



Communities
& Justice
Youth Justice

YOUTH ON TRACK SNAPSHOT REPORT

2020 CALENDAR YEAR



OVERVIEW

The annual snapshot report is an analysis of outcomes in Youth on Track over the previous calendar year.

Youth on Track (YoT) is an early intervention scheme that identifies and responds to young people aged 10-17 at risk of long-term involvement in the criminal justice system.

The Department of Communities and Justice, Youth Justice NSW (YJNSW) funds non-government organisations to engage eligible young people and their families in case management and provide evidence-informed interventions that respond to assessed levels of risk and criminogenic needs.

YoT commenced on 1 July 2013 in three pilot sites in NSW including Blacktown, Hunter and Mid North Coast Local Area Commands (LACs).

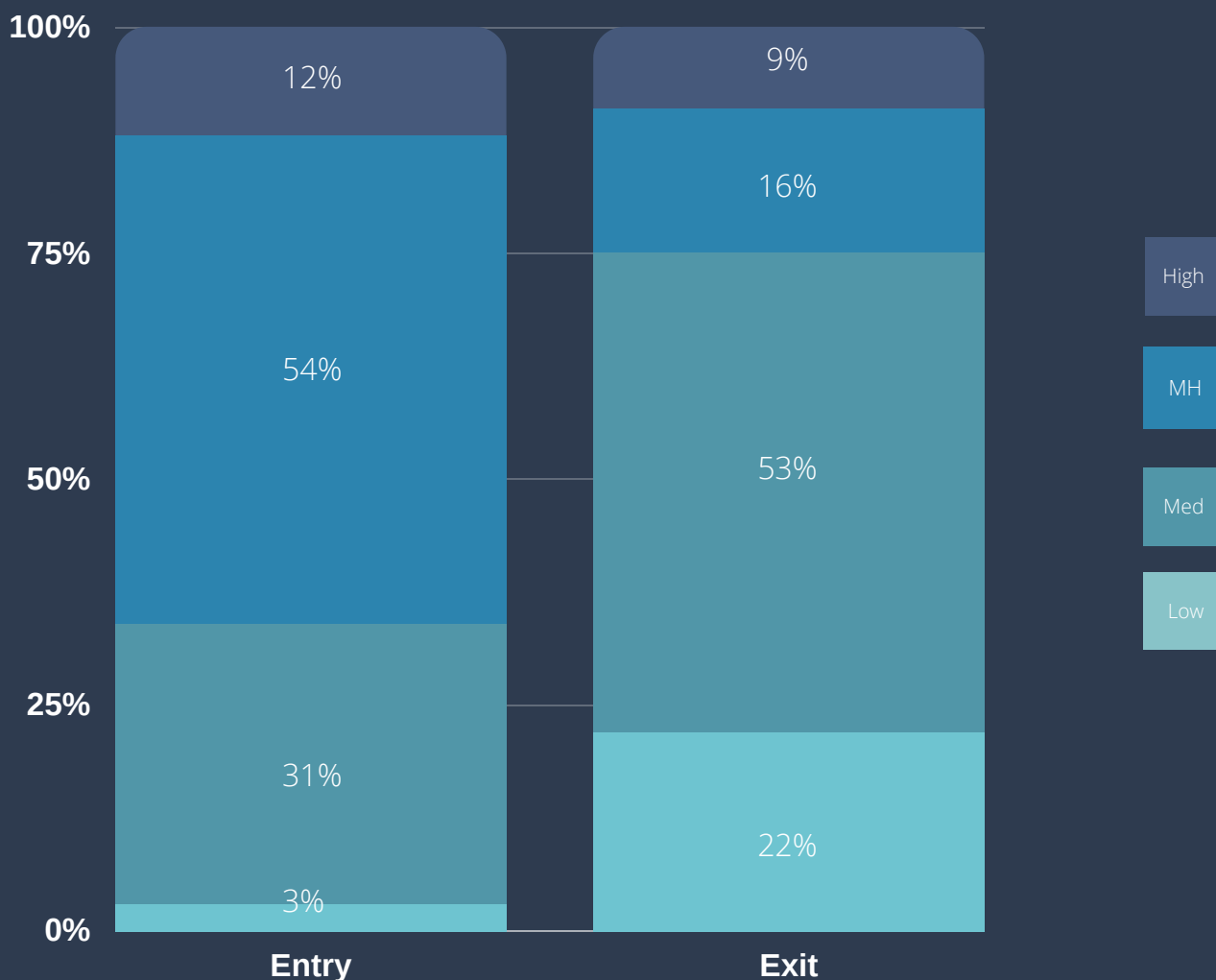
In 2016, the scheme extended into three more sites covering Coffs Clarence, New England and Central West LACs.

