



2022/23 WA State Budget Analysis

June 2022

Youth Affairs Council of Western Australia

10 June 2022

On Thursday the 12th of May 2022, the State Government released the 2022/23 Western Australian Budget (the State Budget). The State Budget outlines the:

- Confirmed State Government spending over the next 12 months;
- planned future spending over the next three financial years; and
- information on government performance, such as past spending and key performance indicators.

Each year, YACWA analyses the State Budget to determine where money is being spent and what impact it will have on the lives of young people and the effectiveness of the youth sector. This State Budget Analysis provides an overview of the State Government's key investments as well as commentary and analysis on whether this spending aligns with the identified needs of young people and the youth sector.

YACWA published a media release on the State Budget on 12 May 2022.

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Media Release

12 May 2022

Youth mental health a winner in the WA State Budget, but the youth homelessness crisis has been left out

The Youth Affairs Council of Western Australia has welcomed investment into youth mental health, youth engagement and grants for COVID-19 youth recovery, but the lack of action to address the youth housing and homelessness crisis has been sharply criticised.

The Government has delivered a positive \$47.3 million investment to expand the mental health workforce, such as additional resourcing for frontline staff in Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services, establishing peer support workers and enabling increased use of telehealth for at-risk children. These offer much-needed relief to a strained and burnt-out workforce.

YACWA has also welcomed the focus on community-based initiatives and culturally appropriate solutions in the \$40.4 million investment package in including the expansion of the preventative Target 120 program, the Kimberley Community Action Fund that supports youth engagement initiatives and on-country rehabilitative programs in the state's northernmost regions are steps in the right direction to provide children with help, not harm.

However, YACWA has noted a sharp increase in youth homelessness in recent years, tied to rising inflation and the impact of COVID-19 on young people and the rental market. Urgent targeted investment is needed to relieve the burden on young people to ensure that they are not locked in insecure housing indefinitely and at increased risk of homelessness, and to support underfunded youth homelessness services.

YACWA CEO Sandy McKiernan said that whilst the State Budget contains some positives for young Western Australians, including significant investments in mental health, youth justice and youth engagement, it fails to provide targeted investment in the areas that will truly break the cycle of disadvantage for many young people in WA.

"We welcome the culturally responsive youth justice initiatives in the Kimberley, in particular the expansion of the Target 120 program and on-country residential facility, as important supports for young people who engage with the justice system."

"Community-led diversionary programs are extremely effective at reducing the rate of re-offending for at-risk young people, and the evidence-base for this work is growing."

"But while Western Australia continues to boast one of the strongest economies in the country, investment in other areas is sorely lacking for a generation experiencing a disproportionate impact from both COVID-19 and inflation on their basic needs and safety."

"Youth homelessness is at crisis point in Western Australia, with the number of young people in need of support skyrocketing due to the COVID-19 pandemic and rising rental prices."

"With existing youth homelessness services at breaking point, many young people will continue to be locked out of the market and pushed further into financial and housing stress."

“We cannot keep relying on crisis-based interventions – young people need approaches that prevent harm and keep them well. Young people and the community services sector have long talked about the need to fund dedicated youth housing-first models which recognise the unique causes and drivers of youth homelessness and intervene before they are entrenched.”

“Investment in supporting our young people is paramount. It saves taxpayers money, it saves the government money, and it supports people at the first point of difficulty, before the problems become too big to manage.”

