



Western Australia State Budget 2021-22



Stronger, safer communities

At a glance

The McGowan Labor Government's 2021-22 State Budget continues to build strong, safe and fair communities.

Significant investments in community safety, including more police officers, record funding for social housing and homelessness measures, and justice services will enhance community safety and resilience.

We will continue to protect vulnerable children, families and individuals through our community services investments and funding for more initiatives to prevent family and domestic violence.

The 2021-22 State Budget includes:

- \$1.78 billion investment in the WA Police Force;
- \$875 million committed to social housing, taking the total investment in this Budget to \$2.1 billion;
- \$281.8 million to boost frontline emergency services and help Western Australians recover from major disasters;
- \$45.5 million for family and domestic violence prevention and support measures;
- \$37.2 million to expand the Homestretch pilot into a permanent state-wide program;
- \$12 million for the Safety and Security Rebate for WA Seniors Card members; and
- \$6.2 million investment to increase support payments for Grandcarers.

Investing in police and justice

Western Australia's frontline police are being supported with a record investment in the 2021-22 State Budget – including modern equipment, investment in operational capabilities and new and upgraded police stations to accommodate hundreds of new officers.

The Budget includes initiatives aimed at reducing offending behaviour with structured activities and a range of support to help victims navigating through the courts.

- \$83.6 million to refurbish and expand police stations to accommodate some of the additional 950 officers being employed by the McGowan Government, which includes \$41 million to build new police stations in Baldivis and Forrestfield, delivering on an election commitment;
- Almost \$100 million from the Road Trauma Trust Account for safety initiatives and improvements to dangerous roads and intersections;
- \$27.5 million to purchase another new helicopter for WA Police;
- \$27.8 million towards youth and other justice programs for regional communities;
- \$21.6 million to support WA Police's COVID-19 response;
- \$21.4 million contribution to the WA government's ongoing response to the recommendations handed down by the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse;
- \$9.3 million to detect drivers impaired by alcohol and drugs;
- \$9.3 million to expand the successful drug treatment prison model with the establishment of the Bunbury Prison Alcohol and Other Drug Unit;
- \$8.9 million for road safety related community education and engagement initiatives;
- \$6.3 million for Pathwest and the Chemcentre to carry out more DNA testing;

- \$7.8 million in additional funding to bolster the Kimberley Juvenile Justice Strategy. This includes a new night patrol program at Fitzroy Crossing, a collaborative project designing an on-country alternative to detention in Broome, and the continuation of the TAFE learning program, existing night patrols and safe place activities;
- \$4 million for Legal Aid WA to establish Elder Rights WA and enable increased legal responses to elder abuse;
- \$1.5 million for the Olabud Doogethu Halls Creek Youth Justice Reinvestment program to deliver therapeutic and diversionary options for young people coming into contact with the justice system; and
- \$1.5 million for the Western Desert Justice Program to offer therapeutic diversionary options in pre-sentence orders, culturally appropriate drug and alcohol services and mentoring on Country east of Newman (Martu Country).

Record funding to boost social housing and homelessness services

The McGowan Labor Government will invest a record \$2.1 billion over the next four years to substantially fund 3,300 social housing properties and deliver new homelessness initiatives.

- \$750 million Social Housing Investment Fund;
- \$20 million to renew three ageing social housing precincts in Albany, Bunbury and Geraldton;
- an additional \$38.5 million for expanded capacity at two Common Ground facilities, increasing total funding allocated to the supported housing facilities to \$73.5 million for a 112-apartment complex in the Perth central business district and a 50-apartment complex in Mandurah;
- \$26 million to convert 72 dwellings from the METRONET Social and Affordable Housing and Jobs Package into social housing;
- \$6 million for a Local Government Partnership Fund for Homelessness to partner and co-fund homelessness initiatives tailored to local government areas' needs; and
- \$3.4 million over four years to expand Youth Futures crisis accommodation.

Funding initiatives to prevent family and domestic violence

The McGowan Labor Government is investing in initiatives and election commitments to address a range of family and domestic violence prevention and support measures to build on its significant work to protect vulnerable Western Australians experiencing or at risk of violence.

