

Budget Bulletin

2012–2013



Hon. Helen Morton MLC

The State Government has continued its strong commitment to people with disability, their families and carers in the 2012–2013 State Budget.

A funding allocation has been made for a further \$40.7m in growth funding over four years to ensure the disability sector has the ability to deliver more and better services.

This allocation continues the State Government's commitment since 2008 to growth funding for people with disability.

A component of this growth funding will

be used to expand the Disability Services Commission's Community Living strategy, launched in 2008.

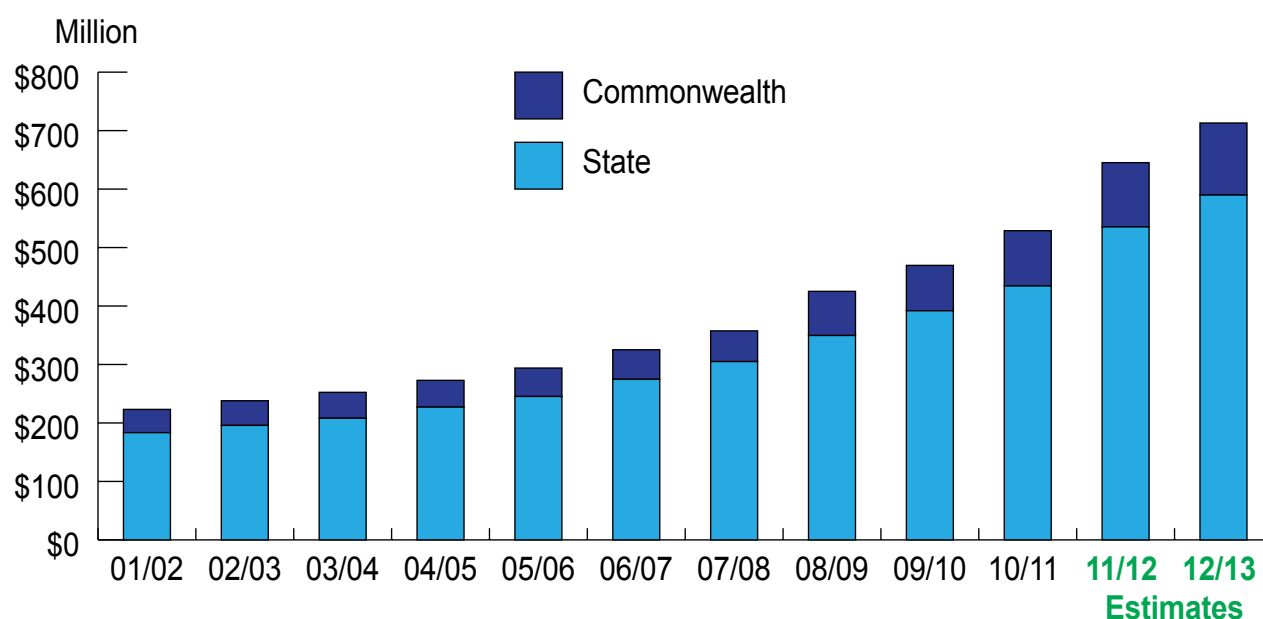
Important areas of family and carer support and individual supports will also be expanded through growth funding allocations. These areas include intensive family support, respite services and allied health services. (See chart inside for more detail.)