In 2019 YoT further expanded into a seventh site in the Riverina Police District. The data in this snapshot covers the 2020 calendar year for all seven sites.

The Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BOCSAR) is evaluating YoT through a randomised control trial (RCT) which is considered the gold standard of evaluations, and the most robust evaluation method to assess the impact of YoT on reoffending. The evaluation report will be completed late-2021.

LEVEL OF RISK AT ENTRY AND EXIT

The Youth Level of Service Case Management Inventory Assessment Australia (YLS/CMI-AA) is a validated assessment tool that assesses a young person's risk of re-offending and behaviours that lead to offending. The majority of young people who completed YoT in 2020 started with a medium-high or high risk (66%) of re-offending level. By completion, the majority of participants lowered their risk of re-offending score to low or medium (75%).



REDUCING RISK FACTORS OVER TIME

The percentage of participants who reduce their risk of re-offending score on the YLS/CMI-AA is measured after 3 and 6 months of participation and at exit. In 2020, participants achieved the following reduction in their overall risk factors:



54% of high risk young people improved their Family and Community risk factors at exit

65%

AFTER 3 MONTHS
(TARGET IS 50%)



52% of high risk young people improved their Education and Employment risk factors at exit

74%

AFTER 6 MONTHS
(TARGET IS 70%)

AT PROGRAM
COMPLETION
(TARGET IS 100%)

