

# SACOSS 2008-2009 State Budget Briefing

Initial Response 5 June 2008



**SACOSS**

*South Australian Council  
of Social Service*

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### Overview

SACOSS has prepared this briefing on the 2008-2009 South Australian State Budget for the benefit of its members. This information paper has been divided into areas of interest to the SACOSS membership, and not into specific portfolios and is underpinned by the SACOSS *Blueprint to eradicate Poverty in South Australia*.

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Each of these areas is assigned a table that summarises the budget initiatives in the relevant area, providing SACOSS members with a quick reference with which to frame responses to the State Budget.

Cost figures are for four years unless otherwise referenced.

## 1. Economic Data

- Gross State Product is forecast to grow by 2  $\frac{3}{4}$ %
- Expenditure initiatives total \$2852 million over the next four years
- Operating surplus increasing from \$160 million in 2008-09 to \$424 million in 2011-12
  
- Net debt is estimated to rise from \$610 million in 2009 to \$1983 million in 2012
- Net financial liabilities to revenue ratio is projected to rise from 67.9 in 2008 to 75.8 on 2012
  
- Economic growth in 2007-8 is estimated at 3  $\frac{3}{4}$  %
- Employment growth is forecast to grow by 1  $\frac{1}{2}$  % in 2008-9
  
- Commonwealth Government grants total 48.5% of total revenue at \$6.4 billion
- State Taxes total 27.3% of revenue at \$3.6 billion
  
- Payroll tax threshold will increase from \$504,000 to \$600,00 by 2009
- Payroll tax rate will decrease from 5% to 4.95% in 2009

**The new era of State and Commonwealth cooperation includes measures related to the COAG agenda and reform of special purpose payments in the areas of mental health, GP Super Clinics, dental services, indigenous children, additional skills training places, and additional support for transition care.**

**These changes are still under negotiation and will be announced later in 2008 to enable national implementation in 2009.**

## 2. Ageing

*South Australia has the oldest population in Australia and this is forecast to increase over the coming years. The economic implications of our ageing population raise important policy questions, particularly in areas such as caring, productivity and health.*

*Without preventative action, increasing numbers of older South Australians will face their retirement years living in poverty. Unfortunately, the 2008-2009 State Budget failed to make any announcement on how the State Government will respond to this issue.*

Item	Description	SACOSS Comments

Unable to discern specific new detail at present

### 3. Child Safety and Wellbeing

*There has been a dramatic rise in both notifications and substantiations in South Australia and nationally over recent years. There is a high level of confirmed re-abuse in South Australia (almost one in four within twelve months), along with a high number of substantiated notifications that receive no response due to a lack of resources.*

*The public debate and lack of confidence in the efficacy of systems to keep children and young people safe is of ongoing and major concern to SACOSS. The headline announcements for child safety and wellbeing are welcomed by SACOSS, and the emphasis on increased resources for intensive family support services is long overdue.*

<b>Item</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>SACOSS Comments</b>
<b>Child protection</b>  <b>COST</b> <b>\$142.1 million over four years</b>	Includes \$124.5 million for enhanced accommodation and care options to meet rising demand in child protection.	Increased funds should also allow further diversification of care options targeting children and young people unable/unsuitable for family based foster care, including specialist therapeutic models and small residential and group home facilities.
	\$17.6 million to respond to projected increases in notifications	Current projections are for an 8% annual growth in the number of children in care. This is a critical area in adjusting our approach to the safety and wellbeing of children.
<b>Early intervention</b>  <b>COST</b> <b>\$28.2 million</b>	\$15 million to support families following identification of risk and \$13.2 million for intensive family support and reunification.	<p>Non-government organisations will work alongside Families SA in providing interventions for families and children at the point of abuse or at risk being identified.</p> <p>An extra \$3.3 million per annum in intensive family support is a welcomed and long overdue initiative.</p>
<b>Relatives caring for children</b>  <b>COST</b> <b>\$8.3 million</b>	Increased support for relatives caring for children.	<p>This increase in funding recognises that carers need to be adequately supported.</p> <p>This is important in maintaining known family connections and taking pressure off of the general foster care system.</p>

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<b>Foster Care Support</b>  <b>COST</b> <b>\$7.3 million</b>	Directed to non-government organisations to increase support of foster carers through more home visits and case management.	This is a welcome move in improving support for foster carers, which is fundamental to quality of care, placement outcomes and foster carer retention.
<b>Carer Payments</b>  <b>COST</b> <b>\$4.6 million</b>	Directed at boosting foster and relative care payments.	This comes after a lengthy period of minimal increases which have kept South Australian foster carer payments below the national average.

