25

wa council of social service

Annual Report

26

WACOSS respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Western Australia and recognises their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respects to them, their cultures, and to Elders both past and present. We acknowledge the land on which we live and work is, and always will be, Aboriginal land. Sovereignty was never ceded.

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Copies of this annual report are available from the address above.

Our work discusses women and women's issues. It does so through an understanding of the historical impact that a patriarchal society has imposed. It is written with an understanding of the marginalisation and disadvantage traditional and binary gender stereotypes have caused.

When we refer to women in this publication, and in all of our policy works, our work represents:

- cisgender women,
- people who identify as women,
- non-binary and gender diverse people who may work, live, or feel most comfortable in women-dominated spaces.

Our intent is to be inclusive and accessible. We acknowledge the disadvantage and marginalisation that comes through any or all of these intersectionalities.

WACouncilofSocialService
Western Australian Council of Social Service
wacoss1

Table of contents

3
Table of contents

4
About WACOSS

7
CEO and
President's Report

9
In Memory of Dr Aunty Millie
Penny AM

10
Our Board

12
Our Team

14
Reports and Publications

15
Media Statements

16
News Hub

17
Events and Webinars

18
Change The Systems

40
Communities In Control

47
An Impactful WACOSS

50
Financial Report

51
Our Sponsors and Funders

52
Our Members

About WACOSS

The Western Australian Council of Social Service (WACOSS) is the peak body for the community services sector and works to create an inclusive, just and equitable society. We are committed to genuine engagement, authentic collaboration, and building trusted relationships with members, communities and governments.

We represent more than

240 community service organisations

&

500 organisations involved in the provision of community services to the people of Western Australia.

As one of nine peak councils of social service across Australia, we collaborate and collectivise on campaigns of national significance.

We tackle difficult issues, systems, behaviours and attitudes that contribute to inequality and exclusion.

Our Vision

Inclusive, just and equitable society.

Our Purpose

To achieve equity, and social and economic justice for current and future generations.

Our Values

Heart

Our work is grounded in care and compassion for a fairer world

Curiosity

We seek bold and empowering ideas and solutions to issues our communities face

Integrity

Our approaches reflect and respect human rights and our practices are ethical and inclusive

Tenacity

We have the courage to persevere for transformative and positive change

Our 'Why'

We know that communities flourish where people are given the opportunity to contribute and create. We are committed to enabling and leading change that supports healthy, active and inclusive communities.

We need people to care about one another, and understand that poverty is a systemic issue that is not the fault of the individual. Fundamentally, we need to foster mutual empathy and work with communities to build their capability and vitality.

It is essential that WACOSS remains grounded in community and holds a membership base that aligns with our vision and purpose.

To create equitable and empowered communities, there must be a strong peak body voice that works with its members to advocate with and on behalf of those who are the furthest from levers of power and influence, to amplify their concerns, seek justice, and create a society that genuinely works for the benefit of all.

How We Drive Change

Connector

We connect the WA community service sector. We listen deeply, strengthen existing partnerships and facilitate new ones, and link people and organisations to foster collaboration, collective action and social change.

Knowledge Holder

We have deep knowledge of the sector. We build our expertise by leveraging our partnerships across services, sectors and communities. We use our knowledge to advocate for systemic, evidence-based solutions to complex social and economic issues.

Story Teller

We champion the sector. We share stories from across our community to identify and communicate emerging needs, priorities and opportunities. We celebrate the sector's successes and learn from the past.

Influencer

We are the collective voice of our sector. We use this voice to achieve real impact on the lives of people experiencing vulnerability and disadvantage. We must be bold in our ambition, challenge belief structures and cultural norms, and build community empathy.

CEO and President's Report

As we reflect on the 2025-26 financial year, we are reminded once again of the strength, compassion and resilience that exists across Western Australia's community services sector and the people we serve.

This year brought significant challenges for many Western Australians. Rising living costs continued to place enormous pressure on households, while the fuel crisis added a new layer of hardship for communities across the State. For too many people, this was not simply a cost-of-living issue – it was a cost-of-survival issue. The sharp increase in fuel prices affected families already struggling to make ends meet, increased the cost of accessing work, education, health care and essential services, and placed additional strain on community organisations supporting people in crisis. Throughout this period, WACOSS worked closely with our members, partners and communities to shine a light on the impacts, gather evidence and advocate for practical solutions that put people first.

Over the past year, WACOSS expanded its collaborative work across a growing range of projects and initiatives with the community services sector. Whether strengthening digital inclusion, advancing social and economic justice, supporting community-led solutions, promoting anti-racism and cultural safety, or amplifying the voices of people with lived experience, these efforts were only possible because of the willingness of our sector to work together. We continue to believe that lasting change happens when we move beyond organisational boundaries and work collectively towards a shared vision of a fair, just and inclusive Western Australia. None of us can do this alone.

We are incredibly proud of what has been achieved during the year. WACOSS continued to provide strong policy leadership and advocacy, convened important conversations across the sector, delivered influential research, and strengthened our role as a trusted voice with government, decision-makers and the media.

Our growing media profile has positioned WACOSS as a go-to organisation on the pressures facing Western Australians, particularly around what we have reframed from the cost of living to the cost of survival. This language reflects the reality for people who are making impossible choices every day about food, rent, transport, health care and other essentials.

WACOSS has also continued to play an active role in campaigns and collective efforts that are making a real difference, including Make Renting Fair, No Place for Poverty, End Child Poverty, Social Reinvestment WA, and the emerging End Child and Youth Homelessness coalition. These campaigns demonstrate the strength of sustained, values-led advocacy and the power of working alongside members, people with lived experience, Aboriginal leaders and organisations, community partners and allies across the State.

We extend our sincere thanks to our members. Your insight, leadership and willingness to share your experiences ensures that WACOSS remains grounded in the realities facing communities across Western Australia. Your commitment to improving the lives of others continues to inspire us.

We would also like to acknowledge and thank the WACOSS staff team. Their professionalism, creativity, dedication and passion drive our work every day. They have continued to go above and beyond in pursuit of better outcomes for communities, often working in complex and rapidly changing environments.

Finally, we thank the WACOSS Board for their stewardship, guidance and unwavering commitment to our vision and values. We are fortunate to have a Board whose expertise, strategic insight and dedication help position WACOSS as a strong and respected voice for social justice in Western Australia.

As we look ahead, we remain optimistic. While challenges continue, so too does the determination, innovation and generosity of our members and communities. Together, we will continue to advocate for the changes needed to reduce inequality, strengthen communities and build a Western Australia where everyone can thrive.

Louise Giolitto
Chief Executive Officer

Mark Glasson
President

In Memory of Dr Aunty Millie Penny AM

It is with deep sadness, and immense gratitude, that we honour the life of **Dr Aunty Millie Penny AM**, who passed away on 15 August 2026.

Ten years ago, through Michael Wright's Looking Forward Moving Forward program, WACOSS was privileged to be matched with two remarkable Aboriginal Elders, **Dr Aunty Millie Penny AM** and **Aunty Charmaine Pell**. That partnership became one of the greatest gifts to our organisation.

Aunty Millie and Aunty Charmaine, lifelong friends, showed us what true friendship, respect and support between two women looked like. They stood side by side through every challenge and celebration, generously sharing their wisdom, culture and guidance with WACOSS over the past decade.

Aunty Millie's impact on our organisation is woven into who we are. She created three beautiful paintings for WACOSS conferences, works that continue to inspire and connect people. More importantly, she helped us deepen our understanding of culture, community and the importance of genuine relationships. She provided invaluable cultural guidance to the WACOSS team and, in particular, to our CEO, where a strong friendship grew based on trust, honesty and mutual respect.

Aunty Millie was kind, generous and deeply caring. She was never afraid to speak truth to power, always with courage, grace and purpose. She believed in bringing people together, building understanding and creating stronger communities through strong relationships. She taught us to listen, to learn and to lead with humility.

The loss of Aunty Millie is felt deeply across WACOSS and throughout the community services sector. We miss her warmth, her wisdom, her laughter and her unwavering belief in people.

While we mourn her passing, we also celebrate an extraordinary life of service, leadership and love. In recognition of her enduring contribution, WACOSS and the Council of Aboriginal Services Western Australia (CASWA) will continue to honour her legacy through the Community Services Excellence Awards. From 2027, in partnership with CASWA, one of the award categories will proudly bear the name of **Dr Millie Penny AM**, ensuring future generations are reminded of a respected WACOSS Elder, community leader and tireless advocate for Aboriginal people and communities.

Aunty Millie leaves a legacy that will continue to guide us for many years to come. We were fortunate to know her, learn from her and call her our Elder and friend. She will never be forgotten.

Our Board

Mark Glasson
President
CEO Anglicare WA

Emma Jarvis
Vice President until October 2025
CEO Palmerston

Justine Colyer
Vice President from October 2025
CEO Rise Network

Ordinary Board Members

Amanda Hunt
Member
State Director 54 Reasons

Derry Simpson
Member from October 2025
CEO Youth Focus

Graham Donnelly
Member
Chief Corporate Officer Ruah

Dr Jennie Gray
Member from October 2025
CEO Women's Legal Service WA

Jody Nunn
Member
CEO Reconciliation WA

Kianna Barker
Member
CEO Hedland Well Women's Centre

Kim Brooklyn
Member until October 2025
CEO Parkerville

Leanne Strommen
Member until October 2025
General Manager Centrecare

Patrick Green
Member until October 2025
Marra Worra Worra
Bunuba Director

Rochelle Allison-Moore
Member from October 2025
Lived Experience Expert

Sue Budalich
Member
Executive General Manager Community Services WA, NT, SA, QLD Mission Australia

Tracey Brand
Member from October 2025
CEO HOPE Community Services

Trish Owen
Member from October 2025
Lived Experience Expert

Vicki-Tree Stephens
Member
Capacity Builder Youth Involvement Council

David Isaacs
Trainee from April 2026
Sexual Health Quarters

WACOSS Elders

Aunty Millie Penny

Aunty Charmaine Pell

Finance Committee members

Graham Donnelly
Chair
from October 2025

Leanne Strommen
Chair
until October 2025

David Gilchrist
Additional Member
until October 2025

Derry Simpson
from October 2025

Gordon McMaster
Additional Member
from January 2026

Justin Clarke
Additional Member

Kim Brooklyn
until October 2025

Sue Budalich

Governance and Risk Committee members

Justine Colyer
Chair

Amanda Hunt

Kianna Barker

Rochelle Allison-Moore
from October 2025

Trish Owen
from October 2025

Vicki-Tree Stephens

Our Team

Louise Giolitto
Chief Executive Officer

Rachel Siewert
Deputy Chief Executive Officer

Alenka Jeram
Corporate Services Executive Manager

Chris Twomey
Research and Policy Development Lead

Jackie Bosen
Executive Assistant and Office Coordinator
until April 2026

Kelly Osredecki
Executive Assistant and Office Coordinator
from April 2026

Amelie Johnsen
WACOSS Office & Administration Support
until October 2025

Ashleigh Gregory
Community Relief and Resilience Coordinator

Celeste Stephens
Pilbara Senior Manager

Charlie Davies
Communications Officer
until June 2026

Dawn Fenton
Finance and Membership Officer

Dylan Green
Community Training and Engagement Officer, WA Digital Inclusion Project
until February 2026

