



Because
of you

Every smile.

Every story.

Every opportunity.

Every moment of
confidence.

Every page that
follows exists because
you chose to care.



Before you read another page,
thank you.

Because of your generosity, young people who once stood on the sidelines are finding confidence. Young girls are stepping into leadership. Families are finding connection. Communities are creating new opportunities to come together.

Everything you'll read in these pages was made possible because people like you chose to care.

Today, we'd simply like to show you the difference you've made.

Looking back on the past year, it isn't the numbers we remember most. It's the people behind them.

The young person who found the confidence to lead. The family who discovered a place where they belonged. The community that embraced new opportunities. These are the moments that stay with us, because they remind us that the greatest changes often begin with something quite simple: someone feeling welcomed, valued and included.

As Chair, I have the privilege of seeing these stories unfold across our state. As a supporter, I know none of them happen without people like you.

For every person whose life has been touched by your generosity, thank you.

Thank you for believing that everyone deserves the opportunity to belong, grow and realise their potential.

Together, we're creating stronger communities — one person, one family and one community at a time.



Tim Ungar
Chair
WA Cricket Foundation

**This is what
you made possible.**

2,500+

young people found somewhere they belong

3,800+

young people experienced new opportunities

445+

young people discovered confidence to lead



**Mason used to sit on
the sidelines.**

Now, he jumps out of bed on a Sunday morning, excited to see his teammates and spend time with people who make him feel like he belongs.

That transformation didn't happen by accident. It happened because someone believed every young person deserves the opportunity to belong. That someone is you.



What your
generosity creates.

Belonging

Friendship. Connection. Acceptance.

Confidence

Young people find their voice and step forward.

Opportunity

New pathways open and potential grows.

Your generosity reached:

Regional and remote communities

Young women and girls

Aboriginal communities

People of all abilities

Because of you, more young
people are finding where they
belong.



"There is a level of acceptance, a level of belonging, a level of '**I am important**'."

— Emma, Eligh's mum

Every journey starts somewhere.

Eligh was born three months premature.

As a young child, he barely walked. Adopted from Taiwan at the age of four, even standing on grass for the first time was frightening.

His parents spent years helping him adjust to a new family, a new country and a new life. What they couldn't find was somewhere he truly felt he belonged.

Then everything changed.

When Eligh walked into his first WA Cricket Foundation disability pathway session, he was nervous.

"I knew once I got into the team, I'd be comfortable with the coaches and players," he says. "I've made new connections with the coaches and team, and that's been amazing for me because I like making new friends and connecting."

For the first time, Eligh was surrounded by people who understood him, accepted him and believed in him.

He did not have to work out how to fit in.

He simply belonged.

Belonging unlocked confidence.

His mum, Emma, describes the change as extraordinary.

"There was a level of acceptance, a level of belonging, a level of 'I am important', and a level of leadership. It just gave him that drive and confidence to keep going."

That confidence has carried into every part of Eligh's life.

Today, he coaches younger players, has represented Western Australia, is studying through a specialist cricket education program and dreams of one day playing for Australia.

He found where he belongs.

That sense of belonging changed everything.

Ask his father, Kaine, what life might have looked like without that sense of belonging, and there is no hesitation.

"It would be completely different. I think Eligh's transition into adulthood, he might've been a little bit lost if he didn't have a lane to fit in, because we hadn't found it yet."

Now they have.

Eligh has found his lane, his people and his place.

Because of you...

Because someone believed in Eligh, he now believes in himself.

And like every young person, that is where everything else begins.



Because you chose to care, Ruby discovered that leadership isn't about wearing the captain's armband. It's about helping others believe in themselves.



She discovered leadership starts with believing in others.

Ruby's cricket journey started the way many do: playing backyard cricket with friends before being invited to join a local indoor team.

"I just fell in love with cricket," she says.

This year, the 14-year-old took part in the WA Cricket Foundation's Emerging Leaders program. Through a mix of learning, coaching and practical experience, she discovered that leadership isn't something you're given — it's something you grow.

