

## Justice

*This budget brings a welcome injection of funds into youth rehabilitation in the community. Ongoing investment in the rollout of the new Model of Care and Crisis Care units within Banksia Hill is critical to improving conditions and ending the crisis within youth detention. These investments show a promising commitment from the government to improve outcomes for children and young people in the justice system.*

*However, these new investments in community diversion are just a drop in the ocean by comparison to what is spent on prisons, just 4.1% of the \$1 billion annual spend on prisons. WA has the highest number of people incarcerated ever in our history. Funding for prison expansions is particularly concerning when not matched by significant reinvestment of funding to respond to the socio-economic root causes of offending, and when several proposed law reforms will have a net widening effect- driving up prison populations unsustainably.*

*While overcrowding in adult prisons is a significant human rights issue, especially in Hakea where 4 people at a time are sleeping in cells originally designed for 1 person, there are 128 beds that could be made available immediately if the WA government enacted its promise to Close Unit 18 and transfer all children out of a maximum-security adult prison.*

*A decrease in funding to the lifesaving Custody Notification Service is a matter of serious concern at a time when we are seeing more deaths in custody of Aboriginal people across the country. Ensuring culturally safe, anti-discriminatory services is critical to Closing the Gap.*

*It is clearer than ever that WA desperately needs a connected vision, and whole of government strategies regarding justice so we can provide help earlier in communities when people are at risk of offending - before a cycle of crime and incarceration begins.*

### **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)</i>
<b>Investment</b>	<b>Armadale Children’s Court (\$9.29 million over 4 years); Electronic Curfew Technology (\$1 million, 25/26); Old Armadale Courthouse refurbished (\$4.2 million)</b>
<b>Description</b>	\$14.5 million (\$10.3 million recurrent and \$4.2 million capital) to progress the Youth Crime Bail Reform Package election commitment, including repurposing the Old Armadale Courthouse as a Children’s Court and to develop electronic curfew checking of young people on bail, and reforms to fast-track trials 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.</i>
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<b>Election Commitment</b>	<b>Diversions Initiatives</b>
<b>Status</b>	<i>Funded (BP2, V1, P304 &amp; BP2, V2, P414, P494) (BP2, V2, P413) (BP2, V2, P400, P401, P409)</i>
<b>Investment</b>	<b>On Track to Thrive (\$6.8 million over 2 years); Kimberley Juvenile Justice Strategy (\$7.28 million, 25/26); Western Desert Justice Program (\$550,000, 25/26); Kununurra Night Space (\$5.4 million over 3 years); Police and Community Youth Centres (\$7.7 million over 2 years); SafeSPACE Program (\$5 million over 2 years)</b>
<b>Description</b>	A suite of programs and initiatives including placed based and cultural activities consisting of: On Track to Thrive, Western Desert Justice Program, Kimberley Juvenile Justice Strategy, Kununurra Safe Night Space, and PCYC SafeSPACE programs, intended to divert young people from entering or engaging the criminal justice system.
<b>Implications</b>	<i>Welcomed initiatives that seek to address the root causes of crime in young people’s lives and diverting them from the cycle of incarceration. We would like to see further and more long-term funding for such programs, connected by an overarching strategy that crosses siloes.</i>

<b>Election Commitment</b>	<b>Regional Police Officer Recruitment</b>
<b>Status</b>	<i>Funded (BP2, V2, P401)</i>
<b>Investment</b>	<b>\$15.6 million for the redevelopment of the former residential accommodation at the Western Australia Police Academy.</b>
<b>Description</b>	The redevelopment will support the provision of free residential accommodation for regional police recruits during the six-month training period and during subsequent assignments to Perth.
<b>Implications</b>	<i>Increasing the likelihood of regional people joining the Police Force will secure regional police services and may increase connections and relationships for police officers and the communities they serve, which could improve outcomes long term.</i>

<b>Election Commitment</b>	<b>Curb anti-social behaviour and hooning</b>
<b>Status</b>	<i>Funded (BP2, V2, P400, P401, P406, P407, P409)</i>
<b>Investment</b>	<b>CCTV (\$2.3 million 25-26), Hooning (\$18.9 million over 4 years), Hooning, CCTV and Retail Barring Package (\$1.8 million)</b>
<b>Description</b>	Investment of \$22.5 million targets hoons and anti-social behaviour with CCTV and \$1.8 million to fund the implementation of a Road Policing Technology Strategy, which will focus on high-risk offenders through an intelligence-driven and tech-supported enforcement plan.
<b>Implications</b>	<i>This is likely to have a net widening effect and will increase convictions for people hooning. Although it is possible it will have some deterrent effect, without addressing behavioural causes, it will not necessarily decrease the amount of hooning in the community.</i>

