

Women

The bulk of the government's investments into 'supporting women' are large, general investments in areas such as housing, mental health and cost-of-living that are not actually gender specific. While the McGowan Government recognises the importance of family and domestic violence, this isn't sufficiently reflected in their level of investment. It's important to see investment in updating women's health infrastructure, however, the budget overall is lacking dedication to women's health issues more broadly, such as access to community-based services, addressing medical misogyny, and investing in preventative health.

Family and Domestic Violence

Initiative	FDV Broome Hub (BP2, V2, P501)
Investment	\$16.3 million over the forward estimates
Description	Funding has been allocated to deliver a regional One Stop Hub (Hub) for family and domestic violence in Broome, announced in 2022. This investment covers the commercial and operations funding for the FDV hub for four years.
Implications	The Broome Hub will be designed to deliver a culturally appropriate service and reflect the needs of the community in Broome and the surrounding areas, which has a high rate of Aboriginal women experiencing family violence.

Initiative	FDV Refuge and Safe House Sustainability (BP2, V2, P502)
Investment	\$18.25 million over the forward estimates
Description	Additional funding for refuges and safe houses to address sustainability of services. On average, a 27% uplift for services that are no longer able to deliver on the original specifications of their contracts, which equates to a \$150 000 - \$300 000 uplift per service.
Implications	While this has established a much-needed new baseline of funding for services, it does not come anywhere near meeting the scale of the problem as specialist FDV services are facing ever-increasing demand and can't address unmet need.

Initiative	Extension of operation of the Mirrabooka and Kalgoorlie FDV Hubs (BP2, V2, P502)
Investment	\$13.4 million over the forward estimates
Description	Extended funding for the Kalgoorlie and Mirrabooka hubs to enable continuation of these important services beyond June 2024.
Implications	Funding is always welcome to support the ongoing work of the hubs, however, investment across the continuum from primary prevention

	through to crisis response and recovery is needed to ensure the system can better support all people experiencing family and domestic violence.
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Initiative	FDV Response Teams - Coordinated Response Services (BP2, V2, P502)
Investment	\$3.4 million
Description	This investment is for a two-year extension on base funding and a 12-month commitment to supplementary funding for Coordinated Response Services (front line response workers located in various police stations across the State).
Implications	This commitment enables long-term employment contracts and decreased workforce turnover and attrition which has a significant impact on the quality and continuity of services for victim-survivors.

Women's Health and wellbeing

Initiative	Expansion of BreastScreen WA (B2 V1, P296)
Investment	\$2 million for 2022-23 to 2023-24 (\$1 million funded by WA State Government, \$1 million funded by Commonwealth)
Description	Investment to support the continued delivery of BreastScreen Australia services to women 70-74 years of age and to increase the current participation rates, including through the delivery of recruitment activities and a focus on under-screened groups.
Implications	Important investment to ensure that all WA women have access to, and engage with, potentially lifesaving screening services.

Initiative	Commence construction of the new Women and Babies Hospital (BP2, V1, P313)
Investment	\$544 million over the forward estimates
Description	WA Government has committed \$1.8 billion to fully fund the new Women and Babies Hospital, including \$544 million to commence construction over the next four years.
Implications	This investment supports the development of a leading-edge maternity hospital and will ensure women have access to modern facilities.

Initiative	Supporting nurses and midwives transition into, and remain in the workforce (BP2, V1, P295)
Investment	\$7.8 million over 2023-24 to 2025-26
Description	Providing \$3.6 million to fund wrap-around transition support to newly qualified nurses and midwives. An additional \$4.2 million has been identified to provide HECS-HELP relief to newly qualified nurses and midwives employed in regional WA.
Implications	Transitioning to the workforce is a key period of poor workforce retention for new nurses and midwives as they negotiate the consolidation of complex skills with little supports. This investment

	package works to ensure new nurses and midwives have access to the mentorship and financial incentives required to support them remain in the workforce. This investment also has significant benefits for women in regional communities by increasing access to midwives and woman-centred care.
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Gender Equity

Initiative	TAFE Scholarships for Women in Non-Traditional Occupations (BP2, V1, P370)
Investment	\$2.6 million over the forward estimates
Description	This funding will provide 400 scholarships for women to train in non-traditional trade and technical occupations.
Implications	An important initiative to help address the underrepresentation of women in trades and technical occupations across a range of sectors. However, there is an absence of investment for women's economic opportunities in sectors that have traditionally employed a greater share of women.

Initiative	Rural, Regional and Remote Network Continuation (BP2, V1, P209)
Investment	\$700,000 over the forward estimates
Description	The Rural, Regional and Remote Network advocates on issues impacting women and their communities in rural and regional WA to various stakeholders.
Implications	This funding will help the RRR Network to continue to deliver, facilitate, and liaise on services, projects and social impact research that directly benefits RRR women and their communities.