

Budget Bulletin 2016–2017



Hon. Donna Faragher MLC

People with disability, their families and carers are benefitting from the Disability Services Commission's 2016–2017 Budget of \$945 million, highlighting the State Government's ongoing commitment to the sector.

This amount includes contributions from the Commonwealth Government and other income sources. This is an almost 118 per cent increase in the State's disability budget since 2008–2009, as illustrated by the graph on page 3.

The 2016–2017 Budget acknowledges the increased demand for disability services across Western Australia.

Its focus is to ensure the Commission continues to support these services and areas of identified need such as accommodation options, individual support packages and ensure people are able to participate in community life.

Budget overview

Of the Commission's \$945 million Budget, \$712 million will be provided by the State Government, representing an increase of approximately three per cent compared to the previous year. This amount includes growth funding, indexation and support for the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) trials in WA. In addition to the funding towards the WA NDIS trial, the State will contribute \$64 million to the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) to support the Commonwealth Government's NDIS trial in WA.

Growth funding

Growth funds are additional resources provided by government to assist agencies to meet increased demand for their services. Growth funding of \$13.5 million allocated in 2016–2017 will ensure greater supports and services are provided to people with disability. The funding will support people who have not previously received funded services or those who require additional services. The 2016–2017 growth funding will ensure continued and increased service levels as the State progresses towards a full rollout of the NDIS.

The State Government will contribute \$11 million and the Commonwealth Government an anticipated \$2.5 million towards the growth funding.

The Commission will distribute these funds primarily via individualised funding methods – as used in the NDIS – rather than through the former centralised approach based on prioritisation. This will result in reduced funding allocated through the Combined Application Process (CAP) and more funds provided based on the needs identified in people's individualised plans.

In addition to individualised services, the Commission will progress a range of initiatives linked to the National Disability Strategy. The State Government's Count Me In philosophy will continue to drive a range of inclusion and access initiatives to ensure people with disability can access and participate in community life.

Support for the NDIS

On 28 April 2016, the State and Commonwealth governments announced an extension and expansion of the NDIS trials. This will facilitate ongoing integration of lessons learned from the current trials and will maximise the opportunities for the best possible NDIS model to be implemented in WA. By 1 July 2017 almost 11,000 West Australians will have been given the opportunity to take part under this arrangement.

The State will allocate \$181 million and the Commonwealth Government will allocate \$159 million for the operation of the NDIS in WA in 2016–2017.

The current trials in the Lower South West, Cockburn-Kwinana and Perth Hills have been extended for 12 months. Further, the State Government's WA NDIS trial will expand to include the Armadale, Murray and Serpentine-Jarrahdale local government areas. The Commonwealth Government's NDIA trial will be expanded to include the Bayswater, Bassendean, Chittering, Toodyay, York and Northam local government areas.

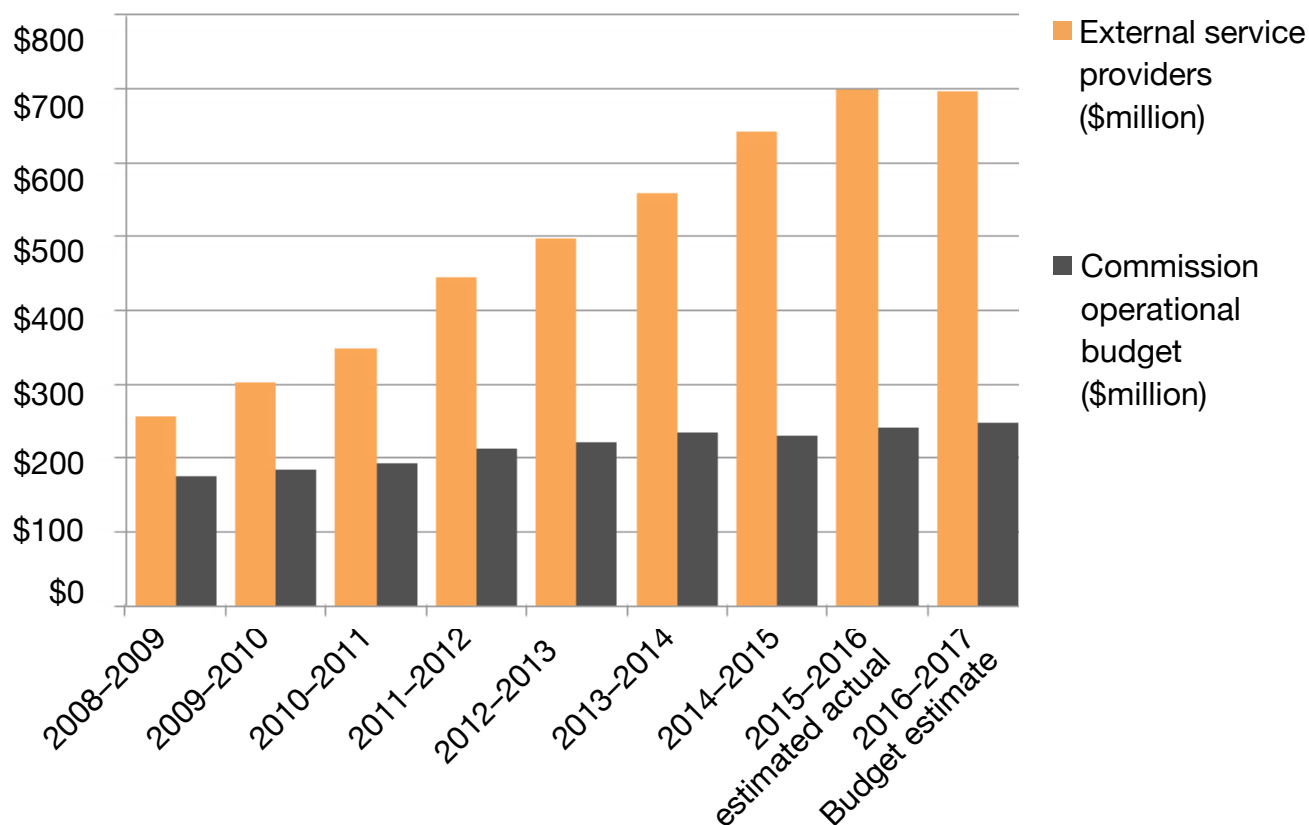
The Budget and the non-government sector

