



Budget Briefing Pack 2025-2026

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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.

Media Release

A strong state budget but the growing pains are also clear

The Western Australian economy is going strong, but we're underinvesting in our people and that puts our future at risk.

Today's state budget figures highlight the impacts and outcomes of strong economic and population growth for the WA economy and our contribution to the national bottom line.

But it also highlights the challenges we face in planning and caring for a growing population to ensure we can create and share a brighter future, and avoid the downsides of a boom and bust cycle.

WACOSS Acting Chief Executive Officer Rachel Siewert said while today's budget delivers on many of WA Labor's election commitments, it lacked adequate investment in social services.

"WACOSS is particularly pleased to see investment in expanding school breakfast programs, extending the Rent Relief Scheme and expanding the Hardship Utility Grants Scheme to include public housing tenants' water bills – initiatives WACOSS has been advocating for.

"However, this budget lacks the investment in social infrastructure that is critical to a growing community – once again leaving the community services sector with stagnated funding, insufficient to meet demand, let alone the true need."

The big numbers are population growth (300,000 added to WA over the last five years), employment growth (1.64 million workers and record low unemployment), state final demand (which has grown by 3.4 per cent), and a \$13.7 billion investment in physical infrastructure (poles, wires, pipes and ports).

"A growing state needs investment in physical and social infrastructure to keep up with the needs of a growing and thriving community," Ms Siewert said.

"We need those poles and wires, those ports and pipes, but we also need support services, quality local early education and care services, child health nurses, education and inclusion support for those who are developmentally vulnerable and falling further behind."

While inflation has eased, costs remain high. Wages have not caught up and the standard of living for many Western Australians, particularly those on low income, has declined. Many working families are experiencing serious financial hardship for the first time. We know this has significant flow on effects on physical and mental health, social wellbeing and education.

Last week's Australian Early Development Census results for WA are a wake-up call. While WA had been a leader in early child development in the past, we have seriously slipped behind. These new numbers show we are not keeping up with the needs of our youngest citizens during those crucial early years of development.

WA needs to have a long-term plan to ensure that its social infrastructure keeps pace with growing and changing community need – for example the social services and supports that young migrant working families and an ageing population need to thrive.

“Western Australia has so much going for it just now – the strength of our economy, the value of our resources, the quality of our natural environment and the opportunity to build a meaningful and rewarding life,” Ms Siewert said.

“We need to invest in all our people – to ensure the next generation are healthy, happy and creative and ready to build our state’s future.”

Aboriginal Wellbeing

Spending for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities is spread across most budget priorities and portfolios, and sometimes not identified in budget papers. Notable dedicated investment into Aboriginal Wellbeing in this budget includes targeted housing initiatives, expansion of the Aboriginal Rangers program and investments in Aboriginal health services in the regions.

There are many other measures in this state budget which have the potential to positively impact wellbeing for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. However, it's essential to ensure that consideration is made to ensure their accessibility and cultural appropriateness. For instance, initiatives such as Student Assistance Payments require digital access and literacy, while Regional Pensioners Travel Cards rely on access to relevant identification documentation, which can be difficult for many Aboriginal people.

On 27 May 2025, the Premier announced the long-overdue Stolen Generation Redress Scheme, which will see survivors forcibly removed from their families before 1972 receive \$85,000 in reparations — a small but important step toward truth and healing, after years of tireless advocacy. It's important to note that there is no provision for this indicative in this budget as the announcement was made after the budget initiative cut off, the budget papers indicate it will be included in the 2025-26 Mid-year Review.

Overall, it's hard to see a dedicated and coordinated commitment to Closing the Gap through this budget, which is a concern when there is still very significant progress that needs to be made in many domains. It is, however, promising to see a gradual move towards Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations delivering services for Aboriginal people.

WA Labor 2025 Election Commitments

Election Commitment	Expansion of Aboriginal Ranger Program
Status	Funded (BP2, V2, P685, P700) (BP3, V1, P156, P157, P218, P220)
Investment	\$20 million over 3 years, starting from 2026-27
Description	The Government will spend an additional \$20 million over 2026-27 to 2028-29 to expand the Aboriginal Ranger Program, which will provide further support to regional and metropolitan Aboriginal Corporations to set up and deliver ranger programs.
Implications	Since its establishment following the 2017 election, the Aboriginal Ranger Program has delivered on country jobs and training for Aboriginal people in regional and remote communities across WA. To date, this program has created more than 1,400 jobs, with about 45 per cent of jobs taken up by women. It contributes to the Western Australian Aboriginal Empowerment Strategy and the National Agreement on Closing the Gap Targets, across economic participation and maintaining relationship with country.

Election Commitment	\$54 million to bolster Pilbara Health Services
Status	<i>Partially Funded (BP2, V1, P323)</i>
Investment	\$11.8 Million
Description	<p>Some renal dialysis aspects of this commitment have been funded, including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$1 million project planning funding for delivery of an 8-bed Karratha Renal Dialysis Facility, a new hostel and expansion of Geraldton Renal Dialysis Unit; (BP2, V1, P323) • \$10.8 million (BP2, V1, P321) for Renal Dialysis and Support Services
Implications	<i>The commitment to providing significant investments in Pilbara Health Services has fallen well short of the election commitment of \$54 million and will have significant negative impact on Aboriginal health in the Pilbara. The Wirraka Maya Aboriginal Health Services in South Hedland is mentioned in the budget papers, but with no funding listed.</i>

Election Commitment	Kimberley Health Service Upgrades
Status	<i>Partially Funded (BP2, V1, P303, 321, 336, 339)</i>
Investment	\$24.5 Million
Description	<p>Funding has been provided for several health service upgrades in the Kimberley, including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$8.8 million for Derby Wellness Centre, providing alcohol and other drug, mental health and social and emotional wellbeing services (BP2, V1, P339) • \$8.6 million for Broome Sobering Up Centre • \$5.1 million to transition Dampier Peninsula Clinics to Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Services (BP2, V1, P303) • \$2 million for planning a future detox centre in the Broome Community (BP2, V1, P336)
Implications	<i>Prioritising these health services for Aboriginal people to access health care closer to home is very welcomed. It's unclear if the dialysis expansion for Fitzroy Crossing has been included in this budget.</i>

Election Commitment	Remote School Infrastructure program
Status	<i>Funded (BP2 V2 P372)</i>
Investment	\$2 million / year for 4 years
Description	Funding for the election commitment, Remote Schools Infrastructure Program, which will deliver infrastructure upgrades to eligible non-government schools across the Kimberley region.
Implications	<i>Aboriginal students in remote Kimberly communities are predominantly serviced by non-government schools. Investment in education facilities helps address ongoing disparities in educational outcomes for remote and Aboriginal students.</i>

Other Significant Investments

Initiative	Stolen Generations Redress Scheme
Investment	\$0, Investment announced after budget cut off (BP3, V1, P71)
Description	On 27 May 2025, the Premier announced a new Western Australia Stolen Generations Redress Scheme for Aboriginal people who were removed as children from their families in Western Australia before 1 July 1972. Registrations are expected to open in the second half of 2025 and individual payments of \$85,000 are expected to commence late 2025.
Implications	<i>As this decision was announced after the 2025-26 Budget cut-off date, the State's financial aggregates presented in these statements do not include provision for this initiative at this time. The total cost of the initiative will be impacted by factors including the number of survivors accessing redress and non-cash supports and is expected to be included as part of the 2025-26 Mid-year Review.</i>

Initiative	Custody Notification Service
Investment	\$2.185 million over 4 years (BP2, V2, P414)
Description	The CNS is a phone service operating 24/7 for Aboriginal people in WA who are detained by police, aiming to prevent deaths in custody, harm suffered, and the infringement of legal rights.
Implications	<i>A decrease in funding to the lifesaving CNS is a matter of significant concern at a time when we are seeing more deaths in custody of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, across the country and in Western Australia. Responding to discrimination and ensuring WA has culturally safe services is critical to Closing the Gap.</i>

Initiative	Aboriginal Community Controlled Community Support Services
Investment	Over \$22 Million (BO P22, BP2 V2 P495, P532, P598, P609)
Description	The budget includes specific investment in Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOs) to deliver a range of services including housing, family support, youth and sporting programs. This includes \$13 Million for Binar Futures (BO P22), \$3.3 Million for Julyardi Aboriginal Corporation (BP2 V2 p.495), \$3 million for Marra Woora Worra (BP2 V2 P532), and \$2.7 million for Robe River Kurura Aboriginal Corporation (BP2, V2, P598, 609). There will also be additional investment in ACCO services not explicitly identified in the budget papers.
Implications	<i>Dedicated investment in Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations supports priority reform 2 of Closing the Gap, while supporting culturally safe and community-led support services. It empowers Aboriginal communities to design and deliver services that respond to local priorities, cultural contexts, and the holistic wellbeing of their people, particularly vulnerable young people and families. This also aligns with recommendations from the WA Aboriginal Empowerment Strategy, WA Aboriginal Expenditure Review and Whole of Government ACCO Strategy.</i>

Initiative	Aboriginal Focused Housing Initiatives
Investment	Over \$80 million (BP2 V2 P493, P609, P598, P599, P111, P707)
Description	There are a range of Aboriginal focused housing initiatives across the budget, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$20 Million for Aboriginal Short Stay Accommodation • \$22 Million for Fitzroy Valley Additional Homes and Temporary Accommodation Units Disposal • \$20 Million for North West Aboriginal Housing Fund • \$10.4 million for expansion of the metropolitan homelessness outreach program, including assisting Aboriginal people to return to country • \$7.5 Mill Remote Aboriginal Housing and Municipal Services • \$1 Million for Remote Aboriginal Communities
Implications	<i>Ensuring Aboriginal people have secure, appropriate, affordable housing aligned with their priorities and needs is a key outcome of Closing the Gap. At last report, WA still has a 17% gap to close in this domain. Investment in dedicated Aboriginal Housing initiatives is important to achieve meaningful change in this area.</i>

Initiative	Government Policy Management - Aboriginal Affairs
Investment	\$36,028,000 (BP2 V2, P69-70)
Description	The Aboriginal Affairs Division provides strategic policy advice and coordination to the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs including cross portfolio advice on Native Title Negotiation and implementation and Aboriginal Affairs policy.
Implications	<i>The budget allocations for Aboriginal Affairs within Department of Premier & Cabinet have increased significantly over two years and remain higher into the forward estimates. This relates to delays with the implementation of the South West Native Title Settlement and the Bidyadanga Project, as well as additional resourcing to support significant Native Title Future Act Matters. Recent Public Sector Reforms have included a consolidated leadership role in Aboriginal Affairs policy to improve social outcomes.</i>

Alcohol & Other Drugs

The State Government is delivering on election commitments to develop a new residential drug rehabilitation facility in the Great Southern, and the Derby Wellness Centre. While these are welcome investments, current estimates indicate that services are meeting less than 40% of demand for supports, leaving people experiencing AOD challenges without access to life changing supports.

An increased focus on prevention and harm reduction to slow acute presentations as well as resourcing cross-government/sector AOD responsiveness to address intersectionality need to take place. We would like to see the WA Government commit to commissioning community services and develop policy and strategic intent in meaningful collaboration with the sector and directly with community. There is also a need for workforce planning and development, with a particular focus on regional, rural, and remote areas.

