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WA COUNCIL *of*  
SOCIAL SERVICE

# 2015-16 State Budget Briefing for WACOSS members

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# 2015-16 WA State Budget BUDGET NARRATIVE & ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

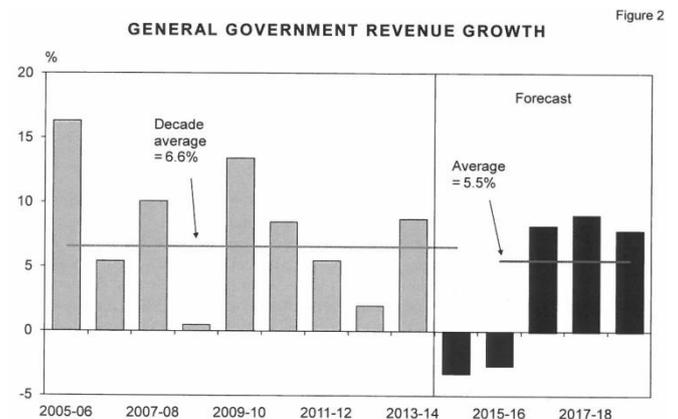
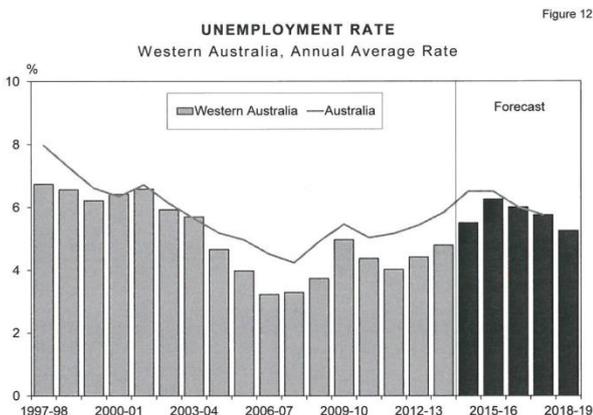
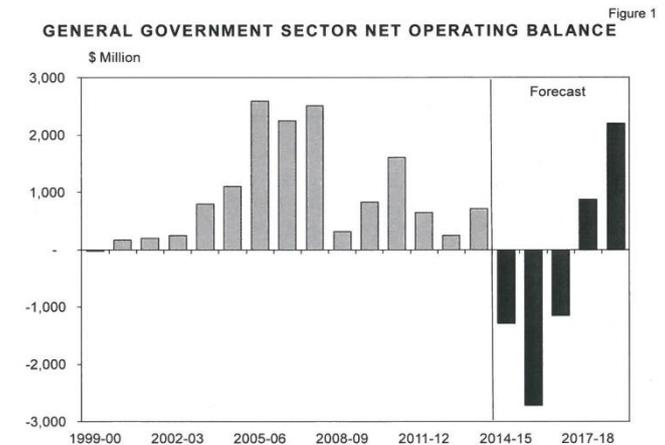
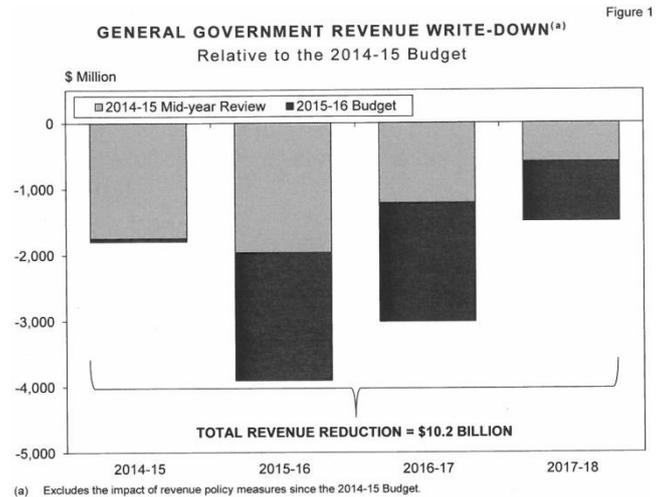
The Treasurer Mike Nahan MLA described the 2015-16 as having been “prepared in the most challenging economic and fiscal environment the State has faced in at least three decades...”

Certainly when you look at this year’s figures — with the significant drop in both **iron ore** and **GST revenue** resulting in a revenue reduction of 13% or \$3.9 billion in 2015-16 and a revision over forward estimates of \$10.2 billion compared to 2014-15 Budget projections — things look pretty grim.<sup>1</sup>

The State expects a net operating **deficit** of \$1.3 billion in 2014-15 rising to \$2.7 billion in 2015-16 then \$1.2B in 16-17 before returning to surplus in 2017-18.

However, it’s important to note that what we’re seeing here is the impact of the lag in GST revenues from royalties dropping. The State’s revenues bottom out (in 2015/16) and bounce back up by 2017-18 largely as a result of increasing GST share.

**Net debt** will rise from \$25.5 billion this year to a peak of \$36 billion in 2017-18 (which is 80% of revenue, well ahead of the ‘target’ 50%).<sup>2</sup>



## Key Numbers

- **Unemployment** is forecast to rise from 5.5% in 2014-15 to peak at 6.25% in 2015-16 before dropping back to 5.25% in 18/19.<sup>3</sup>
- We're seeing a dramatic **shift in employment** share from the resources sector (dropping 14%) to professional scientific and technical services (growing 19%)<sup>4</sup> but there is little in the way of additional investment or support for a shift to a high-tech and service economy.
- **Population growth** continues at modest levels (around 2%) after a peak of 3.6% in 2012-13.<sup>5</sup>
- **Asset sales** are hoped to secure in the vicinity of \$3-5 billion, according to the Treasurer's Industry Briefing.<sup>6</sup> These figures are not listed in the Budget and reportedly "will not be booked until they're received". In addition, given the current problems with oversupply in our electricity market (as documented in the recent Electricity Market Review)<sup>7</sup> the State Government's expectations of being able to secure meaningful revenue from the sale of generation assets<sup>8</sup> would have to be questioned.

**Table 1: Key Budget Assumptions (1)**<sup>9</sup>

	Consumer Price Index (CPI) %	Wage Price Index (WPI) %	Unemployment Rate (%)	Population Growth (%)
2014-15 (Expected Actual)	2.0	2.25	5.5	1.9
2015-16 (Budget Estimate)	2.25	2.75	6.25	2.0
2016-17 (Forward Estimate)	2.5	3.0	6.0	2.1
2017-18 (Forward Estimate)	2.5	3.25	5.75	2.2
2018-19 (Forward Estimate)	2.5	3.5	5.25	2.2

**Table 2: Key Budget Growth Assumptions (2)**<sup>10</sup>

	Deficit %	Net Debt %	Revenue %	Spending%
2014-15 (Expected Actual)	2.0	2.25	5.5	1.9
2015-16 (Budget Estimate)	2.25	2.75	6.25	2.0
2016-17 (Forward Estimate)	2.5	3.0	6.0	2.1
2017-18 (Forward Estimate)	2.5	3.25	5.75	2.2
2018-19 (Forward Estimate)	2.5	3.5	5.25	2.2

We note that almost every Departmental Budget area is required to achieve a 1% General Government Efficiency Dividend and 15% in Procurement Savings. However, it is unclear from the Budget Papers how "Procurement Savings" are calculated.