## 4. Disability

*People with disabilities face significant additional costs and financial burdens on their household budgets than those without a disability. In income terms, the costs of disability are estimated to average around 29% of household income, rising to between 40% and 49% of income for those with a severe or profound restriction.*

*Financial hardship, and the prohibitive costs of many leisure and other activities, can lead to increased isolation for people with disabilities. Many factors can entrench the social divide between people with disabilities and those who do not live with disability. Many people with disabilities face discrimination and stigma, which can be powerful barriers to engaging fully with the community. The State Government continues to shortchange people with a disability by not meeting its end of the Commonwealth, State and Territory Disability Agreement (CSTDA).*

Item	Description	SACOSS Comments
<b>Equipment waiting lists to be cleared</b>  <b>COST \$5 million</b>	Waiting lists for equipment for children and adults with disabilities cleared through a one-off extra \$5 million.	Long term planning and funding are required to ensure that an accessible and affordable disability equipment support system is established and maintained for the growing number of South Australians with a disability who need equipment assistance.
<b>Commonwealth, State &amp; Territory Disability Agreement</b>  <b>COST \$145.8 million</b>	The Commonwealth Government has committed \$72.9 million, the State Government will match this over four years giving a total of \$145.8	<p>The reality is that the State has been able to include the \$46.9 million from last year's allocations because the Commonwealth Government did not contribute last year. The commitments in this year's Budget are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supported accommodation for 92 people</li> <li>• 1,295 respite places.</li> <li>• 102 intensive home support packages</li> <li>• 650 individual care packages</li> </ul>

## 5. Employment, Education and Training

*Data confirms that while Australia has experienced a period of economic growth and prosperity, the employment prospects for many South Australians lag behind their interstate counterparts. Unemployment data hides deep-rooted and persistent levels of poor educational and skills attainment in the poorest areas along with significantly high levels of unemployment.*

Item	Description	SACOSS Comments

Unable to discern specific new detail at present

## 6. Health

*SACOSS believes that the focus on health services provision has to move from tertiary to primary health care. Research overwhelmingly confirms benefits for all citizens, but particularly those from low income and disadvantaged groups, when a shift in focus to primary health care occurs.*

Item	Description	SACOSS Comments
<p><b>Extra staff and vehicles for the Ambulance Service</b></p> <p><b>COST \$27million</b></p>	<p>72 extra full time staff and 7 new 'light vehicles'.</p> <p>96,000 extra call-outs over the 4-year period.</p>	
<p><b>Hospital funding</b></p> <p><b>COST \$357 million</b></p>	<p>\$357 million for hospital services to treat an additional 50,0000 patients.</p>	<p>While this investment in improved accessibility to hospital care, there is little focus on early intervention, prevention or primary health care.</p> <p>This would indicate insufficient understanding of and planning for the future demographic challenges of our ageing population.</p>

## 7. Housing and homelessness

*The lack of affordable housing is a pressing issue that directly impacts upon low income groups. Government support in public and social housing is most likely to generate the capacity required to meet the affordable housing shortfall .The South Australian Government has developed a long term housing plan with measures to increase affordable and secure housing. The majority of these Budget announcements do not appear to target South Australians most in need .*

Item	Description	SACOSS Comments
<b>Common Ground Port Augusta</b>  <b>COST \$2.8m</b>	\$2.8m allocated to the \$5.6m development that includes a mix of renovated units and new units to provide 20 affordable homes for low-income earners and 20 homes for the formerly homeless as well as communal activity areas. Commonwealth Government is contributing additional funds.	Regional South Australia will experience both the positive and negative effects of increased economic activity. Low income households are particularly vulnerable to the increasing cost pressures on land and basic amenities. This is a positive first step in assisting the housing needs of vulnerable regional South Australians.
<b>SA Foyer Plus</b>  <b>COST \$4 million</b>	A supportive medium term housing model for young people at risk of long term homelessness.  The Commonwealth Government will contribute \$5.5 million	Alternative models of medium term housing for young people are needed and it is pleasing to see that the Government has addressed this issue. Integrated models of support for young vulnerable people that link education, employment, health and other support services have demonstrated better outcomes for young people in promoting stability and enabling them to flourish. SACOSS will keep a watching brief over engagement with the youth housing sector in developing this initiative.
<b>First Home Owners' Grant</b>  <b>COST \$140m</b>	\$4000 grant to replace the first-home buyer stamp duty concession, available for first-time home purchases valued up to \$450,000.	This scheme is generic and poorly targeted. It will do little to ease the housing affordability crisis in South Australia.

