



# **Budget Briefing Pack 2024-2025**

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This Budget Briefing Pack compiles key investments and initiatives in this year's State Budget.  
To access the full Budget papers, visit [www.ourstatebudget.wa.gov.au](http://www.ourstatebudget.wa.gov.au).

## Media Release

Thursday 9 May 2024

### **Community Sector welcomes 2024-25 State Budget**

The State Government has today handed down what the Western Australian Council of Social Service (WACOSS) considers to be one of the most promising and hopeful budgets in recent years.

The 2024-25 state budget, released today by Treasurer Rita Saffioti, provides sizable funding for those in our community who are doing it toughest, through a range of funding initiatives and programs.

In addition to what had been announced in the days and weeks leading up to the release of the budget, WACOSS was pleased to see the inclusion of another \$400 electricity credit for Western Australians.

While there is no silver bullet to solving the compounding crises that Western Australians have faced over the past two years, it is clear that the State Government has made addressing rental affordability, homelessness, domestic violence support and persistently high cost of living key priorities.

However, while today's budget provides additional funding for a number of new services, it neglects to fund existing frontline services to maintain support levels and keep the doors open, in the face of rising award wages and operating costs.

That being said, WACOSS has today received a commitment from the State Government to review the current indexation rate for 2024-25, once the Fair Work Commission has published the outcomes of its Annual Wage Review.

WACOSS Chief Executive Officer Louise Giolitto said the budget measures would provide sorely needed support to many Western Australians.

"This budget is the best budget we have seen in many years in terms of new funding announcements for the communities sector. It is pleasing to see a government not just recognising the profound need but also providing support on cost of living, homelessness and domestic violence.

"While we are disappointed that much-needed changes to the state indexation policy for community services hasn't been fixed in this budget, the State Government has given us some concessions with a commitment to review the indexation rate for 2024-25, once the awards have been reviewed.

"We acknowledge the necessary additional uplift to homelessness services, and we will continue to fight for genuinely sustainable funding for other community services, so we don't stay locked into an endless cycle of underfunding in the middle of a cost of living crisis.

“We also would like to see more targeted relief for those low-income families most in need, like the rent relief program, and we look forward to seeing this support continue in the lead-up to the election next year.”

## Aboriginal Wellbeing

Spending for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities is spread across most budget priorities and portfolios. There are sizeable investments in upgrading and increasing regional and remote housing stock for Aboriginal communities, which is highly welcome. Funding for the Early Years Partnership – while not entirely Aboriginal-specific – is pivotal for Aboriginal children aged 0-4 in Derby and Bidadanga, will be significant.

This budget also includes a significant focus on infrastructure projects and the benefits they will provide to the economic development of Aboriginal communities such as in the Plan Our Parks initiative. While positive, it is important to note some of these investments are government obligations (such as the Fitzroy River Bridge Repairs) and should be considered in context of wider investment directly into wellbeing and economic self-determination initiatives. The Aboriginal Expenditure Review 2023-24 – a commitment under the National Agreement on Closing the Gap – delineates how investment can be broken down to identify direct Aboriginal-specific expenditure versus program expenditure that includes Aboriginal organisations in delivery.

However, it is disappointing to see a lack of investment in long-term initiatives to empower communities to develop and lead their own place-based services and programs to deliver improved outcomes for their people. This was a missed opportunity to get behind programs such as Justice Reinvestment (see Justice fact sheet). The lack of investment to transform youth detention is also disappointing, with Aboriginal young people vastly over-incarcerated and therefore disproportionately impacted by the ongoing crisis inside youth detention.

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| <b>Initiative</b>   | Social Housing Energy Performance Upgrade Initiative Co-Investment (BP2, V2, P504)  |
| <b>Investment</b>   | \$25 million over four years.   |
| <b>Description</b>  | To match Commonwealth funding, the WA Government has allocated \$25 million to improve energy performance for housing in Aboriginal Communities in the Kimberley and regional towns. To be managed by the Department of Communities. Only \$334,000 is being committed for 2024-25. |
| <b>Implications</b> | Improvements to regional social housing are critical, with many households reliant on ageing and inefficient infrastructure. The ongoing impacts of climate change mean many houses may be facing higher indoor temperatures alongside higher household bills.                      |

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| <b>Initiative</b> | Health and Mental Health (1. BP2, V1, P332, 2. Aboriginal Wellbeing Budget Snapshot)  |
| <b>Investment</b> | 1. \$12 million over two years for the Aboriginal Social and Emotional Wellbeing Program<br>2. \$8 million for additional health and mental health services |

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| <b>Description</b>  | <p>1. Program providing mental health support in five communities, including one youth specific program in the Kimberley, delivered by ACCOs.</p> <p>2. This funding appears to be part of a larger package for health services. Funding flagged for Aboriginal communities is spread across several initiatives, including renal dialysis facilities in Karratha and Newman, eye services and suicide prevention.</p>   |
| <b>Implications</b> | <p>1. This is welcome funding for health and mental health support in the regions, especially the support that focuses on youth mental health in the Kimberley. The Kimberley has seen unacceptably high rates of youth and child suicides in recent years, resulting in a Parliamentary Inquiry into the matter. Additional youth support delivered by ACCOs is needed.</p> <p>2. This funding was a consolidated figure from the Aboriginal Wellbeing Budget Snapshot across a number of portfolios and smaller initiatives. It is unclear how funding for eye services and suicide prevention has been allocated, and whether this investment is directly in services led by or specifically for Aboriginal people and communities, or if this is in services that Aboriginal people and communities will access.</p> |

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| <b>Initiative</b>   | Community Wellbeing (1. BP2, V2, P504, 2. BP2, V2, P406)  |
| <b>Investment</b>   | <p>1. \$6 million over two years for Aboriginal Representative Organisation and Aboriginal Family Led Decision Making</p> <p>2. \$6 million over four years for Community Liaison Officers</p>  |
| <b>Description</b>  | <p>1. These are organisations and programs that will support better outcomes for Aboriginal children in care, and support efforts to reduce the overrepresentation of Aboriginal children and young people in care which is a key target of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap.</p> <p>2. This funding will increase the number of Community Liaison Officers by 10 FTEs across key regional and metropolitan locations. The Community Liaison Officers aim to encourage positive engagement and collaboration between police officers and local communities.</p>  |
| <b>Implications</b> | <p>Funding for Aboriginal-led and culturally secure initiatives are highly welcomed, particularly funding for Aboriginal Family-Led Decision-Making. Improving the capability, capacity, and diversity of ACCO-delivered services is a priority under multiple government strategies to improve service access for Aboriginal people and can have economic benefits by boosting employment. Community wellbeing initiatives like Community Liaison Officers work best when they employ genuinely local individuals and are supported by frameworks that ensure they deliver on the outcomes they are projecting. Detail is needed to understand how this project will ensure cultural safety.</p> |

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| <b>Initiative</b>   | Regional and Remote Communities (1. BP2, V2, P588, 2. BP2, V2, P504, 3. BP2, V2, P421)  |
| <b>Investment</b>   | 1. \$64.5 million over two years Regional Airfare Zone Cap<br>2. \$3.1 million over three years for Aboriginal Community Connectors Program<br>3. \$650,000 in 2023-24 for the Western Desert Justice Program   |
| <b>Description</b>  | 1. Cheaper airfares for regional residents for personal travel<br>2. The Aboriginal Community Connectors Program supports street present Aboriginal people in regional areas of WA to access services. This is an ongoing initiative and this funding will go towards implementing a contemporary funding model across the 13 service locations of the program.<br>3. To continue operation of the program which aims to reduce the contact that adult and young Martu people have with the justice system. This involves prevention, intervention, diversion and transition away from the justice system |
| <b>Implications</b> | Investment in making regional and remote communities more accessible, liveable, and workable for residents is welcome. Initiatives such as the Regional Airfare Zone Cap are practical measures to ensure regional communities can travel to access vital services, however additional policy initiatives and investment to address regional service gaps are needed.   |

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| <b>Initiative</b>   | Jobs and Employment (1. BP2, V1, P162, 2. BP2, V2, P576, 3. BP2, V1, P376)   |
| <b>Investment</b>   | 1. \$800,000 over two years for the Aboriginal Business Capability Building Program<br>2. \$15 million over two years for the Driver Access and Equity<br>3. \$4.2 million over four years for specialist services in the North.   |
| <b>Description</b>  | 1. To extend the Aboriginal Business Capability Program for a further two years, enabling the Department of Finance to complete comprehensive evaluation of the program by collecting performance data from suppliers, and engaging with other agencies/programs that provide similar support to Aboriginal businesses. This is intended to contribute to improving economic participation and development of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People and Communities, a key target of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap.<br>2. A program to assist disadvantaged learner drivers obtain their driver's licence in the regions.<br>3. To continue providing specialist services at Job and Skills Centres for Aboriginal People in several regional towns in the Pilbara, Kimberley, Goldfields, Mid-West, Peel, Wheatbelt, Great Southern, and South West. |
| <b>Implications</b> | Investments aim to boost Aboriginal economic participation, entrepreneurship, transportation, and employment are welcome. More is still required for the government to meet its commitments under the  |

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|  | 'Expanding Economic Opportunities' pillar of the WA Aboriginal Empowerment Strategy. |
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| <b>Initiative</b>   | Broome Aboriginal-Led Specialist Family Violence Court (BP2, V2, P434)   |
| <b>Investment</b>   | \$5.4 million in 2023-24   |
| <b>Description</b>  | This funding will provide an Aboriginal-led Specialist Family Violence Court in Broome that will prioritise ease of access for Aboriginal people who have experienced FDV and are seeking help and support                             |
| <b>Implications</b> | This project was committed to in the 2021-22 budget and is long overdue, with the court being delayed as project design work has been ongoing. There is urgent need for this service, and it is hoped it will soon become operational. |

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| <b>Initiative</b>   | Aboriginal Short Stay Accommodation (BP2, V2, P520)   |
| <b>Investment</b>   | \$75.6 million over four years  |
| <b>Description</b>  | The East Kimberley region will receive \$21.2 million over four years for Aboriginal short-stay accommodation. Geraldton will benefit from a \$28.5 million investment over two years for similar projects. Meanwhile, Perth is set to get \$25.9 million over four years to support the same initiative. |
| <b>Implications</b> | Welcome additions to the other short stay facilities around WA. We look forward to culturally safe and accessible facilities that allow First Nation peoples access services and cultural ceremonies more conveniently.   |

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| <b>Initiative</b>   | Aboriginal Cultural Centre (BP2, V2, P549)  |
| <b>Investment</b>   | \$45 million over the next three years  |
| <b>Description</b>  | For the ongoing development and establishment of the Aboriginal Cultural Centre which aims to be a central place of significance to empower Aboriginal people in telling stories, preserving history and demonstrating culture. |
| <b>Implications</b> | An important development being progressed that will promote the legacy of Aboriginal people in Western Australia and showcase the richness and depth of Aboriginal culture for Perth residents and tourists.                    |

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| <b>Initiative</b>  | Plan for Our Parks initiatives (BP2, V2, P695)   |
| <b>Investment</b>  | \$73 million over four years   |
| <b>Description</b> | \$58.3 million to facilitate implementation of Indigenous Land Use Agreements and joint management activities with Traditional Owners for both the South Coast Marine Park and the Fortescue Marsh Nature Reserve. |



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|                     | This funding will support the creation of Aboriginal employment opportunities and includes \$13.7 million of capital investment in supporting start-up and visitor infrastructure.                                      |
| <b>Implications</b> | This investment indicates significant support for Aboriginal involvement in park management. This investment will not only enhance conservation efforts but also create employment opportunities for Aboriginal people. |

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| <b>Initiative</b>   | Extending Home Stretch WA funding for young people leaving out-of-home care (BP2, V2, P504)   |
| <b>Investment</b>   | \$46.3 million over four years  |
| <b>Description</b>  | Additional funding builds on the \$32.7 million invested in 2019 in the Home Stretch pilot, making the program permanent. It supports young people from 18 to 21 as they leave care.  |
| <b>Implications</b> | Aboriginal children and young people are overrepresented in out-of-home care. A total of nine ACCOs and three mainstream services will now deliver the program across the state – adding in the Goldfields-Esperance and Wheatbelt regions. ( <i>Anglicare and Yorganup played a critical role developing the service model</i> ). (see <a href="#">media release</a> )<br><i>See Child and Families fact sheet</i> |

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| <b>Initiative</b>   | Aboriginal Heritage Legislation Amendment and Repeal Act (BP2, V2, P718)  |
| <b>Investment</b>   | \$22.5 million over four years  |
| <b>Description</b>  | Due to increased Aboriginal cultural heritage services under the amended Act, the Department will spend an additional \$13.3 million to support heritage assessments, surveys, and regional consultations with landowners and native title parties. |
| <b>Implications</b> | A new, simplified Aboriginal Heritage Legislation Act is important for protecting Aboriginal cultural sites.  |

