



Budget Briefing Pack 2022/23

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This Budget Briefing Pack compiles key investments and initiatives in this year's State Budget. To access the full Budget papers, visit www.ourstatebudget.wa.gov.au.

Media Release

Thursday 12 May 2022

More Targeted Measures Needed to Address Cost of Living Pressures for Struggling WA Families

The Western Australian Council of Social Service has welcomed measures in this year's state budget to address rising cost of living pressures, expand family and domestic violence support, provide essential services in remote Aboriginal communities, and invest in early intervention and prevention programs for at-risk youth.

The Premier rightly identified cost of living pressures as the major issue for Western Australian households, however, the impact of the rising cost of essential goods and services varies greatly across our community, with a growing number of WA households really struggling to get by.

WACOSS CEO Louise Giolitto said stretched community services continue to call for more to support frontline services and help those WA families who have fallen below the poverty line.

"With petrol prices back above \$2 a litre, interest rates rising and wages going backwards in real terms, WA families have never had it so tough," Ms Giolitto said.

"While the \$400 Household Electricity Credit will help ease the pain on power bills for all Western Australians, we believe there should also be more help targeted to those on lower incomes who are doing it toughest.

"The \$455m invested in the electricity credit has the benefit of assisting low-income working families, who otherwise miss out on state concessions. Community services are encouraging those wealthier households who don't need help to make a matching donation to a local charity providing relief to those living in poverty.

"We are really pleased to see some much-needed investment in housing and homeless measures. This includes \$350m for remote housing construction, refurbishment and essential services in Aboriginal communities, new mid-range inner-city Keystart packages, and tax incentives for build-to-rent developments to increase overall rental supply in the medium term.

"This budget makes a significant investment into evidence-based programs that support vulnerable people in the community.

"It is welcome to see the WA Government investing in critical early intervention measures that will support children to remain safely at home, including the \$23.9 million extra funding to expand successful programs like the Early Intervention and Family Support strategy.

"The extra \$18.6m uplift to existing out-of-home care services within the community to ensure they deliver the best possible care is also welcomed.

"Ensuring that women, children and young people who are survivors of family violence have access to a safe space in their community for shelter and support will be supported through the opening of a third FDV hub in Armadale, and plans for a fourth hub in the Kimberley.

"Additional resources are still needed to ensure that existing FDV services can continue at the same level while the service system is being reformed. There is a very real risk that some organisations may have to cut some services despite growing demand.

“We are pleased to see continued investment from the McGowan Government in new youth justice initiatives. The \$11.1m expansion of the Target 120 program across Regional WA shows that this Government is committed to funding evidence-based early intervention and prevention programs to keep young people out of our justice system.

“The commitment to build an on-country residential centre for young offenders in the Kimberley will make a massive difference for young people who get caught up in the justice system and hopefully help to break that cycle for many.

“Although we are now well and truly down the path towards living with COVID-19, it is encouraging to see the McGowan Government future-proofing against further outbreaks, by setting aside \$1.6 billion to improve health and monitoring systems, as well as securing more Rapid Antigen Tests and Personal Protective Equipment.

“Additional investments are needed that respond to the disproportionate social and economic impacts of COVID-19 on women and young people, through targeted measures that address women’s economic security and young people’s material and emotional wellbeing. As we work through the detail, we hope a portion of these resources will go to community organisations who are financially stretched and continue to provide supports to the most vulnerable in our communities.

“While the 2022-23 State Budget continues the McGowan Government’s strong record of investment in early intervention and prevention measures and provides some relief to WA households through the electricity credit, it falls short in providing targeted relief to lower income people and those who have been doing it toughest over the last two years of the pandemic.

“We look forward to working with the government as we continue to recover from the pandemic and ensure that the most vulnerable in our community are not left behind.”

Household fees and charges

The McGowan Government has once again opted to offer an electricity credit to Western Australian households. While this measure will help to ease the pain of power bills, it is not targeted to those families who are doing it toughest. Given another record surplus of \$5.7 billion in this year's budget, more could have been done to improve cost of living pressures for low income households through concession arrangements.

Table 8.7

ESTIMATED IMPACT ON THE 'REPRESENTATIVE' HOUSEHOLD

	2021-22 \$ level	% change	\$ change	2022-23 \$ level
Motor Vehicles ^(a)				
Vehicle licence charge	399.56	3.8	15.36	414.92
Recording fee	10.30	–	–	10.30
Driver's licence	88.10	6.4	5.60	93.70
Motor Injury Insurance (MII)	416.00	2.4	10.10	426.10
Total	913.96	3.4	31.06	945.02
Utility Charges ^(b)				
Electricity ^(c)	1,768.30	2.5	44.22	1,812.52
\$400 Household Electricity Credit ^(d)	n/a	n/a	-400.00	-400.00
Water, wastewater, and drainage ^{(e)(f)}	1,759.79	2.5	43.92	1,803.71
Total	3,528.09	-8.8	-311.86	3,216.23
Public Transport ^(g)				
Student fares ^(h)	280.00	–	–	280.00
Standard fares ⁽ⁱ⁾	1,128.96	2.0	23.04	1,152.00
Total	1,408.96	1.6	23.04	1,432.00
Emergency Services Levy (ESL) ^(f)	283.09	5.0	14.17	297.26
Stamp Duty ^(j)				
Stamp duty on general insurance ^(k)	203.50	–	–	203.50
Stamp duty on MII	42.61	–	–	42.61
Total	246.11	–	–	246.11
Total Expenditure	6,380.21	-3.8	-243.59	6,136.62

Initiative	Household fees and charges
Investment	
Description	Electricity tariffs, water tariffs and public transport fares to rise by 2.5 per cent in 2022-23, and in line with forecast inflation thereafter. Car registration will rise by 3.8 per cent, driver's license fees will rise by 6.4 per cent and the emergency services levy will rise by 5 per cent.
Implications	The increase in household fees and charges remains below WA's 7.6 inflation rate which, when the \$400 electricity credit is taken into account, results in a net decrease of \$243.59 or 3.8 per cent for the 'average household' on the last financial year.

Initiative	Household Electricity Credit
Investment	\$445 million (BP3 P4, 31, 32 & Table P34)
Description	More than 1 million Synergy and Horizon Power customers will receive a one-off credit of \$400 added to their electricity accounts on 1 July 2022.
Implications	The \$400 credit will help to ease the pain on power bills for all Western Australians. However, the WA Government has missed an opportunity to target concessions to alleviate financial hardship to those people who need help most. Meanwhile rich people with holiday homes get double...

Housing and homelessness

Announcements made in previous State Budgets continue to be rolled out across this budget period. Many projects where funding has already been pledged from previous budgets have been caught in the pipeline and are held up by shortages of workers or materials. Some measures in this budget address this blockage, however there are more measures in this budget that will benefit developers, rather than people needing affordable rentals.

The Remote Communities Fund suggests funding for refurbished housing, however there are no further details about the type of refurbishment this will include, or whether these will be energy efficient measures to protect people most vulnerable to harsh climate impacts.

Initiative	Remote Communities Fund (BP 3, P6 & P287)
Investment	\$350 million over the next 4 years (with a matching contribution to be sought from the Commonwealth). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$50 million in 2022-23 • \$100 million every financial year thereafter.
Description	The Remote Communities Fund will invest in new and refurbished housing, improving water, electricity, and municipal services, and economic participation in remote Aboriginal communities
Implications	The breakdown of spending has not been made clear, but this will be something to look out for. This is a positive inclusion in the budget, and even more so once the Commonwealth matches the contribution from the State Government.

Initiative	Residential land development in Karratha and Kalgoorlie (BP 2 V2, P768)
Investment	\$19.1 million
Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 62 new residential lots in Karratha • 35 new residential lots in Kalgoorlie
Implications	Increased residential land is a step in the right direction for regional WA where more housing is needed, however there is no indication of how this land will be developed, or whether it is for any affordable or social housing.