Other projects

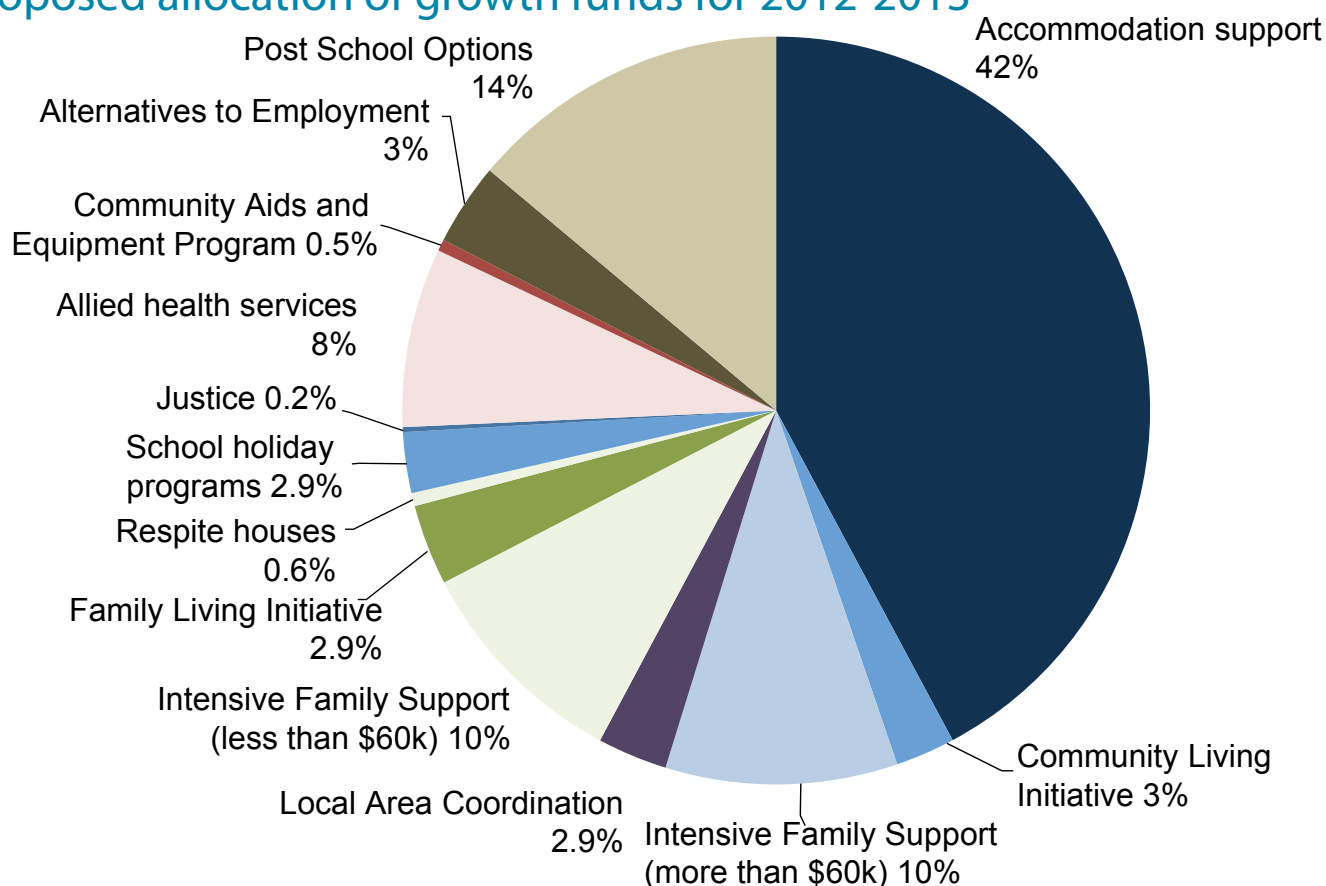
This year's State Budget funds a number of other projects to support the needs of people with disability.

A key project is a commitment of \$11.3m over four years to establish two disability justice centres, and a prison in-reach service, for people with intellectual or cognitive disability who are accused of a crime but are deemed unfit to plead as a result of their disability.

Combined State and Commonwealth funding 2001–2013



Proposed allocation of growth funds for 2012-2013



Disability justice centres

Funding has been allocated in this year's State Budget to establish the first declared places in Western Australia for people with intellectual or cognitive disability who have been found unfit to plead to criminal charges.

\$11.3m in new funds will support the \$17.7m project to build and operate two 10-bed disability justice centres in the Perth metropolitan area.

Legislation is being introduced to allow the Disability Services Commission to operate the justice centres, which will focus on rehabilitation and training in a secure environment.

One of the key challenges in developing the centres is balancing the need to protect the whole community while also respecting the human rights of some of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged people in our community.

Legislation has always allowed for a declared place in WA, but successive governments

have avoided dealing with this important social issue. Currently people with disability accused of a crime who have been deemed unfit to plead are either sent to jail, sometimes for an indefinite period of time, or released to the community.

Based on world's best practice, the specialist centres will be managed and operated by the Commission in close liaison with the Mentally Impaired Accused Review Board, to ensure people are suitably placed, regularly reviewed and can return to the community when appropriate.

In-reach prison support will provide therapeutic interventions and developmental opportunities for people with intellectual or cognitive disability who are unfit to plead but still in the prison system.

The State Government is pleased to have initiated this step to make processes and services in the justice system more supportive of people with disability.

School holiday program

A previous State Government commitment to fund school holiday programs for children with disability has been extended in the 2012–2013 Budget.

This year \$1m has been allocated to provide services during the school holidays for school-aged children with disability, their siblings and young carers.

This funding will provide meaningful school holiday activities that focus on wellbeing, independence, positive relationships and participation in community life.

Holiday activities support families with teenagers as well as siblings and young carers to access peer support, recreation and social activities and enable whole families to do things together.

The funding will be allocated using established processes for the program managed and run by the Disability Services Commission.

The funding builds on a 2008 pre-election commitment to establish a new school holiday activity program. A total of \$3.74m over four years was committed by the State Government in the 2009–2010 Budget.

