

Justice and Corrective Services

The State Budget delivered some incredibly welcome funding in the early intervention and prevention space- notably for an On Country Alternative to Detention in the Kimberley, and expanding programs like Target 120. For the announced initiatives to be effective, they need to be designed and led in partnership with Aboriginal communities.

Funding announced to improve conditions at Banksia Hill was desperately needed, however we still urgently need to resource other options to move children under 14 out of the prison system.

While we celebrate increased earlier intervention spending, funding for smart justice responses has not increased as a proportion compared to crisis responses. Increased policing alone fails to improve community safety without addressing the underlying causes of offending, and will instead drive more people into the justice system.

Early Intervention and Prevention

Initiative	Target 120 (Bp 2, Pg 520)
Investment	\$11.1million
Description	Target 120 is an early intervention program for young people at risk of repeat offending and engagement with the justice system, and works intensively with young people and their families. This funding is to expand the program to nine additional sites, including the Kimberley and the Pilbara.
Implications	Early intervention often provides better outcomes for young people and their families, and holistic wrap-around care is welcomed. The success of additional Target 120 sites will depend on whether they are co-designed in partnership with local communities, particularly in regional areas.

Initiative	Kimberley Youth and Community Justice Responses (Bp 2, Pg 519)
Investment	\$2.5 million (Part of \$40.4mil package)
Description	This is a package of initiatives to address youth crime in the Kimberley, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$2 million for a Kimberley Community Action Fund • \$540,000 found the Kimberley Schools Project Extension.
Implications	This is welcome investment in communities to address the underlying causes of offending, and provides opportunities to invest in community-led solutions.

Initiative	Expansion of the Earlier Intervention and Family Support Strategy (Bp 2 Pg 521 described in 3.1)
Investment	\$23.9 million
Description	To support families and help children remain safely at home with their parents, including trialling the program in Halls Creek and South West.
Implications	Earlier intervention is associated with better long-term outcomes for young people and families, and may reduce the number of young people who enter formal care arrangements.

Initiative	Kimberley Juvenile Justice Strategy (Bp 2 Pg 543)
Investment	\$154,000
Description	Addressing the number of young children coming into contact with the justice system in the Kimberley.
Implications	Considering prior significant investment into the KJJS, it appears there is little resourcing allocated for the initiatives born from the co-design process.

First Responders

Initiative	Delivery of Night Patrols and Structured Activities (Bp 2 Pg 519 only shows Broome \$1.1mil)(Media Statement states 6.7mil across Kimberley)
Investment	\$6.7mil Across the Kimberley (part of \$40.4mil package)
Description	Broome, Derby, Halls Creek, Kununurra, Wyndham and Fitzroy Crossing gain funding to deliver night patrols and structured activities at night to tackle Youth Crime.
Implications	Night patrol officers are crucial in small communities and town tackling youth crime. With more Aboriginal first responders and activities we are able to better understand the unique needs of each child and respond.

Initiative	Increasing Police Officers and Capacity (Bp 2 Pg 413 – 414)
Investment	\$106 million total including:
Description	A range of investments across police staffing and infrastructure, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$16.4 million for extra 950 new police • \$47.9 million to improve police digital capability and upgrade technology • \$3.6 million for a recruitment campaign to attract candidates • \$2.5 million for Operation Regional Shield, which increases policing in the Kimberley. • \$33.9 million for a District Support Facility in Broome and Kununurra (non public facing police accommodation)
Implications	The previous two budgets have made significant investments in additional police – this funding is likely to result in increased demand on frontline services and additional costs in the courts and legal system. This may increase rates of incarceration if diversion, cautions, and community supports are not invested in and supported.

Diversion and Rehabilitation

Initiative	On-country residential facility + \$500,000 develop other safe place proposals. (Part of the 40.4 million) (Bp 2 Pg 431 described in heading 10.)
Investment	\$15 million
Description	An on-country residential facility in the Kimberley to tackle youth crime and alternative to Banksia Hill Detention
Implications	Having a safe and culturally appropriate co-designed on-country residential facility has long been called for. The initiatives within the facility (or possibly multiple facilities) need to be therapeutic, rehabilitative, culturally appropriate, and provide training and education pathways.