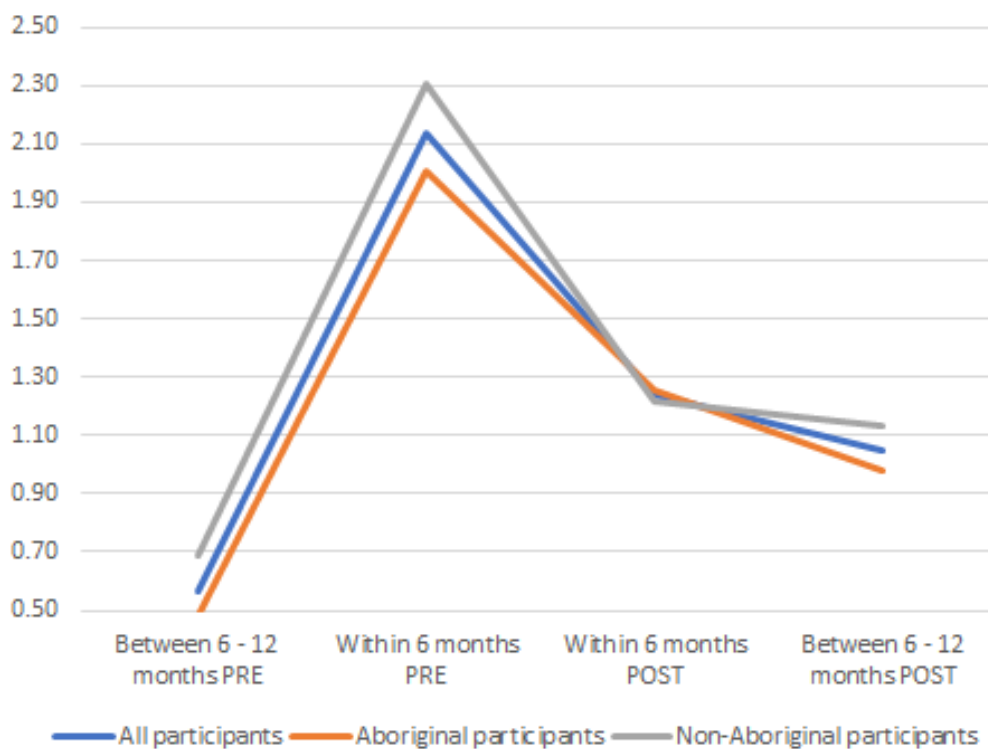
100%

REDUCING CONTACT WITH POLICE

In the 12 months following referral to YoT, the overall rate of formal police contact **decreases by half** for the cohort of participants between 2017 and 2020 compared to the rate of formal police contact at their point of referral.

Formal police contact can be a Caution, Youth Justice Conference or charge and are increasing in the 12 months prior to a YoT referral.

Offending analysis pre and post
Youth on Track referral
(January 2017 to December 2020)



REFERRALS IN 2020

839

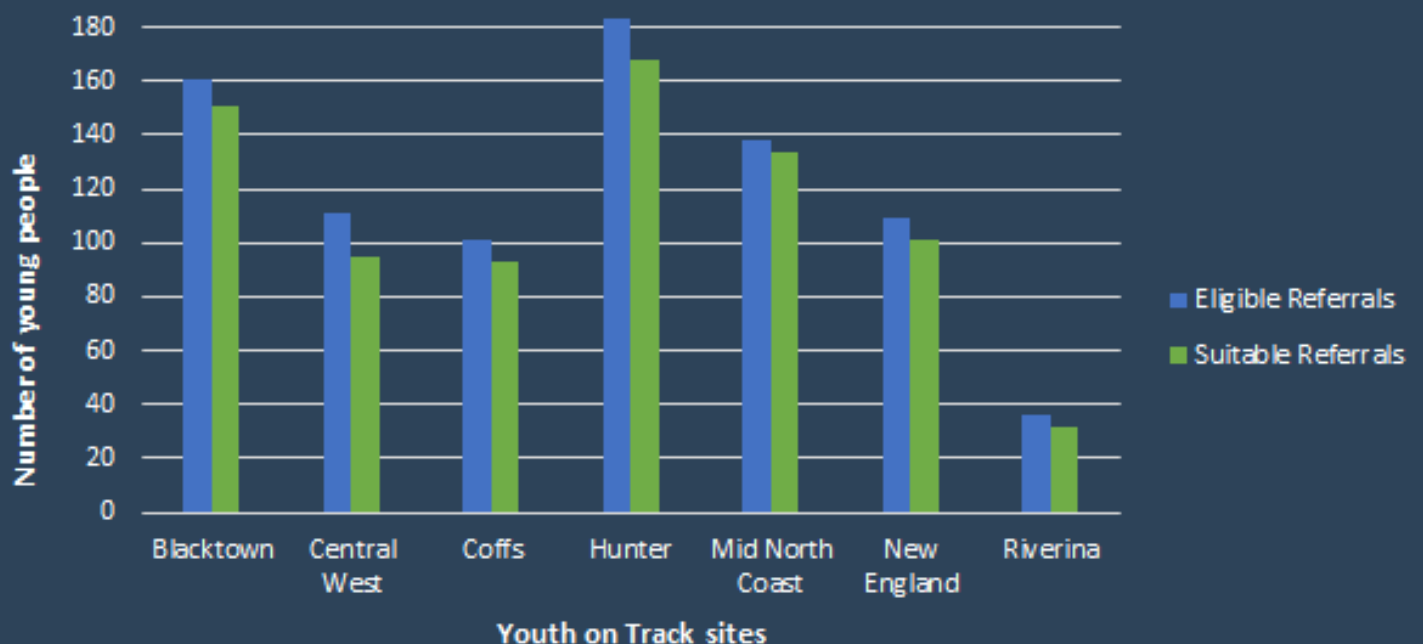
ELIGIBLE REFERRALS
(746 REFERRALS WERE
EXPECTED IN 2020)

