

Sustainability of Services

There are some welcome investments to support the continuity of critical community services. However, this budget falls short of delivering the sustainable funding the sector needs to meet growing demand and rising costs.

Ahead of the last State Election, the Premier committed to a Department of Treasury and Finance review of delayed contracts and the impact of commissioning delays. It is deeply disappointing that this has not translated into funding uplifts for services operating under extended and outdated contracts.

WACOSS and Community Employers WA (CEWA) have consistently advocated for all State Government contracts which have been extended due to delays in commissioning and funding decisions to receive a funding uplift, recognising that many services are operating under contracts that are years out of date and significantly under-costed. Despite repeated extensions, this uplift has not been applied, compounding long-term underfunding and placing further pressure on already stretched services.

Without action to address the real cost of service delivery, ongoing commissioning delays and inadequate indexation will continue to undermine service viability, workforce stability and access for communities across Western Australia.

Initiative	At Risk Youth Funding Uplift (BP3, P228, P229)
Investment	\$20.3 million over four years.
Description	To provide a baseline funding uplift for contracts in the At Risk Youth portfolio, including 38 providers in regional WA, to support service sustainability and continuity.
Implications	<i>This is a new uplift for At Risk Youth services. A 15 per cent uplift will be applied to all new service providers from 1 July 2026, meaning the uplift will also form part of the recommissioning from 2027-28. This approach acknowledges the sustainability pressures facing services operating under extended contracts.</i>

Initiative	Homelessness Accommodation Services Recommissioning (BP3, P154)
Investment	\$27.8 million over four years.
Description	To support the recommissioning of homelessness accommodation services across WA.
Implications	<i>It is still being determined how this funding uplift will be applied across the sector, though it will focus on safety and sustainability.</i>

Initiative	Child Sexual Abuse Therapeutic Services and Indigenous Healing Services Recommissioning (BP3, P154, P229)
Investment	\$16.9 million over four years.
Description	To support the recommissioning of specialised Child Sexual Abuse Therapeutic Services and Indigenous Healing Services across WA, including providers at 11 regional locations.
Implications	<i>This funding maintains the previous 5 per cent and 15 per cent uplifts and also embeds the previous national partnership agreement funding into baseline recurrent state funding. It does not represent new or additional funding beyond existing commitments. This funding will apply to the existing 16 sites. While this provides short-term certainty during recommissioning, it does not address broader sustainability or service growth pressures across these critical services.</i>

Initiative	Family and Domestic Violence Crisis Accommodation Services Recommissioning (BP3, P156)
Investment	\$34 million over four years.
Description	To support the recommissioning of FDV crisis accommodation services and the delivery of five pipeline services due to commence operation in the next 12 months.
Implications	<i>This funding will support the recommissioning of FDV crisis accommodation services, the delivery of five pipeline services due to commence operation in the next year and provide additional uplift funding for refuges and safe houses.</i>

Initiative	Sexual Assault Support Services Uplift (BP3, P156)
Investment	\$3 million over three years.
Description	For baseline funding for sexual assault support services.
Implications	<i>This is a welcome funding increase for sexual assault support services in health settings. It will boost the counselling workforce capacity, providing trauma-informed support and therapy to victim-survivors of all sexualities and gender identities aged 13 and older. It will also support services in Bunbury, Geraldton, Kalgoorlie, Mandurah and South Hedland.</i>

Initiative	Community Mental Health Services Uplift (BP3, P99, P134)
-------------------	--

Investment	\$43.8 million over four years.
Description	To continue uplifted funding for community services contracts and associated costs.
Implications	<i>We are still seeking clarity on the detail of this measure. However, it appears to represent a new uplift for Community Mental Health services, increasing baseline funding to support service continuity while commissioning is occurring. This is a positive step in recognising the sustainability pressures facing services operating under extended contracts.</i>

Initiative	Disability Service Contracts (BP2, V2 P480, P482)
Investment	\$7.9 million over five years.
Description	Contract uplift following a review of disability service programs.
Implications	<i>We are still seeking clarity on the detail of this measure. However, it appears to represent a new uplift.</i>

Initiative	LGBTQIA+ (BP2, V2 P481)
Investment	\$3.1 million.
Description	To extend funding to the LGBTQIA+ peak body and sector organisations. Includes a \$660,000 service agreement with the Youth Pride Network.
Implications	<i>We are still seeking clarity on the detail of this measure.</i>