Initiative	Children's Court Initiatives (Bp 2 Pg 430; BP2, vol 2, pg 476)
Investment	Therapeutic Pilot in Childrens Court \$1.38 mil; Childrens Court Matters \$3.5 mil
Description	Funding to address the issues that cause families to come before the court in a holistic, therapeutic and culturally informed manner; New Initiative with funding allocated for the next two years that progresses the early resolution initiative for Children's Court matters heard in Perth. This will improve capacity for specialist prosecution advice on regional Children's Court matters, reduce time spent in custody by young people, and deliver benefits across the Justice Pipeline

Implications	Further details on the Therapeutic Model are needed, but it appears to improve diversionary supports for children, to improve rehabilitative outcomes; Spending aimed at mitigating harm and reducing the time young people spend in custody is welcomed.
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Initiative	Community Legal Centres (Bp 2 Pg 429)
Investment	\$4.5 million
Description	Additional funding for community legal services
Implications	Community Legal Centres provide accessible legal services and advocacy for communities at low or no cost, and will support better justice outcomes.

Incarceration

Initiative	Banksia Hill Detention Centre Improvements (Bp 2 Pg 444)
Investment	\$21.6 million for Infrastructure; \$11mil for Better Care
Description	\$21.6 million over the next four years for Infrastructure and service upgrades including upgrading; the Intensive Supervision Unit \$7.5 million of the infrastructure spend is for a new crisis care unit, to provide a safe and therapeutic; \$3.5 million for Aboriginal Service Unit.
Implications	This investment is welcome to immediately improve conditions at Banksia Hill which are breaching human rights, however resourcing is needed to move young people from prison and to support them in community.

Initiative	Spending on Corrective Services & Prison Expansions (Bp 2 Pg 433)
Investment	\$1 billion on Adult Corrective Services, \$109 million on Youth Justice Services in 2022-23; \$52 million for expansion at Casuarina 344 beds;
Description	Spending allocated to corrective services, including detention and community management
Implications	General spending on corrective services remains largely unchanged in 2022-23. Recidivism and completion of community correction orders for adults has improved since the year prior, however the number of young people returning to the justice system has remained at 50%. The expansion of 344 new beds in Casuarina will increase prison population, "if you build it, you will fill it."

Initiative	Roebourne Prison – No aircon refurbishment
Investment	Nil.
Description	The State Government committed to a feasibility study to install air conditioning at Roebourne Prison, where unsafe temperatures jeopardise detainee health.
Implications	Temp conditions inside Roebourne prison fail to meet standards of humane treatment. Whilst Dept Justice committed to a feasibility study for installing air conditioning, there is no specific funding commitment to this in the budget.

Initiative	Bunbury Prison Alcohol and Other Drug Unit (Bp 2 Pg 444)
Investment	\$3.386 million
Description	AOD unit to rehabilitate inmates
Implications	Alcohol and Other Drug Rehabilitation Units within metropolitan prisons have seen promising results, it is positive to see their expansion into a regional area, giving inmates a genuine chance to rehabilitate.

Investment for Aboriginal People and Communities

This year's State Budget shows some investment in key areas of importance for Aboriginal People, including initiatives to work towards closing the gaps in outcomes related to housing, health, and justice, improving remote community infrastructure, earlier intervention to keep children out of care, and a range of initiatives related to culture, country and conservation.

There are promising references to an increased focus on formal partnerships, shared decision making, and building the community-controlled sector in line with the Closing the Gap Implementation Plan. There is also evidence of an ongoing focus on Aboriginal procurement in line with the state government strategy.

Any initiatives need to be designed, led, and delivered in partnership with Aboriginal people and local communities to ensure their success, sustainability, and shared responsibility. Equitable access to these resources is critical to ensure that a basic standard of living is met for all people in our community.

