

Disability

It was expected that investment in the 2024-25 budget would reflect the current transition of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS). The Government has acknowledged that the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability and the NDIS Review are likely to see further changes to State and Commonwealth Government responsibilities and service delivery systems, however the budget has few measures that will positively impact the lives of people living with disability in Western Australia.

Initiative	From Hospital to Home Disability Transition Care Program (BP2, V1, P306)
Investment	\$22.1 million over two years
Description	Investment in the Hospital to Home Transitional Care Pilot, supporting continued focus on improving the health and wellbeing of people with a disability while the longer-term reforms to the National Disability Insurance Scheme are secured. As part of an ongoing initiative. The program will be extended by 18 months and expanded state-wide.
Implications	This initiative will improve access to emergency care.

Initiative	Education investment (BP2, V1, P353)
Investment	\$391 million, unclear over what time period
Description	<p>This funding will support projected student enrolment growth in WA schools.</p> <p><u>Student Enrolment Growth</u> Spending on public schools has been revised up by \$290.4 million over 2023-24 to 2027-28, driven by an upward revision in mainstream student enrolment projections. This reflects strong growth in the State's population, along with increases in the number of students with a disability, eligible students who speak English as an additional language or dialect, and students enrolled in the School of Isolated and Distance Education. (BP3, P123).</p> <p><u>Grants to Non-Government Schools</u> Grants to non-government schools will increase by \$100.9 million over 2023-24 to 2027-28 driven by a continued trend of higher-than-forecast enrolments and to meet the State's funding obligations under the National School Reform Agreement. (BP3, P123).</p> <p>Media release here.</p>
Implications	It is not clear how this funding will support students with unique educational needs.

Initiative	State Support for NDIS (BP2, V2, P507)
Investment	\$564.8 million over an unknown time period
Description	Reflects recurrent provisions for the indexation of the State's National Disability Insurance Scheme contributions for Communities. (BP2, V2, P503) The budget notes say cash payments to the National Disability Insurance Agency reflects the State's cash contribution only. National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) contribution funding from 2023-24 onwards is now reflected as administered transactions. The Total Cost of Services from 2023-24 onwards does not include the NDIS contributions.
Implications	At this stage the implications are unclear to us.

Initiative	Disability Advocacy and Referral Diversion for Young People (BP2, V2, P31) (BP3, P127)
Investment	\$870,000 over two years.
Description	This is part of an ongoing initiative which provide advocacy and case management support to young people under the age of 25 in the courts system, delivered by Legal Aid.
Implications	It is unclear what this additional funding will achieve, however additional advocacy support for people with a disability in the justice system is a positive, as are diversionary programs that can provide appropriate support outside of the justice system and avoid entrenching systemic harm.

Initiative	Disability Services Transitional Disability Accommodation (BP2, V2, P520)
Investment	\$4.06 million for 2024-25
Description	As part of an ongoing initiative, no funding expended in previous Financial Year.
Implications	It is not clear if this funding has been reallocated to the, From Hospital to Home Program. Further information is needed.

Initiative	National Disability Insurance Scheme Worker Screening Service Level Agreement Update (BP2, V2, P576)
Investment	\$189,000 a year for two years
Description	This investment supports Western Australia to participation in the National Disability Data Asset project.
Implications	Indicates spending changes as part of an ongoing initiative.