Initiative	Attracting skilled workers to help deliver pipeline housing
Investment	\$1.5 million
Description	To attract skilled workers over the medium to long term, to deliver pipeline building and construction work, State Government will request Federal Government to include building and construction trades on the Priority Migration Skilled Occupation List, and \$1.5 million to go to an overseas marketing campaign to attract building and construction workers from overseas, including the UK and Ireland.
Implications	An influx of workers could mean added population searching for temporary housing, while they build more affordable housing. While this measure is to alleviate pressure on current project pipelines, it could add to the congestion of the current rental crisis, and contribute further to unaffordable housing.

Initiative	Spot purchase private dwellings to boost social housing stock (BP3, P289)
Investment	\$31.4 million in 2022-2023
Description	Spot purchase of existing private dwellings to boost social housing. This will be financed from the \$750 million Social Housing Investment Fund which was established in the 2021-2022 Budget, and will assist to increase social housing stock and address demand in the social housing wait list.

Initiative	North West Aboriginal Housing Fund – Fitzroy Crossing (BP3, P197)
Investment	\$15.6 million in forward estimates, comprising: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$4.8 million 2022-2023 • \$5.5 million 2023-2024 • \$2.8 million 2024-2025 • \$2.5 million 2025-2026
Description	Will establish the Fitzroy Crossing Aboriginal Housing Program to address the lack of suitable land and housing in Fitzroy Crossing, enabling pathways to economic independence and home ownership for Aboriginal people.
Implications	Will deliver pathways for home ownership, particularly for those on low incomes, and will offer long-term housing for people exiting the justice system.

Initiative	Keystart eligibility, property price limit increase, new loan product (BP1, P10 & BP2 V2 P544, P533)
Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Keystart loan product for medium and high density residential units in METRONET precincts and priority urban infill areas. • Permanent increase to \$105,000 for singles and \$155,000 for couples and families, following the introduction and extension of the temporary higher limits in 2019. • Keystart property price limit increased for the Pilbara to assist households in gaining access to finance.
Implication	<p>Increased accessibility for people in Pilbara to access Keystart is a good first step, particularly when viewed with the residential lot development planned in Karratha.</p> <p>Keystart does not target people on low-incomes, it's targeted at low-middle-income earners, so still leaves people doing it toughest without affordable housing.</p> <p>Welcomed investment in housing around METRONET hubs, and measures that WACOSS has been calling for several years, however will still take several years to be completed, so does not immediately close the gap in affordable housing.</p>

Initiative	Density bonus for social housing inclusion (BP1, P10)
Description	Density bonus offered to developers for multi-storey developments that include a minimum of 5% social housing.
Implications	The bonus targets developers, to encourage mixed developments and increase social housing supply. 5% is a comparatively low target – ultimately it is at the discretion of developers whether they take it up and how much they build.

Initiative	100% Stamp Duty Rebate (BP2 V1, P178)
Investment	\$4.7 million over four years
Description	Apartments purchased off-the-plan in multi-storey dwellings below \$500,000 will receive a 100% stamp duty rebate until October 2023.
Implications	Will contribute to rental supply in the medium term by supporting those on middle incomes into ownership.

Initiative	50% Land Tax on New Build-to-Rent projects (BP1, P10)
Description	A 50% land tax concession for build-to-rent projects to boost future housing supply, reducing barriers to investment and growing the build-to-rent industry in WA, supporting future supply of rental properties.
Implications	Ownership of the properties remains with developers, with the aim to increase overall rental supply in the medium term. There are no targets or requirements to include a proportion of affordable units.

Initiative	Aboriginal Short Stay Accommodation (BP2 V2, P519, 537)
Investment	\$77 million
Description	Short Stay Accommodation provides safe and suitable short-term accommodation for Aboriginal people travelling from remote areas to regional centres or Perth to access services. This includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$6.3 million for planning and land acquisition in Perth • \$18 million for Geraldton Aboriginal Short Stay • \$20 million for Kununurra Aboriginal Short Stay
Implications	This funding ensures Aboriginal people who need to come into metropolitan or regional centres to access critical services are also able to access safe and secure accommodation.

Investment for Aboriginal People and Communities

This year's State Budget shows some investment in key areas of importance for Aboriginal People, including initiatives working towards closing the gaps in outcomes related to housing, health, and justice, improving remote community infrastructure. They include earlier intervention to keep children out of care and a range of initiatives related to culture, country and conservation.

There are promising references to an increased focus on formal partnerships, shared decision making, and building the community-controlled sector in line with the Closing the Gap Implementation Plan. There is also evidence of an ongoing focus on Aboriginal procurement in line with the state government strategy.

Initiatives should be designed, led, and delivered in partnership with Aboriginal people and local communities to ensure their success, sustainability, and shared responsibility. Equitable access to these resources is critical to ensure that a basic standard of living is met for all people in our community.

Remote Communities

Initiative	Improved resources in remote Aboriginal Communities
Investment	\$386.4 million
Description	<p>This package will provide remote communities with power, water, road access and other vital resources needed to ensure liveable conditions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$350 million towards improved water, power and municipal services to increase housing availability in remote Aboriginal communities. (B2 V1, P113) • \$11.6 million to deliver community-owned roof-top solar to six remote communities. (BP 2 V2, P817) • \$15.8 million of additional funding to upgrade water and wastewater services in Ardyaloon, Djarindjin, Lombadina and Beagle Bay. (Tony Buti Press Release) • \$60,000 over 3 years for Warmun community flood mitigation. (BP2 V2, P460) • \$8.4 million (additional to Commonwealth contribution of \$80m) for Remote Community Access Roads Upgrade Program (Tony Buti Press Release) • \$6 million to operate and maintain three pools in Ngaanyatjarraku Lands remote communities (BP3, P150)
Implications	Aboriginal people from remote communities will be better supported to live on and stay connected to country.

Child Protection

Initiative	Targeted Child Protection Support Services
Investment	\$18.6 million
Description	<p>This package will support families to keep children in community through early intervention initiatives in regional areas. The expansion of early intervention projects and the Aboriginal Family Led Decision Making pilot will fund Aboriginal Controlled organisations to provide culturally safe supports in this space.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$16.6 million to expand earlier intervention services into regional areas, including Aboriginal Support Services and Family Support Networks. (BP2 V2, P520) • \$715,000 over 2020-21 and 2021-22 to implement the Aboriginal Family Led Decision Making. (BP2 V2, P521) • \$1.3 million over 12 months to pilot Aboriginal Representative Organisations in the Armadale and Kimberley regions to empower Aboriginal families and support them to keep their children safe. (BP2 V2, P521)
Implications	<p>Success linked to metro early intervention programs in 2021-22 saw a reduction of Aboriginal children and young people in care by 3.7%. Keeping children safe at home and with family is critical to improving life outcomes and responding to intergenerational trauma.</p>

Housing & Homelessness

Initiative	Aboriginal Focused Housing & Homelessness Initiatives
Investment	\$78.8 million
Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One-off \$3.7 million funding to extend the HEART and Koort Boodja accommodation programs that address homelessness in Perth Metro Area (BP2 V2 P539) • Aboriginal Short Stay Accommodation in Perth, Geraldton & Kununurra, totalling \$57.7 million over 3 years (BP2 V2 P536) • Fitzroy Crossing Aboriginal Housing Program, as part of North West Fund Aboriginal Housing Fund (BP2 V2, P519 & 537) • Housing funding for Robe River Kuruma Aboriginal Corporation (BP2 V2, P540)
Implications	<p>Aboriginal specific accommodation services are critical to ensure Aboriginal people facing homelessness have access to culturally safe and non-discriminatory services and resources. Lack of housing in remote areas disproportionately affects Aboriginal people, often leading to overcrowding households which increases health risks, especially risk of Covid19 spread.</p> <p>Short Stay Accommodation facilities will provide shelter for Aboriginal people who have to travel off country to access services or resources. This funding package is critical to improving homelessness and housing outcomes for Aboriginal communities.</p>