WA Labor 2025 Election Commitments

Election Commitment	New residential drug rehabilitation facility in the Great Southern
Status	<i>Funded (BP2, V1, P332)</i>
Investment	\$ 12.4 million over 4 years
Description	For the establishment and operation of an adult residential rehabilitation and low medical alcohol and other drug (AOD) withdrawal service in the Great Southern.
Implications	<i>This new facility will support people in the Great Southern to access rehabilitation services. Further consideration about the service model is needed, including ensuring the service meets the needs of Aboriginal people experiencing addiction in the Great Southern.</i>

Election Commitment	Derby Wellness Centre
Status	<i>Funded - part of investment in Kimberley Health Initiatives, totalling \$30 million (BP2, V1, P333, P339)</i>
Investment	\$8.8 million over 3 years The investment includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$2.8 million operational costs • \$6 million capital
Description	The Derby Wellness Centre is a community-led service that will co-locate key health services and support early intervention of mental health and alcohol and other drug issues.
Implications	<i>This initiative will provide access to multi-disciplinary services to improve wellbeing on Country. The service should focus on prevention, community development, and harm reduction.</i>

Election Commitment	Broome AOD withdrawal service
Status	<i>Unclear – part of investment in Kimberley Health Initiatives, totalling \$30 million (BP2, V1, P333, P339)</i>
Investment	\$2 million
Description	To plan for an AOD withdrawal service in Broome.
Implications	<i>AOD services are much needed in the community, this needs to be adequately funded.</i>

Other Significant Investments

Initiative	Broome Sobering Up Centre
Investment	\$829,000 (BP2, V1, P339 & BP3, P222)
Description	The reopening of a sobering up centre will provide a safe environment in which people intoxicated by alcohol can receive voluntary support.
Implications	<i>This has been an ongoing ask from the community since the closure of the previous centre in late 2021. More detail is needed.</i>

Children & Families

Early childhood education and care (ECEC) is currently a major focus of new policy and programs at both State and Federal levels – with an aspiration to transition to a universal ECEC system nationally by 2026. However, the path forward and how Federal and State systems and commitments intersect and align, remains unclear.

These are important developments and we welcome prioritisation of early development. Major challenges remain to navigate a smooth transition to address workforce challenges, build new services, and reform funding. Our major priority is to ensure equity, access, and inclusion, particularly for vulnerable children, low-income families, and regional and remote areas.

WA Labor 2025 Election Commitments

Election Commitment	Establishment of Office of Early Childhood
Status	Office establishment and some initiatives Funded (possibly more to come) (BP2, V1, P62)
Investment	\$1.96 million
Description	Targeted reform involving the establishment of the Office of Early Childhood in Department of Premier and Cabinet to enhance early childhood development and cross-government coordination. Recruitment underway. Funds come into effect on 1 July 2025.
Implications	WACOSS advocated in recent budget submissions for the creation of such an Office with a broad, whole-of-government remit to better oversee integrated responses to early child development. Timing is also critical with the need to engage with the national reforms and leverage our share of the \$1 billion National Building Early Education Fund to create new ECEC services in disadvantaged and unserved areas, particularly regional and remote WA. We are engaging with the team establishing the office, and recommending creation of an advisory committee with senior representation from relevant public agencies and the sector to oversee a ten year whole of government strategy with clear outcomes and reporting.

Initiative	Expanding Four-Year-Old Kindergarten
Status	Pilot program funded for ten sites. (BP2, V2, P61 & BP2, V2, P62) (BP2, V2, P61 & BP2, V2, P62)
Investment	\$24.4 million from 2025-26 to 2028-29 (BP3, P103)
Description	The Government will trial free full-time kindergarten on school sites at ten pilot sites across the State (5 regional, 5 metro). "The total amount includes \$16.9 million spent by the Department of Education for curriculum development, workforce training and attraction incentives and per-student funding to schools for education services at the pilot sites." (BP3, P103)

	<p>\$7.5 million until 2028-29 (BP2, V2, P61) to the Department of Premier and Cabinet for planning state-wide rollout, and evaluation of the pilot program.</p> <p>A further \$4.5 million of asset investment for the Department of Education has been approved over 2025-26 to 2027-28 for minor accommodation upgrades at the pilot sites. (BP3, P103)</p>
Implications	<p><i>Commitment to the eventual state-wide roll-out of this initiative is implied in the Minister's and Premier's statements, but no timeline is confirmed. Full-time here refers to normal school hours – but there are also resources budgeted to support out of school hours care service infrastructure as needed.</i></p> <p><i>Sites have not been selected. We understand the selection criteria prioritises unserved areas – nevertheless, there is concern among existing ECEC providers about how the program may impact the sustainability of existing services in catchment areas. The current national funding formula relies on a cohort of 4-year-olds within services to cross-subsidise more intensive care provided to younger children. This can be particularly challenging in regional and remote areas. Access to out of school care can also be critical for working parents.</i></p> <p><i>So far, there has been little engagement with the sector around planning and potential impacts. It is also unclear how state commitments to kindy on school sites will interact with the broader national roll-out of universal ECEC services.</i></p>

Election Commitment	New and Improved School Infrastructure
Status	<i>Funded as listed – includes planning for future infrastructure that will require further funding. (BP2, V2, 306 & BP2, V1, P360)</i>
Investment	\$789.6 million
Description	<p>An infrastructure program to build new public schools, plan for future schools and undertake upgrades of existing sites. It includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$130 million for New Brabham Senior High School; • \$800k to plan new secondary schools in Alkimos and Dawesville; • \$316 million for upgrades to 17 primary and secondary schools; • \$89 million for the Cool the Schools program – providing air conditioning at 45 schools; • \$83 million for upgrades and minor works at 61 schools; • \$10 million to upgrade out of school hours care facilities in schools; • 4.5 million for infrastructure upgrades at the ten full-time kindy sites; • \$8 million to upgrade remote non-Government schools in the Kimberley. (BP2, V1 360-365) <p>The Government has also committed to opening new primary schools, including Eglinton, Yanchep, Treeby and Vasse (2028), Byford and</p>

	Anketell (2029), and Brabham (2030). Planning will also commence for a long list of school sites listed on BP2 V1, P360.
Implications	<i>This is welcome investment in core public education infrastructure that reflects the pressures on our school system of rapid population growth over the last 5 years.</i>

Election Commitment	School Breakfast expansion
Status	<i>Funded (BP2, V1, P353 & P354 & BP3, P129)</i>
Investment	\$28.5 million over 4 years
Description	The Government will invest an additional \$28.5 million over 2025-26 to 2028-29 to expand the School Breakfast Program from two to five days per week for schools currently participating in the program, and to expand the program to additional schools under broadened socio-economic eligibility criteria. The program will be available at over 670 locations under the expanded program. The Budget Papers further commit to funding beyond the four years, with a total investment of \$37.2 million over 2025-26 to 2029-30.
Implications	<i>This targeted cost of living relief will meaningfully reduce food costs for families doing it tough. It will also encourage school engagement and set kids up to learn. The most effective programs are inclusive – making breakfast a social event for all children within the school community, not singling those out whose families are doing it tough.</i>

Election Commitment	Early Childhood Education and Care Expansion (BP2, V2, P494)
Status	<i>Funded (BP2, V2, P494)</i>
Investment	\$181,000
Description	No description is provided – we assume this is funding to increase regulation capacity for early childhood education services by the Department of Communities.
Implications	<i>Recent Four Corners reports have highlighted the critical importance of strong state regulation and enforcement in overseeing and maintaining child safety and care standards. Increased capacity is welcome – more evaluation is needed to understand its adequacy.</i>

Election Commitment	Student Assistance Payments
Status	<i>Funded (BP2, V1, P354 & BP3, P295)</i>
Investment	\$87.9 million 2024-25 & 2025-26
Description	This is the second round of the Western Australian Student Assistance Payment through the ServicesWA App to provide financial support to

	Western Australian families to help cover school-related expenses. This closes July 2025.
Implications	<i>This provides a small rebate to families with school age children.</i>

Other Significant Investments

Initiative	Boosting Before and After School Care in School
Investment	\$3 million total \$750 each year from 2025-26 until 2028-29 (BP2, V2, P493 & BP2, V2, P509)
Description	To deliver grants to attract and retain early childhood educators for the early childhood education and care sector, including the <u>outside school hours care (OSHC)</u> sector. This is part of a broader Government commitment of \$15 million to the Department and Education to boost OSHC services." BP2, V2, P495
Implications	<i>OSHC services are critical to support working parents, while quality services and continuity of care are needed to ensure they support the trust and attachment with carers needed to deliver strong development outcomes.</i>

Initiative	Child Protection Workers
Investment	\$60 million from 2024-25 to 2028-29 (BP2, V2, P495)
Description	Commitment of a further 28 child protection workers and 3 Aboriginal Practice Leaders (31 total) in this budget as a part of the total \$60 million to 2028-29.
Implications	<i>Increased capacity within the Department of Communities to support rising numbers of children and young people within the state care system. While this capacity is needed and these workers play important roles in supporting and case managing kids in care, we would like to see additional investment in prevention and early intervention services to reduce child removal rates, more services delivered by ACCOs and community based services, and a greater focus on family reunification and support.</i>

Initiative	Child Sexual Abuse Therapeutic Services and Indigenous Healing Services
Investment	\$650,000 over two years* (BP2, V2, P494) (future funding required)
Description	The budget papers show a significant drop in future funding compared to the 2024-25 Budget allocation. This reflects the fact that we are part way through the commissioning process.
Implications	<i>CSATS & IHS services are currently being recommissioned and a codesign process is underway with existing service providers, led by the Department</i>

of Communities with support from WACOSS and input from the Australian Centre for Child Protection.

These services are crucial to broader State commitments to implement Royal Commission recommendations, The National Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Child Sexual Abuse and respond to the findings of the Australian Child Maltreatment Study (with 1 in 4 Australians victims of child sexual abuse) and have been identified as a major priority.

WACOSS and the CSATS service network developed case studies of sustainable funding and a consultation and survey process is underway with existing services to develop a pricing and costing tool and inform a new bid for sustainable funding and service growth to meet unmet need.

Climate

WACOSS supports the Government's investment in Climate resilience measures and while these initiatives are welcomed much more needs to be done with a high degree of urgency.

WA Labor 2025 Election Commitments

Election Commitment	Plant more trees in Perth (Treebates and Urban Canopy Program)
Status	<i>Funded (BP2, V2 P708 & BP3, P160)</i>
Investment	\$16.9 over 4 years
Description	The commitment incentivises Western Australians to plant native trees on their properties (through the Treebates scheme). The Urban Canopy Program will provide grants to local governments and community organisations to assist with the cost of planting trees.
Implications	<i>These initiatives will help to cool neighbourhoods, reduce energy use and improve air quality. They will also engage residents directly building local ownership of greening efforts.</i>

Election Commitment	Build climate resilience in regional areas and address the impacts of climate change on water resources
Status	<i>Funded (BP2 V2, P664 & BP3 P218)</i>
Investment	\$22.2 million over 4 years
Description	These initiatives will improve climate resilience in regional areas and address the impacts of climate change on water resources. They include: \$8.5 million investment to protect and improve the water quality of the Peel-Harvey estuary; Kalgoorlie-Boulder's Water Bank Project to increase the City's non-potable water supply; Environmental regulation and water licensing assessment and approvals for the Pilbara region.
Implications	<i>These initiatives are important steps in ensuring Western Australia can sustainably manage its water resources in the face of climate change. They not only help safeguard ecosystems and livelihoods today but also lay the groundwork for more resilient, adaptive regional communities in the decades ahead.</i>

Election Commitment	The Healthy Oceans Program
Status	<i>Funded (BP2 V2, P686)</i>
Investment	\$5 million over 4 years
Description	This program will provide grants to support research into seagrass bed restoration and enable the delivery of restoration projects in marine locations around the State. It will enhance ocean health, fish stocks and climate change resilience
Implications	<i>Seagrass meadows play an important role in carbon sequestration.</i>

Other Significant Investments

Initiative	Climate Action Fund
Investment	\$417 million over 4 years (BP3, P24)
Description	This funding is for various climate action initiatives including Collie's industrial transition, renewable hydrogen projects, decarbonisation works for the King Rocks Wind Farm and expansion of the Warradarge Wind Farm.
Implications	<i>These are welcomed initiatives</i>

Cost of Living

WACOSS welcomes the cost of living measures delivered in this Budget. The expansion of School Breakfast Programs and of the Hardship Utility Grant Scheme to cover water debt for public housing tenants, in particular, are well targeted initiatives. Unfortunately, WACOSS does not believe enough has been done to support people experiencing financial hardship. After several years of high inflation and lagging wages, Western Australians on low and fixed incomes are doing it really tough. We are particularly concerned that more Western Australians will end up with utility debt with increased electricity prices and the cessation of the Household Electricity Credit, with nothing to plug that gap.

