

STATE BUDGET 2008-2009 OUTCOMES for SOCIAL SERVICES

Presented by: Social Policy Unit
Western Australian Council of Social Service
8 May 2008

Overview of WACOSS PBS 2008/09

- Our primary recommendation was that the WA State Government create a social vision by developing a Western Australian Social Inclusion Strategy.
- The WACOSS PBS was written in consultation with approximately 40 organisations across the sector.

Overview of WACOSS Response

WACOSS is most concerned that this budget does not do enough:

- To relieve pressures for 17,000 people on homeless waiting lists,
- To address the rising cost of living in basic goods such as food and transport,
- To support seniors,
- To fund prevention and early intervention to protect children (there has been a 16% increase in the number of kids going in to state care),
- To provide support for drug and alcohol treatment services,
To resource the development of a Social Inclusion framework announced by the Premier.
and
- The budget provides for a 4.35% increase in funding to the sector – covers wages, but not services.

Planning for Communities

We asked for:	The Government delivered:
Develop a WA Social Inclusion Strategy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Public commitment by Premier •Establishment of a taskforce (government industry, community) 	Announcement of commitment to develop a Social Inclusion Framework but no funding commitment in State Budget. Government/NGO Reference Group to be formed.
Support a Social Inclusion Strategy Taskforce: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Two Senior Policy Officers •One Part-Time Admin Support Officer 	Taskforce will be funded within Department for Communities, but no discrete funding within State Budget.
Evaluating WA's Social Wellbeing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Government Departments to adopt Social Inclusion indicators as key performance indicators. •Establish a monitoring committee (DfC, DCP, Justice, DHW, Health, 2 NGO's, observer from Auditor General) •Annual reporting by Premier in Parliament 	Social Inclusion Framework to be monitored by newly formed Reference Group.

Investing in our Strengths

We asked for:	The Government delivered:
The Future of our Workforce - funding to implement workforce planning strategies.	
Indexation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Called for 2.7% in back-pay for the past 3 years •Application of consistent calculations •An adjustment payment at the end of the financial year to match actual figures 	Indexation for 08-09 is 4.35%. Back-payments will not be added to the base for calculating the amount. The Government has agreed to a clear process for calculating indexation.
Budgeting for Rural, Regional and Remote areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Reintroduction of monitoring a regional price index •Non-metro agencies adequately remunerated 	No apparent Government funding commitment.
A Uniform Chart of Accounts - work together to adopt and fund training to introduce throughout the sector	No apparent specific Government funding commitment.

Housing

The list of housing recommendations included:	The Government delivered:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Public Housing •Funding model for Public Housing •State Homelessness Strategy Programs •Abolition of Option Fee •Affordable Rental Incentive Scheme •State Funding for SAAP Services •Supported Accommodation for Young People •Young People in the Private Market •Regional Housing Development Coordinator •Culturally Appropriate Housing for Aboriginal Families and Singles •Coordination for Clients with Complex Needs •Properties in the Community Options and Independent Living Programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •No additional funding for public housing. •No funding commitment for review of Public Housing Funding Model •Many State Homelessness Strategy Programs have been continued. •\$3.2 million over 4 years increase for SAAP services. Distribution of funding increase yet to be determined. •No specific announcement regarding Young people in the private rental market. •Four new level 7 regional housing co-ordinators have been created in Kalgoorlie, Broome, Pt Hedland, Kununarra.

Housing continued...

<p>The list of Housing recommendations included:</p>	<p>The Government delivered:</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Housing Support for People Released from Prison •Requirements for Social and Affordable Housing in Developments •An Appeals Process for Social Housing •Valuer General Calculation of Market Rent •Training and Skills Development for Community Housing •Disability Support Packages •Legal and Consumer Advice Services for Housing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •The Re-entry Program offering accommodation and support has been expanded. \$20M over 4 years. •121 additional disability support packages will be funded.

Housing

OTHER GOVERNMENT COMMITMENTS

Safety and Justice

Crisis accommodation and support for Aboriginal men in the southeast corridor
Safe House for young women (age 14 to 18) and children escaping domestic/family violence

Aboriginal

A joint agency review to address the shortage of accommodation for rural/remote Aboriginal people accessing health services in Perth metropolitan area.

Care and Support: Aged Care

Development of a seniors' housing advisory service and laws to protect seniors from unfair contracts relating to accommodation.