Elien Dauwe
DropIN Project Officer and Design Lead

Elliot Sawers
Training and Partnerships Lead, WA Digital Inclusion Project

Fernanda Monteiro
Graphic Design Coordinator

Fiona Costello
Child Safe Manager

Fraser Beattie
Media and Communications Officer

Helen Liedel
Community Relief Outcomes Measurement Project Lead
from March 2026

Jacob West
Heat Vulnerability Project and Communications Officer
until July 2025

Jasmin Ely
Child Safe Project Officer

Kim Robinson
Social Policy Program Support Officer
until January 2026

Lakshmi Kuppa
Technologies Officer

Laurene Coller
Communications Officer
until February 2026

Lily Newbury-Freeman
Capability and Sustainability Lead, WA Digital Inclusion Project

Maya Markowski
EA and Social Policy Program Support Officer

Matt Munro
Disaster Resilience and Emergency Support Manager
until August 2025

Naomi Campbell-Smith
Senior Training and Project Officer
from April 2026

Niamh McConney
Program Support Officer - Social Policy
from March 2026

Rebecca Turner
Advocacy Lead

Rose Barton
Disaster Resilience and Emergency Support Manager

Rose Newbury-Freeman
Senior Policy Officer and Manager Social Policy and Projects

Salil Koonja
Finance Coordinator

Sonja Trio
Senior Policy Officer
from April 2026

Sonny Yang
Project Officer WA Digital Inclusion Project

Sophie Hantz
Manager Social Policy and Projects
until April 2026

Zeina Jamaleddine
Executive Manager, WA Digital Inclusion Project

Reports and Publications

Submission to Standing Committee on Legislation's Inquiry into the Firearms Act 2024

Opportunity through Adversity – Our Fair Share

Stronger Together – Gender Equity in the WA Community Service Sector

Submission to the National Office for Child Safety: Draft Evaluation Framework for the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations

Living Realities – Understanding Life on Low Income in WA Part Two

Submission to Standing Committee on Legislation's Inquiry into the Criminal Code Amendment (Post and Boast Offence) Bill 2025

Next Steps to Child Wellbeing – CPAC Forum 2025

Investing in people, building our future – State Budget Submission 2026-27

Living Realities – Understanding Life on Low Income in WA Part Three

Sustainable Funding and Service Viability in WA's Community Services Sector Report 2025

WACOSS Cost of Living Report 2025

Submission to the Economic Regulation Authority on the framework and approach for Western Power's sixth access arrangement review

Reducing Gambling Harm in WA: Scoping Study

Reducing Gambling Harm in WA: Summary and Recommendations

Journeys through the Emergency Relief system

2026-27 Budget Briefing Resources

Submission on the 2026 State Wage Case

Media Statements

During the 12 months to 30 June, WACOSS was included in 550 media stories across print, online, radio and television. WACOSS released the following media statements during the period:

Community services sector ground zero for gender pay gap

State Budget Submission: Investing in people, building our future

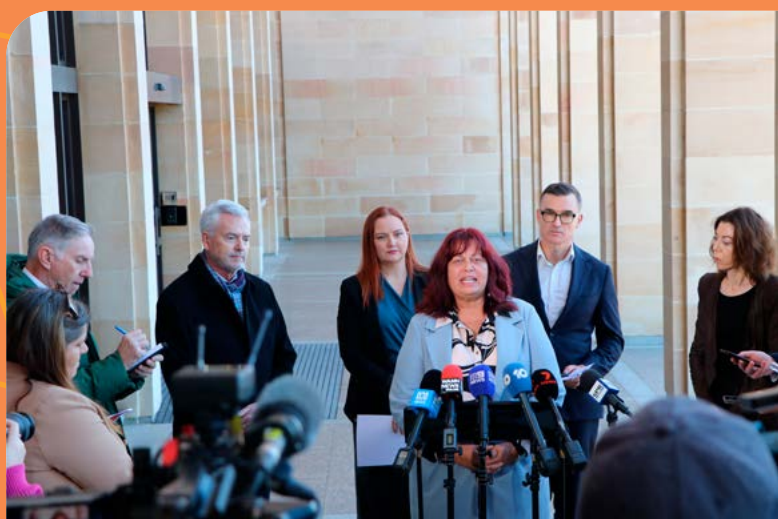
Cost of survival: WA families facing entrenched financial hardship

WACOSS calls for swift Government action as prices surge

WA government delivers huge win for renters

Cost of living relief misses the mark

State minimum wage decision lags national increase



News Hub

In January 2026, WACOSS launched its new website and, along with it, a News Hub to provide the organisation with its own platform for sharing news and thought leadership.

The following was published during the period:

- Our community is stronger when we walk gently with one another
- Statement on the potential terrorist attack at the Boorloo Invasion Day Rally
- Disinformation, extremism and democratic strain take centre stage at Emerging Issues forum
- One year of No Place for Poverty
- Planning for Future Services
- International Women's Day: Confronting inequity and championing change
- Real stories, real struggle: WA families turn to emergency relief to survive cost-of-living pressures
- Business Contingency Planning for the Fuel Supply Crisis – Community Service Organisation
- Premier activates natural disaster recovery fund
- Sector-wide survey to measure impacts of global fuel crisis on community services
- State Govt commits $3.8m to food services
- $2m food relief grant pool opens

Events and Webinars

During the year, WACOSS hosted the following events and webinars:

- State Budget Submission Launch
- Gender Equity in the WA Community Service Sector Webinar
- Emerging Issues Forum 2025
- Transforming Legal Assistance Services Webinar
- Developing a Community of Practice Webinar
- New Year Sector Breakfast 2026
- Reducing Gambling and Gaming Harm in WA: Insights, Impacts & Opportunities for Action
- Regional and Metro Services Consultation: Impacts of the Middle East Conflict on WA Communities & Services
- Towards Equity in Patient Travel
- Emerging Issues Forum: Shared Belonging, Democratic Resilience and Australia's Path Forward
- WA Digital Inclusion Expo 2026
- 2026-27 State Budget Briefing Webinar
- State Budget Submission Consultations

Change The Systems

Advocacy Wins

Targeted Cost-of-Living Relief

WACOSS's 2025 Cost of Living Report found that an increasing number of Western Australians were struggling not just with the cost of living, but the cost of survival. We were therefore pleased to see a number of State Government initiatives that provide more targeted support to people experiencing financial hardship and vulnerability.

A significant development was the introduction of the WA Foster and Grand Carer Gold Card, providing assistance with household energy costs and other concessions for carers. We welcomed this initiative and hope it becomes a model for future targeted support programs. The Government also increased payments for foster and family carers, helping to reduce financial pressures on households caring for vulnerable children.

The 2026-27 State Budget included several other measures that will provide practical relief for households facing financial stress, including:

- A one-year extension of the WA Rent Relief Program, helping vulnerable renters remain securely housed
- A commitment to fund the Energy Ahead program for a further three years, assisting households in hardship to lower energy costs
- A 10 per cent increase to the Energy Assistance Payment for concession card holders
- Expanded public transport services, including the return of the Australind train service and increased regional bus services
- Continued investment in social and affordable housing and homelessness services
- While much more remains to be done to address the underlying drivers of poverty and financial hardship, these investments and reforms represent important progress towards ensuring support reaches those who need it most.

Tenancy Reform

As a leading partner in the Make Renting Fair campaign, led by Shelter WA and supported by WACOSS, Anglicare WA and Circle Green Community Legal, we celebrated a significant advocacy win in May 2026 when the WA Government announced it would abolish no-grounds evictions. This reform will provide greater housing security for renters and help reduce the risk of people on low incomes being forced into homelessness in an increasingly constrained rental market.

We also welcomed the Government's commitment to introduce minimum standards for rental properties through reforms to the Residential Tenancies Act. These changes will help ensure renters can access homes that are safe, secure and healthy. Together with stronger privacy protections for renters and the extension of the WA Rent Relief Program, these reforms represent important progress towards a fairer rental system for Western Australians.

These outcomes reflect years of sustained advocacy by the Make Renting Fair alliance and demonstrate the power of collective action in delivering meaningful change for renters across Western Australia.

Food Relief and Emergency Support

Concerned by the growing body of evidence of Western Australians needing food relief and emergency support services, WACOSS has advocated strongly for greater investment in this sector. It wasn't until the fuel crisis, sparked by conflict in the Middle East, jeopardised the ability of this sector to continue to deliver these vital services that we achieved a $3.8 million funding injection. This comprised $1.5 million for leading food relief services and $2.3 million for a grants program for smaller groups and organisations, administered by WACOSS. Feedback indicates that this funding has made a significant impact, as these services experience increased demand and cost pressures.

Sustainable Services

Through our extensive consultations during the fuel crisis, we heard that higher fuel costs were putting a significant strain on already stretched organisations, with many forced to draw on limited resources to continue supporting vulnerable people and many that were even likely to run out of funds within six months.

Amid this environment, we have continued to advocate strongly for a fairer indexation formula, uplifts in funding to contracts which are severely underfunded and support for organisations in addressing the additional costs of the fuel crisis.

In the 2026-27 State Budget, we welcomed a new uplift in funding for Youth At Risk services as well as ongoing uplifts for Child Sexual Abuse Therapeutic Services, Family and Domestic Violence, Financial Counselling, Homelessness and Mental Health services.

Sustainable Services: Advocating for a Stronger Community Services Sector

A sustainable community services sector is essential to building inclusive, resilient and thriving communities. Throughout 2025-26, WACOSS continued to work alongside service providers, government, community leaders and our members to advocate for funding arrangements that reflect the real cost of delivering services and ensure organisations can continue supporting Western Australians when they need it most.

A particular strength of this work has been our close partnership with Community Employers WA (CEWA). Together, we have built a strong and influential alliance that combines workforce expertise, policy leadership and sector-wide advocacy. This partnership has enabled us to present a united voice on behalf of community service organisations across Western Australia, ensuring governments understand both the financial and workforce pressures facing the sector.

This year, our advocacy focused on several significant challenges: inadequate indexation on government contracts, the implications of the major SCHADS Award reforms, escalating fuel costs affecting regional and remote services, and longstanding commissioning and procurement delays. Through joint research, sector consultations, surveys and direct engagement with Ministers, Treasury and government agencies, WACOSS and CEWA continued to build the evidence base for change and advocate for practical solutions that support service sustainability.

While considerable challenges remain, there have been important wins over recent years that continue to benefit the sector. These include securing funding uplifts for Homelessness, Child Sexual Abuse Therapeutic Services, Family and Domestic Violence, Financial Counselling and Youth services, as well as the inclusion of superannuation costs within the State's indexation policy. Together, these achievements have helped preserve essential services, improve workforce sustainability and strengthen support for vulnerable Western Australians.

There is still much work to be done. Many organisations continue to operate under significant financial pressure, with workforce shortages, increasing demand and rising operating costs placing strain on already stretched services. Yet the collaboration between WACOSS and CEWA demonstrates what can be achieved when the sector works together with a shared purpose and a commitment to long-term change. We remain determined to advocate for sustainable funding models, fair indexation arrangements and policy reforms that recognise the vital role community services play in the wellbeing of Western Australia.

