

SACOSS releases State Budget Snapshot

After the carnage of last year's budget, SACOSS welcomes many of the measures this year that recognise where need lies in our community. However, community services are still reduced by last year's cuts, and more work needs to be done to fully support vulnerable and disadvantaged South Australians.

[Read the full SACOSS Budget Snapshot analysis here.](#)

SACOSS Senior Policy Analyst Dr Greg Ogle said, "We welcome the government's recognition of increased demand for child protection services, and the investment in keeping siblings together and reunifying them with their families. More cash flow to serious early intervention programs, to keep children out of the system in the first place, is still on our wish-list".

Dr Ogle said, "We are pleased that in this Budget, South Australia has caught up with the other states with an energy concession for people with medical conditions exacerbated by temperature, and we also acknowledge the government's cash injection for the water concession".

"However this is in a context of prices for the essential utilities of water and power skyrocketing. Without tying concessions to cost of living increases, concessions will continue to be outstripped."

Dr Ogle said, "There is money for disability that is overdue, but it does not go nearly far enough".

"While the budget papers trumpet regional initiatives, the money for roads won't go far. There are some good regional health initiatives, in partnership with the Commonwealth, to improve regional health services in Berri, Mt Gambier, Whyalla, Wallaroo, Ceduna, and Port Lincoln, but we have not seen investment in assisting Murray River communities to adapt to changing water entitlements".

"Law and justice sees significant spending on capital works rather than crime prevention, early intervention and access to justice".

"SACOSS rates this Budget at 3.5 out of 5, as it has some good initiatives and is hopefully the beginning of some positive new directions from the government."

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