

# State Budget 2008/09 Information Sheet

## Aboriginal

WACOSS advocates for investment in resources that will make significant changes in the health, education, employment and housing status of Aboriginal people. Recommendations focus on housing and health mainly, and are reflective of the concerns of many non-Government organizations, such as Oxfam. It is argued that the poor health experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people is preventable, given that these outcomes are related to socio-economic indicators such as poverty; poor housing; lack of access to education; poor access to medical care.

**\$38 million has been allocated over the next two years for essential service provision, such as water, power and wastewater to remote communities.**

**In addition to this, expenditure of \$1.1 million over four years will enable the provision of child protection services in the Kimberley and surrounding districts, as part of the Kimberley Response.**

WACOSS' Recommendations	Budget Outcome & Comments
<b>Aboriginal Healing Centres:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Establish state-wide healing centres, based on Canadian Aboriginal Friendship Centre model.</li> </ul>	No New Government funding commitment.
<b>Reparation for Stolen Wages:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Commit State Government funds for allocation to reparation payments for Aboriginal people.</li> <li>- Inquiry into stolen wages in WA should delete the reference to 'no reparations' as a policy option.</li> </ul>	Stolen Wages Taskforce report to Cabinet will be delivered by June 30 2008.
<b>Seniors Care for Aboriginal People:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Investigate culturally appropriate services for Aboriginal seniors over the age of 55.</li> </ul>	No New Government funding commitment.
<b>Accommodation for Accessing Metropolitan Health Services:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Undertake review to determine Aboriginal patient needs</li> <li>- Increase the availability of accommodation for this purpose.</li> </ul>	No New Government funding commitment.
<b>Patients Assistance Transport Scheme (PATS):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Expand the services of PATS to more greatly support patients from RRR areas.</li> </ul>	No New Government funding commitment.
<b>Aboriginal Health Liaison Officers:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Employ Aboriginal Liaison Officers in all major hospitals in WA.</li> </ul>	No New Government funding commitment.
<b>Outreach Counselling Services:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Increase outreach counselling funding to provide services beyond the metro area.</li> </ul>	No New Government funding commitment.

<b>Expansion of Patrol Services in the Metropolitan Area:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Increase funding to expand patrols in the Perth metro area.</li></ul>	No New Government funding commitment.
<b>State-wide Interpreter Services:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Establish state-wide interpreter services for Aboriginal people in WA, especially in areas of health, law and justice.</li></ul>	No New Government funding commitment.