

## State Budget 2007/08 Information Sheet

### Consumer Protection

<b>WACOSS' Recommendation</b>	<b>Budget Outcome</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<p>WACOSS made no specific recommendations in its 2007 Pre-Budget Submission, however, there are a number of significant developments worth noting in the area of Consumer and Employment Protection.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Government has acknowledged that increasing levels of household debt and higher interest rates will place greater pressure on consumers and that additional policy and compliance options will need to be explored.</li> <li>• The maintenance of current funds towards community protection advice, information and education at \$40.7 million, however, there has been an 8% rise in the average cost per service in offering advice or assistance.</li> <li>• Additional Indigenous consumer protection strategies including the 'Book-up' initiative, aimed at vulnerable consumers in the Kimberley.</li> <li>• To finalise a scoping project looking at needs of indigenous organisations in regards to consumer and employment protection.</li> <li>• Develop unfair contract terms legislation for WA.</li> </ul>	<p>These are good initiatives, and will need ongoing monitoring, particularly re household debt.</p> <p>WACOSS is also submitting a paper to the Productivity Commission inquiry into Consumer Protection frameworks this month.</p>