## 8. Indigenous

*SACOSS is concerned over the brevity of initiatives in this budget targeting disadvantaged Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander South Australians are significantly more likely to be poorer and receive a lower income than the wider population, and have a much lower life expectancy. There is an urgent need to improve their standards of environmental health, housing and essential services to ensure a fairer and more equitable South Australia.*

<b>Item</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>SACOSS Comments</b>
<b>Aboriginal interpreters for the court system</b>  <b>COST</b> <b>\$500,000</b>	To recruit new interpreters from within the public service for Aboriginal people in the court system.	Provision of interpreters in the court system, and not in pre-court dealings between the accused and the defence lawyer. This means that Aboriginal people will continue to be denied access to justice in the SA court system.  SACOSS is concerned that this initiative is more about assisting the prosecution of Aboriginal people rather than their defence.

## 9. Justice

The Rann Government has made much of a hardline approach to law and justice in South Australia over recent years and SACOSS has maintained the argument that the gravity of Government initiatives are not reflected in our crime statistics. The total incidences of reported crime in South Australia in 2006 were lower than reported crime statistics recorded in 2001. SACOSS supports increased funding to the court system that can assist in clearing a backlog of cases. Other features of this budget such as \$38 million for a new high tech police station, \$35.9 million to increase the capacity of the new Mobilong prisons and \$11 million for the computer technology to target bikies, are focussed more on arrests and incarceration than crime prevention and early intervention.

Item	Description	Comments
<p><b>A five-element package directed at tackling youth crime.</b></p> <p><b>COST \$11.5 million over four years</b></p>	<p>The initiative will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A <i>community protection panel</i> to provide intensive case management for serious repeat offenders.</li> <li>▪ <i>Youth Justice Teams</i> to offer support to young to young offenders.</li> <li>▪ <i>Tirkandi school</i> retention program to assist at risk Aboriginal students to stay at school.</li> <li>▪ The adoption of the <i>David Kennedy Model</i> to tackle youth crime</li> <li>▪ <i>Kurruru</i> indigenous youth performing arts program which mentors young men and boys to divert them from the criminal justice system</li> </ul>	<p>Only three of the urgent recommendations of the Social Inclusion Unit 'To Break the Cycle' report are addressed by these initiatives.</p> <p>The Government stated that they would adopt the 13 'urgent action status' recommendations after the report was handed down in 2007.</p> <p>The other 10 urgent action status items remain outstanding.</p>
<p><b>Aboriginal interpreters for the court system</b></p> <p><b>COST \$500,000 over the next four years</b></p>	<p>To recruit new interpreters from within the public service for Aboriginal people in the court system.</p>	<p>Provision of interpreters in the court system, and not in pre-court dealings between the accused and the defence lawyer. This means that Aboriginal people will continue to be denied access to justice in the SA court system.</p> <p>SACOSS is concerned that this initiative is more about</p>

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		assisting the prosecution of Aboriginal people rather than their defence.
<p><b>New high tech police headquarters in the CBD.</b></p> <p><b>COST</b> <b>\$38 million</b></p>	<p>New police headquarters in the CBD.</p> <p>100 new police recruits each year over four years.</p> <p>An extra \$5.7 million to install a new closed circuit television system in metropolitan and regional police stations.</p>	<p>Crime rates have decreased in South Australia over the last decade.</p> <p>SACOSS argues that instead of putting increasing funds into policing and corrections, more resources need to be directed into prevention, early intervention and restorative justice initiatives.</p>
<p><b>Refurbishment of two new courtrooms</b></p> <p><b>COST</b> <b>\$4.2 million</b></p>	<p>Two courtrooms in Sturt Street refurbished to assist in clearing a backlog of cases.</p>	<p>According to 2007 ABS statistics, South Australia has the highest remand rate in the country at 35% (compared to a 22% remand rate across the country). SACOSS welcomes the opening of the new courtrooms, however a revised approach to the concept of remanding prisoners is necessary in order to ensure the justice system is both fair and swift.</p>
<p><b>Court Staff funding boost</b></p> <p><b>COST</b> <b>\$2.8 million</b></p>	<p>Five full-time prosecutors, two full-time and one part-time support staff for the new courts.</p>	<p>Further funding for courts and personnel will assist in clearing some of the backlog of cases.</p>
<p><b>Legal Aid funding Boost</b></p> <p><b>COST</b> <b>\$8.3 million</b></p>	<p>Legal aid at the Legal Services Commission (LSC).</p>	<p>To meet the increased demands and rising defence costs resulting from the Government's legislative program. This funding will enable the LSC to maintain services at 07/08 levels of activity.</p> <p>The \$8.3 million comes on top of extra positions generated by the Firearms legislation and Serious and Organised Crime reforms. Timely representation for accused people means</p>

