly demonstrates the tangible life changing impact PCYC delivers to the community through our club network and lasting partnership with NSW Police. It is fitting at this point that I extend my gratitude to the Chair, Nicole Sorbara, Assistant Commissioner Gavin Wood, APM, Superintendent Sam Crisafulli, the Board, the Executive, the NSW Police Youth Command and our committed, passionate and dedicated team of employees and volunteers who put the soul into our clubs. Together we are truly better.

In 2022, we launched our 2027 Better Together strategy with a focus on sustainability and accountable impact, the product of which is evident in this report. Despite another unexpected interruption to operations due to COVID restrictions in the first quarter, the PCYC and Youth Command teams displayed their usual resilience to make the best of circumstances to deliver quality programs and activities throughout. Our ability to respond strongly from a commercial operating perspective was evident through our stronger than forecasted financial performance for the year.

Some key highlights of the year were:

1. The launch of Sporting Partnerships, the brainchild of AC Wood, which brought together all sporting codes to connect with Fit for Life, providing mentorship, motivation and community support. This great initiative drove up participation numbers and created inspired connections between sporting heroes and over 4,000 young people.
2. Our impact through the Rise Up and PCYC programs such as U-Nites and Perfect Presence, resulting in significant youth crime reduction and improved school engagement reaching in excess of 7,000 in programs and 35,000 attendances.
3. Conducting Nations of Origin which was missed for two COVID years and, despite flooding and a move to October, still attracted over 700 young people who represented their Nation and culture at the event.

4. Our school holiday and vacation programs went from strength to strength with over 120,000 attendances across the year.

Sometimes, however, it just comes down to this. A young man pulled me aside at a Fit for Life session and told me that when he first came to PCYC, he was anxious, depressed and suicidal. Three years later he is at university, he has a job and is thriving. PCYC in partnership with NSW Police is life changing. This is but one story of many.

I feel humbled and privileged to lead this amazing organisation. If we continue to work together to maximise our legacy our target of reaching 10,000 young people in PCYC programs across NSW is certainly achievable.

Dominic Teakle
Chief Executive Officer



NSW Police Youth Command report



The past year has been a busy and rewarding time for the Youth Command and the NSW Police in the youth space. I am proud to share our recent endeavours with the support and partnership of the PCYC and industry partners to engage young people who are at risk of anti-social behaviour or criminal offending. This collective work complements the NSW Police Commissioner's Our Focus Our Future strategy which includes Next Generation (Youth and Aboriginal) as one of its top five priorities.

In 2022, the Youth Command in partnership with the PCYC launched our Sporting Partnership Industry program with a range of major sporting codes including NRL, AFL, Surf Life Saving Australia, and Boxing Australia to engage youth at risk. The Fit for Life program is an evolution of that partnership which aims to divert at risk youth into meaningful activities by joining PCYC's life changing programs. I consistently receive positive feedback on the Sporting Partnership Industry program and the impact it has on both participants and sporting mentors.

Following the completion of trial sites, Project Community will be officially endorsed through the formation of an

information sharing agreement between the NSW Police and Youth Justice NSW (YJNSW). Under Project Community, Youth Engagement Officers enter Youth Justice Centres and engage with young people with the intent of building rapport and identifying opportunities to increase their chance of successful reintegration into the community after their release.

I am excited to announce that Youth Action Meetings (YAMS) will be expanded in 2023 to 11 sites across the state. They will provide NSW Police, NSW Government agencies and community groups with the chance to work collaboratively to address the needs of children and young people at risk of offending, reoffending or victimisation. The PCYC will play a significant role with the YAMS platform which has been evident during the initial YAMS trial sites.

These program examples are a snapshot of what the NSW Police are achieving in the youth space and importantly, in genuine partnership with PCYC NSW and its great work. I look forward to the continued success of our great partnership.

