

Disability

Disability funding and system navigation remain challenging, with ongoing work still needed to negotiate the gaps between Federal (NDIS) and State service access and entitlement. There are a number of important and welcome initiatives funded in this budget.

Currently there are deep and ongoing concerns in our community about the uncertainty of funding and access to services and supports. More work is sorely needed to resolve the delivery of foundational services at the State level, along with the proposed systems and funding for early childhood inclusion initiatives. There is a long-term aspiration for all early childhood services to be inclusive, however, this is resource intensive and requires a trained and often specialised workforce.

Policy and service system redesign processes are slow and in the meantime, the uncertainty is causing significant distress for parents and people living with a disability, and children risk falling further behind in early development with life-long consequences.

WA Labor 2025 Election Commitments

Election Commitment	Reducing barriers to ADHD care
Status	<i>Funded (BP2, V1, P303)</i>
Investment	\$1.2M in grant funding
Description	<p>Attention Hyperactivity Disorder Support Services via grant to ADHD WA to improve access to services, increase awareness and support vulnerable cohorts. (BP2, V1, P305)</p> <p>\$8.2 million to pilot the 'GP ASK' model allowing General Practitioners to communicate directly with specialists on behalf of their patients, reducing unnecessary ED presentations and referrals, and increasing hospital bed capacity. (BP2, V1, P305)</p>
Implications	<p><i>This will make it cheaper and easier for families to access Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) care without needing to go to a psychiatrist or paediatrician by paving the way for GPs to diagnose ADHD and prescribe medication.</i></p> <p><i>This will be done through trialling specialist support for GPs while they expand their scope of practice.</i></p> <p><i>In addition, \$1.2 million will be provided to ADHD WA for vital support, information, and wraparound services for children and adolescents with ADHD, as well as their parents and carers – media release</i></p>

Other Significant Investments

Initiative	Contributions to the National Disability Insurance Scheme
Investment	\$163.1 million as a 1 year estimate (BP2, V1, P131 & BP3, P5 & BP2, V2, P494)
Description	A provision to provide for disputed NDIS contributions, subject to negotiations with the Commonwealth Government. Significant reform of the national disability service system is anticipated, arising from recommendations from the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) Review and Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability.
Implications	<i>This Budget assumes Western Australia will finalise its entry into the NDIS Full Scheme Agreement in 2025-26, with the State's contributions over the forward estimates updated to reflect payments under the full scheme.</i>

Initiative	Support for students with disability
Investment	\$395 million (BP2, V1, P354)
Description	Growth forecast funding to reflect student enrolment growth throughout the State, including significant increases in the number of students with disability.
Implications	<i>Investment is urgently needed to support changes in the population.</i>

Initiative	Guide Dogs WA Breeding Training Program
Investment	\$5 million over 4 years (BP2, V2, P516)
Description	The funding will support Guide Dogs WA to deliver more guide and assistance dogs through the expansion of its breeding and cadet training programs. This expands on the \$5 million grant delivered in 2021. Media release .
Implications	<i>More companion dogs will support people with low or no vision, individuals living with disability or illness, and those experiencing trauma.</i>

Initiative	Accessible Parks and Nature Play WA
Investment	\$1 million over 4 years (BP2, V2, P686 & P700)
Description	The Every Kid in a Park program will be continuing for a further four years. The Department has partnered with Nature Play WA since July 2021 to support families of children of all abilities in accessing and enjoying the national parks around Western Australia through the development of accessibility resources for families. Accessibility will be expanded beyond disability to include disadvantaged and diverse groups, such as culturally and linguistically diverse communities.
Implications	<i>Improve accessibility of public spaces to support social inclusion.</i>