**Other Significant Investments**

<b>Initiative</b>	<b>Youth Detention</b>
<b>Investment</b>	<b>Therapeutic Model of Care (\$20.3 million over 4 years); Stage 1 - New Youth Detention Facility (\$8.6 million, 25/26) (BP2, V2, P413, P414)</b>
<b>Description</b>	The model of care investment will provide additional health staff for a new crisis care unit, additional case management staff to facilitate individualised rehabilitation and reintegration care, and an expansion of Aboriginal cultural security initiatives. \$2.7 million spend on planning and \$8.7 million spend on stage 1 of a high security facility for young individuals with "highly complex needs".
<b>Implications</b>	<i>Ongoing investment in the rollout of the new Model of Care and Crisis Care units within Banksia Hill detention centre are critical to improving conditions and meeting the needs of incredibly at-risk children and young people and have been instrumental to ending the crisis within youth detention that has plagued the government since 2021. These investments show promising commitment from the government to improve outcomes for children and young people in the justice system.</i>
<b>Initiative</b>	<b>Access to Justice</b>
<b>Investment</b>	<b>National Access to Justice Partnership 2025-2030 (\$158.5 million over 4 years) (BP2, V2, P414)</b>
<b>Description</b>	To ensure access to justice for vulnerable members of the community, the Department will spend an additional \$39.9 million in 2025-26 on grants to community legal services, including community legal centres and Aboriginal and Torres Strait legal services. This complements funding secured from the Commonwealth through the agreement.

## 2025 - 2026 Budget

<b>Implications</b>	<i>The state budget communications are misleading on community legal services. Dept Justice has confirmed that this is <u>not</u> additional funding – it was previously announced and is funding from the Commonwealth &amp; State that hadn't previously been reflected in the state budget.</i>
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<b>Initiative</b>	<b>Casuarina Prison Expansion</b>
<b>Investment</b>	<b>\$100.5 million over 2 years (BP2, V2, P425)</b>
<b>Description</b>	\$8.7 million in 2025-26 to complete Stage 1. \$83.5 million in 2025-26 to continue delivery of the Casuarina Prison Expansion Stage 2, to manage the rising population and up to 1,900 prisoners across the Prison. Further \$8.3 million will be invested in 25- 26 for additional beds across custodial estate.
<b>Implications</b>	<i>Overcrowding is unsafe for both staff and people incarcerated. Rehabilitation in these conditions is extremely difficult. While new beds will alleviate this short term; Increasing community-based alternatives and law reform to reduce unnecessary incarceration would reduce overcrowding and allow the government to spend more in areas of need. 128 beds could be made available immediately if the government enacted its promise to close Unit 18 and return all children to Banksia Hill.</i>

<b>Initiative</b>	<b>Roebourne Regional Prison</b>
<b>Investment</b>	<b>Air-conditioning and electrical upgrades (\$4.5 million, 25/26) (BP2, V2, P426)</b>
<b>Description</b>	\$4.5 million to complete the installation of air-conditioning and electrical upgrades in mainstream accommodation units to support prisoner welfare at Roebourne Regional Prison
<b>Implications</b>	<i>Disappointing that installation of air-conditioning has stretched out over another financial year (originally identified in 22/23), meaning another summer in these conditions. We hope to see the final completion of this project, and health and safety of the population prioritised.</i>

<b>Initiative</b>	<b>Custody Notification Service</b>
<b>Investment</b>	<b>\$2.185 million over 4 years (BP2, V2, P414)</b>
<b>Description</b>	The CNS is a phone service operating 24/7 for Aboriginal people in WA who are detained by police, aiming to prevent deaths in custody, harm suffered, and infringement of legal rights.
<b>Implications</b>	<i>It is disappointing to see a decrease in funding to the lifesaving CNS. This is a matter of significant concern at a time when we are seeing more deaths in custody of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, across</i>

	<i>the country and in Western Australia. Responding to discrimination and ensuring WA has culturally safe services is critical to Closing the Gap.</i>
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<b>Initiative</b>	<b>Justice Reform Initiatives</b>
<b>Investment</b>	<b>\$10.8 million over 2 years</b> (BP2, V2, P414)
<b>Description</b>	The progression of certain government legislative reforms, including criminalisation of the online publication of material relating to offending behaviour ("Post and Boast Law").
<b>Implications</b>	<i>Increasing criminalisation of offences that target children and young people fails to address the underlying causes of offending and will see more children as young as ten incarcerated.</i>

<b>Initiative</b>	<b>Target 120</b>
<b>Investment</b>	<b>25-26 \$11.289 million</b> (BP2, V2, P494, P495, P509)
<b>Description</b>	Target 120 is an early intervention program for young people at risk of repeat offending and engagement with the justice system. The Department of Justice provides regular program monitoring as well as more in-depth data analysis.
<b>Implications</b>	<i>Target 120 has been funded for another year, but there is no funding in the out years for the continuation of the program. We are concerned about the future of this program.</i>