



State Budget 2005/06 Information Sheet Justice and Community Safety

While none of the WACOSS recommendations were addressed in the budget, WACOSS commends the government for its commitment to further develop the State Crime Prevention Strategy. Of particular note, the government has committed \$3.2 million to the Community Safety and Crime Prevention Fund to support local government and community organization grant projects.

WACOSS Recommendation	Government's Pre-election Commitment ¹	Budget Outcome
Supporting Seniors to feel safer through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing an adequate and visible police presence in public places and local communities • Subsidising alarms for low income seniors • Funding a peer support crime prevention initiative 	Have a range of strategies aimed at supporting seniors to feel safer. No specific commitment to WACOSS recommendations.	The Operating Budget for the Police service has increased by 7.2%. An additional 80 Police will be recruited.
Increase resources to housing and support services to reduce recidivism	State Homelessness Strategy will determine future resources allocated to housing and support for people exiting the prison services. No specific commitment to WACOSS recommendations re: funds.	No specific budget allocation.
Increase resources to community legal centres to the base level over a two-year period. \$3.273 million (including indexation) is required from the State Government in 2005 – 2006	The State and Commonwealth have agreed to work on a Memorandum of Understanding to progress co-operative expansion of the CLC program in identified areas of need. No specific commitment re: funds.	Opening two new Legal Aid regional services in Albany and Geraldton. No specific commitment from the budget regarding CLC's
Repeal Mandatory Sentencing laws.	The State Government has been upfront in its opposition to the repeal of mandatory sentencing laws.	No change

¹ This is an abridged version of the Government's response to WACOSS Pre-Budget Submission, for further details please refer to WACOSS' *The Social Issues Scorecard*