## Alcohol & Other Drugs

*The sector has been calling for flexible services that support people with intersecting needs and are designed in partnership with service users to support practical approaches to self-determination. It is hoped that the recently announced new Office of Alcohol and Other Drugs will lead a strategic response towards Alcohol and other Drug commissioning, planning and policy and more urgently needed investment.*

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| <b>Initiative</b>   | Broome Sobering Up Centre (BP2, V1, P340) (BP2, V1, P333) (BP3, P218)  |
| <b>Investment</b>   | \$10.7 million over three years.   |
| <b>Description</b>  | Towards the establishment of a new 26-bed Sobering Up Centre within the Broome town centre. The service will be easily accessible for individuals needing a safe environment to sober up.  |
| <b>Implications</b> | We welcome this investment. The community has been calling on the Government to fund a sobering-up service in Broome town since it was closed in 2021 and relocated with reduced capacity. Whilst this is a welcome investment, further support is needed to reduce problematic alcohol use and prevent harmful behaviour. |

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| <b>Initiative</b>   | Alcohol Interlock Scheme Treatment Services – ongoing initiative (BP2, V2, P406)  |
| <b>Investment</b>   | \$163,000 in 2024-25.   |
| <b>Description</b>  | The WA Alcohol Interlock Scheme aims to reduce the road safety risk posed by drink drivers by introducing a mandatory, user pays, performance-based scheme in which alcohol interlock devices provide separation of drinking and driving behaviour.<br><br>From the Road Trauma Trust Account. The Road Trauma Trust Account includes a total \$403 million investment. (BP2, V2, P406) |
| <b>Implications</b> | Funding towards an ongoing initiative.  |

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| <b>Initiative</b>   | Demit Points Processing – ongoing initiative (BP2, V2, P406)   |
| <b>Investment</b>   | \$1.69 million over four years.  |
| <b>Description</b>  | From the Road Trauma Trust Account. The Road Trauma Trust Account includes a total \$403 million investment. (BP2, V2, P406) |
| <b>Implications</b> | Funding towards an ongoing initiative.   |

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| <b>Initiative</b> | Casuarina Prison Alcohol and Other Drug Unit (BP2, V2, P421, P424) |
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| <b>Investment</b>   | \$6.95 million in 2024-25  |
| <b>Description</b>  | An election commitment under the Methamphetamine Action Plan. This investment is to support the treatment and rehabilitation of male offenders at Casuarina Prison through the Alcohol and other Drug program. Will fund stage 2 of the Casuarina Prison Expansion, Mallee AOD Rehabilitation Centre. (BP2, V2, P422).<br>(See Justice fact sheet) |
| <b>Implications</b> | Funding for this unit was allocated in last year's budget to be spent in 2023-24, and we note with disappointment this does not appear to have been spent. However, an additional \$972,000 has been allocated to this important service.  |

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| <b>Initiative</b>   | Safe Place - Youth Mental Health and Alcohol and Other Drug Homelessness Program (BP2, V2, P520).  |
| <b>Investment</b>   | \$3.02 million in 2024-25.   |
| <b>Description</b>  | Part of the Mental Health Commission strategy, <a href="#">A Safe Place: A Western Australian strategy to provide safe and stable accommodation, and support to people experiencing mental health, alcohol and other drug issues 2020-2025</a> .<br>(See Youth fact sheet) |
| <b>Implications</b> | Continued investment.  |

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| <b>Initiative</b>   | Impaired Driving Detection (Alcohol and Drug) (BP2, V2, P406).   |
| <b>Investment</b>   | \$4 million over four years.   |
| <b>Description</b>  | Announced in 2023-24, the investment will contribute to the RTTA Impaired Driving Detection Program. The initial investment was \$327,000 over 2023-24 period. |
| <b>Implications</b> | Part of an ongoing initiative.   |

## Children & Families

There were comparatively few major announcements in the children and family service area, outside of the cost of living measures for families and school students (see *Cost of Living fact sheet*), some new or extended initiatives in child protection (listed below) and major additional funding for Child Development Services (see *Health fact sheet*, also listed below).

Additional funding for Home Stretch WA converts the existing pilot into an ongoing program and extends it to include eight Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations as well as three mainstream services, extending its regional coverage.

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| <b>Initiative</b>   | Extending Home Stretch WA funding for young people leaving out-of-home care (BP2, V2, P504)  |
| <b>Investment</b>   | \$46.3 million in total (\$11.7 million/year ongoing)  |
| <b>Description</b>  | Additional funding builds on the \$32.7 million invested in 2019 in the Home Stretch pilot, making the program permanent. It supports young people from 18 to 21 as they leave care.   |
| <b>Implications</b> | Now a total of 9 ACCO services and 3 mainstream services will deliver the program across the state – adding in the Goldfields-Esperance and Wheatbelt regions. ( <i>Anglicare and Yorganup played a critical role developing the service model</i> ) (see <a href="#">media release</a> ). |

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| <b>Initiative</b>   | Continuing and expanding foster care supports (BP2, V2, P504)   |
| <b>Investment</b>   | \$17 million in total (\$4 million/year rising to \$4.4 million by 2027-28)                               |
| <b>Description</b>  | Supporting the continuation and expansion of foster care supports across the state.                       |
| <b>Implications</b> | Average cost \$216/day per child for 4,314 foster care arrangements (see <a href="#">media release</a> ). |

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| <b>Initiative</b>   | Upgrade to residential care homes for children in out-of-home care (BP2, V2, P521) |
| <b>Investment</b>   | \$13.7 million over two years  |
| <b>Description</b>  | One-off funding allocated for upgrade works to care homes                          |
| <b>Implications</b> | (none)   |

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| <b>Initiative</b>  | Expansion of Child Development Services (BP2, V1, P306, P310)  |
| <b>Investment</b>  | \$39 million in total (\$15.7 million in 2024-25, \$23 million in 2025-26)   |
| <b>Description</b> | Additional funding for both the Child and Adolescent Health Service metropolitan service (CAHS-CDS) and WA Country Health Service regional service (WACHS-CDS). Enables a significant increase in clinical staff, including paediatricians, clinical nurse specialists, speech |

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|                     | pathologists, occupational therapists, psychologists and audiologists, in both the metro and regional areas.  |
| <b>Implications</b> | <p>Referrals to child development paediatricians have risen 132% over last decade leading to significant delays in diagnosis and treatment of children with developmental delays. This solution still only focuses on the health system response and it is unclear if this will also address the problem of needing a formal diagnosis before receiving critical early development advice and support.</p> <p>Opportunity remains to better engage and link frontline child and family services to provide early identification of risk to prioritise referrals and provide earlier intervention (see <a href="#">media release</a>, also see Health fact sheet).</p> |

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| <b>Initiative</b>   | Health Navigator Pilot extension (for children in out-of-home care) (BP2, V1, P306, P310)   |
| <b>Investment</b>   | \$6.6 million over two years  |
| <b>Description</b>  | Continues the successful Health Navigator pilot program by helping vulnerable, out-of-home-care children and young people to get the best start in life.  |
| <b>Implications</b> | Skilled health system navigators partner with carers, case workers and young adults to access comprehensive health assessments through collaborative cross-agency service delivery that maximises health and wellbeing benefits within a culturally safe environment (see Health fact sheet). |

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| <b>Initiative</b>   | Aboriginal Representative Organisations pilot (BP2, V2, P504)  |
| <b>Investment</b>   | \$2.8 million in total (\$940,000 in 2024-25, \$1.9 million in 2025-26)  |
| <b>Description</b>  | Additional funding to continue the ARO pilot program commenced in 2022-23 with initial funding of \$1.49 million.  |
| <b>Implications</b> | The <i>Children and Community Services Amendment Act (2021)</i> requires AROs be consulted about placement arrangements and cultural support planning for Aboriginal children in or entering the care of the CEO. This implements the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle moving towards Aboriginal family-led decision-making processes that promote cultural safety. |

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| <b>Initiative</b>  | Child Safeguarding Implementation unit (DLGSC) (BP2, V2, P532)  |
| <b>Investment</b>  | \$5.4 million over four years   |
| <b>Description</b> | Funds a unit in Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries providing capacity building, training and advice to assist local governments, sports and recreation sectors to implement child safe practices and policies. |

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| <b>Implications</b> | Builds on \$715 million spent in 2023-24. (Would be good to see similar funding and support in other sectors) |
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| <b>Initiative</b>   | Early Years Partnership (BP2, V2, P116, P503)  |
| <b>Investment</b>   | \$15.6 million over four years   |
| <b>Description</b>  | The Early Years Partnership focuses on child wellbeing and school readiness, where community plans are codesigned with local communities in four locations - Armadale West, Central Great Southern, Derby and Bidyadanga.<br>EYP is a whole-of-government 10-year partnership (2018-2028) between Minderoo Foundation, Telethon Kids Institute and Dept Communities. |
| <b>Implications</b> | EYP aims to increase child well-being and school readiness by improving access to early learning opportunities, early identification and intervention services to address developmental delay and family support services.   |

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| <b>Initiative</b>  | Infants, Children and Adolescents (ICA) Taskforce (BP2 V1, P331 – P333)  |
| <b>Investment</b>  | \$46,600,000 over four years, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$22.4 million over four years to establish new Acute Care Response Teams in the North and South Metropolitan areas and the Great Southern, and to extend the existing Acute Care Response Team pilot in the East Metropolitan area.</li> <li>• \$19.5 million to extend the expansion of the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services’ Crisis Connect service workforce</li> <li>• \$4.7 million for a two-year extension of the WA Country Health Service’s Brief Crisis Intervention Service to continue a vital post-emergency department follow-up service for children and their families and allow for a full evaluation of the service to be undertaken.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Description</b> | The Government is continuing its commitment to implement all 32 recommendations of the Ministerial Taskforce into Public Mental Health Services for Infants, Children and Adolescents aged 0-18 years in Western Australia (ICA Taskforce). Investment in the 2024/25 Budget brings the Government’s total investment in ICA Taskforce initiatives to \$143.6 million.<br><br>(See also Youth and Child and Family fact sheets)  |

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| <b>Implications</b> | <p>This initiative will improve access to vital services for young people needing an acute response.</p> <p>Ongoing investment in WACHS Brief Crisis Intervention allows for the continuation of a vital post-emergency department follow-up service for children and their families and allows for a full evaluation of the service to be undertaken. Yet, a two-year extension represents an overall shortfall for mental health funding in the regions.</p> |
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| <b>Initiative</b>   | Reconfiguration and refurbishment of the PCH Mental Health inpatient ward (BP2, V1, P312, P332).  |
| <b>Investment</b>   | \$14.2 million over an unknown period   |
| <b>Description</b>  | Additional funding for the reconfiguration and refurbishment of the Perth Children’s Hospital Mental Health Inpatient Unit on Ward 5A. The Government is continuing its commitment to implement all 32 recommendations of the Ministerial Taskforce into Public Mental Health Services for Infants, Children and Adolescents aged 0-18 years in Western Australia (ICA Taskforce). Investment in the 2024/25 Budget brings the Government’s total investment in ICA Taskforce initiatives to \$143.6 million. |
| <b>Implications</b> | Important infrastructure upgrades to improve services for children receiving inpatient mental health support.   |

## Climate Resilience

WACOSS welcomes investment for building climate resilience. State budget investments in the Forest Management Plans and Plan for our Parks initiatives offer a meaningful effort towards improving land management. The majority of climate funding has been allocated towards climate adaptation, with a clear gap in mitigation funding.

