

State Budget 2008/09 Information Sheet

Housing

A range of housing strategies are proposed to ease the current crisis including increasing public housing and community housing. There are also recommendations for a new public housing funding model and strategies for increasing the stock of affordable housing. Programs established under the Homelessness Strategy should continue to be supported and expanded. We call for improvements in the diversity of housing stock, which would help address the ongoing shortage of boarding and lodging houses, and small homes. There are also recommendations to expand existing housing support programs for young people, aboriginal families, people with mental illness or living with disabilities, ex-prisoners, and tenants of residential park homes and in remote areas.

WACOSS' Recommendations	Budget Outcome & Comments
Public Housing: increase funding to restore public housing to 6% of total stock. (\$576M in 2007)	No new money. The amount remaining from last year's budget is \$240M. This is estimated to provide 1,124 extra dwellings. This is insignificant toward reducing the public housing waiting list of 17,500 people.
Funding Model for Public Housing: recognise State Housing Authority for Community Service Obligation (CSO) funding.	No apparent Government funding commitment.
State Homelessness Strategy Programs: continuation of funding (in addition to any Federal funding agreements)	Many of these programs have been continued. Details to be provided.
Abolition of Option Fee	
Affordable Rental Incentive Scheme: subsidise private and community housing providers to provide affordable rentals.	Federal (\$80M over 5 years, \$8000 payments per home, target of 10,000 low cost rentals)
State Funding for SAAP Services : increase state funding. Supported Accommodation for Young People - Increase youth specific accommodation - funds for existing services to deal with co morbidity issues - consult with service providers in RRR WA, especially Kimberly and South West.	\$3.2m over 4 years for SAAP targeted at SAAP services experiencing the greatest cost & demand pressures. Likely to be focussed on youth crisis accommodation and regional and remote areas. Efforts to improve funding parity between 'like,' SAAP services were also flagged.
Young People in the Private Market: - increase Keystart loan amount - encourage rentals to young people	No specific announcement. Expected to help over 4,000 households to enter or maintain home ownership in 08-09. Over \$200M expected to be spent in regional areas.
Regional Housing Development Coordinator within Housing and Works to support regional providers	Four new level 7 regional housing co-ordinators have been created in Kalgoorlie, Broome, Pt Hedland, Kununarra
Priority is given to the development of Culturally Appropriate Housing for Aboriginal Families and Singles	No apparent Government funding commitment.

Coordination for Clients with Complex Needs: Premier and Cabinet examine and resolve national and state government policy issues impacting on service delivery to community housing tenants	No commitment.
Increase number of Properties in the Community Options and Independent Living Programs by a 15% increase in Residential Mental Health Care funding (from \$5.164M in forward estimates)	No increase.
Increase funding for programs and number of accommodation units for Housing Support for People Released From Prison (1,650 ex-offenders unable to receive support)	The Re-entry Program offering accommodation and support has been expanded. \$20M over 4 years.
Requirements for Social and Affordable Housing in Developments: 15% social housing requirement in new developments on Government or Crown land, new private developments are also to require 15% affordable housing units.	No apparent Government funding commitment.
An Appeals Process for Social Housing: create and fund an external and independent appeal mechanism for public and community housing.	No apparent Government funding commitment.
Valuer General Calculation of Market Rent: resource valuer general's office to calculate market rents every 6 months to improve viability of community housing sector.	No apparent Government funding commitment.
Training and Skills Development for Community Housing: calls for significant investment to provide accredited training.	No apparent Government funding commitment.
Disability Support Packages: fund a minimum of an additional 150 disability support packages.	121 extra support places will be funded.
Legal and Consumer Advice Services for Housing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - fund a homeless persons legal clinic in the metro area - a centralised Residential Park Homes advice service - tenant advocacy services in West Kimberly/Broome region 	No apparent Government funding commitment.

See also

Safety and Justice

- Crisis accommodation and support for Aboriginal men in the southeast corridor
- Safe House for young women (age 14 to 18) and children escaping domestic/family violence

Aboriginal

- A joint agency review to address the shortage of accommodation for rural/remote Aboriginal people accessing health services in Perth metropolitan area.

Care and Support: Aged Care

- Development of a seniors' housing advisory service and laws to protect seniors from unfair contracts relating to accommodation.