Gavin Wood (APM)
Assistant Commissioner, Youth Command



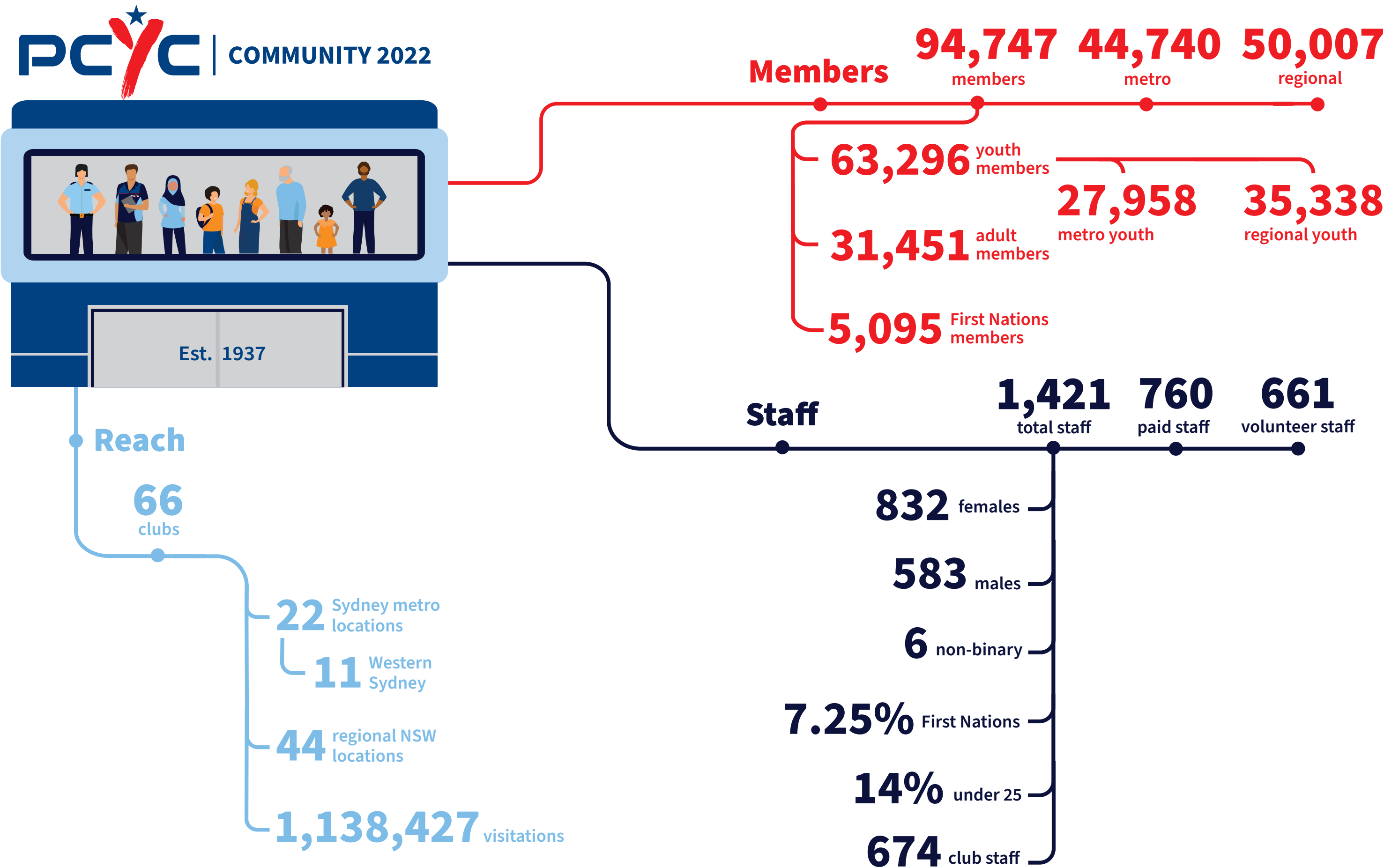
In 2022, the Commissioner announced Next Generation (Youth and Aboriginal) as one of the top five priorities for NSW Police under the Our Focus Our Future strategy. This elevated youth issues to an unprecedented level and has been an opportunity for our command to reflect on our relevance to the organisation and community and the important role the PCYC plays in support of NSW Police. The need for PCYC clubs to remain open as a safe place to divert youth from violence, crime and anti-social behaviour, particularly in regional NSW, is as relevant today as it ever has been.

Last year, several high-profile incidents of youth violence led to the creation of an anti-violence video. Filmed at Blacktown PCYC, it featured young people from the Haka Warrior program and 'influencers' from professional sporting partners. The video, jointly funded by the NSW Police, Department of Education and the Advocate for Children and Young People, is shown to every high school aged person in the state, and young offenders in Youth Detention Centres. The need for flexible programs capable

of adapting to a crime environment and community needs was demonstrated in the regional town of Casino, where Youth Command in partnership with the PCYC and Richmond Police District established an outreach program after two separate homicide incidents involving young people.

The Commissioner's Executive Team endorsed the Service Delivery Model, defining Youth Command's charter under five pillars: Operational Engagement, Program Delivery (PCYC partnership), Stakeholder Engagement (via school presentations), Youth Mentoring and Policy Support. The Service Delivery Model has better defined the role of the Youth Engagement Officer and afforded better direction in the move away from the former Youth Case Manager and School Liaison Officer roles. The adoption of a mentoring model allows our police to better support programs under the Rise Up strategy and assist front line police to intervene earlier with young people before they enter the criminal justice system.

Sam Crisafulli
Youth Command Superintendent





New Wagga Wagga club opens

PCYC has been operating in Wagga Wagga since 1963; the grand new club opened to the public on 25th November, 2022. It was officially opened with a traditional smoking ceremony which symbolises the cleansing of space, celebrating new beginnings and acknowledging our Indigenous culture and history of the land.

The ceremony was attended by 200 members of the community as well as Dominic Teakle, CEO of PCYC; The Hon Michael McCormack, MP, Federal Member for Wagga Wagga; Dr Joe McGirr, MP, Member for Wagga Wagga; Commissioner Karen Webb, APM, Commissioner of NSW Police; Nicole Sorbara, PCYC Chair; and Cr Dallas Tout, Mayor of Wagga Wagga City Council.

Designed by Allen Jack + Cottier Architects, built by Lipman, this is PCYC NSW's largest development to date. It was made possible after securing \$10 million from the Federal Government, \$10 million from the State Government, and \$3 million from Wagga Wagga City Council.

Dominic Teakle, CEO of PCYC NSW says, "This is an exciting chapter in PCYC's strategic growth; not only is the new Wagga Wagga club our biggest development to date, it is an incredibly functional, sustainable and varied space. Being a fully integrated facility, it covers health and wellbeing, social resilience, and educational needs with specifically designed programs for the community we serve."

Mr Teakle believes that well run and supervised sports activities provide a vehicle for young people to keep active, build a sense of teamwork and find a sense of belonging. "But it's not just about sport. The multi-functional spaces facilitate social, creative, and educational programs and activities which develop life changing skills and resilience for young people. Building on PCYC's strong 59-year history in Wagga Wagga, our brand new multi-sport facility aims to continue to keep young people active, giving them a safe place to belong."

