



“The Boom is Busted for 400,000 of Us”

WACOSS Cost of Living Paper

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Executive Summary

The cost of living in Western Australia has been greatly influenced by the impact that the economic boom is having on the price of goods and services. The boom has resulted in increased business investment in WA, increased revenue gains for State Government and substantial increases in the wages paid to workers in sectors such as finance, mining and construction.

However, this 'boom' is not producing benefits for all Western Australians. In fact, it is producing adverse conditions for many people who live on fixed and low incomes, because of their limited ability to absorb the escalating costs associated with maintaining a decent standard of life.

This paper shows that from 2006 to 2008, household costs have increased by approximately \$132per/week, or 23%, just on basic living expenses. During the same period, average wages in WA have increased by \$61, or 10.7%.

While it is difficult to accurately track living costs and household expenditure patterns, there are some useful indicators that contribute to the general picture of costs pressures. The Consumer Price Index (CPI) produced by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) is the most commonly used indicator of the cost of living. However, even the ABS recognises the limitations of the CPI and warns that a "true cost-of-living index, among other things, would need to be concerned with changes in standards of living and with the substitutions that consumers make in order to maintain their standard of living when faced with changing market conditions".¹

Furthermore, the CPI 'basket of goods' includes many non-essential items such as holidays, computing and audio-visual equipment. As low-income earners spend a proportionately high amount of their income on essential, not luxury items, the CPI is not an accurate way of measuring their real cost of living.

The data used in this paper is drawn from a number of sources (including the CPI) and the conclusions presented are in no way intended as evidence of living costs and/or household expenditure patterns. Rather, the paper highlights price rises which are placing a strain on the budgets of Western Australians living on low and fixed incomes. It provides indicative data to demonstrate the continued trend in escalating living costs in WA for the past two years, for basic living costs such as housing, transport, food and basic essentials.

The purpose is to attempt to take percentage increases which are commonly tracked, and consider the cost increases in dollar terms. In order to do so, the paper makes a series of assumptions which are referenced and sourced from the most current available data.

It is also important to consider that the figures used in this paper are averages, and that many families on fixed and low incomes may have to absorb higher than average costs for basic living essentials while living on a lower than average wage.

WACOSS Scenario – Cost of Living

Price increases in basic essentials like housing, food and transport are placing low and fixed income families in Western Australia under increasing pressure.

Community service agencies report that the number of people struggling to make ends meet is growing. 9750 people were turned away from community service organisations in WA in 2006-07. 81% of these people were eligible for the service, but were turned away due to the services operating at maximum capacity.²

The scenario below in Table 1 draws a picture of the effects rising living costs are having on low and fixed income families. **It shows that from 2006 to 2008, household costs have increased by approximately \$132per/week, or 23%, just on basic living expenses. During the same period, average wages in WA have increased by \$61, or 10.7%.**

After taking into account the average wage increase for the WACOSS Scenario family, its net position has deteriorated by \$71 per week. During the 24 month period, the cost of living for these families is rising at a rate of more than 2.16 times the increase in average wages in WA.

In addition to this, many families on fixed and low incomes may fall below the average wage growth but will still have to absorb all these cost pressures, endangering them of falling further behind and slipping into poverty and debt cycles.

Table 1. WACOSS Cost of Living Scenario

	Income	Food and non-alcoholic beverages	Housing ³	Fuel	Medical Care & Health Expenses	Childcare Expenses (5 – 9 hrs/wk)	Total Expenses	Income <i>minus</i> Expenses (left to spend on other items)
June 2006	\$565 ⁴	\$174 ⁵	\$240	\$54 ⁶	\$54 ⁷	\$30 ⁸	\$552	\$13
June 2007	\$592 ⁹	\$191 ¹⁰	\$290	\$52 ¹¹	\$56 ¹²	\$34 ¹³	\$623	- \$31
June 2008	\$626 ¹⁴	\$195 ¹⁵	\$330 ¹⁶	\$63 ¹⁷	\$58 ¹⁸	\$38	\$684	- \$27
2 Year Increase	\$61	\$21	\$90	\$9	\$4	\$8	Weekly increase \$132p/w	Net Position -\$58 p/w

Table 1.1. WACOSS Cost of Living Summary

Year	Income	Income increase	Expense	Expenses increase	Balance
06-07	\$592	\$27	\$623	\$71	- \$31
07-08	\$626	\$34	\$684	\$61	- \$27
TOTAL		\$61		\$132	- \$58

Assumptions:

This household is a family with only one parent in full time employment, renting with two dependent age children. 'Typical' additional household expenses *not* included in the scenario are items such as clothing and footwear, education, financial fees/insurance, motor vehicle maintenance/repairs and recreation, electricity, gas and water.