Table 8.7

ESTIMATED IMPACT ON THE 'REPRESENTATIVE' HOUSEHOLD				
	2024-25 \$ level	% change	\$ change	2025-26 \$ level
Utility Charges				
Electricity ^(a)	1,902.06	2.5	47.55	1,949.61
Water, wastewater, and drainage ^{(b) (c)}	1,868.39	2.5	46.73	1,915.12
Total	3,770.45	2.5	94.28	3,864.73
Public Transport ^(d)				
Student fares ^(e)	—	—	—	—
Standard fares ^(f)	1,198.08	-16.3	-195.84	1,002.24
Total	1,198.08	-16.3	-195.84	1,002.24
Motor Vehicles ^(g)				
Vehicle licence charge	447.56	3.9	17.28	464.84
Driver's licence	93.70	2.9	2.70	96.40
Recording fee	8.25	15.2	1.25	9.50
Motor Injury Insurance (MII)	446.77	2.7	12.11	458.88
Total	996.28	3.3	33.34	1,029.62
Emergency Services Levy (ESL) ^(h)	321.93	5.0	16.10	338.03
Stamp Duty ⁽ⁱ⁾				
Stamp duty on general insurance	284.93	—	—	284.93
Stamp duty on MII	45.89	—	—	45.89
Total	330.82	—	—	330.82
Total Expenditure	6,617.56	-0.8	-52.12	6,565.44

WA Labor 2025 Election Commitments

Election Commitment	One Zone Public Transport
Status	<i>Funded (BP3, P153)</i>
Investment	\$152 million over 4 years
Description	From 1 January 2026, the suburban flat fare will be introduced, capping the cost for all travel on the Transperth network at the one-zone rate.
Implications	<i>This will assist with the cost of living by making travel across the expanded network more affordable and accessible.</i>

Election Commitment	PATS expansion
Status	<i>Partially Funded (BP2, V1, P303 & P305)</i>
Investment	\$18.5 million over 4 years
Description	\$18.5 million to increase the Patient Assisted Travel Scheme fuel subsidy from \$0.26 per kilometre to \$0.40 per kilometre, supporting country residents required to travel to access specialist medical treatment. Election commitment included an additional \$15.5 million to expand eligibility for the Scheme. This is absent from this Budget.
Implications	<i>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. Further funding is welcomed but is not enough to meet the high cost of accessing healthcare in regional WA, as raised in the WACOSS SBS, a review of the program is needed, as its current form is burdensome, inefficient, and not meeting people's needs.</i> Note: There is the \$18.5m outlined in the budget increasing per km rates and a commitment of \$15.5m for an expansion of eligibility that is not in the budget – Media release

Election Commitment	Reduction in TransWA fares
Status	<i>Funded (BP3, P150)</i>
Investment	\$18.2 million over 4 years
Description	To halve TransWA fares for all regional train and bus services from 1 January 2026
Implications	<i>This will reduce the cost of public travel across regional areas.</i>

Election Commitment	Hardship Utility Grant Scheme Expansion – Social Housing Tenants
Status	<i>Partially Funded (BP3, P143 & P145 & BP2, V2, P493)</i>
Investment	\$1.3 million over 4 years
Description	An additional \$1.3 million will be spent over 2025-26 to 2028-29 to expand the eligibility criteria for the Hardship Utility Grant Scheme to include water bill assistance for social housing tenants. Eligible households can expect to receive financial assistance averaging \$529 per annum off their water bills. Election commitment for this initiative promised \$2.2 million in funding.
Implications	<i>This will offer meaningful debt relief for public housing tenants with water debt, addressing in part the inequitable exclusion of tenants from HUGS for water bills.</i> <i>It is concerning to see the investment over the outyears is less than was committed pre-election. We also understand this grant money will be</i>

	<i>quarantined from usual HUGS money, running the risk that not all public housing tenants who need water debt relief will have access.</i>
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Election Commitment	School Breakfast expansion
Status	<i>Funded (BP2, V1, P353 & P354 & BP3, P129)</i>
Investment	\$28.5 million over 4 years
Description	The Government will invest an additional \$28.5 million over 2025-26 to 2028-29 to expand the School Breakfast Program from two to five days per week for schools currently participating in the program, and to expand the program to additional schools under broadened socio-economic eligibility criteria. The program will be available at over 670 locations under the expanded program. The Budget Papers further commit to funding beyond the four outyears, with a total investment of \$37.2 million over 2025-26 to 2029-30.
Implications	<i>This targeted cost of living relief will meaningfully reduce food costs for families doing it tough. It will also encourage school engagement and set kids up to learn.</i>

Election Commitment	Student Assistance Payments
Status	<i>Funded (BP2, V1, P354 & BP3, P295)</i>
Investment	\$87.9 million 2024-25 & 2025-26
Description	This is the second round of the Western Australian Student Assistance Payment through the ServicesWA App to provide financial support to Western Australian families to help cover school-related expenses. This closes July 2025.
Implications	<i>This provides a small rebate to families with school age children.</i>

Election Commitment	Increase the regional pensioner travel allowance
Status	<i>Funded (BP2, V2, P547)</i>
Investment	\$25.7 million over 4 years
Description	Increase the value of the Regional Pensioner Travel Card by a further \$100 each year (from \$675 to \$775) from 2025-26.
Implications	<i>With rising costs, viable transport alternatives provide significant value for those living in regional areas. This investment makes these options more affordable for pensioners and encourages the utilisation of public transport, which has positive environmental impacts.</i>

Election Commitment	Residential Battery Scheme
Status	<i>Funded (BP3, P108 & P110 & BP2, V1, P200)</i>
Investment	\$387 million over 4 years
Description	The Residential Battery Scheme will support the purchase and installation of residential batteries to reduce household electricity bills and facilitate the transition to clean energy. This investment includes the provision of interest-free loans to eligible households and rebates on the cost of residential batteries.
Implications	<i>This is a positive initiative to support household participation in the energy transition. Unfortunately, it will be inaccessible for low income households due to the significant cost of living pressures they are facing. Targeted support for low income households to access consumer energy resources is critical to a fair and fast transition.</i>

Digital Inclusion

The State Government's continued investment into ICT infrastructure and enhancements across government departments through its Digital Capability Fund includes development and implementation of some new electronic record and document management systems, and enhancements or replacements of others across government departments. New initiatives funded in this year's budget include virtual health services, and digital applications for a digital curfew check-in for young people with curfew bail conditions.

While continued investment into ICT infrastructure and enhancements across government services and management systems is needed, there is no investment into supporting digital inclusion initiatives within communities. This means that digitally excluded people in the state are at risk of being further left behind as essential and mandated government services continue to move to digital spaces.

WA Labor 2025 Election Commitments

Election Commitment	Youth Crime Bail Reform Package
Status	<i>Funded (BP2, V2, P413-414 & BP3, P138)</i>
Investment	\$13.5 million over 3 years for the Children's Court in Armadale including \$4.2 million to repurpose the old Armadale Courthouse \$1 million to develop a digital curfew check-in application for young people with curfew bail conditions
Description	The Government will invest \$14.5 million (\$10.3 million recurrent and \$4.2 million capital) to progress the Youth Crime Bail Reform Package election commitment, with work commencing to repurpose and operate the Old Armadale Courthouse as a Children's Court and to develop an application for electronic curfew check-in of young people with bail conditions. The Department has commenced associated work on reforms to fast-track trials before the Children's Court and ensure bail decisions for violent young offenders can be reviewed immediately.
Implications	<i>There are continued expert concerns about the practicality of fast-tracking trials, extra funding for one Children's Court alone will not enable a significant reduction in sentencing times, as trial times are influenced by the capacity of police, prosecution, and defensive legal teams, not just court capacity. There is evidence that electronic monitoring has a net widening effect, rather than increasing numbers successfully bailed, those who would already be bailed could be monitored. Further, there are challenges around digital inclusion, such as access to or ability to afford a digital device, including mobile devices, and connectivity for young people engaged with the justice system, especially those in regional, rural, and remote regions.</i>

Other Significant Investments

Initiative	Older Adult Care Hubs and WA Virtual Emergency Department Expansion
Investment	\$60.5 million over 4 years (BP1, P13 & BP2, V1, P303, P305 & BP3, P4, P97, P122-123)
Description	<p>The Government has committed a total of \$60.5 million over 2025-26 to 2028-29 to expand the WA Virtual ED (WAVED) initiative, incorporating a new partnership with Healthdirect Australia to allow referral of telehealth services to WAVED, a new 'WAVED for Kids' paediatric service for families, and direct admission to hospital in the home services.</p> <p>The Government will also launch three 'Integrated Older Adult Care Hubs' to pilot a new, nation-leading model of care that will deliver care closer to home and reduce the risk of hospitalisation for older adult patients.</p> <p>The investment will also support the continuation and expansion of the Residential Care Line, which is a nurse practitioner-led service that supports staff and older adults in Residential Aged Care Facilities to manage the care of older patients and minimise the need for transfer to acute hospital services.</p>
Implications	<i>Considerations around the ability to access virtual ED and related benefits for digitally excluded people.</i>

Initiative	Virtual Infant, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service Hub
Investment	\$12.2 million over 4 years (BP1, P13 & BP2, V1, P332-333 & BP3, P122, P126, P212)
Description	<p>Establishing the Virtual Infant, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (ICAMHS) Hub. The Virtual ICAMHS Hub will comprise of specialist practitioners who will support regional community services to respond to children with complex mental health needs.</p> <p>Part of the government's \$65 million investment to improve mental health support for WA children.</p>
Implications	<i>This investment will strengthen the specialist mental health support available for children in WA. However, considerations must be given to the ability to access virtual services for digitally excluded people, particularly given the prevalence of digital exclusion in regional, rural, and remote WA.</i>

Initiative	Digital Capability Fund – Responsible Information Sharing Function
Investment	\$2 million over 3 years (BP2, V1, P6, P63 & BP3, P102, P105)
Description	The implementation of the Privacy and Responsible Information Sharing Act 2024 is a key enabler for modern digital government. The

	Government is providing funding to the Department to fulfil its statutory functions relating to the responsible sharing of information. The Government will spend \$2 million over 2025-26 to 2028-29 for additional resources to support the Chief Data Officer to enable implementation of the responsible information sharing component of the Privacy and Responsible Information Sharing Act 2024.
Implications	<i>Enhanced information sharing in line with the Privacy and Responsible Information Sharing Act 2024.</i>

Initiative	Digital Capability Fund – Public Health ICT System
Investment	\$5.7 million (BP2, V1, P304 & BP3, P122, P125)
Description	The Government will spend \$5.7 million in 2025-26 to continue its support for the critical public health ICT systems needed to manage and prepare for future pandemics and communicable disease threats.
Implications	<i>Enhanced ICT systems to manage and prepare for public health issues and threats – considerations around impacts on digitally excluded people and how information is effectively communicated through digital channels.</i>

Initiative	Digital Capability Fund – ASSIST Replacement
Investment	\$2.8 million (BP3, P143, P147)
Description	The Government will invest an additional \$2.8 million in 2025-26, funded through the Digital Capability Fund, for a dedicated project team and consultancy work to progress procurement for the replacement of the Department’s core child protection case management system, ASSIST.
Implications	<i>Replacement of the case management system for child protection.</i>

Initiative	Digital Capability Fund – Case Management System and Electronic Document and Records Management System
Investment	\$1.4 million over 3 years (BP3, P103, P177)
Description	The Government has committed \$1.4 million over 2025-26 to 2027-28 for the implementation of an integrated Case Management and Electronic Document and Records Management System. A further \$1 million over 2025-26 to 2028-29 has also been approved as recurrent expenditure for licensing, maintenance, and support costs.
Implications	<i>Enhanced electronic document and records management system across government.</i>

Initiative	Digital Capability Fund – Liquor Licensing and Compliance System Replacement
Investment	\$14.6 million over 2 years (BP3, P189)
Description	The Department will spend an additional \$14.6 million over 2025-26 and 2026-27 to replace its liquor licensing and compliance system which will reach end-of-life in 2027, ensuring the continued support of the Government’s liquor reform measures.
Implications	<i>Enhanced support of the Government’s liquor reform measures.</i>

Disability

Disability funding and system navigation remain challenging, with ongoing work still needed to negotiate the gaps between Federal (NDIS) and State service access and entitlement. There are a number of important and welcome initiatives funded in this budget.

