

Wesley Mission works hard to shape and nurture family life through a broad range of services that address both family emergencies as well as people's needs for long-term support, healing and growth. Families provide the stability that allows children to develop confidence and self-esteem to face life's challenges and to form healthy relationships themselves.

Keeping families together

The Family Services teams at Westlakes and Dungog assisted more than 180 families with children aged 0–8. Westlakes had increased referrals from NSW Community Health, while at Dungog the three Women's Wisdom and Mums Matter programs were very successful.

Wesley Mission's Multicultural Support and Educational Groups supported 140 families in Sydney's South West, offering education, advocacy, practical assistance and early intervention. Many clients of our Multicultural Women's Program reported benefits such as quitting smoking and adopting healthy eating habits for them and their children.

We also extended our Auburn office and recruited new staff with Arabic, Dari, Hindi, Punjab and Spanish-speakers now on staff.

Wesley Mission Brighter Futures Early Intervention Program in Blacktown/Baulkham Hills, Cumberland/Prospect and Nepean Local Government Areas achieved stronger relationships with other community service providers and gained an increasingly strong reputation as a solid supportive partner.

Wesley Family Services —Northwest Sector continued to develop the family support services which have been operating in the area for over 20 years. This year its various services assisted more than 2,000 families.

Riverstone Families Connect reported an increase in indigenous children attending the Creative Learning Circle, while the Paint The Town REaD initiative delivered early literacy packs to 625 children. Enrolments also increased in the Out of School Hours Care Program.

Finding a home

Accommodating the homeless continued to be a priority for Wesley Mission during the year. We are proud that our Superintendent has been appointed co-chair of the Premier's Council on Homelessness.

Wesley Newcastle Accommodation saw many clients move on to permanent housing, and a new service delivery approach proved very successful with new clients. The Oasis drop-in centre in Newcastle was renovated to create a more homely feel.

Wesley Community Housing expanded its relationship with St George Community Housing and was offered several new properties, while Edward Eagar Lodge in Surry Hills catered to over 800 men and women in need of urgent accommodation.

The Short Term Unit program at Carlingford continues to be one of very few to accommodate homeless families, and the merger of the Short Term Units and Ashfield Independent Living Program was a great success.

The Noreen Towers Community at Liverpool catered to 41 families during the year. The Independent Living Program on the Central Coast was able to add new properties through partnerships with two community housing providers.

Our Assistance with Care and Housing for the Aged team became involved with Wentworth Community Housing in a project to house rough sleepers.

Nurturing young people

Wesley Mission's Dalmar Childrens Services now assumes responsibility for the daily operation of the Aunties & Uncles youth mentoring program, which came into the Wesley Mission family this year. Wesley Dalmar provided care to over 350 children in the Greater Sydney and Central Coast areas this year. The Central Coast branch will celebrate their 15th anniversary in November 2011.

Wesley Gateway Cottage, a specialised unit for 12–15 year olds, provided crisis accommodation for 72 young people.

Wesley Newcastle Youth Service noted that 80 per cent of participating young people achieved positive outcomes measured by improvements in self-esteem, resilience, independence, safety and quality of life. Xstrata Coal NSW, in addition to ongoing annual funding of the Streetsmart Program in Newcastle, also committed to fund the purchase and fit-out of a new van to assist the program.

Our Ashfield Youth Outreach was successful in reaching at-risk youth through the Canada Bay Five Dock Library Drop-in program. Our Quakers Hill Youth Support Services worked with Quakers Hill Police to deliver a relationship-building program with students at two high schools.

Case study: From isolation to inclusion

Family Services at Dungog was approached for help by a mum with five young children. Her husband was bedridden with a back injury and the family lived in a remote location, with only school bus transport. The mother was socially isolated and depressed.

The children had minimal social networks away from school due to transport and financial issues.

The family is indigenous and it took several weeks to gain their trust. Over time the father disclosed drug and alcohol issues, and was referred to mental health and addiction counsellors who now visit his home.

The mother was referred to the Women's Wisdom Program for help with her baby's sleeping problems and saw immediate changes.

The father has now become more engaged with the children and helps with their homework. The mother is now involved in her women's group, getting to know the other mothers and appreciating the fact that they do not judge her. The children have also developed new friendships and now invite children over to play at weekends.



