

MENTAL HEALTH, DISABILITY AND ALCOHOL & OTHER DRUG SERVICES

Overall, Labor has honoured their pre-election commitments in this area, with some new initiatives announced. From our analysis it is still unclear what is ongoing and what is new funding, and in some circumstances the collation of MH and AOD funding makes the breakdown more difficult.

The new mental health funding continues, however, to be oriented towards acute treatment services. The range of alcohol and drug service initiatives announced include a significant proportion with a reactive and punitive focus. Both of these are contrary to the *Western Australian Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drug Services Plan 2015-2025 (Better Choices, Better Lives)*. There is also still a lack of funding certainty in some areas, and cuts pending in others.

MENTAL HEALTH

- Step Up/Step Down community-based mental health services have been scheduled for Kalgoorlie (\$7.3m), Bunbury (\$11.2 million) and Karratha (\$12.3 million). The Kalgoorlie unit, due to commence in 2020-21, is especially welcome after the previous Government scrapped it from the budget.
- A tier 3 mental health program for young people and a Youth Medical Service Health Hub are being established in the Peel region. These new services could be part of those pledged to support the drug testing of welfare recipients in the area.
- Other youth-peer services include Ice Breakers at Albany PCYC and via the National Rugby League.
- \$200,000 grant to design and develop a Recovery College Model in Wanneroo and Royal Perth.
- \$13.2 million to deliver specialist mental health programs to 300 schools, 0.1FTE/school.
- Savings of \$5.8 million are being made from cuts to NGO service, but it is unclear what services and WACOSS is concerned that this will include 'easy' targets, small grants and services that support very vulnerable groups.
- Although groups at higher suicide risk are mentioned, there is no funding for specific suicide prevention services. These create uncertainty around services that are much needed.

NDIS

- The State Budget does not provide any clarity about which model will be adopted, State or Commonwealth.
- An approximate 400 per cent increase to 2020-21 Department of Communities 'Planning and Coordination' spending is the allocation for self-directed services for people with a disability. There are also significant increases in funding for Living Support and Community Participation.

ALCOHOL & DRUG

- Includes more than \$83 million for Meth Border Force, a lost opportunity for investment in early intervention and rehabilitation services.
- Rehabilitation centre in the South West and a drug rehabilitation prison for women at Wandoo, which is very welcome, but at the expense of award winning programs. A similar facility for men is expected in a few years. Funding also included to commence needs analysis and planning for a Kimberley service.
- \$600,000 to develop a Target 120 model.

2017/18 BUDGET BRIEFING

	2016-17 Estimated Actual \$'000	2017-18 Budget Estimate \$'000	2018-19 Forward Estimate \$'000	2019-20 Forward Estimate \$'000	2020-21 Forward Estimate \$'000
Election Commitments					
3 Tier Youth Mental Health Program	-	133	133	133	-
Alcohol and Other Drug Residential Rehabilitation and Treatment Services					
Kimberley.....	-	200	-	-	-
South West.....	-	-	-	-	1,858
Ice Breakers Program.....	-	180	180	-	-
Mental Health Recovery College at Royal Perth Hospital and in Wanneroo	-	200	-	-	-
Methamphetamine Treatment Facilities.....	-	-	3,903	4,002	4,100
National Rugby League State of Mind Program.....	-	50	50	-	-
Step Up/Step Down Mental Health Facility in Kalgoorlie	-	-	-	-	1,658