Currently there are deep and ongoing concerns in our community about the uncertainty of funding and access to services and supports. More work is sorely needed to resolve the delivery of foundational services at the State level, along with the proposed systems and funding for early childhood inclusion initiatives. There is a long-term aspiration for all early childhood services to be inclusive, however, this is resource intensive and requires a trained and often specialised workforce.

Policy and service system redesign processes are slow and in the meantime, the uncertainty is causing significant distress for parents and people living with a disability, and children risk falling further behind in early development with life-long consequences.

WA Labor 2025 Election Commitments

Election Commitment	Reducing barriers to ADHD care
Status	<i>Funded (BP2, V1, P303)</i>
Investment	\$1.2M in grant funding
Description	<p>Attention Hyperactivity Disorder Support Services via grant to ADHD WA to improve access to services, increase awareness and support vulnerable cohorts. (BP2, V1, P305)</p> <p>\$8.2 million to pilot the 'GP ASK' model allowing General Practitioners to communicate directly with specialists on behalf of their patients, reducing unnecessary ED presentations and referrals, and increasing hospital bed capacity. (BP2, V1, P305)</p>
Implications	<p><i>This will make it cheaper and easier for families to access Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) care without needing to go to a psychiatrist or paediatrician by paving the way for GPs to diagnose ADHD and prescribe medication.</i></p> <p><i>This will be done through trialling specialist support for GPs while they expand their scope of practice.</i></p> <p><i>In addition, \$1.2 million will be provided to ADHD WA for vital support, information, and wraparound services for children and adolescents with ADHD, as well as their parents and carers – media release</i></p>

Other Significant Investments

Initiative	Contributions to the National Disability Insurance Scheme
Investment	\$163.1 million as a 1 year estimate (BP2, V1, P131 & BP3, P5 & BP2, V2, P494)
Description	A provision to provide for disputed NDIS contributions, subject to negotiations with the Commonwealth Government. Significant reform of the national disability service system is anticipated, arising from recommendations from the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) Review and Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability.
Implications	<i>This Budget assumes Western Australia will finalise its entry into the NDIS Full Scheme Agreement in 2025-26, with the State's contributions over the forward estimates updated to reflect payments under the full scheme.</i>

Initiative	Support for students with disability
Investment	\$395 million (BP2, V1, P354)
Description	Growth forecast funding to reflect student enrolment growth throughout the State, including significant increases in the number of students with disability.
Implications	<i>Investment is urgently needed to support changes in the population.</i>

Initiative	Guide Dogs WA Breeding Training Program
Investment	\$5 million over 4 years (BP2, V2, P516)
Description	The funding will support Guide Dogs WA to deliver more guide and assistance dogs through the expansion of its breeding and cadet training programs. This expands on the \$5 million grant delivered in 2021. Media release .
Implications	<i>More companion dogs will support people with low or no vision, individuals living with disability or illness, and those experiencing trauma.</i>

Initiative	Accessible Parks and Nature Play WA
Investment	\$1 million over 4 years (BP2, V2, P686 & P700)
Description	The Every Kid in a Park program will be continuing for a further four years. The Department has partnered with Nature Play WA since July 2021 to support families of children of all abilities in accessing and enjoying the national parks around Western Australia through the development of accessibility resources for families. Accessibility will be expanded beyond disability to include disadvantaged and diverse groups, such as culturally and linguistically diverse communities.
Implications	<i>Improve accessibility of public spaces to support social inclusion.</i>

Disaster Risk Reduction & Resilience and Emergency Management

WACOSS welcomes the Government's investment. Of note, given the central role that communities play in reducing disaster risk and building resilience, those measures that empower and enable communities are especially welcomed.

WA Labor 2025 Election Commitments

Election Commitment	Natural Disaster Package
Status	<i>Funded (BP2 V2, P442 & BP3 P140)</i>
Investment	\$66.1 million over 4 years
Description	The Government is investing in its Emergency Management services career and volunteer frontline services, risk mitigation activities and recovery programs.
Implications	<i>This investment will go some way to meeting the growing demand for resources before, during, and after emergencies.</i>

Election Commitment	Community Emergency Services Manager Program
Status	<i>Funded (BP2, V2, P442 & BP3, P140)</i>
Investment	\$3.5 million over 4 years
Description	Six additional community emergency services managers will be embedded within regional local governments.
Implications	<i>The CESM will improve area specific mitigation by partnering with local government, DFES, Volunteer bushfire brigades, and the community.</i>

Election Commitment	Wanneroo Emergency Management Complex
Status	<i>Funded (BP1, P3, P7 & BP3, P135)</i>
Investment	\$15 million over 4 years
Description	The new Wanneroo Emergency Management Complex will house two volunteer brigades, regional offices, and improved facilities for emergency management.
Implications	<i>Emergency coordination and response will be enhanced. Emergency capabilities will scale in line with community growth.</i>

Election Commitment	Yanchep Career Fire and Rescue Service Station
Status	<i>Funded (BP2 V2, P442, BP3 P7)</i>
Investment	\$22.7 million over 4 years
Description	This investment funds the construction and operations of a new career fire and rescue service station in Yanchep, including the employment and training of an additional 40 firefighters.
Implications	<i>Emergency Response will be enhanced in the rapidly growing metropolitan north coastal region.</i>

Other Significant Investments

Initiative	Construction of The Fitzroy Crossing Evacuation Centre and Multipurpose Complex
Investment	\$10 million over 4 years (BP3, P214)
Description	This facility will provide a safe and secure venue for use in emergencies and will also provide commercial and community activities.
Implications	<i>This new, dedicated facility will boost community resilience, enabling more rapid recovery after disaster events and will support a community prone to disasters. It will transform the region's resilience and future development.</i>

Energy

WACOSS is pleased to see some investment in the clean energy transition. Into the future, it is critical that people on low income and renters are better supported to participate and access cheap, renewable energy.

WA Labor 2025 Election Commitments

Election Commitment	Battery in Kalgoorlie
Status	<i>Not Funded</i>
Investment	
Description	This project was projected to commence by 2029.
Implications	

Election Commitment	Residential Battery Scheme
Status	<i>Funded (BP3, P108 & P110 & BP2, V1, P200)</i>
Investment	\$387 million over 4 years
Description	The Residential Battery Scheme will support the purchase and installation of residential batteries to reduce household electricity bills and facilitate the transition to clean energy. This investment includes the provision of interest-free loans to eligible households and rebates on the cost of residential batteries.
Implications	<i>This is a positive initiative to support household participation in the energy transition. Unfortunately, it will not be accessible for low income households due to the significant cost of living pressures they are facing. Targeted support for low income households to access consumer energy resources is critical to a fair and fast transition.</i>

Election Commitment	TAFE investment in clean energy workforce
Status	<i>Funded (BP3, P128 & P184 & P186, & BP2, V1, P383 & P374)</i>
Investment	\$0.5 million in 2025-26
Description	\$350,000 in funding for business case development for the \$17.1 million Munster TAFE Expansion, to provide state-of-the-art facilities for training in renewable industries, including wind energy, battery technology, green hydrogen, electrification, automation and robotics. Project planning and delivery activities will be supported by further spending of \$79,000 in 2025-26
Implications	<i>Investment in a specialised workforce is critical to the state's clean energy transition.</i>

Other Significant Investments

Initiative	Clean Energy Link – North Program
Investment	\$542 million in 2025-26 (BP3, P172 & BP2, V2, P779)
Description	This involves upgrading transmission lines to allow new wind capacity to connect in the Wheatbelt and Mid-West, and to undertake other early investigative works for potential transmission network augmentations to support the decarbonisation of the SWIS and enable more renewable energy sources to be connected.
Implications	<i>Supporting the supply of renewable energy is critical to the clean energy transition.</i>

Family Domestic Violence

Investments in this Budget will provide increased refuge capacity, support for women and children to stay safe in their homes, and expanded monitoring of perpetrators. WACOSS welcomes this recognition of the critical need to provide safety and support to people experiencing family and domestic violence. To prevent family and domestic violence, however, investment is required across the entire system of prevention and support. Without a comprehensive program of investment, we will continue to see family and domestic violence being perpetrated, putting women and children at risk of harm and ever-growing strain on support services.

WA Labor 2025 Election Commitments

Election Commitment	Frontline Police Optimisation - E-Monitoring
Status	<i>Partially Funded (BP2, V2, P400)</i>
Investment	\$15.64 million over 4 years
Description	Expanding electronic monitoring of FDV perpetrators who are on bail or supervised in the community.
Implications	<i>While these assist in monitoring repeat and high-risk family violence perpetrators, it does little to deter people from offending in the first place.</i>

Election Commitment	Family Violence Restraining Order Shuttle Conferencing
Status	<i>Partially Funded (BP2, V2, P414)</i>
Investment	\$2,869,000 over 1 year
Description	Shuttle conferencing is a method used in resolving Family Violence Restraining Order matters in which parties are placed in separate rooms at the Court and the Registrar 'shuttles' between the two rooms.
Implications	<i>This may increase the likelihood that Family Violence matters are resolved quickly and with less harm.</i>

Election Commitment	Preventing and Responding to FDV
Status	<i>Partially Funded (BP2, V2, P510)</i>
Investment	\$1,974,000
Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$6 million over 3 years towards the FDV Taskforce System Reform Plan Workforce Entity • \$1.5 million over 2 years for Coercive Control Education and First Responder Training
Implications	<i>These investments are the only two significant developments across a range of initiatives under prevention and response to FDV. Overall, we have seen a decrease in spending towards prevention, with even less projected spending over the next 3-4 years.</i>

Initiative	Family and Domestic Violence (FDV) Initiatives
Status	<i>Partially funded (BP2, V2, P494)</i>
Investment	\$36 million
Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$8.1 million over 3 years for FDV Support for Children and Young People • \$1.53 million over 4 years for the Safe at Home program • \$21.78 million over 4 years for the Safe House Uplift • \$5.05 million for Targeted Family and Sexual Violence Frontline Services
Implications	<p><i>This includes the support towards planning and business case development for the expansion of Albany and Geraldton refuge capacity, and further expansions of FDV refuges at five locations across the State.</i></p> <p><i>The Safe at Home program will reach an additional seven locations, including several in regional Western Australia. While these initiatives support victim survivors of FDV, more funding is required in preventing FDV from happening in the first place.</i></p>

Other Significant Investments

Initiative	Broome Aboriginal-Led Specialist Family Violence Court
Investment	\$5,200,000 over 1 year (BP2, V2, P426)
Description	The Department continues with consultation and design work for an Aboriginal-led Specialist Family Violence Court in Broome to increase access to justice for Aboriginal people and reduce the trauma for victims to obtain violence restraining orders.
Implications	<i>This program has been funded since 2021 to establish the Broome court. Delays to its opening occurred in 2023 when it was due to open. The 2025/26 budget continues the project design work from 2021/22.</i>

Initiative	Family Violence Legislation Reform Act 2024
Investment	\$43,337,000 over 4 years (BP2, V2, P414)
Description	A significant amount of funding has been dedicated towards rolling out the Family Violence Legislation Reform Act 2024.
Implications	<i>This includes a series of enhancements and amendments to the previous Act, predominantly focused on the operation and effectiveness of electronic monitoring in WA and the roll-out of these initiatives across the State.</i>

Health

Western Australia's strong population growth has increased demand for health services.

Health services within metropolitan and regional Western Australia are being delivered across 2.5 million square kilometres at more than 800 sites. The 2025-26 Budget includes a \$1.4 billion boost to the health system to address these challenges.

Health infrastructure receives an additional \$212.1 million investment through the 2025-26 State Budget, bringing the health infrastructure pipeline to [\\$3.2 billion over the next four years](#).

While there have been significant investments in the implementation of the health election commitments, there needs to be more emphasis on early intervention and prevention measures and community care options. Hopefully, the creation of a new Minister for Preventative Health will help this in future budgets.

Regional Western Australians still face longer wait times, higher costs, and extensive travel to access health services. While we welcome additional resources for the Patient Assisted Travel Scheme, we would like to see a review of PATS adequacy and more investment in community health centres. This continues to be a major concern raised in our regional consultations.