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		swifter justice for all.
<b>Extra money to increase capacity of the new prison.</b>  <b>COST</b> <b>\$35.9 million</b>	209 new spaces in the previously announced new prisons to be built at Mobilong.	Repeat announcement. The prison population has risen due to the hardline State Government law and order approach.
<b>Funding for new technology to assist police to tackle bikie gangs.</b>  <b>COST</b> <b>\$11 million</b>	To assist in tackling bikie gangs with the installation of a 'sophisticated crime busting computer system'.	It is unclear in the Budget papers what this measure will entail or achieve.
<b>Funding boost for the Director of Public Prosecutions.</b>  <b>COST</b> <b>\$7.5 million</b>	This will double the staff numbers in the DPP.	Timely representation for accused people means swifter justice for all.

## 10. Mental Health

*Good mental health is a fundamental part of our overall health and wellbeing. It is important to acknowledge that one in five South Australians will suffer from a mental illness in their lifetime. In addition, the risk of mental ill health is much higher amongst the vulnerable and disadvantaged. Therefore it is vital that resources are targeted at prevention, early intervention and effective treatment of mental illness.*

*There is a lot of work developing new models of mental health care and capital works planning along the lines recommended in the Social Inclusion report 'Stepping Up'. The announcement last budget of \$36.8 million over four years for NGO community mental health services remains a welcome addition to the system, providing support to more people to stay well in the community.*

*Whilst progress has been good over the last year, there remain many areas of mental health that need more attention. The boost to non-government capacity brings it up to 5-6% of the total mental health spend but we still have a long way to go. In other jurisdictions, for example Victoria, the spend on non-government services is closer to 16%, and in New Zealand 30%.*

*The overall mental health budget is around 7% of the total health budget, whereas the contribution by mental illness to the total illness burden is around 13%.*

The new era of State and Commonwealth cooperation includes measures related to the COAG agenda and reform of special purpose payments. These changes are still under negotiation and will be announced later in 2008 to enable national implementation in 2009.

Item	Description	SACOSS Comments

Mid-Year Budget Announcement

## 11. Multicultural and emerging communities

*There are barriers in accessing health and other services for people who are not from the dominant cultural background in South Australia, particularly for those whose first language is not English. South Australia has a rich and diverse population with more than 20% of South Australians born overseas and more than 10% speaking a language other than English at home. Newly arrived migrants and refugees face significant barriers in engaging in mainstream society, with the issue being especially acute for younger people who are often under-represented in both mainstream and culturally specific support services.*

Item	Description	SACOSS Comments

Unable to discern specific new detail at present

## 12. Rural and regional South Australia

*The range and complexity of the poorest South Australians requires a significant level of supporting infrastructure, such as public transport and hospitals. For too long rural and regional communities have been overlooked and the Budget announcements go some way to addressing health infrastructure, but little else. The lack of any greater transport plan for rural and regional South Australia is of concern.*