Culture, Country & Conservation

Initiative	Culture, Country & Conservation
Investment	\$149.3 million
Description	<p>This package will support Aboriginal governance in the conservation and management of Aboriginal lands. Aboriginal ranger programs play a pivotal role in country management and offer opportunities for on-country employment. Funding will support the preservation of historic artforms such as rock art in Murujuga National Park.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$45 million for Aboriginal Cultural Centre Project's consultation, design, planning & seed capital. (BP2 V2, P547, 560 & 561) • \$19.9 million for the implementation of joint management arrangements with the Traditional Owners of the proposed Matuwa Kurarra Kurarra National Park and the Lake Carnegie Nature Reserve; including 10 Aboriginal Rangers (BP2 V2, 708 & 720) • \$11 million for enhancement and management of Murujuga National Park, including supporting the Murujuga Aboriginal Corporation's central role in the Murujuga Rock Art Monitoring & training for 2 Aboriginal Rangers (BP2 V2, P686, 719,723) • \$12.4 million for implementation of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2021, including the ongoing co-design process; (BP2 V2, P729-730) • \$61 million over 4 years for continuation & expansion of Aboriginal Ranger Program (BP2 V2, P709 & 723)
Implications	<p>Aboriginal governance in land management and conservation is central to preserving and protecting country. Ranger programs provide employment opportunities on country and promote the social emotional well-being of communities through self-determination and caring for country. Aboriginal management of sacred sites and historical art is vital to preserving the history of country and respecting cultural protocols, and preventing situations like the destruction of Juukan Gorge form occurring.</p>

Family Violence

Initiative	Family Violence Initiatives in Kimberley & Armadale
Investment	\$22.1 million
Description	<p>This package will implement and support new initiatives to prevent and respond to family and domestic violence in metro and regional/remote areas. Funding for the Armadale Family Violence Hub will cover the implementation of an Enhanced FDV Response Team Model and operation of the centre.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding for 2 FDV Programs in the Kimberley: Derby Family Violence Service and the Change Em Ways Kimberly Project (BP 2 V2, 540 or 520)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding for Armadale Family Violence One-Stop Hub, which will target approximately 50% Aboriginal clients. There is also a promise of a similar hub in Kimberly. (BP2 V2, P519 & 523) • \$2.8 million to provide a specialist Family Violence Court in Broome to offer support to Aboriginal women who have experienced family violence. (BP2 V2, P443)
Implications	Culturally safe FDV support services are critical to improving accessibility, and ultimately supporting safe communities and environments for families. Cultural differences may mean mainstream FDV services are not appropriate or suitable for the unique needs of Aboriginal communities.

Education

Initiative	Kimberley Education Investment
Investment	\$12.7 million
Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extension of Kimberley Schools Project to keep young people engaged with the education system (BP2 V1, P218) • \$1 million to develop a business case to assess the feasibility of establishing a WA College of Agriculture in the Kimberley (BP2 V1, P363)
Implications	Education is key to successful future pathways. It is positive to see funding for initiatives to address decreasing school attendance in the Kimberley. These initiatives will offer alternative education pathways for children and young people to remain engaged in learning and training.

Health, Mental Health & Alcohol & Other Drugs

Initiative	Culturally safe health, mental health and AOD supports
Investment	\$11.5 million
Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$7 million to improve antenatal care and maternity health for Aboriginal women (Tony Buti Press Release) • \$1.6 million to improve Aboriginal children's ear health. (Tony Buti Press Release) • \$1.4 million towards Preventing Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (BP2 V1, P338) • \$920,000 for new Renal Dialysis centres in Halls Creek and Newman (BP2 V1, P328) • \$551,000 for the Establishment of the Aboriginal Health Practitioners profession in WA. (BP2 V1, P310)
Implications	See Health and Mental Health Fact Sheets for detailed analysis.

Justice and Corrective Services

Initiative	Justice and Corrective Services
Investment	See Justice Papers
Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$40.4 million for Kimberley and Pilbara Youth Offending Responses including night patrols; An On Country Facility as an alternative to detention; and more police as part of Operation Regional Shield. (BP2 V1, P413, 431 & 519) • \$25 million for urgent Banksia Hill improvements including a new Crisis Care Unit, refurbishing the ISU, and a new Aboriginal Services Unit. (BP2 V1, P444) • No funding specifically tabled for air conditioning in Roebourne Regional Prison.
Implications	See Justice and Corrective Services Fact Sheets for detailed analysis.

Gendered Measures

The pandemic saw women disproportionately affected through their employment, increased burden of caring responsibilities and limited to no access to affordable childcare for low-income and rural women. The majority of spending is directed to supporting women who have experienced family and domestic violence. Limited investment supporting targeted pathways to women's social and economic recovery or to further close the gender pay gap.

Initiative	Rural, Regional and Remote Network (BP2 V1, P219)
Investment	\$250,000 over 2022-23 and 2023-24
Description	The Rural, Regional and Remote Network advocates on issues impacting women and their communities in rural and regional WA to various stakeholders.
Implications	This funding will help the RRR Network to continue to deliver, facilitate, and liaise on services, projects and social impact research that directly benefits RRR women and their communities.

Initiative	Mental Awareness, Respect and Safety (MARS) Program (BP2 V1, P242)
Investment	\$6.2 million in 2022-23
Description	In partnership with the Mental Health Commission and the Office of Women's Interests, the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety will finalise a program of mental health and mines safety initiatives to address mental health issues, workplace culture, mine safety, and sexual harassment and assaults in the workplace.
Implications	Important and necessary response to allegations of widespread sexual harassment and abuse in WA mining industry.

Initiative	Women's Refuge Peel (Warlang Bidi) (BP2 V2, P540)
Investment	\$1.5 million in 2022-23
Description	Warlang Bidi is WA's first therapeutic women's refuge tailored to provide specialist, person-centred responses for women who are escaping FDV who also have mental health concerns and/or harm from alcohol and other drugs. This refuge was established in 2020 and is a commitment under the State Government's Stopping Family and Domestic Violence Policy.
Implications	This funding will go towards operating costs, with funding secured for the forward estimates.

Initiative	FDV hub in Armadale (BP 2 V2, P519)
Investment	\$14.7 million over 2022-23 to 2025-26
Description	The Armadale Family and Domestic Violence Hub will provide a comprehensive wrap-around service for those impacted by family and domestic violence (FDV), and implement an enhanced FDV Response Team.
Implications	Armadale is a priority area for FDV services. This initiative is building on the success of similar FDV hubs in Mirrabooka and Kalgoorlie, and provides a range of family and domestic violence services in one location, alongside other community services, prioritising ease of access for victims in seeking help, assistance and support.

Initiative	Subsidise Driving Lessons and Dental for Women Exiting Refuges (BP 2 V2, P539)
Investment	\$381,000 for 2022-23
Description	Assists women who have experienced family and domestic violence to gain a driving licence and access subsidised dental treatment.
Implications	A continuation of funding for initiatives to help women exiting refuges to move on with their lives.

Initiative	Aboriginal Midwifery Group Practice and Strong Links (BP2 V1, P310)
Investment	\$1.7 million over 2022-23
Description	An Aboriginal Midwifery Group Practice model will be established at King Edward Memorial Hospital, and the Strong Links program re-established, with an investment of \$7 million over 2022-23 to 2025-26.
Implications	These services will provide tertiary level, culturally secure and consistent obstetric care to Aboriginal women, increasing the uptake of antenatal care and improving maternity health outcomes.

Initiative	JobTrainer Fund National Partnership Agreement Extension and Expansion (BP2 V1, P384)
Investment	\$20 million over 2022-23
Description	Under Lower Fees, Local Skills, low fee settings will continue for over 200 in-demand qualifications.
Implications	Lower Fees, Local Skills has been expanded in consultation with industry to engage women and young people to meet immediate and emerging skill requirements. Reduced course fees will open up opportunities for training in women-dominated industries such as childcare, hospitality management, healthcare and retail.