Therefore, the costs associated with running this household are considered to be very conservative, in that they do not take into account the many other cost pressures facing families on a fixed or low income.

NB: The 'WACOSS Scenario – Cost of Living' is a hypothetical scenario based on a number of referenced assumptions, with figures drawn from a variety of available sources. The scenario is in no way intended to be a comprehensive or precise reflection of living costs and/or household expenditure.

Housing

Rental costs for a three bedroom home

Safe, affordable and accessible housing is a basic human right. A stable home environment provides people with a base from which to access employment, basic amenities and community services. Housing is vital in protecting individuals and families from disadvantage and social exclusion.

It is becoming increasingly difficult for many West Australians on a fixed or low income to secure rental accommodation, let alone purchase a home of their own. Perth has undergone a rapid and sustained increase in the median rent, from \$189 in June 2005, to \$290 in June 2007, and then to \$330 in June 2008. This represents an increase from 2005-2008 of almost 58%.¹⁹

On the supply side, there has also been a significant reduction in private rental vacancies in WA, from a ten year high of 4.8% in mid 2003, to a record low of 0.8% in June 2008.²⁰

Table 2 shows examples of the difference in average rental prices during the June quarters in 2006 and 2007, compared to the June quarter in 2008.

Again, it is important to consider that these accommodation prices are averages, and many families may be forced to pay well above these figures, depending on where they live.

Table 2. Metropolitan Rental Average Prices

Suburb	Average Rental June 2006	Average Rental June 2007	12 month Increase	Average Rental June 2008	12 month Increase
Perth Average	\$240	\$290	\$50	\$330	\$40
Ardross	\$195	\$360	\$165	\$375	\$15
Armadale	\$195	\$223	\$28	\$305	\$82
Balga	\$206	\$256	\$50	\$301	\$45
Cottesloe	\$367	\$460	\$93	\$766	\$306
Kalamunda	\$200	\$250	\$50	\$314	\$64
Midland	\$180	\$250	\$70	\$270	\$20
Rockingham	\$193	\$250	\$57	\$310	\$60
Spearwood	\$250	\$290	\$40	\$295	\$5
Wanneroo	\$195	\$286	\$91	\$315	\$29
Suburb Average	\$220	\$291	\$71	\$361	\$69

Source: REIWA Home Rental Survey www.reiwa.com

Regional Rental Accommodation

While the WACOSS Scenario does not take into account rental accommodation costs for regional WA, Table 2.1 shows comparative weekly rentals for areas such as Broome, Port Hedland and Mt Newman. These prices have increased starkly due to increased demand from the influx of people to these areas, servicing the mining and resources boom.

Table 2.1. Regional Rental Average Prices

Location	Rent (per/week)
Broome - Derby	\$300 - \$700
Halls Creek	\$300 - \$400
South West/Great Southern	\$175 - \$480
Karratha - Roebourne	\$800 - \$1500
Port Hedland	\$800 - \$1400
Mt Newman	\$800+

Source: WACOSS Survey - Accommodation for Community Service Workers in Remote Western Australia (December 2007)

Transport

Access to transport is a key determinant of disadvantage: a socially sustainable society is one where all people can access employment, education, services and recreational opportunities. The gap between those who can easily travel to these opportunities and those who cannot, reinforces patterns of wealth and poverty in the community.

Low income households in Western Australia face a number of challenges in accessing affordable transport. Low income households generally have the greatest dependence on private car transport due to their need to reside in less expensive outer suburban areas, which are generally not serviced by effective public transport.

Table 3 indicates that between January 2002 and June 2008, weekly average expenditure on petrol in the metropolitan region increased by \$30.36. Over a year, according to this model, a family living in metropolitan WA would be spending approximately \$3,265 per year on fuel in 2008 compared to \$1,685 in 2002 - an increase of \$1,580.