The Commission is accessing an increasing proportion of specialist disability supports and services from the State's diverse and expanding non-government service sector. In 2016–2017, 74 per cent of the Commission's Budget will flow directly to the non-government sector.

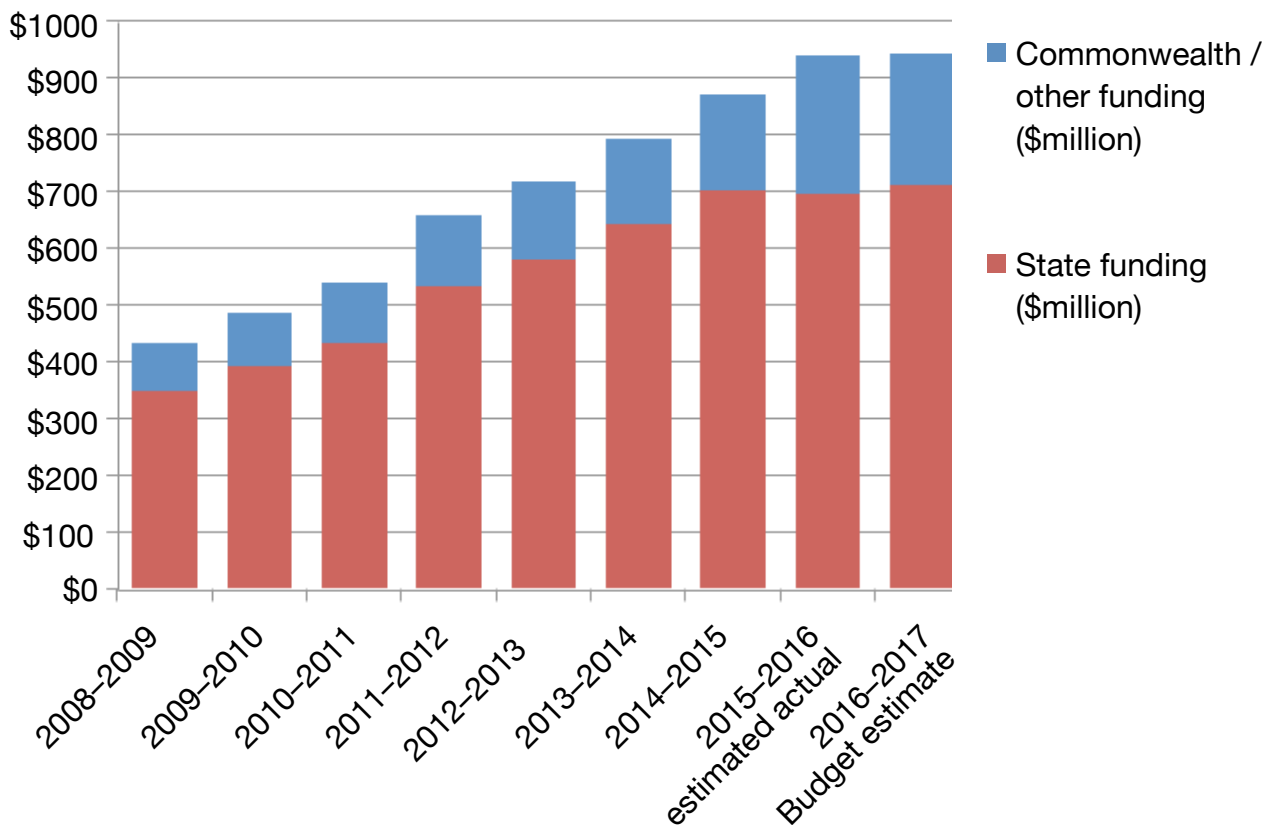
This forward-thinking approach to sector planning and development will ensure people with disability have choice and control when accessing a range of high quality supports and services.

As the WA disability services sector continues to expand and change, many existing organisations are demonstrating a willingness to broaden their operations to meet increasing demand. The graph on page 3 highlights the rapid growth in the funding being provided through the non-government sector.

Total cost of services 2008–2009 to 2016–2017



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Note: The amounts stated in the above chart include resources received free of charge and the Royalties for Regions fund.