Youth Justice

Main Investments

Where is the money going?	How much is being invested?
<p>Additional police staffing and infrastructure including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 950 additional police officers • A recruitment campaign to source new officers • Operation Regional Shield, which increases policing in the Kimberley. • Creating a District Support Facility in Broome and Kununurra (non-public facing police accommodation). 	\$106 million
<p>A Kimberley Youth and Community Justice Response Package to address rising community concerns about crime in the region. This will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating an on-country residential facility • Funding to extend the Kimberley Schools Project for 3 years which aims to promote educational connection • Establishing Broome Night Patrols (and some across other areas of the Kimberley) • Intensive Family Support Services • Other youth justice-related initiatives in the community (details to be determined) 	\$40.4 million
<p>Improvements to conditions at Banksia Hill Detention Centre including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ establishing a Crisis Care Unit. ○ creating an Aboriginal Services Unit to provide cultural support and address the overrepresentation of Aboriginal young people in detention ○ critical infrastructure works. 	\$25.1 million
<p>Extending the Target 120 program to nine additional locations. Target 120 provides wraparound family support to prolific young offenders at risk of engagement with the justice system.</p> <p>The new locations are: Broome, Halls Creek, Fitzroy Crossing, Derby, Karratha, Newman, Carnarvon, Mandurah and Ellenbrook.</p>	\$11.1 million
<p>Extension of the Therapeutic Pilot Court in the Children's Court of Western Australia. No additional details are available.</p>	\$1.38 million
<p>Continued implementation of the Kimberley Juvenile Justice Strategy, an inter-agency government initiative aiming to address the disproportionate number of young people from the Kimberley coming into contact with the justice system.</p>	\$154,000

The Impact

The good:	The bad:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Kimberley Youth and Community Justice Response Package, particularly the on-country residential facility will provide significant improvements to service delivery in the youth justice system. However, it is crucial that these measures are designed and delivered with local communities and Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations to ensure they are effective and locally-relevant. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Despite the focus on diversion and prevention spending, the resources allocated to these areas are far outweighed by the \$106 million allocated towards punitive and crisis responses. With more than 50% of young people leaving Banksia Hill Detention Centre returning in two years¹ it is clear this approach is not working and our priority should be on prevention programs based in the community.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improvements to conditions at Banksia Hill Detention Centre are long overdue and urgently needed following the 2022 Report detailing human rights abuses at the centre.² However much more work is required to ensure the Detention Centre is fit-for-purpose as a rehabilitative facility. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional investment in policing is a missed opportunity to invest in community development and address the underlying causes of crime. Increased policing does not always translate to reduced crime without addressing the root causes of offending and may lead to over policing and higher rates of incarceration.³
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More alternatives are also needed to move young people under 14 out of detention and into community-based supports. Western Australia urgently needs a strategy to reduce the population of young people in detention in real terms, including through investment in community-based supports. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> YACWA wishes to see investment in a youth justice strategy focused on preventing young people from entering the justice system and improving engagement in education, work, and social supports.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expanded funding for the Therapeutic Pilot in the WA Children's Court is welcomed. While details on the pilot's implementation are lacking, it appears to involve a separate list of cases in the Perth Children's Court, focusing on families in need and taking a holistic lens.⁴ 	

¹ Department of Justice (2020). 'Annual Report, 2019/20', *The Department of Justice, WA*. Retrieved from: https://www.wa.gov.au/sites/default/files/2020-09/Department-of-JusticeAnnual-Report-2019-2020_0.pdf

² Office of the Inspector of Custodial Services (2022). *2021 Inspection of the Intensive Support Unit at Banksia Hill Detention Centre*. Retrieved from: <https://www.oics.wa.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Inspection-of-Banksia-Hill-Detention-Centre-ISU-CORRECTED.pdf>

³ Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration (2016). *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander experience of law enforcement and justice services*. Retrieved from: https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Finance_and_Public_Administration/LegalAssistanceservices/Report

⁴ Department of Justice (2020). *A Therapeutic Approach (Pilot Court) for Protection and Care in the Children's Court of WA*. Retrieved from: https://childrenscourt.wa.gov.au/_files/Discussion_Paper_PnC.pdf