<sup>1</sup> 2015-16 Budget Paper 3, p.6

<sup>2</sup> 2015-16 Budget Paper 3, p.65

<sup>3</sup> 2015-16 Budget Paper 3, p.28

<sup>4</sup> 2015-16 Budget Paper 3, p.27

<sup>5</sup> 2015-16 Budget Paper 3, p.9

<sup>6</sup> Nahan, M. (2015, 14 May) *Treasurer's Industry Briefing on 2015-16 Budget*, WA Government

<sup>7</sup> Public Utilities Office (2015) [Electricity Market Review](#), Department of Finance

<sup>8</sup> 2015-16 Budget Paper 1, p.8

<sup>9</sup> 2015-16 Budget Paper 3, p.30

<sup>10</sup> 2015-16 Budget Paper 3, p.14



# 2015-16 WA State Budget HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS



## Introduction

In consultation with our members, the Council consistently receives the feedback that safe, secure, appropriate and affordable housing is both a fundamental human necessity, and fundamental to individuals (and families) being able to achieve better life outcomes. Over many Pre-Budget Submissions and wider advocacy work, the Council has continued to advocate for increased State Government investment in public and community housing (as well as related support programs and services).



The Council thanks [Shelter WA](#) for their significant contribution to preparation of this information sheet.

## Initiatives at a glance

- \$560 million Social Housing Investment Package to deliver 1,000 homes by 30 June 2017 and halve the number of seniors and families with children on the priority waitlist.<sup>1</sup>
- Budget includes the \$30m Federal Government's contribution to extend funding for the National Partnership on Homelessness (NPAH) for two years.<sup>2</sup> However, the State Government has "matched" the federal contribution with \$30m of *existing* funding allocations, plus an addition \$2.5 of (new) cash.
- Removal of the \$3,000 First Home Owner Grant for established homes and retention of \$10,000 for construction of new homes.<sup>3</sup>

## Other Numbers

- With the discontinuation of the National Rental Affordability Scheme, the State will deliver 5,308 dwellings by 30 June 2016 rather than 7,000 as previously approved.<sup>4</sup>
- There are almost 20,000 applicants on the social housing waitlist and 2,700 applicants on the priority social housing waitlist.<sup>5</sup>
- The average public housing waitlist time is 145 weeks; for 2015-2016 it is targeted to be 148 weeks.<sup>6</sup>
- 1,029 people have purchased a home through the SharedStart program, via co-ownership with the Housing Authority and Keystart home loans.<sup>7</sup>
- The average median house rental in Perth is 450/week and the vacancy rate is 4.4%. The median house price is \$535,000 and median unit price is \$440,000 in the Perth metro area.<sup>8</sup>
- Less than 1% of rental properties in Perth were affordable for people on benefits and pensions and only 3% were affordable for families on a minimum wage, when affordability is calculated as 30% of a household's income.<sup>9</sup>
- In 2013-2014 the Housing Authority completed 124 houses and 267 refurbishments in remote Aboriginal communities. The overall target for 2014-2016 program is 216 new builds and 273 house refurbishments.<sup>10</sup>
- The Mental Health Commission has allocated \$706,000 in 2015-16 and 2016-17 for clinical outreach as part of the Street-To-Home (homelessness) service(s).<sup>11</sup>
- The Department of Housing will receive \$30 million per annum until 2016-17 through the Department of Regional Development's *Remote Area Essential Services Program* to continue the provision of

water, wastewater and power maintenance services in specified remote communities throughout the State.<sup>12</sup>

## Key Observations/Implications

Access to appropriate and affordable housing in Western Australia remains a pressing issue throughout the community, especially as Western Australia is entering a new period of economic uncertainty. We welcome the Western Australian Government's investment in providing housing for the most vulnerable in our community, and matching Commonwealth funding for homelessness services.

### 1. \$560 million investment to provide 1,000 homes for vulnerable Western Australians

We welcome this announcement from the Western Australian Government to invest \$560 million over two years to provide 1,000 social housing dwellings. The Social Housing Investment Package (SHIP) marks a bold commitment from the State Government to address the housing needs of the most vulnerable in our community. Of significance is that the funding is for social housing, encompassing public and community housing, aimed at halving the number of seniors and families with children on the priority social housing waitlist.

The \$560 million will include:

- 600 newly built social housing homes
- 200 spot purchases of existing homes and pre-purchases of homes to be constructed; and
- 200 leases of the private sector<sup>13</sup>

The \$560 million will be comprised of \$85 million worth of Housing Authority land, \$452 million of land and housing expenditure (including \$85.2 million from Royalties for Regions program re-allocated from regional worker housing to regional social housing) and \$23 million in operating costs. The package includes \$308m of capital expenditure, but as far as we are aware there are no specific targets for the number of new houses versus redevelopment or refurbishment of existing properties.

The Budget Papers include continued investment in the Redevelopment Program, using a \$55 million loan facility, redeveloping 200 public housing sites to deliver at least 500 new affordable homes.<sup>14</sup> It is not clear to what extent these numbers include redevelopment as part of the SHIP.

In its PBS, WACOSS asked for a minimum of \$162 million towards a social housing growth plan and \$38 million to develop a two stream approach to the social housing wait list. The \$560 million exceeds those recommendations over the next two years, but it is vital to ensure this level of investment is maintained into the future to meet growing demand.

### 2. Matching the NPAH contribution to support critical specialist homelessness support services to 2017

Following the announcement from Minister Morrison to extend funding for the National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness (NPAH) for two further years from the Commonwealth, confirmation through the budget that the Western Australian Government will match this funding commitment is welcomed.

Shelter and the Council recommended \$15 million for services and \$5 million for capital funding per annum to address homelessness. The Budget includes \$35 million over two years<sup>15</sup> for NPAH services (funded through the Department of Child Protection and Family Services), and \$7m over two years for services delivered under the National Partnership of Housing Affordability (NAHA), with the Treasurer declaring a total spend on programs related to homelessness and crisis accommodation of \$90.6 million in 2015-16<sup>16</sup>.

### **3. Changes to the First Home Owners Grant**

The Budget includes the removal of the \$3,000 First Home Owner Grant for established homes saving \$24.5m in 2015-16 and \$109m over forward estimates, while retaining the \$10,000 grant for first home owners purchasing new construction.<sup>17</sup> The emphasis on encouraging new construction is intended to contribute to supply.

