

Western Australians share a vision for our communities. We want to live in places that foster healthy, creative, culturally-rich and socially connected communities. We want our loved ones to be safe from illness and harm. And we want strong networks of support that provide access to opportunities to pursue purpose and connection – giving us all the freedom to live well.

We can strategically work together towards this vision from two angles: by strengthening the capability of the community services sector, and by developing frameworks for long-term systemic and transformational change.

WACOSS's State Budget Submission 2022-2023 provides analysis and key recommendations for both immediate action and longer-term strategic planning across eight key focus areas. Our aim is to move the pandemic recovery conversation beyond the economy towards a person-centred recovery that focuses on outcomes and wellbeing.

## STATE BUDGET SUBMISSION 2022-2023

### SUMMARY

TAKING US FROM:

**Economic Recovery:**  
overcoming challenges and  
regaining productivity



**Building Resilience:**  
responding well to unique  
and disruptive challenges



**Stronger Communities:**  
working together and  
emerging fairer



## The Care Industry

- Build a shared data asset to enable outcome-based commissioning
- Establish success criteria and an evaluation framework for integrated services and place-based initiatives
- Ensure short-term contract extensions are sustainably funded while reforms occur
- Partner in a WA Care Industry Plan to develop effective care systems and address future capability and workforce gaps



## Climate Justice and Disaster Resilience

- Legislate ambitious carbon emissions reduction targets to reach net zero
- Create climate proof civic infrastructure and community spaces with local governments
- Develop and implement a WA Community Disaster Resilience Strategy



## Closing the Gap

- Progress the Implementation Plan to expand the role of ACCOs
- Establish a WA Reparations Scheme for Stolen Generations
- Raise the age of criminal responsibility to 14 years' old
- Partner with local communities to co-design new justice reinvestment sites



## Gender Equity

- Create workforce development and retention strategies for female-dominated industries
- Establish a gender-responsive budgeting unit within Treasury
- Adequately resource culturally aware and community-led family healing programs
- Fund evidence-based men's behaviour change programs



## Health and Wellbeing

- Adopt a WA Child and Family Wellbeing Framework and implementation plan
- Support community-based initiatives that reduce loneliness and social isolation
- Address service gaps for young people from diverse backgrounds
- Fund dedicated school-based youth workers to improve wellbeing



## Human Rights and Community Wealth

- Introduce a WA Human Rights Act
- Ban all LGBTQ+ conversion practices
- Develop community and worker owned models of regional economic development
- Create a windfall gains charge and increase the gold royalty rate



## Income Security and Financial Resilience

- Develop and resource a nutrition-focused food relief policy
- Initiate a Secure Work Pilot Scheme
- Increase flexibility of disaster relief funds to respond to widespread financial hardship
- Shift to percentage-based energy concessions



## Secure and Affordable Housing

- Implement inclusionary zoning with social and affordable housing targets for new developments
- Fast track reform of the Residential Tenancies Act to improve renters' rights
- Introduce a vacant residential property charge
- Partner with local councils and CHOs to provide affordable rentals for low-income workers



**wa council of  
social service**

We advocate for social change to improve  
the wellbeing of Western Australians and  
to strengthen the community services  
sector that supports them.