WA Labor 2025 Election Commitments

Election Commitment	\$254 Million to strengthen Emergency Care
Status	<i>Partially Funded (BP2, V1, P306)</i>
Investment	\$110m over four years*
Description	<p>Improve emergency care and tackle ambulance ramping is a long-term approach to increase health care in the community, deliver accessible services for patients outside of the traditional hospital setting, and addressing the root causes of ambulance ramping.</p> <p>This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$12.9 million to continue delivery of Community-Based Clinical and Hospital Substitution Services, providing alternative care pathways in the community that reduce avoidable hospitalisations and ED referrals, and increase hospital bed capacity; • \$5.2 million to build additional capacity for the Hospital in the Home (HITH) service. HITH provides admitted patient level care in a patient's home, reducing demand for hospital beds and unnecessary ED presentations; <p>Other areas of priority in strengthening emergency care:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An expansion of WAVED to improve care options in the community, reduce unnecessary ED presentations and increase bed capacity; • The delivery of three Older Adult Care Hubs, and other initiatives to reduce the time older Western Australians spend in the hospital and increase hospital bed capacity;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The delivery of major infrastructure projects to increase hospital capacity across Western Australia; • \$98.6 million to operationalise the Murdoch Medihotel offering a range of nursing and medical led services including support for patients that no longer require hospital care but are not yet ready to return home, which will help reduce demand for hospital beds.
Implications	<p><i>These initiatives will help to alleviate the pressure on EDs, increase bed capacity, and ensure patients' access to care.</i></p> <p><i>Some of the initiatives deliver accessible services for patients outside of the traditional hospital setting and give greater access to support from home or within the community.</i></p>

Election Commitment	\$104 million to Royal Perth Hospital Transformation
Status	<i>Partially Funded (progress planning) (B2, V1, P323)</i>
Investment	\$5 million over four years*
Description	Commence planning for the delivery of a new Royal Perth Hospital ED. (BP2, V1, P310)
Implications	<p><i>The major expansion of the ED will deliver faster access to care.</i></p> <p><i>Each year Royal Perth ED sees over 84,000 patients with more than 1,500 resuscitation cases and 500 major trauma incidents.</i></p> <p><i>This commitment to a multimillion-dollar upgrade will transform the ED and deliver more than 50 new treatment bays, a new computed tomography scanner space, a specialised mental health early treatment zone, more triage rooms, and eight extra ambulance triage bays.</i></p> <p><i>This is a significant commitment which will modernise and redevelop the ED so that RPH can continue to provide the best possible health care.</i></p>

Election Commitment	Patient Assisted Travel Scheme fuel subsidy and expansion
Status	<i>Partially Funded (BP2, V1, P303 & P305)</i>
Investment	\$18.5 million over four years*
Description	\$18.5 million to increase the Patient Assisted Travel Scheme fuel subsidy from \$0.26 per kilometre to \$0.40 per kilometre, supporting country residents required to travel to access specialist medical treatment

	Election commitment included an additional \$15.5 million to expand eligibility for the Scheme. This is absent from this Budget.
Implications	<p><i>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. Further funding is welcomed but is not enough to meet the high cost of accessing healthcare in regional WA, as raised in the WACOSS SBS, a review of the program is needed, as its current form is burdensome, inefficient, and not meeting people's needs.</i></p> <p>Note: There is the \$18.5m outlined in the budget increasing per km rates and a commitment of \$15.5m for an expansion of eligibility that is not in the budget. – Media release</p>

Election Commitment	\$54 million to bolster Pilbara Health services
Status	<i>Partially Funded (BP2, V1, P323)</i>
Investment	\$1 million project planning funding*
Description	<p>WA Health will progress the delivery of the following pipeline of important health initiatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expansion of facilities at the Wirraka Maya Aboriginal Health Service in South Hedland; • Establishment and expansion of renal dialysis facilities at Karratha and Geraldton, respectively; <p>Partially Funded - eight-chair renal dialysis facility and a renal hostel in Karratha (BP2, V1, P323)</p> <p>Not Funded - support Wirraka Maya Aboriginal Health Services in South Hedland. Mentioned on (BP2, V1, P310), but no amount attached or included in the New Works Election Commitments (BP2, V1, P323)</p>
Implications	<i>Investment in Aboriginal and regional health services is welcomed, however, we are concerned that no funding commitment appears to have been given (yet) for Wirraka Maya Aboriginal Health Services.</i>

Election Commitment	Reducing barriers to ADHD care
Status	<i>Funded, (BP2, V1, P303)</i>
Investment	\$1.2M in grant funding
Description	Attention Hyperactivity Disorder Support Services via grant to ADHD WA to improve access to services, increase awareness and support vulnerable cohorts. (BP2, V1, p305)

	\$8.2 million to pilot the 'GP ASK' model allowing General Practitioners to communicate directly with specialists on behalf of their patients, reducing unnecessary ED presentations and referrals, and increasing hospital bed capacity; (BP2, V1, p305)
Implications	<p><i>This will make it cheaper and easier for families to access attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) care without needing to go to a psychiatrist or paediatrician by paving the way for GPs to diagnose ADHD and prescribe medication.</i></p> <p><i>This will be done through trialling specialist support for GPs while they expand their scope of practice.</i></p> <p><i>In addition, \$1.2 million will be provided to ADHD WA for vital support, information, and wraparound services for children and adolescents with ADHD, as well as their parents and carers. – media release</i></p>

Election Commitment	Kimberley health service upgrades - \$30,000,000
Status	<i>Partially Funded (BP2, V2, P332)</i>
Investment	\$10.8 million
Description	<p>\$10.8 million for key Kimberley Health initiatives, including \$8.8 million to deliver the Derby Wellness Centre and \$2 million to progress planning for a low-medium alcohol and other drug withdrawal facility in Broome;</p> <p>\$3.4 million for the Dampier Peninsula Clinics Transition to Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Services; and</p> <p>\$829,000 for the purchase of land to enable the construction of the Broome Sobering Up Centre.</p>
Implications	<i>These initiatives are warmly welcomed.</i>

Election Commitment	\$17.3 Million uplift to Women's Health Centres
Status	<i>Partially Funded (BP2, V1, P306)</i>
Investment	\$2.5 million
Description	<p>\$2.5 million (including \$1.3 million in capital funding) to support the establishment of a dedicated Sexual Health Quarters Day Procedure Centre at the Cockburn Health Clinic. (BP2, V1, P306)</p> <p>Women's Community Health Services: Kimberley Women's Health Program funded for \$3.1 million over four years – unclear if this is part of the election commitment to funding WHC or in addition. (BP3, P222)</p>
Implications	<i>The Centre at the Cockburn Health Clinic will provide affordable, accessible, and timely surgical and medical abortion care and other reproductive services.</i>

	<p><i>Seeking clarification of the Kimberley WHC funding.</i></p> <p><i>It was disappointing to note the absence of full investment in women's community-based health services that was committed to at the election, and we are seeking clarification of the commitment to fully fund the program in the next Budget.</i></p>
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Response from Women's Centre for Safety and Wellbeing (WCSW) when the election announcement was made: <https://csw.org.au/2025/02/11/response-to-wa-labors-womens-health-announcement/>

Housing & Homelessness

The increasing unaffordability of housing is putting severe strain on WA families, forcing many to cut back on other basic costs, such as food. We know the WA Government is focusing on addressing the housing crisis, and these investments are positive. However, WACOSS is concerned that the scale of investment in increasing the supply of affordable and social housing and reducing housing costs is simply not big enough to resolve the issue.

WA Labor 2025 Election Commitments

Election Commitment	\$19.5 million boost in housing and homelessness support
Status	<i>Funded (BP2, V2, P493 & P496 & P598)</i>
Investment	\$19.5 million over 4 years
Description	This funding includes, \$6 million over four years for the Community Housing Capacity Building Program; \$10.4 million over four years for metropolitan homelessness outreach expansion; and \$3.06 million over four years for Housing First Support Services Expansion – Bunbury
Implications	<i>This funding will increase access to support for people experiencing homelessness.</i>

Election Commitment	\$154 million to deliver hundreds of additional rental, affordable and social homes
Status	<i>Funded (BP2, V1, P178 & BP3, P174)</i>
Investment	\$175.2 million
Description	This funding includes a \$75 million fund for Keystart to support Build to Rent Loans, with applications to open in 2025-26. It also includes \$79.5 million investment to deliver 151 new social dwellings, and \$20.7 million to help deliver 234 new affordable dwellings funded by the Housing Australia Future Fund. It is unclear how this funding is dispersed through the outyears.
Implications	<i>Increasing access to affordable and social rental homes is critical. WACOSS is concerned that this funding is insufficient to keep up with our growing population, let alone the existing need. With the National Rental Affordability Scheme expected to end in 2026, the gap in affordable housing will become even greater.</i>

Election Commitment	\$130 million to raise the thresholds for stamp duty relief for first home buyers
Status	<i>Partially Funded (BP3, P76)</i>
Investment	\$119 million from 2024-25 to 2028-29
Description	This increases the threshold for stamp duty relief for First Home Buyers. The estimated impact on revenue in the Budget is less than considered in the election commitment.

Implications	<i>This will let more First Home Buyers access stamp duty concessions. The thresholds however, remain low considering the cost of housing. Additionally, this form of demand side investment risks pushing the cost of housing even higher.</i>
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Election Commitment	Home ownership package
Status	<i>Funded (BP2, V2, P605 & BP3, P174)</i>
Investment	\$170.8 over 4 years
Description	Expansion of Keystart’s Shared Equity Scheme. The Budget also states an intention to fund the scheme to 2031-32, for a total of \$210 million and estimates it will deliver an additional 1,000 loans to help more Western Australians into home ownership.
Implications	<i>This will help some people to buy a home who otherwise may not have been able to.</i>

Election Commitment	Establishment of a housing innovation fund
Status	<i>Funded (BP2, V1, P187 & P188)</i>
Investment	\$50 million over 4 years
Description	Investment to support Western Australian businesses to explore new ways to build houses faster and more affordably, facilitate uptake of new technology and boost productivity, through the provision of grants and low-interest loans.
Implications	<i>This may support businesses to reduce costs and timeframes to build houses.</i>

Election Commitment	Boosting the availability of housing for essential workers in regional WA
Status	<i>Partially Funded (BP2, V2, P718 & BP3, P192)</i>
Investment	\$25 million over 4 years; \$104 million over 3 years
Description	The Regional Housing Support Fund aims to accelerate regional housing development by offering grants of up to \$5 million to address feasibility challenges impacting the delivery of housing projects in the regions. Funding is available to local governments and private developers to fast-track new housing projects and increase land availability in regional areas. Double the GROH construction program to over 100 new builds.
Implications	<i>The \$145 million committed by the Government may include other housing initiatives specific to regional locations. This investment in GROH will support the State Government to attract staff and deliver vital services in regional Western Australia. Whilst this</i>

	<p><i>investment is welcome, community and social services continue to struggle with housing staff and community members accessing support.</i></p> <p><i>The investment to address the feasibility issues of delivering housing in regional WA is welcome. This must be accompanied by additional investment to address the various other barriers in housing availability.</i></p>
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Election Commitment	Expand Night Space in Kununurra
Status	<i>Funded (BP2, V2, P493 & P413)</i>
Investment	\$5.9 million over 3 years
Description	<p>Replicate the Ngurra Buru (Broome Night Space) in Kununurra to provide a safe place for vulnerable young people.</p> <p>Planning for the three-year pilot will commence in consultation with local community representatives and the Department of Communities to identify a suitable location and engage support services including meals, access to youth mentors and next-day family follow-up.</p>
Implications	<i>This will provide a safe place for young people in Kununurra. This is a welcome commitment, however, it is disappointing to see that it is not recurrent funding.</i>

Justice

This budget brings a welcome injection of funds into youth rehabilitation in the community. Ongoing investment in the rollout of the new Model of Care and Crisis Care units within Banksia Hill is critical to improving conditions and ending the crisis within youth detention. These investments show a promising commitment from the government to improve outcomes for children and young people in the justice system.

However, these new investments in community diversion are just a drop in the ocean by comparison to what is spent on prisons, just 4.1% of the \$1 billion annual spend on prisons. WA has the highest number of people incarcerated ever in our history. Funding for prison expansions is particularly concerning when not matched by significant reinvestment of funding to respond to the socio-economic root causes of offending, and when several proposed law reforms will have a net widening effect- driving up prison populations unsustainably.

