



Western Australian Network of  
Alcohol & other Drug Agencies

## State Budget 2017/18

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WANADA welcomes the release of the 2017/18 State Budget. In a tight fiscal environment, WANADA is pleased to note that Alcohol and Other Drug Non-Government Organisations funding has increased by 6.9% to \$56,547,000.

### **Mental Health Commission - Expenditure**

Key State Government alcohol and other drug election promises have received funding within the Mental Health Commission's Budget, in particular the:

- residential rehabilitation service in the South West;
- Kimberley service planning; and
- trial of Ice Breakers

WANADA will closely monitor these initiatives. In regards to service planning and implementation, WANADA will advocate for strong partnerships with the specialist alcohol and other drug service sector and promote flexible approaches that best address identified demand.

WANADA welcomes the continuation of funding across the forward estimates of 60 treatment service beds (52 residential rehabilitation; eight low medical withdrawal), whose funding was to expire in 2017/18. WANADA is concerned that this funding does not include the 13 FTE CADS positions that were also funded as part of the previous Methamphetamine Strategy 2016. WANADA will advocate strongly for these positions to be maintained through a funding appropriation in the Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook.

### **Saving Measures**

WANADA is concerned about the identified savings included in the Mental Health Commission budget, of which:

- \$5.8 million is from grants and services purchased from non-government organisations;
- \$1.8 million is from MHC operational funding and;
- \$0.8 million is from a reduction in expenditure on the Mental Health Advocacy Service, the Office of the Chief Psychiatrist, and the Mental Health Tribunal.

WANADA will closely monitor these saving commitments to ascertain service impacts.

### **Other Portfolios**

Alcohol and other drug –related initiatives received funding across a range of portfolios, including:

- **Corrections** – establishment of a rehabilitation prison for alcohol and other drugs, including drug testing and prisoner triage
- **Health** – planning to redevelop Geraldton Regional Hospital, replacement of the monitoring drugs and dependence system
- **WA Police** – additional funding and assets to support the Meth Border Force; additional roadside alcohol and drug testing.

The range of initiatives funded through the State Budget further underlines the broad, complex nature of alcohol and other drug associated harms, and the need for a collective Government Agency response.