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| <b>Initiative</b>   | Environmental Approvals Reform – Cross Governmental Triage Team (BP2, V2, P673)   |
| <b>Investment</b>   | \$4.4 million over four Years   |
| <b>Description</b>  | <p>The State Government has committed funding towards an overhaul of Western Australia’s environmental approval systems.</p> <p>The Department is increasing the number of reform officers to the Approvals Reform Team’s capacity to accelerate delivery. The Department is also setting up a Cross-Government Triage Team which will work with other agencies to accelerate approvals timeframes and processes.</p>   |
| <b>Implications</b> | <p>This should be about improving the process of assessment, not shortcutting processes for ‘approvals’. We would like to see it improve environmental approval processes for sustainability efforts in Western Australia. WACOSS acknowledges the role that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people should play in approval processes, due to a strong connection to land and country. First Nations people should be consulted prior to any environmental based development.</p> |

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| <b>Initiative</b>   | Perth and Peel Urban Greening Strategy (BP2, V2, P718)  |
| <b>Investment</b>   | \$2.9 million over 2024-25  |
| <b>Description</b>  | <p>The strategy will ensure initiatives are coordinated and complement any existing greening programs, such as <a href="#">Waterwise Perth</a> and the Urban Greening Grants programs.</p> <p>Development of the strategy is led by the Western Australian Planning Commission and will explore various elements aimed at enhancing tree canopy and creating more green spaces across the Perth and Peel regions.</p> |
| <b>Implications</b> | <p>The planting of trees and greening for metropolitan areas can drastically reduce surface temperature and reduce heat related illness within the community. There has been through community consultation, and it is anticipated this process will improve planning on urban greenery.</p>  |



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| <b>Initiative</b>   | Cockburn Sound State Environmental Policy (BP2, V2, P673)   |
| <b>Investment</b>   | \$3 million over three years  |
| <b>Description</b>  | This funding will go towards updating the State Environmental Policy for the protection of the Cockburn Sound environmental values and associated cultural and social values. This update will leverage the Government's investment into a comprehensive program of scientific studies undertaken through the Western Australian Marine Science Institution's Westport Marine Science Program, which provides a contemporary understanding of the Cockburn Sound environment. |
| <b>Implications</b> | This funding will improve the catchment area that has historical environmental degradation, due to over-industrialisation.  |

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| <b>Initiative</b>   | Climate Science Initiative (BP2, V2, P673 & BP3, P149)  |
| <b>Investment</b>   | \$850,000 over three years  |
| <b>Description</b>  | The Government has approved an additional \$850,000 over 2024-25 and 2025-26 for Stage 3 of the Climate Science Initiative. Aims to develop a mid-range climate change projection scenario and to extend funding for data storage and research partnerships utilised to produce climate change projections for Western Australia. |
| <b>Implications</b> | Aims to develop a mid-range climate change projection scenario and to extend funding for data storage and research partnerships utilised to produce climate change projections for Western Australia. This project is originally funded by the Climate Action Fund and only has minimal funding for the foreseeable future.       |

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| <b>Initiative</b>   | Native Vegetation Policy Implementation (BP2, V2, P673)  |
| <b>Investment</b>   | \$3 million over three years   |
| <b>Description</b>  | To continue the implementation of the Native Vegetation Policy for Western Australia, additional funding of \$3.1 million has been allocated over 2024-25 to 2026-27 to extend staff resourcing of seven FTEs.   |
| <b>Implications</b> | With the right state-wide and regional policy settings, the State Government can better enable all sectors to contribute to a net gain in native vegetation and landscape-scale conservation and restoration. Regional planning for native vegetation will clarify native vegetation objectives and priorities, and ensuring individual decisions count towards strategic goals such as connectivity and resilience. |

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| <b>Initiative</b>   | Understanding How Climate Change Impacts on Western Australians Water Resources (BP2, V2, P673)  |
| <b>Investment</b>   | \$6.1 million over four years  |
| <b>Description</b>  | This funding is going towards communicating climate science and guidance for the water sector and making climate projection data accessible. This will also include investments in hydroclimate research and developing new communication tools. |
| <b>Implications</b> | This funding may improve understanding around climate science and water impacts. However, the vague nature of the funding does not clarify where this will be directed and the intents of this funding beyond general understanding.             |

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| <b>Initiative</b>   | Plan for our Parks (BP2, V2, P697)   |
| <b>Investment</b>   | \$73 million   |
| <b>Description</b>  | Building on prior investment in the Plan for Our Parks program, this funding will provide 56 new roles and the creation of five million hectares of new conservation estates. It will also support the implementation of Indigenous Land Use Agreements. |
| <b>Implications</b> | This funding is valuable for ensuring that parks are sustainable and culturally appropriate. It aids in building WA towards a greener future.  |

## Cost of Living

WACOSS welcomes the cost of living measures delivered in this Budget, including another \$400 electricity credit for Western Australians. Increases to government fees and charges have largely been kept below CPI and the total expenditure for the 'representative household' is \$124 less than the last financial year. We would have liked to see targeted relief for Western Australians doing it the toughest, such as bolstering supports through existing concession and hardship schemes.

### ESTIMATED IMPACT ON THE 'REPRESENTATIVE' HOUSEHOLD

|   | 2023-24<br>\$ level | %<br>change  | \$<br>change   | 2024-25<br>\$ level |
|---|---------------------|--------------|----------------|---------------------|
| <b>Utility Charges <sup>(a)</sup></b>             |                     |              |                |                     |
| Electricity <sup>(b)</sup>                        | 1,855.67            | 2.5          | 46.39          | 1,902.06            |
| \$400 Household Electricity Credit <sup>(c)</sup> | -400.00             | –            | –              | -400.00             |
| Water, wastewater and drainage <sup>(d)(e)</sup>  | 1,822.80            | 2.5          | 45.59          | 1,868.39            |
| <i>Total</i>                                      | <i>3,278.47</i>     | <i>2.8</i>   | <i>91.98</i>   | <i>3,370.45</i>     |
| <b>Public Transport <sup>(f)</sup></b>            |                     |              |                |                     |
| Student fares <sup>(g)</sup>                      | 280.00              | -100.0       | -280.00        | –                   |
| Standard fares <sup>(h)</sup>                     | 1,175.04            | 2.0          | 23.04          | 1,198.08            |
| <i>Total</i>                                      | <i>1,455.04</i>     | <i>-17.7</i> | <i>-256.96</i> | <i>1,198.08</i>     |
| <b>Motor Vehicles <sup>(i)</sup></b>              |                     |              |                |                     |
| Vehicle licence charge                            | 430.92              | 3.9          | 16.64          | 447.56              |
| Driver's licence                                  | 93.70               | –            | –              | 93.70               |
| Recording fee                                     | 10.30               | -19.9        | -2.05          | 8.25                |
| Motor Injury Insurance (MII)                      | 435.86              | 2.5          | 10.91          | 446.77              |
| <i>Total</i>                                      | <i>970.78</i>       | <i>2.6</i>   | <i>25.50</i>   | <i>996.28</i>       |
| <b>Emergency Services Levy <sup>(j)</sup></b>     | 308.57              | 5.0          | 15.43          | 324.00              |
| <b>Stamp Duty <sup>(k)</sup></b>                  |                     |              |                |                     |
| Stamp duty on general insurance <sup>(l)</sup>    | 249.81              | –            | –              | 249.81              |
| Stamp duty on MII                                 | 44.68               | –            | –              | 44.68               |
| <i>Total</i>                                      | <i>294.49</i>       | <i>–</i>     | <i>–</i>       | <i>294.49</i>       |
| <b>Total Expenditure</b>                          | <b>6,307.35</b>     | <b>-2.0</b>  | <b>-124.05</b> | <b>6,183.30</b>     |

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| <b>Initiative</b>   | Household and Small Business Electricity Credit (BP3, P6, P313)  |
| <b>Investment</b>   | \$492 million over one year  |
| <b>Description</b>  | \$400 Household Electricity Credit   |
| <b>Implications</b> | This will be provided to all WA households in two instalments (July and December). Small businesses with annual electricity consumption below 50 megawatt hours per annum will also receive the credit. These electricity credits will provide temporary relief in the midst of the current cost of living crisis. |

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| <b>Initiative</b>   | WA Student Assistance Payment (BP3, P6)  |
| <b>Investment</b>   | \$103 million over one year  |
| <b>Description</b>  | Financial support able to be claimed by families with school age children <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$250 for every secondary school student</li> <li>• \$150 for every primary and kindergarten student</li> </ul> |
| <b>Implications</b> | Short term opportunity for families with school enrolled children to apply for financial assistance to cover cost of schooling essentials. The Government reports 170,000 families have already applied for the payments.          |

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| <b>Initiative</b>   | Regional Airfare Zone Cap (BP3, P6, P142)   |
| <b>Investment</b>   | \$64.6 million over three years commencing 2023-24  |
| <b>Description</b>  | Additional funding for the Regional Airfare Zone Cap Scheme and to extend it to December 2025.  |
| <b>Implications</b> | The Scheme caps the cost of airfares for regional residents to and from Perth. Regional residents often face higher cost of living. This Scheme reduces transport costs for regional residents. |

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| <b>Initiative</b>   | First Home Owner Transfer Duty Concession (BP3, P8, P72)  |
| <b>Investment</b>   | \$82.3 million four years   |
| <b>Description</b>  | For first homebuyers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exemption from stamp duty for properties valued up to \$450,000 (formerly \$400,000)</li> <li>• Concessional rate for duty for properties valued up to \$600,000 (formerly \$530,000)</li> </ul>                              |
| <b>Implications</b> | The Government expects around 4,800 first homebuyers to benefit per year with average additional saving of \$4,163. While for many Western Australians, home ownership remains out of reach, this will assist some families in exiting the rental market and obtaining more stable housing. |

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| <b>Initiative</b>  | Free public transport (BP3, P6, P322)  |
| <b>Investment</b>  | \$23.8 million over two years  |
| <b>Description</b> | This package includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$15 million for Ride to School Free Program - free public transport for students travelling to and from school</li> <li>• \$8.8 million for Fare Free Sundays – free public transport for all community members every Sunday</li> </ul> |

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| <b>Implications</b> | In the current cost of living crisis, transport costs can eat into a household's budget. WACOSS has been advocating for an expansion of the eligibility for the current daily free travel periods for seniors to include all concession card holders. |
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| <b>Initiative</b>   | Regional Pensioner Travel Card (BP3, P142, P213)   |
| <b>Investment</b>   | \$20 million over four years   |
| <b>Description</b>  | Increase Regional Pensioner Travel Card by \$100 (from \$575 to \$675)   |
| <b>Implications</b> | Regional Pensioner Travel Card can be used by eligible pensioners in the regions towards the cost of fuel and/or taxi travel.<br>A media release with further detail can be found <a href="#">here</a> . |

## Digital Inclusion

The State Government's continued investment through the Digital Capability Fund includes enhancements for ICT systems and cyber security across Government departments as well as an expansion of the Western Australian Cyber Security Centre operations to 24/7 operations.

This includes ongoing maintenance as well as improvements to the ServiceWA App, investment in the WA Police Force ICT systems, and building a new Licensing and Registry System to support the Firearms Reform Program.

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| <b>Initiative</b>   | WA Police Force Technology Program – Digital Capability Fund (BP2, V2, P413, P414)  |
| <b>Investment</b>   | \$16.5 million in 2024-25   |
| <b>Description</b>  | Investment (\$8.25 million in investing and \$8.25 million in capital expense) to support the ongoing modernisation of critical police ICT systems. A further \$13.4 million has been provided for operating costs from 2024-25 to 2027-28. |
| <b>Implications</b> | Privacy and protection of data  |

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| <b>Initiative</b>   | Licensing and Registry System – Firearms Reform Program – Digital Capability Fund (BP2, V2, P413, P414)                                  |
| <b>Investment</b>   | \$11.4 million over two years  |
| <b>Description</b>  | Investment to rebuild the State's firearms licensing and registry system to support the ongoing delivery of the Firearms Reform Program. |
| <b>Implications</b> | Supporting regulation and reform through a new system for licensing and registration of firearms.  |

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| <b>Initiative</b>   | Expansion – Western Australian Cyber Security Operations Centre – Digital Capability Fund (BP3, P100 & BP2, V1, P60)  |
| <b>Investment</b>   | \$13.7 million over four years  |
| <b>Description</b>  | Expansion of the Western Australian Cyber Security Operations Centre services to operate 24/7, with an associated uplift in cyber security threat detection and monitoring tools. |
| <b>Implications</b> | Increased oversight and coverage across the whole-of-WA government sector's network and systems, protection of data.  |

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| <b>Initiative</b>  | Corporate ICT and Cyber Security Uplift – Digital Capability Fund (BP3, P100)   |
| <b>Investment</b>  | \$21.8 million over four years  |
| <b>Description</b> | Additional resourcing to modernise Government ICT ecosystem and capability, including investment in a Shared ICT Common Operating Environment to enhance the security of hardware, software and |

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|                     | telecommunications. The Government has also allocated funds for enhancing cybersecurity and ICT across different Departments, including Transport, Education, and Health. Refer to BP2 and BP3 for further information on individual Departments. |
| <b>Implications</b> | Increased measures around security and protection of personal data for government service users.  |

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| <b>Initiative</b>   | Operational support for whole-of government digital platforms, including ServiceWA App (Digital Capability Fund) (BP3, P100 & BP2, V1, P60) |
| <b>Investment</b>   | \$11 million over two years   |
| <b>Description</b>  | Funding to enable continued operational support for whole-of-government digital platforms, including the ServiceWA App.                     |
| <b>Implications</b> | Ongoing maintenance and support for community facing platforms with Government services such as the ServiceWA App.                          |

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| <b>Initiative</b>   | ServiceWA App – Further Development – Digital Capability Fund (BP3, P100, BP2, V1, P60 & BP2, V2, P576, P584, P586) |
| <b>Investment</b>   | \$7.7 million over four years   |
| <b>Description</b>  | Further development of the ServiceWA App functionality and storage, including for small businesses.                 |
| <b>Implications</b> | Better experience and improved access for ServiceWA app users.  |

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| <b>Initiative</b>   | Artificial Intelligence – public sector coordination – Digital Capability Fund (BP3, P100 & BP2, V1, P60)   |
| <b>Investment</b>   | \$2.1 million over four years   |
| <b>Description</b>  | Investment to commence the coordination of artificial intelligence matters across the public sector in line with the Government’s Artificial Intelligence Policy and Assurance Framework. |
| <b>Implications</b> | Adopting AI within the public sector factoring in ethical, practical, and cyber security considerations.  |

## 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.*

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| <b>Initiative</b>   | From Hospital to Home Disability Transition Care Program (BP2, V1, P306)   |
| <b>Investment</b>   | \$22.1 million over two years  |
| <b>Description</b>  | 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. |
| <b>Implications</b> | This initiative will improve access to emergency care.   |

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| <b>Initiative</b>   | Education investment (BP2, V1, P353)   |
| <b>Investment</b>   | \$391 million, unclear over what time period   |
| <b>Description</b>  | <p>This funding will support projected student enrolment growth in WA schools.</p> <p><u>Student Enrolment Growth</u><br/>         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><br/>         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><a href="#">Media release here.</a></p> |
| <b>Implications</b> | It is not clear how this funding will support students with unique educational needs.  |



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| <b>Initiative</b>   | State Support for NDIS (BP2, V2, P507)  |
| <b>Investment</b>   | \$564.8 million over an unknown time period   |
| <b>Description</b>  | <p>Reflects recurrent provisions for the indexation of the State's National Disability Insurance Scheme contributions for Communities. (BP2, V2, P503)</p> <p>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.</p> |
| <b>Implications</b> | At this stage the implications are unclear to us.   |

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| <b>Initiative</b>   | Disability Advocacy and Referral Diversion for Young People (BP2, V2, P31) (BP3, P127)  |
| <b>Investment</b>   | \$870,000 over two years.   |
| <b>Description</b>  | 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.  |
| <b>Implications</b> | 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. |

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

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

## Disaster Risk Reduction & Resilience and Emergency Management

WACOSS welcomes investment into the Fitzroy Crossing recovery efforts and strengthening bushfire mitigation and prevention. However, given the likelihood of increased disasters, it is concerning that there is not additional funding towards disaster mitigation across hazards and building community resilience to disasters.