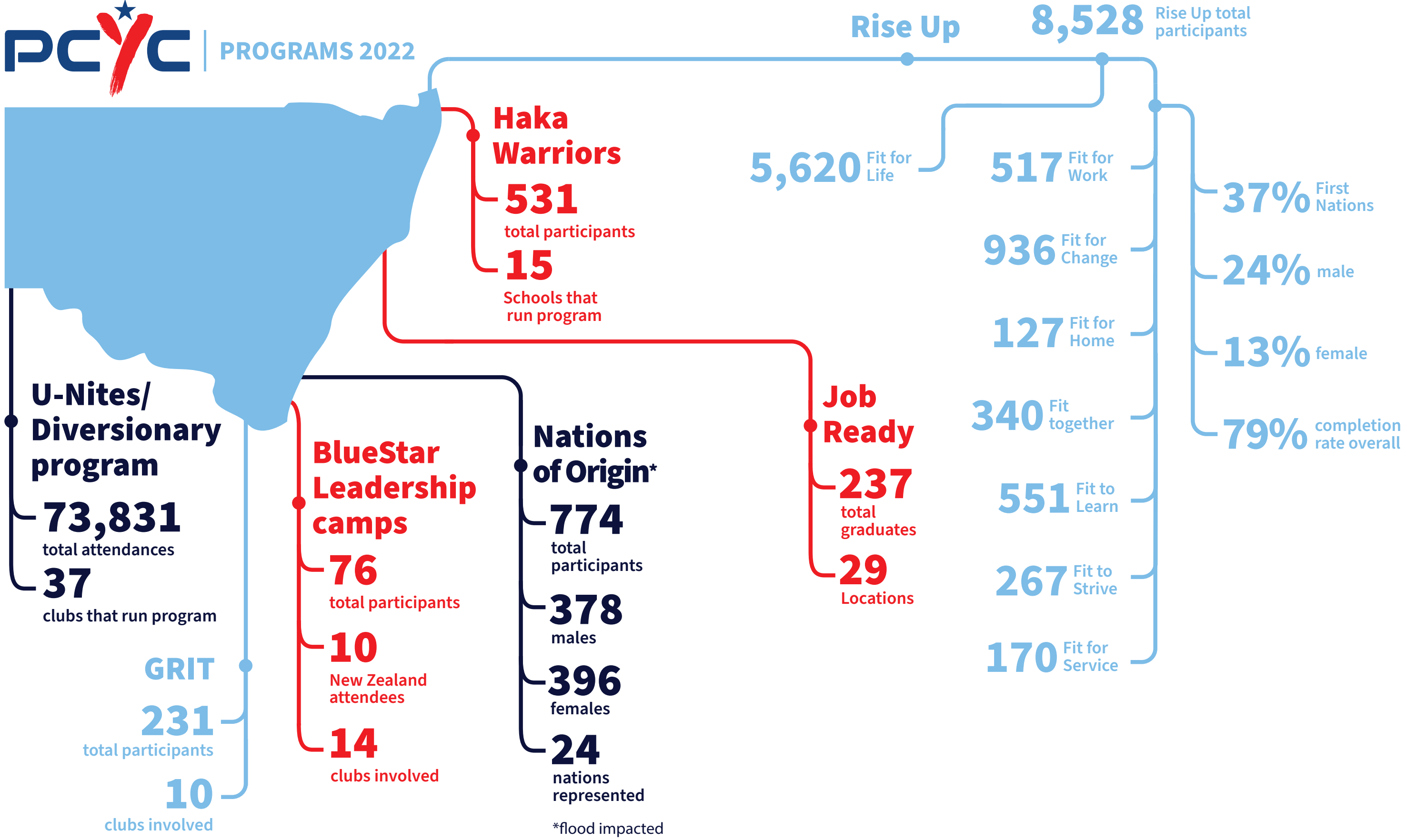
At the heart of any PCYC club is its mission to empower disengaged and disadvantaged young people to reach their full potential through Police and community

partnerships. The club's main impact will come through working with at risk youth to break the cycle through crime prevention, vocational education, youth capacity building and social responsibility programs to change the life outcomes of countless young people.

The 10,000 square metre sports facility includes four full-size multi-use sports courts within a naturally lit 3,200 square metre sports hall. Innovations include side-folding FIBA-certified basketball systems, triple-glazed prismatic polycarbonate skylights and a super efficient Climate Wizard indirect evaporative air conditioning system which uses 100 per cent outside air.

Community facilities include studios for martial arts, boxing, dance and yoga, a public café, conference and meeting facilities, an out of school hours care centre, a youth drop in hub and over 100 under cover parking spaces. The club will offer a driver education program, extensive school holiday activities, various court sports for adults and youth, and specific exercise programs for the young at heart, providing all members of the community a chance to get active in life.





Sporting partnerships launches to support PCYC Fit for Life

An initiative to engage professional sports teams to mentor PCYC Fit for Life participants was launched in May. Commissioner of NSW Police Karen Webb APM, said the partnership is an intervention strategy that allows police the opportunity to engage with youth in a neutral, relaxed and friendly environment. “Diversion and early intervention have proven to be extremely effective in keeping young people out of the justice system,” Commissioner Webb said.



Trouble to triumph: Fit for Life helps Emma

This is the story of a young girl who was constantly in trouble with the law, showed little interest in education, and was expelled from school multiple times. She had no clear plans for her future and seemed to be living aimlessly day by day. Many would have considered her situation hopeless but fortunately, this story has a positive ending.

One of the turning points in Emma's life came after police attended her school following an incident. The attending Youth Engagement Officers from Eastern Suburbs PCYC, told Emma about the Fit for Life program at the club. Fit for Life is an early morning intervention program designed to engage youth who are at risk of anti-social behaviour. It aims to improve wellbeing, and deflect them from offending behaviours through physical fitness, nutrition and social engagement.

When Emma first heard about this program she was hesitant. But after hearing that the police would pick her up, take her to the club, and then drop her to school, she decided to give it a try. With Emma's commitment to the

program and her natural interest in boxing, she started to flourish. Her confidence and fitness grew exponentially. Emma feels this experience has given her newfound confidence in herself. “I feel like I have achieved goals. I have a plan. I am a boxer now.”

Emma credits Fit for Life with teaching her respect for the police. “The program allowed me to develop relationships with police who work at the PCYC, and they helped me get through many obstacles. I participated in a Work and Development Order (community service) and worked through all my outstanding fines. I exercised and got fit and all these things helped me get my own place to live.”



“She is now excited about her future as a boxer, with her first amateur fight coming up soon. Emma is also studying her Certificate IV in Community Services to become a youth worker so she can give back to the community.”

