



Hon. Helen Morton MLC

People with disability, their families and carers are set to benefit from this year's State Budget, which in 2013–2014 again shows the strength of the State Government's

commitment to people in this sector.

This year, the State Government will provide \$636.8 million to support people with disability, their families and carers. This represents an increase of 10.2 per cent or \$58.9 million when compared with last year.

### Budget overview

In total, the Commission's budget for 2013–14 has reached \$797.7 million and provides for ongoing services to people with disability. This includes contributions from the Commonwealth and other income sources. A graph showing the increases in the Commission's budget since 2005–06 can be found on the following page.

The disability sector's ability to deliver more and better services has been boosted by an allocation of \$32.5 million which includes a one-off \$1 million increase in support of the Continence Management and Support Scheme.

The sustainability of not-for-profit organisations in the disability sector will be further supported by the State Government with the provision of \$110.9 million over four years.

This year's budget will enable the Commission to fund a number of projects and initiatives, with a primary focus on areas of critical need such as accommodation options, family and community supports for school leavers.

Funding allocations will also support expansions to important areas of family and carer support and individual supports, including intensive family support, respite services and allied health services.

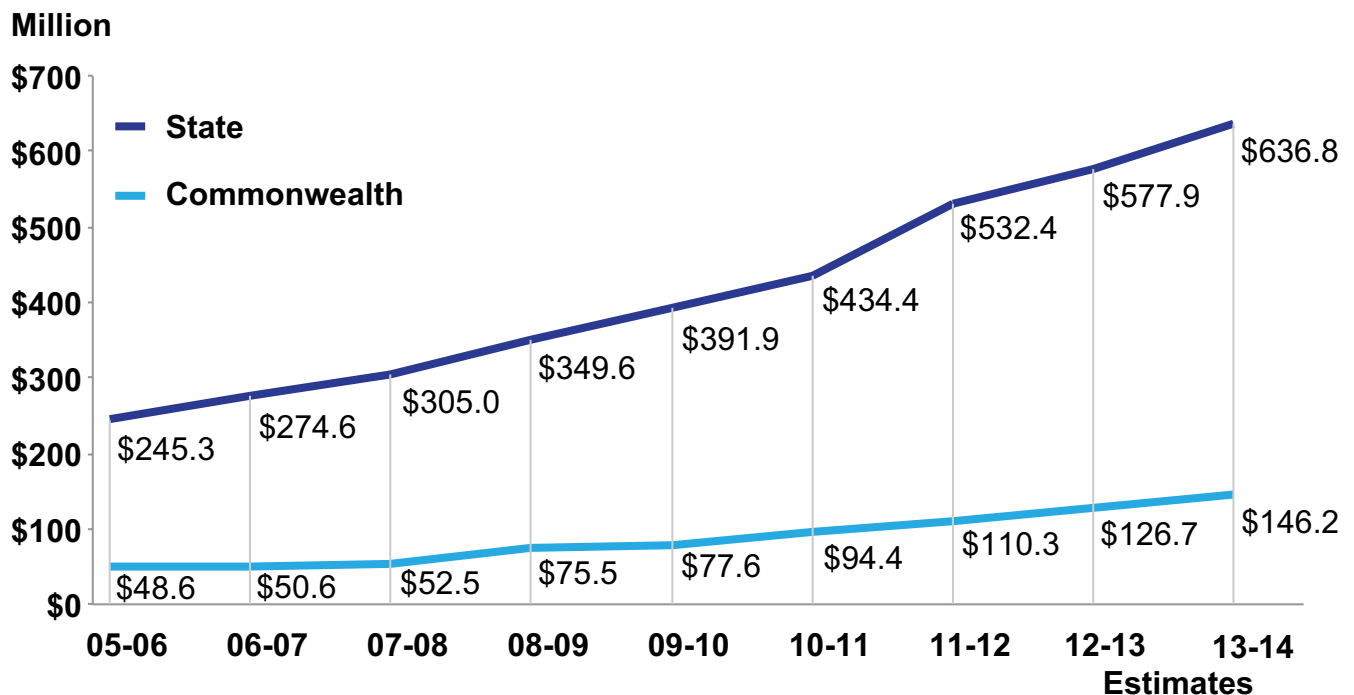
Services required to support people with disability, including those offered through My Way in the Goldfields, Perth Hills, Cockburn-Kwinana and the Lower South West have also received a funding allocation.