Children's Policy Advisory Council (CPAC)

The Children's Policy Advisory Council (CPAC) brings together WACOSS members who support children, young people and families to ensure a cohesive, whole-of-sector response to the development of children's policy in Western Australia. CPAC advances and supports child and family services that are effective, responsive and evidence-informed, so that all children and young people have what they need to thrive.

Council members meet bi-monthly to engage in collective advocacy, inform WACOSS policy development, and share intelligence on emerging issues affecting children, families and communities. During 2025-26, the Council continued to benefit from strong engagement from members, government agencies and sector partners. We farewelled long-serving Independent Chair Kim Brooklyn at the end of 2025 and welcomed Helen Creed into the role. CPAC acknowledges Kim's significant contribution in strengthening collaboration across the sector and advancing a shared agenda for children and families in Western Australia.

A major focus of the year was building momentum behind reforms to improve outcomes for children in their early years. Following successful advocacy by CPAC and WACOSS, the newly established Office of Early Childhood commenced operations and began consultation on key initiatives including the WA Play Strategy, four-year-old kindergarten trials and workforce development priorities. CPAC has maintained a close working relationship with the office and continues to advocate for a whole-of-government approach to early childhood development, supported by clear targets, accountability mechanisms and long-term investment.

The Council also played a leading role in promoting discussion and collaboration on child wellbeing across Western Australia. In September 2025, CPAC hosted the Child Wellbeing Forum at Parkerville, attracting more than 120 participants from government, research, philanthropy and community organisations. The forum highlighted concerning declines in early childhood development outcomes identified through the Australian Early Development Census (AEDC), particularly in social, emotional and language development. These findings resonated strongly with frontline services reporting increased parental anxiety, reduced confidence and growing developmental concerns among young children. CPAC is now actively exploring opportunities with research partners and government agencies to better understand these trends and identify evidence-based responses.

Throughout the year, CPAC continued to advocate for universal access to high-quality early childhood education and care (ECEC), while highlighting concerns about affordability, workforce shortages

and service sustainability. Members contributed to national discussions on universal ECEC reform and the development of new funding models, ensuring the perspectives of Western Australian community-based providers were represented. The Council also raised concerns about emerging funding pressures facing ECEC services, particularly in relation to workforce remuneration and inclusion supports, and their potential impact on service access and affordability for families.

The transition to the national Thriving Kids reforms emerged as another significant area of work during the year. The reforms seek to establish new foundational supports for children with developmental delay, disability and autism, particularly those who may no longer qualify for support through the NDIS. CPAC actively engaged with state and national stakeholders to ensure reforms improve access to support while avoiding unintended barriers for families. Members welcomed the increased focus on early intervention and parental capability but continue to advocate for equitable, well-funded services that respond to growing levels of developmental need across the community.

Child safety and the prevention of abuse remained a central priority for the Council. CPAC continued to provide guidance and oversight to the WACOSS Child Safe Project, which supports organisations to implement the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations and strengthen safeguarding practices. The project expanded during the year through partnerships with Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations, helping extend resources and support to a broader range of services across Western Australia. CPAC also maintained active engagement with Department of Communities initiatives relating to child sexual abuse therapeutic services, Indigenous healing services, independent oversight arrangements and implementation of recommendations arising from the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

The Council continued to advocate strongly on issues of child poverty and inequality. Members supported the release of the Child Poverty in Australia 2025 report, which highlighted a significant increase in the number of children experiencing poverty due to rising housing and living costs. CPAC remains committed to addressing the underlying social and economic determinants of child wellbeing and continues to advocate for policy settings that reduce disadvantage and improve outcomes for children and families.

Another major area of work during the year was the development of a proposal for an Integrated Child and Family Hubs Network in Western Australia. Working closely with service providers, researchers, government agencies and philanthropic partners, WACOSS and CPAC helped progress a business case for a statewide network designed to strengthen collaboration, share evidence and improve integrated service delivery for children and families. The proposal received strong support from stakeholders and reflects a growing recognition of the value of place-based, community-centred approaches to supporting children in their early years.

CPAC also continued its strong partnerships with government agencies, research organisations and sector networks on issues including child development, youth homelessness, youth justice reform, disability inclusion, commissioning and service sustainability. Regular updates from Department of Communities, the Office of Early Childhood, YACWA, Social Reinvestment WA and other partners enabled members to share challenges, identify emerging issues and coordinate advocacy responses.

As CPAC enters the next phase of its work, the Council remains committed to advancing policies and investments that improve the lives of children, young people and families. With growing recognition of the importance of the early years, increasing collaboration across sectors and new opportunities for reform, CPAC will continue to advocate for a Western Australia where every child is safe, healthy, connected and supported to reach their full potential.

WA Peaks Forum

The WA Peaks Forum met monthly throughout the period and discussed a broad range of community sector, commissioning, workforce, housing and policy issues.

A major focus continued to be government commissioning reform. The Department of Treasury and Finance reported regularly on progress of agency commissioning plans, with several plans completed and published. The Department of Communities advised that its Commissioning Plan had received ministerial approval and outlined priorities including stronger sector engagement, improved use of data, sustainability and increased support for Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations. WACOSS and government agencies also progressed consultations and roundtables to strengthen commissioning processes and sector involvement. Sector sustainability continues to be a key issue of discussion.

Members were also briefed on a range of sector-specific matters including gambling harm reform, volunteering screening checks, disability sector representation, social prescribing initiatives, insurance and industrial relations developments, food security grants, and advocacy regarding inaccuracies in incorporated association deregistration notices. Across all meetings, there was a strong emphasis on collaboration, evidence-based advocacy and ensuring government policies and reforms respond effectively to the needs of vulnerable Western Australians and the community services sector.

Members received updates on several major government reforms and initiatives. These included housing and homelessness, implementation of the Early Years Partnership Program, development of the WA Carer Strategy, establishment of the Office of Early Childhood, and the $361 million Thriving Kids initiative to support children with developmental delays and autism. Concerns were raised regarding alignment between Thriving Kids and proposed NDIS reforms, including the risk of service gaps for children and families, which is an ongoing concern.

NDIS reforms were a significant area of discussion. Members expressed concern about reduced eligibility, increased barriers to access, impacts on community participation, regional service availability, and the potential for greater demand on state-funded services.

Cost-of-living pressures and fuel security challenges also featured prominently. WA Peaks received regular briefings on government planning and sector impacts arising from fuel supply risks. WACOSS undertook sector-wide data collection and coordinated advocacy efforts.

Workforce issues remained a recurring concern. Members discussed changes to federal traineeship and apprenticeship incentives, workforce shortages, psychosocial safety and wellbeing, wage increases, and care sector workforce challenges. The Department of Training and Workforce Development outlined work underway through the WA Workforce Strategy and the re-establishment of the Care Sector Steering Committee.

WACOSS continued to administer the Peaks Capacity Building Grants at the beginning of the financial year, funding the projects listed below. All funding for that round of Capacity Building Grants has now been committed, and a further application has been submitted to Lotterywest.

- Developing a Collaborative Law Reform
- Local Government Training
- ACCO & Regional Frontline Responders Training for Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence
- Safe Foundations: Embedding Child Safe Practices in Playgroups
- Building Confidence and Capacity in Managing Complex Needs – Workshop Series

We would like to once again thank the Peaks Grants Assessment sub-committee for this work in assessing applications for funding.

State Wage Case

In May 2026, WACOSS appeared before the Western Australian Industrial Relations Commission (WAIRC) advocating for a 6.5 per cent increase to the State Minimum Wage, supporting the claim advanced by UnionsWA and arguing that minimum wage workers should be able to afford a decent standard of living, not merely survive. Our submission combined economic and cost-of-living analysis with lived experience evidence, demonstrating the growing gap between wages and the cost of essentials such as housing, food, utilities, transport and healthcare.

A key feature of this year's submission was the inclusion of the lived experiences of Ramona and Mia, two Western Australians living on or around minimum wage incomes. Through detailed interviews, they described the realities of managing rising rents, food insecurity, escalating transport costs, deferred healthcare and the constant pressure of balancing family responsibilities against inadequate incomes. Their accounts provided the Commission with a deeper understanding of what minimum wage settings mean in practice and highlighted the human consequences of wages failing to keep pace with the cost of living.

The submission was also informed by findings from the Living Realities research project, which highlighted the emotional toll of financial insecurity, the significant labour required to survive on low incomes, and the long-term impacts of poverty on health, wellbeing and participation. Together, these accounts strengthened WACOSS's case that minimum wage workers deserve an income that enables dignity, security and participation in community life.

The Commission ultimately awarded a 4.75 per cent increase to the State Minimum Wage. While the decision will provide some relief to low-paid workers facing ongoing cost-of-living pressures, it fell short of the increase sought by WACOSS and below what we believe is required to meaningfully address the growing affordability gap. WACOSS continues to advocate for wages that reflect the real cost of living and for government funding arrangements that keep pace with wage growth, ensuring community service organisations can continue delivering essential support to Western Australians.

Living Realities: Understanding Life on Low Income in WA

Throughout 2025, WACOSS continued its partnership with Murdoch University on Living Realities: Understanding Life on Low Income in WA, a research project designed to place lived experience at the centre of policy discussions about poverty and financial hardship. Using a narrative inquiry approach, the project worked with eight Western Australians living on low incomes to document their experiences through in-depth interviews and participant-led case studies, ensuring participants retained ownership of their stories and perspectives.

WACOSS published Part Two of the research series in September 2025 and Part Three in December 2025. Part Two shared the experiences of Lucas, Kate, Matilda and Leo, revealing the difficult choices people on low incomes are forced to make as the cost of essentials continues to rise. Their accounts highlighted the realities of insecure housing, inadequate income, barriers to employment, and support systems that often fail to respond to people's needs.

Part Three brought together insights from all eight participants, identifying common themes across their experiences. Participants described the material sacrifices required to meet basic needs, the emotional toll of ongoing financial insecurity, the effort required to navigate complex systems, and the critical role of community support. The report also highlighted clear priorities for reform, including adequate incomes, secure and affordable housing, and more flexible, compassionate and coordinated support systems.

The project significantly strengthened WACOSS's advocacy and policy work throughout the year.

Insights from participants informed policy recommendations across key publications, including the State Wage Case submission, Cost of Living Report and State Budget Submission. The research also enhanced engagement with ministers, government departments and policymakers, providing powerful lived experience evidence that deepened conversations about poverty and inequality. By centring the voices of people directly affected by financial hardship, Living Realities helped ensure that WACOSS's advocacy remained grounded in real-world experience and focused on the systemic changes needed to create a fairer Western Australia.

Sustainable Health Review

WACOSS continued to play an important role in supporting the WA Department of Health's Sustainable Health Review (SHR), helping to strengthen connections between the health system, the community services sector and people with lived experience. Through the ongoing co-chairing of the SHR Partnership Group and participation in advisory and governance structures, we have worked to ensure community perspectives remain central to health reform.

A significant focus of the year was sharing insights from WACOSS research and policy work with the Department of Health. Findings from projects including Living Realities: Understanding Life on Low Income in WA and Gender Equity in the WA Community Services Sector helped inform discussions about the social and economic factors that shape health outcomes. These conversations reinforced the importance of addressing poverty, housing insecurity and workforce inequities as critical determinants of health.

The first half of 2026 saw WACOSS contribute to the development of the Preventative Health Strategy through a series of consultations and roundtables. In these discussions we highlighted key issues affecting community wellbeing, including health equity, child and family wellbeing, access to services, heat vulnerability, digital exclusion, food insecurity and opportunities to expand social prescribing approaches to healthcare.