### **4. Rent increases for public housing tenants**

Public housing tenants will continue to have their rent moved to a standard 25% of gross household income. Many tenants are already paying 25%, however for the tenants who are currently paying less, their rent will be increased, up to \$12 per week for 2015-2016. The increased rent is anticipated to result in revenue of \$58.8 million to 2018-2019<sup>18</sup>. Along with increases in other expenses, utilities and public transport, the increase may be significant for low income tenants on low wages and/or benefits. The Council notes that this includes counting Family Tax Benefit as a source of income, and are particularly concerned of the likely impacts on the cost of living for larger families who are likely to face larger rent increases over time.

### **5. Key Worker Housing**

The Government has committed \$270.3 million over eight years to the RfR *Housing for Workers Program*. This program provides affordable, available and appropriate housing for key workers in regional areas, including housing for local businesses, the not for profit sector, government authorities and the broader community.<sup>19</sup>

As outlined above, \$85.2 million of *Housing for Worker* budget allocation has been incorporated into the *Social Housing Investment Package*.

However, the State Government has also flagged its intention to sell an undisclosed number of existing Government Regional Officer Housing (GROH) dwellings across the state, as part of the wider asset sales program.<sup>20</sup> It is not yet clear what the net impact of GROH sales plus new *Housing for Worker* investment is likely to be.

### **6. Keystart Home Loans**

The Government is exploring the securitisation of Keystart's loan book. The Loan Guarantee Fee for agencies including Keystart, which is paid on borrowings through the WA Treasury Corporation, will be increased to 70 basis points.

### **7. Land tax**

The Budget introduces some changes to broaden the base of Land Tax, introducing a flat \$300 fee for land with an unimproved value of \$300,000 - \$420,000 and further increases across land tax rates (with the top rate remaining capped).<sup>21</sup>

This measure raises \$184m in 2015-16 and \$826m over four years, and is the third budget in a row that land tax rates have increased. While the Council would be supportive of a progressive transition of State revenues to shift reliance from stamp duty to a broader based land tax system as a means of reducing barriers to housing supply as is being pursued in the ACT, we note that the Treasurer has signalled this is not likely to happen in the immediate future.

### **8. NPARIH / Remote Aboriginal Housing**

The Housing Authority will receive \$30 million per annum for Remote Area Essential Services Program (RAESP) until 2016/ 2017<sup>22</sup>.

There is \$25.6 million allocated in 2015-16 for municipal and essential services to 167 remote communities with 12,000 residents<sup>23</sup>. It is unclear after that what will happen, as there is no funding allocated in forward estimates.

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<sup>1</sup> WA Government (2015, 10 May) [Media Release: \\$560 million to house WA's vulnerable](#)

<sup>2</sup> Australian Government (2015, 23 March) [Media Release: Coalition reverses Labor's funding cuts on homelessness with \\$230 million commitment prioritising victims of domestic violence](#)

<sup>3</sup> 2015-2016 Budget Paper 2, p.418

<sup>4</sup> 2015-2016 Budget Paper 2, p.849

<sup>5</sup> 2015-2016 Budget Paper 2, Volume 2, p.848

<sup>6</sup> 2015-16 Budget Paper 2, Volume 2, p.851

<sup>7</sup> 2015-16 Budget Paper 1, p.7

<sup>8</sup> Figures are for March 2015 quarter from REIWA, Perth Market Snapshot, Accessed 13 May 2015.

<sup>9</sup> Anglicare WA (2015, 30 April) [Media Release: Rental Affordability Demonstrates a Widening Gap in Perth](#)

<sup>10</sup> 2015-2016 Budget Paper 2, Volume 2, p.849

<sup>11</sup> 2015-16 Budget Paper 2, Volume 1, p.405

<sup>12</sup> Budget Paper 2, Volume 2, p.849

<sup>13</sup> Budget Paper 1, p.12

<sup>14</sup> Budget Paper 2, Volume 2, p.853-4

<sup>15</sup> Budget Paper 2, Volume 2, p.418

<sup>16</sup> Treasurer's speech Budget Paper 1, p.12

<sup>17</sup> Budget Paper 3, p.4.

<sup>18</sup> 2015-16 Budget Paper 2, Volume 2, p.848. *Note there is a possible error in Budget Paper 3 page 272 in the table of social concessions which suggests a rental subsidy of \$280,000 in 14-15 dropping to \$225,365 in 15-16, a decrease of \$55m. We are seeking clarification.*

<sup>19</sup> 2015-16 Budget Paper 2, Volume 2, p.849

<sup>20</sup> Nahan, M. (2015, 14 May) *Treasurer's Industry Briefing on 2015-16 Budget*, WA Government

<sup>21</sup> 2015-16 Budget Paper 3 p.4

<sup>22</sup> 2015-16 Budget Paper 2, Volume 2, p.849

<sup>23</sup> 2015-16 Budget Paper 2, Volume 2, p.849





# 2015-16 WA State Budget COST OF LIVING

## Introduction

The Council's research into the essential living costs in WA clearly shows that low income households were left behind during the mining boom. As the peak body of the community service sector in WA, and advocate for low income and disadvantaged people, the Council has a particular interest in the adequacy of living standards and quality of life experienced by Western Australians living on low incomes.

The Council has been looking in the 2015-16 State Budget for:

- Government decisions which will significant increase (especially above CPI) or decrease the cost of living in WA. The Council is concerned about the disproportionate impact even small increases in costs (such as utilities or transport) can have on households with low or fixed incomes.
- Improved targeting and adequacy of concessions, to ensure the benefit received by those most in need of assistance.

## Initiatives at a Glance

- Reforms to State Government Social Concessions will save of **\$199m** over four years.<sup>1</sup>
- From 1 July 2016, the State Government will introduce a no-fault insurance scheme. This will increase **car registration costs** by up to \$99 per year.<sup>2</sup>
- **Expanded free public transport** for seniors, aged and disability pensioners and carers, for travel after 7pm at night, until 6am on weekdays.<sup>3</sup>
- *Please also note changes to land tax on Housing and Homelessness information sheet.*

## Changes for seniors

- The Government will progressively increase the eligibility age (from 60 to 65 years) for the **Western Australian Seniors Card**, reaching 65 years in 2023-24. From 1 July 2015, there will be a one year increase in the Seniors' Card eligibility age every two years.<sup>4</sup>
- On 1 July 2015, the Cost of Living Allowance (COLA) available to seniors will be renamed the **Energy Assistance Payment (EAP)**,<sup>5</sup> and the renamed payment will now be means tested (recipients must be a Commonwealth concession card holder).<sup>6</sup> In 2014-15, approximately 286,000 Synergy customers received this payment (at a cost of \$57.9m). In 2015-16 approximately 186,000 Synergy customers are expected to receive the payment (at a cost of \$41.9m).<sup>7</sup>
- Pensioners are currently eligible to a **rebate of 50% on local government rates**. From 2016-17, a cap of \$550 will be applied to this rebate.<sup>8</sup>
- Pensioners are also currently eligible to a **rebate of 50% on their water service charge**. From 2016-17, a cap of \$600 will be applied to this rebate.<sup>9</sup>
- From 2016-17, Seniors Card holders will be eligible for a discount on the **WA Photo ID Card**. (A Photo ID Card is less expensive than a driver's licence, and can be of particular benefit to older people who need a form of identification, but whom no longer drive.)
- \$279,000 will be spent on information technology system upgrades in 2015-16 to introduce a new concession for seniors when purchasing a Western Australian Photo ID Card. This will assist seniors, who do not hold a driver's licence or a passport, in proving their identity by providing a 50%

concession on the price of the Photo Card for holders of a Seniors Card, and a 100% concession for holders of a Commonwealth concession card from 2016-17.<sup>10</sup>