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| <b>Initiative</b>   | Brooking Channel Bridge Replacement (BP3, P193)  |
| <b>Investment</b>   | \$107 million over 2024-25   |
| <b>Description</b>  | Funding will be delivered in the next year to replace the Brooking Channel Bridge in the Kimberley. This funding includes unspent funds from the Fitzroy River Bridge replacement and will provide dual-lane crossing. |
| <b>Implications</b> | This bridge will help improve the resilience of the region through better road safety and supply chain improvement.  |

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| <b>Initiative</b>   | Enhanced Capacity for Firefighting (BP2, V2, P450)   |
| <b>Investment</b>   | \$23 million over four years   |
| <b>Description</b>  | There will be \$23 million invested into 60 career fire and rescue service firefighters over the next four years. There will be an additional \$2.6 million toward corporate service supporting building firefighting capacity. This will also support planning towards a new WA Emergency Management Training Centre. |
| <b>Implications</b> | This supports improved resilience for communities with high bushfire risk, while contributing towards strengthening the firefighting workforce.  |

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| <b>Initiative</b>   | Bushfire Mitigation (BP3, P147)  |
| <b>Investment</b>   | \$30 million over four years   |
| <b>Description</b>  | The government will spend over \$30 million over the next four years to fund 34 additional firefighting staff along with funding for fire trucks, firefighting fleets, and increased need. Some funds will be directed towards Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage and is anticipated to feed into planning schemes around bushfire mitigation. |
| <b>Implications</b> | This funding will improve resilience to bushfires as well as improved planning around bushfires. Considering the significance of this investment, it is vital that support mechanisms are provided for volunteer firefighters and increasing community resilience to fires.  |

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| <b>Initiative</b>   | Ex-Tropical Cyclone Ellie- Conservation and Marine Parks Clean-Up Program (BP2, V2, P695)  |
| <b>Investment</b>   | \$4 million over three years   |
| <b>Description</b>  | This new funding will aid with several ongoing efforts to repair the stream gauges and coordinate marine clean-ups in the region.            |
| <b>Implications</b> | This funding goes towards the environmental recovery in the region and can improve future resilience for cyclones and other natural hazards. |

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| <b>Initiative</b>   | Consolidated Emergency Services Act (BP2 V2 P450)   |
| <b>Investment</b>   | \$2.7 million over three years 2024-25 to 2026-27   |
| <b>Description</b>  | <p>The Consolidated Emergency Services Act is a drafted compilation of several acts that are being reviewed and updated by Department of Fire and Emergency Services. These acts include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Fire Brigades Act 1942</li> <li>- Bush Fires Act 1954</li> <li>- Emergency Services Act of 1998</li> </ul> <p>The initial draft bill has been developed with this funding going towards the public consultation.</p> |
| <b>Implications</b> | This development of the legislation will involve community engagement to improve community safety and provide better support for emergency services workers.  |

## Energy

*This Budget invests significantly in industrial projects working towards decarbonisation of the energy industry and our economy. These are significant steps in the right direction. As part of this process, WACOSS also calls for the development of a roadmap, including supports, to transition all households away from gas and to electricity.*

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| <b>Initiative</b>   | Strategic Industries Fund (BP3, P23, P108)  |
| <b>Investment</b>   | \$500 million over four years   |
| <b>Description</b>  | <p>Package to deliver common-user and other enabling infrastructure at Strategic Infrastructure Areas, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$125 million to open up new industrial land at Latitude 32 in Kwinana</li> <li>• \$20 million to develop general industrial land in Karratha and in the Peel region</li> <li>• \$20 million to unlock land in the Goldfields and South West</li> <li>• \$145 million for DevelopmentWA to acquire and develop land</li> <li>• \$21 million for the Government to establish a new program management office</li> </ul> |
| <b>Implications</b> | The Government says this Fund will make available industrial land for renewable hydrogen, critical minerals processing and other industries. It is not clear what initiatives will be carried out once the industrial land is readied. It is important for Traditional Owners to be engaged in any land development and use.  |

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| <b>Initiative</b>   | Continuation of Remote Communities Program Horizon Power (BP2, V2, P797)   |
| <b>Investment</b>   | \$68.3 million over four years   |
| <b>Description</b>  | Investment by Horizon Power to improve reliability of critical infrastructure in remote communities such as power and water.   |
| <b>Implications</b> | This is a welcome investment and will provide an important connection for remote communities to receive the same reliability of water and power as regional and metropolitan areas.<br>See also the <i>Regional Investment Factsheet</i> . |

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| <b>Initiative</b> | Social Housing Energy Performance Initiative Co-Investment (BP2, V2, P504 & BP3, P112) |
| <b>Investment</b> | \$25.2 million over three years  |

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| <b>Description</b>  | Energy improvements and efficiencies to social housing in the Kimberley. Investment in matched funding with the Commonwealth Government.  |
| <b>Implications</b> | This is a necessary investment to improve the conditions and efficiencies to social homes. This will hopefully see the reduction of cost of living pressures such as air conditioning or heating for households doing it tough by making homes more climate appropriate.<br>See also the <i>Regional Investment Factsheet</i> . |

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| <b>Initiative</b>   | Powering WA (BP2, V1, P234)  |
| <b>Investment</b>   | \$9 million over four years  |
| <b>Description</b>  | PowerWA is an entity, created in 2023 to coordinate the activity needed to delivery the electricity infrastructure required to decarbonise the South West Interconnected System which is WA's main electricity grid. |
| <b>Implications</b> | Transitioning electricity generation, storage and transmission to renewable resources is needed to reduce carbon emissions and mitigate climate change.  |

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| <b>Initiative</b>   | Wind Turbine Manufacturing (BP2, V1, P205)                         |
| <b>Investment</b>   | \$8.3 million over four years, commencing 2023-24                  |
| <b>Description</b>  | Investment to develop a local wind turbine manufacturing industry. |
| <b>Implications</b> | Wind is an important renewable energy source.                      |

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| <b>Initiative</b>   | Decarbonisation Synergy (BP2, V2, P780, P781)  |
| <b>Investment</b>   | \$1.2 billion over one year  |
| <b>Description</b>  | Synergy investment in progressing existing battery storage and wind projects                               |
| <b>Implications</b> | Decarbonisation of energy sources is essential to reducing carbon emissions and mitigating climate change. |

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| <b>Initiative</b>   | Standalone Power Systems (BP3, P164, P202)  |
| <b>Investment</b>   | \$18.4 million over two years   |
| <b>Description</b>  | Funding to install the next 50 Standalone Power Systems in the Goldfields-Esperance and Midwest regions. This was an election commitment. |
| <b>Implications</b> | Standalone Power Systems offer improved reliability for remote and regional communities.  |

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| <b>Initiative</b>   | Decarbonising the South West Interconnected System (BP3, P24)   |
| <b>Investment</b>   | \$324 million over four years   |
| <b>Description</b>  | Funding to undertake planning and procure long lead items for transmission network infrastructure in the South West Interconnected System |
| <b>Implications</b> | Decarbonisation efforts are welcome.  |

## Family Domestic Violence

The 2024-25 state budget includes significant and critically important investment into family and domestic violence supports, a package totalling \$96.4 million. It is important to note that this investment does not offer the desperately needed funding uplift to crisis support services or crisis accommodation services.

WACOSS would also like to see further investment in prevention, which would align with the four pillars of the National Plan and funding for the implementation of the Aboriginal Family Safety Strategy. Nonetheless, WACOSS commends the State Government for this investment and is pleased to see the funding package incorporates various funding commitments for new and expanded services and supports, aligned with the System Reform Plan.

A media release detailing other FDV investments in the 2024 State Budget can be found [here](#).

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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> | The 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.   |

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|  | The FDV Perth Hub will offer victim-survivors easier access to support services with a range of community services co-located. |
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| <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> <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, created 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 will be implemented as part of the FDV Taskforce funding.</p> |

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| <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. |

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| <b>Initiative</b> | Breathing Space Services in Calista and Maylands (BP2, V2, P504) |
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| <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 FDV. WACOSS called for increased investment in services for men that increase perpetrator accountability in our State Budget Submission 2024-25. |

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| <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

## Health

*Western Australia continues to benefit from a well-funded health system. The health system is beginning to stabilise following the pandemic with ambulance ramping down compared to March last year, and elective surgery wait times down since the pandemic peak.*

*In this budget we see continued efforts to reduce the load on the WA hospital system and investment in both immediate solutions – such as the WA Virtual ED - and longer-term reforms that support new ways of providing care. This investment sees the continuation of highly successful models, including the health navigator program, and investment in establishing a statewide electronic medical record.*

*This budget hinted towards the importance of community-based health services, with a \$14 million investment in community-based services (BP2, V1, P309) such as the Medical Respite Centre. While we strongly support investment in community-based care it was disappointing to note the absence of investment in women’s community-based health services.*

*Despite playing a critical role in ensuring women have access to safe, local, and holistic health care, the longevity of these services is threatened by serious, and chronic, underfunding.*

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| <b>Initiative</b>   | Child Development Services (BP2, V1, P306, P310)  |
| <b>Investment</b>   | \$38.8 million (\$15.7 million in 2024-25, \$23 million in 2025-26)   |
| <b>Description</b>  | <p>This investment addresses the growing demand for Child Development Services across metropolitan and regional Western Australia. Investment will increase the required specialised, multidisciplinary workforce, including a significant increase in clinical staff such as paediatricians, clinical nurse specialists, speech pathologists, occupational therapists, psychologists and audiologists.</p> <p>(Also see Children and Families fact sheet).</p>   |
| <b>Implications</b> | <p>Referrals to child development paediatricians have risen 132% over last decade – leading to significant delays in diagnosis and treatment of children with developmental delays. This investment works to ensure the health system can meet increased demand.</p> <p>It should be noted that this solution prioritises the health system response, and it is unclear if funding will be used to address problems relating to needing a formal diagnosis before receiving critical early development advice and support. There continues to be an opportunity to better utilise frontline child and family services, who can provide early identification of risk, prioritise referrals and provide earlier intervention.</p> |

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| <b>Initiative</b>   | Health Navigator Program (BP2, V1, P306, P310)   |
| <b>Investment</b>   | \$6,594,000 over two years   |
| <b>Description</b>  | <p>The continuation of the Health Navigator Pilot Program helps to support vulnerable, out-of-home-care children and young people to get the best start in life. Skilled health system navigators' partner with carers, case workers and young adults to access comprehensive health assessments through collaborative cross-agency service delivery that maximises health and wellbeing benefits within a culturally safe environment.</p> <p>This initiative is also discussed in the <i>Children and Families Factsheet</i>.</p>  |
| <b>Implications</b> | <p>The Health Navigator Program is demonstrating good early outcomes for children in out of home care and receiving positive feedback from participants. The program has positioned health as a priority, built health profiles and health histories for participating children, and ensured that health needs are quickly met. The program has also strengthened connections between relevant service providers. Continuation of this program will continue to improve health outcomes for children in out of home care and demonstrates commitment to new models of health care in WA.</p> |