In non-metropolitan regions the amount is even higher, with the total increase being \$64.21 per week, amounting to an annual total increase of \$3,339 on 2002 costs. Over a year, according to this model, a family living in non-metropolitan WA would be spending approximately \$7,110 per year on fuel in 2008 compared to \$3,770 in 2002. In the March 2008 quarter, the main driver of Perth's CPI increase was automotive fuel, up 6.6%²¹.

Table 3. Average Price For ULP In All Regions Between Jan 2002 And Jun 2008

Date	Metro	Increase on previous	Av Metro Cost Per Week (40L)#	Non-Metro Average	Increase on previous	Non-Metro vs Metro Gap	Av Non-Metro Cost Per Week (80L)*
Jan-02	81.10		\$ 32.44	90.64		9.54	\$ 72.51
Jun-02	87.20	6.10	\$ 34.88	97.90	7.26	10.70	\$ 78.32
Jan-03	94.40	7.20	\$ 37.76	102.54	4.64	8.14	\$ 82.03
Jun-03	86.20	-8.20	\$ 34.48	97.01	-5.52	10.81	\$ 77.61
Jan-04	93.80	7.60	\$ 37.52	104.19	7.18	10.39	\$ 83.35
Jun-04	98.40	4.60	\$ 39.36	112.64	8.45	14.24	\$ 90.11
Jan-05	94.60	-3.80	\$ 37.84	109.56	-3.08	14.96	\$ 87.65
Jun-05	104.30	9.70	\$ 41.72	118.31	8.75	14.01	\$ 94.65
Jan-06	117.70	13.40	\$ 47.08	129.65	11.34	11.95	\$ 103.72
Jun-06	135.50	17.80	\$ 54.20	147.50	17.85	12.00	\$ 118.00
Jan-07	115.20	-20.30	\$ 46.08	129.50	-18.00	14.30	\$ 103.60
Jun-07	129.90	14.70	\$ 51.96	144.24	14.74	14.34	\$ 115.39
Jan-08	138.6	8.7	\$ 55.44	150.4	6.16	11.8	\$ 120.32
Jun-08	157.8	19.2	\$ 62.80	170.9	20.5	13.1	\$ 136.72
Total Rise			\$ 30.36				\$ 64.21

Metropolitan area:

Assumed Average Fuel Usage = 40L/week for approximately 40km/day (based on NRMA estimates of average use 15,000km per year and general estimate of fuel usage of 14km/L)

Weekly fuel expenditure has risen by about \$20 over the past 5 years

This will be higher for families who travel further each day

* Non Metropolitan area

Assumed Average Fuel Usage = 80L/week for approximately 80km/day (based on double metropolitan usage figures). Weekly fuel expenditure has risen by about \$43 over the past 5 years

This will be a lot higher for some families who travel regularly in the outer metropolitan area

Source: Fuelwatch by DOCEP www.fuelwatch.wa.gov.au

Food and Basic Essentials

For low income households the majority of income is spent on housing, transport, food and basic essentials. Price rises in these areas have a significant impact on the standard of living for these individuals and families.

Table 4 shows an annual comparison of retail prices of selected items and Table 4.1 shows that the price of food and basic essentials in Perth rose by 11.7% between June 2006 and June 2008²¹. The price of food in regional WA has risen even more sharply as a flow-on from increased transport costs.

