

YM23 SESSION REPORT

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Name of Event:	Online Home Groups
Date/Time	<p>Introduction to Home Groups, 5.00pm AEST, Saturday 1 July 2023</p> <p>Daily morning (9.00am AEST) and afternoon (5.00pm AEST, except 3 & 7 July when the starting time was 6.00pm AEST) sessions from Sunday 2 July to Saturday 8 July inclusive.</p> <p>The Junior Young Friends Home Group, coordinated by Lisa Wriley (NSWRM) met at 7.00pm AEST on 1, 3 & 7 July 2023.</p>
Person submitting report	Kerstin Reimers (TRM)
Clerk/Convenor/s	YM23 Home Groups Organisers: Kerstin Reimers (TRM), Tessa Spratt (VRM), Matthew Lykos (SANTRM)
Summary (400 words or less)	<p>Less than half the Friends registered for YM23 chose to join one of 13 morning or afternoon Home Groups. The YM23 Pastoral Care Committee counts as one of the morning groups. Junior Young Friends met in a 14th group with Lisa Wriley (NSWRM) on three evenings during the week. Residential and semi-residential pods formed their own in-person Home Groups.</p> <p>Home Groups offered Friends a way to meet and get to know one another in a small group throughout the Yearly Meeting week—a chance for personal connection, sharing and mutual support in an online environment. Friends who participated greatly valued the experience and expressed gratitude for the resources provided.</p> <p>After an introductory session on Saturday 1 July 2023, Home Groups began on Sunday 2 July with the gracious help of Friends in each group being initial facilitators or back-up Zoom support, if needed. Thank you to these Friends and all who took part.</p> <p>This year, despite being set up as an opt-in arrangement, not everyone was able to come regularly and groups, while deeply engaged, were often quite small. Although Home Groups would also be good for face-to-face Yearly Meetings, we will discern what form might best suit the emerging needs of Friends and the nature of the hybrid gathering planned for YM24.</p>