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| <b>Initiative</b>   | Perth Children's Court – Therapeutic Programs – Health Navigator Pilot (BP2, V1, P306, P310)   |
| <b>Investment</b>   | \$1,755,000 over two years   |
| <b>Description</b>  | <p>The Justice's In-Roads Health Navigator Pilot will provide continuity of healthcare services to a discrete cohort of youth aimed at intervention and offence reduction.</p> <p>This initiative is also discussed in the <i>Justice Factsheet</i>.</p>                           |
| <b>Implications</b> | <p>Building on the known positive outcomes of health navigation services, this project will pilot the navigator model within the youth justice context. If successful, this model will work to ensure improved health outcomes are a priority for youth in the justice system.</p> |

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| <b>Initiative</b>  | Medical Respite Centre (BP2, V1, P306, P309)  |
| <b>Investment</b>  | \$3,573,000 over two years  |
| <b>Description</b> | <p>This year's budget sees continued support for the Medical Respite Centre which provides a cost-effective substitute for a long-stay hospital</p> |

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|                     | admission in a safe, community-based environment that provides homeless people with purposeful reconnection links to both housing and social support.   |
| <b>Implications</b> | Continued support for the Medical Respite Centre ensures that people experiencing homelessness can continue to access high quality community-based health care, particularly on hospital discharge, and reduced risk of preventable hospital readmission. |

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| <b>Initiative</b>   | Electronic Medical Record – Digital Medical Record (BP2, V1, P306, P308)  |
| <b>Investment</b>   | \$8,786,000 over two years  |
| <b>Description</b>  | An EMR will bring together a single, integrated view of a patient’s record that delivers a suite of capabilities to support clinical decisions and workflows, including medication management and alerts for observations. This funding builds upon the roll-out of the Digital Medical Record across all health sites which sets a consistent and strong foundation for the implementation of the EMR across the State.  |
| <b>Implications</b> | The EMR will contain all patient information that is collected within public hospital walls. Once established, the EMR will allow real time sharing of patient information and analytics to support clinical decision making, and will be key in improving patient safety, patient flow and experience. The EMR will also increase opportunities for new virtual models of care. The EMR will particularly benefit patients who may visit multiple health services, such as patients moving between regional and metro hospitals, and patients who access virtual care. |

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| <b>Initiative</b>   | Karratha Health Campus (BP2, V1, P309)   |
| <b>Investment</b>   | \$2,300,000 over an unknown time period  |
| <b>Description</b>  | A four-chair renal dialysis unit within the Karratha Health Campus.  |
| <b>Implications</b> | Investment in renal dialysis unit at Karratha Health Campus is a great step toward ensuring regional communities have timely access to quality care, closer to home. The establishment of this unit will help reduce the need to travel for dialysis and allow patients to be closer to their families, friends, and support networks. |

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| <b>Initiative</b>  | Patient Assisted Travel Scheme (BP2, V1, P306, P309)       |
| <b>Investment</b>  | \$27,702,000 over four years                               |
| <b>Description</b> | Additional funding for the Patient Assisted Travel Scheme. |

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| <b>Implications</b> | <p>Additional funding for the Patient Assisted Travel Scheme (PATS) will help ensure regional and remote Western Australians continue to have access to specialist health care located in regional hubs or the Perth metro region. While additional funding has not been earmarked for a specific purpose, overspend on the PATS in the 2023/24 actuals indicates that additional funding will be used to cover increased costs of travel, accommodation, and food.</p> <p>No funding has been specifically identified to support a review of the PATS. A lack of commitment to such a review neglects a key ask of regional communities in WA, as outlined in the WACOSS 2024 State Budget Submission, and leaves communities struggling to navigate a service that may no longer be fit for service.</p> |
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| <b>Initiative</b>   | WA Country Health Service Critical Staff Accommodation Program (BP2, V1, P309)  |
| <b>Investment</b>   | \$7,700,000 over an unknown time period   |
| <b>Description</b>  | Supports staff attraction and retention through the provision of quality and safe housing.  |
| <b>Implications</b> | Inadequate access to safe and secure housing makes it difficult to retain and recruit healthcare staff to regional areas, with inadequate housing a key driver of chronic workforce shortages, over reliance of locum workers, and reduced service capacity. This investment will help support the recruitment and retention of regional health workers by ensuring they have somewhere safe and secure to call home and ensure regional West Australian's have access to high quality health care. |

## Housing & Homelessness

*Housing is the single largest living cost for Western Australians. In the current cost of living crisis, the investment committed to housing and homelessness in this Budget is to be commended. Social and affordable housing, both supply and condition, has been at crisis point for some time, as have homelessness services. We expect the investments made in this Budget will help to boost supply, improve living standards for social housing and support Western Australians who are doing it tough.*

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| <b>Initiative</b>   | <a href="#">Homelessness Additional Funding</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.<br>The uplift to funding in homelessness services is welcome. The average uplift to services will be 26%.<br>After years of underfunding this money will enable those critical and lifesaving services to keep the doors open. |

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| <b>Initiative</b>   | <a href="#">Housing First Support Services (HFSS)</a> (BP2, V2, P504)  |
| <b>Investment</b>   | \$15.7 million over four years.  |
| <b>Description</b>  | Expansion of 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> |
| <b>Implications</b> | Housing is a basic human right. Homelessness is a barrier to accessing necessary support services. Housing First recognises that people need somewhere safe to live, as well as supports to maintain that housing. This funding announcement is warmly welcomed.           |

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| <b>Initiative</b>   | No Wrong Door Expansion (BP2, V2, P504 & BP3, P135)  |
| <b>Investment</b>   | \$6.3 million over three years   |
| <b>Description</b>  | Funding to expand the capacity of EntryPoint and to operate the new Homelessness Services Portal   |
| <b>Implications</b> | EntryPoint is an online access point for people experiencing homelessness and the new Homelessness Services Portal will allow people to access homelessness services online. While online services are |

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|  | not suitable for everybody, this is an important initiative. Emergency relief services report that shame and stigma prevent people in need from accessing support. An online access point allows people to seek homelessness support simply and privately, if that suits them best. |
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| <b>Initiative</b>   | Social and Affordable Housing Investment Fund (BP2, V2, P505 & BP3, P286)   |
| <b>Investment</b>   | \$400 million one-off contribution in 2024-25   |
| <b>Description</b>  | <p>Expansion of the Social and Affordable Housing Investment Fund (SAHIF) to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• support the delivery and refurbishment of social housing stock, and</li> <li>• support a pipeline of affordable multi-residential housing across priority sites, including METRONET precincts, by partnering with the Commonwealth through Housing Australia and the community housing sector</li> </ul> <p>This fund was previously the Social Housing Investment Fund and has this year been expanded to also support affordable housing initiatives. A media release with further detail can be found <a href="#">here</a>.</p> |
| <b>Implications</b> | Increasing availability of social and affordable housing is critical to support Western Australians who need it most. The housing crisis is felt more acutely in the regions, including when it comes to workforce capacity. The Government needs to address these challenges in the regions specifically.  |

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| <b>Initiative</b>   | Maintenance Uplift for Social Housing (BP2, V2, P504 & BP2, P135)   |
| <b>Investment</b>   | \$179 million over two years, commencing 2023-24  |
| <b>Description</b>  | Additional funding to maintain the State's portfolio of around 45,000 social, key worker and Aboriginal homes.                            |
| <b>Implications</b> | Investment in maintenance of social housing stock will help to ensure that social housing is of a reasonable living standard for tenants. |

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| <b>Initiative</b>  | North West Aboriginal Housing Fund (BP2, V2, P504)   |
| <b>Investment</b>  | \$44.6 million over four years   |
| <b>Description</b> | Includes funding to Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations under the Aboriginal Housing Grants Program and funding to the Pilbara Aboriginal Housing Program. |

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| <b>Implications</b> | The North West Aboriginal Housing Fund invests in projects in the Pilbara and Kimberley to increase housing choices and support services for Aboriginal families. WACOSS supports investment in projects that are Aboriginal-led and focus on empowerment for Aboriginal communities. |
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| <b>Initiative</b>   | Tenancy Reforms (BP3, P112)  |
| <b>Investment</b>   | \$8.9 million over four years  |
| <b>Description</b>  | This funding will support the Consumer Protection Commissioner to perform their increased role in dispute resolution processes, including for disputes over bond payments, tenant applications to keep pets and minor modifications.<br>A media release with further detail can be found <a href="#">here</a> .  |
| <b>Implications</b> | Currently, all tenancy matters are heard by the Magistrates Court – a process which is onerous and intimidating. Changes to the <i>Residential Tenancies Act</i> move some of the dispute resolution processes to the Consumer Protection Commissioner in an effort to streamline the process and reach decisions more quickly. This funding will support these changes to work in practice. |

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| <b>Initiative</b>   | Regional Development-Ready - Land Development WA Asset Investment Program (BP2, V2, P757)   |
| <b>Investment</b>   | Almost \$35 million over one year   |
| <b>Description</b>  | This funding includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$16.8 million to make available 32 residential lots in Stage 5 of GreenView at Karlkurla, of which three will be social housing</li> <li>• \$13 million to make available 51 residential lots at Karratha’s Madigan at Baynton West, of which seven will be social housing and additional lots will be available for Government Regional Officer Housing</li> <li>• \$5 million to make available 26 residential lots in Stage 13 of Broome North’s Waranyjarri Estate, including three multi-residential social housing lots, two single residential social housing lots and three lots of key government workers</li> <li>• Funding to extend Tanami Drive, to provide access to around 500 future residential lots in Broome North</li> </ul> A media release with further detail can be found <a href="#">here</a> . |
| <b>Implications</b> | Boosting housing supply is needed to address spiralling housing costs and lack of accommodation for regional residents which impact community wellbeing and sustainability. Once this land is ‘unlocked’, it  |



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|  | will be important that housing is built efficiently and in a way that meets the needs of the community. WACOSS would also like to see more lots and houses allocated for social housing to meet the growing need. |
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| <b>Initiative</b>   | Vacant Property Rental Incentive Scheme (BP3, P112)   |
| <b>Investment</b>   | \$5.3 million over two years  |
| <b>Description</b>  | Under this scheme, the Government will offer \$5,000 incentives to owners of up to 1,000 vacant properties to bring them onto the long-term rental market (offering a minimum 12-month lease).<br>A media release with further detail can be found <a href="#">here</a> . |
| <b>Implications</b> | This scheme is likely to boost rental housing supply, which is critically important to ensure Western Australians have access to affordable housing. It is modelled on the successful Short-Term Rental Accommodation Incentive Scheme.                                   |

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| <b>Initiative</b>   | First Home Owner Transfer Duty Concession (BP3, P8, P72)   |
| <b>Investment</b>   | \$82.3 million over four years   |
| <b>Description</b>  | For first homebuyers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exemption from stamp duty for properties valued up to \$450,000 (formerly \$400,000)</li> <li>• Concessional rate for duty for properties valued up to \$600,000 (formerly \$530,000)</li> </ul>                                 |
| <b>Implications</b> | The Government expects around 4,800 first homebuyers to benefit per year with an average additional saving of \$4,163. While for many Western Australians, home ownership remains out of reach, this will assist some families in exiting the rental market and obtaining more stable housing. |

## Justice

*Funding for justice initiatives in this budget have been mixed; characterised by a lack of big picture thinking and little to address the urgent crisis in youth detention. Investment in diversion services such as the In-Roads Therapeutic Program at the WA Children’s Court are highly welcome and are an opportunity to provide intensive support and interventions to change circumstances and behaviour long-term. Unfortunately, continued investment in additional policing has not been matched by programs to address community contexts. This was a missed opportunity for the WA Government to get behind initiatives such as co-investment in the Federal Justice Reinvestment Grants Program, which aims to create generational change.*

*A high-security detention facility to replace Unit 18 (inside maximum-security adult prison) was announced in 2023, but exists only as a business case in development. The ongoing Coronial Inquiry into the death of a teenager inside Unit 18 has begun highlighting major issues in the management of youth detention and identifying areas in need of immediate investment – particularly in workforce transformation and mental health. A joined-up approach to justice is needed to end cycles of crime and improve outcomes in the community before crime occurs. It is important to note that no additional funding has been provided for community-based legal assistance services. This is a sector experiencing high demand, and there is great need particularly in regional areas of WA.*

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| <b>Initiative</b>   | Reforms to Mental Impairment in the Justice System (BP3, P96, P130)  |
| <b>Investment</b>   | \$69.9 million over four years   |
| <b>Description</b>  | <p>Funding for additional demand and an uplift in services resulting from the <i>Criminal Law (Mental Impairment) Act 2023</i> which comes into effect on 1 September 2024. Key reforms include limiting terms for supervised persons who are currently on indefinite custody orders and enhanced statutory advocacy.</p> <p>Investment includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$26.1 million for mental health support services</li> <li>• \$20 million to accommodate expanded court services and establish the new Mental Impairment Review Tribunal</li> <li>• \$14.4 million to legal services on behalf of the State</li> <li>• \$7.9 million for additional disability justice services</li> <li>• \$1.4 million for ICT upgrades and accommodation.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Implications</b> | This is welcome funding to support the reforms from the <i>Criminal Law (Mental Impairment) Act 2023</i> . These reforms were much needed in WA, with criticism from human rights, mental health, and disability advocates regarding the practice and lack of oversight in indefinite detention. It is unclear how much of the funding for mental health support services is   |