Table 4. Comparison of Perth Average Retail Prices of Selected Items

	2006	2007	2008
Dairy products			
Milk (2 litre)	2.96	3.13	3.57
Cheese, processed, sliced, (500g)	4.36	4.87	5.26
Butter (500g)(a)	2.99	3.18	4.67
Bread and cereal products			
Bread white loaf, sliced (650g)(b)	2.64	3.04	3.25
Flour, self raising (2 kg)	4.06	4.52	3.8
Rice, long grain (1 kg)	2.02	2.25	2.64
Meat and Seafood			
Loin chops (1 kg)	14.16	14.83	18.53
Chicken, frozen (1 kg)(d)	3.97	4.54	6.05
Bacon, middle rashers (250 g pkt)	4.92	5.16	5.36
Sausages (1 kg)	5.55	6.16	6.81
Fresh fruit and vegetables (e)			
Oranges (1 kg)	3.57	4.14	3.37
Potatoes (1 kg)	1.99	2.13	2.62
Tomatoes (1 kg)	4.27	4.9	4.2
Carrots (1 kg)	1.46	1.44	1.59
Onions (1 kg)	2.01	2	2.12
Processed fruit and vegetables			
Peaches (825 g can)	2.93	3.45	3.6
Pineapple, sliced (450 g can)	1.66	1.96	2.04
Peas, frozen (500 g pkt)	1.42	1.73	1.91
Other food			
Eggs (1 dozen)(d),(f)	3.86	4.69	4.76
Sugar, white (2 kg)(d)	2.34	2.89	2.85
Jam, strawberry (500 g jar)	3.05	3.18	3.4
Teabags (180 g pkt)	3.54	3.71	3.99
Coffee, instant (150 g jar)	6.32	7.3	7.81
Tomato sauce (600 ml)	1.71	1.74	1.91
Margarine, poly-unsaturated (500 g)	2.65	2.81	3.04
Baked beans, in tomato sauce (420 g)	1.34	1.4	1.45
Baby food (120 g can)	0.81	0.95	1.09
Household supplies			
Laundry detergent (1 kg)	5.89	5.88	5.64
Dishwashing detergent (450 ml)	3.67	3.39	3.6
Facial tissues (pkt 180)	2.16	2.24	2.13
Toilet paper (8 x 190 sheet rolls)	5.32	6.72	6.27
Pet food (400 g)	1.17	1.13	1.08
TOTAL	\$110.77	\$121.46	\$123.76

Table 4.1. Increases in Perth Average Retail Prices of Selected Items

	Increase (\$) 06-07	Increase (\$) 07-08	Increase (\$) 06-08	Increase (%) 06-07	Increase (%) 07-08	Increase (%) 06-08
Dairy products	0.87	2.32	3.19	8.4%	20.8%	30.9%
Milk (2 litre)	0.17	0.44	0.61	5.7%	14.1%	20.6%
Cheese, processed, sliced, (500g)	0.51	0.39	0.9	11.7%	8.0%	20.6%
Butter (500g)(a)	0.19	1.49	1.68	6.4%	46.9%	56.2%
Bread and cereal products	1.09	-0.12	0.97	12.5%	-1.2%	11.1%
Bread white loaf, sliced (650g)(b)	0.4	0.21	0.61	15.2%	6.9%	23.1%
Flour, self raising (2 kg)	0.46	-0.72	-0.26	11.3%	-15.9%	-6.4%
Rice, long grain (1 kg)	0.23	0.39	0.62	11.4%	17.3%	30.7%
Meat and Seafood	2.09	6.06	8.15	7.3%	19.7%	28.5%
Loin chops (1 kg)	0.67	3.7	4.37	4.7%	24.9%	30.9%
Chicken, frozen (1 kg)(d)	0.57	1.51	2.08	14.4%	33.3%	52.4%
Bacon, middle rashers (250 g pkt)	0.24	0.2	0.44	4.9%	3.9%	8.9%
Sausages (1 kg)	0.61	0.65	1.26	11.0%	10.6%	22.7%
Fresh fruit and vegetables	1.31	-0.71	0.6	9.8%	-4.9%	4.5%
Oranges (1 kg)	0.57	-0.77	-0.2	16.0%	-18.6%	-5.6%
Potatoes (1 kg)	0.14	0.49	0.63	7.0%	23.0%	31.7%
Tomatoes (1 kg)	0.63	-0.7	-0.07	14.8%	-14.3%	-1.6%
Carrots (1 kg)	-0.02	0.15	0.13	-1.4%	10.4%	8.9%
Onions (1 kg)	-0.01	0.12	0.11	-0.5%	6.0%	5.5%
Processed fruit and vegetables	1.13	0.41	1.54	18.8%	5.7%	25.6%
Peaches (825 g can)	0.52	0.15	0.67	17.7%	4.3%	22.9%
Pineapple, sliced (450 g can)	0.3	0.08	0.38	18.1%	4.1%	22.9%
Peas, frozen (500 g pkt)	0.31	0.18	0.49	21.8%	10.4%	34.5%
Other food	3.05	1.64	4.68	11.9%	5.7%	18.3%
Eggs (1 dozen)(d),(f)	0.83	0.07	0.9	21.5%	1.5%	23.3%
Sugar, white (2 kg)(d)	0.55	-0.03	0.51	23.5%	-1.0%	21.8%
Jam, strawberry (500 g jar)	0.13	0.22	0.35	4.3%	6.9%	11.5%
Teabags (180 g pkt)	0.17	0.28	0.45	4.8%	7.5%	12.7%
Coffee, instant (150 g jar)	0.98	0.51	1.49	15.5%	7.0%	23.6%
Tomato sauce (600 ml)	0.03	0.17	0.2	1.8%	9.8%	11.7%
Margarine, poly-unsaturated (500g)	0.16	0.23	0.39	6.0%	8.2%	14.7%
Baked beans, in tomato sauce (420g)	0.06	0.05	0.11	4.5%	3.6%	8.2%
Baby food (120 g can)	0.14	0.14	0.28	17.3%	14.7%	34.6%
Household supplies	1.15	-0.54	0.51	6.3%	-2.8%	2.8%
Laundry detergent (1 kg)	-0.01	-0.24	-0.25	-0.2%	-4.1%	-4.2%
Dishwashing detergent (450ml)	-0.28	0.21	-0.07	-7.6%	6.2%	-1.9%
Facial tissues (pkt 180)	0.08	-0.11	-0.03	3.7%	-4.9%	-1.4%
Toilet paper (8 x 190 sheet rolls)	1.4	-0.45	0.95	26.3%	-6.7%	17.9%
Pet food (400 g)	-0.04	0.05	-0.09	-3.4%	4.4%	-7.7%
TOTAL	\$10.69	\$2.30	\$12.99	9.7%	1.9%	11.7%