**Senior Constable
Lisa Macarounas**



Fit for Work: set for the future

When 17-year-old Rydar Ita first walked through the doors of the Bankstown PCYC club to commence the Fit for Work program in July, she was an entirely different person. She lacked the confidence and ability to communicate effectively and suffered from severe anxiety. “When I think back to the time before I started the program, I felt like I wanted to stay in school and try and get a job, but wasn’t sure what type of job I could do. I felt lost and didn’t know about my future,” said Rydar.

Fit for Work runs three days a week for a whole school term, for 15-18 year olds. It addresses a young person’s disengagement from school, helps them make positive life choices, and prepares them for employment opportunities. Rydar is a success story, not an unemployment statistic. After the completion of the program, she successfully secured a full-time job as a picker and packer that she thoroughly enjoys.

Rydar isn’t the only student to complete the program so successfully. When Omar was introduced to Fit for Work, he felt nervous and unsure about whether the program would help him, having suffered from self-doubt and anxiety for much of his school life. Yet, not only did he

receive the award for “Most Outstanding Fit for Work Participant”, he is well on his way to his dream job, having secured a plumbing apprenticeship.

“I can’t thank the PCYC enough for their hard work, support and helping my son achieve his dreams,” says Omar’s mother, Rabiah. ‘He has always wanted to be a plumber, and now gets up at 4am, takes the train to the city and prefers to be there 20 minutes early. This has been his greatest achievement, seeing him always prepared and on time.’ A part of PCYC’s mission is to work with young people to develop their skills, character and leadership and the Fit for Work program is a perfect example of this.



Haka Warriors: culture leads positive change

Haka Warriors, a values driven program launched in 2019, is an initiative developed by PCYC Blacktown in partnership with NSW Police. The program develops Pasifika youth to inspire their peers to create a unity of purpose through connection with their heritage, by learning the cultural war dance of the haka. It also encourages young people to be positive citizens in the community.

JoJo Lee, PCYC Blacktown Club Manager, says the program’s success comes from using Polynesian culture and the haka to engage students and earn respect. The program involves PCYC staff, local police, community leaders and volunteers visiting high schools to facilitate mentoring and leadership sessions, while also teaching the students about promoting positive change and respect.

“Our students’ attitudes towards everything has become more positive. They are more engaged with school and their attendance is up. The benefit of having the students more engaged, and the flow-on effect of that to other students, can’t be overstated,” said David, a teacher at Blacktown Boys High School. “The success is all down to PCYC Blacktown. In the sessions it wasn’t just about

practicing the haka. They got the young people talking about resilience, identity and decision-making”.

In September 2022, after 20 weeks of training, 531 students across 15 high schools participated in the Haka Warriors full day finale in front of a packed 2,500-seat concert hall. This year was the first time young women were invited to participate in the program. Two students from each school also took part in leadership workshops, aimed at developing peer models for school communities.

The performances at the finale were nothing short of extraordinary, emotional, and certainly powerful. This is the beauty of the Haka Warriors, a life changing program creating positive change through cultural education.



Nations of Origin promotes reconciliation and sport

Over 700 young people from across NSW represented their Indigenous Nation at the annual 4 day PCYC Nations of Origin tournament held in Port Stephens, Maitland and Lake Macquarie in October 2022.

Nations of Origin brings Indigenous and non-Indigenous young people together from across the state and empowers them to celebrate Australia's diverse Aboriginal culture and its deep impact on our history and their stories. Twenty five Indigenous Nations were represented over the four-day tournament.

Each team is made up of 70 per cent Indigenous and 30 per cent non-Indigenous young people. Education is a key foundation of Nations of Origin. To be eligible to take part, participants are required to demonstrate 80 per cent school attendance.

PCYC NSW CEO, Dominic Teakle, said sport is a powerful tool for social change and inclusion.

"Being involved in sport teaches young people important skills such as discipline, patience, communication, healthy behaviours and problem-solving in a team environment," he said.

"Nations of Origin brings Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth together through the shared interest of sport, encouraging learning, friendship, and acceptance.

"Relationship building extends to the significant Police involvement in Nations of Origin. Participation in the tournament helps to break down barriers that can exist between Police and young people."

Major sponsor, Red Energy, has been supporting the tournament since 2018, and along with ongoing support from parent company Snowy Hydro, has been integral in helping PCYC deliver key youth programs across NSW. Nations of Origin is also supported by funding from the Australian Government, Port Stephens Council, and tournament partners NSW Rugby League, Basketball NSW, Northern NSW Football, Macquarie Football, and Gymnastics NSW.



Dubbo PCYC gymnasts represent Wiradjuri Nation

When seven girls from Dubbo joined the PCYC Dubbo's Fit for Life morning session, little did they know that a year later they would be competing for their Indigenous Nation as a gymnastics team.

Dubbo PCYC Manager Emily Ross gets goosebumps when she talks about the club's Indigenous Nations of Origin gymnastics team. It was only a matter of weeks ago she burst into tears while watching their dance routine for the tournament. Ross isn't alone as gymnastics coach Joshua Mann says his "mind gets blown every week" by the members of the Dubbo team, who represented Wiradjuri Nation in October at Nations of Origin.

That reaction stems from the pride created by seeing kids and teenagers from around the region coming together, putting any troubles they might have in their own lives aside, and committing to something.

2022 was the first year that Dubbo PCYC sent a gymnastics team to the Indigenous Nations of Origin tournament.

"I went in a couple of weeks ago to catch up and see how they were going," Ross said.

"They showed me the dance component of team gym and I was literally sitting in there with tears in my eyes and goosebumps over my entire body.

"It's just beautiful and you can see how proud they are of what they're doing. And I think that's the really important thing. They know what they're doing, and they make their way here and train and they put in 100 per cent while they're in that room training."