Remote Communities

Initiative	Improved resources in remote Aboriginal Communities
Investment	\$386.4 million
Description	<p>This package will provide remote communities with power, water, road access and other vital resources needed to ensure liveable conditions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$350 million towards improved water, power and municipal services to increase housing availability in remote Aboriginal communities. (B2, Volume 1, page 113) • \$11.6 million to deliver community-owned roof-top solar to six remote communities. (Budget Paper 2, Volume 2, Page 817) • \$15.8 million of additional funding to upgrade water and wastewater services in Ardyaloon, Djarindjin, Lombadina and Beagle Bay. (Tony Buti Press Release) • \$60,000 over 3 years for Warmun community flood mitigation. (Budget Paper 2, Volume 2, Page 460) • \$8.4 million (on top of the commonwealth contribution of \$80 million) for Remote Community Access Roads Upgrade Program. (Tony Buti Press Release) • \$6 million to operate and maintain three pools in Ngaanyatjarraku Lands remote communities (Budget Paper 3, page 150 & Tony Buti Press Release)
Implications	Aboriginal people from remote communities will be better supported to live on and stay connected to country.

Child Protection

Initiative	Targeted Child Protection Support Services
Investment	\$18.6 million
Description	This package will support families to keep children in community through early intervention initiatives in regional areas. The expansion of early intervention projects and the Aboriginal Family Led Decision Making pilot will fund Aboriginal Controlled organisations to provide culturally safe supports in this space

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$16.6 million to expand earlier intervention services into regional areas, including Aboriginal Support Services and Family Support Networks. (Budget Paper 2, Volume 2, page 520) • \$715,000 over 2020-21 and 2021-22 to implement the Aboriginal Family Led Decision Making. (Budget Paper 2, Volume 2, Page 521) • \$1.3 million over 12 months to pilot Aboriginal Representative Organisations in the Armadale and Kimberley regions to empower Aboriginal families and support them to keep their children safe. (Budget Paper 2, Volume 2, page 521)
Implications	Success linked to metro early intervention programs in 2021-22 saw a reduction of Aboriginal children and young people in care by 3.7%. Keeping children safe at home and with family is critical to improving life outcomes and responding to intergenerational trauma.

Housing & Homelessness

Initiative	Aboriginal Focused Housing & Homelessness Initiatives
Investment	\$78.794 million
Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One-off \$3.7 million funding to extend the HEART and Koort Boodja accommodation programs that address homelessness in Perth Metro Area (Budget Paper 2, Volume 2, page 539) • Aboriginal Short Stay Accommodation in Perth, Geraldton & Kununurra, totalling \$57.7 Million over 3 years (Budget Paper 2, Volume 2, page 536) • Fitzroy Crossing Aboriginal Housing Program, as part of North West Fund Aboriginal Housing Fund (Budget Paper 2, Volume 2, pages 519 & 537) • Housing funding for Robe River Kuruma Aboriginal Corporation (Budget Paper 2, Volume 2, page 540)
Implications	Aboriginal specific accommodation services are critical to ensure Aboriginal people facing homelessness have access to culturally safe and non-discriminatory services and resources. Lack of housing in remote areas disproportionately affects Aboriginal people, often leading to overcrowding households which increases health risks, especially risk of Covid19 spread. The funding of Short Stay Accommodation facilities will provide shelter for Aboriginal people when having to travel off country to access services or resources. This funding package is critical to improving homelessness and housing outcomes for Aboriginal communities.

Culture, Country & Conservation

Initiative	Culture, Country & Conservation
Investment	\$149.3 Million
Description	<p>This package will support Aboriginal governance in the conservation and management of Aboriginal lands. Aboriginal ranger programs play a pivotal role in country management and offer opportunities for on-country employment. Funding will support the preservation of historic artforms such as rock art in Murujuga National Park</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$45 Mill for Aboriginal Cultural Centre Project's consultation, design, planning & seed capital. (Budget Paper 2, Volume 2, pages 547, 560 & 561) • \$19.9 million for the implementation of joint management arrangements with the Traditional Owners of the proposed Matuwa Kurarra Kurarra

