

MEDIA RELEASE

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Fridge Replacement Scheme Step in Right Direction

“WACOSS is pleased to see the WA Government launch a Fridge Replacement Scheme for people in financial hardship”, said Sue Ash, CEO of the Western Australian Council of Social Service.

“Replacing old, inefficient fridges means that people experiencing significant hardship will experience reduced electricity costs and more effective food storage” said Ms Ash.

Under the new scheme, eligibility for a new refrigerator is determined by an accredited financial counsellor assessing the hardship of each applicant.

“People living in rural and remote areas of WA often find it difficult to benefit from well-intentioned schemes like this because they either they don’t have easy access to a financial counsellor or they pay for their electricity through pre-payment meters” said Ms Ash.

Ms Ash said “it is critical that this scheme is actively promoted in rural and regional areas to ensure that people living in areas with high food and electricity costs benefit from the Government’s support.”

“WACOSS was concerned that the WA Government’s significant increases in electricity tariffs would have a detrimental effect on people experiencing disadvantage”, said Ms Ash.

“WACOSS continues to oppose price shocks being imposed on consumers through significant increases in electricity costs. The cost of living for low-income people should be better managed through a longer term glide path for energy price rises.

“However, we recognise that this scheme and other assistance measures will make a real difference to West Australians who are struggling with the rapid increases in the price of electricity”.

“WACOSS has advocated for such a scheme in the past, and we believe it will be a big help to West Australians struggling to make ends meet. Fridges are an expensive appliance but are essential to everyday life, and we welcome the WA Government’s assistance” concluded Ms Ash.

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