

ADDITIONAL SPENDING ON NEWER REFORMS

OUR PRIORITIES: SHARING PROSPERITY PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION

WACOSS was pleased to see the Government commit \$5.5M to establish a central [Our Priorities](#) Implementation Unit in Department of Premier and Cabinet, to provide oversight and coordination of the whole-of-government targets. Substantial additional resources will be required to achieve the targets identified.

Other mechanisms available to the Government could have facilitated this strategic agenda, but are not currently funded. The Supporting Communities Forum (SCF) is a high level group tasked with progressing priorities also identified through the Premier's office. The SCF has Working Groups organised around homelessness, data sharing, outcomes framework and procurement amongst others. It is disappointing that there was no commensurate funding for the Working Groups to deliver on their respective areas in this State budget.

SUSTAINABLE HEALTH REVIEW

Following the Government's endorsement of the 30 recommendations in eight 'enduring areas' in the Review, \$26.4M has been allocated to 2020-21 for implementation of these. WACOSS is concerned about the lack of detail in the funding announced for the commencement of pilot innovations (pasted below).

\$18.9 million to deliver four pilot projects, including the Mental Health Safe Haven Café, Child and Adolescent Health Service Co-location Hub, Frequent Flyers Program, Home First Model of Care, and planning for the co-location and integration of women's health services at King Edward Memorial Hospital to the Queen Elizabeth II Medical Centre.

Because this trial funding also includes planning to begin the re-location of King Edward Memorial Hospital, there is a likely to be a significant shortfall in the amount needed to engender a cultural shift in the way that health is delivered, and that was at the heart of the Review's advice.

IMPLEMENTATION OF ROYAL COMMISSION (CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE) REFORMS

The Government has sent a reassuring signal that it is committed to implementing the Commission's recommendations, listed below. This follows from amendments to civil legislation removing the statute of limitations. WACOSS hopes that this new funding will improve the capacity of Courts to respond to the extra claims. The way forward for 'Make Redress Right' also remains unclear in this budget, a great disappointment to the many care leavers affected.

- \$589K for a Reportable Conduct Scheme to monitor and respond to complaints
- \$627K to develop whole-of-government independent oversight strategy of institutions providing child-related services
- \$300K to digitise and upload criminal records prior to 1985

- \$2.9M to 2020-21 for a civil litigation team to respond to reform to remove statutory limitation periods for historical child sexual abuse
- \$3.6M to 2020-21 for policy and program development work to progress recommendations

SERVICEWA

There is \$6.9M in the budget for a Bunbury based facility to pilot face-to-face transactions and online government service delivery to 2021-22, covering Departments of Transport, Finance and Premier and Cabinet. This includes \$1.7M infrastructure costs. WACOSS will be interested to see the evaluation of this pilot. An additional \$866K will be spent to develop an online ServiceWA directory.

KEYSTART

From July to December 2019 there will be an increase to the income thresholds for eligible Keystart borrowers by \$15K for singles and couples, and by \$20K for families. Whilst WACOSS is supportive of any initiative to improve home ownership amongst lower income people and families, we would have liked to see investments that support the growth of inclusive social housing.