While overcrowding in adult prisons is a significant human rights issue, especially in Hakea where 4 people at a time are sleeping in cells originally designed for 1 person, there are 128 beds that could be made available immediately if the WA government enacted its promise to Close Unit 18 and transfer all children out of a maximum-security adult prison.

A decrease in funding to the lifesaving Custody Notification Service is a matter of serious concern at a time when we are seeing more deaths in custody of Aboriginal people across the country. Ensuring culturally safe, anti-discriminatory services is critical to Closing the Gap.

It is clearer than ever that WA desperately needs a connected vision, and whole of government strategies regarding justice so we can provide help earlier in communities when people are at risk of offending - before a cycle of crime and incarceration begins.

WA Labor 2025 Election Commitments

Election Commitment	Youth Crime Bail Reform Package
Status	<i>Funded (BP2, V2, P413 - 414)</i>
Investment	Armadale Children’s Court (\$9.29 million over 4 years); Electronic Curfew Technology (\$1 million, 25/26); Old Armadale Courthouse refurbished (\$4.2 million)
Description	<i>\$14.5 million (\$10.3 million recurrent and \$4.2 million capital) to progress the Youth Crime Bail Reform Package election commitment, including repurposing the Old Armadale Courthouse as a Children’s Court and to develop electronic curfew checking of young people on bail, and reforms to fast-track trials and ensure bail decisions for violent young offenders can be reviewed immediately.</i>
Implications	<i>There are continued expert concerns about the practicality of fast tracking trials. Extra funding for one Children’s Court alone will not enable a significant reduction in sentencing times, as trial times are influenced by</i>

	<i>the capacity of police, prosecution and defensive legal teams, not just court capacity. There is evidence that electronic monitoring has a net widening effect, rather than increasing numbers successfully bailed, those who would already be bailed could be monitored.</i>
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Election Commitment	Diversions Initiatives
Status	<i>Funded (BP2, V1, P304 & BP2, V2, P414, P494) (BP2, V2, P413) (BP2, V2, P400, P401, P409)</i>
Investment	On Track to Thrive (\$6.8 million over 2 years); Kimberley Juvenile Justice Strategy (\$7.28 million, 25/26); Western Desert Justice Program (\$550,000, 25/26); Kununurra Night Space (\$5.4 million over 3 years); Police and Community Youth Centres (\$7.7 million over 2 years); SafeSPACE Program (\$5 million over 2 years)
Description	A suite of programs and initiatives including placed based and cultural activities consisting of: On Track to Thrive, Western Desert Justice Program, Kimberley Juvenile Justice Strategy, Kununurra Safe Night Space, and PCYC SafeSPACE programs, intended to divert young people from entering or engaging the criminal justice system.
Implications	<i>Welcomed initiatives that seek to address the root causes of crime in young people's lives and diverting them from the cycle of incarceration. We would like to see further and more long-term funding for such programs, connected by an overarching strategy that crosses siloes.</i>

Election Commitment	Regional Police Officer Recruitment
Status	<i>Funded (BP2, V2, P401)</i>
Investment	\$15.6 million for the redevelopment of the former residential accommodation at the Western Australia Police Academy.
Description	The redevelopment will support the provision of free residential accommodation for regional police recruits during the six-month training period and during subsequent assignments to Perth.
Implications	<i>Increasing the likelihood of regional people joining the Police Force will secure regional police services and may increase connections and relationships for police officers and the communities they serve, which could improve outcomes long term.</i>

Election Commitment	Curb anti-social behaviour and hooning
Status	<i>Funded (BP2, V2, P400, P401, P406, P407, P409)</i>
Investment	CCTV (\$2.3 million 25-26), Hooning (\$18.9 million over 4 years), Hooning, CCTV and Retail Barring Package (\$1.8 million)
Description	Investment of \$22.5 million targets hoons and anti-social behaviour with CCTV and \$1.8 million to fund the implementation of a Road Policing Technology Strategy, which will focus on high-risk offenders through an intelligence-driven and tech-supported enforcement plan.
Implications	<i>This is likely to have a net widening effect and will increase convictions for people hooning. Although it is possible it will have some deterrent effect, without addressing behavioural causes, it will not necessarily decrease the amount of hooning in the community.</i>

Other Significant Investments

Initiative	Youth Detention
Investment	Therapeutic Model of Care (\$20.3 million over 4 years); Stage 1 - New Youth Detention Facility (\$8.6 million, 25/26) (BP2, V2, P413, P414)
Description	The model of care investment will provide additional health staff for a new crisis care unit, additional case management staff to facilitate individualised rehabilitation and reintegration care, and an expansion of Aboriginal cultural security initiatives. \$2.7 million spend on planning and \$8.7 million spend on stage 1 of a high security facility for young individuals with "highly complex needs".
Implications	<i>Ongoing investment in the rollout of the new Model of Care and Crisis Care units within Banksia Hill detention centre are critical to improving conditions and meeting the needs of incredibly at-risk children and young people and have been instrumental to ending the crisis within youth detention that has plagued the government since 2021. These investments show promising commitment from the government to improve outcomes for children and young people in the justice system.</i>
Initiative	Access to Justice
Investment	National Access to Justice Partnership 2025-2030 (\$158.5 million over 4 years) (BP2, V2, P414)
Description	To ensure access to justice for vulnerable members of the community, the Department will spend an additional \$39.9 million in 2025-26 on grants to community legal services, including community legal centres and Aboriginal and Torres Strait legal services. This complements funding secured from the Commonwealth through the agreement.

Implications	<i>The state budget communications are misleading on community legal services. Dept Justice has confirmed that this is <u>not</u> additional funding – it was previously announced and is funding from the Commonwealth & State that hadn't previously been reflected in the state budget.</i>
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Initiative	Casuarina Prison Expansion
Investment	\$100.5 million over 2 years (BP2, V2, P425)
Description	\$8.7 million in 2025-26 to complete Stage 1. \$83.5 million in 2025-26 to continue delivery of the Casuarina Prison Expansion Stage 2, to manage the rising population and up to 1,900 prisoners across the Prison. Further \$8.3 million will be invested in 25- 26 for additional beds across custodial estate.
Implications	<i>Overcrowding is unsafe for both staff and people incarcerated. Rehabilitation in these conditions is extremely difficult. While new beds will alleviate this short term; Increasing community-based alternatives and law reform to reduce unnecessary incarceration would reduce overcrowding and allow the government to spend more in areas of need. 128 beds could be made available immediately if the government enacted its promise to close Unit 18 and return all children to Banksia Hill.</i>

Initiative	Roebourne Regional Prison
Investment	Air-conditioning and electrical upgrades (\$4.5 million, 25/26) (BP2, V2, P426)
Description	\$4.5 million to complete the installation of air-conditioning and electrical upgrades in mainstream accommodation units to support prisoner welfare at Roebourne Regional Prison
Implications	<i>Disappointing that installation of air-conditioning has stretched out over another financial year (originally identified in 22/23), meaning another summer in these conditions. We hope to see the final completion of this project, and health and safety of the population prioritised.</i>

Initiative	Custody Notification Service
Investment	\$2.185 million over 4 years (BP2, V2, P414)
Description	The CNS is a phone service operating 24/7 for Aboriginal people in WA who are detained by police, aiming to prevent deaths in custody, harm suffered, and infringement of legal rights.
Implications	<i>It is disappointing to see a decrease in funding to the lifesaving CNS. This is a matter of significant concern at a time when we are seeing more</i>

	<i>deaths in custody of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, across the country and in Western Australia. Responding to discrimination and ensuring WA has culturally safe services is critical to Closing the Gap.</i>
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Initiative	Justice Reform Initiatives
Investment	\$10.8 million over 2 years (BP2, V2, P414)
Description	The progression of certain government legislative reforms, including criminalisation of the online publication of material relating to offending behaviour ("Post and Boast Law").
Implications	<i>Increasing criminalisation of offences that target children and young people fails to address the underlying causes of offending and will see more children as young as ten incarcerated.</i>

Initiative	Target 120
Investment	25-26 \$11.289 million (BP2, V2, P494, P495, P509)
Description	Target 120 is an early intervention program for young people at risk of repeat offending and engagement with the justice system. The Department of Justice provides regular program monitoring as well as more in-depth data analysis.
Implications	<i>Target 120 has been funded for another year, but there is no funding in the out years for the continuation of the program. We are concerned about the future of this program.</i>

Mental Health

Investment in this budget focuses largely on clinical responses and in particular, supports for children experiencing mental-ill health. Whilst targeted investment is welcome, this is a missed opportunity to address the ongoing shortfall in prevention and early intervention funding for mental health. The introduction of the State Government's new preventative health portfolio in conjunction with the development of a new 5-year Mental Health and AOD Strategy, marks an opportune time to set the strategic direction of mental health investment in WA. The implementation of this new strategy should be supported by funding for effective implementation, whilst also considering the State's role in the National Suicide Prevention Agreement and the NDIS reforms. Strong investment in community supports will be crucial for creating more accessible mental health supports for people in WA.

WA Labor 2025 Election Commitments

Election Commitment	Bunbury Acute Care and Response Team
Status	<i>Funded (BP2, V1, P332)</i>
Investment	\$13.8 million over 4 years. Part of a \$65 million investment to improve mental health support for WA children.
Description	To establish an Acute Care and Response Team in the South West. This team will provide mobile and virtual crisis response, and intensive support, to children and families. This means that children won't have to present to an emergency department for care in crisis, receiving care at home.
Implications	<i>This program will allow young people to receive care within the home and will reduce emergency department admissions.</i>

Election Commitment	Ngala Residential Parenting Service
Status	<i>Funded (BP2, V1, P332)</i>
Investment	\$39.5 million over 4 years. Part of a \$65 million investment to improve mental health support for WA children.
Description	To deliver no-cost public access to the Ngala Residential Parenting Service, providing mental health, early intervention and prevention support to families across WA.
Implications	<i>These services are currently only available to those referred by the Department of Communities, or who are able to self-fund, such as those covered by private health insurance. This investment will provide vital access to mental health support for more WA families.</i>

Other Significant Investments

Initiative	Virtual Infant, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service Hub
Status	<i>Funded (BP2, V1, P332 & BP2, V1, P333)</i>
Investment	\$12.2 million over 4 years. Part of a \$65 million investment to improve mental health support for WA children
Description	To establish the Virtual Infant, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (ICAMHS) Hub. The Virtual ICAMHS Hub will comprise specialist practitioners who will support regional community services to respond to children with complex mental health needs.
Implications	<i>This investment will strengthen the specialist mental health support available for children in WA. However, considerations must be given to the ability to access virtual services for digitally excluded people, particularly given the prevalence of digital exclusion in regional, rural, and remote WA.</i>

Initiative	Transition of the Kalgoorlie Step Up / Step Down Service
Status	<i>Funded (BP2, V1, P332)</i>
Investment	\$9.9 million over 3 years, commencing from 2026-27
Description	To improve mental health service access in the Goldfields by transitioning the Kalgoorlie Step Up / Step Down service into a public mental health facility (under the WA Country Health Service).
Implications	<i>This investment will improve access to mental health services for more people in the region. The service should be provided by suitably qualified staff who support the intersectional needs of people experiencing mental health challenges in the Goldfields.</i>

Initiative	Establishment of a residential Eating Disorder facility
Status	<i>Appears to be partially funded (BP2, V1, P332)</i>
Investment	\$5 million over 3 years
Description	Planning for a community-based residential eating disorder facility.
Implications	<i>Aligns with the WA Eating Disorder Framework 2025 – 2030. Investment should exist alongside other treatment options, such as those based in the community or through outreach in the home.</i>

Initiative	Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Program Support Fund
Status	<i>Funded (BP2, V2, P516)</i>
Investment	4 million over 4 years
Description	The Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Program Support Fund is intended to support good mental health in the workplace. The Fund will support industry bodies to develop, implement and run mental health and suicide prevention programs at work.
Implications	<i>This recognises the important role workplaces play in the mental wellbeing of their workforce.</i>

Initiative	LGBTQIA+ Inclusion Initiatives
Status	<i>Funded (BP2, V2, P493, P496)</i>
Investment	\$2.2 million over 4 years
Description	The Government is providing \$2.2 million to strengthen the LGBTQIA+ sector and initiatives and deliver a new grants program aligned with the development and implementation of Western Australia's first whole-of-government LGBTQIA+ Inclusion Strategy.
Implications	<i>The Strategy and subsequent investment will improve the safety and accessibility of mainstream services, whilst strengthening specialist supports. This will contribute to improved mental health and wellbeing outcomes for LGBTQIA+ people in WA.</i>

Initiative	Active Recovery Team Extension
Investment	\$11.2 million 2025-2026 (BP2, V1, P332)
Description	\$10.5 million was announced in the 2024-2025 budget as part of the ART Pilot. ART is 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.
Implications	<i>The ART Pilot has demonstrated early outcomes for patients with complex needs. Whilst it is positive to see the ART Pilot extended, sustainable investment should replace the short-term funding.</i>

Initiative	Psychiatric Assistance Dogs Program
Investment	\$240,000 over 2025-26 (BP2, V1, P61, P62, P63 & BP3, P104)
Description	This funding is part of the Government's investment in the Psychiatric Assistance Dogs pilot program (2023) that supports veterans with service-related mental health conditions. The program is delivered by RSL and Laizan K9. The investment will provide an additional eight dogs to support the mental health of Western Australian veterans.
Implications	<i>It is welcome to see the expansion of this pilot program.</i>

Regional Investment

This Budget includes investments across key areas to support people in regional WA to access essential services. Transport, health and education are the key areas of investment and this is welcome. Housing for community service sector workers continues to be a major challenge for regional services. While investment has been made in regional housing, this is largely focused on Government employees.