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|  | being allocated to increasing the number of beds in the Franklin Centre and forensic beds, in comparison to other mental health services and supports. |
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| <b>Initiative</b>   | Therapeutic Approaches in the Children’s Court (BP2, V2, P421 & BP3, P131)   |
| <b>Investment</b>   | \$13.3 million over two years  |
| <b>Description</b>  | This includes funding for two programs in the WA Children’s Court: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$8.8 million for In-Roads, a diversionary program of intensive support and clinical interventions for young people who would otherwise be sentenced to youth detention. \$1.8 million has been provided for the Health Navigator Pilot.</li> <li>• \$5.1 million has been allocated to continue the Dandjoo Bidi-Ak Court, which provides culturally-safe court services, legal assistance and family support services for Aboriginal young people and their families involved in protection and care proceedings.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Implications</b> | Funding for diversionary programs is highly needed in WA, and this investment provides some security for pilot programs inside the Children’s Court. With a crisis in youth detention, initiatives to provide therapeutic care and services to children and families can prevent children from entering detention.   |

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| <b>Initiative</b>   | Support for the Overhaul of Firearms Laws (BP3, P128)  |
| <b>Investment</b>   | \$16.6 million over four years   |
| <b>Description</b>  | An overhaul of WA’s firearm laws was announced in 2023 in response to high-profile incidents involving firearms. This funding will go towards the development of a new Firearms Licensing and Registry System, as well as additional funding towards the voluntary buyback scheme.   |
| <b>Implications</b> | A welcomed part of this overhaul’s proposed changes will see serious violent offenders, like family and domestic violence perpetrators, prohibited from holding or retaining a firearm licence. Significantly, these laws will be applied retroactively – meaning firearm holders who have been previously convicted of a serious offence, will have a disqualifying period imposed and could lose their firearms licence. |

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| <b>Initiative</b>  | Continuation of Operation Regional Shield (BP2, V2, P406)  |
| <b>Investment</b>  | \$23.4 million over two years  |
| <b>Description</b> | Operation Regional Shield provides additional police officers as a response to youth crime and anti-social behaviour in regional WA. This funding will support between 25 and 35 additional police officers in regional area, primarily in the Kimberley region. |

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| <b>Implications</b> | Successive state budgets have increased investment into frontline policing, with no drop in community crime to correspond. Increased policing may lead only to an increase in arrests and increase the number of young people involved in our justice system. Targeted investment in community-based prevention and intervention projects such as Justice Reinvestment is needed to improve community safety in a sustainable manner by addressing the underlying socio-economic causes of crime. |
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| <b>Initiative</b>   | Expansion of WA Police Community Liaison Officers (BP2, V2, P406 & BP3, P129)   |
| <b>Investment</b>   | \$6.2 million over four years   |
| <b>Description</b>  | This funding will increase the number of Community Liaison Officers by 10 FTEs across key regional and metropolitan locations. The Community Liaison Officers aim to encourage positive engagement and collaboration between police officers and local communities.   |
| <b>Implications</b> | <p>This investment is linked to Closing the Gap Outcomes 10 and 11 and reduce Aboriginal overrepresentation in the justice system. While it is positive to see continued investment in this area, little details are available on this program.</p> <p>Community Liaison Officers work best when they employ genuinely local individuals and are supported by frameworks that ensure they deliver on the outcomes they are projecting. Detail is needed to understand how this project will ensure cultural safety.</p> |

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| <b>Initiative</b>   | Contemporary Funding Model of Aboriginal Community Connectors Program (BP3, P138)  |
| <b>Investment</b>   | \$3.1 million over three years (from 2025-26)  |
| <b>Description</b>  | The Aboriginal Community Connectors Program supports street present Aboriginal people in regional areas of WA to access services. This is an ongoing initiative and this funding will go towards implementing a contemporary funding model across the 13 service locations of the program. |
| <b>Implications</b> | This follows \$14.05 million provided to the program in the 2021-22 State Budget. This program predominantly employs Aboriginal people, which can help people get culturally safe access to supports and has a positive economic impact particularly in regional communities.              |

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| <b>Initiative</b> | New Young People's Directorate in Department of Justice (BP2, V2, P421) |
| <b>Investment</b> | \$2.2 million over four years   |

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| <b>Description</b>  | Previously under a combined portfolio of Women and Young People, this funding will establish a Youth Directorate with its own Deputy Commissioner. This funding appears to provide for FTE to staff this unit.   |
| <b>Implications</b> | The decision to split the Women and Young People directorate was made in 2023, following the death in custody of Cleveland Dodd inside Unit 18 in maximum-security adult prison. Experts have called for a transformation of youth detention and a closure of Unit 18. While this may allow for a dedicated focus on young people’s needs, it is important to note this budget did not contain funding to provide immediate relief to the young people in detention who are experiencing poor conditions, including high rates of self-harm attempts and suicide attempts. |

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| <b>Initiative</b>   | Roebourne Regional Prison Air-Conditioning (BP2, V2, P422 & P434)   |
| <b>Investment</b>   | \$16.8 million to be spent in 2024-25   |
| <b>Description</b>  | To install air conditioning in every cell at Roebourne Prison in the Pilbara region, where temperatures have exceeded 50 degrees in the summer.<br><br>Last budget allocated \$14.5 million to install air conditioning in 2023-24, however installation has not commenced and is expected in the 2024-25 financial year.   |
| <b>Implications</b> | We are disappointed to note the installation of air conditioning was not completed in the last financial year, meaning prisoners may have to experience another hot season without climate control. Completion is sorely needed to ensure the safety and health of prisoners inside. High maximums in the Pilbara region and prison overcrowding risk a potential death in custody. However, we note the funding allocated to this is slightly higher than previously budgeted. |

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| <b>Initiative</b>   | Police and Community Youth Centres SafeSPACE Programs (BP2, V2, P406)   |
| <b>Investment</b>   | \$2.3 million in 2024-25  |
| <b>Description</b>  | SafeSPACE is a diversionary program for children and young people at-risk of contact with the justice system, operating outside school hours.   |
| <b>Implications</b> | Investment in diversionary programs is positive, however WA needs a considered approach to ensuring diversion programs are available in each community – and when and where they are most needed. Diversion programs also need to be accessible to diverse young people, including ensuring options are culturally appropriate.<br><br>More detail is needed on how this additional funding will be used and it is uncertain if this will scale-up the program to expand its reach or improve its operations. |

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| <b>Initiative</b>   | Casuarina Prison Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) Unit (BP2, V2, P421)  |
| <b>Investment</b>   | \$6.95 million in 2024-25   |
| <b>Description</b>  | An election commitment under the Methamphetamine Action Plan. This investment is to support the treatment and rehabilitation of male offenders at Casuarina Prison through the Alcohol and other Drug program.                            |
| <b>Implications</b> | Funding for this unit was allocated in last year’s budget to be spent in 2023-24, and we note with disappointment this does not appear to have been spent. However, an additional \$972,000 has been allocated to this important service. |

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| <b>Initiative</b>   | Disability Advocacy and Referral Diversion for Young People (BP2, V2, P31 & BP3, P127)   |
| <b>Investment</b>   | \$870,000 for two years.   |
| <b>Description</b>  | 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.   |
| <b>Implications</b> | 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. |

## Mental Health

*For many Western Australians experiencing mental ill health, factors including stigma, cultural barriers and a lack of easy and timely access stop them from seeking the support they need to stay or become well. When people finally seek support, services are often inaccessible due to significant gap fees or limited capacity for new admissions or referrals.*

*This budget works to support those in WA experiencing a mental health crisis through increased investment in the public mental health system, particularly for crisis response and acute mental health services. While this funding is very welcome, this budget does not commit to supporting community based mental health supports or addressing the underlying causes of mental ill health through increasing focus on prevention and early intervention.*

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| <b>Initiative</b>   | WA Virtual Emergency Department and Ambulance Co-Response Model (BP2, V1, P331)  |
| <b>Investment</b>   | \$7.9 million over two years.  |
| <b>Description</b>  | Part of the broader WAVED program funding (\$47 million package).<br><br>Investment to support Stage 1 of the Mental Health Co-Response Ambulance Pilot. This program aims to provide a coordinated mental health crisis response pilot that prevents avoidable ED attendances and admissions by providing clinically appropriate alternative models of care.  |
| <b>Implications</b> | Expansion of this model into mental health co-response is based on successful trails in the eastern states and, when implemented, will provide support to a person in crisis in their home. This has been shown to increase patient safety and improve outcomes.<br><br>Whilst this initiative will alleviate pressure experienced by Emergency Departments, focus should remain on preventing acute mental health crises. |

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| <b>Initiative</b> | Infants, Children and Adolescents (ICA) Taskforce (BP2 V1, P331 – 333)  |
| <b>Investment</b> | \$46,600,000 over four years, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$22.4 million over four years to establish new Acute Care Response Teams in the North and South Metropolitan areas and the Great Southern, and to extend the existing Acute Care Response Team pilot in the East Metropolitan area.</li> </ul> |

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|                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$19.5 million to extend the expansion of the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services' Crisis Connect service workforce</li> <li>• \$4.7 million for a two-year extension of the WA Country Health Service's Brief Crisis Intervention Service to continue a vital post-emergency department follow-up service for children and their families and allow for a full evaluation of the service to be undertaken.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Description</b>  | <p>The Government is continuing its commitment to implement all 32 recommendations of the Ministerial Taskforce into Public Mental Health Services for Infants, Children and Adolescents aged 0-18 years in Western Australia (ICA Taskforce). Investment in the 2024-25 Budget brings the Government's total investment in ICA Taskforce initiatives to \$143.6 million.</p> <p><i>See Youth and Children and Families fact sheet</i></p>                              |
| <b>Implications</b> | <p>This initiative will improve access to vital services for young people needing an acute response.</p> <p>Ongoing investment in WACHS Brief Crisis Intervention allows for the continuation of a vital post-emergency department follow-up service for children and their families and allows for a full evaluation of the service to be undertaken. Yet, a two-year extension represents an overall shortfall for mental health funding in the regions.</p>          |

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| <b>Initiative</b>   | Reconfiguration and refurbishment of the PCH Mental Health inpatient ward (BP2, V1, P312, P332)   |
| <b>Investment</b>   | \$14.2 million over an unknown period   |
| <b>Description</b>  | Additional funding for the reconfiguration and refurbishment of the Perth Children's Hospital Mental Health Inpatient Unit on Ward 5A. The Government is continuing its commitment to implement all 32 recommendations of the Ministerial Taskforce into Public Mental Health Services for Infants, Children and Adolescents aged 0-18 years in Western Australia (ICA Taskforce). Investment in the 2024/25 Budget brings the Government's total investment in ICA Taskforce initiatives to \$143.6 million. |
| <b>Implications</b> | Important infrastructure upgrades to improve services for children receiving inpatient mental health support.   |

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| <b>Initiative</b> | Aboriginal Regional Governance Group (ARGG) Policy and Secretariat Team (BP2, V1, P331) |
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| <b>Investment</b>   | \$2.6 million over three years.  |
| <b>Description</b>  | To enable a policy and secretariat team to support the Kimberley ARGG in the implementation of the Partnership Agreement. The ARGG partners with Government agencies and ACCO's in the Kimberley region in response to Aboriginal Youth Wellbeing. |
| <b>Implications</b> | Funding will support the sustainability of the ARGG and contribute to improving wellbeing outcomes for Aboriginal Youth.   |

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| <b>Initiative</b>   | Reforms to Mental Impairment in the Justice System (BP3, P96, P130)   |
| <b>Investment</b>   | \$69.9 million over four years  |
| <b>Description</b>  | <p>Funding for additional demand and an uplift in services resulting from the <i>Criminal Law (Mental Impairment) Act 2023</i> which comes into effect on 1 September 2024. Key reforms include limiting terms for supervised persons who are currently on indefinite custody orders and enhanced statutory advocacy.</p> <p>Investment includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$26.1 million for mental health support services</li> <li>• \$20 million to accommodate expanded court services and establish the new Mental Impairment Review Tribunal</li> <li>• \$14.4 million to legal services on behalf of the State</li> <li>• \$7.9 million for additional disability justice services</li> <li>• \$1.4 million for ICT upgrades and accommodation</li> </ul> <p>See <i>Justice fact sheet</i>.</p> |
| <b>Implications</b> | This is welcome funding to support the reforms from the <i>Criminal Law (Mental Impairment) Act 2023</i> . These reforms were much needed in WA, with criticism from human rights, mental health, and disability advocates regarding the practice and lack of oversight in indefinite detention. It is unclear how much of the funding for mental health support services is being allocated to increasing the number of beds in the Franklin Centre and forensic beds, in comparison to other mental health services and supports.   |

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| <b>Initiative</b>  | Private Psychiatric Hostels Staffing Requirements (BP2, V1, P331)                           |
| <b>Investment</b>  | \$13.6 million over four years.   |
| <b>Description</b> | To ensure private psychiatric hostels can meet new mandatory minimum staffing requirements. |

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| <b>Implications</b> | The implementation of new standards relating to minimum staffing requirements are critical to ensuring the delivery of high quality care, and the prioritisation of patient safety and wellbeing. |
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| <b>Initiative</b>   | National Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Agreement (BP2, V1, P332)   |
| <b>Investment</b>   | \$5.3 million over two years.   |
| <b>Description</b>  | Towards a continuation of initiatives under the existing Western Australian Suicide Prevention Framework 2021-2025 whilst the Commission plans for the next iteration of the Framework from 2025. |
| <b>Implications</b> | A welcome investment into prevention and early intervention measures in partnership with the Federal Government.  |

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| <b>Initiative</b>   | Continuation of the Active Recovery Teams (ART) Pilot (BP2, V1, P332)  |
| <b>Investment</b>   | \$10.5 million in 2024-2025.   |
| <b>Description</b>  | ART represents a partnership between community mental health teams and non-government organisations, providing recovery planning and crisis response for individuals with complex needs recovering from an acute or crisis episode. These teams aim to minimise future presentations to emergency departments and prolonged inpatient stays. |
| <b>Implications</b> | The ART Pilot has demonstrated good early outcomes for patients with complex needs. Sustainable investment should replace the short-term funding of this pilot program.  |

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| <b>Initiative</b>   | Content Warning: Statewide Anti-Ligature Remediation Program (BP2, V1, P323)                         |
| <b>Investment</b>   | \$27.8 million over three years.   |
| <b>Description</b>  | To rectify ligature risks within Western Australian Public Mental Health inpatient units.            |
| <b>Implications</b> | Important continuation of mental health service infrastructure upgrades that promote patient safety. |

## Regional Investment

The WA Government has outlined investment to address the unique needs and inequity experienced in our regional, remote and rural communities. These initiatives are in addition to those that apply for all Western Australians. We particularly welcome the investments in housing and health, two chronic issues that are exacerbated in the regions. However, more is urgently needed to support these communities.

