

The Emerging Issues Forum is our principal strategic event held each year. It provides analysis of the trends and issues emerging in WA's community services sector, which then informs the service and strategic planning needs of the executives and boards of community service providers into the future.

Economic

Precarious Work & the Gig Economy

Increasing casualisation of the workforce. Gig workers falling outside industrial relations protections. Need for a fit-for-purpose 21st Century social safety net.

Retirement Income Sustainability & Inequality

Proportion of those of working age vs in retirement is declining, proportion over 85 years rising. Increasing superannuation expenditure benefitting highest income earners. Women at risk.

Community Sector Gender Wage Gap

Gender wage gap in Health Care & Social Assistance increased from 14.7 to 15.7% for full-time workers and from 0.9 to 2.0% for part-time workers. Our sector is going backwards.

The Care Economy

Recent research shows that (including indirect and induced effects) investing 2% of GDP in Australia would create 613,597 new jobs and a rise in the employment rate by 4.0 per cent.

Federal Politics

The Coming Federal Election

Joint House of Reps/half-Senate election must be held between 4 August 2018 and 18 May 2019.

Emerging Points of Difference

Corporate tax cuts vs closing taxation loopholes and removing breaks.

The New Crossbench

The 'Bradbury' Senate: Fraser Anning, Tim Storer, Steve Martin.

State Politics

The Honeymoon is Over

Public backlash to cuts and closures. Rhetoric of place-based reform vs reality of business-as-usual.

Machinery of Government Reform

Implementation still ongoing, how long until benefits are likely to be seen? 7-10 years in NSW.

Beyond Austerity?

Some good outcomes impossible without investment, leading to more costs in the long-term.



Social

Poverty, Vulnerability & Children

Significant increases for child poverty rates for single parent households post-Welfare to Work, rising to 31.8% in 2015.

Closing the Gaps

Lack of progress in closing gaps for Aboriginal people in health, justice, child protection, education, employment. Remote Indigenous housing (*NPARIH*) program still up in the air.

Regional Inclusion

Cuts to regional services like Community Resource Centres, hollowing out of community capacity.

Punitive Welfare

Harsh compliance measures and stronger penalties are counter-productive and reduce resilience.

Non-citizens

Ineligible for government support through Medicare and Centrelink. Women escaping family violence especially vulnerable.

Services

Place-based Co-design vs Risk-based Contracting

Need for consistent approach to service co-design and commissioning across government, and to build capacity in both public and community sectors to drive it.

Aboriginal Community-Controlled Services Strategy

Community agenda for Aboriginal self-determination post-Uluru statement. Need to increase role of Aboriginal community-controlled organisations and grow Aboriginal community services workforce.

Sector

A Healthy Community Service Ecosystem

A collaborative project exploring what a 'healthy' services ecosystem looks like. Principles and metrics to better measure community resilience and service system effectiveness.

Defending Advocacy

Proposed reforms to the ACNC Act and the Electoral Funding and Disclosure Legislation.

Fair and Sustainable Funding Principles

Growing gap between indexation rates for service funding and scheduled award wage increases under the Equal Remuneration Order.

Many of these issues and more will be explored in greater detail at the **WACOSS 2018 Conference Making PLACE**.

Register at www.wacossconference.org.au