- \$8 million additional funding to expand the shuttle conferencing pilot to support victims in Bunbury, Broome and Armadale;
- \$4.5 million to trial a Family and Domestic Violence Forensic Service staffed by experts in non-fatal strangulation and other injuries related to family violence to assist with securing perpetrator convictions and help identify appropriate medical treatment;
- \$5.6 million to establish a Broome Aboriginal-led specialist family violence court based on the Barndimalgu Court in Geraldton, including a Family Violence Intervention Service for those who have been referred to the court;
- a \$3.4 million expansion of the Safe at Home program providing support services, transitional accommodation, funding for home security upgrades and victim and perpetrator interventions;
- \$3.4 million for the operation of the Warlang Bidi (Peel) and Andrea Mia (Kwinana) refuge expansions, which include six additional accommodation units for women and their children at each site;
- \$3.4 million to bolster family and domestic violence primary prevention services and support sector capacity building and training;
- \$4.3 million for a rapid rehousing pilot project for women and children leaving refuges;
- \$2.5 million to establish one metropolitan and one regional family and domestic violence counselling programs for young people aged 12 to 18;
- \$2 million for a family and domestic violence-focused pilot program for women in prison to support a safe transition back into the community;
- \$1.6 million towards training 3,000 first responders to better recognise and respond to family and domestic violence;
- \$1.7 million to boost the Safer Pathways program for women and children in the public housing system,

expanding support to about 100 clients in Mirrabooka and Midland each year;

- \$1.5 million for subsidised dental treatment and driving lessons for women exiting refuges;
- \$2.3 million to expand the Respectful Relationships Program to sport and recreational clubs and organisations, and to continue the program in schools;
- \$1.3 million to expand the Pets in Crisis and Building Animal Relationships with Kids (BARK) programs into Albany, Busselton and Bunbury;
- \$1.1 million to support the establishment of two additional One-Stop Family and Domestic Violence Hubs, one in Perth and another in regional WA; and
- \$110,000 to trial the Caring Dads program in the Peel region.

Responding to emergencies and natural disasters

The McGowan Labor Government will spend an additional \$281.8 million in the 2021-22 State Budget to boost frontline emergency services and help Western Australians recover from major disasters.

The State Budget is providing more resources, better equipment, new facilities and more capacity to respond to emergencies and recovery efforts around WA, and delivers on our election commitments.

- \$17.8 million to employ an additional 36 career firefighters in Albany, Kalgoorlie-Boulder and Geraldton;
- \$1.2 million upgrade to Kalgoorlie-Boulder Fire Station to accommodate additional firefighters;
- \$14.5 million for the construction of a new fire station in Perth's south-east;
- \$11.2 million for greater resources and communications capabilities for the Department of Fire and Emergency Services;
- \$4.9 million contribution towards 4,100 replacement sets of personal protective equipment for volunteer and career firefighters;
- \$80.2 million to fund the joint Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) in response to natural disasters, including the Wooroloo bushfire and Carnarvon floods;
- \$104.5 million for the joint Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Fund Arrangements in response to Cyclone Seroja;
- \$9.7 million to employ 20 staff to assist in the mammoth recovery effort in response to Tropical Cyclone Seroja.

Delivering our election commitments

The McGowan Labor Government committed to fund a range of initiatives to develop healthy and resilient communities that are safe, strong and fair.

- \$37.2 million to expand the Homestretch pilot into a permanent state-wide program;
- \$12 million to restore the Safety and Security Rebate for WA Seniors Card members;
- \$6.2 million investment to increase support payments for Grandcarers;
- \$18 million to provide support for PCYCs around the State to continue important work with youth programs;
- \$1.2 million to extend operating hours at Gosnells, Warwick and Rockingham Police stations; and
- \$5.1 million to improve regional families' access to childcare by supporting the viability and sustainability of providers and attraction and retention of childcare workers.

Progressing our community safety and well-being initiatives

- \$14 million to continue the Aboriginal Community Connectors program;
- \$4.2 million to support community neighbourhood centres and upskill service providers to transition into the Empowering Communities Program;
- \$100,000 per annum for Circle Green Community Legal to provide additional employment support services to vulnerable workers for whom English is a second language.