Mental Health & AOD

Main Investments

Where is the money going?	How much is being invested?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responses to recommendations of the Ministerial Taskforce into Public Mental Health Services for Infants, Children and Adolescents in WA, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Expansion of the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service frontline workforce across seven regions by 11.6 full time equivalent workers. ○ Additional Peer Support Workers. ○ A two-year virtual support service for at-risk children in the transition phase between services ○ Establishment of an interagency program office, undertake service model design and develop an implementation plan; and ○ Mental health workforce development initiatives. 	\$47.3 million
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contributions to support the WA Bilateral Schedule to the National Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Agreement. This agreement will go towards aftercare services, eating disorder services, and the establishment of a new Head to Health Kids Hub. 	\$27.5 million
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Video and telecommunication mental health support to children and families in the transition phase between services 	\$10.5 million
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expansion of the Peel Community and Alcohol Drug Services, delivering an integrated AOD service within the Peel Health Hub for young people aged 14 and over. 	\$8.6 million to
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuation of the ‘Preventing FASD Project’ which is a public awareness campaign aiming to reduce the incidence of Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder. 	\$6.1 million
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuation of the WA Country Health Service Mental Health Emergency Telehealth Service which supports better access to services for rural and remote communities. 	\$5.1 million
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of a Health Navigator Pilot Program to help children in care get timely access to healthcare, mental health services and disability support. The pilot program is being jointly delivered by the Department of Communities and the Department of Health, with input from key stakeholders and young people. 	\$3.5 million

Our Response

<i>The good:</i>	<i>The bad:</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investment into the mental health workforce is highly welcomed. It is hoped additional resourcing for frontline staff in Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services will address long wait times. These offer much-needed relief to a strained and burnt-out workforce. These were critical areas heard in our 2021 State of the Youth Sector Forum, and a priority for investment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Despite a \$4.3 million increase in funding from 2021/22, mental health prevention spending declines by \$13.2 million from 2022/23 - 2025/26. Prevention services provide support to people to keep them well and prevent mental health and alcohol and other drug issues from escalating and requiring more intensive supports. Western Australia urgently requires an increase in funding for prevention services to meet targets established in the <i>Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drugs Services Plan</i>.⁵ Not meeting these targets risks additional burden on under-funded crisis services and increased wait-times for bed-based services.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investment in establishing peer support workers and enabling increased use of telehealth for at-risk children are also welcome responses based on what young people have called for. This aligns with our consultation on the Young People’s Priorities for Action document. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We need investment in specialist services for young people with unique needs that are being unmet by our current system. We are calling for additional dedicated services for LGBTIQ+ young people and young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds. Young people have told us current services are not meeting their needs and require dedicated initiatives.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Government have acknowledged that during the past year costs have increased for building materials and workforce shortages have delayed some projects, but they are promising to still deliver on their election commitments for local and regional facilities and support programs such as the construction of a 20 bed AOD Rehabilitation facility and construction of a 10-bed step up/step down facility in South Hedland. We hope to see these promises fulfilled in the coming financial year. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional investment is also required to understand the long-term effects COVID-19, higher inflation, housing prices, and climate issues will have on young people and their mental health.

⁵ Mental Health Commission (2018). *Western Australian Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drug Services Plan 2015-2025: Plan Update 2018*. Retrieved from: <https://www.mhc.wa.gov.au/media/3516/plan-update-2018-corrections-29-july-2020.pdf>.

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 \$31.4 million for the spot purchasing of existing private dwellings to boost 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth homelessness services such as crisis accommodation have been underfunded and overburdened for many years, with rolling contracts that fail to provide the certainty and

<p>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>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.

Child Protection & Safety

Main Investments

Where is the money going?	How much is being invested?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing responses to the recommendations handed down by the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. This includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ \$115 million towards the National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse. ○ \$2 million to support the expansion of mandatory reporting and \$2.9 million to improve capabilities to investigate offences. ○ \$2 million to build research and evidence-based practices for responding to child sexual abuse and harmful sexual behaviours. ○ \$1.4 million to fund the National Centre and WA Centre for the prevention of Child Sexual Abuse. ○ \$2.7 million for a Harmful Sexual Behaviour Intervention Program. ○ \$4.2 million in funding to implement a first phase of proposed Working with Children's Check Reforms, including \$2.4 million allocated from the Digital Capability Fund. ○ \$14.3 million allocated to regulation and quality assurance to safeguard children. This is targeted as increasing the capacity of the Department of Communities to implement Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse commitments on the reportable conduct scheme and implementation of national principles. 	\$152.8 million
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A boost to child protection and support services to help keep Western Australian children safe. This includes an allocation of \$75.2m to enhance child protection services, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Appointment of a Chief Practitioner for Child Protection within the Department of Communities. ○ Funding to expand and enhance earlier intervention services, including intensive family support and outreach services for at-risk young people and their families – including trials of the program in the South West and Halls Creek. ○ Additional funding to meet the cost of delivering essential child protection services, including recruitment of an additional 36 child protection workers. ○ Roll-out of the Target 120 program to nine additional regional and metropolitan sites, including four sites in the Kimberley (also noted 	\$114 million