Initiative	Women's Grants (BP2 V2, P540)
Investment	\$85,000
Description	<p>The Grants for Women Program aims to support community initiatives that will assist women during the recovery phase of this pandemic. Funding of up to \$5,000 is available for one-off activities or initiatives, with a duration of up to six months that contribute to the program's priority areas.</p> <p>Funding of up to \$10,000 is available for longer term (six to twelve months), strategic initiatives.</p>
Implications	The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on women in Western Australia – this is a very small amount of money to respond to the (ongoing) gendered impacts of COVID-19.

Children, young people and families

This budget offers some important investments for families focused on keeping children and young people safe and protected.

It is encouraging to see some initiatives that align to this approach present in the budget. For example, funding that aims to keep children at home through early intervention and family support and the development of Aboriginal Representative Organisations (pilot).

While the funds represent a significant boost in funding overall, much of the spending is to address capability gaps within the existing child protection system. We would have liked to see a greater focus on prevention and early intervention, with initiatives that strengthen community capacity.

Initiative	Response to child sexual abuse (BP2 V2, P433, 520, 521, 524 & 539)
Investment	\$152.8M
Description	<p>Responding to recommendations handed down by the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses Child Sexual Abuse. The majority of the spend (\$115M) is committed to the National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse over the forward estimates. Other initiatives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harmful Sexual Behaviours Intervention Program pilot - \$2.7M • Expansion of mandatory reporting of child sexual abuse - \$2M • Improving capabilities to investigate offences – \$2.9M • Implement first phase of proposed reforms - \$4.2M • National Centre and WA Centre for the Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse (funded until 2025) - \$1.4M • Working with Children Check Reforms - \$4.2 M over 2 years
Implications	Additional funding needed to address existing state commitments to the Royal Commission recommendations. We expect more will be needed to meet other commitments after the next round of service reforms.

Initiative	Boost to protection and support for WA children (BP 2 V2, P526)
Investment	\$114M over 4 years
Description	<p>Funding to increase child protection assessments, investigations, care arrangements and support services within the Department, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$75 M to deliver child protection services: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 36 new frontline child protection workers - \$36.7M - A new position of Chief Practitioner to oversee the Specialist Child Protection Unit - Create a new Midland Care Team - \$6.1M - To keep kids in early childhood education safe - \$9.1M • Early Intervention and Family Support services to help children remain safely at home - \$23.9M • Expand the Target 120 program to nine additional locations across the State to increase support for at-risk youth - \$11.1M • Early childhood education for out-of-home care - \$27.7M

Implications	While the significant increase in spend that aims to protect and support WA children is welcomed (EIFS, T120), the balance of funding is still trying to fix problems within the child protection system, rather than help families to keep kids out of it in the first place.
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Initiative	Therapeutic Pilot Court in the Children’s Court (BP2 V2, P430)
Investment	\$1.38 million
Description	An on-country residential facility in the Kimberley to tackle youth crime and alternative to Banksia Hill Detention
Implications	Further details on this initiative are needed, but it appears to improve diversionary supports for children, to improve rehabilitative outcomes.

Initiative	Regulation and Quality Assurance to Safeguard Children (BP2 V2, P520)
Investment	\$14.3M
Description	Funding for capability with Department of Communities to implement Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse commitments on the reportable conduct scheme and implementation of national principles.
Implications	Unclear what resources and support will be provided to community services to assist them to participate. This is an ongoing area of work where we have yet to fund the increased demand, complexity of need and recommendations for better services from the Royal Commission.

Initiative	Pilot Aboriginal Representative Organisations (BP2 V2, P521)
Investment	\$1.3M
Description	The 12-month pilot will inform the development of a state-wide ARO service model that is flexible and adaptable to respond to local needs. Pilot locations will be Armadale and Kimberley regions. The aim is to empower Aboriginal families and support them to keep their children safe. The pilot will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • inform the regulations for what constitutes an approved ARO • determine ongoing costs for implementing AROs state-wide • collect and analyse data about the effectiveness of AROs in improving life outcomes for Aboriginal children and families
Implications	Aboriginal community led initiatives are vital, as is investments into initiatives that prioritise this approach. Placing power into Aboriginal community hands with accompanying support is the right step which the community sector would support. The sector would also support the widespread role out of such approaches beyond a piloted stage,

Initiative	\$29.5M (+ additional \$3M) (BP2 V2, P523)
Investment	Safe Home Safe Family package and Respectful Relationships
Description	Continued investment into Safe Home, Safe Family package and expansion of the Respectful Relationships program with an additional commitment of \$3 million over five years until 2026.
Implications	The additional spend is to expand the Respectful Relationships program in particular will help to address the critical issue.

Initiative	Youth Recovery Grants
Investment	\$184k (12 months)
Description	Organisational grants available (up to \$10k) aimed at assisting young people during the recovery phase of the COVID-19 pandemic.
Implications	While additional supports for young people who have been significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic are welcomed this is a very small investment for a cohort who have potentially suffered lifelong impacts from the pandemic.

Family Violence

A welcome investment in the state governments family domestic violence response, seeing the establishment and continuation of valuable initiatives. Ending of all COVID-19 FDV funding and limited investment in prevention, housing and men's initiatives.

Initiative	Armadale Family and Domestic Violence Hub (BP 3, P1460)
Investment	\$14.7 million, with \$4.7 million in the 22-23 budget year
Description	Investment to establish and operate the new hub, which will provide a comprehensive wrap-around service for those impacted by family and domestic violence (FDV), and implement an enhanced FDV Response Team.
Implications	WACOSS welcomes the expansion of the FDV violence hub program and look forward to seeing an evaluation of the model. We particularly support the proposed establishment of a hub in the Kimberley, a region with such significant rates of family and domestic violence.

Initiative	Enhanced Family and Domestic Violence Response Team (BP3, P141 & 151)
Investment	\$7.7 million, with \$3.9 million in the 22-23 budget year
Description	Improvements to support a new enhanced Family Domestic Violence response team model implemented by the Department of Justice, Department of Communities and the Western Australia Police Force. The investment will be used primarily for additional staff resources and system upgrades, and extension of the Co-ordinated Response Service (CRS). The enhanced services aim to reduce reoffending by perpetrators and harm to victims by providing early intervention and targeted support to address perpetrator behaviour.
Implications	WACOSS supports the investment in early intervention of family domestic violence, however we want to see more emphasis on primary prevention within any FDV response.

Initiative	Kimberley Family Violence Services (BP2, P520)
Investment	\$4.5 million, with \$455,000 in the 22-23 budget year
Description	Funding for the Derby Family Violence Service and the Change Em Ways Kimberley Project to address family domestic violence within the region
Implications	WACOSS welcomes the investment in locally-led and Aboriginal-led initiatives, as these organisations are best placed to implement change within their communities. We would be eager to see similar initiatives supported in other regions where FDV is also prevalent.

Initiative	Mental Awareness, Respect and Safety (MARS) Program (BP2 V1, P242)
Investment	\$6.2 million in 2022-23
Description	In partnership with the Mental Health Commission and the Office of Women's Interests, the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety will spend \$6.2 million in 2022-23 to finalise a program of mental health and mines safety initiatives to address mental health issues, workplace culture, mine safety, and sexual harassment and assaults in the workplace.
Implications	Important and necessary response to allegations of widespread sexual harassment and abuse in WA mining industry.

Climate, Energy and Disaster

The budget invests a further \$500 million into the Climate Action Fund and largely delivers on previous budget commitments, while also providing some investment in to future technology climate mitigation strategies. There is also investment across disaster response and recovery, however there is a noticeable lack of investment in community disaster resilience.

