

PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA WA BUDGET 2010-11 SUMMARY

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WA HEALTH BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

Record Health Budget

Record \$1.3 billion in additional health funding over 5 years to cover: higher demand and costs; new and expanded ambulance services; improved access to community child health services; and \$890M in 2010-11 for hospital infrastructure projects. Details on specific prevention initiatives not available yet, but funding levels appear to remain stable.

\$5.6 billion for recurrent health spending in 2010-11 is an increase of 6.7% on 2009-10.

Ambulance Services

\$149.6M over 4 years for ambulance services including more staff and 25 additional ambulances. \$26.1M of this will go to the regional ambulance service. Funding to address the 13 recommendations of 2009 St John Ambulance inquiry.

Child Development Services

\$49.7M over 4 years for child development services to shorten waiting times – all urgent and complex patients to be seen within 4 weeks. Over 45 additional specialists to be employed including speech pathologists, occupational therapists and others (in 2010-11 staffing in the metropolitan Child Development Service will increase by 32%).

Mental Health

- \$506.6M for mental health services in 2010-11 through the new Mental Health Commission;
- \$28.9M over 4 years for 10 new acute mental health beds;

- \$22M to establish a dedicated Aboriginal Mental Health Service in the Mental Health Commission; and
- \$13M to develop a Suicide Prevention Strategy and the Drug and Alcohol Interagency Strategy Framework for Western Australia 2010-2015.

HIGHLIGHTS IN OTHER PORTFOLIOS

Disability Services

\$540.2M in 2010-11 – an increase of \$51.8M on 2009-10, covering:

- \$330.5M for accommodation services;
- \$120.7M for individual support services (including aids, equipment and health promotion and prevention);
- \$24M for individual coordination (increasing access to existing range of services in the community);
- \$63.3M for family and carer support (family support and respite services); and
- \$1.7M for community access and inclusion programs.

Other initiatives of interest

- \$43.9M over 4 years to expand regional youth justice services (diversion programs);
- \$23.2M in 2010-11 for additional road safety initiatives;
- \$43.5M (11%) increase in 2010-11 Dept of Child Protection budget; and
- \$7.9m over 5 years across 4 Govt agencies to implement coronial recommendations from the inquiry into the death of an Aboriginal elder in prisoner transport due to inadequate care.

Further detail on the 2010-11 WA Budget can be found at:
<http://www.dtf.wa.gov.au/cms/budget.aspx?id=2014>