Safety and Justice

The list of Safety and Justice recommendations included:	The Government delivered:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safe House for Young Women and Children Escaping Domestic Violence • Expansion of Refuge-based Domestic Violence Outreach Services • Crisis Care for Aboriginal Males • Restorative Programs for Perpetrators of Family and Domestic Violence • New Support Services for Other Forms of Partner Abuse • Domestic Violence Legal Workers Network • Increase Core Funding to Community Legal Centres • Programs for Women in Prison • Partnerships to Support Re-entry Services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expenditure of \$450k in 2008/09, increasing to \$490k in 2011/12 to meet the operational cost of the Hills Safe House crisis accommodation service. • The current program will continue until the end of the year. No expansion was announced. • No explicit Government commitment although the Re-entry Program was funded to the tune of \$20M over 4 years.

Social Participation

We asked for:	The Government delivered:
English Classes for Migrants and Refugees	No apparent new funding commitments.
Childcare for Migrants in English Classes	No apparent new funding commitments.
Independent Translating & Interpreting Service	No apparent new funding commitments.
Supporting Volunteers	No apparent new funding commitments.
A Fair Go and a Fair Wage for Young People	No apparent new funding commitments.

Care and Support

The list of Care and Support recommendations included :	The Government delivered:
<p><i>Children, Youth and Families</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Children in Care – increased funding for children in the State Care System •Therapeutic Counselling for Children •Keeping Children Safe – funding for dedicated policy and research project (early intervention and protection) •Services for the Health Needs of Aboriginal Children •Children in Women’s Refuge Service – funding for Child Support Workers •A Holistic, Child Focused Approach to Child Protection – funding for creation of Child Advocacy Centre •Family and Community Based Child Care Centres •Young People Living in Care •Young People Abused in Care •Review of Early Years Strategy 	<p>\$77.8 million over two years for children in care, including an extra 128 beds for residential care facilities.</p> <p>\$9.2 million over four years for 54 additional out of home care placements</p> <p>Included in the \$77.8 million mentioned above, another 16 treatment specific beds for new residential care facilities, providing treatment focussed therapeutic services for young people with complex needs</p> <p>No funding for dedicated ‘Keeping Children Safe’ project.</p> <p>Inclusion of neo-natal services in the Kimberley regions within the health budget.</p> <p>No new Government funding commitment to Women’s refuge services.</p> <p>No funding for Child Advocacy Centre.</p> <p>No additional funding for young people abused in care or a review of the early years strategy – continuation of Redress Scheme.</p>

Care and Support continued...

The list of Care and Support recommendations included:	The Government delivered:
<p><i>Disabilities</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Support Services for People with Disabilities •Supporting Advocacy for People with Disabilities •Supporting People with Disabilities to Secure and Maintain Work <p><i>Aged Care</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Housing Information, Advice and Security for Senior Citizens •Protecting Vulnerable Seniors •Increase Mobility Equipment Assistance for Seniors 	<p>\$17 million increase for support services, including \$6.4 million to assist NGO's with higher costs.</p> <p>\$285k p/a for four years to make the Companion Card free.</p> <p>Additional grants of \$750k will be provided to assist with daily living to enable participation in the community.</p>

Care and Support continued...

The list of Care and Support recommendations included:	The Government delivered:
<p><i>Carers</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Carer Representation Framework •Mental Health Carer Representation and Advocacy <p>Mental Health and Carer Information Sharing Support Services for Young Carers Support for Grandparents as Carers</p>	<p>\$150k p/a for four years to Carers WA to coordinate provision of information, counselling and peer support for young carers and siblings</p>

Care and Support continued...

OTHER GOVERNMENT BUDGET ANNOUNCEMENTS

***Overall**, there is funding of \$180 million being provided for new child protection initiatives and \$112M to services (largely frontline workers to manage 16% increase in children under care) to meet increasing demand for child protection services*

***Mandatory Reporting** - \$65million, of which \$43.9 is new funding, spread across Departments (Police, Health, Education, Child Protection). \$1 million in 2007/08, \$15million in 2008/09, \$49 million in out-years. A special unit will be established for child sexual abuse investigation, support services and the establishment of a call-centre staffed by qualified professionals.*

***Working with Children Checks** \$19.4million for Working with Children Screening*

***New Community Services Child Protection Advisory Group** The establishment comprised of up to 12 leaders in the community services sector and 4 Department Staff – no funds committed*