WACOSS also continued its involvement in the Outcomes Measures Project and contributed to the review of the Health Equity Impact Statement, supporting efforts to embed equity considerations across policy and program design. In addition, we continued our work on the Patient Assisted Travel Scheme (PATS), engaging community organisations and frontline services to better understand the ongoing barriers faced by people in regional, rural and remote Western Australia when accessing healthcare.

Across all of this work, a consistent message emerged: as cost-of-living pressures continue to increase, healthcare is often one of the first expenses people delay or forego. Missing opportunities for early intervention and preventative care contributes to poorer health outcomes and greater pressure on the health system. Addressing these barriers remains critical to achieving a more equitable and sustainable healthcare system for all Western Australians.

Stronger Together: Gender Equity in the WA Community Service Sector

In 2025, WACOSS partnered with the Centre for Women's Safety and Wellbeing to deliver Stronger Together: Gender Equity in the WA Community Service Sector, a research project funded through the Department of Communities' Women's Grants for a Stronger Future program. The project examined how workplace policies, practices and funding arrangements influence gender equity outcomes in a sector that employs predominantly women.

The research combined a literature review, sector surveys and stakeholder engagement to better understand workplace supports, barriers and opportunities for reform. A total of 214

employees and 27 community service organisations participated in the surveys, providing valuable insights into pay, workforce participation, flexible work, caring responsibilities, leadership opportunities and workplace culture.

Released in 2025, the report identified significant challenges facing the sector, including gender pay disparities at senior levels, workforce burnout, limited access to employer-funded paid parental leave, and the impact of chronic underfunding on organisations' ability to implement gender-equity initiatives. The project also highlighted practical opportunities for government and employers to improve outcomes through stronger workplace policies, leadership pathways, flexible work arrangements and targeted investment.

The report generated strong interest from across the community services sector, government and other stakeholders. WACOSS delivered webinars and presentations to share the findings and recommendations, creating opportunities for organisations to reflect on their own practices and identify actions to strengthen gender equity outcomes.

Findings from the project were also shared with the Department of Health and other government agencies, contributing to broader conversations about workforce sustainability, gender equity and the social determinants of wellbeing.

By combining evidence, lived workplace experience and practical recommendations, the project has provided an important foundation for ongoing advocacy and reform aimed at improving economic security and workplace equity for women and gender-diverse people across Western Australia's community services sector.

Reduction of Gambling related Harm

With the support of the WA Community Services Peaks Forum, a cross-sector steering committee continued its work throughout the year to advance a coordinated response to gambling-related harm in Western Australia.

A major milestone was the publication of A Path Forward: Reducing Gambling Harm in WA in March 2026. The report was well received across the community services, health and policy sectors and highlighted the growing impact of gambling-related harm in WA. The report identified increasing concerns relating to online gambling, sports betting and wagering, as well as the links between gambling harm and financial stress, mental ill-health, housing insecurity and family and domestic violence. It also found that there is currently no coordinated community or public health response to gambling harm in WA, despite many organisations regularly supporting people affected by its consequences.

The report outlined a series of recommendations aimed at strengthening prevention, early intervention and support, including adopting a public health approach, establishing an independent advisory body, improving cross-sector coordination, investing in workforce capability, and implementing key recommendations from the national Murphy Review into online gambling.

Following its release, WACOSS actively promoted the findings through webinars, presentations and forums, helping to build awareness of gambling-related harm across the community services, public health and policy sectors. The report and its recommendations were shared with government agencies, elected representatives, community organisations and sector leaders, contributing to broader discussions about the need for coordinated action and reform.

WACOSS also prepared a submission to the WA Government's Review and Reform of Western Australian Gambling Laws, advocating for stronger harm minimisation measures, greater community representation in decision-making and a more comprehensive approach to addressing gambling-related harm.

Following the release of the report, the steering committee has shifted its focus to progressing the recommendations, monitoring reform opportunities and building momentum for a more coordinated, evidence-informed response to gambling-related harm across Western Australia.

WA Digital Inclusion Project

The WA Digital Inclusion Project (WADIP) entered a new phase on 1 July 2025, supported by an additional $1.5 million from Lotterywest to continue for 18 months. This additional funding focuses on sustaining key initiatives from Phase 1 of the project while building long-term digital inclusion capability across Western Australia.

A defining feature of this phase has been co-design. Rather than delivering programs to communities, WADIP works alongside community members, local organisations and partners to design programs that reflect local priorities, strengths and needs. This approach has shaped all major project activities and strengthened the likelihood that benefits will continue beyond project delivery.

Across metropolitan and regional WA, WADIP has co-designed and delivered digital capability initiatives including scholarship programs, Community Champions, CRC Champions, digital inclusion expos, cyber security support and emerging technology forums.

Nearly 40 participants completed a Digital Literacy for Seeking Employment scholarship program in partnership with Consumers of Mental Health WA, ECCWA and North Metropolitan TAFE. In regional WA, WADIP co-designed its first credentialed scholarship program with community stakeholders and North Regional TAFE, tailored specifically for local learners which is set to roll out in the 2026-27 financial year.

A version of the Community Champions program, co-designed with Wunan in Kununurra, trained 19 eSafety Champions. Building on the success of earlier pilots, the project has exceeded its Phase 2 target by training 65 Community Champions since 1 July 2025. The CRC Champions program has built digital inclusion capability across regional and remote communities and has expanded in 2026 to eight of Western Australia's most remote locations, alongside the development of eLearning resources which will be made available for all CRCs in the near future.

The Digital Inclusion Expo expanded in 2026. The Perth event grew from 130 attendees in 2025 to approximately 200 at this year's event. The expo also went regional for the first time, with about 50 attendees in Mount Barker, 15 in Derby and 25 in Broome. The expos brought project partners, community service organisations and community members together to share knowledge and coordinate efforts, building strength and confidence to tackle digital inclusion in community.

Beyond community capability building, WADIP established an Emerging Technology and AI Working Group, creating a forum for community organisations to explore new technologies, share insights and support ethical adoption. The project also partnered with WorkVentures to deliver cyber security assessments for 14 community service organisations, strengthening digital resilience across the sector.

WADIP's work has been recognised through a Certificate of Achievement from the Awards Australia Community Group Awards and winning the 2025 IPAA WA Award for Best Practice in Digital Transformation.

The project thanks Lotterywest, DPIRD and our many partners and the community members we continue to work alongside.

While capability, resources and local leadership will remain in communities, current project funding concludes on 31 December 2026. Continued investment will be essential to sustain and expand this work, ensuring Western Australians are not left behind in an increasingly digital world.

Disaster Resilience and Emergency Support

Community organisations play an integral role in all phases of emergency management, from building local community networks, to providing trusted information, through to supporting people to meet their immediate recovery needs. WACOSS continues to advocate for policies and systems that ensure local services can meet the needs of their communities in a changing climate. Disaster resilient communities are, fundamentally, more resilient communities.

As part of our work this year, the Digital Skills for Emergency Preparedness Project was developed and piloted in partnership with the WA Digital Inclusion Project and the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES). The project responded to growing evidence that digital access and inclusion are significant barriers to emergency preparedness and response. Approximately 35 local government and community service staff across the Goldfields and Wheatbelt were trained to help people use the Emergency WA, Main Roads WA and Bureau of Meteorology digital platforms. They were then provided with the full module and facilitator's guide to lead the training of others in their own communities.

Heat kills more people than all other extreme weather events and continues to disproportionately impact those experiencing other forms of disadvantage. Building on the recommendations of the WA Heat Vulnerability Project and working alongside the WA Local Government Association and various local governments, we have begun the development of a template heat action plan. This significant resource will help Western Australian communities, including those with limited capability or capacity, to design their own locally-led heat actions. By providing a practical and adaptable template, communities can lead their own preparedness and response to periods of high-heat.

The Premier's Natural Disaster Recovery Fund

The Premier's Natural Disaster Recovery Fund (PNDRF) was activated for the first time in April 2026, providing critical financial support to communities impacted by Ex-Tropical Cyclone Narelle and associated flooding.

Run in partnership between Lotterywest, Department of Premier and Cabinet, Department of Fire and Emergency Services, Department of Communities, WACOSS and Australian Red Cross, the fund provides timely payments to those facing disruption and losses as a result of a natural disaster.

WACOSS administered the scheme to impacted small business and community service organisations across the Shire of Exmouth, Shire of Carnarvon and the Shire of Upper Gascoyne. In total, 219 grants were approved with $1.095 million disbursed to support community recovery.

To ensure support was accessible, WACOSS made multiple visits to the impacted areas to help people navigate the assessment process. Using a trauma-informed approach, we moved between recovery hubs and visiting people at their businesses and organisations, whilst navigating emotional and financial distress, language barriers and low digital literacy.

Administration of the Premier's Natural Disaster Recovery Fund enables WACOSS to better understand the needs of WA communities facing more frequent and more severe disasters. Building community resilience and preparedness, as well as ensuring equity in recovery, is critical to prevent existing disadvantage from becoming further entrenched when disasters occur.

Child Safe Project

The WACOSS Child Safe Project continued to advance throughout 2025-26, supporting community services organisations across Western Australia to strengthen child-safe leadership, governance and organisational culture. Moving beyond awareness raising, the project focused on building the capability of organisations to embed the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations into everyday practice, ensuring children and young people are safe, respected, included and heard.

Supported by the Department of Communities and Lotterywest, the project partnered with CASWA to work alongside organisations across metropolitan, regional and remote Western Australia to build the knowledge, confidence and systems required to create lasting organisational change. Our approach supports organisations to move beyond compliance and foster a child safe culture where safety, wellbeing, inclusion, and rights of all children are a shared organisational responsibility.

Demand for the project continued to grow, reflecting the sector's commitment to continuous improvement and safer outcomes for children and young people. Across live webinars, the on-demand learning library, workshops and conference presentations, the project reached more than 2,800 participants representing an estimated 850 organisations. Since commencement, webinar registrations have exceeded 2,400, demonstrating a strong and sustained appetite across the sector for evidence-informed child-safe practice.

A significant achievement during the year was the redesign of the project's training and implementation model. Responding to participant feedback and emerging needs, the project shifted from introductory awareness sessions to an integrated implementation pathway combining specialist webinars, practical workshops, downloadable resources, tailored advisory support and learning opportunities through highlighting case studies and emerging research. This approach recognised that sustainable change requires more than knowledge alone; it requires organisations to build the leadership, systems and culture necessary to embed child safety across all aspects of their work.

The expansion of the scalable webinar program and on-demand resource library increased access

to high-quality child-safe training for organisations regardless of geography or organisational size. By reducing barriers to participation, the project strengthened equitable access to learning opportunities across Western Australia and supported organisations to take meaningful steps towards implementation of the National Principles.

The project also expanded its suite of practical resources, including governance tools, implementation guides, templates and organisational handouts. Developed to support boards, executives, managers and frontline workers, these resources help translate policy intent into everyday practice and support organisations at different stages of their child-safe journey.

Tailored advisory support remained a cornerstone of the project, assisting organisations to strengthen governance arrangements, review policies and procedures, develop Child Safe Commitment Statements, improve complaints handling processes and foster organisational cultures that prioritise the safety, wellbeing and participation of children and young people.