This allocation includes additional funding to support My Way in the Lower South West, where implementation has been accelerated to ensure alignment with the National Disability Insurance Scheme launch.

The My Way disability reform strategy is the next important step towards a localised and decentralised approach. The strategy supports people with disability to meet their individual needs by advancing choice, providing an expanded regional team to support people, enabling local decision making and aligning funds with the principles of the NDIS.

Another key project supported by this year's budget is the establishment of two disability justice centres, and a prison in-reach service. The state-of-the-art secure centres will accommodate people with intellectual or cognitive disability who have been charged with an offence but are not able to understand the court process and are deemed unfit to plead and are given a custody order by the Mentally Impaired Accused Review Board.

## Combined State and Commonwealth funding 2005–06 to 2013–14



Note: The Commission receives a small amount of revenue from sources other than the State and Commonwealth governments. This revenue accounts for the discrepancy between the total budget and the amount derived from the addition of the State and Commonwealth contributions.

The Western Australian Government's Continence Management and Support Scheme has received a one-off \$1 million funding boost to address the waitlist for access to continence products. Currently new users of the service can only access the funding when an existing user no longer requires the funding, resulting in rapid growth in the waitlist. An assessment of the growth in demand for the Scheme will be undertaken mid-year. It is estimated that the additional funds will enable up to 1,000 additional people to access the subsidy, depending on the levels of assessed need.

### Election commitments

During the recent State election the WA Government committed to additional support for people with disability, their families and carers. Some of the initiatives include:

#### Suitable accommodation for young people

The Government has announced its intention to further support the establishment of more

suitable accommodation options and services for younger people with disability who live in aged care. The purpose of this funding is to ensure that younger people with disability are able to access living arrangements that meet their needs. The benefit of this approach includes better whole of life outcomes and services and supports that can be delivered cost-effectively to the individual. Commencing in 2014–15, \$6 million in funding will be provided over three years to provide purpose-built housing or enhance support arrangements for younger people with disability.

#### ACROD accessible parking

A further \$3.7 million will be spent over four years on ACROD accessible parking permits for about 67,000 eligible West Australians. This Budget initiative aligns Western Australia with the funding support provided in other states and territories to people requiring accessible parking. The intent of this initiative is to ensure that people who require ACROD

parking permits in Western Australia are not disadvantaged by additional costs relating to their disability.

### Support for Australian Disability Enterprises

The State Government has allocated \$457,000 over four years to enable Australian Disability Enterprises (ADEs) to appoint an Executive Officer, located at Good Samaritan Industries, to improve State Government procurement of goods and services from ADEs. This initiative will increase employment opportunities for people with disability by supporting departments and agencies to directly engage an ADE where it represents fair market value to do so.

A Procurement Manager at the Department of Finance will work with the ADE Executive Officer, ADEs and government agencies to continue to drive this work. In WA seven ADEs

provide supported employment for more than 2,100 people with disability. The ADEs are Activ, Goodwill Engineering, Good Samaritan Industries, Intework Incorporated, Paraquad Industries, Westcare and Westpower.