Initiative	Electric vehicle purchase rebate (BP2 V2 P202)
Investment	\$59.3 million over 3 years
Description	The Clean Energy Car Fund will include \$36.5 million to provide up to 10,000 rebates of \$3,500 to Western Australians that buy a new electric or hydrogen fuel cell vehicle up to a value of \$70,000
Implications	This package will incentivise consumer purchases of electric vehicles however there is no broader government plan to lower the purchase cost for people living on low incomes.

Initiative	Clean Energy Car Fund (BP2 V2, P588)
Investment	\$22.6 million over 3 years
Description	Government has \$15 million over 2022-23 and 2023-24 to a grants program (\$5 million for local governments and \$10 million for small and medium-sized businesses and not-for-profits) that provides up to 50% of the cost of installing electric vehicle recharging infrastructure in workplaces. \$4 million for the Public Transport Authority to trial the installation of electric vehicle charging infrastructure at four train stations, providing up to 20 bays per car park with commuter charging access; and more than \$2.9 million in eight new charging stations across four locations on a section of National Highway 1 between Norseman and Eucla to ensure WA's electric highway extends to South Australia. Energy Policy WA will receive an additional \$709,000 to administer and deliver the grants program.
Implications	While electric vehicle charging infrastructure is welcome, there needs to be greater investment in supporting electric vehicle fleets by local governments, not for profits and small businesses.

Initiative	Carbon Sequestration Optimisation Study (BP3, P368)
Investment	\$200,000
Description	The Department will spend \$150,000 in 2022-23 on a study to evaluate the full portfolio of carbon sequestration technologies and options and identify the relative merits of each in achieving the best transition to net zero emissions for the Western Australian economy.
Implications	Carbon sequestration technologies have the potential to make a significant contribution to our efforts to mitigate the risks of climate change.

Initiative	Native Forest Just Transition Plan (BP1 V1, P206)
Investment	\$30 million
Description	To assist regional communities to transition to new industries when native forest logging ends in 2024
Implications	While Just Transition Plans make an important contribution to decarbonising our industry, we must ensure these plans are inclusive and responsive to community members and workers who live on low incomes.

Energy

Initiative	Household Electricity Credit (BP3, P4, 31, 32 & Table P34)
Investment	\$ 445 million
Description	WA household will receive a direct electricity bill credit of \$400
Implications	The \$400 credit will help to ease the pain on power bills for all Western Australians and ensure that household fees and charges decrease this financial year for the average household, however Government has missed an opportunity to target concessions to alleviate financial hardship for people living on low incomes.

Initiative	Esperance energy transition plan (BP 2 V2, P413)
Investment	\$10.5 million over 4 years
Description	Private gas network operator will cease operations from March 31, 2023, the Esperance energy transition as part of State Budget 2022-23 will assist 379 customers to switch from reticulated gas to an electrified or bottled gas solution.
Implications	State government support to maintain access to essential services is welcome, however low income households who rely on the purchase of gas bottles don't have access to hardship services provided by utilities.

Disaster

Initiative	Investment to deliver emergency services equipment, infrastructure and disaster recovery activities. (BP 2 V1, P141)
Investment	\$67 million
Description	Targeted spend on resources, equipment, facilities, communications systems and disaster recovery
Implications	This spending includes the State Government's contribution towards the joint Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangement. It reimburses 50% of the costs associated with recovery efforts for disaster impacted communities including Tropical Cyclone Serjoa. We note that there is no budget commitment to the implementation of the WA Community Disaster Resilience Strategy.

Justice and Corrective Services

The State Budget delivered some incredibly welcome funding in the early intervention and prevention space- notably for an on-country alternative to detention in the Kimberley, and expanding programs like Target 120. For the announced initiatives to be effective, they need to be designed and led in partnership with Aboriginal communities. Funding announced to improve conditions at Banksia Hill was desperately needed, however we still urgently need to resource other options to move children under 14 out of the prison system. Whilst we celebrate increased earlier intervention spending, funding for smart justice responses has not increased as a proportion compared to crisis responses. Increased policing alone fails to improve community safety without addressing the underlying causes of offending, and will instead drive more people into the justice system.

Early Intervention and Prevention

Initiative	Target 120 (BP2, P520)
Investment	\$11.1million
Description	Target 120 is an early intervention program for young people at risk of repeat offending and engagement with the justice system, and works intensively with young people and their families. This funding is to expand the program to nine additional sites, including the Kimberley and the Pilbara.
Implications	Early intervention often provides better outcomes for young people and their families, and holistic wrap-around care is welcomed. The success of additional Target 120 sites will depend on whether they are co-designed in partnership with local communities, particularly in regional areas.

Initiative	Kimberley Youth and Community Justice Responses (BP2, P519)
Investment	\$2.5 million (Part of \$40.4mil package)
Description	This is a package of initiatives to address youth crime in the Kimberley, and includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$2 million for a Kimberley Community Action Fund • \$540,000 found the Kimberley Schools Project Extension.
Implications	This is welcome investment in communities to address the underlying causes of offending, and provides opportunities to invest in community-led solutions.

Initiative	Expansion of the Earlier Intervention and Family Support Strategy (BP2, P521 described in 3.1)
Investment	\$23.9 million
Description	To support families and help children remain safely at home with their parents, including trialling the program in Halls Creek and South West.
Implications	Earlier intervention is associated with better long-term outcomes for young people and families, and may reduce the number of young people who enter formal care arrangements.

Initiative	Kimberley Juvenile Justice Strategy (BP2, P543)
Investment	\$154,000
Description	Addressing the number of young children coming into contact with the justice system in the Kimberley.
Implications	It appears little resourcing is available for co-design initiatives with the plan considering significant investment.

First Responders

Initiative	Delivery of Night Patrols and Structured Activities (BP2, P519 only shows Broome \$1.1mil) (Media Statement states 6.7mil across Kimberley)
Investment	\$6.7mil Across the Kimberley (part of \$40.4mil package)
Description	Broome, Derby, Halls Creek, Kununurra, Wyndham and Fitzroy Crossing gain funding to deliver night patrols and structured activities at night to tackle Youth Crime.
Implications	Night patrol officers are crucial in small communities and town tackling youth crime. With more Aboriginal first responders and activities we are able to better understand the unique needs of each child and respond.

Initiative	Increasing Police Officers and Capacity (BP2 ,P413 & 414)
Investment	\$106 million total including:
Description	<p>A range of investments across police staffing and infrastructure, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$16.4 million for extra 950 new police • \$47.9 million to improve police digital capability and upgrade technology • \$3.6 million for a recruitment campaign to attract candidates • \$2.5 million for Operation Regional Shield, which increases policing in the Kimberley. • \$33.9 million for a District Support Facility in Broome and Kununurra (non-public facing police accommodation)
Implications	The previous two budgets have made significant investments in additional police – this funding is likely to result in increased demand on frontline services and additional costs in the courts and legal system. This may increase rates of incarceration if diversion, cautions, and community supports are not invested in and supported.

Diversion and Rehabilitation

Initiative	On-country residential facility + \$500,000 develop other safe place proposals. (Part of the 40.4 million) (BP2, P431 described in heading 10)
Investment	\$15 million
Description	An on-country residential facility in the Kimberley to tackle youth crime and alternative to Banksia Hill Detention
Implications	Having a safe and culturally appropriate co-designed on-country residential facility has long been called for. The initiatives within the facility (or possibly multiple facilities) need to be therapeutic, rehabilitative, culturally appropriate, and provide training and education pathways.

Initiative	Therapeutic Pilot Court in the Children's Court (BP2, P430)
Investment	\$1.38 million
Description	Funding to address the issues that cause families to come before the court in a holistic, therapeutic and culturally informed manner.
Implications	Further details on this initiative are needed, but it appears to improve diversionary supports for children, to improve rehabilitative outcomes.