Western Australians in regional WA often face higher essential costs compared to Perth residents. As such, while broad scope initiatives to address the cost of living (as outlined in our Cost of Living Factsheet) will offer some support, their impact may be less for regional residents.

WA Labor 2025 Election Commitments

Election Commitment	Patient Assisted Travel Scheme (PATS) Increase
Status	<i>Partially Funded (BP2, V1, P303)</i>
Investment	\$18.5 million over 4 years
Description	Increase the PATS fuel subsidy from 26 cents per kilometre to 40 cents per kilometre, supporting country residents required to travel to access specialist medical treatment.
Implications	<i>PATS is a vital service for those living in regional and remote WA, and this fuel subsidy is welcomed. However, a further increase is warranted to cover the realistic costs of travel. Additionally, the model requiring upfront payment and significant wait times for reimbursement is a major pressure point for patients who are experiencing increasing costs across the board. Overall patients continue to report significant gaps, challenges and delays, and a full review is recommended to ensure the scheme meets the needs of those accessing it. Importantly, we look forward to seeing the delivery of the \$15.5 million election commitment made to expand the eligibility criteria of PATS.</i> Note: there is \$18.5m outlined in the budget increasing per km rates and a commitment of \$15.5m for an expansion of eligibility that is not in the budget – Media release

Election Commitment	Increase the regional pensioner travel allowance
Status	<i>Funded (BP2, V2, P547)</i>
Investment	\$25.7 million over 4 years
Description	Increase the value of the Regional Pensioner Travel Card by a further \$100 each year (from \$675 to \$775) from 2025-26.
Implications	<i>With rising costs, viable transport alternatives provide significant value for those living in regional areas. This investment makes these options more affordable for pensioners, and encourages utilisation of public transport which has positive environmental impacts.</i>

Election Commitment	Boosting the availability of housing for essential workers in regional WA
Status	<i>Partially Funded (BP2, V2, P718; BP3, P192)</i>
Investment	\$25 million over 4 years; \$104 million over three years
Description	The Regional Housing Support Fund aims to accelerate regional housing development by offering grants of up to \$5 million to address feasibility challenges impacting the delivery of housing projects in the regions. Funding is available to local governments and private developers to fast-track new housing projects and increase land availability in regional areas. Double the GROH construction program to over 100 new builds.
Implications	<i>The \$145 million committed by the Government may include other housing initiatives specific to regional locations. This investment in GROH will support the State Government to attract staff and deliver vital services in regional Western Australia. Whilst this investment is welcome, community and social services continue to struggle with housing staff and community members accessing support. The investment to address the feasibility issues of delivering housing in regional WA is welcome. This must be accompanied by additional investment to address the various other barriers in housing availability.</i>

Initiative	Suburban Flat Fare & Half-Price Transwa Fares
Status	<i>Funded (BP3, P150)</i>
Investment	\$170.3 million over 4 years
Description	Cap fares at the one-zone rate across Metropolitan & Transregional public transport networks . Reduce Transwa regional coach and train fees by 50% from 1 January 2026.
Implications	<i>With rising costs, viable transport alternatives provide significant value for those living in regional areas. This investment makes these options more affordable for all, and encourages utilisation of public transport which has positive environmental impacts.</i>

Initiative	Establish the Virtual Infant, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service Hub
Status	<i>Funded (BP2, V1, P332-P333)</i>
Investment	\$12.2 million over 4 years
Description	Comprised of specialist practitioners who will support regional community services to respond to children with complex mental health needs
Implications	<i>This investment will strengthen the specialist mental health support available for children in WA. Virtual support fills a vital gap for those living</i>

	<i>in regional, rural and remote areas, where access to appropriate support is drastically limited.</i>
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Other Significant Investments

Initiative	School of Isolated and Distance Education
Investment	\$30.3 million over 4 years (BP3, P128-129)
Description	A reallocation of existing expenditure toward the School of Isolated and Distance Education (SIDE)
Implications	<i>SIDE provides quality education for students who for various reasons cannot attend classes in regular school. The continued investment provides students, including many in rural and remote WA, the same education opportunities as their peers across the metropolitan areas.</i>

Initiative	Country Nursing and Midwifery Incentive Program
Investment	\$9.8 million over 2 years (BP2, V1, P304)
Description	Temporary Nurse and Midwife Attraction and Retention Incentives
Implications	<i>Attraction and Retention initiatives help to address critical workforce shortages in regional areas and deliver vital health services.</i>

Initiative	Support to attend Country Week events
Investment	\$7.9 million over 4 years (BP3, P128)
Description	The program will provide financial support to schools (depending on their distance to Perth), enabling schools to contribute towards accommodation and travel costs for regional high school students attending the annual multisport event.
Implications	<i>Connection to opportunities such as Country Week is incredibly valued by young people in regional and remote Western Australia. They are a platform for connection to peers, community and future opportunities that may otherwise be out of reach due to geographical isolation and financial barriers. However, WACOSS continues to call for cost of living measures that target those families most at risk who are currently struggling to cover their basic needs.</i>

Initiative	Expand the Community Emergency Services Manager Program
Investment	\$3.5 million across 4 years (BP3, P135)
Description	Six additional community emergency services managers embedded within regional local governments, improving area specific mitigation.
Implications	<i>CESMs are shared resources between DFES and LGs, leveraging local knowledge to enhance decision-making in relation to prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery efforts, leading to more resilient</i>

	<p><i>communities. With increasing disaster risks, this additional support for regional communities is welcomed.</i></p>
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Sustainability of Services

This budget provides welcome support for some community services, including increases in funding for financial counselling, family and domestic violence services, and the expansion of the School Breakfast Programs.

But more is needed to support the sector, which is buckling under demand while trying to maintain current services amid strong population growth and a cost of living crisis.

This budget focuses on the physical infrastructure the State needs to keep up with the demands of a growing population, but there is not enough investment in the State’s social infrastructure.

WA needs a long-term plan to ensure our social infrastructure keeps pace with changing community need.

Our sector needs sustainable funding to deliver these important services: indexation which reflects award conditions and years of underfunding, and funding which covers the true cost of delivering services. WACOSS is also deeply concerned about the financial impact of commissioning delays.

WACOSS will continue to work for genuinely sustainable funding for the sector so it can continue to help Western Australians in need. This includes a commitment from the State Government for a one-off catch-up injection to reflect historical underfunding and the significant demands on the sector.

WA Labor 2025 Election Commitments

Initiative	Family and Domestic Violence (FDV) Initiatives
Status	<i>Partially funded (BP2, V2, P494)</i>
Investment	\$36 million
Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$8.1 million over 3 years for FDV Support for Children and Young People; • \$1.53 million over 4 years for the Safe at Home program; • \$21.78 million over 4 years for the Safe House Uplift; • \$5.05 million for Targeted Family and Sexual Violence Frontline Services.
Implications	<p><i>This includes the support towards planning and business case development for the expansion of Albany and Geraldton refuge capacity, and further expansions of FDV refuges at five locations across the State.</i></p> <p><i>The Safe at Home program will reach an additional seven locations, including several in regional Western Australia. While these initiatives support victim survivors of FDV, more funding is required in preventing FDV from happening in the first place.</i></p>

Election Commitment	\$19.5 million boost in housing and homelessness support
Status	<i>Funded (BP2, V2, P493 & P496 & P598)</i>
Investment	\$19.5 million over 4 years
Description	This funding includes \$6 million over four years for the Community Housing Capacity Building Program; \$10.4 million over four years for metropolitan homelessness outreach expansion; and \$3.06 million over four years for Housing First Support Services Expansion – Bunbury.
Implications	<i>This funding will increase access to support for people experiencing homelessness.</i>

Election Commitment	Fund 16 Police and Community Youth Centres
Status	<i>Partially Funded (BP3, P134 & BP2, V2, P400)</i>
Investment	\$10.5 million over four years
Description	This funding includes \$5.5 million for sustainability for the Police and Community Youth Centres across Western Australia (bringing the total approved sustainability funding to \$24 million). This package includes \$5 million to continue the delivery of SafeSPACE programs, extending the PCYC SafeSPACE Program at five locations into 2025-26 and 2026-27.
Implications	<i>This is welcome support for the sustainability of early intervention, diversionary, and recreational programs for young people, especially in regional WA.</i>

Election Commitment	School Breakfast expansion
Status	<i>Funded (BP2, V1, P353 & P354 & BP3, P129)</i>
Investment	\$28.5 million over 4 years
Description	The Government will invest an additional \$28.5 million over 2025-26 to 2028-29 to expand the School Breakfast Program from two to five days per week for schools currently participating in the program, and to expand the program to additional schools under broadened socio-economic eligibility criteria. The program will be available at over 670 locations under the expanded program. The Budget Papers further commit to funding beyond the four outyears, with a total investment of \$37.2 million over 2025-26 to 2029-30.
Implications	<i>This targeted cost of living relief will meaningfully reduce food costs for families doing it tough. It will also encourage school engagement and set kids up to learn.</i>

Other Significant Investments

Initiative	Financial Counselling Uplift
Investment	\$3 million over 2 years (BP2, V2, P494)
Description	This is additional funding to financial counselling services for 2025-26 and 2026-27.
Implications	<i>Financial counsellors offer free support for people experiencing financial difficulty. They often serve as a critical entry point to other community support services.</i>

Initiative	Child Sexual Abuse Therapeutic Services and Indigenous Healing Services
Investment	\$650,000 over two years* (BP2, V2, P494) (future funding required)
Description	The budget papers show a significant drop in future funding compared to the 2024-25 Budget allocation. This reflects the fact that we are partway through the commissioning process.
Implications	<p><i>CSATS & IHS services are currently being recommissioned and a codesign process is underway with existing service providers, led by the Department of Communities, with support from WACOSS and input from the Australian Centre for Child Protection.</i></p> <p><i>These services are crucial to broader State commitments to implement Royal Commission recommendations, The National Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Child Sexual Abuse, and respond to the findings of the Australian Child Maltreatment Study (with 1 in 4 Australians victims of child sexual abuse) and have been identified as a major priority.</i></p> <p><i>WACOSS and the CSATS service network developed case studies of sustainable funding and a consultation and survey process is underway with existing services to develop a pricing and costing tool and inform a new bid for sustainable funding and service growth to meet unmet need.</i></p>

Initiative	Home Stretch
Investment	<i>Partially Funded</i> (BP2, V2, P509) – Future funding required
Description	Home Stretch is a program to support young people leaving state care to successfully transition to independent living. It has been developed in partnership between Communities and a number of service providers, with recent expansion of the pilot program to include more regional services and ACCO providers.