Item	Description	SACOSS Comments
<b>Health</b>  <b>COST</b> <b>\$56 million</b>	Three year redevelopment of the Berri Hospital, \$41 million.  Two-year redevelopment of the Whyalla Hospital, \$15 million.  Ongoing redevelopment of the Ceduna Hospital, \$2.7 million  Rural Breastscreening SA, upgrade medical equipment \$2.6 million	A good physical infrastructure commitment to assist rural and regional South Australians accessing high-quality health care.  However there is little commitment to preventative or primary health care measures.
<b>Drought</b>  <b>COST</b> <b>\$9.8 million in 08</b>	2008-2009 assisting rural communities to recover from the drought.	A long term strategy for rural areas acutely affected by the drought is required to ensure survival of these vulnerable communities.
<b>Transport</b>  <b>COST</b> <b>\$20,000</b>	Managed taxi rank in Port Augusta.	Enhancing the safety and security of taxis as a means of public transport in rural and regional areas is welcomed.
<b>Education</b>  <b>COST</b> <b>\$800,000 in 08-09</b>	Replace ageing school buses in regional areas	Modern and safe transport for rural and regional areas is essential, and this Budget allocation is welcomed.
<b>Rural Road Improvement Measures</b>  <b>COST</b> <b>\$20.7million in 2008-2009</b>	Road infrastructure improvements targeted at rural areas include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$8.1m for improving road safety in rural areas</li> <li>• \$7.7m for improvements targeting freight, such as road widening, shoulder sealing and the building of overtaking lanes</li> <li>• \$4.9m for improved signage, improvements to junctions and</li> </ul>	Spending on rural roads is welcomed as an important part of improving the connection of regional and remote areas with the metropolitan area. The ability of regional South Australians to access adequate healthcare and educational facilities continues to place importance on the road

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	the mitigation of fixed roadside hazards	networks.
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### 13. Taxes, Fees, Concessions & Charges

*Increases in State taxes, fees and charges have greater impacts on low income households compared to others in the community. Increases in everyday costs can impact on housing, transport, food consumption and general wellbeing.*

*Increases in fees and charges have been kept lower than the CPI but there has been no increase in concessions. With rising overall costs of housing, food, petrol and transport, a more equitable and targeted concessions system is needed to relieve the relentless pressures on the budgets of low income households.*

Item	Description	SACOSS Comments
<p><b>Concessions</b></p> <p><b>COST</b></p> <p><b>Nil</b></p>	<p>No change to the current concession schemes.</p>	<p>State Government concessions must be targeted very specifically at the poorest in our community in order to improve their standard of living.</p> <p>SACOSS believes that the current State Government concession scheme lacks coherence and consistency, is poorly targeted and is not effective, efficient or as equitable as it could be</p>
<p><b>Increase in Fees and Charges</b></p>	<p>Increases in fees and charges for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vehicle registrations</li> <li>• Drivers' licence fees</li> <li>• Speeding fines</li> <li>• Public transport charges</li> </ul>	

## 14. Transport and Infrastructure

Poorer people in SA are less likely to have access to a motor vehicle. SACOSS is pleased that the major transport spending in the State Budget has included measures to improve public transport infrastructure and increase usage. Such moves should create an economy of scale which would serve to mitigate negative fiscal effects of increased public spending in this area. SACOSS supports in principle South Australia's Transport Plan 2030, put forward by the Committee for Adelaide Roads. This submission calls for \$12.9 billion to be spent on transport infrastructure, including roads, light rail and car pooling lanes.

<p><b>Transformation of the metropolitan rail network</b></p> <p><b>COST</b>  <b>\$124.2million in 2008-2009,</b>  <b>\$1.1billion over four years</b></p>	<p>2008-2009 expenditure will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$42.6m for continued upgrading of the Belair and Noarlunga lines</li> <li>• \$30m to extend tram line to Entertainment Centre</li> <li>• \$21.6m for new buses</li> <li>• \$10m for commencement of Gawler line re-sleepering and upgrade</li> <li>• \$8m for railcar refurbishment</li> <li>• \$7m to upgrade rail systems</li> <li>• \$5m to commence electrification of Noarlunga line</li> </ul>	<p>The modernisation and electrification of the metropolitan rail system is a necessary step towards creating a more sustainable transport system. By making the public transport system more efficient, reliable and environmentally responsible, more South Australians can utilise the system and relieve the pressures of rising fuel costs.</p>
<p><b>Railyard relocation</b></p> <p><b>COST</b>  <b>\$40.8million in 2008-2009</b></p>	<p>This is part of the works needed prior to the building of the new 'Marj' hospital</p>	
<p><b>Sturt Highway upgrade</b></p> <p><b>COST</b>  <b>\$43million in 2008-2009</b></p>	<p>Includes duplication of the Sturt Highway from Argent Rd. to Seppeltsfield Rd.</p>	
<p><b>South Road improvements</b></p> <p><b>COST</b>  <b>\$42million in 2008-2009</b></p>	<p>This funding includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$21m for tram overpass over South Road</li> <li>• \$21m to continue work on Anzac Highway underpass</li> </ul>	<p>The improvements to South Road are an important step towards a dedicated North-South transport corridor.</p>