- The **Cost of Living Rebate (COLR)** scheme was introduced by the state government to assist WA Seniors Card holders to meet increased living expenses. In 2015-16, the automated (to registered parties) annual payment will be \$125.78 for couples, and \$83.85 for singles (this represents a small increase on the 2014-15 rates).
- The **Seniors Safety and Security Rebate** (for the purchase of personal safety alarms) has been discontinued.

## Other Numbers

- The budget for the **Hardship Utility Grants Scheme (HUGS)** has increased slightly - from \$9.5 million in 2014-15, to \$9.7million in 2015-16.
- **Electricity tariffs** for residential, community and charitable organisations will increase **4.5%** in 2015-16, and are forecast to increase a further 7% per year over the forward estimates.<sup>11</sup> Treasury notes that in “order for residential electricity tariffs to be fully cost-reflective in 2015-16, a further increase of around 21% (above the approved 4.5% increase from 1 July 2015) would be required”.<sup>12</sup>
- **Residential water tariffs** will increase **4.5%** in 2015-16, and are assumed to increase by 6% per annum from 2016-17 onwards.
- **Public transport fares** will increase approximately **2.6%** (rounded to the nearest 10 cents) from 1 July 2015. The student fare will remain at 60 cents, and concession fares will remain at 40% of standard fares. There will be no increase to the \$2 per day parking fee. The Public Transport Authority’s budget projections assume Transperth fares will increase by 2.5% per annum from 2016-17 to 2018-19.<sup>13</sup>
- From 1 July 2015, over 300 Court and Tribunal fees will increase by an average of 12%.<sup>14</sup>
- Car parking fees for staff parking at the Royal Perth Hospital and Queen Elizabeth II Medical Centre will increase by 7%.<sup>15</sup>

## Key Observations/Implications

### 1. Impact of changes on a ‘representative household’

Each year, Treasury calculates the impact of changes in government tariffs, fees and charges (motor vehicles, utilities, public transport and stamp duty) on a ‘representative’ household. In 2015-16, the overall increase is estimated to be 3.81% or **\$198.54** (total costs of \$5,412.27).<sup>16</sup>

### 2. Redirecting concessions to those ‘most in need’

For a number of years the Council, and others including COTA WA, have advocated for the State Government to undertake a comprehensive assessment of State Concessions, on the basis that there are opportunities for concessions to be better targeted to those most in need. The Government’s changes in the 2015-16 State Budget do not reflect the *comprehensive* assessment needed. While we welcome many of the changes, the lack of transparent process and consultation with the sector (or older Western Australian) with regards to these changes has been disappointing.

The changes to concessions in the 2015-16 State Budget are expected to save **\$199 million** over the forward estimates, including \$41 million in 2015-16.<sup>17</sup> Given the research which suggests that Australia has the fourth highest relative income poverty rate for people aged 65 and over (in Western economies<sup>18</sup>) the Council believes it would be appropriate for ‘savings’ achieved from changes to concession eligibility be re-directed to meet the needs of vulnerable Western Australians by improving the adequacy of means-tested concessions rather than back into consolidated revenue.

### 3. No fault insurance scheme introduced, at a cost

The State Government will expand Western Australia's Compulsory Third Party (CTP) insurance scheme to ensure compensation is available to any person who suffers a catastrophic injury in a motor vehicle accident (regardless of who is at fault). At present, approximately 92 Western Australians suffer such an injury each year (with only about 50% eligible for compensation). The cost of providing lifetime care for people following a catastrophic injury is approximately \$4 million. The insurance will add an additional \$99 per year to the cost of car/motorcycle registration cost. Motorists will pay for their no-fault insurance once their vehicle registration falls due after July 1, 2016.<sup>19</sup>

The Council welcomes this announcement, and notes that the introduction of no-fault insurance brings WA into line with most other states. The Council is disappointed, however that no allowance appears to have been given to capacity to pay, as \$99 will be a significant impost on low and fixed income households.

The Council also notes that the scheme will not be implemented until July 2016, and NDS have stated that they "will urge the State Government to reconsider how the scheme can be backdated".<sup>20</sup>

### 4. Financial counselling loss

The Council understands that the HUGS budget for 2015-16 includes *no funding* for financial counselling. We understand that the \$2.3m previously allocated to financial counselling from the HUGS budget, will now be transferred into increased HUGS grant pool. This change is understood to be linked to a policy reform which will mean applicants are no longer required to go through a financial counsellor to access a HUGS payment. The Council realises there will be mixed views on this change within the sector. We are concerned by the loss of financial counselling capacity, even if it does speed up grant access. We are disappointed that the sector was not consulted on these reforms.

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<sup>1</sup> 2015-16 Budget Paper 3, page 123.

<sup>2</sup> 2015-16 Budget Paper 3, page 58.

<sup>3</sup> 2015-16 Budget Paper 2, Volume 3, page 290

<sup>4</sup> 2015-16 Budget Paper 2, Volume 3, page 124

<sup>5</sup> 2015-16 Budget Paper 3, p. 123

<sup>6</sup> 2015-16 Budget Paper 2, Volume 3, page 123

<sup>7</sup> 2015-16 Budget Paper 3, p. 274

<sup>8</sup> 2015-16 Budget Paper 3, p. 123

<sup>9</sup> 2015-16 Budget Paper 3, p. 123

<sup>10</sup> 2015-16 Budget Paper 3, p. 194

<sup>11</sup> 2015-16 Budget Paper 3, p. 288

<sup>12</sup> 2015-16 Budget Paper 3, p. 302

<sup>13</sup> 2015-16 Budget Paper 3, p. 287

<sup>14</sup> 2015-16 Budget Paper 3, p. 303

<sup>15</sup> 2015-16 Budget Paper 3, p. 304

<sup>16</sup> 2015-16 Budget Paper 3, p. 301

<sup>17</sup> 2015/16 Budget Speech

<sup>18</sup> Organisation for Economic Development

<sup>19</sup> WA Government (2014, May 14) [Media Release: Our State Budget 2015-16: Protecting and supporting our community - WA to adopt no-fault catastrophic injury cover.](#)

<sup>20</sup> NDS WA (2015, May 14) [Media Release: Commitment to a No-Fault Insurance Scheme and increased funding for disability services applauded.](#)



## 2015-16 WA State Budget CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE & FAMILIES

### Introduction

Early childhood practitioners and experts recognise that the early years are critical to setting the foundations for life-long development, and that early disadvantage can have profound impacts on a child's future potential. The Council continues to advocate for overarching frameworks to engage children, young people and their families with government agencies and community sector organisations in a common, efficient and effective approach.

