

Annual Report Snapshot

2024

2025



Media Statements

Community sector proposes free public transport for tertiary students

One in three Western Australians unable to cover \$500 emergency bill

WACOSS campaigns for a fair WA in 2025

State Budget Submission: It's Time to Build Community

More Western Australians deeper in the red as cost of living bites harder

Targeted cost of living relief missing in mid-year budget review

Community Services Excellence Awards to recognise community sector

WACOSS celebrates expansion of School Breakfast Program

Children, families prioritised in election commitments

Stand-outs recognised at Community Services Excellence Awards

WACOSS welcomes national minimum wage increase

WACOSS welcomes state minimum wage decision

A strong state budget but the growing pains are also clear

Reports and Publications

Cost of Living Survey Report

State Budget Submission 2025-26

2024 Cost of Living Report

Living Realities - Understanding Life on Low Income in WA (Part One)

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Download the full report



Events and Webinars

WACOSS 2025 Conference

Community Services Excellence Awards

New Year Sector Breakfast

Make WA Fair Campaign Launch

State Budget Submission Consultations

State Budget Submission Launch

State Budget Briefing

Child Safe Workshops

Feeling the Heat

WA Digital Inclusion Project Expo

PFDVN Member and Networking Lunches

Digital Skills Introduction Webinars

Politics in the Pub

Heat Preparedness & Resilience Event

Policy Roundtable with Dr. Cressida Gaukroger

Strengthening Impact & Evaluation for Community Services Webinar

CEO and President's Report



It's been an action-packed year – headlined by two election campaigns and our most successful conference ever – and our team has handled challenges with passion and energy.

Being part of WACOSS means that your voice, concerns and expertise are heard on both a state and national level. Together, we have the ability to influence policy decisions, advocate for meaningful change and shape the future of social services in WA.

Over the past year – and especially during the recent WA Election – we have achieved some great wins through our relationships, campaigning and advocacy with the State Government, and I encourage you to find out more about these wins throughout our Annual Report.

It was wonderful to bring our community from the sector together at our sell-out 2025 WACOSS Conference in May. From the opening day – where we explored how to create truly trusted relationships with our partners from the Council of Aboriginal Services Western Australia – to the closing minutes, there were important lessons and ideas about the social change we can all make.

We celebrated those people and organisations whose work has had an outstanding impact at the 2025 Community Services Excellence Awards.

It's important to stop and mark these achievements because the work that we do is never quite done. Now, more than ever, we need to come together to help lift the voices and needs of those most

disadvantaged so that they are a priority for this State Government. WACOSS is committed to continuing this journey with you and doing our absolute best to advocate for better. Better for our communities, better for vulnerable people, and better resources for our vital community services. This extends to our continued advocacy for services when and where people need them across our magnificent State.

Louise Giolitto

Chief Executive Officer

Mark Glasson

President

Make WA Fair

Our message ahead of the 2025 State Election was made loud and strong through billboards around Perth, advertisements in the paper, across social media, and from our leaders: we need to make WA fair for every Western Australian and ensure no one is left behind.

The Make WA Fair campaign was launched amid both a cost of living and housing crisis, with unsustainably high costs and low wage growth hurting Western Australians on lower incomes.

We focused our campaign on calling for targeted, genuinely long-term solutions which would help to create a State where everyone has the opportunity to thrive. This meant prioritising policies that address inequality, supporting those doing it tough, and creating pathways where everyone has the chance to succeed.

Our Make WA Fair campaign had four key asks:

Cost-of-living relief for the people who need it most.

Rent reform.

Improving access to quality ECEC.

Sustainable funding for community services.

This targeted approach paid off. We were proud to achieve the following election promises as part of this campaign:



Expansion of the breakfast program to more WA schools.



Creation and resourcing of an Office of Early Childhood.



Increased funding for financial counselling services.



Expansion and uplift of the Patient Assisted Travel Scheme (PATS).



Expansion of HUGS eligibility to social housing tenants for water.



Cheaper public transport for university and TAFE students, with the introduction of one-zone fares.



Campaigns We Support



NO PLACE FOR POVERTY



Alcohol fuels many harms campaign



Home Time.



RAISE THE RATE FOR GOOD



Submissions

- State Public Health Plan Priorities
- Access Arrangement for the Mid-West and South-West Gas Distribution System
- Gas Marketing Code of Conduct 2024 Draft Review Report
- A Roadmap for First Nations Digital Inclusion
- All Paths Lead to Home – Action Plan 2025-30
- National Strategy for Food Security in Remote First Nations Communities
- WA Community Health Services Strategy



- Free TV Code
- Public Health Amendment (On-Product Health Messages and Other Measures) Regulations 2024
- Mental Health and Alcohol and Other Drugs Strategy 2025-2030
- Inquiry into Energy, Food and Water Security in Northern Australia
- Economic Regulation Authority Draft Decision on Amendments to the Gas Marketing Code
- Family & Domestic Violence Workforce Capability Framework
- Centrepay Reforms
- State Wage Case