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<p><b>Auslink Projects</b></p> <p><b>COST</b> <b>\$37.3million in</b> <b>2008-2009</b></p>	<p>Includes Dukes Highway upgrade and North-South Corridor planning study</p>	
<p><b>Northern Expressway Upgrade</b></p> <p><b>COST</b> <b>\$172.5million in</b> <b>2008-2009</b></p>	<p>Funding is for the continuing work on the major road connecting the Barrossa Valley, Riverland and Gawler with metropolitan Adelaide and Port Adelaide.</p>	
<p><b>Road and Rail Bridges over Port River</b></p> <p><b>COST</b> <b>\$11million in</b> <b>2008-2009</b></p>	<p>Includes associated connecting roadworks</p>	
<p><b>Targeted road improvements</b></p> <p><b>COST</b> <b>\$8.9million in</b> <b>2008-2009</b></p>	<p>Includes shoulder-sealing programs and targeted safety initiatives under the Long Life Roads program</p>	
<p><b>Rural Road Improvement Measures</b></p> <p><b>COST</b> <b>\$20.7million in</b> <b>2008-2009</b></p>	<p>Road infrastructure improvements targeted at rural areas include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$8.1m for improving road safety in rural areas</li> <li>• \$7.7m for improvements targeting freight, such as road widening, shoulder sealing and the building of overtaking lanes</li> <li>• \$4.9m for improved signage, improvements to junctions and the mitigation of fixed roadside hazards</li> </ul>	<p>Spending on rural roads is welcomed as an important part of improving the connection of regional and remote areas with the metropolitan area. The ability of regional South Australians to access adequate healthcare and educational facilities continues to place importance on the road networks.</p>

## 15. Water and Utilities

*At least 15% of South Australian households will struggle to pay utility bills because they are on very low incomes. Energy costs are a critical issue for low income households, which pay significantly more for electricity gas and water, as a percentage of income, than higher income households, despite using less of these utilities. Predicted spikes in energy prices over the coming years needs to be mitigated by a much more comprehensive investment in energy efficiency measures than has been allocated in this Budget*

<b>Item</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>SACOSS Comments</b>
<b>Residential Energy Efficiency Scheme (REES)</b>  <b>COST</b> <b>\$2 million</b>	New program to support energy efficiency for low income households.	This scheme is designed to be a tripartite system, with significant financial contribution from energy retailers. This aspect of the program is not detailed in the Budget, making it difficult to provide accurate comment at this time.

## 16. Young people

*The community entrusts governments to ensure economic policy, political processes and social programs address the basic needs and social harmony of all young people. One of the driving factors behind low wages and lack of access to supports is the false societal assumption that young people are less skilled, less vulnerable and less productive than older people.*

*SACOSS and its member organisations are working towards achieving meaningful improvements in the quality of young people's lives, with particular attention being focused on disadvantaged young people.*

<b>Item</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>SACOSS Comments</b>
<b>Innovative Community Action Networks</b>  <b>COST \$10.5 million</b>	ICAN networks to connect with flexible learning options for young people. This constitutes an extension beyond the pilot.	ICAN program has seen some significant success re-engaging disengaged young people in the education system. It is good to see this extended.
<b>SA Foyer Plus</b>  <b>COST \$4 million</b>	A supportive medium term housing model for young people at risk of long term homelessness.  The Commonwealth Government will contribute \$5.5 million	Alternative models of medium term housing for young people are needed and it is pleasing to see that the Government has addressed this issue. Integrated models of support for young vulnerable people that link education, employment, health and other support services have demonstrated better outcomes for young people in promoting stability and enabling them to flourish. SACOSS will keep a watching brief over engagement with the youth housing sector in developing this initiative.
<b>Youth Offending and Crime Protection</b>	Funding to go towards prevention, rehabilitation and programs targeted towards young Aboriginal people.	A useful boost to our current activities, but completely fails to address the need for serious additional investment in youth

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<b>COST</b> <b>\$11.5</b> <b>million</b>		justice.
<b>Special Programs for Youth (SPY) program</b>	Work with young people disengaged and at risk of involvement with the justice system.	Disappointing that funding has been cut, as it was providing positive outcomes.
<b>DEFUNDED</b>		