

# SACOSS 2009-2010 State Budget Snapshot

4 June 2009



**SACOSS**

*South Australian Council  
of Social Service*

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## Overview

SACOSS has prepared this snapshot of the 2009-2010 South Australian State Budget for the benefit of its members. It is divided into areas of interest to the SACOSS membership, 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. Not all areas are covered in this Snapshot due to both time restrictions and availability of detail in the Budget Papers.

Cost figures are for four years unless otherwise referenced.

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## 1. Economic Data

This Budget is firmly a pre-election budget heavily underpinned by Commonwealth investment. A significant amount of the money announced in this year's Budget is associated with Commonwealth initiatives; this essentially is not a bad thing. It shows a connection between the two layers of government that is a positive development in the relationship and its subsequent potential to provide a coordinated approach to spending.

The Commonwealth has provided \$2.6 billion in one-off specific payments and new savings are said to be \$831 million. State GST revenue has decreased by \$2.9 billion and State Tax by \$882 million. These areas are projected to recover fairly quickly and the State Budget is tipped to return to surplus in 2010-11.

- Gross State Product is forecast to fall by .5% in 2009-10.
- Net debt is estimated to rise from \$659 million in 2008-09 to \$3200 million in 2013.
- Net financial liabilities to revenue ratio is projected to rise from 93.1% in 2009 to 102.9% in 2013.
- Employment growth is forecast to fall by .75% by June 2009.
- Household consumption spending grew by 4% in 2008.
- SA wage growth was 3.9% for 2008-09.
- Unemployment rate is forecast at 8.25% for 2009-10, reducing to 6.5% by 2013.

The efficiency dividend of \$750 million over three years will obviously have an impact across the board, the new Sustainable Budget Commission to be headed up by Geoff Carmody will be tasked with determining some of the efficiencies, and the individual government departments will be left to work out the rest. The main concern here is if those cuts are directed to services supporting the vulnerable and disadvantaged people in our community. The details will not be available until next year's State Budget.

## 2. Child Safety and Wellbeing

*There continues to be a sustained rise in both notifications and substantiations in South Australia and nationally over recent years. Moreover, due to a lack of resources in the sector these reported rises in notification are not dealt with effectively or efficiently.*

*SACOSS argues for the instituting of the public health model for the child protection system in South Australia that directs resources towards prevention and early intervention, rather than the current crisis model that directs funds and services towards the tertiary end.*

*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.*

Item	Description	SACOSS Comments
<p><b>Child protection</b></p> <p><b>COST</b> <b>\$190.6 million</b></p>	<p>The Government plans to continue its four year rollout of its \$190.6 million package, pledged in 2008-09, that focused on the areas of: accommodation and care options; funds to respond to projected increases in notifications; intensive family support and reunification funds; increased support for relatives caring for children; support of foster carers and a boost in funding for foster and relative care payments.</p>	<p>The child protection system continues to be under-resourced in South Australia and the impacts of this have a profound effect on children who are already vulnerable and disadvantaged.</p> <p>The headline announcements for child safety and wellbeing that were made in 2008-09 are still supported by SACOSS and need to be implemented to reduce the negative impacts of the current system.</p>

### 3. Disability

*People with disabilities consistently face a considerable financial burden on their household budgets compared to those without a disability. When this is explored in terms of income, 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. While the single disability pension has risen in modest terms since the Federal Budget, people with disabilities still face the increased risk of social isolation based upon financial hardship.*

Item	Description	SACOSS Comments
<p><b>Disability funding gap cover</b></p> <p><b>COST</b> <b>\$23.3 million</b></p>	<p>\$23.3 million over four years for "increased support for disability services."</p>	<p>This money is filling a Federal funding shortfall. The Federal Government used to contribute 10.8% of SA's total disability spending; this figure has fallen to 7.5%. The \$23.3 million fills this gap and provides for indexation – no new or improved services for people with a disability or the disability sector are evident.</p>