As such, the Council has been looking in the 2015-16 State Budget for:

- Programs which support the health and wellbeing of children and young people;
- Programs or services which intervene *sooner rather than later* to support at risk children, young people and their families, so as to reduce the likelihood of them coming into contact with the child protection or youth justice systems;
- Initiatives which encourage and enable efficient and effective service delivery through integration and collaboration.

The Council is particularly concerned by continued growth in the number of children in out of home care and the continued lack of investment in services known to be effective in reducing the demand for acute care services. We are disappointed the Budget has not responded to our calls for increased investment in Family Support Network programs and the need to build the capacity of Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations to deliver out of home care services.<sup>1</sup>

### Initiatives at a Glance

Notable funding announcements in the 2015-16 State Budget:

- An increase in the Wanslea-administered *Grandcarers Support Scheme* from \$450,000 in 2014-15 to \$710,000 in 2015-16.<sup>2</sup> Annual funding of \$125,000 has also been maintained for the *Grandcarers Assistance (Respite) Program*.
- An additional \$172m over 4 years (including \$16.5m in 2015-16) for Child Protection services.<sup>3</sup>
- State and Federal Government funding for chaplaincy in schools has increased significantly between 2014-15 (\$4.7 million) and 2015-16 (\$12 million).<sup>4</sup>
- The Department has maintained its 2014 commitment<sup>5</sup> to provide \$1 million per annum for CARE schools in 2015-16 and 2016-17.
- The budget for *Delivery of Community Services Grants and Resources* by the Department of Local Government and Communities has decreased \$6.5 million between 2013-14 and 2015-16 (to \$45.7 million).<sup>6</sup>

## Other Numbers

- Since 2007-08, the number of children in care has increased by 40%.<sup>7</sup>
- Aboriginal children make up 6.7% of the child population in Australia however of children in care Aboriginal children represent 52% of this population. At December 2014, over 4,300 children (including almost 2,300 Aboriginal children) were in care.<sup>8</sup> While the Department claims the *Signs of Safety Child Protection Framework* has assisted the Department to reduce the annual growth of children entering care from 13% in 2008 to less than 7% in 2014<sup>9</sup>, the children entering care are increasingly younger and remaining longer.
- In 2014-15, an additional 59 placements were provided in the community service sector.<sup>10</sup> Relative care has also overtaken general foster care as the main care type, with more than 50% of children in foster care placed with relative carers.<sup>11</sup>
- Disappointingly, the proportion of Aboriginal children in the CEO's care who are placed in accordance with the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle* **again** fell 12% short of the Department of Child Protection and Family Supports target of 80%. The Department identified challenges both in the number of Aboriginal children entering care and in recruiting Aboriginal carers.<sup>12</sup>
- The construction of six Child and Parent Centre facilities are scheduled to be completed by the end of 2015.<sup>13</sup>
- The Budget for *Regulation and Support of the Early Education and Care Sector* by the Department for Local Government and Communities will decrease almost \$1m between 2014-15 and 2015-16.<sup>14</sup> The reduction in funding is said to be associated with reductions in funding from the Early Childhood Education and Care National Partnership.

## Key Observations/Implications

### 1. On the numbers of (and need to prevent) children coming into care

Demand for child protection, children in care and family support services continues to rise. The Department for Child Protection and Family Support attributes this increase to “an increased public awareness and reporting of child abuse and neglect, and the broadened legislative mandate of the Department, including mandatory reporting”.<sup>15</sup>

However, the Council is extremely concerned that a reduction in investment in prevention and early intervention — together with the lack of additional investment in extending the **Family Support Network** program — is likely to continue to contribute to the growth in demand for more expensive and intensive child protection services, as well as contribute to ongoing increase in the number of children taken into care. The Armadale Family Support Network was evaluated in 2014 with indication that up to 300 notifications were potentially diverted from the Department in 2013-14. The Council welcomed the start of the recent tender process for the fourth Family Support Network site in Fremantle, but wanted funding to be provided for further services in the 2015-16 Budget.<sup>16</sup>

With regards to the need for greater emphasis to be placed on early intervention services, it was also troubling to note that the 2014/2015 estimated actual expenditure in on Child Centred Family Support Services was approximately \$6.6 million lower than budgeted.<sup>17</sup> Child Centred Family Support Services are “intensive support services for families of children and young people who are at risk of entering the care of the CEO...”.<sup>18</sup> The Department claims that the \$6.6m underspend was “predominately a result of the latest time allocation survey of field staff, which identified a shift in staff time from providing child centred family support services to providing child protection services and supporting children in care”.<sup>19</sup> It

concerns the Council that additional time is being allocated to providing services to children in care, rather than *preventing* them needing to be taken into care.

The Council also notes the lack of funding for *Responsible Parenting Services* and *Family Support Services* over the forward estimates. While we have been informed that the Department still needs to deliver a further business case to Treasury in order to have funding level increased, the Council remains concerned about the message this decrease sends.

**Table 1: Department of Child Protection and Family Support, Service Summary** (excludes Homelessness Services & Family and Domestic Violence Services)<sup>20</sup>

	2013-14 Actual	2014-15 Estimated Actual	2015-16 Budget Estimate	2016-17 Forward Estimate	2017-18 Forward Estimate	2018-19 Forward Estimate	Change between 2015-16 and 2018-19
Responsible Parenting Services	24,724	27,645	27,699	17,141	17,385	17,575	-36.6%
At Risk Youth Services	11,441	12,673	12,989	13,265	13,295	13,319	2.5%
Family Support Services	46,833	46,050	45,471	37,258	37,354	37,504	-17.5%
Working with Children Checks	11,660	12,604	13,130	13,506	13,895	14,295	8.9%
Child Protection Assessments and Investigations	73,907	79,323	79,844	80,870	82,746	84,114	5.3%
Child Centred Family Support Services	40,307	37,069	37,478	38,098	39,006	39,662	5.8%
Care Arrangements for Children in the CEO's Care	225,394	236,555	250,412	266,262	280,703	294,241	17.5%
Support Services for Children in the CEO's Care	71,232	81,895	82,728	84,282	86,643	88,865	7.4%

## 2. Aboriginal Youth Services Policy

In recent weeks, a new service procurement policy for Aboriginal Youth Services has been released. It seeks to address the problems identified by a whole of government review of service spending that found a predominance of small-scale, short-term and one-off grant funding and a lack of clear and measurable outcomes. It provides for minimum \$300,000, three-year contracts for at-risk Aboriginal youth program services and minimum \$300,000 one-off grants.<sup>21</sup>

The Council together with the Youth Affairs Council of WA have welcomed this initiative and hope this policy will be applied across all youth service funding across all State agencies. This policy will help to make more effective use of existing service funding and there are no additional funds for Aboriginal Youth Services identified within the Budget. This policy is intended to be implemented over the next 2 years.