Creating star leaders of the future

PCYC Blue Star Leadership programs work with young people across NSW to develop their skills, character, and leadership. Underpinned with the NSW Duke of Edinburgh International Awards, Blue Star Bronze and Silver Levels include three 5-day camps where participants work through a range of individual and team challenges, as well as participate in leadership workshops.

Rosanna Cepero, State Coordinator of Youth Programs says, “The camps are critical in increasing their potential in obtaining meaningful employment. They are overcoming challenges together; the team environment and bond is amazing, and something they carry with them for the rest of their lives.”

At the first camp in April, 30 youth participated in a range of team building activities and workshops around the Blue Star Bronze program, growth mindset and resilience. All participants successfully completed their First Aid Certificate through the Michael Hughes Foundation.

Melanie from Tamworth PCYC club said of her experience, “The camps have helped develop my leadership, and being more confident and outgoing with new people, because it is something I could not really do before.”

Unfortunately, the second camp was cancelled two days prior to the event due to catastrophic flooding. The Leadership programs provide practical and real-life skills that young people can apply to their everyday lives, and what better way to showcase this than by example. Rosanna, quickly and masterfully put together an online version of the camp within two days, enabling participants to complete a virtual adventurous journey for their NSW Duke of Edinburgh Award. The program was able to engage 15 out of the 30 participants – the remainder unable to attend due to being directly affected by the floods. Over the three days, they completed three out of five stages of a virtual bushwalk. These sessions covered preparation for a 2-day hike, including map

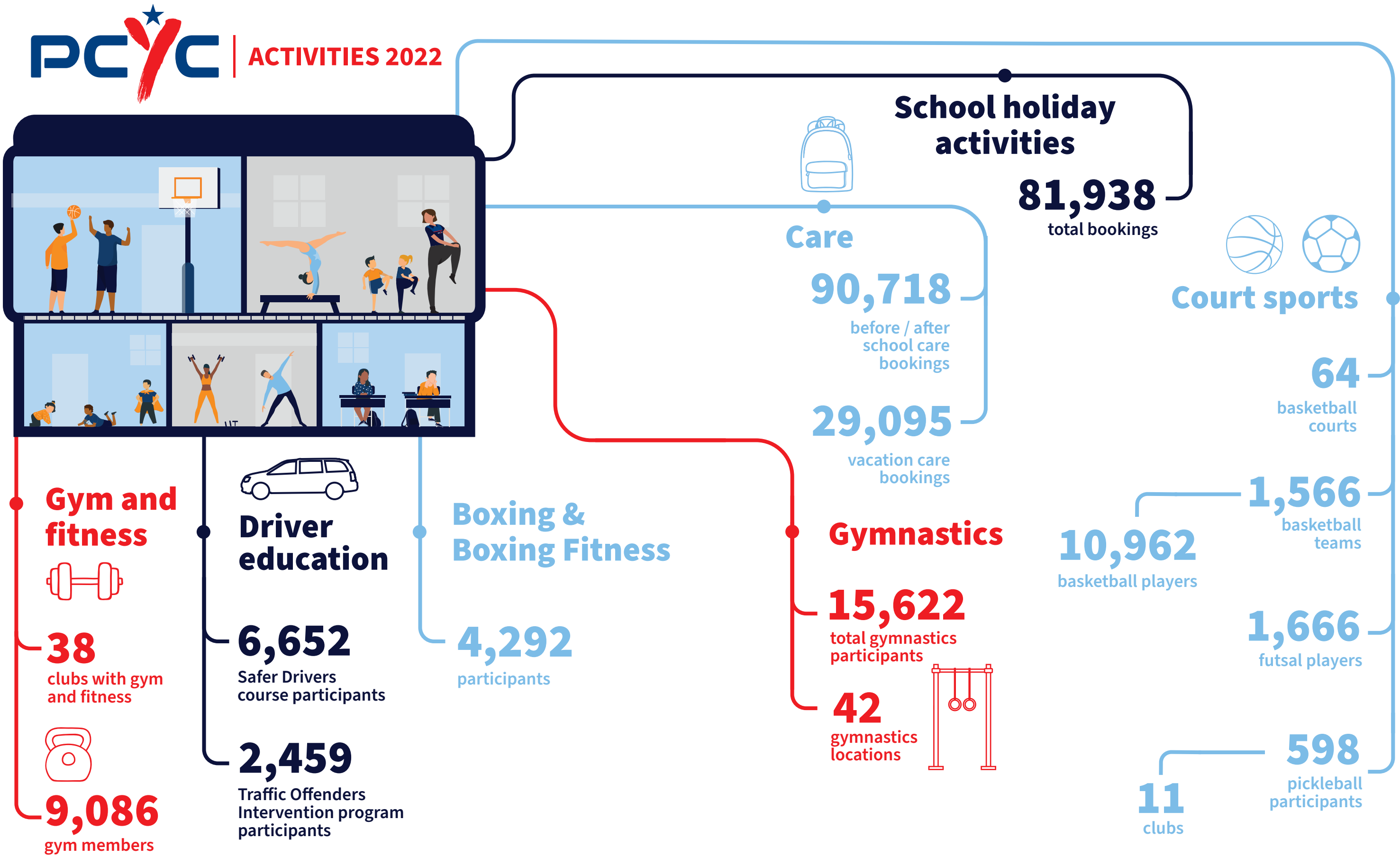
reading, using a compass, route planning, organising what to take, food supplies and emergency plans.

The third and final camp welcomed 17 participants who successfully completed the remaining requirements of the NSW Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Level Award, along with 10 young people from New Zealand Blue Light. This was an incredible experience for both teams, something that had been in discussions since 2019. For it to come to fruition and watch both teams form deep and meaningful relationships was a highlight of the year.

In between each camp, each participant is required to complete 40 hours of volunteering within their local clubs. In 2022, participants were involved in everything from assisting in the front office, processing memberships, assisting to set up and pack up activities, assisting with the facilitation of some activities, school holiday programs, Nations of Origin assistance, Blue Light discos, down to cleaning of the club.