"My favourite part of the program was learning what makes a good

leader, how I can be a good coach, and how to adapt for the young people I coach outside the program," she says.

Today, Ruby is taking those lessons back to her own community club.

"Being able to take what I've learned back to my community team and teach them that everyone is a leader—not just the coach or the captain—is really exciting."

For Ruby, leadership is no longer about standing in front.

It's about standing beside others.

"I've learned it's about getting

around each other, supporting one another, and at the end of the day, just having fun."

Because of you...

Young people like Ruby aren't just discovering confidence.

They're creating opportunities for others to do the same.

“The biggest thing has been realising I didn’t have to be something completely different that wasn’t me.

I’ve built a lot of confidence, and back myself if I need to.”



Finding her own way to lead.

When Veronica Keen first joined the WA Cricket Foundation's Emerging Leaders program, she never imagined where it would lead.

"My mum just signed me up," she laughs. "I gave it a crack."

What began as one opportunity soon became much more.

The program introduced Veronica to new friendships, new mentors and a stronger connection to culture.

"It definitely got me connected with some of the other girls and coaches."

Over time, those experiences

reshaped the way she saw leadership.

"I used to think there was only one way to be a leader," she says.

"I've learned that's probably not my style.

I'm more about leading by example."

Today, Veronica has captained Western Australia at the National Indigenous Inclusion Championships, works with WA Cricket delivering programs that once inspired her, and is helping create opportunities for the next generation.

But when she reflects on her journey, the greatest change isn't the titles she's earned.

It's the confidence she's found.

"The biggest thing has been realising I didn't have to be something completely different that wasn't me.

I've built a lot of confidence, and back myself if I need to."

Because you chose to care, young people in Strelley discovered that **opportunity can arrive in unexpected ways.**

For most of the year, sport at Strelley Community School means footy. The ball comes out at recess, lunch and after school on the red Pilbara soil of the Ngurra Kujungka people. Cricket had never really been part of the picture.

That changed when the WA Cricket Foundation visited the school's remote campuses at Strelley and Warralong. For many young people, it was the first time they had ever picked up a cricket bat.

But what they discovered was much bigger than sport.

"It's really important that young people get to experience different types of sports," Principal Rutu Were says.

"They're quite familiar with footy, and this was the first time I'd seen cricket come into our school."

For a community where English is a second language for many students, the game became something everyone could share.

"It has no boundaries in terms of age," Rutu says. "Everyone can play, so they can bring in parents, uncles or even their little ones."

The equipment stayed behind. So did the opportunity.

Cricket is now part of the school's sports curriculum, creating new opportunities for students to play, learn and connect.

A few months later, two students travelled to Perth for the Kambarang Cricket Carnival at the WACA Ground.

For young people growing up hundreds of kilometres from the city, it meant a series of firsts. Their first flight. Their first visit to Perth. Their first time seeing one of Australia's great sporting venues.

An 11-year-old student still smiles when she remembers speaking into a microphone on the WACA Ground.

"We played cricket and spoke on the microphone on the oval," she says.

Back home, she proudly shared photos of red dirt, native bush and brightly painted cricket bats decorated in traditional style.

A young Indigenous girl with long brown hair is running outdoors, smiling and holding a yellow ball. She is wearing a white t-shirt with a colorful graphic of a superhero and light blue shorts. The background shows a wooden building, a green hose, and some trees under bright sunlight.

For Indigenous Sports Development Officer Gavin McMeekin, those memories are exactly why the program matters.

“Young people from these communities don’t often get to come down to Perth,” he says. “When they do, they’re absolutely stoked. They get to meet other young people, make new friends and bring those stories home.”

That sense of connection lasts long after the trip is over.

For Strelley, cricket hasn’t replaced footy. It has simply created another opportunity. Another reason for families to come together. And another reminder that sometimes the biggest journeys begin with the smallest first experience.

Because of you



Every story you've read began with someone who chose to care.

We hope these stories remind you of the extraordinary difference your generosity makes, every day in communities across Western Australia.

Thank you for believing that everyone deserves the opportunity to belong, grow and realise their potential.

Thank you.



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