## 3. Making sure Aboriginal 3 year olds are ready for school

The Department of Education notes that early support and services will “continue through Child and Parent Centres, increased Kindergarten hours, compulsory Pre-primary, on-entry assessment and a focus on explicit instruction of literacy and numeracy. Programs for three year old Aboriginal children will be trialled to specifically support readiness for school and progress continues towards implementation of the National Quality Standard”.<sup>22</sup> Unfortunately no further information about the trial is currently available.

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- <sup>1</sup> WACOSS (2014) [\*2015-16 Pre Budget Submission, The Difference We Can Make\*](#), p.18 & 28.
- <sup>2</sup> Budget paper 2, Volume 2, p.632
- <sup>3</sup> The West Australian (2015, 6 May) [\*No agency safe from razor gang\*](#)
- <sup>4</sup> 2015-16 WA State Budget, Volume 1, p.257
- <sup>5</sup> News.com.au (2014, 28 April) [\*WA's troubled teen schools get extra funds\*](#)
- <sup>6</sup> Budget paper 2, Volume 2, p.626
- <sup>7</sup> WA Government (2015, May 14) [\*Media Release: Our State Budget 2015-16 - Protecting and supporting our community: Police, Child Protection, Fire and Emergency, Disability Services get major funding boosts.\*](#)
- <sup>8</sup> 2015-16 Budget Paper 2, Volume 1, p.419
- <sup>9</sup> 2015-16 Budget Paper 2, Volume 1, p.419
- <sup>10</sup> 2015-16 Budget Paper 2, Volume 1, p.419
- <sup>11</sup> 2015-16 Budget Paper 2, Volume 1, p.419
- <sup>12</sup> 2015-16 Budget Paper 2, Volume 1, p.421
- <sup>13</sup> 2015-16 Budget Paper 2, Volume 1, p.261
- <sup>14</sup> 2015-16 Budget Paper 2, Volume 2, p.626
- <sup>15</sup> 2015-16 Budget Paper 2, Volume 1, p.419
- <sup>16</sup> 2015-16 Budget Paper 2, Volume 1, p.419
- <sup>17</sup> 2015-16 Budget Paper 2, Volume 1, p.425
- <sup>18</sup> 2015-16 Budget Paper 2, Volume 1, p.425
- <sup>19</sup> 2015-16 Budget Paper 2, Volume 1, p.425
- <sup>20</sup> 2015-16 Budget Paper 2, Volume 1, p.420
- <sup>21</sup> WA Government (2015, 4 May) [\*Media Release: Long-term investment for Aboriginal youth.\*](#)
- <sup>22</sup> 2015-16 Budget Paper 2, Volume 1, p.258



## 2015-16 WA State Budget VULNERABLE PEOPLE

### Introduction

This information sheet covers a number of “other” disadvantaged or vulnerable groups impacted (positively or negatively) by funding decisions within the 2015-16 State Budget. The Council has examined portfolios in the areas of justice and safety, disability, training and Aboriginal affairs for items or initiatives which we believe may be of relevance or interest to our members.

In the 2015-16 State Budget for funding for programs and services (new or ongoing) which support the most vulnerable in our community; especially funding mechanisms and processes built on partnerships and collaboration (both within and between sectors).

### Initiatives at a Glance

Notable funding announcements in the 2015-16 State Budget:

- In 2015-16, the Disability Services Commission’s expenditure on disability services is budgeted to increase by 11.3% on 2014-15 expenditure levels (\$98 million increase). The State Government’s contribution to the National Disability Insurance Agency (Perth Hills Trial Site) will increase from \$9.6 million in 2014-15, to \$48.2 million in 2015-16.<sup>1</sup>
- The State Government has committed \$49.4 million from 2015-16 to 2017-18 for a continuation of Aboriginal Health Services.<sup>2</sup> The Department of Health (Aboriginal Health) also identifies \$6 million being provided to address and improve ear, eye and oral health issues in Aboriginal children in remote communities for the Kimberley, Pilbara, Mid West and Goldfields regions. The program includes employment and training of Aboriginal Health Workers in the provision of services as well as the purchase of Telehealth equipment.
- \$15m has been allocated in 2017-18 for the expansion of the Regional Youth Justice Strategy.<sup>3</sup>
- The Department of Training and Workforce Development’s budget appropriations will fall \$45 this year (from \$440m in 2014-15 to \$395m in 2015-16).<sup>4</sup> A portion of this reduction relates to the Federal Government’s announcement that it will be ceasing its contribution to the Joint Group Training program by 30 June 2015 (\$2.5m per annum). This will have a negative impact on the uptake of apprentices and trainees through group training arrangements.<sup>5</sup>

### Other Numbers

- A 5% (198 FTE) reduction in staff working in Adult Corrective Services between 2014-15 and 2015-16.<sup>6</sup> A reduction of 3.6% (26 FTE) in staff working in Youth Justice Services<sup>7</sup>.
- Between 2013-14 and 2014-15, the rate of return to detention for juveniles rose from 49% to 57% (the Department of Corrective Services’ target is 50%).

## Observations/Implications

### 1. Disability services

The Council welcomes the \$98 million (or 11.3%) increase in the Disability Services Commission budget in 2015-16. This reflects a total increase in spending on disability services of 122% since 2008-09 (total spending is budgeted at \$964 million in 2015-16).<sup>8</sup>

A *Key Effectiveness Indicator* for the Disability Services Commission is the “percentage of service users who achieved their individual plan outcomes”. The Council notes that the Commission’s target is being reduced from 75% to 70% in 2015-16.<sup>9</sup> The explanation for the reduction concerns the trialling of new information systems to collect outcomes, however the Council finds it difficult to accept this as a reasonable excuse to reduce such an important target.

### 2. Yet more police

The State Government has made a significant commitment to increasing the number of police officers. The Metropolitan Policing Services are budgeted to increase by 91 FTE (to a total of 3,613) in 2015-16.<sup>10</sup> Similarly, Regional and Remote Policing Services will increase by 50 FTE (to 2,007),<sup>11</sup> and Specialist Policing Services will increase by 64 FTE (to 2,540).<sup>12</sup>

The State Government’s insistence on funding larger and larger numbers of police officers is a source of consternation for the Council, especially given the public comments by a number of the most senior police calling for greater investment in staff such as social workers, rather than more police officers.

### 3. Family and domestic violence

Although domestic violence has grown as a priority within the community thanks to a range of campaigns and the appointment of Rosie Batty as the 2014 Australian of the Year, the Western Australian Government has allocated no new funding for domestic violence services or refuges in Western Australia. This is especially disappointing as the Barnett Government has yet to deliver on its 2013 Election promise for the establishment of *two* new refuges (the first was funded in the 2013-14 State Budget).