774

REFERRALS CONSIDERED
SUITABLE BY PROVIDERS

Referrals are considered unsuitable:

- if a young person lives too far outside the LAC serviced by the YoT site
- safety concerns are determined by the provider after a risk assessment
- an existing case manager declines the young person's participation
- the young person was incorrectly screened at the time of referral
- the young person is on remand in custody for an extensive period of time

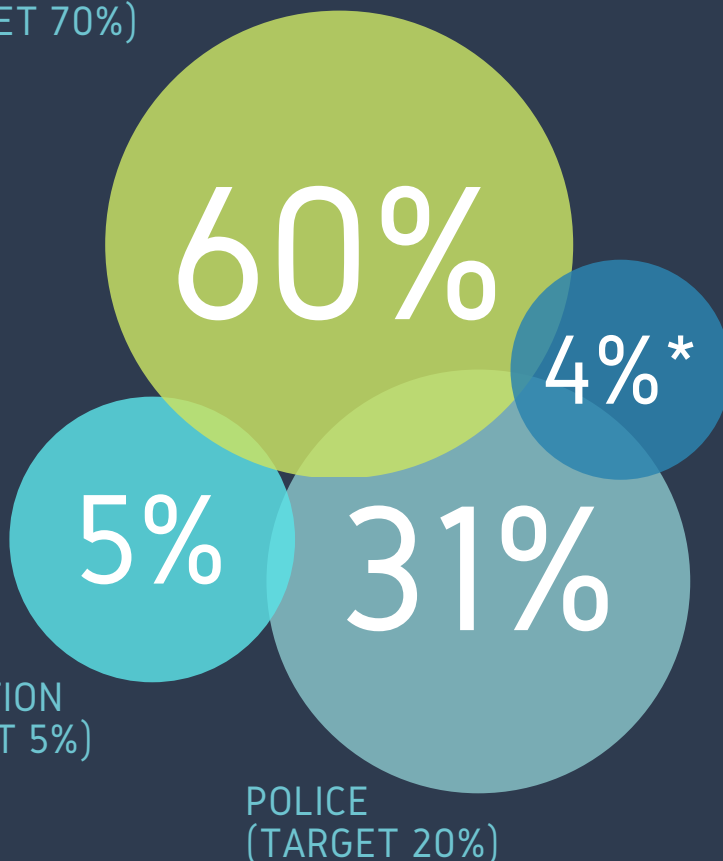


2020 REFERRAL SOURCES

In July 2020 Youth Justice expanded the referral sources in YoT based on the recommendation from the 2017 Legislative Assembly of New South Wales, Law and Safety Committee's parliamentary inquiry into the adequacy of youth diversionary programs. The recommendation was that "the NSW Government should consider additional referral pathways for Youth on Track". Previously, only Education and NSW Police could make discretionary referrals. Referrals have expanded allowing greater program reach within the Stronger Communities Cluster and Human Services sector to include:

- Youth Justice NSW (YJ)
- Justice Health and Forensic Mental Health
- Solicitors
- DCJ Community Services
- Out of Home Care providers
- Community Health
- Family Connect and Support
- Headspace and other mental health services

YOT SCREENING OFFICER
(TARGET 70%)