Source: ABS Average Retail Prices of Selected Items, Eight Capital Cities (Perth), June 2008

Conclusion

The WACOSS Scenario Household has slipped further behind in the last twelve months, to a net position of -\$58 each week. The average income earned by this household is no longer enough for them to live within their means, if they live according to average expenses.

What this paper shows is that the Western Australian boom is forcing families backwards. This is not only affecting families on average incomes, who are now forced to consume below average expenses, but also those living on below average wages, which is 20% of the population.

For low income earners and people experiencing disadvantage, the cost of living in WA is rising much faster than their incomes, creating significant financial hardship. For those 92,541 households in the Perth-Mandurah area who received a gross weekly income of less than \$500 (19.8% of all households)²², increases in rental costs, transport, food and basic essentials are especially difficult to manage.

Community service agencies report that the number of people struggling to make ends meet is growing. 9750 people were turned away from community service organisations in WA in 2006-07. 81% of these people were eligible for the service, but were turned away due to the services operating at maximum capacity.²³

For these individuals and families, it is important also to differentiate between price changes in non-essential and essential items. Research has shown that falls in the prices of luxury and non-essential items cause the CPI to fall.²⁴ For the June 2008 quarter, significant decreases in the CPI were in non-essential expenditure areas such as: audio, visual and computing equipment (-5.8%)²⁵ and holiday travel/accommodation (-2.0%)²⁶.

As low income earners spend a proportionately high amount of their income on essential, not luxury items, this gives a false sense of their cost of living.

The headline inflation figure of 4.5% is hiding more rapid increases in the price of food and basic essentials. For example, the most significant price rises in the March 2008 quarter CPI were for essential items: fuel (+6.6%), vegetables (+6.6%), fruit (+6.2%), and rents (+3.4%).²⁷

In simple terms, this paper has shown that while the WA Wage Price Index rose by 5.8% from June 2007 to June 2008, the cost of living has risen more sharply. Furthermore, those on a fixed and low income have not necessarily felt the benefit of this wage increase, and continue to bear the added pressures of substantial increases in the cost of living.

The current economic boom looks set to continue, as do the cost of living pressures associated with such stark increases in the cost of goods and services. With these costs escalating and nothing in sight to reverse the trend, a social policy commitment from Government is desperately needed to support those being disadvantaged by the boom.