(See Government fact sheets for a breakdown of each specific region)

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| <b>Initiative</b>   | Early Years Partnership (BP2, V2, P503-505)   |
| <b>Investment</b>   | \$15.6 million over four years  |
| <b>Description</b>  | Support for families and community infrastructure to increase child wellbeing and school readiness by improving access to early learning opportunities, early identification and intervention services.   |
| <b>Implications</b> | This investment expands on the 10-year partnership between the Minderoo Foundation, Telethon Kids Institute and four communities in metro, regional, remote and very remote areas. Despite this being a much-needed area of investment, \$15 million doesn't go far to improve community and child wellbeing in 4 very diverse areas. |

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| <b>Initiative</b>   | Social and Affordable Housing Investment Fund (BP2, V2, P505)   |
| <b>Investment</b>   | \$400 million one-off contribution in 2024-25   |
| <b>Description</b>  | A top up to the fund, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$60 million for a Regional Community Housing Grants Program, to support community housing providers to deliver new dwellings or refurbish existing dwellings;</li> <li>• \$43.8 million in additional investment for Government Regional Officer Housing (GROH), to fund new builds and land acquisitions;</li> <li>• \$34.8 million to unlock more development-ready land for housing in regional centres including Broome, Karratha and Kalgoorlie; and</li> <li>• \$22 million to expand existing homelessness services, including programs which operate in Geraldton, Albany and Kalgoorlie.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Implications</b> | This is a very welcome investment as the housing crisis is felt more acutely in the regions, including when it comes to workforce capacity. The Government needs to address these challenges in the regions specifically.   |

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| <b>Initiative</b> | Regional Pensioner Travel Card (BP2, V2, P588) |
| <b>Investment</b> | \$20.3 million over four years                 |

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| <b>Description</b>  | Increase the value of the Regional Pensioner Travel Card by \$100 (from \$575 to \$675) from 1 July 2024.  |
| <b>Implications</b> | This will support eligible pensioners to travel regionally with less out of pocket expenses however, the \$100 is mostly levelling out inflationary pressures on cost of fuel and transport. |

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| <b>Initiative</b>   | Regional Airfare Zone Cap (BP2, V2, P588)   |
| <b>Investment</b>   | \$65.3 million over two years   |
| <b>Description</b>  | Cheaper airfares for regional residents for personal travel.  |
| <b>Implications</b> | This initiative has had significant uptake since its conception. We welcome the extension of funding that supports those living in regional and remote areas to remain connected to metropolitan Perth. This access increases the liveability of communities, where travel is often extortionately expensive. If you are a resident relying on income support, a \$600 round trip remains unaffordable. |

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| <b>Initiative</b>   | Patient Assisted Travel Scheme (PATS) (BP2, V1, P306)   |
| <b>Investment</b>   | \$27.7 million over four years  |
| <b>Description</b>  | Patient Assisted Travel Scheme (PATS) provides financial subsidies for eligible WA country residents to access specialist medical services that are not available locally.  |
| <b>Implications</b> | <p>Additional funding for the Patient Assisted Travel Scheme (PATS) will help ensure regional and remote Western Australians continue to have access to specialist health care located in regional hubs or the Perth metro region. While additional funding has not been earmarked for a specific purpose, overspend on the PATS in the 2023/24 actuals indicates that additional funding will be used to cover increased costs of travel, accommodation, and food.</p> <p>No funding has been specifically identified to support a review of the PATS. A lack of commitment to such a review neglects a key ask of regional communities in WA, as outlined in the WACOSS 2024/25 State Budget Submission, and leaves communities struggling to navigate a service that may no longer be fit for service.</p> |

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| <b>Initiative</b>  | Continuation of Operation Regional Shield (BP2, V2, P406)   |
| <b>Investment</b>  | \$23.4 million over two years   |
| <b>Description</b> | Operation Regional Shield provides additional police officers as a response to youth crime and anti-social behaviour in regional WA. This funding will support between 25 and 35 additional police officers in regional areas, primarily in the Kimberley region. |

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| <b>Implications</b> | Successive state budgets have increased investment into frontline policing, with no drop in community crime to correspond. Increased policing may lead only to an increase in arrests and increase the number of young people involved in our justice system. Targeted investment in community-based prevention and intervention projects such as Justice Reinvestment is needed to improve community safety in a sustainable manner by addressing the underlying socio-economic causes of crime. |
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| <b>Initiative</b>   | Supporting Regional Health Services (BP2, V1, P306)  |
| <b>Investment</b>   | \$405.5 million over three years   |
| <b>Description</b>  | <p>Support patient care and services in regional areas focused on sustainable staffing, virtual care models and growing costs of service delivery, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- \$12.7 million over 2 years on Regional Palliative Care</li> <li>- \$8.8 million over 2 years on Hospital Avoidance Program</li> <li>- \$3.59 million over 2 years on Lions Eye Institute Services</li> <li>- \$244,000 over 2 years on Newman Renal Accommodation Facility</li> <li>- \$12.75 million over 2 years on Regional Palliative Care</li> <li>- \$1.43 million over 2 years on Renal Care Support Services</li> <li>- \$6.5 million over 2 years on Rural and Remote Nursing Posts</li> <li>- \$10.8 million over 2 years on Specialist Cancer Services</li> <li>- \$16.8 million over 1 year on Temporary Regional Incentives for Nurses and Midwives</li> <li>- \$15 million for a new MRI Unit at Hedland Health Campus</li> <li>- \$7.7 million to continue WACHS Critical Staff Accommodation Program</li> <li>- \$173.2 million redevelopment of Bunbury Hospital</li> <li>- \$43.4 million extra investment in Geraldton Health Campus redevelopment</li> <li>- \$2.3 million extension plan for Ronald McDonald House facility, supporting regional families travelling to Perth for medical treatment.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Implications</b> | We welcome this much needed investment in regional healthcare that recognises many significant calls from community members. However, some investments don't go far enough to meet the significant demand of patients in regional and remote areas.  |

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| <b>Initiative</b>  | Continuation of Remote Communities Program Horizon Power (BP2, V2, P797)                      |
| <b>Investment</b>  | \$68.3 million over four years  |
| <b>Description</b> | Improve reliability of critical infrastructure in remote communities such as power and water. |

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| <b>Implications</b> | This is a welcome investment that will provide important connection for remote communities to receive the same reliability of water and power as regional and metropolitan areas. |
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| <b>Initiative</b>   | Social Housing Energy Performance Upgrade Initiative Co-Investment (BP2, V2, P504)  |
| <b>Investment</b>   | \$20.7 million over three years   |
| <b>Description</b>  | Energy improvements and efficiencies to social homes.   |
| <b>Implications</b> | This is a very necessary investment to improve the conditions and efficiencies to social housing. This will hopefully see the reduction of cost of living pressures such as air conditioning or heating for households doing it tough by making homes more climate appropriate. |

## 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.

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| <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.<br>The uplift to funding in homelessness services is welcome. The average uplift to services will be 26%.<br>After years of underfunding this money will enable those critical and lifesaving services to keep their doors open. |

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| <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> |

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| <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>  |

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| <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> </ul> |



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|                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$1.9 million over 4 years for a Lived Experience Advisory Group</li> <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> |

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| <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. |

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| <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 |

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|  | increased investment in services for men that increase perpetrator accountability in our State Budget Submission 2024-25. |
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| <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

## Women

*The budget does not demonstrate significant commitment to women in WA, or building an environment in which they can thrive. While the budget funded a range of initiatives, when looked at holistically funding for women appears to be caught in a dance of one step forward and one step back.*

*The 2024-2025 Budget demonstrated the desire to increase WA's capacity and capability to address the State's family and domestic violence crisis through considerable investment in a range of initiatives. Sadly, the budget did not provide much needed funding to critical refuge and safe house services or the implementation of the Aboriginal Family Safety Strategy. As one woman dies every four days in Australia sustained investment is urgent and vital.*

*Funding to support women's economic independence was limited to small grants, upgrades to locker rooms, and programs that benefit public sector employees. This budget saw minimal investment in ensuring women have the tools to navigate work - including affordable childcare - to enter historical male dominated sectors or be adequately remunerated for their work in feminised industries.*

*Importantly we see upgrades to women's health infrastructure and ensuring access to life saving services – such as a dedicated women's mental health facility focused on eating disorders. Yet, the lack of funding for community-based services or specialist sexual assault services, lack of initiatives to address medical misogyny, and a lack of investment in preventative health, suggest the budget is lacking dedication to systemic improvements on women's health outcomes.*

*As seen in previous years, the 'Supporting WA Women' snapshot highlights a range of large investments in areas such as housing, mental health, and cost-of-living. While some of these investments are gender specific, many are not. Critically the investments highlighted in the snapshot reflects only a small proportion of total budget expenditure.*

*We continue to call for the WA Government to adopt a gender response budgeting approach that analyses, and transparently reports on, the gendered impacts of public spending – particularly the significant percentage of state spending that is not identified in the 'Support Women Snapshot'.*

*While we have seen investment on some issues impacting women in WA, this budget was ultimately a missed opportunity to fund a gender responsive budgeting unit within WA Treasury and truly consider how our social systems, structures, and spending contributes to gender inequity in WA.*

**Family and Domestic Violence**

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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 two years for Aboriginal Family Safety Grants</li> <li>• \$600,000 over two years to boost Access to Domestic Violence Counselling</li> <li>• \$2 million over three years for Coercive Control Education and First Responder Training</li> <li>• \$6.04 million over two years for continuation and expansion of Perpetrator Intervention Programs</li> <li>• \$7 million over two years for the Flexible Support Package</li> <li>• \$300,000 over two years for the Housing Families Program</li> <li>• \$2.4 million over one year for Munda Mia</li> <li>• \$6.6 million over four years for a new Perth CBD Women’s Refuge</li> <li>• \$814,000 over two years to Preventing Violence Together</li> <li>• \$6 million over two years for Primary Prevention Grants</li> <li>• \$4 million over two years on a Public Awareness Campaign</li> <li>• \$1.5 million over two years to Respectful Relationships</li> <li>• \$14.2 million over four years for the Ruah Perth CBD One-Stop Hub</li> <li>• \$3.1 million over two years to Safe at Home</li> </ul> |
| <b>Implications</b> | <p>The 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>  |

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| <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 two years for a Central Information Point</li> <li>• \$25.6 million over four years to expand the FDV Response Teams</li> <li>• \$1.9 million over four years for a Lived Experience Advisory Group</li> <li>• \$4 million over four years for new Crisis Beds</li> <li>• \$6.2 million over four years for the development of a Workforce Entity</li> </ul> |

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|                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$2.06 million over three years for administration</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Implications</b> | <p>We are pleased to see funding commitments aligned with the System Reform Plan, created 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> |

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| <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. |

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| <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 FDV. WACOSS called for increased investment in services for men that increase perpetrator accountability in our State Budget Submission 2024-25. |

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| <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. |