The Council did note a further \$780,000 budgeted by the Department of Housing in its asset investment program for the *Domestic Violence Accommodation Program*.<sup>13</sup> However, there was no further information to identify what this funding will be used for.

### 4. Women in prison

The Department of Corrective Services have budgeted \$22 million to build a new women’s custodial centre to initially accommodate women on remand. This facility will be built within Hakea prison, but will be a standalone facility and will include a secure dividing fence, a gatehouse and additional support buildings<sup>14</sup>.

\$16.2 million of this funding has been allocated in 2015-16, suggesting that the new facility is unlikely to be operating until 2017. This means that Bandyup Prison is likely to remain very overcrowded in the meantime, putting both prisoners and staff at risk. The Council is pleased to note, however, the plan to establish a *Women’s Estate Reference Committee* to “guide initiatives and develop innovative service delivery models in the women’s estate more broadly over the longer term”.<sup>15</sup>

### 5. Youth Justice

The *Youth Justice Innovation Fund*, an initiative of the Department of Corrective Services’ *Youth Justice Board*, has an *initial \$2 million* to fund “innovative, community based programs targeting Aboriginal

young people that address factors associated with high youth reoffending rates”.<sup>16</sup> (However, this funding is not *new* — it was originally allocated as a part of the 2014-15 State Budget).<sup>17</sup>

The Department was also interested to note that the Department is developing an *Integrated Individualised Offender Management Plan* that “focusses on ensuring offenders are managed in a consistent, constructive and coherent way during the entirety of their sentence”. Unfortunately no further information or funding information has been provided.<sup>18</sup> The initiative is “to enhance the safety and rehabilitation of adult and young offenders”.<sup>19</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> 2015-16 Budget Paper 2, Volume 2, p.579 & 581

<sup>2</sup> 2015-16 Budget Paper 2, Volume 1, p.128

<sup>3</sup> 2015-16 Budget Paper 2, Volume 2, p.729

<sup>4</sup> 2015-16 Budget Paper 2, Volume 1, p.361

<sup>5</sup> 2015-16 Budget Paper 2, Volume 1, p.376

<sup>6</sup> 2015-16 Budget Paper 2, Volume 2, p.732

<sup>7</sup> 2015-16 Budget Paper 2, Volume 2, p.732

<sup>8</sup> 2015-16 Budget Paper 2, Volume 1, p.406

<sup>9</sup> 2015-16 Budget Paper 2, Volume 1, p.408

<sup>10</sup> 2015-16 Budget Paper 2, Volume 1, p.367

<sup>11</sup> 2015-16 Budget Paper 2, Volume 1, p.367

<sup>12</sup> 2015-16 Budget Paper 2, Volume 1, p.367

<sup>13</sup> 2015-16 Budget Paper 2, Volume 2, p.854

<sup>14</sup> 2015-16 Budget Paper 2, Volume 2, p.733

<sup>15</sup> 2015-16 Budget Paper 2, Volume 2, p.730

<sup>16</sup> 2015-16 Budget Paper 2, Volume 2, p.730

<sup>17</sup> 2014-15 Budget Paper 2, Volume 2, p. 748

<sup>18</sup> 2015-16 Budget Paper 2, Volume 2, p.730

<sup>19</sup> 2015-16 Budget Paper 2, Volume 2, p.730



# 2015-16 WA State Budget MENTAL HEALTH AND ALCOHOL & OTHER DRUG 10 YEAR SERVICES PLAN



## Introduction



For approximately 18 months, significant planning processes have been underway across both the alcohol and other drug (AOD) and mental health sectors in Western Australia. The Council acknowledges the significant amount of work and commitment consumers, family members, community AOD and mental health service providers and their peak representatives contributed to the planning processes, and help shape the recommendations and outcomes to date.



Western Australian Association  
for Mental Health

It is hoped that the resulting *10-Year Mental Health and Alcohol and Other Drug Services Plan* (MHAOD Plan) will act as the blueprint for providing the optimal mix of mental health and AOD services for all Western Australians over the next decade. The plan is yet to be endorsed, however it was expected that the 2015-16 State Budget would provide an indication of the State Government's priorities, plans and intentions to resource the MHAOD Plan this year, and over the forward estimates.

Unfortunately this is not evident.

**The Council thanks the WA Association for Mental Health ([WAAMH](#)) and WA Network of Alcohol and Other Drug Agencies ([WANADA](#)) for their significant contribution to preparation of this information sheet.**

## Initiatives at a Glance

Notable funding announcements in the 2015-16 State Budget:

- \$27.9m from Royalties for Regions for two new step up/step down services in Karratha and Bunbury.
- \$25.9 million in new funding over four years for the implementation of a new suicide prevention strategy *Suicide Prevention 2020: Together we can save lives*.<sup>1</sup>
- \$2.5 million has been budgeted youth specialist mental health community treatment service dedicated facility to provide mental health care for youth aged 16-24 years (based in Wembley).<sup>2,3</sup> (This funding is only budgeted in 2015-16, suggesting it is asset investment. Unclear where the recurrent funding for this facility is in the Budget Papers.)
- Continued funding of the *Transitional Housing and Support Program* over the next four years to reduce relapse and homelessness for people exiting alcohol and other drug residential treatment services.<sup>4</sup>
- Extended Royalties for Regions funding to the *North West* (Kimberley, Pilbara and Mid-West) *Drug and Alcohol Support* program for the next two years, while an evaluation of the program is undertaken.<sup>5</sup>
- \$773,000 new funding for the *Alcohol Interlocks Assessment and Treatment Service*.<sup>6</sup> (However, this funding is only in 2015-16 — no recurrent funding indicated.)
- Mental Health in the Home (MITH) is identified in the budget, but the specific investment level is not clear as it is bundled up with Hospital in the Home and Friend-In-Need-Emergency.<sup>7</sup>

## Key Observations/Implications

### 1. Investment in the Ten Year Mental Health Alcohol and Other Drug Services Plan

The MHAOD plan receives a mention in Budget Paper 2. It is disappointing that there is no explicit commitment to resource the actions identified in the Plan. In the current fiscal environment it is welcomed that the budget in this area has been maintained, however it is of concern that at this stage the forward estimates do not support the investment needed to progress the aims of the MHAOD plan.

### 2. Rebalancing Mental Health Investment

There is welcome investment in a new Suicide Prevention Strategy but there appears to be no other investment in community mental health support. There is little progress in rebalancing the system toward early intervention and community intervention, with the greatest increase in mental health investment being in hospital bed based services (\$335 to \$376 million).

### 3. Step up Step Down Facilities

New sub-acute mental health facilities at Bunbury and Karratha, which are election commitments have been confirmed with Royalties for Regions funding of \$27.9m to commence in 2016/17.