Accommodation support packages

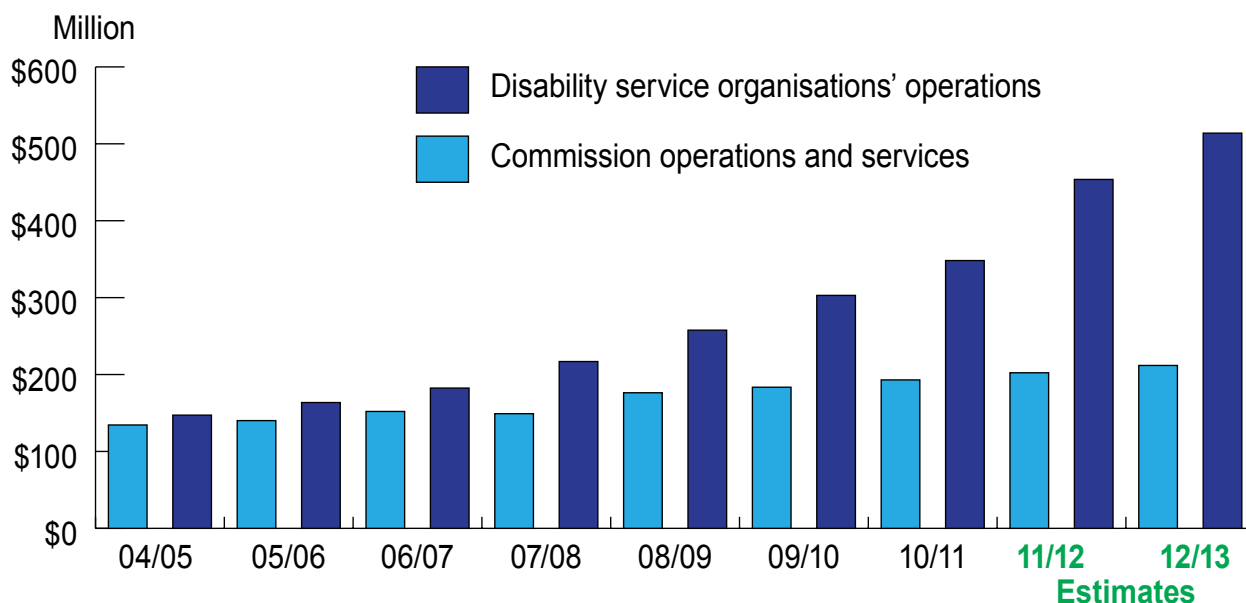
In this year's Budget, the State Government has committed an additional \$10.1m over four years to increase the availability of accommodation services for people with disability.

This funding will be used to provide the tailored support and assistance required to enable people with disability to live in their choice of accommodation within the community.

Funding for accommodation support for people with disability is part of a \$30m State Government commitment to the most vulnerable people in our community. Housing funds have also been allocated to the Mental Health Commission (\$17.12m) and the Drug and Alcohol Office (\$2.77m).

Funding for support packages for accommodation this year is in addition to funding for social housing announced in last year's Budget, when the State Government committed \$95.7m for homes for people with disability with high support needs.

Total cost of services (2004–2005 to 2012–2013)



2008 State Election commitments achieved

In 2008 the State Government pledged to support people with disability, their families and carers in a range of new and meaningful ways.

I am pleased to report that after four years we have made great progress in achieving our goals to provide more for people with disability.

The State Government's 2008 commitment to people with disability, their families and carers has resulted in additional funding to the disability sector of \$107.25m.

Accommodation

In 2008 the State Government committed \$34m over four years to provide an additional 200 supported accommodation options for people with disability. This has remained a priority for government, resulting in supported accommodation places for 555 people above what was originally planned.

Respite facilities

Funding of \$11.75m over four years was committed for the construction of five out-of-home respite facilities in metropolitan and rural Western Australia. Good progress has been made against this commitment:

- A facility in Broome has opened and services include outreach support to people in the Derby Peninsula and Fitzroy Valley.
- Interim services are being provided in the South-East, North and South metropolitan regions and in the Wheatbelt regions.
- A facility in Clarkson opened this month.
- A facility in Rockingham is now under construction.
- Building is about to start on the respite facility in York.
- A respite centre for adults is due for completion in Gosnells by the end of 2012.

Early Intervention Services

The State Government has exceeded its \$3.9m commitment to provide an additional 100 places for children in the Disability Services Commission's Early Intervention Services Program. In total, 157 additional Early Childhood Intervention places have been provided through disability sector organisations.

School Age and Adult Professional Support

In 2008 \$6m was allocated for School Age and Adult Professional Support — 96 school age places and 88 adult places have been established as a result.

Alternatives to Employment

The Government committed \$43m over four years for the Alternatives to Employment Program. Since 2008–2009, the State Government has doubled the number of days of Alternatives to Employment activities for more than 1,100 young adults with disability.

School holiday program

In 2008 \$3.74m was committed to establish the School Holiday Respite Fund. This successful program has been continued in 2012–2013 with an extra \$1m in funding.

Support for disability sector organisations

\$4.8m over four years was committed in 2008 to supplement funding provided through indexation to disability sector organisations. This has been expanded by the injection of more than \$400m across the not-for-profit sector to improve the sustainability of their services.



Hon. Helen Morton MLC
Minister for Disability Services
May 2012