

Regional Investment

The WA Government has outlined investment to address the unique needs and inequity experienced in our regional, remote and rural communities. The following initiatives will be spread across the state. To see a budget breakdown for each specific region, please see the government fact sheets [linked here](#). These initiatives are in addition to those that apply for all Western Australians. Whilst we are pleased to see significant investment in housing and staffing which are current key concerns across the regions, the level of investment does not adequately address the crisis these communities are facing.

You will find other regional investments documented in their relevant fact sheets.

Initiative	Health staffing (B2, V1, P295)
Investment	\$28.5 million
Description	Covers initiatives to attract and retain key health professionals, with funding primarily directed to regional and hard-to-staff sites.
Implications	Staffing is a key concern and barrier to delivering effective and appropriate health services across the regions. We support this investment and would welcome further support for non-government community service staffing.

Initiative	Health services (B2, V1, P29-P296)
Investment	\$25.7 million
Description	Including \$6.3 million over one year for cancer services, \$6.7 million over four years for renal support teams and \$3.1 million over one year for regional palliative care support. An additional investment of \$9.6 million to expand Ronald McDonald house, accommodation for regional families receiving healthcare in the metro area.
Implications	We are pleased to see investment in key areas of health vulnerability in regional WA as well as support for those needing to visit Perth for treatment.

Initiative	Mental health services (BP2, V1, P323)
Investment	\$24.4 million
Description	To continue the delivery of the WA Country Health Service (WACHS) Mental Health Emergency Telehealth Service over the next four years.
Implications	We support the continuation of telehealth mental health services, however hope to see further resourcing support for mental health services to be delivered locally across the regions.

2023 - 2024 Budget

Initiative	Regional Supportive Landlord Model (B3, P134)
Investment	\$49 million
Description	A new homelessness intervention service to assist and transition rough sleepers to social housing. This includes \$46 million to acquire around 100 houses for people sleeping rough in regional towns.
Implications	We welcome new initiatives that attempt to fix the housing crisis in regional areas.

Initiative	Government Regional Officer Housing (GROH)
Investment	\$61.6 million
Description	To be spent on refurbishing and delivering affordable Government Regional Officer Housing, including a 12-month rent freeze for public servants across regional WA.
Implications	Similarly, to the health staffing initiative this does not address the housing and cost of living crisis facing not-for-profit community staff in the regions.

Initiative	Regional education infrastructure (B2, V1, P351)
Investment	\$53 million over the forward estimates
Description	New and improved school infrastructure in regional WA.
Implications	Access to education in child development is critical and we are supportive of investment in school infrastructure.

Initiative	Temporary Regional Incentive for Teachers (B2, V1, P349)
Investment	\$9.2 million in 2023/24
Description	The final component of the \$12.4 million initiative announced in November 2022 to retain and attract teachers to regional and remote schools.
Implications	Quality and retention of these staff will be key with only one year of incentive budgeted.

Initiative	Student allowances (B2, V1, P370)
Investment	\$5.4 million
Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$2.5 million over two years to increase the travel allowance for regional TAFE students; \$2.9 million over three years to provide a weekly allowance for regional students studying a Diploma of Nursing
Implications	We are pleased to see this budget recognise the costs associated with studying whilst living remotely, this also encourages students to remain in the regions and fill much needed staff shortages.

2023 - 2024 Budget

Initiative	Access to regional childcare (BP2, V2, P521)
Investment	\$1.4 million over 2023-24
Description	As part of election commitments, the Government committed to boost funding to support access to regional childcare, including through initiatives to help attract and retain regional childcare staff. The 2023-24 budget continues to support this commitment.
Implications	Increased childcare, particularly in regional areas, allows parents and carers to return to work. This initiative supports women's economic empowerment and helps to create safe environments where children are supported to flourish in their early years.