Collaboration remained central to the project's success. Through the Child Safe Connect Community of Practice, the project brought together government agencies, regulators, peak bodies and community organisations to share expertise, identify emerging challenges and co-design practical solutions. Strong partnerships with the Department of Communities' Royal Commission Implementation Team (RCIT), Lotterywest, CASWA, peak bodies, Children's Policy Advisory Council (CPAC), the WA Ombudsman, Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOs), local governments and many other government and sector partners strengthened a coordinated statewide approach to child safety.

A key focus throughout the year was working closely with the Broader Sector Working Group to ensure diverse perspectives informed the project's delivery and development of resources. The group includes representatives from ACCOs, disability, LGBTIQA+ and culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) organisations, bringing critical expertise on intersectionality, inclusion and culturally responsive practice. This collaboration has strengthened the project's ability to embed diverse perspectives across all aspects of its work and support organisations to create child-safe environments that are inclusive, respectful and responsive to the experiences of all children and young people.

By connecting people, sharing knowledge and building capability across the sector, the WACOSS Child Safe Project is helping create the conditions for lasting change. Through collective action and practical support, the project is contributing to a stronger community services sector where children and young people are safe, respected, included and heard, and where child safety is embedded in leadership, governance and everyday organisational practice.

Emergency Relief and Food Policy

WACOSS supports Western Australia's food and emergency relief sector to improve outcomes for individuals and families accessing community relief services, and advocates for systemic solutions to financial stress and food insecurity in WA.

Funded by Lotterywest, the **Community Relief and Resilience Program** is the linchpin for emergency relief and food policy coordination in WA. Through the program, WACOSS strengthens sector capability by providing resources, information, tools, and policy representation. Sector engagement occurs through the delivery of three key networks including the Community Relief and Resilience Forum, State Emergency Relief Committee and Fair Food WA. During the year, the program was bolstered by two additional funding opportunities: the Community Relief Outcomes Measurement Process and the WA Food Relief Grants Program, enabling WACOSS to extend its support to the food and emergency relief sector.

Community Relief and Resilience Forum

This interagency group supports networking and information sharing for frontline staff and volunteers working in or alongside community relief services. During 2025-26, the Forum hosted seven guest presenters, helping participants deepen their understanding of the WA service system and build stronger outcomes for the communities they support.

State Emergency Relief Committee (SERC)

The SERC brings together senior representatives from community relief organisations across WA and leads sector dialogue on key trends, insights and challenges impacting the delivery of services. Over the past year, rising living costs continued to drive demand for relief services, with organisations reporting increased client numbers and more complex support needs. Changes in the distribution of federal emergency relief funding, and housing stress coupled with emerging fuel impacts, have created new challenges where sector coordination has been essential to ensuring people experiencing financial stress are able to access critical support. In response to the redistribution of federal emergency relief funding, the SERC established a working group to map funded services, identify gaps in support across regional WA, and advocate for funding improvements. This work enhanced sector coordination, increased transparency, whilst also improving funder and decision-makers' understanding of the WA community relief landscape.

Community Relief Outcomes Measurement Process

Alongside this, Lotterywest has funded WACOSS to deliver the Outcomes Measurement process for Lotterywest funded community relief services in WA. As custodian of the sector's shared data collection process, WACOSS will collate service data, analyse client experience surveys and produce quarterly outcomes reports. Whilst in its early stages, this project will contribute towards a sound evidence base to support sector coordination and advocacy for outcome-based community relief.

Fair Food WA

FFWA is a network of not-for-profit organisations, research institutes, advocacy groups, government agencies, and peak bodies working together to address food insecurity across WA. FFWA has delivered a range of activities which highlight opportunities to strengthen how our food system can support people at risk of food insecurity with access to healthy and affordable food. Through this network, WACOSS lead advocacy on a range of food security issues, contributing WA perspectives to national consultations, including the National Feeding Australia Strategy and the Strategy for Food Security in Remote First Nations Communities. With support from the Independent Chair, FFWA has engaged with ministers and decision-makers, highlighting opportunities for coordinated policy action across the WA food system.

A key achievement of FFWA was the delivery of a community showcase and activation at the WA Museum, Boorla Bardip, in February 2026. The Community Showcase 'Full Futures: Everyone at the table' explored the urgent issue of food security through images and objects – inviting visitors to reflect on what it takes to build a resilient and accessible food system for all. During the 40-day opening period, the showcase was viewed by more than 30,000 patrons. Alongside this, FFWA hosted the Little Foodies Discovery Day – a one-day community activation featuring five activity stations which gave children and their families a taste of how we can all work together to ensure everyone has enough to eat. The activation attracted 60 families, which included visitors from both regional WA and overseas. Both events promoted the work of FFWA and sparked important conversations about our food system and increased community understanding of food security.

WA Food Relief Grants Program: WACOSS commenced the administration of a WA Government-funded $2 million grants pool in May 2026. The food relief grants support frontline community organisations in WA already delivering food relief services and facing rising operational costs and demand pressures as a result of current fuel security challenges. The program provides additional support to food relief providers across metropolitan, regional and remote WA, helping more individuals and families experiencing food insecurity access essential assistance. In addition to delivering vital support to the community, the project has generated valuable service mapping and data, strengthening WACOSS's understanding of the food relief landscape and the challenges faced by people living with food insecurity in WA.

WA Connect

WA Connect is an online directory of community services in WA. The platform assists community members to search for services in their location and access important information in a single place, making it easier for people to get help and for services to work together. WA Connect also provides the community sector with important information about demand for service types by location, which informs WACOSS policy and advocacy on food and community relief.

In the 2025-26 Financial Year, the directory registered 131,940 visits from 84,360 users, generating 414,310 searches for services. The services with the most searches during this period fell within the following categories:

1. Help with food
   (26 per cent of all searches)
   about 108,410 searches
2. Financial services
   (6.5 per cent of all searches)
   about 27,030 searches (financial assistance, bills)
3. Help with accommodation
   (5.6 per cent of all searches)
   about 23,280 (rent assistance, accommodation)

Pilbara Project

Over the past year, WACOSS Pilbara continued its work to improve outcomes for vulnerable children, families and communities in the Pilbara by supporting services, strengthening collaboration and advocating for long-term, place-based solutions. Despite the region's significant economic wealth, persistent issues such as family and domestic violence (FDV), homelessness, alcohol misuse and poor mental health remain major challenges.

With project support from BHP, WACOSS focused on preventing FDV and improving social outcomes through an early childhood approach, recognising that the first five years of life are critical for lifelong wellbeing. Key initiatives included coordinating the Pilbara Family and Domestic Violence Network (PFDVN), advancing the Thriving Pilbara Communities Framework, supporting affordable housing initiatives, and building sector capacity through training and advocacy.

Achievements included:

- Strengthening the Pilbara Family and Domestic Violence Network (PFDVN) through coordination, workshops, campaigns and a regional Map and Gap Analysis.
- Delivering training and professional development opportunities that engaged 192 participants.
- Supporting the creation of a Sustainable Housing Coalition following the release of a regional housing strategy.
- Providing regular sector updates through the highly regarded Pilbara Bulletin.

Following reflection on available resources and discussions with stakeholders, WACOSS decided to conclude the Pilbara Project at the end of the funding cycle in December 2025. Although the WACOSS Pilbara Project is ending, it has left a strong legacy of regional collaboration, sector capacity building, FDV prevention work and strategic advocacy. WACOSS is proud of the partnerships, networks and foundations established during this project and is confident local organisations will continue the work into the future.

Cost of Living Report

In December 2025, WACOSS released its annual Cost of Living Report, highlighting the ongoing financial strain facing Western Australians on low incomes. While inflation at the time was moderating, and wages increased in some areas, the report found that the cost of a basic standard of living remains out of reach for many households. Analysis of WACOSS's model households showed that single-parent families, two-parent working families and renting age pensioners were all unable to meet essential living costs, while an unemployed single person was left with just $8.53 each week after covering basic expenses.

The report demonstrated that housing continues to be the primary driver of financial hardship, with rent increases significantly outpacing income growth. Renting age pensioners experienced the greatest deterioration in their financial position, while for the second consecutive year the model two-parent family's income was insufficient to cover essential costs. Importantly, the findings reinforced that employment is no longer a guarantee against financial insecurity.

The 2025 report drew on data from the Financial Wellbeing Collective and insights from the Living Realities research project, providing both quantitative and lived experience evidence of the pressures facing Western Australians. Financial counselling data showed growing hardship, rising utility debt, and increasing numbers of employed people seeking emergency relief and food assistance. The report also examined the unique challenges facing regional communities, including higher housing, food and transport costs.

Moving beyond documenting hardship, the report modelled the potential impact of key reforms, demonstrating how measures such as increasing income support payments, stabilising rent increases and improving the energy efficiency of rental homes could substantially improve household financial wellbeing. The report called for targeted investment and structural reform to address the root causes of poverty and ensure all Western Australians can afford the essentials required for a dignified life.

State Budget 2026-27 Sector Briefing

The 2026-27 State Budget was handed down against a backdrop of continued economic strength, population growth and global uncertainty. Western Australia entered the budget period from a position of sustained fiscal strength, with ongoing operating surpluses, a strong balance sheet and comparatively low debt levels. However, despite this strong fiscal position, WACOSS remained concerned that many Western Australians experiencing financial hardship would see little immediate relief from the measures announced in the Budget.

The Budget included significant investment in infrastructure, particularly in housing supply, health services and major projects designed to support a growing state. Major housing initiatives included expanded affordable and social housing programs, investment in regional housing, support for first home buyers and additional funding for housing infrastructure. However, the scale of investment still lags behind unmet need based on rapid population growth.

Cost-of-living relief was a key feature of the Budget, with the State Government announcing a $1 billion package. Measures included a universal $100 fuel rebate for all Western Australian driver's licence holders, continuation of the Student Assistance Payment, free public transport initiatives, energy bill support for concession holders, increased assistance for foster and grandparent carers, and an extension of the WA Rent Relief Program. WACOSS welcomed these targeted initiatives, particularly the extension of rent relief and additional support for carers, recognising their impact in preventing hardship and helping vulnerable households remain securely housed.

While acknowledging these investments, WACOSS noted that most of the headline cost-of-living measures remained broad-based rather than targeted toward people experiencing the greatest levels of disadvantage. Evidence from the WACOSS Cost of Living Report continued to show that low-income households, renters, pensioners and working families face entrenched financial stress driven by housing costs, food insecurity, energy bills and rising everyday expenses.

WACOSS continues to call for a greater focus on measures that directly support those most at risk of hardship, including increased investment in emergency relief, financial counselling, energy debt assistance, transport concessions and healthcare access for regional communities.

WACOSS partnered with the WA Treasury, Bankwest Curtin Economics Centre and Shelter WA to deliver a comprehensive State Budget Briefing for the community sector. The webinar provided an accessible overview of the Budget's economic context, spending priorities and implications for social policy and service delivery. Participants heard directly from government and economic experts and had the opportunity to engage in discussion regarding the Budget's impact on vulnerable Western Australians and community service providers.

