



# 2016-17 State and Federal Budgets WACOSS STATE BUDGET FACT SHEET

## Summary Response to Key State Budget Measures

### Welcome measures

- \$298m in the coming year for the Social Housing Investment Program (NB. This is not a new announcement). *SHIP is on track to deliver an extra 1000 houses by the end of next year and is expected to halve the number of seniors and families on the priority waitlist.*
- \$14.9m investment in strategies to address methamphetamine use. *WACOSS called for \$21m for detox and residential based alcohol and other drug rehabilitation services.*
- \$14.7 million additional allocation to the Mental Health Commission. *This follows an 83% increase over the past 8 years, to community-based mental health services.*
- \$1m re-invested in community sector parenting services and New Centre for Parenting Excellence.
- \$26m increase for NDIS trial expansion and \$50m increase for non-NDIS service demand.

### Concerning measures

- \$63m extra costs from the growing numbers of children in care, and \$10m growth in child protection notification assessments and protection services.
- \$147m in extra costs of the growing prison population.
- Capped \$6/week increase in public housing rents next year, on top of the \$12/week increase announced this year. *\$13m of expected revenue re-invested into the social housing system.*
- Mental Health Commission expenditure on prevention services expected to decline by \$8 million over four years.
- \$4m cut to Parenting WA and \$1.2m cut to Best Start programs. *Loss of ~70FTE, particularly in regional WA.*

### Unfair measures

- Increased fees and charges of \$257pa for the representative household model with no protection, exemptions or concessions for low-income earners.
- The costs of electricity (3%), water (4.5%) and public transport up (1.5%) all go up in this budget,

### Unwelcome measures

- \$38m cut to family support services aimed at prevention and early intervention over the next four years. *\$10m of these cuts stem from the removal of Royalties for Regions funding to deliver the Responsible Parenting program in regional WA, but the cuts also affect homelessness and family support services.*

### Failures to act

- No new investment in expanding secondary support services for families at risk or in crisis, through either the Family Support Networks or funding committed to the Earlier Intervention Strategy.
- No plan to reform pricing and concessions to deliver a fairer market in essential services.