



PCYC Queensland

# Volunteer Impact Report

2024/2025

[pcyc.org.au](http://pcyc.org.au)







# Introduction



## PCYC Queensland

Volunteers are at the heart of our work at PCYC Queensland. Each day, across our programs and communities, they show up with purpose, empathy and a deep commitment to young people. This report is a reflection of their contribution over the past year and the very real impact they have made.

From mentoring and coaching to behind-the-scenes support and community engagement, our volunteers bring their time, skills and care to every role they take on. Their involvement strengthens our programs and helps create spaces where young people feel safe, included and supported to reach their potential.

What is most powerful is not just the number of hours contributed, but the quality of relationships built along the way. The presence of a trusted adult can be life-changing, and many of our volunteers fill that role every day.

We know that volunteering is a choice. That so many people continue to choose us speaks volumes about their belief in our mission and their trust in the work we do. To every volunteer who has walked through our doors or offered their support in any way this year, thank you. You are helping us build stronger communities and brighter futures for young people.



*Phil Schultz*

**Phil Schultz**  
PCYC Queensland CEO

## Volunteer Services

At PCYC Queensland we are incredibly grateful for the diverse group of amazing volunteers who choose to support our cause. As I travel through the state meeting them, I am always so impressed by what I see: from the energy and enthusiasm of our youngest volunteer teams to the wisdom and steadfast dedication of those with years of volunteering experience behind them.

Each contribution is different, and each is vital to the ongoing success of our programs. From helping young people learn to drive, coaching them, helping in the day-to-day running of our clubs and delivery of our programs, the impact is real and it's felt throughout the entirety of PCYC Queensland.

While diverse in age, background and skills, there are some things which bind all PCYC volunteers together. They all share a desire to see PCYC achieve our mission of building safer, healthier communities through youth development, an innate generosity, a keenness to learn and a willingness to be challenged.

We simply could not achieve what we do without the contribution of volunteers. I see this every day. Thank you to all PCYC volunteers for your support, time, vision and commitment.

**Andy Parkinson**  
Volunteer Services Manager





# Our Impact



## From teens to seniors – PCYC Queensland volunteering offers something for all

What do 19-year-old Ava Knihinick and 82-year-old David Gill have in common? They are both dedicated PCYC Queensland volunteers, showing age is no barrier when it comes to assisting the charity with its mission.

Ava Knihinick, 19, an Adult Leader in PCYC Queensland's Emergency Services Cadets (ESC) program is one such inspiring volunteer. Ava has been involved in the ESC program since 2019.

Ava juggles her commitment to ESC with studying to become paramedic and working as a tennis coach. Ava believes her time as a PCYC volunteer has helped her gain the support and experience to pursue her career path.

Ava advocates for other young people (especially women) to enter the emergency services.

"I think it's important for women to have mentors. It goes back to the concept of 'if you can see it, you can be it,'" she said.

"Having role models is essential to show young women that it can be done.

"It gives young women confidence in themselves to achieve their goals and strive for success."

At 82, David Gill is proud to be one of PCYC Queensland's oldest volunteers. As a driver-mentor for the Braking The Cycle program for more than four years, David provides safe driving mentorship to young drivers seeking to gain their licence.

David said he gets great satisfaction from seeing the direct, practical outcomes of his volunteering in his community.

"The main reward for me is to see the young people I mentor get their licence – and go on to get the job they were seeking – it changes their lives and you can see them grow in confidence," he said.

"Volunteering with the Braking The Cycle program and seeing the community outcomes, really is at the essence of what PCYC Queensland is all about."

A 2025 evaluation undertaken by MAIC and Queensland University of Technology found that drivers who had participated in Braking The Cycle had incurred significantly fewer traffic offences of any type and were involved in fewer crashes when compared to a matched control group.



