# Emergency Relief

Emergency relief (ER) is the provision of financial or material assistance to people in financial crisis. Some people access ER to help them through a ‘one-off’ episode; while for others ER becomes part of their solution to dealing with ongoing financial disadvantage. The aim of ER is to assist people experiencing financial crisis in a way that maintains dignity and encourages self-reliance. (ACOSS ER Handbook 4th Edition)

## WACOSS Community Relief and Resilience (CRR) Forum Terms of Reference

### The WACOSS CRR Forum meets monthly and is aimed at providing a space where agency representatives can:

* Share information on current and emerging trends in the sector
* Network with providers, government services and funding bodies
* Obtain information via guest speakers on topics identified as relevant to ER
* Identify issues through direct service provision provided by ER services
* Keep informed of the work being done by WACOSS in the areas of policy, advocacy and matters relating to poverty issues
* Be updated on the delivery of essential utility services and the availability of utility assistance schemes

###  The CRR forum is not intended to be:

* A lobby group which speaks on behalf of all Emergency Relief services in WA
* An opportunity for ER services to run individual political agendas
* An opportunity to discuss individual cases where people may be identified
* A policy making group

### Attendance at the CRR Forum is open to:

* Representatives from agencies that provide direct or indirect ER services
* Other related services i.e. financial counselling, hunger relief organisations etc.
* Funding bodies i.e. Lotterywest, DSS, DCPFS
* Other relevant State and Federal Departments i.e. DHS, DO