



WACOSS

State Budget 2005/06 Information Sheet

Health

WACOSS recommendation	Government's Pre-election Commitment¹	Budget outcome
Increase funding for mental health over 2004 - 2007, to 10% of the Health Budget, and to increase this level of funding over 2007 to 2010 to 12% of the Health Budget.	The State Government has allocated \$173.4 million in additional funding for the Mental Health Strategy 2004-2007. This funding represents 9 per cent of the total health budget.	No specific allocation in the budget.
That the Community Options 100 project , aimed at providing supported housing in the community for consumers in Murchison Ward, Graylands Hospital be progressed.	This project is being progressed. The planning has commenced for the first residence. The project is now incorporated into the Mental Health Strategy 2004-2007.	No specific allocation in the budget.
That the Department of Health, in consultation with Independent Living Program (ILP) housing providers develops a funding formula for ILP funding. The model should offer a transparent and consistent approach.	Will investigate a formula for costing psychosocial support, which will include "benevolent landlord" functions. The Mental Health Strategy 2004-2007 includes an investment of \$2,000,000 in state wide psychosocial (disability) support.	No specific allocation in the budget.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the state contribution to the HACC program to bring the real increase to 20% (\$146m Federal Government and \$98m from the State Governments and at least 6% growth per annum (plus indexation) thereafter. • Commit to the reform of Community Care as a priority. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No funding increases committed to. • The State Government, through the HACC Program, has supported Carers WA to provide a carer awareness program 	Funding for HACC increased by approx \$7 million
Increase dental care services to curtail delays in receiving treatment and meet the needs of low-income people in WA.	Additional funding already allocated. No specific commitment for future funding.	Additional funding of \$1million per annum over the next four years.
Alcohol and drug services to receive an immediate injection of 25% increase to recurrent core funding for existing services has been identified as needed.	Additional funding already allocated. No commitment for 25% funding increase.	No specific allocation in the budget.
A feasibility study to identify the most efficient and effective methods of addressing issues for Aboriginal people with resources set aside in following financial years to meet identified service gaps, including the potential development of an Aboriginal specific	Already being achieved through the development of a WA Aboriginal Alcohol and Drug strategy.	No specific allocation in the budget.

¹ 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*

residential facility.		
<p>Reduce Hepatitis C transmission and its impact through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A second fixed site needle and syringe exchange program (NSEP) • Needles and syringes vending machines • Regional health services being given the opportunity of providing an exchange service. • An expansion of peer-based hepatitis C education services, ensuring incorporation into all alcohol and other drug (AOD) services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No commitment • No commitment • No commitment • An extension of peer education into other AOD services, especially those working with people who inject drugs, or who are utilising methadone services, would be welcome. 	<p>Increase in Needle syringe program budget. Still lower than 2003/04 budget Reduction in HEPC Education and prevention budget.</p>
An expansion of the Joint Services Development Unit to ensure all alcohol and other drug and mental health services are adequately supported.	Government does not believe that this would be useful. No commitment.	No specific allocation in the budget.
Explore improved efficiencies and effectiveness through integrated systems development to respond to clients with complex and multiple problems who are in contact with multiple agencies.	Already being achieved through the 'Family Strength' program and the Multi-Systemic Therapy approach to casework for juvenile offenders with complex needs.	Commencement to MST program in 2005/06. 2 teams: North Metro and South Metro. No financial details.
Introduce a subsidy to assist lower income seniors to purchase continence products .	No funding commitment, will continue to lobby the Commonwealth to remedy the gaps and inequities in the CAAS.	No specific allocation in the budget.