	<p>The budget papers currently show the program fully funded this year at \$14 million, but a drop of funding down to \$3 million in future years.</p> <p>This is because a commitment has been made to extend the program, but work still needs to be done to fully cost it.</p>
<p>Implications</p>	<p><i>An announcement was made by Minister Winton last year with an in-principle commitment to expand the program statewide and make it ongoing, as it was previously funded as a time-limited trial.</i></p> <p><i>However, work is still needed to cost the program based on modelling the population of care leavers going forward, and then further funding will be allocated.</i></p> <p><i>“Home Stretch WA program continues to see positive demand and retention of young people who leave OOHC at the age of 18 years, supporting them to transition to independent adulthood by providing extended support and resources up until the age of 21 years.” BP2, V2, P495</i></p> <p><i>Media Release: https://www.wa.gov.au/government/announcements/home-stretch-wa-now-rolled-out-across-wa-463-million-of-additional-funding-provided</i></p>

Women

Once again, the WA State budget does not demonstrate significant commitment to women in WA. While the budget funded a range of initiatives, this Budget does not provide holistic investment in the issues impacting women or addressing gender inequity.

The election commitment to uplift Women's Health Centres' funding was celebrated by the sector, after years of stagnated funding. The decision not to include this investment in this Budget is a missed opportunity to address an urgent need and achieve systemic improvements to women's health outcomes.

Funding for women's economic independence in this Budget includes piloting the expansion of four-year-old kindergarten and small grants. Affordable childcare is an essential step, however, more can be done in the meantime, including ensuring adequate remuneration for women in female-dominated industries, such as the care workforce.

WA Labor 2025 Election Commitments

Election Commitment	\$17.3 million uplift to Women's Health Centres
Status	<i>Partially Funded (BP2, V1, P306)</i>
Investment	\$2.5 million
Description	\$2.5 million (including \$1.3 million in capital funding) to support the establishment of a dedicated Sexual Health Quarters Day Procedure Centre at the Cockburn Health Clinic. (BP2, V1, P306) Women's Community Health Services: Kimberley Women's Health Program funded for \$3.1 million over four years – unclear if this is part of the election commitment to funding WHC or in addition. (BP3, P222)
Implications	<i>The Centre at the Cockburn Health Clinic will provide affordable, accessible and timely surgical and medical abortion care and other reproductive services. Seeking clarification of the Kimberley WHC funding. It is disappointing to note the absence of full investment in women's community-based health services committed to at the election.</i>

Response from Centre for Women's Safety and Wellbeing when election announcement was made: <https://csw.org.au/2025/02/11/response-to-wa-labors-womens-health-announcement/>

Election Commitment	Upgrade women's sports facilities
Status	<i>Funded (BP3, p113) (BP2, V1, P203)</i>
Investment	\$29.9 million over 2025-26 to 2028-29
Description	\$23.9 million over 2026-27 to 2028-29 in grants provided to community sporting organisations for changeroom upgrades, equipment and events, including GBSC Sports Park, Joondalup Sports Association, and Ellenbrook Open District Space; and

	\$6 million over 2025-26 to 2028-29 (\$1.5 million per annum) to establish a Boosting Women and Girls' Participation in Sports program to drive more grass-roots participation from women and girls.
Implications	<i>This funding will allow local clubs and associations to upgrade facilities, buy equipment, travel to competitions, and run try-out and registration events to promote their sports and attract new players and to encourage more women and girls to participate in community sport.</i>

Other Significant Investments

Initiative	Grants for a Stronger Future Program
Investment	\$1 million over 2 years (BP2, V2, P496) (BP3, P146)
Description	Increase the amount of grants available under the Women's Grants for a Stronger Future program.
Implications	<i>This will facilitate further work on gender equity.</i>

Youth

This State Budget has some welcome investment in young people, particularly in mental health and workforce training. The expansion of the School Breakfast Program and the continuation of the Student Assistance Payments and free public transport are important cost-of-living measures to support either young people directly or their families.

But given the strength of the State’s economy and population growth in a time of housing crisis, we would have liked to see more investment in social infrastructure to support youth and pathways to help them access affordable housing.

WA Labor 2025 Election Commitments

Election Commitment	School Breakfast expansion
Status	<i>Funded (BP2, V1, P353 & P354 & BP3, P129)</i>
Investment	\$28.5 million over 4 years
Description	The Government will invest an additional \$28.5 million over 2025-26 to 2028-29 to expand the School Breakfast Program from two to five days per week for schools currently participating in the program, and to expand the program to additional schools under broadened socio-economic eligibility criteria. The program will be available at over 670 locations under the expanded program. There is further funding beyond the four outyears, with a total investment of \$37.2 million over 2025-26 to 2029-30.
Implications	<i>This targeted cost of living relief will meaningfully reduce food costs for families doing it tough. It will also encourage school engagement and set kids up to learn.</i>

Initiative	Family and Domestic Violence (FDV) Initiatives
Status	<i>Partially funded (BP2, V2, P494)</i>
Investment	\$36 million
Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$8.1 million over 3 years for FDV Support for Children and Young People • \$1.53 million over 4 years for the Safe at Home program • \$21.78 million over 4 years for the Safe House Uplift • \$5.05 million for Targeted Family and Sexual Violence Frontline Services
Implications	<i>This includes the support towards planning and business case development for the expansion of Albany and Geraldton refuge capacity, and further expansions of FDV refuges at five locations across the State.</i>

	<i>The Safe at Home program will reach an additional seven locations, including several in regional Western Australia. While these initiatives support victim survivors of FDV, more funding is required in preventing FDV from happening in the first place.</i>
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Election Commitment	Fund 16 Police and Community Youth Centres (PCYC) & safeSPACE programs
Status	<i>Funded (BP2, V2, P400 & BP3, 134)</i>
Investment	\$10.5 million over 4 years
Description	This funding includes \$5.5 million for sustainability for the Police and Community Youth Centres across Western Australia (bringing the total approved sustainability funding to \$24 million). This package includes \$5 million to continue the delivery of safeSPACE programs, extending the PCYC safeSPACE Program at five locations into 2025-26 and 2026-27.
Implications	<i>This is a welcome support for maintaining early intervention, diversionary and recreational programs for young people, especially in regional WA.</i>

Election Commitment	Youth Crime Bail Reform Package
Status	<i>Funded (BP2, V2, P413 - 414)</i>
Investment	\$14.5 million over 4 years
Description	This funding includes \$14.5 million (\$10.3 million recurrent and \$4.2 million capital) to progress the Youth Crime Bail Reform Package election commitment, including repurposing the Old Armadale Courthouse as a Children’s Court and to develop electronic curfew checking of young people on bail, and reforms to fast-track trials and ensure bail decisions for violent young offenders can be reviewed immediately.
Implications	<i>There are continued expert concerns about the practicality of fast tracking trials. Extra funding for one Children’s Court alone will not enable a significant reduction in sentencing times, as trial times are influenced by capacity of police, prosecution and defensive legal teams, not just court capacity. There is evidence that electronic monitoring has a net widening effect, rather than increasing numbers successfully bailed, those who would already be bailed could be monitored.</i>

Election Commitment	Expand Night Space in Kununurra
Status	<i>Funded (BP2, V2, P493 & P413)</i>
Investment	\$5.9 million over 3 years
Description	Replicate the Ngurra Buru (Broome Night Space) in Kununurra to provide a safe place for vulnerable young people. Planning for the three-year pilot will commence in consultation with local community representatives and the Department of Communities to identify a suitable location and engage support services including meals, access to youth mentors and next-day family follow-up.
Implications	<i>This will provide a safe place for young people in Kununurra. This is a welcome commitment, however, it is disappointing to see that it is not recurrent funding.</i>

Other Significant Investments

Initiative	Home Stretch
Investment	<i>Partially Funded (BP2, V2, P509) – Future funding required</i>
Description	Home Stretch is a program to support young people leaving state care to successfully transition to independent living. It has been developed in partnership between Communities and a number of service providers, with recent expansion of the pilot program to include more regional services and ACCO providers. The budget papers currently show the program fully funded this year at \$14 million, but a drop of funding down to \$3 million in future years. This is because a commitment has been made to extend the program, but work still needs to be done to fully cost it.
Implications	<i>An announcement was made by Minister Winton last year with an in-principle commitment to expand the program statewide and make it ongoing, as it was previously funded as a time-limited trial.</i> <i>However, work is still needed to cost the program based on modelling the population of care leavers going forward, and then further funding will be allocated.</i> <i>“Home Stretch WA program continues to see positive demand and retention of young people who leave OOHC at the age of 18 years, supporting them to transition to independent adulthood by providing extended support and resources up until the age of 21 years.” BP2, V2, P495</i> <i>Media Release: https://www.wa.gov.au/government/announcements/home-stretch-wa-now-rolled-out-across-wa-463-million-of-additional-funding-provided</i>

Initiative	Fee-Free TAFE
Investment	\$22 million (BP3, P99)
Description	The fee-free TAFE program is continuing, with fees in 2026 the same as 2025, and an additional \$22 million has been allocated to add building and construction courses.
Implications	<i>This package of investments into TAFE support opportunities for youth and continue to boost the skilled workforce, specifically/especially in the building and construction industry.</i>

Initiative	Infants, Children and Adolescents Taskforce
Investment	\$65 million over 4 years (BP3, P122)
Description	The State Government has established the Infants, Children and Adolescents Taskforce, which includes \$65 million, including these youth services: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$13.8 million to establish an Acute Care and Response Team in the South West. This team will provide mobile and virtual crisis response, and intensive support, to children and families. This means that children won't have to present to an emergency department for care in crisis, receiving care at home • \$12.2 million to establish the Virtual Infant, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (ICAMHS) Hub. The Virtual ICAMHS Hub will comprise specialist practitioners who will support regional community services to respond to children with complex mental health needs.
Implications	<i>This is welcome funding towards mental health services in regional Western Australia.</i>

Initiative	Step Up/Step Down (SUSD) Metropolitan Youth Facility
Investment	\$6.088 million over 3 years (\$800,000 spent in 2024-25, \$3 million in 2025-26, \$2.288m in 2026-27) (BP2, V1, P322)
Description	The 2024-25 Budget is higher than the 2024-25 Estimated Actual primarily due to issues associated with securing building and construction services in regional Western Australia, with this delaying construction of the Step Up/Step Down facilities in Karratha, South Hedland and a youth-specific facility in Perth.
Implications	<i>We hope that this important project is prioritised for delivery and does not leave the community too much longer for these mental health services.</i>

Initiative	Kids Access All Areas Pass
Investment	\$3.1 million over two years (BP2, V1, P203 & BP3, P114)
Description	The pass will provide 50,000 vouchers for children aged between five and 15 (up to a value of \$50 per child) to subsidise the cost of tickets to events at up to 120 arts, cultural and creative venues across the State, including, Scitech, the Western Australian Museum, the Maritime Museum, Albany Entertainment Centre, and the State Theatre Centre.
Implications	<i>This funding over the next two years will support children and families with the cost of engaging with the arts, cultural and creative industry and events across the State.</i>

Initiative	KidSport program
Investment	\$4.8 million (BP2, V2, P203 & BP3, P115)
Description	Assists eligible children aged from five to 18 to participate in community sport, providing up to \$300 per child.
Implications	<i>While it is good that this initiative to support young people from low-income families to participate in community support, it appears the payments have been cut from \$500 to \$300.</i>

Initiative	Student Assistance Payments
Investment	\$5.6 million (BP2, V1, P354)
Description	Payment will continue to support families with \$150 for each Kindergarten and primary student, and \$250 for each secondary student.
Implications	<i>The continued reinvestment in cost of living relief for families of students is welcomed.</i>

Initiative	Ride to School Free Program
Investment	\$10.4 million over two years (BP3, P155)
Description	To provide further cost of living relief for families, free public transport on regular Transperth services for school students with a valid Student SmartRider will be extended to the end of the 2026 school year.
Implications	<i>The continued reinvestment in cost of living and transport relief for school students is welcomed, however 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.</i>

Initiative	Target 120
Investment	\$11.289 million (BP2, V2, P494, P495, P509)
Description	Target 120 is an early intervention program for young people at risk of repeat offending and engagement with the justice system.

	The Department of Justice provides regular program monitoring as well as more in-depth data analysis.
Implications	<i>Target 120 has been funded for another year, but there is no funding in the out years for the continuation of the program. We are concerned about the future of this program.</i>