	<p>National Park and the Lake Carnegie Nature Reserve; including 10 Aboriginal Rangers (Budget Paper 2 Volume 2, pages 708 & 720)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$11 million for enhancement and management of Murujuga National Park, including supporting the Murujuga Aboriginal Corporation's central role in the Murujuga Rock Art Monitoring & training for 2 Aboriginal Rangers (BP2, Vol 2, Pgs 686, 719,723) • \$12.4 million for implementation of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2021, including the ongoing co-design process; (Budget Paper 2, Volume 2, page 729-730) • \$61 Million over 4 years for continuation & expansion of Aboriginal Ranger Program (Budget Paper 2, Volume 2, page 709 & 723)
Implications	<p>Aboriginal governance in land management and conservation is central to preserving and protecting country. Ranger programs provide employment opportunities on country and promote the social emotional well-being of communities through self-determination and caring for country. Aboriginal management of sacred sites and historical art is vital to preserving the history of country and respecting cultural protocols, and preventing situations like the destruction of Juukan Gorge from occurring.</p>

Family Violence

Initiative	Family Violence Initiatives in Kimberley & Armadale
Investment	\$22.1 Million
Description	<p>This package will implement and support new initiatives to prevent and respond to family and domestic violence in metro and regional/remote areas. Funding for the Armadale Family Violence Hub will cover the implementation of an Enhanced FDV Response Team Model and operation of the centre.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding for 2 FDV Programs in the Kimberley: Derby Family Violence Service and the Change Em Ways Kimberly Project (BP 2 Vol 2 pg 540 or 520) • Funding for Armadale Family Violence One-Stop Hub, which will target approximately 50% Aboriginal clients. There is also a promise of a similar hub in Kimberley. (Budget Paper 2, Volume 2, pages 519 & 523) • \$2.8 million to provide a specialist Family Violence Court in Broome to offer support to Aboriginal women who have experienced family violence. (Budget Paper 2, Volume 2, page 443)
Implications	<p>Culturally safe FDV support services are critical to improving accessibility, and ultimately supporting safe communities and environments for families. Cultural differences may mean mainstream FDV services are not appropriate or suitable for the unique needs of Aboriginal communities.</p>

Education

Initiative	Kimberley Education Investment
Investment	\$12.7 million
Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extension of Kimberley Schools Project to keep young people engaged with the education system (Budget Paper 2, Volume 1, page 218) • \$1 million to develop a business case to assess the feasibility of establishing a WA College of Agriculture in the Kimberley (Budget Paper 2, Volume 1, page 363)

Implications	Education is key to successful future pathways. It is positive to see funding for initiatives to address decreasing school attendance in the Kimberley. These initiatives will offer alternative education pathways for children and young people to remain engaged in learning and training.
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Health, Mental Health & Alcohol & Other Drugs

Initiative	Culturally safe health, mental health and AOD supports
Investment	\$11.5 million
Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$7 million to improve antenatal care and maternity health for Aboriginal women (Tony Buti Press Release) • \$1.6 million to improve Aboriginal children's ear health. (Tony Buti Press Release) • \$1.4 million towards Preventing Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (Budget Paper 2, Volume 1, page 338) • \$920,000 for new Renal Dialysis centres in Halls Creek and Newman. (Budget Paper 2, Volume 1, page 328) • \$551,000 for the Establishment of the Aboriginal Health Practitioners profession in WA. (Budget Paper 2, Volume 2, page 310)
Implications	Health funding continues to be a key cornerstone of Closing the Gap, and also for prevention of social issues associated with poor health (eg. incarceration.) There was no earmarked funding for Aboriginal Suicide Prevention.

Justice and Corrective Services

Initiative	Justice and Corrective Services
Investment	See Justice Papers
Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$40.4 million for Kimberley and Pilbara Youth Offending Responses including night patrols; An On Country Facility as an Alternative to detention; and more police as part of Operation Regional Shield. (Bp 2 pg 413, Pg 431, Pg 519) • \$25 million for urgent Banksia Hill improvements including a new Crisis Care Unit, refurbishing the ISU, and a new Aboriginal Services Unit. (Bp 2 Pg 444) • No funding specifically tabled for air conditioning in Roeburne Regional Prison.
Implications	See Justice and Corrective Services Fact Sheets for detailed analysis.