

## Digital Inclusion

The State Government's continued investment into ICT infrastructure and enhancements across government departments through its Digital Capability Fund includes development and implementation of some new electronic record and document management systems, and enhancements or replacements of others across government departments. New initiatives funded in this year's budget include virtual health services, and digital applications for a digital curfew check-in for young people with curfew bail conditions.

While continued investment into ICT infrastructure and enhancements across government services and management systems is needed, there is no investment into supporting digital inclusion initiatives within communities. This means that digitally excluded people in the state are at risk of being further left behind as essential and mandated government services continue to move to digital spaces.

### WA Labor 2025 Election Commitments

<b>Election Commitment</b>	<b>Youth Crime Bail Reform Package</b>
<b>Status</b>	<i>Funded (BP2, V2, P413-414 &amp; BP3, P138)</i>
<b>Investment</b>	<b>\$13.5 million over 3 years for the Children's Court in Armadale including \$4.2 million to repurpose the old Armadale Courthouse \$1 million to develop a digital curfew check-in application for young people with curfew bail conditions</b>
<b>Description</b>	The Government will invest \$14.5 million (\$10.3 million recurrent and \$4.2 million capital) to progress the Youth Crime Bail Reform Package election commitment, with work commencing to repurpose and operate the Old Armadale Courthouse as a Children's Court and to develop an application for electronic curfew check-in of young people with bail conditions. The Department has commenced associated work on reforms to fast-track trials before the Children's Court and ensure bail decisions for violent young offenders can be reviewed immediately.
<b>Implications</b>	<i>There are continued expert concerns about the practicality of fast-tracking trials, extra funding for one Children's Court alone will not enable a significant reduction in sentencing times, as trial times are influenced by the capacity of police, prosecution, and defensive legal teams, not just court capacity. There is evidence that electronic monitoring has a net widening effect, rather than increasing numbers successfully bailed, those who would already be bailed could be monitored. Further, there are challenges around digital inclusion, such as access to or ability to afford a digital device, including mobile devices, and connectivity for young people engaged with the justice system, especially those in regional, rural, and remote regions.</i>

## Other Significant Investments

<b>Initiative</b>	<b>Older Adult Care Hubs and WA Virtual Emergency Department Expansion</b>
<b>Investment</b>	<b>\$60.5 million over 4 years</b> (BP1, P13 & BP2, V1, P303, P305 & BP3, P4, P97, P122-123)
<b>Description</b>	<p>The Government has committed a total of \$60.5 million over 2025-26 to 2028-29 to expand the WA Virtual ED (WAVED) initiative, incorporating a new partnership with Healthdirect Australia to allow referral of telehealth services to WAVED, a new 'WAVED for Kids' paediatric service for families, and direct admission to hospital in the home services.</p> <p>The Government will also launch three 'Integrated Older Adult Care Hubs' to pilot a new, nation-leading model of care that will deliver care closer to home and reduce the risk of hospitalisation for older adult patients.</p> <p>The investment will also support the continuation and expansion of the Residential Care Line, which is a nurse practitioner-led service that supports staff and older adults in Residential Aged Care Facilities to manage the care of older patients and minimise the need for transfer to acute hospital services.</p>
<b>Implications</b>	<i>Considerations around the ability to access virtual ED and related benefits for digitally excluded people.</i>

<b>Initiative</b>	<b>Virtual Infant, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service Hub</b>
<b>Investment</b>	<b>\$12.2 million over 4 years</b> (BP1, P13 & BP2, V1, P332-333 & BP3, P122, P126, P212)
<b>Description</b>	<p>Establishing the Virtual Infant, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (ICAMHS) Hub. The Virtual ICAMHS Hub will comprise of specialist practitioners who will support regional community services to respond to children with complex mental health needs.</p> <p>Part of the government's \$65 million investment to improve mental health support for WA children.</p>
<b>Implications</b>	<i>This investment will strengthen the specialist mental health support available for children in WA. However, considerations must be given to the ability to access virtual services for digitally excluded people, particularly given the prevalence of digital exclusion in regional, rural, and remote WA.</i>

<b>Initiative</b>	<b>Digital Capability Fund – Responsible Information Sharing Function</b>
<b>Investment</b>	<b>\$2 million over 3 years</b> (BP2, V1, P6, P63 & BP3, P102, P105)
<b>Description</b>	The implementation of the Privacy and Responsible Information Sharing Act 2024 is a key enabler for modern digital government. The

	Government is providing funding to the Department to fulfil its statutory functions relating to the responsible sharing of information. The Government will spend \$2 million over 2025-26 to 2028-29 for additional resources to support the Chief Data Officer to enable implementation of the responsible information sharing component of the Privacy and Responsible Information Sharing Act 2024.
<b>Implications</b>	<i>Enhanced information sharing in line with the Privacy and Responsible Information Sharing Act 2024.</i>

<b>Initiative</b>	<b>Digital Capability Fund – Public Health ICT System</b>
<b>Investment</b>	<b>\$5.7 million</b> (BP2, V1, P304 & BP3, P122, P125)
<b>Description</b>	The Government will spend \$5.7 million in 2025-26 to continue its support for the critical public health ICT systems needed to manage and prepare for future pandemics and communicable disease threats.
<b>Implications</b>	<i>Enhanced ICT systems to manage and prepare for public health issues and threats – considerations around impacts on digitally excluded people and how information is effectively communicated through digital channels.</i>

<b>Initiative</b>	<b>Digital Capability Fund – ASSIST Replacement</b>
<b>Investment</b>	<b>\$2.8 million</b> (BP3, P143, P147)
<b>Description</b>	The Government will invest an additional \$2.8 million in 2025-26, funded through the Digital Capability Fund, for a dedicated project team and consultancy work to progress procurement for the replacement of the Department’s core child protection case management system, ASSIST.
<b>Implications</b>	<i>Replacement of the case management system for child protection.</i>

<b>Initiative</b>	<b>Digital Capability Fund – Case Management System and Electronic Document and Records Management System</b>
<b>Investment</b>	<b>\$1.4 million over 3 years</b> (BP3, P103, P177)
<b>Description</b>	The Government has committed \$1.4 million over 2025-26 to 2027-28 for the implementation of an integrated Case Management and Electronic Document and Records Management System. A further \$1 million over 2025-26 to 2028-29 has also been approved as recurrent expenditure for licensing, maintenance, and support costs.
<b>Implications</b>	<i>Enhanced electronic document and records management system across government.</i>

<b>Initiative</b>	<b>Digital Capability Fund – Liquor Licensing and Compliance System Replacement</b>
<b>Investment</b>	<b>\$14.6 million over 2 years</b> (BP3, P189)

## 2025 - 2026 Budget

<b>Description</b>	The Department will spend an additional \$14.6 million over 2025-26 and 2026-27 to replace its liquor licensing and compliance system which will reach end-of-life in 2027, ensuring the continued support of the Government's liquor reform measures.
<b>Implications</b>	<i>Enhanced support of the Government's liquor reform measures.</i>