

MENTAL HEALTH, ALCOHOL & OTHER DRUG SERVICES, & DISABILITY

While the State Government appears to have continued to honour its specific election commitments in state mental health and AOD services, there is little new funding. What look to be significant cuts to early intervention and prevention programs are of great concern, which have come despite the government's own Sustainable Health Review recommending a shift to prevention.

Metro Mental Health

- \$3.8 billion, over the next four years, for the Mental Health Commission to deliver mental health, alcohol and other drug priorities
- \$11.8 million to establish a Mental Health Observation Area Plus Unit at Royal Perth Hospital to support inner city mental health and AOD needs
- \$18.2 million over four years for State-wide Specialist Aboriginal Mental Health Service
- \$7.7 million Geraldton Step Up Step Down Facility will be further progressed by the Commission during 2018
- \$9 million 2018-19 \$4.4 million 2019-20 Kalgoorlie/ Goldfields Step Up Step Down 10 beds-operational in 2020
- \$10.5 million Karratha Step Up Step Down facility

Additional spending on the State-wide Aboriginal Mental Health program and commitment to funding the Geraldton Step Up Step Down facility welcome. Concerns, however, about 41% cut in spending on prevention programs over the next two years. We expect future budgets to demonstrate that the 10 Year Mental Health Plan will be driving policy and funding decisions

Alcohol and Other Drugs

- \$16 million from 2018-19 to 2021-22 early intervention and severe dependence
- \$9.3 million to fast track 33 more AOD rehabilitation beds in the South West
- \$12.8 million for the North West Drug and Alcohol Support Program
- Additional \$4.5 million from 2018-19 to 2020-22 AOD workforce
- \$0.2 million 2017-18 to identify, plan and address AOD treatment gaps in the Kimberly-Consultation to begin later in 2018
- \$0.4 in 2018-19 Preventing and Reducing Methamphetamine Related Harm (see Justice & Corrective Services Fact Sheet)

Funding for AOD election commitments through redirections of exiting services and resources such as Royalties for Regions with little additional funds for AOD services. Notably is a lack of commitment to fund Aboriginal Residential Treatment Services.



2018/19 BUDGET BRIEFING

NDIS

- \$20.3 million to facilitate transition to the NDIS
- \$14.5 million to facilitate the transition of the workforce, 200 people expected to transferring to the NDIA over the transitional period

The \$34.8 million NDIS disability workforce transition and sector development package over the next two years is welcome, however WACOSS notes there are significant workforce capability needs which could be alleviated by the waiving of fees for training in key growing NDIS workforce development areas. Further, there is a notable absence of NDIS sector development funds being allocated to the capacity building of people with disabilities for peer support, advocacy, and peer-led information and referrals.