

Health

Western Australia's strong population growth has increased demand for health services.

Health services within metropolitan and regional Western Australia are being delivered across 2.5 million square kilometres at more than 800 sites. The 2025-26 Budget includes a \$1.4 billion boost to the health system to address these challenges.

Health infrastructure receives an additional \$212.1 million investment through the 2025-26 State Budget, bringing the health infrastructure pipeline to [\\$3.2 billion over the next four years](#).

While there have been significant investments in the implementation of the health election commitments, there needs to be more emphasis on early intervention and prevention measures and community care options. Hopefully, the creation of a new Minister for Preventative Health will help this in future budgets.

Regional Western Australians still face longer wait times, higher costs, and extensive travel to access health services. While we welcome additional resources for the Patient Assisted Travel Scheme, we would like to see a review of PATS adequacy and more investment in community health centres. This continues to be a major concern raised in our regional consultations.

WA Labor 2025 Election Commitments

Election Commitment	\$254 Million to strengthen Emergency Care
Status	<i>Partially Funded (BP2, V1, P306)</i>
Investment	\$110m over four years*
Description	<p>Improve emergency care and tackle ambulance ramping is a long-term approach to increase health care in the community, deliver accessible services for patients outside of the traditional hospital setting, and addressing the root causes of ambulance ramping.</p> <p>This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$12.9 million to continue delivery of Community-Based Clinical and Hospital Substitution Services, providing alternative care pathways in the community that reduce avoidable hospitalisations and ED referrals, and increase hospital bed capacity; • \$5.2 million to build additional capacity for the Hospital in the Home (HITH) service. HITH provides admitted patient level care in a patient's home, reducing demand for hospital beds and unnecessary ED presentations; <p>Other areas of priority in strengthening emergency care:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An expansion of WAVED to improve care options in the community, reduce unnecessary ED presentations and increase bed capacity;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The delivery of three Older Adult Care Hubs, and other initiatives to reduce the time older Western Australians spend in the hospital and increase hospital bed capacity; • The delivery of major infrastructure projects to increase hospital capacity across Western Australia; • \$98.6 million to operationalise the Murdoch Medihotel offering a range of nursing and medical led services including support for patients that no longer require hospital care but are not yet ready to return home, which will help reduce demand for hospital beds.
Implications	<p><i>These initiatives will help to alleviate the pressure on EDs, increase bed capacity, and ensure patients' access to care.</i></p> <p><i>Some of the initiatives deliver accessible services for patients outside of the traditional hospital setting and give greater access to support from home or within the community.</i></p>

Election Commitment	\$104 million to Royal Perth Hospital Transformation
Status	<i>Partially Funded (progress planning) (B2, V1, P323)</i>
Investment	\$5 million over four years*
Description	Commence planning for the delivery of a new Royal Perth Hospital ED. (BP2, V1, P310)
Implications	<p><i>The major expansion of the ED will deliver faster access to care.</i></p> <p><i>Each year Royal Perth ED sees over 84,000 patients with more than 1,500 resuscitation cases and 500 major trauma incidents.</i></p> <p><i>This commitment to a multimillion-dollar upgrade will transform the ED and deliver more than 50 new treatment bays, a new computed tomography scanner space, a specialised mental health early treatment zone, more triage rooms, and eight extra ambulance triage bays.</i></p> <p><i>This is a significant commitment which will modernise and redevelop the ED so that RPH can continue to provide the best possible health care.</i></p>

Election Commitment	Patient Assisted Travel Scheme fuel subsidy and expansion
Status	<i>Partially Funded (BP2, V1, P303 & P305)</i>
Investment	\$18.5 million over four years*
Description	\$18.5 million to increase the Patient Assisted Travel Scheme fuel subsidy from \$0.26 per kilometre to \$0.40 per kilometre, supporting country residents required to travel to access specialist medical treatment

	Election commitment included an additional \$15.5 million to expand eligibility for the Scheme. This is absent from this Budget.
Implications	<p><i>Additional funding for the Patient Assisted Travel Scheme (PATS) will help ensure regional and remote Western Australians continue to have access to specialist health care located in regional hubs or the Perth metro region. Further funding is welcomed but is not enough to meet the high cost of accessing healthcare in regional WA, as raised in the WACOSS SBS, a review of the program is needed, as its current form is burdensome, inefficient, and not meeting people's needs.</i></p> <p>Note: There is the \$18.5m outlined in the budget increasing per km rates and a commitment of \$15.5m for an expansion of eligibility that is not in the budget. – Media release</p>

Election Commitment	\$54 million to bolster Pilbara Health services
Status	<i>Partially Funded (BP2, V1, P323)</i>
Investment	\$1 million project planning funding*
Description	<p>WA Health will progress the delivery of the following pipeline of important health initiatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expansion of facilities at the Wirraka Maya Aboriginal Health Service in South Hedland; • Establishment and expansion of renal dialysis facilities at Karratha and Geraldton, respectively; <p>Partially Funded - eight-chair renal dialysis facility and a renal hostel in Karratha (BP2, V1, P323)</p> <p>Not Funded - support Wirraka Maya Aboriginal Health Services in South Hedland. Mentioned on (BP2, V1, P310), but no amount attached or included in the New Works Election Commitments (BP2, V1, P323)</p>
Implications	<i>Investment in Aboriginal and regional health services is welcomed, however, we are concerned that no funding commitment appears to have been given (yet) for Wirraka Maya Aboriginal Health Services.</i>

Election Commitment	Reducing barriers to ADHD care
Status	<i>Funded, (BP2, V1, P303)</i>
Investment	\$1.2M in grant funding
Description	Attention Hyperactivity Disorder Support Services via grant to ADHD WA to improve access to services, increase awareness and support vulnerable cohorts. (BP2, V1, p305)

	\$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)
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>

Election Commitment	Kimberley health service upgrades - \$30,000,000
Status	<i>Partially Funded (BP2, V2, P332)</i>
Investment	\$10.8 million
Description	<p>\$10.8 million for key Kimberley Health initiatives, including \$8.8 million to deliver the Derby Wellness Centre and \$2 million to progress planning for a low-medium alcohol and other drug withdrawal facility in Broome;</p> <p>\$3.4 million for the Dampier Peninsula Clinics Transition to Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Services; and</p> <p>\$829,000 for the purchase of land to enable the construction of the Broome Sobering Up Centre.</p>
Implications	<i>These initiatives are warmly welcomed.</i>

Election Commitment	\$17.3 Million uplift to Women's Health Centres
Status	<i>Partially Funded (BP2, V1, P306)</i>
Investment	\$2.5 million
Description	<p>\$2.5 million (including \$1.3 million in capital funding) to support the establishment of a dedicated Sexual Health Quarters Day Procedure Centre at the Cockburn Health Clinic. (BP2, V1, P306)</p> <p>Women's Community Health Services: Kimberley Women's Health Program funded for \$3.1 million over four years – unclear if this is part of the election commitment to funding WHC or in addition. (BP3, P222)</p>
Implications	<p><i>The Centre at the Cockburn Health Clinic will provide affordable, accessible, and timely surgical and medical abortion care and other reproductive services.</i></p> <p><i>Seeking clarification of the Kimberley WHC funding.</i></p>

	<p><i>It was disappointing to note the absence of full investment in women's community-based health services that was committed to at the election, and we are seeking clarification of the commitment to fully fund the program in the next Budget.</i></p>
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Response from Women's Centre for Safety and Wellbeing (WCSW) when the election announcement was made: <https://csw.org.au/2025/02/11/response-to-wa-labors-womens-health-announcement/>