Initiative	Community Legal Centres (BP2, P429)
Investment	\$4.5 million
Description	Additional funding for community legal services
Implications	Community Legal Centres provide accessible legal services and advocacy for communities at low or no cost, and will support better justice outcomes.

Incarceration

Initiative	Banksia Hill Detention Centre Improvements (BP 2, P444)
Investment	\$21.6 million for Infrastructure; \$11mil for Better Care
Description	\$21.6 million over the next four years for Infrastructure and service upgrades including upgrading; the Intensive Supervision Unit \$7.5 million of the infrastructure spend is for a new crisis care unit, to provide a safe and therapeutic; \$3.5 million for Aboriginal Service Unit.
Implications	This investment is welcome to immediately improve conditions at Banksia Hill which are breaching human rights, however resourcing is needed to move young people from prison and to support them in community.

Initiative	Spending on Corrective Services & Prison Expansions (BP2, P433)
Investment	\$1 billion on Adult Corrective Services, \$109 million on Youth Justice Services in 2022-23; \$52 million for expansion at Casuarina 344 beds;
Description	Spending allocated to corrective services, including detention and community management
Implications	General spending on corrective services remains largely unchanged in 2022-23. Recidivism and completion of community correction orders for adults has improved since the year prior, however the number of young people returning to the justice system has remained at 50%. The expansion of 344 new beds in Casuarina will result in an increased prison population, evidence shows “if you build it, you will fill it.”

Initiative	Roebourne Prison – No aircon refurbishment
Investment	Nil.
Description	The State Government committed to a feasibility study to install air conditioning at Roebourne Prison, which often rises to unsafe temperatures jeopardising the health of detainees.
Implications	Heat conditions inside Roebourne prison fail to meet standards of humane treatment. Whilst the Dept Justice committed to a feasibility study for installing air conditioning, there is no specific commitment.

Initiative	Bunbury Prison Alcohol and Other Drug Unit (BP2, P444)
Investment	\$3.386 million
Description	AOD unit to rehabilitate inmates
Implications	Alcohol and Other Drug Rehabilitation Units within metropolitan prisons have seen promising results, it is positive to see their expansion into a regional area, giving inmates a genuine chance to rehabilitate.

Mental Health

The McGowan Government has committed \$1.3 billion to Western Australia's mental health, alcohol and other drug services in the Financial Year 2022-23. The 2022-23 State Budget investment represents an almost 13 per cent increase on last year's Budget. Despite a focus on early years measures, the current funding commitments still sees prevention behind the optimal target of 5 per cent of the Mental Health Commission budget, as outlined in the Better Choices. Better Lives ten-year mental health plan. Expenditure on preventative measures is indicated to decline significantly over the forward estimates.

Initiative	Response to Children and Adolescent ICA Taskforce (BP 2 V1, P337)
Investment	\$47.3 million over 4-years towards an immediate response to the Infants, Children and Adolescents Taskforce Report
Description	<p>Including \$31.5 million to increase the number of frontline staff in regional areas and establish 20 Peer Worker-related positions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$18.5 million to expand the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service frontline workforce across seven regions by 11.6 FTE to relieve immediate rural and remote pressures. • \$12.9 million for additional Peer Support Workers <p>\$10.5 million over two years to provide virtual support for at-risk children waiting for a service.</p> <p>\$5.3 million to undertake implementation planning, service model design and develop a workforce development plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$4 million to establish an interagency program office, undertake service model design and develop an implementation plan; and • \$1.3 million for mental health workforce development initiatives.
Implications	The final report, released in March 2022, provides a framework to transform the mental health system through 32 recommendations.

Initiative	National Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Agreement (BP2 V1, P337)
Investment	The State Government will spend an additional \$16 million and provide \$10.5 million of in-kind contributions to support the WA Bilateral Schedule to the National Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Agreement.
Description	The agreement is a \$61.5 million joint investment into mental health and suicide prevention.
Implications	Welcome a coordinated approach to this important issue. More investment is needed in the preventative and early intervention stages.

Initiative	Continuation of suicide prevention funding (BP2 V1, P337)
Investment	\$3.5 million for suicide prevention services as part of the COVID-19 response.
Description	Prevention focused measures are welcomed.

Initiative	Extension of the Active Recovery Team pilot program (BP2 V1, P338)
Investment	\$10.8 million to continue the Active Recovery Teams Pilot Program for another year.
Description	Aims to reduce unplanned hospital readmission and emergency department presentations.
Implications	Goes some of the way in assisting people in their journey back into the community.

Initiative	Mental health telehealth service (BP2 V1, P338)
Investment	\$5.1 million in the next Financial Year towards Mental Health Emergency Telehealth Service operated by the WA Country Health Service.
Description	Continuation of ongoing initiative - Emergency Department Reform Package.

Initiative	Graylands Reconfiguration and Forensics Taskforce (BP2 V1, P310/315)
Investment	\$10 million over two years to inform the planning and investment decisions regarding the Graylands Hospital site, forensics services and the nearby Selby Older Adult Mental Health Service.
Description	Includes consideration of changes to forensic mental health, contemporary recovery and rehabilitation services to meet projected demand and consumer needs.
Implications	Hope to see a focus on consumers of mental health as indicated by the state government's commitment to a state-wide reconfiguration of the mental health system.

Initiative	Improving safety for mental health patients (BP2 V1, P310/328)
Investment	\$6 million towards addressing some of the most critical ligature risks across the system, increasing safety for mental health patients at risk of self-harm. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anti-Ligature Remediation Program Bentley Hospital • East Metropolitan Health Service Anti-Ligature Remediation Program
Description	This is an important investment to improve safety for mental health patients

Initiative	Ongoing Mental Health Commission initiatives (BP2 V1, P310)
Investment	\$17.6 million this Financial Year for adjustment to mental health hospital services. \$26 million this Financial Year for other Mental Health Commission initiatives.
Description	It appears that a proportion of this spending relates to improving hospital infrastructure in mental health areas, including added safety for patients. More information on these initiatives is needed.

Alcohol and Other Drugs

WACOSS welcomes investment to address the harm caused by alcohol and other drugs however the level of investment is not at the level needed to prevent and adequately address harm.

Initiative	Alcohol Related Violence Prevention Program Pilot (BP2 V1, P337)
Investment	\$3.5 million to support the development of the Cardiff Model Violence Prevention Program pilot at RPH Emergency Department over 4 years.
Implications	We welcome funding to address alcohol related violence however more detailed is needed to understand how this measure will contribute to the prevention of alcohol related harm.

Initiative	Peel Community Integrated AOD Services (BP2 V1, P340)
Investment	\$8.6 million for Peel community alcohol and other drug integrated services
Description	The Peel Community and Alcohol Drug Services is expanding in 2022 in line with the Government's election commitment with an integrated AOD service within the Peel Health Hub for youth (14 years and above) and adult community treatment.
Implications	This will be a step towards ensuring consumers can more easily access critical wrap-around services.

Initiative	Metro Sobering Up Centre (BP2 V1, P338)
Investment	\$7.3 million for the Perth Sobering Up Centre and Low Medical Withdrawal Service over 4 years.
Description	The Government has committed to an Emergency Department Reform Package in 2022-23. Work has progressed in the development of the model of service for a 20-bed AOD Withdrawal and Rehabilitation facility in the metropolitan area.
Implications	Provides a safe place for people experiencing AOD – a sub-strategy of the Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drug Services Plan.

Initiative	Revision to Step Up/Step Down Mental Health Facilities (BP2 V1, P338)
Investment	An additional \$2.3 million for the Broome Step Up/Step Down facility and an additional \$1.6 million for the Karratha Step Up/Step Down facility to address construction cost pressures.
Description	Work is underway for the construction of Step Up/Step Down services in Broome, Karratha and South Hedland.
Implications	WACOSS welcome the reestablishment and inter-regional expansion of an important local service that contributes to community safety.