Hayley, a NSW Duke of Edinburgh Alumni through PCYC NSW’s Blue Star Leadership program in 2013, now returns as a volunteer mentor herself. “I first got involved with the Duke of Ed in 2013, and I am back here to be a leader for future generations. To give the young people coming through now some of my experiences and help them create a path for their own journeys in life is very important to me and something I have learnt from my time with PCYC. To give back to the community and be a good leader is a skill I will take with me throughout my life. It has been a life changing experience.”





Dre Wicks, proud First Nations youth, receives inspirational leader award

When 17-year-old Dre first joined the PCYC club of Far South Coast in 2017, he came from a background where he was deemed at risk. His parents had a long criminal history. Dre can remember his parents were constantly in trouble with the local police, and he had many issues that stemmed from being around this unrest in his home life.

Dre says, “Although my parents were always in and out of trouble with the police, they always encouraged me to do better with my life and stay away from drugs and bad choices because it would not end well. This, along with my experiences as a young child, pushed me to do something more, something better with my life. I knew I did not want to repeat my parents’ mistakes.”

Dre met Youth Engagement Officer Senior Constable Sarah Bancroft and, at 12 years of age, joined the Far South Coast PCYC club to participate in the junior activities. He felt wanted and cared for at the club; it was a haven for him when he needed it the most, during his most formative years.

Dre says, “Sarah, helped me so much in my first few years at PCYC. There were many times I felt very alone and did not want to be around anymore, but the support I received was incredible. Being a part of PCYC has been a life changing experience for me”.

SC Bancroft said that during her time working at the Far South Coast PCYC she’d seen Dre rise against the odds and become an inspiring leader for the youth in his area, all due to his tenacity and perseverance.

“Dre is a wonderful and proud First Nations young man working as a junior activities officer for PCYC, who is now a great mentor to the kids,” SC Bancroft said.

After participating in the programs and activities, eventually Dre has started running some of the programs himself. He is passionate about the boxing programs at Eden Primary School and loves to see the positive effect that these activities have on the kids.

Dre feels that he can be a good role model to youth in the community and prove to them that they their circumstances don’t need to define them; that they can pursue their passions and do better for their future.

“In my job I like to show the kids that just because your life isn’t easy, doesn’t mean you need to give up on your dreams. You can do whatever you want to do and be who you want to be. The cycle can be broken,” he said.

The 17-year-old was presented with the PCYC Southern Young Person of the Quarter Award. Dre said the award has given him the push to maintain his passion to make a positive difference in his community. He he plans to join the Police Academy in 2023 and train to become a police officer.



PCYC sparks fighting spirit

Six years ago, Reza’s parents fled Afghanistan with their three children, hoping to create a better life in Australia. Settling into Western Sydney, Reza’s father found work as a painter and Reza started high school in a very different environment from the mountain village of his childhood in Afghanistan.

However whilst at school, Reza fell in with the wrong crowd and his behaviour became increasingly anti-social. His parents were fraught with worry; this was not the new life they had imagined for their son and family. By the age of 15, Reza was on the Police radar for theft, robbery, assault, and more. On one such occasion he ended up at PCYC Redfern. The local NSW Police Youth Engagement Officer (YEO) handed him a PCYC membership card and directed him to take it to Isa Aiono, PCYC State Boxing Co-ordinator, at his local PCYC in Blacktown.

When Isa met Reza she recalls he was about 110 kilograms and about 170cm tall. She ushered him into the boxing gym under the guidance of coach Rod Williams. On his first day Reza sparred three rounds: the first he came out like a raging hurricane, the second round he was gassed, and by the third he was sitting on the floor of the ring exhausted and defeated. Rod sent him home, not expecting to see him again. But Reza turned up the next day, and the next. Now he trains five or six times a week and has been doing so consistently for 2 years. He has also shed 35 kilos and is fit and strong.

Boxing has been Reza’s saviour beyond his physical fitness, too. It has taught him mental and physical discipline, new skills, and he is learning to master and channel his abundant energy, inside and outside the ring. He has also taken up competitive boxing.

Reza successfully completed his HSC and hopes to study strength and conditioning at college. His dad is proud of where he is now and, while his mum still worries, they are relieved Reza has found an outlet to channel his energy positively. Blacktown YEO, Senior Constable Joel McMullen, says Reza’s dedication has seen him engage with a range of programs run at the club and, like any 18-year-old, although he is not the finished product yet he is committed and has the desire to continue to change. Apart from his own aspirations, Reza has one other huge motivation to continue his current path: his past life. He never wants to go back to that part of his past because he knows what damage it did to two of his friends. One is dead and the other in gaol. Lives forever changed for the worse.

However, for Reza, it has sparked his fighting spirit, and he is winning, in and out of the ring. PCYC has been life changing.



PCYC 2022 image gallery



Commissioner Karen Webb, PCYC NSW CEO Dominic Teakle, PCYC Chair Nicole Sorbara, Commander Mark Wall, Director Peter Kirkwood and Twinkle, celebrate PCYC's 85th Birthday on 1 April 2022.



In 2022, thousands of learner drivers successfully completed the Safer Drivers course with PCYC.



A group of 12 young people successfully completed the 10-week Fit for Work course in Campbelltown, which is designed to increase their employment opportunities.



PCYC is proud to support sport and recreation for our senior community members by offering a wide range of uniquely suited activities that encourage healthy social interactions, cardiovascular fitness, strength, agility, flexibility, and cognitive abilities.



Our school holiday program participants, enjoying the gymnastics program we have on offer. Participants are able to engage in a wide variety of activities that cater for all ages and abilities, designed to keep them active, make new friends and remain mentally stimulated. Activities include gymnastics, laser tag, ball sports, dance, science experiments, drama, craft and more!



The annual NSW Police Boxing Gala Fight Night, provides the Police with an opportunity to raise funds that go towards families that have lost loved ones in the line of duty, and PCYC. Last year, the boxing card included three talented PCYC boxers who showcased skills to a hugely enthusiastic audience.



