

REGIONAL INVESTMENTS

Royalties for Regions

Diverse service delivery and infrastructure investments across WA, \$4 billion to 2021-22 via the Royalties for Regions Program

Community Resources

- Upgrades to **hospitals and health** campuses, including \$73.3 million for Geraldton, \$5 million for Tom Price, and \$4.4 million for Peel
- **Medihotels** have been flagged in the budget, but not costed. These will be important facilities for regional patients travelling to the Perth for health care, and will go some way to reducing the costs of accommodation and community relief that metropolitan services provide to them. The first Medihotel is due for completion in 2021
- **Pilbara Aboriginal Town Reserves**, \$8.3 million injection over forward estimates
- Funding for **Essential and Municipal Services Upgrade** in 10 remote communities as part of the Regional Services Reform commitments. In 2018-19 there will be \$25m for construction and contaminated site remediation, a further \$25 million for construction in 2019-20
- 40% reduction in funding for **Community Resource Centres**, from \$13 million to \$8 million across forward estimates, which will have a profound impact on the ability of CRCs to cover operational costs. This is contrary to government's stated drive for enhancing regional economies, creating local jobs, and improving social outcomes, and a lost opportunity to leverage from an existing and important community resource
- \$500 00 upgrade of **aged care facilities in Collie**
- Additional \$82.3 million for **Government Regional Officer Housing** properties across regional WA

Services

- Additional \$18.2 million approved for a permanent service as part of the 2017-18 review to continue delivery of the **State-wide Specialist Aboriginal Mental Health Service (SSAMHS)** from 2018-19 to 2020-21, providing culturally secure specialised services to Aboriginal people with severe and persistent mental illness in the community across Western Australia
- \$1.6 million towards **Regional Men's Health program**
- \$182.3 million over four years for the **Patient Assisted Transport Scheme**
- Department of Communities reports \$447,000 expenditure of a Mental Health Commission grant for a **Youth Supported Accommodation Assistance Program**, but there is no allocation for the coming year or future years – Yet to be confirmed if this indicates discontinuation of a program
- \$16 million to continue investment in **Aboriginal Rangers Program** from 2017-18
- \$6 million for **Aboriginal Community Patrols Program**
- \$1.1 million for **Kimberley Family Violence Service**, for 2018-19 only
- Additional \$260 million per annum for **regional court administration and regional prisons**, with the aim to ensure offenders can be rehabilitated closer to their community (*see Justice Fact Sheet*)

- New **women's refuge** in the Peel region and refurbishment of Collie properties for **crisis and transitional accommodation** (see Family and Domestic Violence Fact Sheet)
- Additional \$7.5 million for **alcohol and other drug rehabilitation and treatment services** in the South West
- Ongoing funding for **mental health services committed to in 2017-18**, including drug and alcohol support in the North West, a step up/step down facility in Kalgoorlie, and sub-acute services in Bunbury and Karratha (*see Mental health & AoD Fact Sheet*)

Other

- Significant focus on job creation and economic growth
- Changes to **Regional Development Commissions** grants – Significant cuts to Community Chest Scheme and Regional Grants Scheme, from \$5.3 million to \$0.1 million and \$18 million to \$1.2 million respectively, and nothing beyond 2018-19. These are important sources of funding for local community initiatives and infrastructure - It is as yet unclear from the budget papers whether they are absorbed into the new regional Economic Development Grants

Integrated Regional Services

The Kimberley and Pilbara have been chosen as pilot sites to implement integrated and autonomous service reforms, aimed at ensuring longer term systemic change that improves the outcomes for Aboriginal people living in regional and remote WA. This includes the North West Aboriginal Housing Fund, as follows -

- To help improve a broad range of life outcomes, the North-West Aboriginal Housing Fund (the Fund) will provide new housing options and intensive support for Aboriginal families to help increase participation in education and employment. The Department is working in partnership with Aboriginal people and organisations to co-design and deliver a range of projects that are tailored to local needs and focused on wellbeing and empowerment. All projects will be required to meet the Fund's minimum Aboriginal employment target of 40% in the Kimberley and 20% in the Pilbara, and will create jobs and facilitate local Aboriginal apprenticeships and traineeships.

Remote Indigenous Housing

The current **National Partnership on Remote Housing** (NPRH) agreement expires on 30 June 2018, and the State is currently negotiating its renewal. This program addresses the critical housing needs of Aboriginal people in remote communities, with a focus on service delivery and creating employment and business opportunities. The omission of ongoing funds allocated to the NPRH in the Federal budget, with the exception of a grant for the Northern Territory, is of great concern.

The State will continue to support existing housing in remote communities, presumably through the continuation of the **North West Aboriginal Housing Fund**, but has explicitly stated that there is no commitment to new builds despite the Fund's mention of new housing options. Further to this, there is mention within DPC Assets of a payment of \$30 million from the Browse Liquefied Natural Gas Trust Account, \$20 million of which will go to *establishing* an Indigenous Housing Fund. It remains unclear how this differs from the existing North West Aboriginal Housing Fund.