Disability

It is good to see further investment towards enabling increased mobility of disabled people, and improving access to important services and supports such as the TUSS and Disability Transition Care Pilot. Of particular importance is the commitment to funding for individual and systemic disability advocacy beyond 2022, which was lacking in last year's budget.

Initiative	Individual and Systemic Advocacy (BP2 V2, P523)
Investment	\$15 million over 3 years from 2022-23
Description	The demand for individual advocacy to support people with disability to navigate the NDIS has increased over the past three years and has not abated. From 2022-23, \$15 million over three years has been committed for individual and systemic advocacy.
Implications	Individual and systemic advocacy is absolutely critical to ensure that disabled people are able to get the funding for supports and services they need to live a good life through their NDIS plans. State governments should be meeting the advocacy needs of disabled people; WACOSS supports this investment.

Initiative	Innovation Fund announced for new innovative projects to improve the lives of people with disability (BP2 V2, P523)
Investment	\$2.5 million to end of 2022-23
Description	From 2021-22, \$5 million over four years has been committed to an Innovation Fund to develop new and emerging initiatives to assist people with disability to continue education, gain employment and increase independence. Seven initiatives developed through 2021-22 and 2022-23 have been allocated \$2.5 million, with the remainder to support further initiatives.
Implications	WACOSS supports the vision of a more inclusive Western Australia that acknowledges and responds to the value of diversity in our community.

Initiative	Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) prevention (BP3, P130)
Investment	\$6.1 million over the forward estimates
Description	Expanding Western Australia's Preventing FASD Project, the Project aims to reduce the incidence of FASD by raising awareness that drinking alcohol during pregnancy can cause permanent damage to the brain of the developing baby.
Implications	Up to two per cent of Australian babies are believed born with FASD. Preventing FASD Project facilitates meaningful conversations about alcohol use during pregnancy.

Initiative	Expansion of the Disability Transition Care Pilot to North and South Metropolitan Health Services (BP3, Table P123 & 126)
Investment	\$7.7 million over 2022-23 and 2023-24
Description	Pilot program to support patients with disability to transition from hospital to community living
Implications	Disabled people in WA should be able to live independently, and in the way that they choose. WACOSS supports the expansion of this program to enable more disabled people to transition out of care and back into community living.

Initiative	Taxi User Subsidy Scheme (TUSS) Reform Program
Investment	\$22.5 million out to 2025-26
Description	<p>Digital Capability Fund (BP3 Table P155, 157 &199)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - \$8.8 million will be spent over 2022-23 and 2023-24 to develop a new digital solution for the State's TUSS. \$2.2 million will be spent over 2024-25 and 2025-26 to support the transition to the new digital system. <p>Vehicle Modification Grants (BP3, Table P155 &157)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - \$1.5 million will be spent across the forward estimates period to help increase the supply of wheelchair accessible vehicles, particularly in regional Western Australia. <p>Taxi User Co-Payment (BP3, Table P153 &157)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - An extra \$10 million (\$2 million per annum) has been allocated to the Taxi User Co-Payment budget
Implications	These are important investments to ensure that disabled people are able to continue to live independently and access public funding to be able to improve their lives and move freely around their communities. The Digital capability fund is an important transition to ensure that the TUSS is able to function effectively in the digital age but it will be important to ensure that people have training and support to use the system.

Initiative	WA contribution to NDIS (BP2 V2, P523)
Investment	\$78.5 million in 2022
Description	The Government will provide a \$78.5 million increase to meet the State's 50% contribution to individual packages for the increasing number of NDIS participants in Western Australia in 2022. This is a shared contribution with the Commonwealth.
Implications	The National Disability Insurance Scheme is an important social reform to enable disabled people choice and control over the supports and services they need to live a good life. WACOSS supports the NDIS and the WA government increasing its contribution to the scheme to ensure that it continues.

Education and Training

This budget offers funding to a range of initiatives that mostly focus on vocational education and training linked to industry needs, with some low cost and free course being made available. While there is also some investment aimed at supporting people with additional needs back into the workforce, the funding for this was low and requires significantly greater focus. Finally, there was very little funding detail in the budget that connects to the skills gaps and demand growth in the care economy, an area that has been significantly stretched over the past two years.

Initiative	Funding for Lower fees, local skills initiative (BP2 V1, P385)
Investment	\$38.4 million
Description	An additional investment has been made that aims at keeping TAFE fees low and annual fee caps across 200 priority courses through the 'Lower fees, local skills' initiative. This initiative includes free or low-fee short courses will continue to provide entry skills for critical industries in high demand.
Implications	Cheaper and free education is paramount for a thriving community and strong economy. The sector would support any initiatives that focus on this endeavour.

Initiative	Help for mature-aged jobseekers and ex-offenders into employment (BP2 V1, P385)
Investment	\$5.5 million
Description	A new \$5.5 million program will provide expanded jobseeker support to 500 mature-age jobseekers and pilot support for 100 ex-offenders to help them into sustained employment and support their safe transition back into the community. This investment comes out of the WA Skills Summit, focused on providing greater opportunity for under-utilised segments of the labour force by addressing the specific barriers to employment experienced by groups such as Aboriginal people, migrants, people with disabilities, mature-aged workers and ex-offenders.
Implications	While this funding is a critical step in the right direction, the adequacy of the funding amount aimed at covering this significant need requires a much closer look by government.

Initiative	Greener schools (BP2 V1, P371)
Investment	\$39.8M
Description	The delivery of a Solar and Clean Energy initiative which will power greener schools across the State, particularly remote and regional locations. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 91 schools to receive funding through first round fund • Virtual Power Plant battery systems in 7 new schools • 84 schools to have solar panels, to reduce energy costs and carbon emissions
Implications	This is critical spend and a much needed investment step into climate protection.

Initiative	Classroom learning (BP2 V1, P364)
Investment	\$ 31.9M
Description	Building on previous funding, this additional funding will aim to expand the Educational Adjustment Allocation initiative (includes an extra \$8.7 million in funding in 2023). The aim of the initiative is to support students with additional learning needs to develop their literacy and numeracy skills through explicit instruction and classroom support.
Implications	As we know healthy development in childhood and a good education are building blocks for a more successful life, the sector welcomes additional funds that support children with additional learning needs in a classroom setting.

Initiative	Collie Just Transition Plan - Workforce Support (BP2 V1, P384)
Investment	\$4.9M
Description	Over the forward estimate, this new initiative (Just Transition – a key deliverable of the Economic Development Action Plan for Collie) aims to create a strong and sustainable future for Collie as it shifts away from a dependence on coal and coal-fired energy production
Implications	Investment in a changing workforce is vital to ensuring Collie is a strong and health community. The success and adequacy of this funding will need to be evaluated well however to ensure it is meeting the needs of the impacted community.

Initiative	Kimberley Schools Project (extension) (BP2 V1, P364)
Investment	\$11.7 million
Description	The additional spend extends the Kimberley Schools Project for a further 3 years with aim to keep young people engaged in the education system, focussing on targeted teaching, better early years learning, improving attendance, increased student and community engagement. The package also includes \$1 million to develop a business case to assess the feasibility of establishing a WA College of Agriculture in the Kimberley and \$250,000 to support the development of further youth justice-related initiatives
Implications	A significant ongoing investment into the Kimberley youth.

Initiative	Redevelop Roebourne District High School (BP2 V1, P372)
Investment	\$42M
Description	Construction is scheduled to commence to redevelop Roebourne District High School, creating a social and culturally led learning environment for students from pre-school to secondary school, with specific programs to engage Aboriginal children
Implications	While this is infrastructure related, it is a much needed investment into an area of WA that will significant benefit from it.

Regional Investment

Significant investment across regional WA working towards equity with metropolitan residents. Minimal allocation to address the housing crisis influencing the liveability of communities.