For WACOSS policy recommendations to address the impacts of the rising cost of living, see the relevant factsheets at www.wacosselection2008.org

Please refer also to the WACOSS paper "The Rising Cost of Essential Services" (June 2008), available online at www.wacoss.org.au

¹ ABS (2005) A Guide to the Consumer Price Index: 15th Series, ABS cat 6440.0, online at [http://www.ausstats.abs.gov.au/ausstats/subscriber.nsf/0/A0C0F582E0909660CA2570A60000A4C1/\\$File/64400_2005.pdf](http://www.ausstats.abs.gov.au/ausstats/subscriber.nsf/0/A0C0F582E0909660CA2570A60000A4C1/$File/64400_2005.pdf) pp3-4

² Australian Council of Social Service, *Australian Community Sector Survey Report 2008*, Strawberry Hills, NSW, June 2008, p.86.

³ Perth's median rent has risen approximately 20.8% from \$240 in June 2006 (as stated by Shelter WA's State of Affordable Housing in WA Paper (pg3)), online at <http://www.shelterwa.org.au/publications/resandproj/Shelter%20Affordable%20Housing.%202006%20Final%20Master%20Copy.pdf>, to \$290 per week in June 2007, as recorded by REIWA Property Market Indicators June 2007, online at <http://reiwa.com/Art/Art-Public-View.cfm?PageUID=603066cf51106f5b3f5f-17-Aug-2007-10:06:05:806&ID=9182>.

⁴ \$565 is the third quintile of mean income per week of the *2005/06 ABS Household Income and Income Distribution Survey*: [http://www.ausstats.abs.gov.au/ausstats/subscriber.nsf/0/447BC40F0713F454CA25732A00258F43/\\$File/65230_2005-06.pdf](http://www.ausstats.abs.gov.au/ausstats/subscriber.nsf/0/447BC40F0713F454CA25732A00258F43/$File/65230_2005-06.pdf)

⁵ WACOSS calculation based on the *2003/04 ABS Household Expenditure Survey* (pg 3) of average weekly expenditure on food and non-alcoholic drinks (\$156)

[http://www.ausstats.abs.gov.au/ausstats/subscriber.nsf/0/6D5F1DDFF4729C60CA25705900755727/\\$File/65300_2003-04.pdf](http://www.ausstats.abs.gov.au/ausstats/subscriber.nsf/0/6D5F1DDFF4729C60CA25705900755727/$File/65300_2003-04.pdf)

plus the rise in CPI in Perth food prices from Sept 2004 to Sept 2006 (11.5%) in ABS Feature Article: *Drivers of Perth's Rising Prices*

<http://abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/featurearticlesbyCatalogue/EA8402AA87277338CA2572B2001297DE?OpenDocument>

⁶ Based on the June 06 metro figure from Average price for ULP in All Regions between 1-Jan-2002 and 30-Jun-2007 table (see page 3 of *Rising Cost of Living – WACOSS Paper*)

⁷ WACOSS calculation based on T2 of the *2003/04 ABS Household Expenditure Survey* (Detailed Version) of average weekly expenditure on medical care and health expenses (\$50)

[http://www.ausstats.abs.gov.au/ausstats/subscriber.nsf/0/0B6D19EF51D50EABCA2571150076FCFA/\\$File/6535055001_2003_04%20r%20feb06.xls](http://www.ausstats.abs.gov.au/ausstats/subscriber.nsf/0/0B6D19EF51D50EABCA2571150076FCFA/$File/6535055001_2003_04%20r%20feb06.xls)

plus the 7.6% average yearly rise up to 2006 in medical and hospital expenses as described on pg 170 of the *2007 ABS Australian Social Trends* publication

[http://www.ausstats.abs.gov.au/ausstats/subscriber.nsf/0/51EE403E951E7FDACA25732F001CAC21/\\$File/41020_2007.pdf](http://www.ausstats.abs.gov.au/ausstats/subscriber.nsf/0/51EE403E951E7FDACA25732F001CAC21/$File/41020_2007.pdf)

⁸ Based on the mean child care expenses for 5 to 9 hours per week taken from the *ABS 2005 Child Care* paper pg 23: [http://www.ausstats.abs.gov.au/ausstats/subscriber.nsf/0/825293289E6DCB1BCA257191007C1EC5/\\$File/44020_jun%202005%20\(reissue\).pdf](http://www.ausstats.abs.gov.au/ausstats/subscriber.nsf/0/825293289E6DCB1BCA257191007C1EC5/$File/44020_jun%202005%20(reissue).pdf)