Analysis presented at the briefing highlighted both the opportunities and challenges facing Western Australia. While the State's fiscal position remains exceptionally strong, presenters noted that housing affordability, rental stress, workforce shortages and growing demand for community services continue to place pressure on households and service systems. The briefing also highlighted the importance of balancing long-term investment in housing and infrastructure with targeted, short-term supports that help people meet their immediate needs and prevent deeper social and economic disadvantage.

The annual State Budget Briefing remains one of WACOSS's most valuable member engagement activities, providing timely analysis of government priorities and supporting informed sector advocacy. Through this work, WACOSS continues to champion policies that address both the structural drivers of inequality and the immediate cost-of-living pressures facing Western Australians, ensuring that economic prosperity is shared more equitably across the community.

Middle East Fuel Crisis

The impact of soaring fuel costs and fluctuating availability as a result of conflict in the Middle East from late February was felt immediately by the WA community services sector.

There were sharp increases in demand for emergency relief and food support, including from working families and dual-income households who had never previously sought assistance.

For many organisations which were already stretched, rising fuel prices were directly affecting service delivery, particularly in regional and remote WA. Their employees, including volunteers, were also struggling to afford fuel to travel to work.

Concerningly, many clients were unable to access services or leave unsafe situations because of fuel costs.

There was also anxiety across the sector about how the fuel crisis would affect their ability to fulfil their contracts. Concerns were particularly high among services whose contracts were due for renewal, with uncertainty beyond 30 June creating significant anxiety.

Through our consultations across the sector, it was clear that many organisations, particularly in small regional towns, were also struggling to access accurate information about fuel.

To help address this, we developed a new fuel hub on our website, where relevant information – from the Premier's weekly fuel update, to links to FuelWatch – can be easily accessed.

WACOSS also developed a guide to help organisations create adaptable, staged contingency plans to maintain essential services and protect the wellbeing of staff and clients. This was based on the different stages of the Australian Government's National Fuel Security Plan, which was adopted by the WA Government.

Internally, WACOSS developed its own crisis response framework to support planning during a prolonged fuel shortage.

Fuel Crisis Policy and Advocacy

WACOSS focused its advocacy on ensuring that the impact of the fuel crisis on community services and the people they serve were front of mind as the WA Government shaped its response to the fuel crisis.

Close consultation and collaboration with the sector were vital in informing our advocacy, which achieved some significant outcomes, including:

- $1.5 million in targeted funding for major food relief providers
- $2 million grants program for other food relief organisations, administered by WACOSS
- Establishment of the Community Services Leaders Fuel Supply Meeting, attended by Community Services Minister Matthew Swinbourn and including WACOSS CEO Louise Giolitto

Soon after the fuel crisis began in March, we responded to concerns from many members who had already seen a sharp rise in demand for emergency relief and food support. As a result, we moved quickly to advocate for urgent responses to relieve pressure on households and strengthen the capacity of the sector.

We co-hosted two online consultations – one for metropolitan services, the other for regional and remote – with CASWA in early April.

More than 130 organisations joined these conversations about the emerging impact of the fuel crisis on vulnerable households and frontline services.

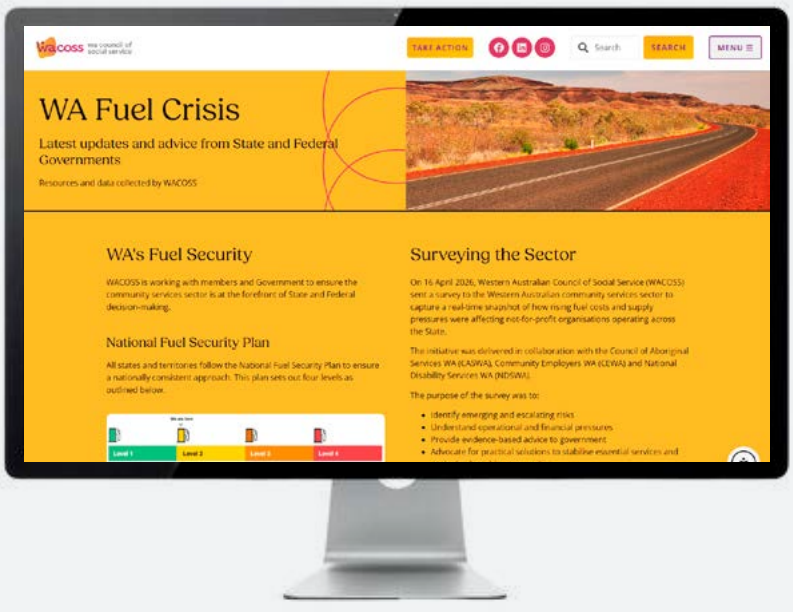
At the same time, we collated stories and data from organisations around the State to identify trends, pressure points and essential supports to brief government and other key stakeholders.

This evidence base was bolstered by two sector surveys between April and June. These surveys were developed in collaboration with CASWA, Community Employers WA (CEWA) and National Disability Services WA (NDSWA).

We used this evidence to shape our regular feedback to the WA Government, as well as other key stakeholders like the Fuel Security State Controller, on the impact of the fuel crisis on organisations and communities.

The Community Leaders Fuel Supply Meeting – comprises community services peak bodies, as well as WA Government executives – was set up as a conduit between the sector and the WA Government's key ministerial taskforce, the Industry Support Working Group, for addressing the impacts of the fuel crisis on industry.

WACOSS also took part in national forums to elevate the voices of the WA community services sector, including meetings with Federal Ministers with ACOSS and the national COSS network, in response to the fuel crisis.



WA Food Relief Grants Program

WACOSS is administering the WA Food Relief Grants Program, established by the WA Government in May 2026, to support critical food relief services across the State.

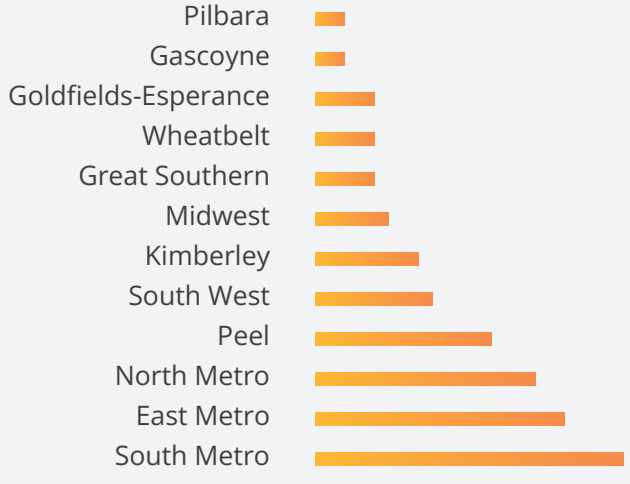
The $2 million program provides grants of up to $10,000 for WA food relief organisations facing rising operational costs and growing demand due to fuel security challenges. It will be delivered over one year, or until funds run out.

Knowing that food costs were significantly higher in regional and remote communities than in the metropolitan area, we have worked hard to promote the program to organisations operating in these areas, particularly ACCOs.

The program has provided welcome financial respite for a broad range of food relief organisations which have continued to provide services in incredibly difficult circumstances.

In particular, initial data has indicated that the program is supporting many small community groups and organisations which currently do not receive government funding.

Approved Food Grants May-June 2026



Communities In Control

Submissions

During 2025-26, WACOSS contributed to a broad range of policy, regulatory and legislative processes across social policy, community services, health, justice, infrastructure and economic reform.

- Joint submission with FACWA and Financial Wellbeing Collective to the Review of the Water Services Code of Conduct (Family Violence) 2020
- Stronger Together Implementation Group on the development of the Stronger Together Case Study Database Project
- Submission to ACOSS on mutual obligations for income support recipients
- Submission on the Draft Implementation Plan for the Community Disaster Resilience Strategy
- Submission to the National Office for Child Safety on the Draft Evaluation Framework for the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations
- Submission to the Standing Committee on Legislation Inquiry into the Criminal Code Amendment (Post and Boast) Bill 2025
- Submission on the Draft Guidelines on Community Benefits for Renewable Energy Projects
- Submission to the State Emergency Management Preparedness Procedure 3.11 – Prescribe, Review and Revoke a Hazard
- COSS Network submission to the Legal and Constitutional Affairs References Committee Inquiry into Australia's Youth Justice and Incarceration System
- Submission to the Review and Reform of Western Australian Gambling Laws
- Submission to the Preventative Health Promotion and Mental Health and Wellbeing Roundtables
- Feedback on the Stronger Together Implementation Group Third Action Plan
- Submission to the Economic Regulation Authority on the Framework and Approach for Western Power's AA6 Access Arrangement
- Submission to the Office of Multicultural Interests on the development of a Multicultural Act for Western Australia
- Endorsement and submission to Minister Buti supporting the ACOSS-led review of the National Construction Code
- Joint submission, led by Shelter WA, to the Land Rent Scheme Inquiry
- State Wage Case submission, advocating for a 6.5 per cent increase to the State Minimum Wage.

Investing in people, build our future: WA State Budget Submission 2026-27

The 2026-27 WA State Budget Submission made the point that WA's economy isn't powered by concrete and cables. It's powered by people – their ideas, skills, creativity, care and work. That investment in productivity and the wellbeing of our people has the greatest impact on future prosperity and resilience. It made the argument that this is where we need to invest.

The recommendations in the Submission supported the State Government's delivery on its vision – that no matter where we live, in our suburbs, towns, regional centres, all Western Australians have access to the infrastructure and services we need.

The submission made 82 recommendations focused on investing in people, sustainable services, supports for surviving, housing, safety, effective justice, health, thriving children and families and our region.

We consulted 124 organisations around WA including Perth, Bunbury, Margaret River, Busselton, Albany, Geraldton, Port Hedland, Broome, Northam, Kalgoorlie, Esperance and the Mid West.

Government has made commitments on a number of these recommendations:

- Invest in the WA Rent Relief Program – extended for one year.
- Establish a Carer's Card and increase the Grandcarers Support Scheme Payment – announced a version of this in the Foster and Grand Carer Gold Card and a 10 per cent increase in the subsidy for foster and family carers.
- Commit funding to Energy Ahead – extended for three years.
- Invest in public transport in the regions, including community bus services which are free for at least people on a low income – Government announced an extension to Broome bus services.
- Tenancy reform – end to no-grounds evictions and develop and implement minimum standards for rental properties.
- High level early childhood advisory committee – partial implementation - established an advisory committee for WA Play Strategy.
- Actively engage with the National Building Early Education Fund (BEEF) – Government and sector engaged with BEEF, as in line with our ask.

Government has also made investments in issues addressed in the SBS:

- Continued investment in social and affordable housing, including additional funding for housing supply and homelessness services.
- Some cost-of-living relief measures, concessions for low-income households.
- Additional investment in family and domestic violence responses, including refuge and support services.
- Funding for mental health and community support services.
- Continued funding for initiatives supporting Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations and Closing the Gap priorities.
- Additional measures to address workforce shortages across the community services sector, including training and attraction initiatives.

We welcomed the implementation of these recommendations and the progress that has been made in advancing these reforms. These measures will deliver benefits for our community and demonstrate a commitment to addressing key issues that have long required attention. However, we remain concerned that the other recommendations have not yet been implemented. These recommendations are not matters that can be ignored; they address critical gaps and challenges that continue to affect the wellbeing, inclusion and opportunities of our community, and inequities persist.