Initiative	WA Regional Digital Connectivity Program Round 2 (BP3, P117,226 & BP1, P238)
Investment	\$48.6 million, with \$9.7million in 22-23 budget year
Description	The new program will leverage the Commonwealth and industry co-funding available for the expansion of mobile broadband and other digital connectivity solutions in regional, rural and remote areas across Australia.
Implications	In an increasingly digital world, and in a state as distanced as WA, ensuring everyone has access to equitable connection is imperative. The program will support regional business growth and innovation, access to emergency, health and other government services, as well as supporting access to socialising and entertainment.

Initiative	Emergency Department 24/7 nurses (BP2 V1, P312)
Investment	\$11 million over 2022-23
Description	As part of the Emergency Department Reform Package \$55.8 million has been allocated to establish a 24/7 presence of ED waiting room nurses across 15 sites. \$11 million of this has been allocated to regional sites, but locations are unknown.
Implications	Access to adequate healthcare is of significant concern to regional residents, and decreases the liveability of certain communities. We welcome this initiative and would support its expansion to ensure all emergency departments in the regions are sufficiently staffed.

Initiative	Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (BP3, P123)
Investment	\$18.5 million over 4 years
Description	Increase the WA Country Health Service (WACHS) Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) frontline workforce (e.g. clinical nurses, psychiatrists, etc.) across seven regions by 11.6FTE.
Implications	Recent findings have shown extreme wait times to access mental health services for children and adolescents in the regions. WACOSS welcomes this allocation of funding.

Initiative	Lower fees, Local skills (BP3, P231 & BP2, P589)
Investment	\$113.1 million
Description	Continuation of the initiative that reduces TAFE fees by up to 72 per cent across 210 courses of high priority in the regions.
Implications	WACOSS hopes this initiative will support economic diversification within the regions as well as addressing significant skills shortages and in turn the delivery of essential services for communities.

Initiative	Regional airfare caps
Investment	\$19.5 million, with \$6.6 million in 22-23 budget year
Description	<p>Regional residents who are departing an airport within 1,000 kilometres driving distance from Perth will now pay no more than \$199 for a one-way flight both ways when booked as a return flight.</p> <p>Regional residents departing from an airport more than 1,000km driving distance from Perth will now pay no more than \$299 for a one-way flight both ways when booked as a return flight.</p>
Implications	Airfares have been a long-term concern for regional communities in WA, with many needing to travel for professional, medical and other personal reasons. This initiative will make air travel more affordable and increase liveability in the regions.

Initiative	Driving Access and Equity Pilot Program (BP2, P588 & 89)
Investment	\$5.5 million
Description	Extension of this initiative for another year to assist people in the Pilbara and the Kimberley to obtain a drivers licence. Funding is to help people overcome barriers to obtaining their licence, such as geographic location, access to instructors, supervisors, vehicles and/or literacy or the financial means to participate.
Implications	WACOSS welcomes the extension of this program that will assist young people to access employment opportunities and assist in breaking down the tyranny of distance.

Initiative	Remote Communities Fund (BP 3, P219)
Investment	\$350 million, \$50 million in 22-23 budget year
Description	This provision reflects anticipated spending for new and refurbished housing, improving water, electricity, and municipal services, and economic participation in remote Aboriginal communities
Implications	This funding will provide vital upgrades for remote communities, improving liveability and supporting Aboriginal people to live on Country.

Initiative	Attracting workers to regional WA
Investment	\$2.4 million
Description	Investment to attract international students to live, work and study in regional WA.
Implications	This initiative will target extensive skills shortages across the regions in areas such as aged care, disability, childcare, hospitality and tourism. WACOSS welcomes this investment, but addressing the core factors of liveability is essential to ensuring skilled workers want to live and stay in the regions.

Initiative	WACHS Mental Health Emergency Telehealth Services (BP3, P124)
Investment	\$5.1 million in 22-23
Description	Continuation of the 24/7 WACHS Mental Health Emergency Telehealth Service.
Implications	Telehealth services are essential in regional and remote areas where access to health services are otherwise unavailable. WACOSS would welcome permanent implementation of such services.

Community Health

The 2022-23 Budget delivers an additional \$2.5 billion investment in health and mental health, with several initiatives designed to support patients with complex needs in hospital settings and provide alternative models of care. Investments in improving the quality of regional health services and the provision of culturally secure care to improve health outcomes. Less detail about where investment is being directed in non-hospital and community health services.

Initiative	Emergency Department Reform Package (BP2 V1, P312)
Investment	\$252 million over 2022-23
Description	A targeted \$252 million package to address demand pressures and improve patient flow, including: \$59.5 million for the continued operation of 120 Transition Care Program places to assist older people transition from hospital into community settings; \$10.5 million to provide video and telecommunication mental health support to children and families in the transition phase between services; \$5.1 million to continue the 24/7 WA Country Health Service Mental Health Emergency Telehealth Service; and expanding the Disability Transition Care pilot, among other initiatives.
Implications	Important to see investment in implementing alternative models of care to support treatment of patients in the most appropriate setting and to reduce avoidable presentation and admissions for people with complex needs.

Initiative	Implementation of the Aboriginal Health Practitioner profession in WA Health (BP2 V1, P310)
Investment	\$551,000 over 2022-23
Description	The Government will spend \$3.7 million over 2022-23 and 2023-24 on the initial implementation and evaluation of the Aboriginal Health Practitioners (AHP) profession in Western Australia. This includes the employment of 25 AHPs across the health system, five FTE for clinical supervision and mentorship, and the provision of training and upskilling services.
Implications	Bringing forward the implementation of Aboriginal Health Practitioners into the WA Health system will further enable culturally safe and accessible clinical services to be provided, enhancing the health outcomes of Aboriginal people in the community.

Initiative	Aboriginal Midwifery Group Practice and Strong Links (BP2 V1, P310)
Investment	\$1.7 million over 2022-23
Description	An Aboriginal Midwifery Group Practice model will be established at King Edward Memorial Hospital, and the Strong Links program re-established, with investment of \$7 million over 2022-23 to 2025-26.
Implications	These services will provide tertiary level, culturally secure and consistent obstetric care to Aboriginal women, increasing the uptake of antenatal care and improving maternity health outcomes.

Initiative	Preventing Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Continuation (BP2 V1, P338)
Investment	\$6.1 million will be spent over the forward estimates period
Description	An additional \$6.1 million will be spent over the forward estimates period to continue Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) prevention strategies funded under the Commitment to Aboriginal Youth Wellbeing in the 2020-21 Budget, including a State-wide public education campaign to increase awareness of the risks of alcohol use during pregnancy.
Implications	Up to two per cent of Australian babies are believed born with FASD. Preventing FASD Project facilitates meaningful conversations about alcohol use during pregnancy.

Initiative	Renal Dialysis and Support Services (BP2 V1, P328)
Investment	\$920,000 in 2022-23
Description	This funding is allocated for the planning and design phase of the Renal Dialysis Unit, Renal Hostel and Staff Accommodation in Halls Creek, an election commitment by the Government.
Implications	Providing services in communities, connected to supports. Reducing burden and cost on individuals to travel, increasing access to lifesaving medical services. Enables community members to stay on country for treatment.

Initiative	Country Ambulance Strategy (BP2 V1, P310)
Investment	\$30.1 million over the forward estimates period
Description	This will support an additional 18 paid paramedics, six additional ambulances, the implementation of alternative workforce model trials in remote areas, and a satellite communications pilot.
Implications	Six new ambulances, along with trialling paid paramedics, will boost ambulance services in some of WA's most remote areas.

Initiative	COVID-19 response and recovery (BP2 V2, P519)
Investment	\$4.5 million
Description	The Government has committed an additional \$4.5 million in 2022-23 for the State Welfare Incident Coordination Centre function to continue managing the State's COVID-19 emergency welfare response between July and December 2022.
Implications	This investment only grants 6 months of additional funding, it will take further investment to provide welfare services across the community as we transition through the COVID-19 recovery phase.