⁹ WACOSS calculation using 2005/06 figure (see footnote 8) plus the 4.8% *ABS Wage Price Index* for Western Australia year ending March 2007 - see pg 5 of Cat No 63450:

[http://www.ausstats.abs.gov.au/ausstats/subscriber.nsf/0/DFD0087E75A02604CA2572DC001AC25A/\\$File/63450_mar%202007.pdf](http://www.ausstats.abs.gov.au/ausstats/subscriber.nsf/0/DFD0087E75A02604CA2572DC001AC25A/$File/63450_mar%202007.pdf)

¹⁰ plus 10% rise from 2006 to 2007 in 'food and basic essentials' recorded on page 4 of The *Rising Cost of Living – WACOSS Paper* (based on ABS Average Retail Prices of Selected Items, Eight Capital Cities, June 2006 and 2007)

¹¹ figure for metro June 07 from Average price for ULP in All Regions between 1-Jan-2002 and 30-Jun-2007 table (see page 3 of The *Rising Cost of Living – WACOSS Paper*)

¹² Plus the 4.1% rise in Health prices from June 06 to June 07 as recorded in the CPI (pg 1)

[http://www.ausstats.abs.gov.au/ausstats/subscriber.nsf/0/47D2F38DCCA27D81CA2573220017FFB7/\\$File/64010_jun%202007.pdf](http://www.ausstats.abs.gov.au/ausstats/subscriber.nsf/0/47D2F38DCCA27D81CA2573220017FFB7/$File/64010_jun%202007.pdf)

¹³ Plus the 12.8% rise in Child Care prices from June 2006 to June 2007 as recorded in the CPI (pg 21)

[http://www.ausstats.abs.gov.au/ausstats/subscriber.nsf/0/47D2F38DCCA27D81CA2573220017FFB7/\\$File/64010_jun%202007.pdf](http://www.ausstats.abs.gov.au/ausstats/subscriber.nsf/0/47D2F38DCCA27D81CA2573220017FFB7/$File/64010_jun%202007.pdf)

¹⁴ Using the 5.8% figure from the ABS Labour Price Index, Australia, June 2008, online at <http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/DetailsPage/6345.0Jun%202008?OpenDocument>

¹⁵ See page 6 – ABS Average Retail Prices of Selected Items, Eight Capital Cities (Perth), June 2008. Article Number 6403.0.55.001, online at <http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/DetailsPage/6403.0.55.001Jun%202008?OpenDocument>

¹⁶ See page 3 – REIWA Home Rental Survey, online at www.reiwa.com

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- ¹⁷ See page 4 – Average Price for ULP in all Regions Between Jan2002 and Jun 2008, online at www.fuelwatch.wa.gov.au
- ¹⁸ Health figure 4.8% increase – see ABS Consumer Price Index, Australia (Jun 2008) Article Number 6401.0, online at <http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/DetailsPage/6401.0Jun%202008?OpenDocument>
- ¹⁹ See page 3 – REIWA Home Rental Survey, online at www.reiwa.com
- ²⁰ *ibid*
- ²¹ ABS (2008) WA Statistical Indicators, June 2008. Article Number 1367.5, online at <http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/1367.5>
- ²² ABS, *Perth: A Social Atlas*, 2006, Cat. No.: 2030.5, online at <http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/2030.5/>
- ²³ Australian Council of Social Service, *Australian Community Sector Survey Report 2008*, Strawberry Hills, NSW, June 2008, p.86
- ²⁴ Duffy, G (2005) *Winners and Losers: The Story of Costs*, Social Policy Issues Paper 2, St Vincent de Paul Society
- ²⁵ ABS (2008) WA Statistical Indicators, June 2008. Article Number 1367.5, online at <http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/1367.5>
- ²⁶ ABS Consumer Price Index, Australia (Jun 2008) Article Number 6401.0, online at <http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/DetailsPage/6401.0Jun%202008?OpenDocument>
- ²⁷ ABS (2008) WA Statistical Indicators, June 2008. Article Number 1367.5, online at <http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/1367.5>