**Not for us without us. A case study of co-design of a new youth outreach mental health service for Perth**

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Young people with severe and/or complex mental health needs often disengage from mainstream mental health services, for a variety of reasons. It was determined that the best way to design a new, accessible service that would meet their needs would be to invite young people to collaborate in the design of that service.

At the end of 2019, with support from the WA Primary Health Alliance, Mercycare undertook a 4-month co-design process to develop a new outreach model to provide clinical mental health in community settings. This process drew from the lived experiences of young people, insights from diverse mental health and community workers, as well as literature and research about best practice in supporting young people with complex needs. Expertise was blended with local knowledge from our steering committee members and youth consultation group to create a new approach.

This presentation will take attendees through our co-design process, showcasing both process highlights and key insights which led us to reframe our understanding of the ‘missing middle’ and informed the design of the Amber Youth Wellness service model. We will also highlight the ways that we adapted the service model to ensure continuity of care throughout the COVID-19 lockdown.

Attendees will learn about the possibilities, opportunities and strengths that a co-design process can offer in bringing diverse sources of expertise to the table and the tangible impacts it created on service delivery.