### 4. Alcohol and other drug expenditure transparency

WANADA welcomes the identification of AOD service funding in the budget, listed separately to the overall AOD and mental health budget.

### 5. Justice and mental health

It is pleasing to see that \$4.7 million has been allocated to continue the Mental Health Court Diversion pilot until June 2016.<sup>8</sup> The pilot commenced on 18 March 2013, and was initially intended to last for 20 months. Funding allocations for this project can be found within the Mental Health Commission, WA Police, and Department of the Attorney General (Legal Aid) agencies.

### 6. South West Aboriginal-specific residential rehabilitation service

An Aboriginal-specific residential rehabilitation service in the South West has been a long-standing priority of the AOD sector, and has long been a call in the Council's annual Pre-Budget Submission. Unfortunately funding for this much needed facility remains absent from the 2015-16 Budget.

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<sup>1</sup> 2015-16 Budget Paper 1, p. 10

<sup>2</sup> WA Government (2015, 13 May) [Media Release: Specialist youth service now has a new home](#)

<sup>3</sup> 2015-16 Budget Paper 2, Volume 1, p.394

<sup>4</sup> 2015-16 Budget Paper 2, Volume 1, p.395

<sup>5</sup> 2015-16 Budget Paper 2, Volume 1, p.395

<sup>6</sup> 2015-16 Budget Paper 2, Volume 1, p.393

<sup>7</sup> 2015-16 Budget Paper 2, Volume 1, p.134

<sup>8</sup> 2015-16 Budget Paper 2, Volume 1, p.395





# 2015-16 WA State Budget THE SECTOR + PARTNERSHIP & COLLABORATION

## Introduction

The Council believes that greater collaboration and integration across services will result in the delivery of more efficient, effective and sustained outcomes for service users, hence the Council's ongoing support and engagement in mechanisms such as the *Partnership Forum*. The *Partnership Forum Strategic Directions 2014-15* includes in its *Principles* and *Behaviours*, specific commitments to delivering outcomes, encouraging collaboration, working in partnership, sharing of data and information and engaging service users in the design, planning and delivery of services.<sup>1</sup> The Partnership Forum has also developed *Good Practice Guidelines* to assist State agencies in engaging services and service users in the co-design of programs and services prior to service tendering.<sup>2</sup>

As such, the Council has been looking in the 2015-16 State Budget for:

- Ongoing support for mechanisms, and evidence of funding for, projects which encourage collaboration and service integration (especially between the government and non-government sectors).
- Funding and contracting measures which support the sustainability of community services.

## Initiatives at a Glance

Notable funding announcements in the 2015-16 State Budget:

- There is no funding budgeted in 2015-16 or beyond for either the Social Innovation Grant or Social Enterprise Fund initiatives.<sup>3</sup> The Department for Local Government and Communities also notes a return to Government of \$4.4 million unspent from the Social Innovation Grants and Social Enterprise Fund.

## Key Observations/Implications

### 1. NGHSS indexation

Wage growth has been subdued over 2014 calendar year with a Wage Price Index of 2.4% - representing a decline in wages in real terms of 0.4% (i.e. falling behind CPI). Conditions promise to remain tight, with State WPI forecast to grow by only 2.25% in 2014-15 and 2.75% in 2015-16. Calculations for the NGHSS Indexation rate (20% CPI + 80% WPI) are provided below, but service providers are cautioned against budgeting on service funding increases in line with these rates as there remains uncertainty in these numbers.

Table 1: Index forecasts<sup>4</sup>

	CPI (%)	WPI (%)	NGHSS (%)
2015-16	2.25	2.75	2.65
2016-17	2.5	3.0	2.9
2017-18	2.5	3.25	3.1
2018-19	2.5	3.5	3.3

## **2. Establishment of Regional Strategic Advisory Councils**

One week before the release of the 2015-16 Budget, the Premier announced the plan to establish Regional Strategic Advisory Councils in the Kimberley and Pilbara.<sup>5</sup> The Advisory Councils are intended will act as a liaison between government agencies and local communities. District Leadership Groups will also be formed with Aboriginal service organisations, local councils and relevant State agencies to engage locally with community members, and decide which services will best assist their communities.<sup>6,7</sup>

If properly implemented and supported, these initiatives could act as the governance mechanism for the implementation of collaborative approaches to service design and tendering across portfolios at the regional level.

The Department of Regional Development also mentions the establishment of a new (Royalties for Regions) *Regional Reform Fund* to fund “strategic reform initiatives in regional Western Australia designed to support State Government objectives”. The first focus area will be centred on regional Aboriginal reform initiatives. The Fund will have \$50m per annum over 3 years (\$150m total funding).

## **3. Partnership Forum**

On the Partnership Forum, the Department of Premier and Cabinet have written:

*Supporting a strong partnership between the public and not-for-profit sectors remains a focus of the Department’s work. This includes supporting the Partnership Forum, with leaders from both the public and not-for-profit sectors, to consolidate funding and contracting reforms and promote collaborative policy and service design to improve outcomes for individuals, families and the Western Australian community. In 2015-16, the Partnership Forum will make the development of regional networks between government and the not-for-profit sector a priority.<sup>8</sup>*

There is little reference within the Budget Papers to any initiatives which are based in partnership or collaboration with the community services sector.

## **4. South West Settlement (SWALSC Negotiations)**

The State (through the Department of Premier and Cabinet) is working towards commencement of the South West Settlement in 2015-16 although the commencement date may extend into the following financial year.<sup>9</sup>

## **5. Regional blueprints**

The Department for Regional development has budgeted \$7m for Regional Blueprint initiatives in 2015-16 and \$11m, \$18m, and \$137m over the forward estimates.<sup>10</sup> However, we note that the majority of this spend falls into the Department’s *Asset Investment Program*, meaning it will predominately go towards infrastructure rather than service delivery.<sup>11</sup>

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- <sup>1</sup> Department of Premier and Cabinet (no date) [Partnership Forum Directions 2014-15](#)
- <sup>2</sup> Partnership Forum (2015) [Good Practice Guidelines](#) (Appendix 2 of WACOSS Submission).
- <sup>3</sup> Budget Paper 2, Volume 2, p.632
- <sup>4</sup> Budget Paper 3, p. 14
- <sup>5</sup> WA Government (2015, 7 May) [Media Release: Reform to improve lives of Aboriginal people](#)
- <sup>6</sup> WA Government (2015, 7 May)
- <sup>7</sup> Department of Aboriginal Affairs (2015) [Regional Services Reform Q&A. How will the reform process be managed?](#)
- <sup>8</sup> 2015-16 Budget Paper 2, Volume 2, p.66
- <sup>9</sup> 2015-16 Budget Paper 2, Volume 2, p.66
- <sup>10</sup> 2015-16 Budget Paper 2, Volume 1, p.167
- <sup>11</sup> 2015-16 Budget Paper 2, Volume 1, p.164