

## State Budget 2008/09 Information Sheet

# Health

WACOSS advocates for greater Government commitment to a number of priority health issues for our sector, as well as better policy and coordination of primary health care. The issue of mental health is of constant concern for peak bodies and non-Government organizations, as is the over-representation of Aboriginal people in our health system. Oral health is also of concern, as it is an important part of general health - poor oral health affects nutrition, use of medication, medical and nursing needs and quality of life.

WACOSS' Recommendations	Budget Outcome & Comments
<p><b>Primary Health Care Council:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Establish an integrated cross-Govt council to address health promotion, prevention and intervention in WA.</li> </ul>	<p>As part of the NRA, a Preventative Healthcare Taskforce will be established in June 2008 to develop a national preventative healthcare strategy.</p>
<p><b>Patients Assisted Transport Scheme:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Increased, recurrent funding for the current PATS to be expanded and made more accessible.</li> </ul>	<p>No new funding commitments</p>
<p><b>Mental Health Unit in Broome:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Allocate funding for a mental health unit at Broome Hospital – as part of the hospital re-development.</li> </ul>	<p>Progression of the \$51 million Broome Regional Resource Centre and Mental Health Unit.</p>
<p><b>Mobile Mental Health Clinics:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Allocation of funds to establish mobile mental health clinics, in areas of highest need.</li> </ul>	<p>No new funding commitments</p>
<p><b>Youth Mental Health Strategy and Centres:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- For Govt and service providers to develop a sustainable Youth Mental Health Strategy – including a youth focussed multi-disciplinary centres for mental health and wellbeing</li> </ul>	<p>As part of the \$87 million spent on the ongoing implementation of the Mental Health Strategy and related initiatives, the delivery of services will be strengthened to focus on increasing access to inpatient services, early detection of children and adolescents with mental illness, and meeting demand for accommodation for people with a mental illness.</p>
<p><b>Mental Health of Seniors:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Develop a Mental Health Strategy – including community awareness campaigns for education and support.</li> </ul>	<p>No new funding commitments</p>
<p><b>Improved Dental Services:</b> Investment in resources for improving co-ordination of dental health services -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- For low income families</li> <li>- For the homeless</li> </ul>	<p>This is also part of the NRA – Commonwealth Dental health program to assist states and territories to reduce wait lists by funding up to 1 million dental consultations over 3 years. This focuses on oral health services for ATSI people and those with chronic disease.</p>
<p><b>Accessible, Appropriate and Effective Oral Health Care for Seniors:</b> State Govt to provide –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Accessible, affordable oral health care</li> <li>- Commit funds to oral health education programs for carers and staff</li> </ul>	<p>No new funding commitments</p>

<p><b>Men's Health Strategy:</b>  State Government to apply resources to address men's health issues, namely –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Develop a state policy on men's health</li> <li>- Establish a men's health reference group, including men's health related outputs in the Public Health Outcome Funding Agreement.</li> </ul>	<p>No new funding commitments</p>
<p><b>Drug Treatment Services for Community Corrections and Prison Clients:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Expand the prison to parole services (to meets the needs of community corrections clients).</li> <li>- Commit to the recommendations made at the WA Illicit Drug Summit (2007).</li> </ul>	<p>No new funding commitments</p>

**Additional budget announcements:**

Additional \$19 million over the forward estimates to enable Department of Health to provide additional renal dialysis services in the Kimberley region and meet increased demand for neo-natal services.