



# State Budget 2005/06 Information Sheet

## Children and Young People

The children's area is one of the winners in this budget. DCD has received an additional \$13.7 million (7% increase) on last years budget. In addition to the items listed below, there is also an allocation of \$2.4 million to implement the *Working with Children Act*, a commitment to develop new regulations for child care and out of school hours services; and \$750,000 to build a youth facility in Kununurra.

WACOSS' Recommendation	Government's Pre-election Commitment <sup>1</sup>	Budget Outcome
Establish <b>Commissioner for Children and Young People</b> .	Will establish Commissioner. No specific commitment re: funds.	\$1.5 million recurrent funding.
Commission independent non-government organization to produce <b>annual report on the state of children</b> in WA. \$200,000	Have commissioned the ABS to develop a set of indicators at the state level for 0–24 years.	No specific budget allocation.
Develop a whole-of-government <b>strategy for the protection of children</b> in WA. \$250,000	Have a whole of government strategy. No specific commitment for the budget.	No specific budget allocation
Convene a <b>Community Forum on Child Protection</b> .	Have established a range of forums. No specific commitment for the budget.	No specific budget allocation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review existing <b>training in child protection and well-being</b> and provide training for all govt. and non-government agencies. \$200,000</li> <li>• Assess existing <b>capacity building strategies for children and parents/caregivers</b> and fund capacity building initiatives in areas of need. \$200,000</li> </ul>	Already being achieved through existing programs/initiatives. No specific commitment for the budget.	No specific budget allocation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Funds to clear the backlog of <b>children in care</b> waiting for <b>counselling and therapeutic services</b>. \$200,000</li> <li>• Investigate real <b>cost of out of home care</b> and provide appropriate funding. \$60,000</li> <li>• Good practice models for providing <b>intensive support to children with complex care needs</b>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Awaiting recommendations from <i>Care Responses for the Future</i> report.</li> <li>• Will undertake review of cost of providing out of home care.</li> <li>• A number of initiatives are underway or planned including: investigation of good practice models; individual placement and support services; mechanisms to increase placement options; consistent standards for recruitment, assessment and training of carers.</li> </ul>	<p>A total of \$10 million has been allocated for a range of new and expanded services including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• an Advocate for children;</li> <li>• intensive, individual placements;</li> <li>• expanded counselling services;</li> <li>• an intensive support and treatment placement team;</li> <li>• a new unit to monitor departmental standards;</li> <li>• a central foster carer register;</li> <li>• a more rigorous process for assessing relative carers;</li> <li>• compulsory training for all carers</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> This is an abridged version of the Government's response to WACOSS' Pre-Budget Submission, for full details please refer to WACOSS' *The Social Issues Scorecard 2005*

		including relatives; • a duty of care unit.
Financial support for <b>grandparents and other relatives who are primary care-givers</b> , commensurate with that provided to non-familial foster care placements. \$3,130,920	Already being achieved through existing programs/initiatives. No specific commitment for the budget.	No specific budget allocation
Infrastructure <b>maintenance</b> of state owned premises operated as <b>Family Centres and Community Based Child Care Centres</b> . \$1,000,000	\$450,000 in the 2006/07 budget for maintenance including for family centres and child care centres.	No specific budget allocation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fund 10 local <b>services for men in parenting and other family roles</b>. \$750,000</li> <li>• Fund 4 <b>multidisciplinary early childhood and parenting demonstration services</b> in the metropolitan area for children from birth to school entry age. \$880,000</li> <li>• Funds to ensure better <b>linkages between parenting services and other key agencies</b>. \$300,000</li> </ul>	Already being achieved through existing programs/initiatives. No specific commitment for the budget.	No specific budget allocation
Funds for additional services and support to <b>children of refugees and asylum seekers</b> in schools. \$150,000	No specific commitment for the budget.	No specific budget allocation
Programs to encourage opportunities for <b>regional, rural and remote young people</b> to access education, employment, and support <b>services</b> within their local community.	Already being achieved through existing programs/initiatives. No specific commitment for the budget.	No specific budget allocation
<b>Engage young people</b> as active participants in the development and delivery of education and training programs.	Will conduct district based youth forums over the 2005-2008 period to get input into District Education Training Plans for 15-19 year olds.	No specific budget allocation
Remove age based criteria in public <b>housing</b> and increase the public housing expenditure for <b>youth</b> .	Already being achieved through existing programs/initiatives. No specific commitment for the budget.	No specific budget allocation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reforms to enable young people to take out leases and/or family members to take out leases on behalf of youth</li> <li>• Investigate ways to build a fund to assist <b>young people</b> to access <b>housing</b>.</li> </ul>	Continuation of services under State Homelessness Strategy will depend on evaluation to be conducted in 2005.	No specific budget allocation
Greater resources for the <b>Youth Affairs Council of Western Australia</b> .	Already have a 3 year funding agreement with YACWA. No specific commitment for the budget.	No specific budget allocation