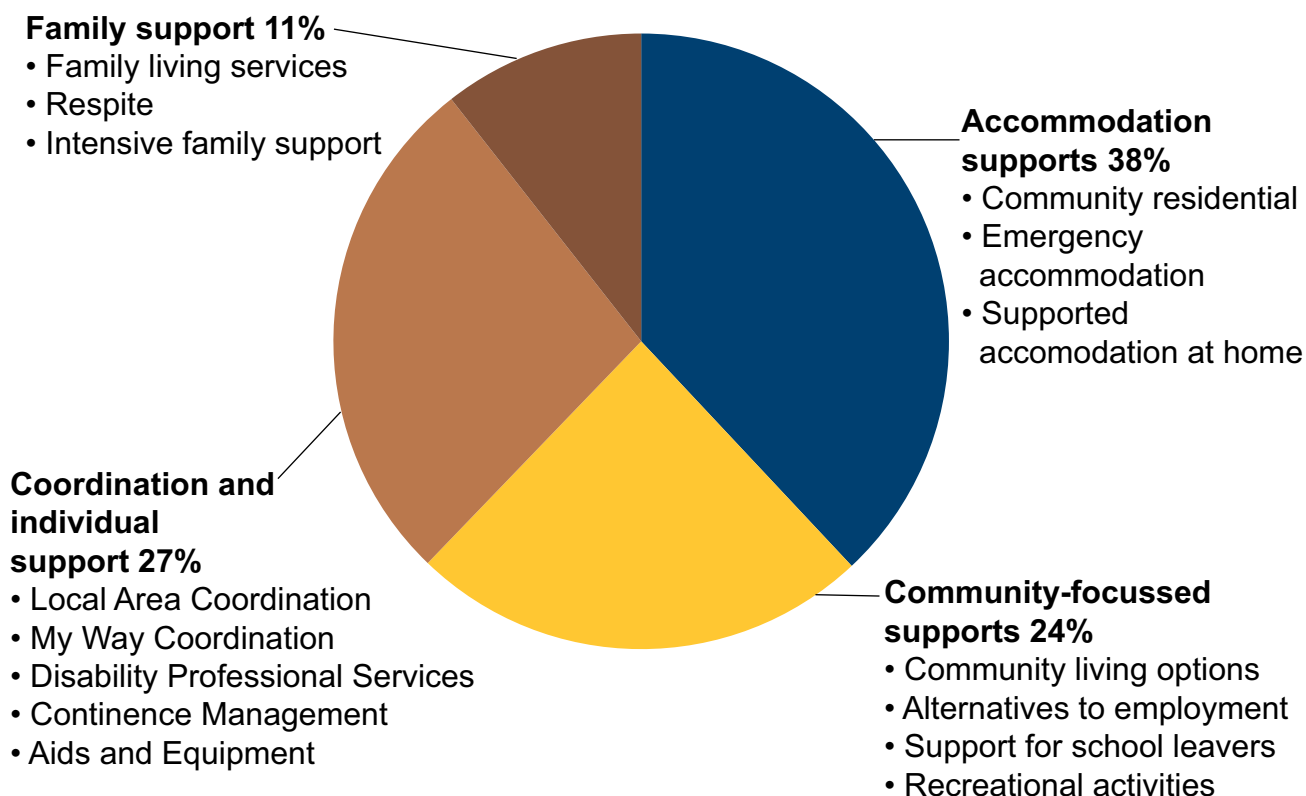
Other major allocations include Intensive Family Support, Disability Professional Services and the Family Living Initiative.

### Allocation of growth funds

In 2013–14 the Commission has received \$32.5 million in growth funding for allocation. Growth funding refers to additional resources provided by the government to meet expected increases in demand for services and is used to support people who are not yet receiving funded services or who require additional services.

With increased flexibility, choice and control for individuals, there is less emphasis on

### Proposed allocation of growth funds for 2013–14 by service area



programs and more emphasis on strategies set through individual planning. The allocation framework now provides broad service parameters for the distribution of growth funds; fixed amounts relate to election commitments as described in this bulletin.

The chart above provides a breakdown of 2013–14 growth funding by service area.

Demand for supported accommodation options for people with disability continues to be high. To support this demand and ensure these services increase, 38 per cent of growth funding has been allocated to this area.

Community focussed services will receive an allocation of 24 per cent of growth funding. Services in this area set to benefit include support for people to live in the community, programs that provide alternatives to employment and supports for those people transitioning from school.

The My Way program and Local Area Coordination will have a strong focus in 2013–14 and funding will ensure that individualised support and services are available in all My Way locations. Twenty seven per cent of funding growth has been allocated to provide sufficient resources to

manage this process and also to support growth in professional therapy services and the purchase of aids and equipment.

The My Way NDIS pilot in the Lower South West is funded at the level of an NDIS pilot through allocation of a proportion of State growth funds. The Commonwealth funding for the My Way NDIS and DisabilityCare pilot will commence in 2014–15.

A key focus of the Commission is ensuring that people with disability are able to remain with family, and that families are supported in this role. Direct care services, respite and the Family Living Initiative will receive 11 per cent of the growth funding in support of this.

### Cost of services

The Disability Services Commission purchases an increasing proportion of specialist disability supports and services from Western Australia's strong non-government service sector. The chart below shows the rapid shift from Government provision of services to purchasing those services from the sector. Nearly 73 per cent of the Commission's budget will flow directly to the non-government sector in 2013–14.

#### Total cost of services 2006-07 to 2013-14