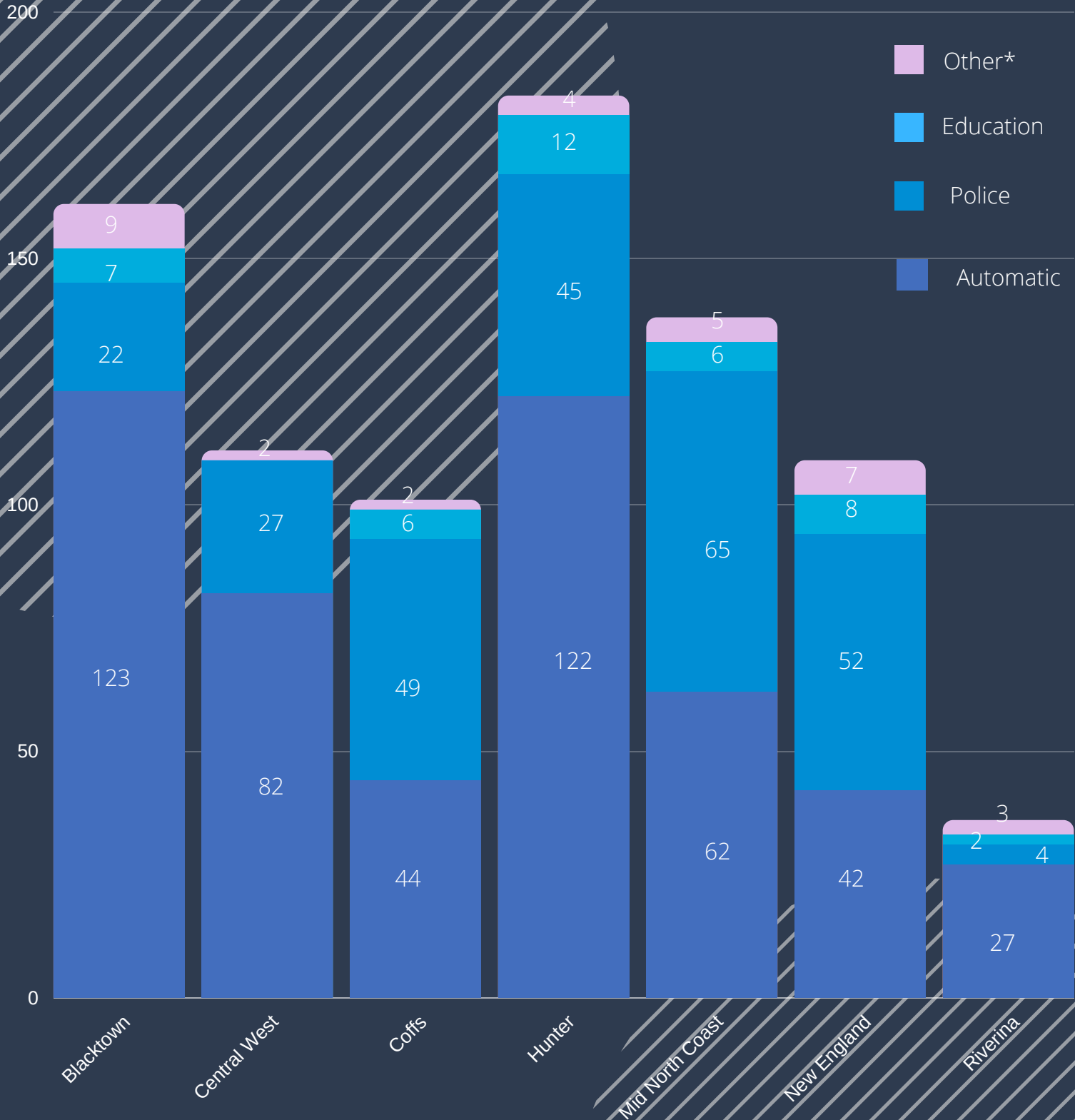


NEWLY APPROVED REFERRERS
(TARGET 5%) *SINCE JULY

EDUCATION
(TARGET 5%)

POLICE
(TARGET 20%)

2020 REFERRAL SOURCES



***Other referral sources includes referrals received from 1 July 2020 from the newly approved referral source agencies listed on the previous page.**

