

State Budget 2007/08 Information Sheet Health

The State Government has allocated \$206 million to health in the 2007/08 state budget, representing a 5.4% increase in health spending. A large proportion of the health budget is on capital works, including redevelopments of hospitals in Broome and Rockingham Kwinana. \$50 million is allocated for the continuation of the Mental Health Strategy.

WACOSS' Recommendation	Budget Outcome	Comments
Commit additional resources to assist low income families and elderly people to access high quality dental care including early intervention and on-going monitoring of oral health.	No specific budget allocation	Funding of \$1million to waiting list levels will simply maintain the current average waiting time of 12.5 months.
Fund the Country Health Service to expand the Patients Assistance Transport Scheme and to develop a Strategic Plan for the scheme.	No specific budget allocation	The Country Health Service in partnership with the Royal Flying Doctor Service will develop a 10 year plan for PATS inter hospital transport services.
Fund the implementation of the Community/ Consumer Engagement Framework in the Department of Health.	No specific budget allocation	
Fund the Department of Health to develop strategic plan for improving Men's Health.	No specific budget allocation	
Develop a strategic approach to addressing complex health needs (or co-morbidity) in young people. Fund workforce development and capacity building in alcohol and other drug sector, mental health sector and youth sector to address these issues.	No specific budget allocation	The budget states that a major initiative for 2007/08 will be to develop the mental health skill base of the drug and alcohol sector to assist with effective shared case management.

<p>Fund mobile health units to work specifically with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people throughout metropolitan and regional areas, staffed by culturally aware community health workers.</p>	<p>No specific budget allocation</p>	<p>The budget does allocate \$5.5 million over four years for services to Aboriginal communities at Halls Creek, Kwinana, Norseman and the Western Desert communities of Jigalong, Punmu, Parnngurr and Kunawarritji</p>
<p>Fund specific alcohol and other drug services in regional areas, focused on the needs of Aboriginal people to develop prevention and early intervention resources specific to individual communities and provide continued care in the local communities.</p>	<p>No specific budget allocation</p>	<p>New dedicated beds and a culturally appropriate program will be established for Aboriginal clients at one of the major metropolitan drug and alcohol rehabilitation centres</p>
<p>Fund specialist mental health services for seniors, people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds (CaLD), Aboriginal people and for regional and remote areas.</p>	<p>No specific budget allocation</p>	<p>Details of the Health Department's Controlled Grants and Subsidies show that approximately \$19 million has been allocated for community mental health services in 2007/08.</p>
<p>Fund an education program in response to increased incidence of hepatitis C, with a particular focus on expansion and diversification of services to enhance prevention of people at risk from contracting hepatitis C; and to support those living with hepatitis C, including in regional and rural areas.</p>	<p>\$266 000 is allocated for Hepatitis C education and prevention.</p>	<p>The budget states that development of models of care for Hepatitis C and HIV through health networks will be developed once the report evaluating the State needle and syringe distribution program is completed in September 2007.</p>
<p>Expand the range of services provided to people suffering from a neurological condition by providing additional funds for services in the home and community, such as community based social workers to provide for people with neurological conditions, or a funded centralised information/education resource centre for people with neurological conditions</p>	<p>No specific budget allocation</p>	<p>The only mention in the budget of services for people with neurological conditions is the development of a Neuroscience Centre at Sir Charles Gardiner Hospital.</p>