

## Sustainability of Services

The first budget under the Cook Government provides sizable funding for those in our community who are doing it toughest, through a range of funding initiatives and programs.

This included a [\\$92.2 million funding package for homelessness services](#) and [\\$96.4 million for family and domestic violence services](#).

While the budget does recognise the profound need and provides support to homelessness and family and domestic violence services, it neglects to fund other existing frontline services to maintain support levels and keep the doors open, in the face of rising award wages and operating costs.

There was no much-needed change to the state indexation policy for community services in the budget. However, the Treasurer wrote to WACOSS outlining a commitment to review the indexation rate for 2024-25, subject to the outcomes of the National Wage Case in June and any potential indexation gap as a result.

WACOSS will continue to fight for genuinely sustainable funding for community services, so we don't stay locked into an endless cycle of underfunding in the middle of a cost of living crisis.

<b>Initiative</b>	<a href="#">Uplift to Homelessness Services</a> – (BP2, V2, P504)
<b>Investment</b>	\$133.8 million over four years
<b>Description</b>	There will be an increase in baseline funding for more than 120 homelessness services.
<b>Implications</b>	This represents a significant increase to baseline funding for homelessness services in WA, which we know is much needed as these services have been at breaking point for many years. The uplift to funding in homelessness services is welcome. The average uplift to services will be 26%. After years of underfunding this money will enable those critical and lifesaving services to keep their doors open.

<b>Initiative</b>	<a href="#">Housing First Support Services (HFSS)</a> (BP2, V2, P504)
<b>Investment</b>	\$20 million over four years.
<b>Description</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$15.7 million to expand the Housing First Support Services, including:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ \$6.7 million to support expansion in the Metro area</li> <li>○ \$9 million to support expansion in the regions including Geraldton, Albany and Kalgoorlie</li> </ul> </li> <li>• \$4.5 million to expand (and almost double) Entrypoint's capacity</li> <li>• \$1.79 million for future homelessness referral services</li> </ul>

## 2024 - 2025 Budget

<b>Implications</b>	Many families in WA are increasingly struggling to access affordable housing. Bolstering homelessness services, while addressing the shortage of affordable housing is absolutely essential to ensure Western Australians can have their basic needs met. This funding announcement is warmly welcomed.
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<b>Initiative</b>	FDV Taskforce – Strengthen Responses (BP2, V2, P503-504)
<b>Investment</b>	\$60.5 million over four years
<b>Description</b>	<p>Package includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$6 million over 2 years for Aboriginal Family Safety Grants</li> <li>• \$600,000 over 2 years to boost Access to Domestic Violence Counselling</li> <li>• \$2 million over 3 years for Coercive Control Education and First Responder Training</li> <li>• \$6.04 million over 2 years for continuation and expansion of Perpetrator Intervention Programs</li> <li>• \$7 million over 2 years for the Flexible Support Package</li> <li>• \$300,000 over 2 years for the Housing Families Program</li> <li>• \$2.4 million over 1 year for Munda Mia</li> <li>• \$6.6 million over 4 years for a new Perth CBD Women’s Refuge</li> <li>• \$814,000 over 2 years to Preventing Violence Together</li> <li>• \$6 million over 2 years for Primary Prevention Grants</li> <li>• \$4 million over 2 years on a Public Awareness Campaign</li> <li>• \$1.5 million over 2 years to Respectful Relationships</li> <li>• \$14.2 million over 4 years for the Ruah Perth CBD One-Stop Hub</li> <li>• \$3.1 million over 2 years to Safe at Home</li> </ul>
<b>Implications</b>	<p>These initiatives under ‘Strengthen Responses’ are welcome, particularly in primary prevention and early intervention areas which historically has had very little resourcing. Despite this, longer term commitment to these areas would be necessary to create the change we need to see to prevent violence from occurring.</p> <p>The FDV Perth Hub will offer victim-survivors easier access to support services with a range of community services co-located.</p>

<b>Initiative</b>	FDV Taskforce – System Reform Plan (BP2, V2, P504)
<b>Investment</b>	\$53.8 million over four years
<b>Description</b>	<p>Including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$405,000 over 2 years for a Central Information Point</li> <li>• \$25.6 million over 4 years to expand the FDV Response Teams</li> <li>• \$1.9 million over 4 years for a Lived Experience Advisory Group</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$4 million over 4 years for new Crisis Beds</li> <li>\$6.2 million over 4 years for the development of a Workforce Entity</li> <li>\$2.06 million over 3 years for administration</li> </ul>
<b>Implications</b>	<p>We are pleased to see funding commitments aligned with the System Reform Plan, developed by the FDV Taskforce.</p> <p>Collaborative multi-agency approaches result in better experiences and outcomes for victim-survivors. The expansion of the FDV Response Teams is welcomed. We look forward to the inclusion of Community Corrections Officers in the Response Teams to bring focus to accountability and intervention for people who use violence.</p> <p>A Lived Experience Advisory Group will enable people with lived experience of FDV to contribute their expertise in a formalised process to inform policy and system development and improvement. This is a commitment under the FDV System Reform Plan, developed by the FDV Taskforce. A proposed model of the Lived Experience Advisory Group has been developed by Kwobap Consultancy through consultation and is with Government for consideration.</p> <p><i>See the Family Domestic Violence fact sheet</i></p>

<b>Initiative</b>	Family and Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (BP2, V2, P421)
<b>Investment</b>	\$396,000 over one year
<b>Description</b>	The Department of Justice to undertake consultation on a new family and domestic violence disclosure scheme for victim-survivors.
<b>Implications</b>	This funding will go towards consultation on a disclosure scheme. If further investment is made, victim-survivors will be empowered with the knowledge of whether a person has a documented history of domestic violence.

<b>Initiative</b>	Breathing Space Services in Calista and Maylands (BP2, V2, P504)
<b>Investment</b>	\$4.5 million over one year
<b>Description</b>	Additional funding for men's behaviour change program 'Breathing Space' in Maylands and Calista
<b>Implications</b>	This means Breathing Space will have additional capacity to work with men who have used violence and support them to choose not to use violence. Men's behaviour change programs, are an important component of a system which provides accountability and intervention with men who use family domestic violence. WACOSS called for increased investment in services for men that increase perpetrator accountability in our State Budget Submission 2024-25.

## 2024 - 2025 Budget

<b>Initiative</b>	FDV Counselling and Advocacy Support Services (BP2, V2, P504)
<b>Investment</b>	\$3.1 million over two years
<b>Description</b>	Uplift to existing FDV community-based counselling and advocacy services.
<b>Implications</b>	This investment means more victim-survivors will have access to vital healing and recovery supports. WACOSS called for this in our State Budget Submission 2024-25.

Additional investments to note, include:

- FDV Victim Advocates in the Justice System (BP2, V2, P421) of \$141,000 over two years
- Legislative Responses to Coercive Control (BP2, V2, P421) of \$585,000 over one year
- 16 days in WA Community Grants Program (BP2, V2, P421) of \$2 million over four years
- Kimberley Sexual Abuse Prevention and Support Service (BP2, V2, P421) of \$2.65 million over four years