When the small village of Eugowra was largely destroyed by a flash flood in November 2022, PCYC Parkes went into action to deliver donations from the Parkes community. The team delivered activities for the kids at Eugowra Public and St Joseph's School to assist with their mental health resilience, including bubble soccer, stress ball making and grass hockey. It was a much needed respite for the kids who had lost everything and a humbling experience for PCYC Parkes Staff.



King of the Ring is a PCYC 3-day prestigious boxing event which began in 2017. The first year attracted 60 nominations and last year we had over 300 nominations. This contest is the second largest 3-day boxing event in Australia. PCYC King of the Ring was named as a finalist in the 2022 NSW Community Sports Awards from Sport NSW. The winner will receive a custom made ring.



A group of youth from Belmore PCYC successfully graduated from the Fit for Change program which addresses the seven major risk/need factors to reduce and prevent re-offending.



The youth from PCYC Bourke had a blast during the last Holiday Break initiative in collaboration with the Office for Regional Youth. They learnt about culture through dance and art. The Holiday Break initiative features both physical activities and creative elements to engage disadvantaged regional youth.

Clubs in recovery mode after devastating floods

The 2022 NSW floods were devastating and far reaching. Some regional towns were hit multiple times, making it an exhausting process for all communities involved. The PCYC clubs in our regional towns of Lismore, Maitland, Moree, Parkes and Gunnedah had to deal with their clubs being shut down multiple times during the year after suffering severe damage from flooding and sewage inundation. As a result, the clubs have had to close their doors due to health and safety.

The 28 of February 2022 saw the biggest flood in modern Australia's history envelop the township of Lismore. The devastation from the 14.4m flood levels displaced thousands of people, and over 1,800 homes and businesses were damaged. The damage to the community was catastrophic. The first two floors of the PCYC club flooded completely, and the damage bill was significant to both the interior and exterior of the building. The club was gutted; not much was salvageable internally. Over the course of the next few weeks staff and volunteers from the community lent a hand to clean up. However, just as spirits were lifting, the township was hit with its second flood in March. Devastating to say the least, but where there is challenge, there is hope. Staff and community members who had personally lost everything, still pulled together, exhausted both physically and mentally to start the clean up process for the second time. The closure of the club, saw the Lismore community missing their regular activities and programs which the PCYC are so well known for. The incredible Lismore Youth Engagement Officers pivoted in the wake of this disaster and ran Fit for Life and Fit for Service in alternative locations, a timely reminder of their dedication to the programs run by the PCYC. Lismore PCYC still has not re-opened, but it will soon.

Similarly, on 7 July 2022, Maitland and surrounds were impacted by devastating storms. The Maitland PCYC suffered significant storm damage, with the bottom floor of the club flooded by sewage. Effluent backed up through the wastewater system drains and deposited significant amount of waste throughout the building, which was deemed an excessive health risk. As result the club was quarantined and closed for approximately four months in 2022. Unfortunately, this has meant that

over 700 members have missed gymnastics classes and 240 members have missed gym fitness access. Whilst the club's lower level was still under construction in late 2022 with a re-opening date of 2023, the other levels finally opened on 12 October 2022.

Despite these challenges, and post-flood clean ups, our incredible teams have pivoted in the wake of these ongoing disasters. The PCYC Parkes club, whilst it suffered sewage damage and had to close for several days, became a donation hub for the wider community including flood ravaged Forbes and Eugowra and ran donations to these communities in the club van. Some clubs such as Moree, became evacuation centres for the displaced within their communities. Whilst all these clubs, and regional communities have suffered significantly throughout the devastating floods of 2022, the main thread of commonality within these stories is one of strength, resilience, and community spirit.



Flood water 27 February 2022 outside Lismore Club.



Lismore ground floor ceiling collapse 6 March 2022.



Maitland township flooded in 2022.

PCYC is a charity. Our programs and activities transform young lives



PCYC relies on the support of the community to fund life changing programs.



The iconic Sydney City2Surf fun run commenced in 1971. Approximately 100 PCYC fun-raisers took part this year.



PCYC's mascot Twinkle at the finish line of Sydney City2Surf.



PCYC stall at Mardi Gras Fair Day.



Twinkle was a favourite amongst the younger generation at Sydney's Fair Day.



GWS Giants v Sydney Swans game day activation.



NSW Police POLAIR crew in StarJump mode.



The ultimate professional, Channel 9's Peter Overton was MC at the Gala Ball.



StarJump Challenge starjumpers getting co-ordinated hangtime into their starjumps.



Stan Grant's moving keynote address at the Gala Ball.



Half time at Parramatta Eels home game was Twinkle and StarJump Challenge time.