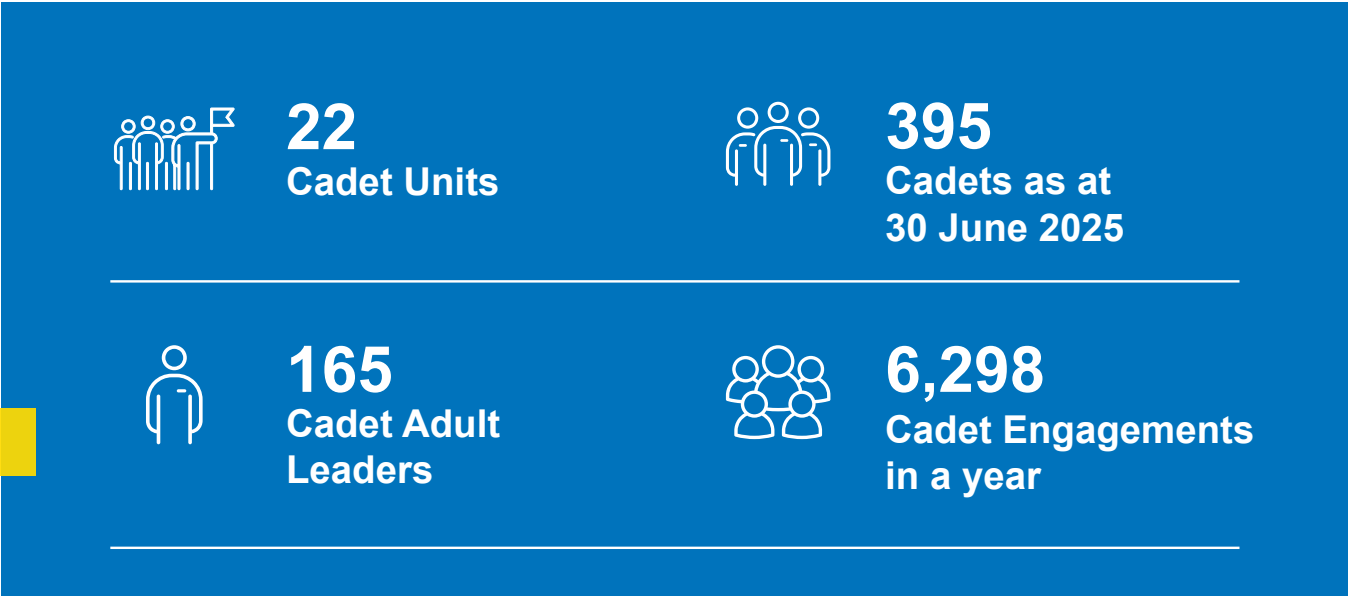
In 2025, Braking The Cycle was shortlisted as a finalist for the Community Impact Award in the 2025 Queensland Volunteering Awards.

This is a reflection of the passion and dedication of our team of volunteer mentors who help young people gain their licence and learn about safety on the roads.

In Braking The Cycle, and across all our clubs and programs, volunteers really are the heroes who ensure PCYC Queensland continues to make such a huge impact in the lives of young people.



# Emergency Services Cadets



## ESC graduates in the community

Congratulations to Jack Daw on being the inaugural recipient of the Mark Ryan Outstanding Achievement Award. Jack, who is a member of the PCYC Emergency Services Cadets, showed tremendous bravery, courage and leadership during a recent emergency near Gin Gin. Jack and his dad Steve saved a driver from a burning vehicle just seconds before it erupted into flames.

Former ESC Cadet Kayden Holmes is now a Firefighter with Queensland Fire and Rescue (QFD) Halifax Station. Kayden is a recent ESC graduate and always showed enthusiasm and an excellent work ethic, rarely missing a training session. He attained the respect of his fellow cadets and students at school. We are very proud of Kayden and his accomplishments.



Above: Jack Daw, recipient of the Mark Ryan Outstanding Achievement  
Below: Recent ESC graduate, Cadet Kayden Holmes



# Youth Leadership Team – the next generation of volunteers

Our Youth Leadership Teams make a difference in all corners of Queensland, volunteering their time for a good cause:

PCYC Yarrabah's Youth Leadership Team partnered with Tangaroa Blue for a Reef Clean, removing more than 100kg of marine debris from the reef; sorting, recycling and disposing of it. The YLT worked hard, ensuring the largest marine debris haul of any ReefClean at Green Island over the last 20 years.

PCYC Crestmead's YLT is a diverse group who roll up their sleeves and offers help wherever it's needed, from packing emergency hampers for people experiencing homelessness in Logan, to washing PCYC vehicles, to supporting the annual CAOS community event.

The YLT at PCYC Mareeba are always busy in the community, supporting events like the ANZAC Day Dawn Service, the local rodeo, Mareeba Child Protection Fun Day, assisting with club upkeep and cleaning, and washing our BTC vehicles.

