

Housing & Homelessness



Main Investments

Where is the money going?	How much is being invested?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Remote Communities Fund, investing in new and refurbished housing, improving water, electricity, and municipal services, and economic participation in remote Aboriginal communities. 	\$350 million
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding to enable spot purchasing of private dwellings to boost social housing stock. 	\$31.4 million
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extension of the Koort Boodja and the homelessness engagement, assessment and response team (HEART) programs to support existing efforts to respond to the increasing prevalence of people experiencing homelessness and sleeping rough across the Perth metropolitan area. 	\$3.7 million
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extension of the Safe Perth City Initiative which aims to provide a coordinated response to address homelessness and antisocial behaviour in the Perth CBD and Northbridge. This includes \$1.5 million to expand and continue the HEART Program, and \$1 million for a security patrol service delivered by Aboriginal Liaison Officers. 	\$2.8 million
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A 5% density bonus for developers for multi-story developments that include a minimum 5% social housing. 	N/A

Our Response

<i>The good:</i>	<i>The bad:</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whilst there is not too much specific funding to address youth homelessness in the State Budget, it is welcome to see a sorely needed strong investment of \$350 million over four years for investment into investing in new and refurbished housing, improving water, electricity, and municipal services, and economic participation in remote Aboriginal communities. This is a positive addition to the budget and will hopefully be matched with further contributions from the Federal Government following the May election. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> After a range of announcements from the Mental Health Commission in the previous year for mental health and AOD specific services for young people experiencing homelessness, it is dismaying to see an absence of any new funding from the Department of Communities and other agencies for specific initiatives to address youth homelessness. Young people need resourcing for specialist initiatives such as a Housing First for Youth model that get them into housing and support immediately.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We also commend the extended funding for Koort Boodja and the HEART program, as well as the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth homelessness services such as crisis accommodation have been underfunded and overburdened for

<p>\$31.4 million for the spot purchasing of existing private dwellings to boost social housing. Whilst these are comparatively small investments they are a step in the right direction and we urge the State Government to increase funding for these initiatives in future budgets in order to significantly scale up the activity of homelessness support services as well as increase the supply of social housing.</p>	<p>many years, with rolling contracts that fail to provide the certainty and flexibility required to meet rising demand and deliver a sustainable service for young people experiencing homelessness. We encourage the State Government to align with the priorities outlined in the WA Alliance to End Homelessness's <i>Youth Homelessness Action Plan</i> and ensure a renewed strategic focus on young people in future budgets.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • While adult programs such as the extended funding for Koort Boodja and the HEART program will likely engage with some young people, the issue and prevalence of youth homelessness is great enough to require a targeted response. The State Government has acknowledged this need in the <i>State Homelessness Strategy</i> but have neglected to adequately address in the State Budget. Evidence shows that adult-focused models are generally significantly less effective for young people to transition into stable independent, and we have children continue to sleep rough whilst the State Government continues to neglect youth homelessness as a priority issue.