<p>within the Youth Justice section). Target 120 provides wraparound family support to prolific young offenders at risk of engagement with the justice system.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding to Aboriginal Representative Organisations (AROs) in Armadale and the Kimberley region to empower Aboriginal families and support them to keep their children safe. AROs are new requirements under the Children and Community Services Act Amendments to ensure Aboriginal people are involved in the decision-making processes of Aboriginal young people in care. 	\$1.3 million
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement of the Aboriginal Family Led Decision Making pilot program in Mirrabooka and the Mid West and Gascoyne regions, aiming to reduce the overrepresentation of Aboriginal children and young people in the child protection system. This program provides a culturally safe space to support family to make culturally-based and family-driven decisions. 	\$715,000

Our Response

<i>The good:</i>	<i>The bad:</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding under the <i>Earlier Intervention and Family Support Strategy</i> is welcomed. This includes the Intensive Family Support Service and the Aboriginal In-Home Support Service. These are positive investments, as these services keep young people and their families together, and a review has found high rates of children involved in these services not being in care 12 months later. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding for early intervention as a proportion of overall spend has stagnated or declined over a significant portion of the last few years and so this funding is only a small portion of what is required to enable the child protection system to better address the pathways that lead children and young people to enter out of home care. Our consultations (such as the State of the Youth Sector Forum) repeatedly hear the need for greater focus on prevention initiatives, as many issues are only address when they reach crisis point.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding for Aboriginal community-based services such as the Aboriginal Family Led Decision Making Pilot, Aboriginal In-Home Support Service, and the Family Support Networks are highly positive. These initiatives support a reduction of Aboriginal children and young people in care. Aboriginal Family Led Decision Making is an important area to support self-determination for Aboriginal families and communities and to address the high overrepresentation of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Target 120 is set for a significant expansion into regions in the Kimberley and Pilbara. While we applaud more investment in family-focused services for vulnerable young people, this expansion has occurred prior to evaluation of existing services. We wish to see results of an evaluation of the service be made public.

<p>Aboriginal children in WA's child protection system.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This budget has additional funding to improve the delivery of services and support for children and young people currently engaged in out of home care and delivers a small boost in funding for early intervention and family support services. 	

Regional & Remote

Main Investments

Where is the money going?	How much is being invested?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishment of the WA Regional Digital Connectivity Program to improve mobile and internet coverage in the regions. This new program will leverage the Commonwealth and industry co-funding available for the expansion of mobile broadband and other digital connectivity solutions in regional, rural and remote areas across Australia. 	\$48.6 million
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Redevelopment of Roebourne District High School. Construction will commence to create a social and culturally-led learning environment for students from pre-school through to secondary school, with specific programs to engage Aboriginal children. 	\$42 million
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of regional airfare caps to reduce to cost of travel for families and communities living in regional areas of WA. 	\$19.5 million
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of the Students with Disabilities and Complex Behaviour Framework to support WA schools to provide more appropriate and individualised support to students. This is state-wide. 	4.6 million
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional funding for disaster recovery efforts, including for Tropical Cyclone Seroja. Details of these efforts have not yet been shared, but many are still affected by past extreme weather events. 	\$4.2 million
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Programs to attract international students to live, work and study in regional WA, targeting skills shortage areas. This includes aged care, disability, childcare, hospitality and tourism. 	\$2.4 million
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incentives for employers and apprentices involved in rebuilding disaster-affected regions including those communities impacted by Tropical Cyclone Seroja 	\$1.6 million

Our Response

<i>The good:</i>	<i>The bad:</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work to improve equitable internet access and connection is critical for people living and working in regional WA. This can support access to education, employment and health services for young people. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding to attract individuals to regional areas of WA are positive but will require a greater focus on sustainability and community development. Our consultations have showed the greatest barriers to retaining workers in the regions are housing, cost of living and other liveability factors. We need a focus on improving amenities and communities to ensure the investment sees a long-term impact.