Aboriginal

The list of Aboriginal recommendations included :	The Government delivered:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Aboriginal Healing Centres •Reparation for Stolen Wages •Seniors care for Aboriginal People •Accommodation for Accessing Metro Health Services •Expansion of PATS •Aboriginal Health Liaison Officers in all major WA Hospitals •Outreach Counselling Services •Expansion of Patrol Services in the Metro Area •State-wide Interpreter Services 	<p>Stolen Wages Taskforce report to Cabinet will be delivered by June 30 2008.</p> <p>OTHER COMMITMENTS</p> <p>\$38 million has been allocated over the next two years for essential service provision, such as water, power and wastewater to remote communities.</p> <p>In addition to this, expenditure of \$1.1 million over four years will enable the provision of child protection services in the Kimberley and surrounding districts, as part of the Kimberley Response.</p>

Education

We asked for:	The Government delivered:
Youth Workers in Western Australian High Schools	No apparent new funding commitments.
Primary Schools as a 'Hub' for Community Development Services	No apparent new funding commitments.
Alternative Education Programs for Young Mothers in High Schools	No apparent new funding commitments.
Human Rights Education in WA High Schools	No apparent new funding commitments.
Regional Education Needs	<p>\$16 million to complete the Fitzroy Crossing District High School.</p> <p>\$13 million on the redevelopment of Karratha Senior High School.</p> <p>Additional spending in 2008/09 to attract and retain teachers, including improvements to salary, conditions and incentives, across WA.</p>

Health

The list of Health recommendations included:	The Government delivered:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Establishment of a Primary Health Care Council •Expansion of PATS (Patients Assisted Transport Scheme) •Mental Health Unit in Broome •Mobile Mental Health Clinics •Youth Mental health Strategy and Centres •Seniors Mental Health Strategy •Improved Dental Services •Accessible, Appropriate and Effective Oral Health Care for Seniors •Men’s Health Strategy •Drug Treatment Services for Community Corrections and Prison Clients 	<p>As part of the NRA, a Preventative Healthcare Taskforce will be established in June 2008 to develop a national preventative healthcare strategy.</p> <p>Progression of the \$51 million Broome Regional Resource Centre and Mental Health Unit.</p> <p>Increased access to inpatient services, early detection of children and adolescents with mental illness and meeting demand for accommodation for people with a mental illness as part of \$87 million for Mental Health Strategy.</p> <p>Part of the NRA – Commonwealth Dental health program to wait lists by funding up to 1 million dental consultations over 3 years. This focuses on oral health services for ATSI people and those with chronic disease.</p>

Essential Services

The list of Essential Services recommendations included:	The Government delivered
<p><i>Energy and Water</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •State-Wide Energy and Water Efficiency Retrofit Programs •Utility Connection Grant Scheme •Essential Services Policy Unit <p><i>Transport</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Expand Public Transport •Increase investment in walking and cycling routes in Perth 	<p>\$6 million in new funding for public information on energy efficiency.</p> <p>\$2.13 (08/09) for low-income energy efficiency</p> <p>\$3.96 million for a Hardship Utility Grants Scheme (HUGS).</p> <p>No Essential Service Policy Unit.</p> <p>\$55 million over 4 years for 15 new 3-car trains 2 train sets to be delivered in 08/09.</p> <p>\$52 million for 96 new buses. 80 to be delivered in 08/09.</p> <p>\$1.2 million to extend peak hour bus services.</p> <p>No apparent increase to funding of PBN.</p> <p>\$25.5 million to be spent on extending dual use paths on Mitchell Fwy and new Perth-Bunbury Hwy.</p> <p>No apparent increase to funding for alternative transport promotion.</p>

Financial Support

We asked for:	The Government delivered:
A Cost of Living (COL) Index – to inform monetary and social policy	No apparent new funding commitments.
<p>Financial Counsellors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Increase funding to Financial Counselling service providers. •Increase funding to enable the Financial Counsellors to collect information regarding increases to demand for services, recruitment, retention and training 	<p>Additional funding for Financial Counselling services of \$2.2 million as a part of \$3.96 million Utility Hardship Scheme.</p> <p>No apparent new funding commitments.</p>
<p>Co-ordination Unit for Emergency Relief Providers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •That the Government provide funding for a Co-ordination Unit for Emergency Relief Providers in WA. 	No apparent new funding commitments.
<p>Review of State Government Concessions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Undertake a comprehensive review of State concessions to examine the accessibility, equity and adequacy of state concessions. 	No apparent new funding commitments.

THANKYOU