

Referral Eligibility – Early Intervention

Young Women and non-binary folks aged 12-24 years may be eligible for support through Women and Mentoring's (WAM) Young Women's Program including those with no current or prior justice involvement, if they face circumstances known to increase the risk of criminalisation

If you answer 'yes' to **several** of the below questions, they **may** be eligible for referral to WAM. WAM encourages early referrals as a preventative intervention.

Please reach out to our intake team if you wish to discuss a referral or have any questions at ywp@womenandmentoring.org.au

Family Violence

Have they been misidentified or identified as the as the primary aggressor in a family violence incident or been listed as the respondent of an intervention order?

Are they currently living in an environment where family violence is present or has been experienced in the past?

Are they living in a home affected by intergenerational trauma, substance use, or mental health issues?

Fines and financial hardship

Are they accumulating fines (e.g. fare evasion, minor infringements) they are unable to pay?

Are financial pressures limiting their ability to access education, services, or basic needs – in ways that increase their risk of justice involvement?

Justice interactions – no charges

Have they had informal contact with police (e.g. cautions, warnings, or questioning) but no formal charges?

Have they been involved in low-level or survival-based offending, such as shoplifting, physical conflict, or substance use in public?

Education and Social Connection

Are they experiencing school refusal, irregular attendance, or disconnection from education linked to broader life challenges?

Are they feeling disconnected from school, peers, or community, and lacking access to safe, caring adult relationships?

Housing Instability or Homelessness

Are they currently couch surfing, in out-of-home care, or living in unstable or unsafe housing?

Have they moved frequently between temporary or short-term living arrangements (e.g. staying with friends, relatives, or rotating placements) without a stable long-term option?

Substance Use and/or Mental Health/Trauma

Are they using alcohol or other substances in ways that impact their wellbeing, safety, or relationships?

Have past experiences of trauma or ongoing mental health challenges contributed to disconnection from school, community, or support systems?

Relational Vulnerability / Exploitation Risk

Are they at increased risk of forming relationships where trust could be exploited, making it harder to recognise unsafe or unhealthy dynamics?

Have they experienced patterns of connection marked by instability, power imbalances, or unmet emotional needs that could increase susceptibility to relational harm?

Overarching factors

Have they experienced discrimination, exclusion, or systemic barriers related to race, culture, disability, gender identity, sexuality or socioeconomic disadvantage?

Are they navigating multiple layers of marginalisation that contribute to isolation, disconnection, and limit their ability to access a supportive and inclusive community?

If you would like to find out more, please visit our website:

www.womenandmentoring.org.au

Email us: ryp@womenandmentoring.org.au

Or call our Young Women's Program team:

Shaylee: 0401 371 337

(Casey and Dandenong)

Cyanna: 0403 581 259

(Frankston Mornington Peninsula and Kingston)