

ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUG SERVICES

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While the budget includes some additional funding investment across prevention, treatment, harm reduction, and workforce development, it remains critical to ensure referral pathways are strengthened and service access is streamlined for people in crisis.

The most significant investments occur in the Meth Action Plan. Initiatives of the \$42.5M package will include,

- \$4.83M to establish a 10-bed crisis centre in Midland
- \$200K towards planning for short-term safe places for compulsory critical intervention
- \$200K to plan for the expansion of the award-winning Mental Health Police Co-Response model to regional areas and to include support for alcohol and other drug issues
- \$9.2M towards election commitment of the development of a comprehensive alcohol and other drug youth service in the Kimberley
- \$2.34M for four low medical withdrawal beds in the Kimberley
- \$631K to expand the existing Transitional Housing and Support Program, which will assist an additional 20 people each year
- \$20.1M towards the North West Drug and Alcohol Support Program
- \$914K for alcohol and other drug training for Aboriginal workers through the Strong Spirit Strong Mind program
- \$614K towards alcohol and other drug training for frontline workers such as psychologists, social workers and counsellors
- \$457K for the Meth Peer Education Program which focuses on harm reduction and health promotion
- \$1.05M for alcohol and other drug education programs in schools with a focus on at-risk students
- \$1.52M to expand the needle syringe exchange program in high-demand regional areas including the Great Southern and Bunbury
- \$300K to expand the Hepatitis WA nurse-led program which supports GPs to provide brief interventions to meth users
- \$150K towards raising awareness of the community Needle Syringe Exchange Programs

FOETAL ALCOHOL SPECTRUM DISORDER

WACOSS is very concerned that there does not appear to be specified funding for early intervention, prevention or support for Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, for children, people and families living with this FASD. This despite substantial evidence of the significant impact of FASD on life outcomes, and the long-term costs to Government in other areas including health, education, child protection and justice.