### ***Women's Health and Wellbeing***

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| <b>Initiative</b>   | Provision of Menstrual Products in Primary Schools (BP2, V1, P354)   |
| <b>Investment</b>   | \$865,000 over four years  |
| <b>Description</b>  | Free period products in primary schools from Term 3. This is in addition to free products in high schools and TAFEs which were provided from mid-2023. Note: Existing Department Spending has been reprioritised to meet these costs.<br><i>See Youth fact sheet</i> |
| <b>Implications</b> | Access to free menstrual items helps to reduce stigma around menstruation and ensures that no girl goes without such basic healthcare items.   |

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| <b>Initiative</b>   | Short-Stay, Mother-Baby Developmental, Behavioural and Parenting Interventions Pilot (BP2, V1, P306) |
| <b>Investment</b>   | \$490,000 over two years   |
| <b>Description</b>  | Not provided.  |
| <b>Implications</b> | Unable to determine due to limited description of funding.   |

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| <b>Initiative</b>   | Bunbury Hospital Redevelopment (BP2, V1, P311)  |
| <b>Investment</b>   | \$173,200,000   |
| <b>Description</b>  | Additional funding for the redevelopment of Bunbury Hospital, which has reached contract award stage. The redevelopment includes new and expanded maternity, birthing, and neonatal services. |
| <b>Implications</b> | This investment supports the development of a leading-edge maternity hospital and will ensure women have access to modern facilities, particularly in a regional area.                        |

**Economic participation**

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| <b>Initiative</b>   | Payment of superannuation on unpaid parental leave (Supporting WA Women – Economic Independence)  |
| <b>Investment</b>   | \$46,000,000 over an unknown time period  |
| <b>Description</b>  | Extend the payment of superannuation on unpaid parental leave from 12 to 24 weeks, for all WA public sector employees.  |
| <b>Implications</b> | Paying super on unpaid parental leave is an important investment to improve women's economic security in their later years and assist WA families in making decisions about balancing care and work. This is a practical initiative to close the gender superannuation gap and increasing the social value of parental care work. |

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| <b>Initiative</b>   | Upgrades to Career Fire and Rescue Station shower and locker rooms (Supporting WA Women – Economic Independence)                 |
| <b>Investment</b>   | \$5,000,000 over an unknown time period  |
| <b>Description</b>  | Upgrades to Career Fire and Rescue Station shower and locker rooms to enable privacy for women.                                  |
| <b>Implications</b> | Increasing privacy for women helps to reduce barriers to participating in what has historically been a male dominated workforce. |

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| <b>Initiative</b>   | Women's Grants for a Stronger Future (BP2, V2, P505)   |
| <b>Investment</b>   | \$1,000,000 over one year  |
| <b>Description</b>  | The Women's Grants for a Stronger Future program provides funding support for the community to develop initiatives based in Western Australia, that address the unique issues faced by women. In 2023-24, 57 organisations received funding for projects promoting gender equality.  |
| <b>Implications</b> | Continued funding of the Stronger Future grants program provides opportunity for organisations in WA to continue to promote gender equality in a way most meaningful to them. It should be noted that the ongoing success of changes achieved by grants under this program will require the support of long-term systemic reform that promotes a more gender equal WA. |

## Youth

*This State Budget provides a few positive investments to young people, primarily in cost-of-living relief for families and investments in services in child protection and out-of-home care. Initiatives such as the provision of free public transport for school students is positive, and will provide welcome relief to families doing it tough. Dedicated investment in programs such as the expansion of the Home Stretch WA initiative, allowing young people leaving out-of-home-care to continue to receive support, and in therapeutic diversion programs inside the WA Children's Court are highly welcomed and will have long-term positive impacts on breaking cycles of vulnerability.*

*However, with the State's enviable economic position, this Budget was a missed opportunity to make generational investments in ending vulnerability and safeguarding young people's futures. The Budget's focus on delivering for every Western Australian has meant targeted investment on priority issues for young people are out-of-focus.*

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| <b>Initiative</b>   | Extending Home Stretch WA funding for young people leaving out-of-home care (BP2, V2, P504)   |
| <b>Investment</b>   | \$46.3 million over four years  |
| <b>Description</b>  | Additional funding builds on the \$32.7 million invested in 2019 in the Home Stretch pilot, making the program permanent. It supports young people from 18 to 21 as they leave care. This is part of a larger package of investment into child protection.  |
| <b>Implications</b> | Aboriginal children and young people are overrepresented in out-of-home care. A total of nine ACCOs and three mainstream services will now deliver the program across the state – adding in the Goldfields-Esperance and Wheatbelt regions. ( <i>Anglicare and Yorganup played a critical role developing the service model</i> ). (see <a href="#">media release</a> ) |

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| <b>Initiative</b>   | Expansion of Child Development Services (BP2, V1, P306, P310)   |
| <b>Investment</b>   | \$39 million in total (\$15.7 million in 2024-25, \$23 million in 2025-26)  |
| <b>Description</b>  | Additional funding for both the Child and Adolescent Health Service metropolitan service (CAHS-CDS) and WA Country Health Service regional service (WACHS-CDS). Enables a significant increase in clinical staff, including paediatricians, clinical nurse specialists, speech pathologists, occupational therapists, psychologists and audiologists, in both the metro and regional areas. |
| <b>Implications</b> | Referrals to child development paediatricians have risen 132% over last decade leading to significant delays in diagnosis and treatment of children with developmental delays. This solution still only focuses on the health system response and it is unclear if this will also address the problem of needing a formal diagnosis before receiving critical early                         |



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|  | development advice and support.<br><i>See Children and Families Fact Sheet.</i> |
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| <b>Initiative</b>   | Extension and Expansion of Respectful Relationships Program (BP2, V2, P504, P506)  |
| <b>Investment</b>   | \$1.53 million over the next two years   |
| <b>Description</b>  | This is part of a larger investment in family and domestic violence (FDV) in this Budget. Respectful Relationships is prevention program focusing on respectful relationships and gender equality in WA State schools. |
| <b>Implications</b> | This is a positive investment in addressing FDV early and changing behaviour in schools. However we note funding is currently provided only for two years, and would welcome a longer-term commitment.                 |

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| <b>Initiative</b>   | Ride To School Free Program (BP3, P6 & P329)   |
| <b>Investment</b>   | \$21 million over an unknown time period   |
| <b>Description</b>  | School students with a SmartRider card will travel on public transport for free on weekdays. This complements free public transport provided every Sunday with a SmartRider.   |
| <b>Implications</b> | This is a welcome investment that will ease cost-of-living pressures. However, it is unclear how long this initiative will continue for, and we would welcome a decision to make this permanent. While positive, it is important to note the requirement to hold a valid SmartRider imposes a barrier on some young people, particularly vulnerable young people who may need external support to afford the cost of a Smart Rider and ensuring it is valid. |

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| <b>Initiative</b>   | Early Years Partnership (BP2, V2, P116, P503)  |
| <b>Investment</b>   | \$15.6 million over four years   |
| <b>Description</b>  | The Early Years Partnership focuses on child wellbeing and school readiness, where community plans are codesigned with local communities in four locations - Armadale West, Central Great Southern, Derby and Bidyadanga.<br>EYP is a whole-of-government 10-year partnership (2018-2028) between Minderoo Foundation, Telethon Kids Institute and Dept Communities. |
| <b>Implications</b> | EYP aims to increase child well-being and school readiness by improving access to early learning opportunities, early identification and intervention services to address developmental delay and family support services.   |

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| <b>Initiative</b>   | Therapeutic Approaches in the Children’s Court (BP2, V2, P421 & BP3, P131)  |
| <b>Investment</b>   | \$13.3 million over two years   |
| <b>Description</b>  | <p>This includes funding for two programs in the WA Children’s Court:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$8.8 million for In-Roads, a diversionary program of intensive support and clinical interventions for young people who would otherwise be sentenced to youth detention. \$1.8 million has been provided for the Health Navigator Pilot.</li> <li>• \$5.1 million has been allocated to continue the Dandjoo Bidi-Ak Court, which provides culturally-safe court services, legal assistance and family support services for Aboriginal young people and their families involved in protection and care proceedings.</li> </ul> <p><i>See Justice fact sheet.</i></p> |
| <b>Implications</b> | Funding for diversionary programs is highly needed in WA, and this investment provides some security for pilot programs inside the Children’s Court. With a crisis in youth detention, initiatives to provide therapeutic care and services to children and families can prevent children from entering detention.  |

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| <b>Initiative</b>   | Health Navigator Program (BP2, V1, P306 and P310)   |
| <b>Investment</b>   | \$6.6 million over two years  |
| <b>Description</b>  | <p>A further \$6.6 million in funding will continue the successful Health Navigator pilot program by helping vulnerable, out-of-home-care children and young people to get the best start in life. Skilled health system navigators partner with carers, case workers and young adults to access comprehensive health assessments through collaborative cross-agency service delivery that maximises health and wellbeing benefits within a culturally safe environment.</p> <p><i>See Children and Families and Health fact sheets</i></p> |
| <b>Implications</b> | This contributes to an overarching aim to improve access to medical care and health support for young people in out-of-home-care.   |

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| <b>Initiative</b> | Infants, Children and Adolescents (ICA) Taskforce (BP2, V1, P331 – P333)  |
| <b>Investment</b> | <p>\$46,600,000 over four years, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$22.4 million over four years to establish new Acute Care Response Teams in the North and South Metropolitan areas and</li> </ul> |

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|                     | <p>the Great Southern, and to extend the existing Acute Care Response Team pilot in the East Metropolitan area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$19.5 million to extend the expansion of the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services' Crisis Connect service workforce</li> <li>• \$4.7 million for a two-year extension of the WA Country Health Service's Brief Crisis Intervention Service to continue a vital post-emergency department follow-up service for children and their families and allow for a full evaluation of the service to be undertaken.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Description</b>  | <p>The Government is continuing its commitment to implement all 32 recommendations of the Ministerial Taskforce into Public Mental Health Services for Infants, Children and Adolescents aged 0-18 years in Western Australia (ICA Taskforce). Investment in the 2024/25 Budget brings the Government's total investment in ICA Taskforce initiatives to \$143.6 million.</p> <p><i>See Mental Health and Children and Families fact sheets</i></p>   |
| <b>Implications</b> | <p>This initiative will improve access to vital services for young people needing an acute response.</p> <p>Ongoing investment in WACHS Brief Crisis Intervention allows for the continuation of a vital post-emergency department follow-up service for children and their families and allows for a full evaluation of the service to be undertaken. Yet, a two-year extension represents an overall shortfall for mental health funding in the regions.</p>  |

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| <b>Initiative</b>   | Reconfiguration and refurbishment of the PCH Mental Health inpatient ward (BP2, V1, P312 & P332).   |
| <b>Investment</b>   | \$14.2 million over an unknown period   |
| <b>Description</b>  | Additional funding for the reconfiguration and refurbishment of the Perth Children's Hospital Mental Health Inpatient Unit on Ward 5A. The Government is continuing its commitment to implement all 32 recommendations of the Ministerial Taskforce into Public Mental Health Services for Infants, Children and Adolescents aged 0-18 years in Western Australia (ICA Taskforce). Investment in the 2024/25 Budget brings the Government's total investment in ICA Taskforce initiatives to \$143.6 million. |
| <b>Implications</b> | Important infrastructure upgrades to improve services for children receiving inpatient mental health support.   |

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| <b>Initiative</b>   | Investing in Aboriginal Social and Emotional Wellbeing (BP2, V1, P332 & BP3, P121)   |
| <b>Investment</b>   | \$12.3 million over two years  |
| <b>Description</b>  | To continue delivery of vital Aboriginal Social and Emotional Wellbeing services across regional Western Australia, an additional \$12.3 million will be spent over 2024-25 and 2025-26. This provides for the continuation of culturally safe and secure services in five regional areas and a youth specific program in the Kimberley. The program contributes to the aim to improve Aboriginal people's levels of social and emotional wellbeing under the National Agreement on Closing The Gap. |
| <b>Implications</b> | Additional funding is Aboriginal youth suicide prevention is welcome, given the unacceptably high rates of suicide, particularly in the Kimberley. More detail is needed on the youth specific program in the Kimberley.   |

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| <b>Initiative</b>   | Provision of Menstrual Products in Primary Schools (BP2, V1, P354)   |
| <b>Investment</b>   | \$865,000 over four years  |
| <b>Description</b>  | This is in addition to free products in high schools and TAFEs which were provided from mid-2023. Note: Existing Department Spending has been reprioritised to meet these costs. |
| <b>Implications</b> | Access to free menstrual items helps to reduce stigma around menstruation and ensures that no child goes without such basic healthcare items.                                    |

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| <b>Initiative</b>   | Safe Place – Youth Mental Health and Alcohol and Other Drug Homelessness Program (BP2, V2, P520)  |
| <b>Investment</b>   | \$4.829 million over two years  |
| <b>Description</b>  | This is an ongoing commitment to develop a facility for young people struggling with mental health, alcohol and other drug (AOD) usage and homelessness to access with safe and stable accommodation.                         |
| <b>Implications</b> | This funding was committed to in previous budgets, and was anticipated to be completed in 2023. Details on the status of this commitment are needed, however significant expenditure is committed in the next financial year. |