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Regional airfare caps are very positive and will support families to access vital services. We know that young people and their families need to travel for access to health services and specialist appointments. We hope this is matched by a more sustainable investment to ensure appropriate services are available locally.	

Other Initiatives

Main Investments

Where is the money going?	How much is being invested?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing a one-off electricity credit of \$400 to more than 1 million Synergy and Horizon Power customers electricity accounts on 1 July 2022. 	\$445 million
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An increase in the State Government's contribution to 50% of individual packages for NDIS participants in WA. 	\$78.5 million
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuation of the 'Lower Fees, Local Skills' initiative, aimed at keeping TAFE fees low and annual fee caps across 200 priority TAFE courses. 	\$38.4 million
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding to tackle family and domestic violence and build safer communities, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ \$14.7 million to establish and run the Armadale Family and Domestic Violence Hub. ○ \$7.7 million to enhance the Family and Domestic Violence Response Teams, which provide targeted and coordinated intervention. ○ \$4.5 million to address family and domestic violence in the Kimberley by extending the Derby Family Violence Service and The <i>'Change Em Ways'</i> Kimberley Project for a further two years. 	\$34.4 million
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved classroom learning for students with complex behaviours, including increased resources to promote early interventions for students with literacy and numeracy difficulties. 	\$31.9 million
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of the Safe Home Family Package and \$3 million over five years for the expansion of the Respectful Relationships Program. 	\$29.5 million
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extension of the Driving Access and Equity Pilot Program, which is aimed at helping people in the Pilbara and the Kimberley to overcome barriers to obtaining their licence, such as geographic location, access to instructors, supervisors, vehicles and/or literacy or the financial means to participate. 	\$5.5 million
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support to retain childcare workers in the regions and establish a sustainable model to support regional childcare. 	\$5.1 million
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation of an Innovation Fund to develop new and emerging initiatives to assist people with disability to continue education, gain employment and increase independence. 	\$5 million
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A funding boost for Cadets WA. 	\$2.2 million
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-birth planning as part of the early intervention strategies. 	\$1 million

Our Response

<i>The good:</i>	<i>The bad:</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is incredibly welcome to see the \$31.9 million boost to improve classroom learning for students with complex behaviour, including resources to promote early interventions for students with literacy and numeracy difficulties. With a significant portion of existing funding in the education system going to maintaining mainstream education and infrastructure upgrades it is great to see a specific focus on young people who are not being effectively engaged by standard educational tools. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Given the significant rises in costs of living expenses such as rent, utilities, fuel and food as a result of inflation and the impacts of COVID-19 it is disappointing to see a lack of investment in targeted concessions for vulnerable young people living in increasing financial stress and at risk of homelessness, the one-off \$400 payment that does not extend beyond this.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Also welcome is the continuation of 'Lower Fees, Local Skills' TAFE initiative – providing low-cost and accessible education and vocational training is crucial to giving young people who may otherwise not be able to afford it the opportunity to establish an independent pathway for themselves to build their skills and knowledge and enter the workforce. Fees for TAFE have been reduced by up to 72% across 210 courses focused on local industries. We are hopeful this will support economic boosts in regional areas and address skill shortages while boosting youth employment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Despite the positive investment in support for young people with complex behaviours in the classroom more is also needed to provide increased support for teachers to engage in day-to-day classroom teaching, as many are overburdened and are suffering from high rates of burnout. We need to improve the capacity of our public education system to ensure it is maintaining high standards of education for young people in WA and provide enough support for teachers to ensure positive health and wellbeing.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We are also pleased to see the increased investment in family and domestic violence support and intervention programs, however we re-emphasise the need to prioritise resourcing for primary prevention within efforts to address family and domestic violence, in order to address the causes of it rather than simply provide support after it has already occurred. 	