Campaigns: Building Movements for Long-Term Change

WACOSS is proud to support many campaigns and collective initiatives that advance our vision of an inclusive, just and equitable society.

In particular, we play an active partner role – by contributing leadership, resources, funding and advocacy support – in these areas:

These campaigns demonstrate what is possible when community organisations, people with lived experience, researchers, advocates, unions, philanthropists and community members come together around a common purpose. For example, the End Child and Youth Homelessness coalition is a cross-sector alliance of community organisations, lived-experience advocates and peak bodies which was formed to address alarming rates of homelessness in young Western Australians.

Throughout the year, we saw encouraging signs of progress. Reforms designed to help address housing affordability and boost renters' rights have been announced. There was greater public understanding of poverty as a structural issue requiring systemic solutions. The political debate has shifted to give more attention to justice reinvestment approaches as alternatives to incarceration.

While these achievements are important, we know that meaningful social change rarely occurs within a single year. The complex challenges of poverty, homelessness, housing insecurity and inequality have developed over decades and will require sustained effort, collaboration and community leadership to overcome. Real progress depends on building strong social movements that can endure beyond election cycles and continue advocating for long-term solutions.

As the peak body for the community services sector, WACOSS believes we have a responsibility not only to respond to immediate challenges but also to help nurture the collective movements that create lasting change. We are deeply grateful to the organisations, communities and individuals who continue to contribute their expertise, lived experience, resources and passion to these campaigns. Every success achieved this year has been the result of collective effort.

Our experience continues to reinforce a simple truth: no single organisation can achieve transformational change alone. When the sector stands together, shares resources, amplifies community voices and works towards a common goal, we become a powerful force for change. While there is still much work ahead, the progress made this year gives us confidence that together we are helping build a fairer Western Australia.

Make Renting Fair

After many years of hard work, the Make Renting Fair alliance notched up some important wins.

In May, the WA Government announced that some of our key asks would be included in the next tranche of reforms to the Residential Tenancies Act:

- An end to no-grounds evictions
- Introduction of some minimum standards for rental
- Extension of the WA Rent Relief Program
- Increased privacy protections for renters

Make Renting Fair is now focused on ensuring these commitments are reflected in the legislation and campaigning for rent stabilisation measures to help protect vulnerable Western Australians against spiraling rent rises.

As part of our advocacy for rent stabilisation, Make Renting Fair released the If the Cap Fits: the Case for Rent Stabilisation in WA report in November.

At the same time, we targeted members of the WA Parliament with tailored letters which highlighted just how much weekly rents in their respective electorates had increased between 2021 and 2025. In regional WA, the median weekly rental price had increased by an average of 144 per cent.

Make Renting Fair was founded by Anglicare WA, Circle Green Community Legal, Shelter WA and WACOSS.

End Child and Youth Homelessness

WACOSS joined the End Child and Youth Homelessness coalition this year. It is a genuine collaboration to collect data, highlight the voices of lived experience and campaign for immediate action to end child and youth homelessness in WA.

Led by Vinnies WA, Indigo Junction and Mission Australia, this coalition comprises young people, service providers and peak bodies representing the youth services accommodation sector.

This data includes the disturbing statistic that on any given night in Perth, 69 unaccompanied children and young people are competing for one available crisis bed.

In November, the coalition released its first pre-budget submission, calling on the WA Government to invest $150 million into urgently needed accommodation, prevention and early intervention initiatives to address child and youth homelessness, and continue the Youth Homelessness Advisory Council (YHAC).

This submission initially focused on the Perth metropolitan area and has garnered significant media attention, focused on the powerful voices of lived experience advocates.

While some funding for child and youth homelessness services was included in the 2025–26 State Budget, the coalition was disappointed that its recommendations were not adopted, especially funding for YHAC.

End Child Poverty

WACOSS continued to play an active role in the End Child Poverty campaign lead and primarily funded by Centrecare, a national movement bringing together community organisations, researchers, people with lived experience, unions and advocates to address the growing number of children living in poverty across Australia. The campaign works to increase public understanding that child poverty is not inevitable, but the result of policy choices that can and should be changed.

Throughout the year, WACOSS contributed research, policy expertise and advocacy support to the campaign. Findings from our Cost of Living Report, Living Realities research and Children's Policy Advisory Council helped demonstrate the impact that housing costs, inadequate incomes and rising living expenses are having on children and families in Western Australia. We used this evidence to advocate for stronger income support, affordable housing, accessible early childhood services and investment in family support programs.

While awareness of child poverty has grown significantly, the number of children experiencing hardship remains unacceptably high. WACOSS remains committed to working with partners across the country to ensure every child has access to the resources, opportunities and support they need to thrive.

No Place for Poverty

WACOSS continued to support the No Place for Poverty campaign, a growing movement focused on changing the way poverty is understood and discussed in Western Australia. The campaign seeks to challenge harmful stereotypes and build community understanding that poverty is driven by structural factors, including inadequate income support, insecure housing, rising living costs and unequal access to opportunity.

Throughout the year, the campaign worked to elevate the voices of people with lived experience of poverty and financial hardship. Through community conversations, media engagement, research and advocacy, the campaign highlighted the reality that many Western Australians are struggling to meet the cost of basic essentials despite living in a state with strong economic performance.

By building a broader movement for change, No Place for Poverty continues to advocate for policies that reduce hardship, strengthen economic security and ensure everyone can participate fully in community life.

Social Reinvestment WA

WACOSS remains a committed partner in Social Reinvestment WA, a coalition advocating for a smarter and more effective approach to community safety and justice. Social reinvestment focuses on redirecting resources towards early intervention, prevention and community-led solutions that address the underlying causes of crime and disadvantage before they escalate.

Over the past year, the coalition continued to build support for justice reinvestment approaches that invest in children, families and communities rather than relying solely on costly responses after harm has occurred. This has included advocacy for greater investment in early childhood development, youth engagement, family support services, housing, mental health services and place-based community-led initiatives.

Encouragingly, public and political discussion increasingly reflects the principles of social reinvestment, with growing recognition that stronger communities create safer communities. While significant reform is still required, the coalition has helped build momentum for evidence-based approaches that reduce disadvantage, improve community wellbeing and deliver better outcomes for Western Australians over the long term

An Impactful WACOSS

Membership and Stakeholder Engagement

The 2025-26 WACOSS Members and Stakeholders Survey reinforced WACOSS's reputation as a trusted advocate, policy leader and connector across the community services sector. Conducted over four weeks, the survey received 78 responses from members and stakeholders across metropolitan and regional Western Australia.

Members identified advocacy and representation, influencing systemic change, access to research and sector intelligence, timely information, and networking opportunities as the primary benefits of engaging with WACOSS. Reflecting this value, 73 per cent of respondents agreed that WACOSS membership represents good value for money.

WACOSS continues to be a trusted source of information and sector leadership. All respondents reported receiving WACOSS sector updates and special bulletins, with more than 82 per cent finding them informative and useful. Ninety per cent agreed that WACOSS social media channels provide reliable and trustworthy information.

Confidence in WACOSS's advocacy and policy work remains strong. Ninety per cent of respondents agreed that WACOSS effectively represents and advocates on behalf of the sector and vulnerable Western Australians. More than 80 per cent recognised the quality of WACOSS research and government submissions, while 84 per cent agreed that WACOSS creates valuable opportunities for collaboration and policy engagement.

The survey highlighted strong overall satisfaction with WACOSS and affirmed its vital role in strengthening the community services sector. Feedback will continue to inform opportunities to enhance member engagement, expand practical resources and strengthen connections across metropolitan and regional Western Australia.

Governance and Risk

The Governance and Risk Committee (GRC) continued to support the Board in maintaining strong governance, accountability and organisational stewardship throughout 2025-26. The Committee played an important role in ensuring WACOSS's governance frameworks, policies and compliance obligations remained aligned with legislative requirements, sector best practice and the organisation's strategic objectives.

During the year, the Committee oversaw a significant program of governance and policy review, strengthening organisational systems, controls and accountability mechanisms. Key policies updated during the year included the Whistleblower Policy, Conflict of Interest Policy, Workplace Health and Safety frameworks, and a range of governance and compliance documents to ensure they reflected contemporary legislative requirements and best practice standards. The Committee also supported improvements to risk reporting, compliance monitoring and organisational assurance processes, helping to strengthen oversight across the organisation.

The Committee monitored organisational performance against governance and compliance obligations while supporting a culture of continuous improvement. Through its work, the Committee helped ensure that WACOSS remains a transparent, ethical and well-governed organisation, capable of responding to changing regulatory and operating environments while continuing to deliver on its strategic priorities.

The Committee's efforts throughout the year reinforced WACOSS's commitment to good governance, sound decision-making and organisational excellence, providing a strong foundation for the organisation's advocacy, policy leadership and support of the community services sector across Western Australia.

Professional Development

Investing in the development of our people remained a priority for WACOSS throughout 2025-26. Staff participated in a range of professional development opportunities designed to strengthen capability, support innovation and enhance our ability to advocate effectively for Western Australians experiencing disadvantage.

A key area of focus during the year was building a more inclusive and culturally responsive workplace. Staff completed Anti-Racism at Work training delivered by Democracy in Colour, strengthening understanding of anti-racist practice and informing the development of a WACOSS Anti-Racism Policy. Team members also participated in Trauma Awareness Training delivered by Phoenix Support and Advocacy Service, enhancing organisational capability to apply trauma-informed approaches across our work and relationships.

As technology continues to reshape the way organisations operate, several staff members undertook Microsoft Copilot AI training to build skills in the effective and responsible use of artificial intelligence, supporting greater innovation, productivity and collaboration across the organisation.

WACOSS staff also actively engaged in sector conferences, forums and learning events throughout the year, including Australian Progress, the Evidence and Implementation Summit and the Digital Accessibility Conference, among many others. These opportunities enabled staff to remain informed of emerging trends, strengthen professional networks and bring new ideas and insights back to the organisation, ensuring WACOSS continues to provide informed leadership and advocacy across the community services sector.

DropIN Solutions

In the 2025-26 financial year, we saw continued growth for DropIN Solutions, with strong demand across web development, branding, and graphic design services for organisations throughout the community sector.

Our team delivered a number of new websites this year, including:

- Kimberley Community Legal Services
- Digital Inclusion Project
- Stopping Family Violence
- GEOvet
- Sex Workers Outreach Project (SWOP) NSW
- Carnarvon Common Ground (website and branding)
- Jacaranda Community Centre

Following the launch of the websites, we will have ongoing website hosting and maintenance agreements with these clients in the following years.

We also completed the Seniors Directory (Seniors Information Resource), a project delivered in partnership with the Department of Communities. It's a custom-built, user-friendly web-based interface providing WA seniors with information on services, concessions, and programs.

Alongside website builds and the ongoing web support we provide to our clients, we produced a wide range of brochures, booklets, annual reports, and graphic assets for clients including Centre for Women's Safety and Wellbeing, Great Southern Community Legal Services, Pilbara Community Legal Services, Women's Safety Services of Central Australia, and many others.

We also expanded into video production this year, delivering a video project for Starick.

The DropIN Solutions team remains committed to innovation, accessibility, and sector capacity-building, and we're proud of the breadth and quality of work delivered across the sector this year.