PARTICIPANTS

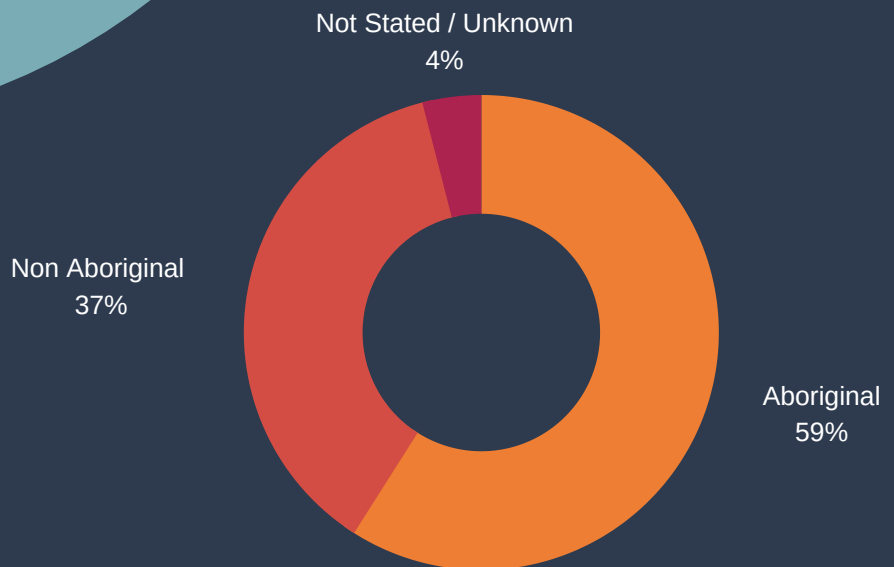
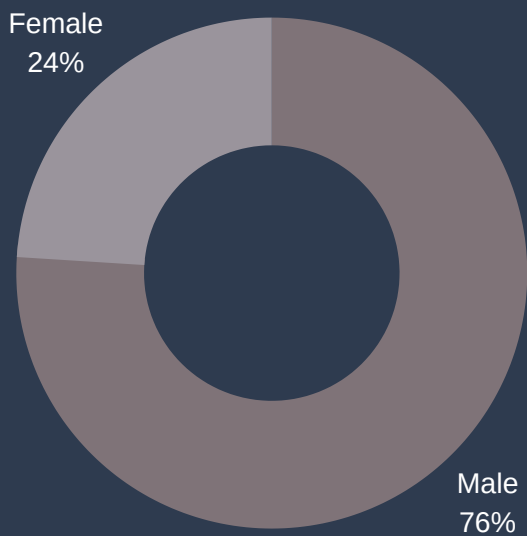
A young person's engagement in YoT is voluntary with engagement targets set at 50%. Overall, 48% of referrals (up to site target) led to young people consenting to participate in YoT in 2020. Engagement is calculated by dividing the number of annual participants (358) by the number of referrals expected for the year (746).

Restrictions to service delivery during periods of lockdown in response to the global pandemic reduced the number of young people consenting to participate in YoT in 2020. Engagement rates for the 2019-20 financial year exceeded the target, achieving 53%.

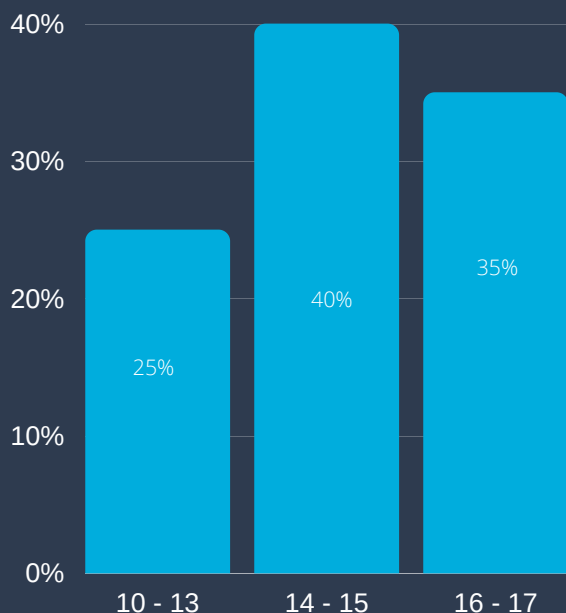
In 2020, **358 young people consented to participate** in Youth on Track. The graphic below shows participation rates and targets across each site:



PARTICIPANT DEMOGRAPHICS



75% of participants in 2020 were aged between 14 and 17:



YoT has strong engagement from Aboriginal young people. In 2020 Aboriginal young people accounted for almost 60% of referrals and they participated at the same rate as they were referred:

