The McCusker Centre for Citizenship at The University of Western Australia, established in October 2015, is the first of its kind in Australia.

The Centre was established with a generous endowment from the McCusker Charitable Foundation.

Since our first year, we have forged partnerships with over 250 not-for-profit, community and government organisations.

Our contribution to the community reaches beyond greater metropolitan Perth, to regional, national and international communities.

**OUR VISION**

To foster caring, connected and socially engaged citizens who actively contribute to the wellbeing of their communities.

**OUR PURPOSE**

To create and foster community-minded thinkers and leaders.

To inspire students, and the UWA and WA community, to become active, lifelong contributors to our local, regional and global communities.

To promote awareness about challenging social issues in our communities, and the contribution citizens can make in addressing them.
Alex Arnold, a software engineering student, developed a smartphone app for the Men’s Resource Centre in Albany, aimed at supporting men’s physical and mental health. Alex continued to work on the project voluntarily for the next 18 months after he finished his internship.

The app is now widely available on the Apple App Store and Google Play. It was launched by the WA Health Minister, the Honourable Roger Cook in June 2018.

“The McCusker Centre for Citizenship’s internship program has been extremely valuable to us. Without Alex’s dedication and commitment, the Men’s Resource Centre would be still in the dark ages regarding communication. It’s now so much easier for blokes globally to access our support and information.”

- Grant Westthorp, CEO, Men’s Resource Centre

Riley Dolman, a sports science student, organised and distributed donated sporting equipment to regional and remote communities in northern WA. Riley also ran educational sports and health programs at a week-long camp for 13 Indigenous children from Tom Price, Karratha and Port Hedland at Karijini National Park.

Riley continues to work with Fair Game, completing leadership training and has taken on the role of secretary on its board of directors.

“The McCusker Centre for Citizenship provides a wonderful pathway for students to become involved in helping not-for-profit organisations like ours. We greatly value our partnership as we view active citizenship as vital to building cohesive and strong Western Australian communities.”

- Fair Game CEO, Nicki Bardwell
Law student Felicity Negus, helped draft Start Court’s guidelines of operation, which included all aspects of its goals and operations, from eligibility criteria through to consent and confidentiality issues. Felicity attended meetings and workshops and often did extra hours from home. Felicity was supported in writing the guidelines by the court’s Magistrate, Felicity Zempilas.

“Producing working guidelines for a court like this is actually a huge task. I approached the McCusker Centre for Citizenship at UWA and that process delivered me Felicity. Felicity continues to come in on a voluntary basis and there will definitely be ongoing work for her here.”

- Magistrate Felicity Zempilas, WA’s Mental Health Court Diversion Program (Start Court), Magistrates Court of WA

Joseph Sabbagh, a political science student, worked on electoral engagement with culturally and linguistically diverse communities. Joseph researched the issues and barriers these communities face and reported on the best ways to encourage their participation in the electoral process. Joseph’s research involved reaching out to the communities to conduct interviews and engaging electoral commissions, academics and other stakeholders.

“There is a great need for young people to contribute to internships like the McCusker Centre offers. They can reflect their own personal views and those of their peers, and that’s very important for a bureaucracy to be embedding that type of thinking within its development of programs and policies.”

- Rebecca Ball, Executive Director, Office of Multicultural Interests
Emily worked on two evaluation reports for Mission Australia's Drug and Alcohol Youth Service to identify gaps in the treatment or service facilities currently available to young people in the South West region of Western Australia as well as the Pilbara.

Mission Australia uses these reports to advocate for increased funding and to identify where service improvements could be made in regional areas. The reports were also sent to the Mental Health Commission, WA Primary Health Alliance and the Department of Health.

“Partnering with the McCusker Centre for Citizenship has allowed us to conduct in depth reviews of our current service delivery models in regional and remote areas. The Centre's interns, such as Emily, have exceeded our expectations and have helped us to identify where there is a greater need for our services.”

- Suzanne Caren, Area Manager of Drug and Alcohol Youth Service, Mission Australia

Mathematics and physics student, Jesse Zhou, developed a data collection tool for youth workers at the Armadale Youth Intervention Partnership (AYIP) to improve outcomes for at-risk youth. Jesse designed the tool in a simple format to assist youth workers in their day-to-day collection of data, allowing for greater analysis and reporting, and providing a tangible insight into the overall success of the AYIP model.

“At Save the Children we have been very fortunate to host a number of interns from the McCusker Centre. Like Jesse, the interns have come from a variety of academic backgrounds, including those not traditional to this sector and have contributed with their unique skills and experience, demonstrating that everyone has something to offer.”

- Maria Collazos, Project Design and Development Officer, Save the Children Australia

For more information:

**t:** 08 6488 7873  
**e:** info@mccuskercentre.uwa.edu.au  
**w:** www.mccuskercentre.uwa.edu.au  
**find us on**  
**facebook:** McCuskerCentreForCitizenship