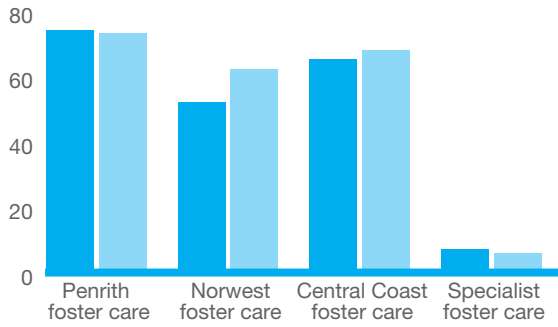
Family and Community Services

Child services

Children in care

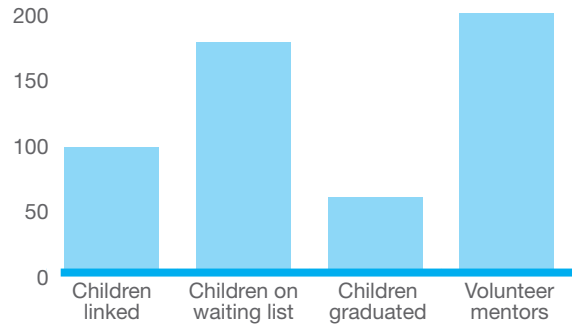
Total number of children in care in 2010–2011 was 213.

■ 2009–2010 ■ 2010–2011



Early intervention mentoring

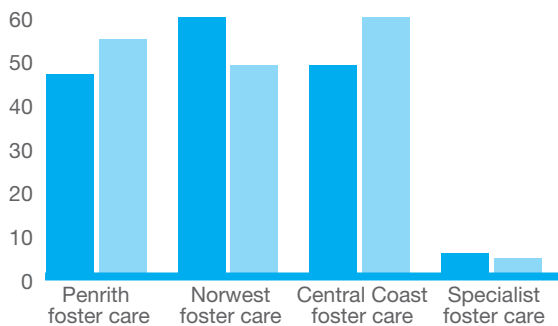
Number of children linked through the Aunties & Uncles program in 2010–2011 was 98.



Foster care families

Total number of foster care families in 2010–2011 was 169.

■ 2009–2010 ■ 2010–2011

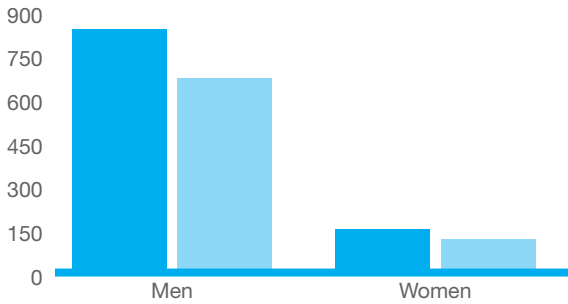


Homeless supported accommodation

Individuals in crisis accommodation

Total number of individuals in crisis accommodation in 2010–2011 was 804.

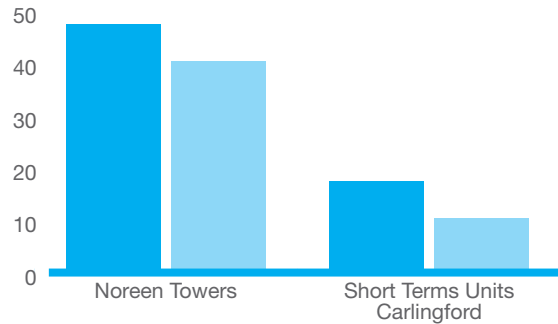
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Family accommodation

Total families provided emergency accommodation in 2010–2011 was 52.

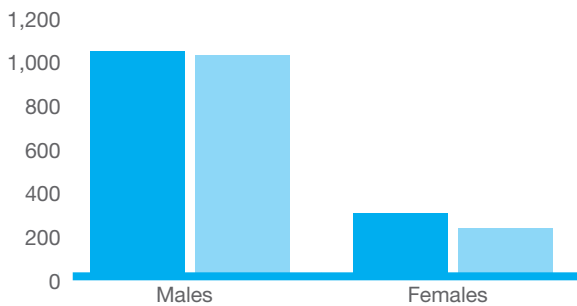
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Unmet need for individuals in crisis accommodation

Total number of people turned away from crisis accommodation due to lack of vacancy in 2010–2011 was 1,258.

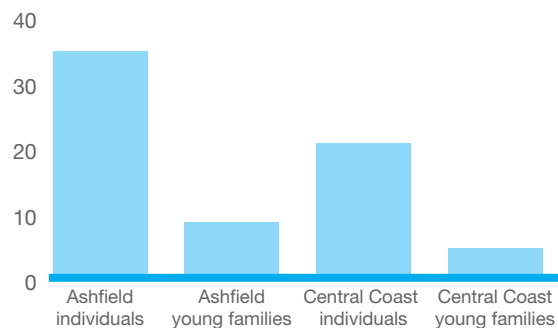
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Youth independent living program

Total individual youths provided supported accommodation in 2010–2011 was 56.

Total individual young families provided supported accommodation in 2010–2011 was 14.



Recreational services

Operation Hope

2010–2011

Total number of Operation Hope camps	8
Total number of sponsored campers attending Operation Hope camps	284

Recreational services attended

Total number of groups that attended Vision Valley	307
Total number of guests that attended Vision Valley	15,758