

Annual Report Snapshot

2023 2024

WACOSS strives for an inclusive, just and equitable society.

We advocate for social change to improve the wellbeing of Western Australians and to strengthen the community services sector that supports them.

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Media Statements

RBA Interest Rate Decision: Pause gives no relief to struggling households	Response to the Voice to Parliament Referendum outcome	New report reveals profound strengths and challenges among disadvantaged Aboriginal families	WACOSS welcomes mid-year budget review allocations	Communities sector at breaking point as underfunding cripples capacity
Amended indexation rate welcomed by community services sector	WACOSS, Shelter WA welcome \$24m Rent Relief Program	WACOSS welcomes carers relief package	WACOSS welcomes State Govt's \$47.6m funding package	Communities sector welcomes 2024-25 state budget
WACOSS launches Understanding My Voice Campaign	Community peaks welcome short-term rental reforms	Cost of living a clear and persistent threat to WA livelihoods	Community sector welcomes massive boost for housing and homelessness	State wage increase to deliver much needed relief

Events

Emerging Issues Forum Webinar 2023	The Voice Information Session with COTA WA	State Budget Submission Launch	Looking through an Aboriginal Lens: Results of the Ngalang Moort Wangkiny Project (100 Families WA) Report Launch	Feeling the Heat: Stories and Strategies for WA's Rising Temperatures
Voice to Parliament Information Session	State Budget Submission Consultations	In Conversation with Dr Richard Denniss	New Year Sector Breakfast	Utility Support Forum

Webinars

Supporting Young Women to Thrive	Communities will have conflict. How can we lessen the pain?	What Matters in the Regions: In Conversation with Dr Richard Denniss	Emerging Issues Forum 2024	State Budget Briefing
Women's Economic Security	Disaster Ready Fund - Applying for Funding to Reduce Disaster Risk and Prepare for Disasters in WA	Advocacy Toolkit	Responsive Budgeting: In conversation with Emeritus Professor Siobhan Austen and Micaela Driberg	

Reports and Publications

Sustainable Funding Survey Report 2024	State Budget Submission 2024-2025	Cost of Living Report 2023	Looking through an Aboriginal Lens: Results of the Ngalang Moort Wangkiny Project (100 Families Western Australia)	Lived Experience Framework - Principles and Practices for Lived Experience Partnerships (revised for 2024)
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A message from the President and CEO

This year we have had both successes, and faced great challenges.

The second half of 2023 brought deep disappointment, when the Voice to Parliament Referendum failed in all states, and in the Northern Territory. After months campaigning in support of Yes, it was a shocking loss, but reaffirmed our strong commitment to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and people, and we will continue to walk beside them in the vital work ahead.

Staff travelled widely across Western Australia this year, meeting with our members in the sector and talking directly about their contributions on the ground.

The cost-of-living crisis, alongside the housing crisis in this state, is incredibly challenging for people on the lowest incomes. After three years of unsustainably high costs and low wage growth, we are seeing Western Australians without the financial reserves, missing out on the essentials – nutritious meals, safe and affordable housing, and parents have very real concerns for their children’s futures.

There has been some reprieve from the State Government, to ease the worsening crisis, with major rental reforms and housing and homelessness funding. But we really need to see fairer and better targeting to ensure measures are concentrated on families and individuals who need it the most.

When our sector collaborates, we are powerful, and our members’ incredible work is a source of inspiration and hope.

Tackling the big issues of our time is not easy. It requires ambition and bravery to rise above politics, to make real, impactful changes.

We hope you enjoy this snapshot and encourage you to read our full Annual Report via the QR code over page.

Louise Giolitto
Chief Executive Officer

Mark Glasson
President

Campaigns We Support



Alcohol fuels many harms campaign



Advocacy Wins

The work we do is ongoing and often takes years to achieve. It requires sustained effort by dedicated individuals and organisations, to overcome the systemic barriers that stop access to basic human rights and services. We are stronger together, and collaborative policy development and advocacy are at the heart of what we do.



Rent Relief and Rental Reform

- Support for tenants in rental arrears
- Short term accommodation reforms
- Rental increases limited to once per year
- Minor modifications allowed
- Further advocacy required for no-grounds evictions

15 per cent uplift in **Child Sexual Abuse Therapeutic Services funding**

One-off payments in a **Carer's Relief Package**

Significant **reform and protections of the Electricity Code of Conduct** for water customers in hardship, with access to fee-free payment plans and free paper billing

26 per cent uplift for **Homelessness Services**

State Minimum Wage increase of 6.3 per cent, and 4 per cent for award-based pay in our **State Wage Case**

\$400 million funding boost to **Social and Affordable Housing Investment Fund**

Gender Reassignment Board Abolished

Social Prescribing Project supported Amity Health to receive a \$1.5 million grant

Submissions

During the year we wrote a range of submissions to various Government committees, hearings and reviews, representing members’ needs and priorities across a range of policy positions.

Adopting Artificial Intelligence

Access Arrangement for the Mid-West and South-West Gas Distribution System

A Stronger More Diverse Community Sector

Compendium of Gas Customer Licence Obligations

Department of Training and Workforce Development’s new Strategic Plan

Early Years Strategy Discussion Paper

Evidence Bill 2024 (WA), Exposure Draft

Feasibility study on options to limit unhealthy food marketing to children: Policy options for public consultation

Firearms Act Reform (WA)

Independent Review of Commonwealth Disaster Funding

Inquiry into the Worsening Rental Crisis in Australia

National Care and Support Economy Strategy 2023

National Women’s Health Advisory Council End Gender Bias Survey

Options available to survivors of institutional child sexual abuse in Western Australia who are seeking justice

Perth and Peel Urban Greening Strategy

Provision of and Access to Dental Services in Australia

Response to the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability

Supermarket Prices

WA Emergency Management Sector Adaptation Plan

WA Health Sector Adaptation Plans

WA State Wage Case

Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy 2023