PCYC operations are 90% self-funded

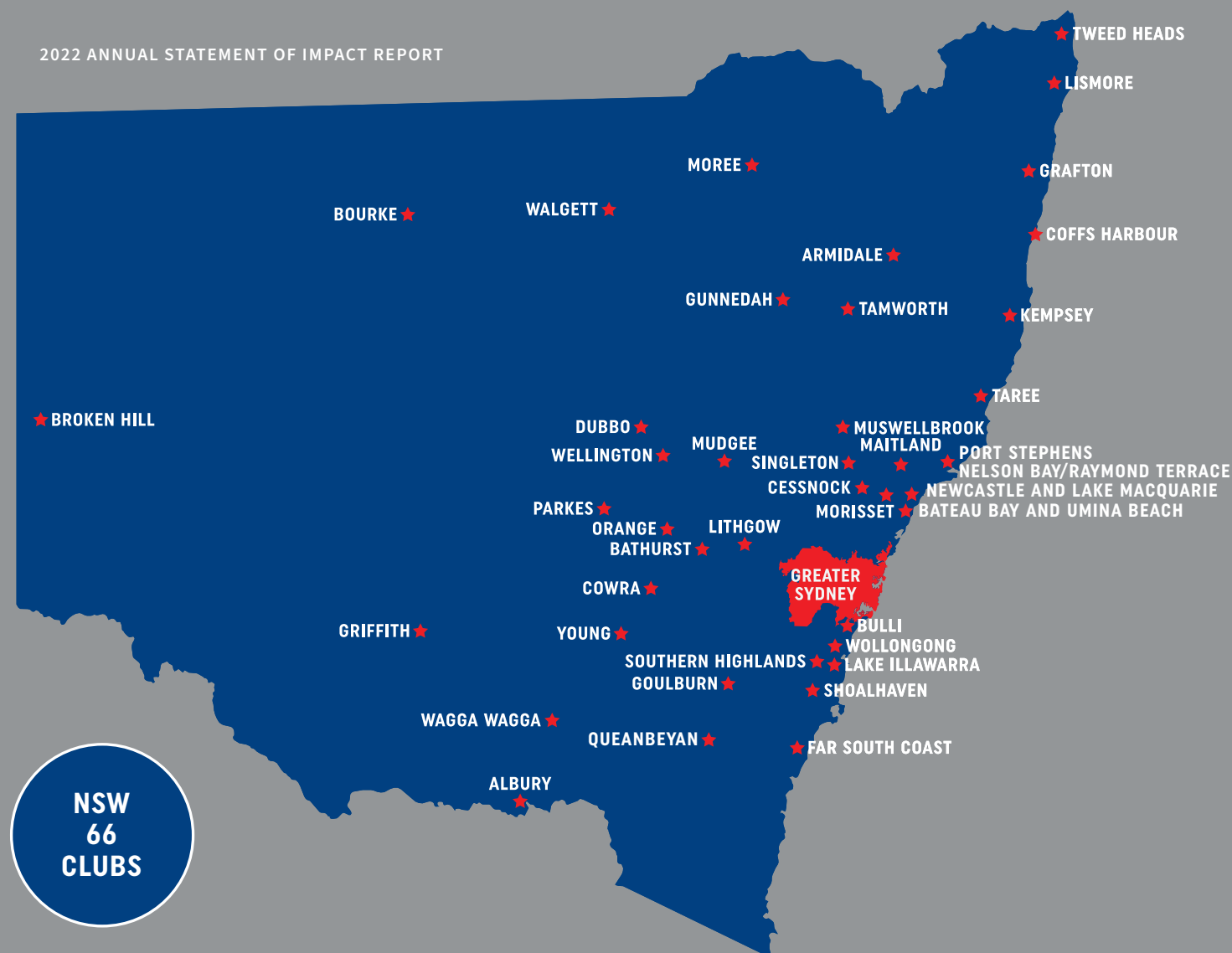
To run life changing programs for young people, and provide a safe space for sport, recreation and education activities, PCYC must apply for contestable grants from a range of government and private funders. In addition, PCYC relies on the support of generous individual donors and corporate partners, including these amazing organisations.

Gold partners
Macquarie Group
Snowy Hydro/Red Energy

Silver partners
EFEX
Deicorp

Bronze partners
Hope Estate
AJC Architects
Geoff King Motors
Southern
Parramatta Eels
Parramatta Leagues Club
Accor
TOMRA/NSW Return and Earn

Grassroots partners
Essity/My Supply Store
Lipman
Coca Cola
Novofit
Outfit
Free2Travel
IQ Lighting
Greater Western Sydney Giants
Sydney Kings & Flames
NSW Rugby League
NSW Netball
NSW Gymnastics
NSW Basketball



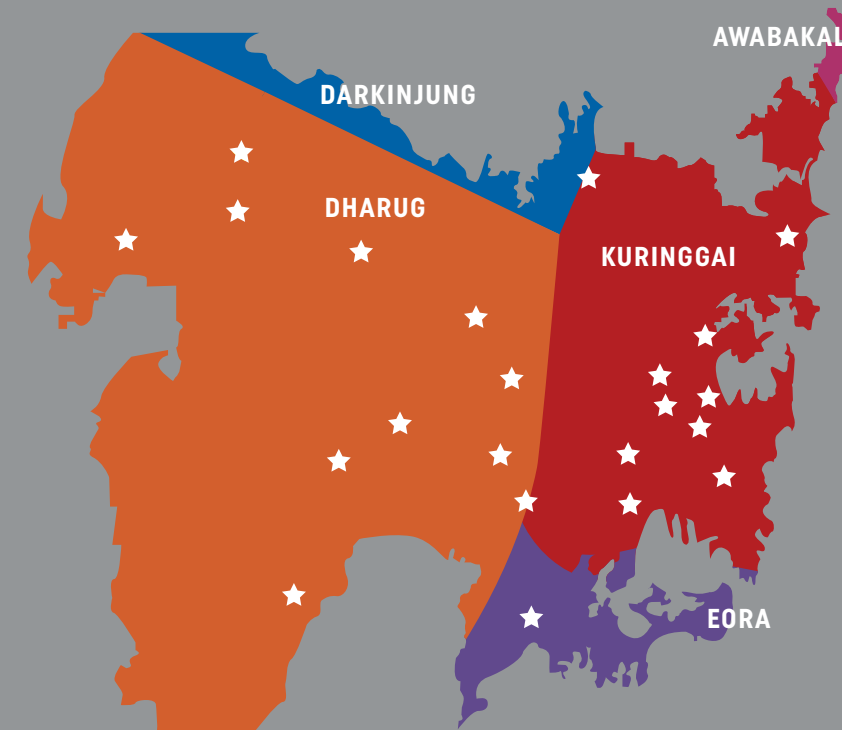
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PCYC NSW acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as Australia's First People and Traditional Custodians of the land. We pay our respects to Elders – past, present and emerging. We value their identity, culture and continuing connection to country, sea, sky, waterways, family and community. We are committed to providing a safe cultural place for all First Nations youth to flourish.



A charity empowering young people
through Police and community partnership

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