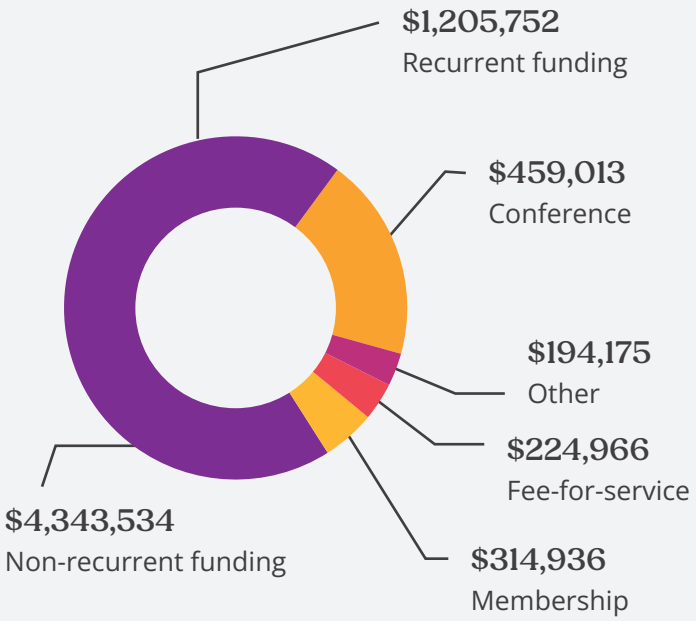
Financial Report

The financial position of WACOSS remains stable with net assets of $2,400,233 an increase of $50,052 on the previous financial year.

Income

Total income for the financial year was **$6,283,363**. Government and other funding remains the primary source of revenue (88%), together with membership fees (5%), fee-for-service (4%) and other income (3%).

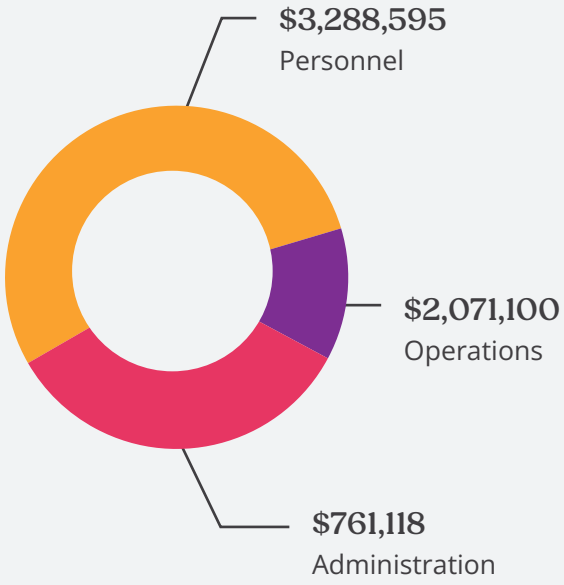
Graphic 1: *Income by type*



Expenditure

Total expenditure for the financial year was **$6,120,813**. Personnel remained the largest expense (54%), followed by Administration (12%) and Operations (34%).

Graphic 2: *Expenditure by type*



Sub note: *It should be recognised that the nature of our activities are such that individual projects and major events have the capacity to materially alter specific areas of income and expenditure year-on-year.*

Our Sponsors and Funders

- Australian Government National Recovery and Resilience Agency
- BHP
- Department of Communities
- Department of Health
- Department of the Premier and Cabinet
- Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
- Lotterywest
- Minderoo Foundation
- Rio Tinto
- State Library of Western Australia
- Water Corporation

Our Members

Honorary Life Members

- Anne Sinclair
- Brenda Harper-Nelson
- Moira Rainer
- Peter Sirr
- Sue Ash

Associate Individuals

- Alexander Macaulay
- Allan Connolly
- Amit Kolkur
- Claire Rapson
- Coby Greer
- Dave Kelly
- David Gilchrist
- Fabiola Pinheiro
- Fiona Mcdougall
- Geoff Wolfenden
- Janet Cooper
- Janine Freeman
- Janine Gerard
- Jonathan Seth
- Katrina Gorlanchuk
- Kristeen Pomeroy
- Kuruvilla Mathew
- Linda Savage
- Maria Tsovleas
- Michelle Woosnam
- Nandita R Naroth
- Natasa Kusmuk-Duus
- Pornpan Jintanawiwat
- Sonalee Amit Kolkur
- Stephen Dawson
- Stuart Reid
- Sue Lines
- Suzana Kowalska
- Tony Keane
- Trish Owen
- Veronica Johnson
- Yvonne Kallane

Social Service Individuals

- Angie Paskevicius
- Ann White
- Anna Presser
- Belinda James
- Ben Smith
- Brodie Lewis
- Cailin Pitcher
- Clare Mullen
- Donna Quinn
- Dorothea Landman
- Francis Lynch
- Ghylene Palmer
- Helen Creed
- Helen Liedel
- Henrietta Podgorska
- Jennifer Monaghan
- Jodie Wilde
- Joe Calleja
- Karen Hickling
- Katrina Williamson
- Kylie Hansen
- Lisa Lee
- Louise Lamont
- Lynette Amai
- Maria Harries
- Michelle MacKenzie
- Naomi Mills-Edward
- Rebekah Price
- Renee Solomon
- Samantha Holland
- Skye Frizza
- Stephanie Boyd
- Tricia Murray
- Vida Corbett

Associate Organisations

- City of Nedlands
- DART Group
- Optus Business Centre Perth South
- UWA – Division of Social Work & Policy

Social Service Organisation Members

- 54 Reasons
- 55 Central Inc
- Aboriginal Health Council of WA
- AccordWest
- Advocare Inc
- Alike WA
- Allambee Counselling
- Amity Health
- Anglicare WA
- Auspire
- Australian Association of Social Workers WA Branch
- Australian Red Cross
- Bloodwood Tree Association
- Blue Dot Army
- Brave Foundation
- Breast Cancer Care WA
- Bridge Builders
- Broome C.I.R.C.L.E. Inc
- Cancer Council Western Australia
- Carnarvon Family Support Service WA Ltd.
- Catholic Family and Justice Support Services
- Catholic Outreach
- Centacare Geraldton Limited
- Centacare Kimberley Association Inc
- Central Agcare Inc
- Centre for Asylum Seekers, Refugees and Detainees
- Centre for Women's Safety and Wellbeing
- Centrecare Inc
- CEOs for Gender Equity
- Child Australia
- Choyces
- Circle Green Community Legal
- Citizens Advice Bureau of WA Inc
- CoMHWA
- Communicare Inc
- Community Employers WA
- Community Legal WA
- Consumer Credit Legal Service WA
- Coolabaroo (t/a Moorditch Gurlongga Assoc. Inc.)
- Desert Blue Connect
- Doubleview House
- Dress for Success Western Australia
- Escare Inc
- Esperance Care Services
- Facilitatrix
- Family Inclusion Network of Western Australia Inc
- Financial Counsellors Association WA Inc
- Foodbank WA
- Frank Konecny Community Centre
- Garduwarra Mia Community and Youth Support Services Inc
- Goldfields Women Health Care Centre
- Goodstart Early Learning
- GRAI
- Great Southern Community Legal Services
- Haemophilia Foundation WA Inc
- Harvey Community Resource Centre Inc
- Hedland Well Women Centre Inc.
- HelpingMinds
- Holyoake
- Hope Community Services Inc

- Housing Choices - previously Access Housing Limited
- In Town Centre Inc
- Indigo Junction
- Injury Matters
- Investing in Our Youth
- Invisible Illnesses Inc. (Fibro & Us)
- Joondalup Family Centre
- Key Assets
- KEYS
- Kidsafe WA Inc
- KIIND
- Kilfinan Australia
- Koya Aboriginal Corporation
- Lamp Incorporated
- Life Without Barriers
- Linkwest Inc
- Living Proud Inc
- MacKillop Family Services
- Margaret River Community Pantry Inc.
- Margaret River Community Resource Centre Inc
- Marra Worra Worra Aboriginal Corporation
- Men's Health and Wellbeing WA Inc
- Mens Outreach Service Aboriginal Corporation
- Men's Shed of WA
- Mercy Community Services Ltd
- Mission Australia
- Multicultural Futures
- Newman Community Centre
- Newman Women's Shelter
- Ngala Community Services
- Ngarliyarndu Bindirri Aboriginal Corporation
- On My Feet
- One Tree Community Services
- Orana House Inc
- OVIS Community Service (Pat Thomas House Inc)
- Palmerston Association Inc
- Parkerville Children and Youth Care Inc
- Pathways Southwest
- Peel Community Development Group
- People with Disabilities WA Inc
- PeopleKind Group
- Perth Asian Community Centre
- Perth Inner City Youth Service
- Pivot Support Services
- Playgroup WA Inc
- Rainbow Futures
- Reconciliation WA
- Regional Alliance West Inc
- Relationships Australia Western Australia Inc
- Rise Network Inc
- Roman Catholic Archbishop of Perth – Catholic Social Services WA
- Ruah Community Services
- Sandalwood Family Centre
- Sexual Health Quarters -The Family Planning Association of WA Inc
- Shelter WA
- SHINE
- Social Reinvestment WA
- Social Ventures Australia Ltd
- South Lake Ottey Family & Neighbourhood Centre Inc
- South West Counselling Inc
- South West Refuge Inc
- St Bartholomew's House Inc

- St John of God Outreach Services
- St Patrick's Community Support Centre
- St. Vincent de Paul Society WA Inc
- Starick
- Swan City Youth Service Inc.
- Technology for Ageing and Disability WA Inc
- Tender Funerals Perth
- The People Place Busselton Inc
- The Salvation Army WA
- The Shopfront
- The Smith Family
- The Spiers Centre Inc
- ThirdStory
- Tuart Place
- Umbrellas & Footprints
- Uniting Church
- Uniting WA
- Uplyft formerly Wanslea
- Valued Lives
- Volunteering WA
- WA Network of Alcohol and Other Drug Agencies
- WA Return Recycle Renew (Containers for Change WA)
- Waratah Support Centre SW Inc
- Western Urban Associates (WA) Inc (Street Chaplains)
- Wheatbelt Agcare Community Support Services Inc
- Womens Health and Family Services (also known as LUMA)
- Women's Legal Service WA
- World Vision Australia
- Wunan Foundation
- Wungening Aboriginal Corporation
- Yaandina Family Centre Limited
- YMCA WA
- Yorganop Association Incorporated
- Yorgum Healing Services Aboriginal Corporation
- Youth Affairs Council of Western Australia
- Youth Focus
- Youth Futures WA Inc
- Youth Involvement Council Inc
- Zonta House Refuge Association Inc

DropIN solutions

WACOSS Social Enterprise

WACOSS members are eligible for a 10% discount on all quoted projects

DropIN Solutions is a social enterprise of WACOSS created with the purpose of providing professional creative solutions at accessible rates and tailored to the needs and goals of community service organisations.

- Logo Design & Brand Development
- Graphic Design & Publications
- Website Design & Development
- Secure & Tailored Web Hosting Solutions
- Video Editing & Motion Graphics

WEBSITE
www.dropinsolutions.org.au

EMAIL
dropinsolutions@wacoss.org.au

WACOSS strives for an inclusive, just and equitable society.

We advocate for social change to improve the wellbeing of Western Australians and to strengthen the community services sector that supports them.

WACouncilofSocialService

Western Australian Council of Social Service

wacoss1

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