

## Disability

*The 2023-24 budget prioritises investment in students with a disability. The budget also acknowledges that recent Federal NDIS funding decisions will change the face of disability funding. Whilst it is too early to know how this NDIS reform will impact State finances, it is important to note that into the future the State will have to ensure they have sufficient capacity to support the needs of Western Australians with disability.*

<b>Initiative</b>	State support for NDIS (B2, V2, P502)
<b>Investment</b>	\$1.3 billion for 2023-24
<b>Description</b>	This represents WA's required contribution to the NDIS. WA's ongoing contribution will be subject to participant numbers, the NDIS Review and the Bilateral Agreements.
<b>Implications</b>	Federal decisions to change the way NDIS is funded will place increased pressure on State based disability services. While this funding is an important step in ensuring an increased number of WA people with disabilities can access the NDIS, ongoing funding will be required to ensure the continued provision of quality care.

<b>Initiative</b>	Supporting students with disability and complex behaviour (B2, V2, P350)
<b>Investment</b>	\$533.8 million over the forward estimates, which represents \$74.6 million more than last year's allocation
<b>Description</b>	This includes an expansion of the specialist learning programs for students with autism spectrum disorder, and an increase in the educational adjustment allocation to support more students with undiagnosed disabilities and learning difficulties.
<b>Implications</b>	This important investment will ensure students have access to services to meet their complex learning needs.  <i>See WACOSS 'Early Years' and 'Youth' fact sheets for further comment.</i>

<b>Initiative</b>	National Disability Data Asset (B2, V2, P501)
<b>Investment</b>	\$3.8 million in 2024-25
<b>Description</b>	This investment supports Western Australia to participation in the National Disability Data Asset project.
<b>Implications</b>	Investment in this will mean we have a more complete picture of the lived experiences of people with disability in Western Australia.

<b>Initiative</b>	Royal Commission (BP2, V2, P437)
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## 2023 - 2024 Budget

<b>Investment</b>	\$660,000 in 2023-24 for the Disability Royal Commission
<b>Description</b>	The Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability aims to respond to community concerns about widespread violence and neglect. The Commission is due to deliver a final report by 29 September 2023. The SSO will continue to support the State's response to the report and implementation of any recommendations.
<b>Implications</b>	Supporting the Royal Commission will ensure the voices of people with disability are heard and will ensure Western Australia is well-placed to understand and implement recommendations.

<b>Initiative</b>	Support for Ageing Australians (BP2, V2, P505)
<b>Investment</b>	\$2 million over the forward estimates
<b>Description</b>	<p>This \$2 million package focuses on ensuring ageing Australians have access to services that meet their diverse needs including disability status. This package includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$750,000 to extend the existing Seniors Peak Body service contract</li> <li>• \$500,000 to support the Age-friendly Communities Social Connectivity grants program</li> <li>• \$340,000 to develop more accessible information and improve awareness of existing services and concessions</li> <li>• \$400,000 advertising campaign to raise awareness of ageism.</li> </ul>
<b>Implications</b>	While this investment highlights the increasing need to provide service and supports to older Western Australians, the funding provided, particularly for the Seniors Peak Body is not sufficient to drive improved outcomes for clients. Additionally, no funding has been allocated to the specific needs of ageing Western Australians with disability.