

Hawaiian Ride for Youth

Rider Profile



Fiona Kalaf

Former Youth Focus CEO Fiona Kalaf embarks on fourth Hawaiian Ride for Youth As the former Chief Executive Officer of Youth Focus, Fiona Kalaf knows firsthand the significant positive impact the Hawaiian Ride for Youth has on young people in Western Australia.

During Fiona's time at the helm of Youth Focus, she gained a deep understanding of the level of commitment involved in the iconic event and the extent of its importance to the WA community.

While the Hawaiian Ride for Youth raises a considerable amount of funds for Youth Focus, youth mental health and suicide prevention services, Fiona believes the most important element is the lasting connections that this event creates through awareness-raising.

"The Ride builds meaningful awareness through the sharing of stories with high school students, the many ways in which the hundreds of riders convey positive messages to their broad networks, and the engagement of businesses such as Hawaiian as sponsors and partners," Fiona says.

While in the position of CEO of Youth Focus, Fiona participated in Ride Week several times as support crew. Through this inspiring experience, an undeniable connection to the event and Ride community formed, making participation as a cyclist an almost natural progression.

"Two great friends and Hawaiian Ride for Youth stalwarts cajoled me into signing up to participate as a rider in 2019," Fiona says.

"I'd never ridden a road bike before but was and still am deeply motivated by the impact the Hawaiian Ride for Youth has on young Western Australians."

She reminds herself of this impact when setting the 4:35am alarm the night before early morning training.

"I often face down an internal struggle with whether it would be better to sleep in!" Fiona says.

"Waking up is the easy part because I know my rider friends - a supportive community of like-minded individuals - will be waiting at the start line."

During Fiona's tenure as CEO at Youth Focus, it was always clear to her that the Hawaiian Ride for Youth is a unique and meaningful event that makes a genuine difference to the lives of young Western Australians dealing with mental health issues. Now, as a fourth-year rider viewing the event from a different perspective, this is even more apparent.

"I'm humbled to be part of making a genuine difference and contributing to a positive future for young people while helping to build strong, resilient parents for future generations," Fiona says.

The 20th anniversary Hawaiian Ride for Youth will take place from 22 to 26 March 2022, finishing with a family-friendly festival at Riley Oval at the University of Western Australia.

"I'm most excited to roll over the finish line into the Welcome Home Ceremony alongside 220 best friends, knowing that we have all made real connections along the way and - of course - seeing what the fundraising tally is this year and in total for the 20 years."

Asked why she is riding in the 20th anniversary of the Hawaiian Ride for Youth, Fiona says:

“To contribute to a positive future for our youth - and help build strong, resilient parents for our future generations.”



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Former CEO Youth Focus