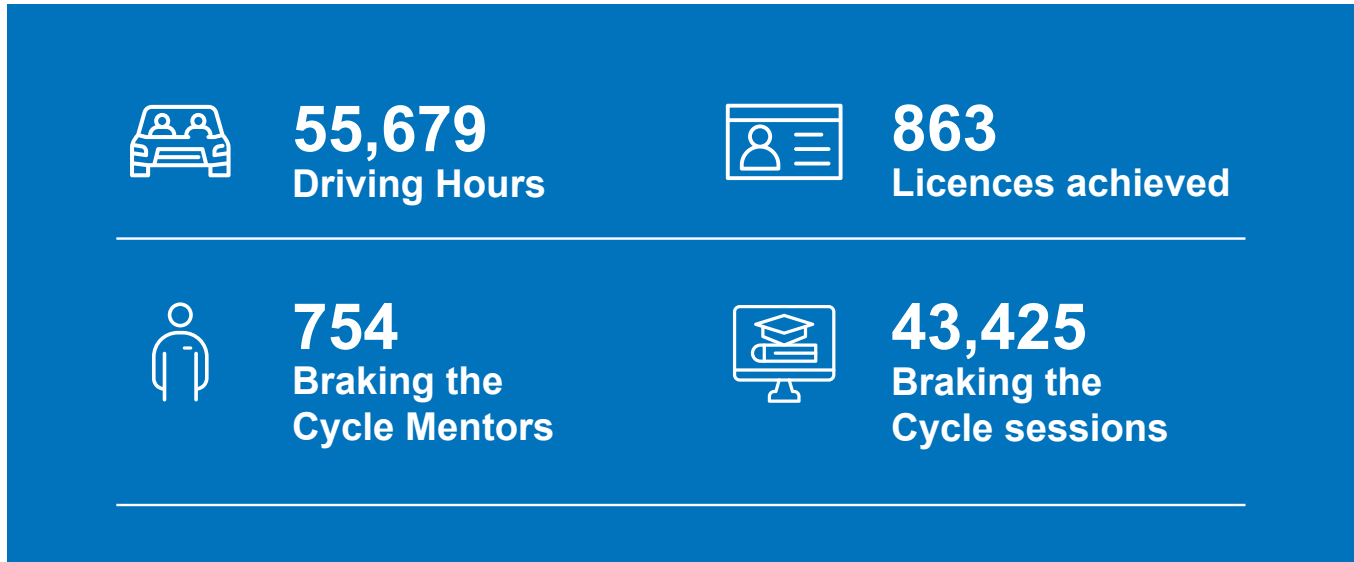


Above: ReefClean with PCYC Yarrabah's Youth Leadership Team at Green Island  
Below: PCYC Crestmead's Youth Leadership Team (left) and PCYC Mareeba's Youth Leadership Team (bottom right)





Braking The Cycle



PCYC Logan's Braking The Cycle team



Braking The Cycle Volunteer Driver Mentor Ken McKay celebrates his 82nd birthday

National Volunteer Week Events – showing our appreciation

Logan Village Fun Squad joined National Volunteer Week with a week's worth of volunteering their time to help at our school, our Service and at home. Some of the children volunteered to run our Yarning circle group time, and a leadership program.

Braking The Cycle Logan hosted a Braking The Cycle Mentor Acknowledgment Event, which celebrated the 10-year milestone of senior mentor volunteer, Ken McKay as well as Ken's 82nd birthday.

We celebrated PCYC Zillmere's incredible volunteers who make all of our youth programs and activities possible. They hold roles such as Braking The Cycle mentor drivers, After Dark Basketball coaches and supervisors, Boxing coaches and supervisors, Line Dancing supervisor, garden maintenance, Youth Leadership Team mentors and participants,youth work students, event and office assistants, general SOS helpers and more.

Many clubs across Queensland hosted celebrations and presentations, including Lawn Bowls at Pine Rivers and Fortitude Valley, Barefoot Bowls at Bundaberg, and morning and afternoon teas at Zillmere, Ipswich and The Hills, and many more across the state.

**Life Members awarded**

**After Dark – Leanne Eggins, PCYC Zillmere**  
2024 recipient of the Elaine Darling Lifetime Contribution for Volunteering Award for her 40 years work as a police officer and PCYC volunteer.



Above: Leanne Eggins, recipient of the 2024 Elaine Darling Lifetime Contribution for Volunteering Award  
Below: Volunteers at PCYC Zillmere





PCYC Volunteering Survey 2024

In 2024, we asked volunteers to tell us what they thought about volunteering with PCYC. We were grateful to receive 385 responses, with volunteers telling us about their experiences and how things can be improved further to enhance the volunteer experience.

The surveys have led to reviews of volunteer training, increased internal support for leaders of volunteers, more communication opportunities about PCYC developments and the creation of this Volunteer Impact Report to better share the great work that volunteers undertake with PCYC.



Volunteer Testimonials



*"The thing I have enjoyed the most about volunteering with PCYC has been seeing the kids go from shy children to confident young adults, and the amazing things that they have achieved since!"*

*"It is some of the most rewarding volunteering I have ever done. I really feel what I contribute makes a difference to many young people's lives."*

*"I wanted to do my little bit in educating, coaching and helping young people to develop good driving habits, so that not only do they obtain their licence, but when they graduate from the program, they are going to be safe drivers and have a long, happy driver career."*

Volunteers: at the heart of all we do



The strength of our organisation is deeply rooted in the time, energy and care our volunteers bring to every aspect of our work. Their commitment continues to shape our services and build trust in our community. Every hour given and every connection made adds depth to what we are able to achieve.

To all PCYC Volunteers: thank you. Your contributions, often behind the scenes, are seen and felt far beyond the immediate outcomes. This organisation is stronger, more responsive and transforms more young lives because of you.

As we look to the future, we know there is still much to do. If you're considering getting involved, we welcome you with open arms. Whether you have time to spare regularly or occasionally, your presence matters. Together, we can continue to build something meaningful and lasting.



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