## 4. Employment, Education and Training

*Education and training are vital for a strong economy and vibrant society. South Australia has historically had lower levels of educational attainment and workforce participation than other states and territories, and it is important that these issues are addressed as the economy shifts away from the traditional manufacturing base.*

*Education in particular is one of the most important determinants of health and wellbeing throughout the lifecycle, beginning in early childhood. State and Commonwealth funding for public schools is a first step in promoting health and wellbeing through education, and must be followed up with programs that ensure lifelong learning opportunities are available for workers to gain the skills required to compete in a competitive job market and in new and emerging industries.*

*It is also in the interests of all in society to ensure that the long term unemployed and those from at-risk groups are not left behind by employment, education and training programs.*

Item	Description	SACOSS Comments
<p><b>'Skilling Australia for the Future' initiative</b></p> <p><b>COST \$49.7 million</b></p>	<p>The State Government contribution to the Commonwealth program to up-skill South Australians. Funding also includes \$105.5 million from the Federal Government, with total spending amounting to \$155.2 million over four years. This includes \$117 million over four years for the Productivity Places Program, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PPP for existing workers – 2,780 qualifications for existing workers</li> <li>• PPP for jobseekers – 17,000 jobseekers</li> </ul>	<p>The up-skilling of the South Australian workforce is in line with SACOSS principles, although more should be done to link training funding with infrastructure and renewable energy targets. This would lead to sustainable skills and employment outcomes for disadvantaged members of society.</p>
<p><b>Education Reforms</b></p> <p><b>COST \$107.7 million</b></p>	<p>Funding to reform the public education system through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Incentives to attract quality teachers</li> <li>• Flexibility around school staffing</li> <li>• Improved community partnerships</li> </ul>	<p>These reforms have the potential to put the onus of operational and funding activities onto individual schools.</p>
<p><b>Maths and Science</b></p> <p><b>COST \$51.5 million</b></p>	<p>Program for improving maths and science learning outcomes for public primary school students.</p>	<p>Maths and science have been identified as two areas of concern in the education sector, and these steps are positive in improving outcomes.</p>

*In addition to State and State/Commonwealth funding for education, the Commonwealth Government is funding a number two main education programs that should serve to improve educational outcomes for South Australian children.*

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*Through the 'Building the Education Revolution' program, public and private schools will receive a total of approximately \$1.26 billion for infrastructure projects over the next three years. The Digital Education Revolution will provide \$72.5 million over three years for new computers for year 9-12 students. Perhaps most promisingly, \$13.4 million will be provided specifically for low socio-economic schools, primarily for the purposes of improving numeracy and literacy outcomes.*

## 5. Health

*The shift towards primary health care is a positive move that SACOSS believes will benefit all individuals, especially those from low income and disadvantaged groups. Similarly, integrating health services in a culturally appropriate manner is a step forward in bringing equitable health services to all Australians.*

<b>Item</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>SACOSS Comments</b>
<b>Increased health service operating costs</b>  <b>COST \$114 million</b>	\$114 million over four years to increase levels of health services and to fund the 23, 000 extra patient admissions.	More funding in this area will improve greater access to care, while facilitating the reduction of waiting lists and reducing pressure across the health system.
<b>Additional nurses and midwives</b>  <b>COST \$51 million</b>	Funding for additional 160 nursing and midwifery positions. Includes focus on backfill requirements.	Extra nurses and midwives for the public health system are welcome, although these need to be accompanied by robust workforce development and training programs.
<b>Emergency and acute care</b>  <b>COST \$60.9 million</b>	Funding for improved treatment in emergency departments, as well as new acute medical units.	Increasing funding in these areas will improve the facilitation of primary health care and will reduce the time delays that are often experienced when accessing such services.
<b>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health</b>  <b>COST \$53.9 million</b>	In partnership with the Commonwealth Government, funding will be provided to make Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health services more socially and culturally appropriate.	SACOSS welcomes targeted funding for embedding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health funding in local communities, and responsive to cultural differences.



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	<p>upgrading existing community housing in these areas.</p> <p>In remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, approximately 45 new homes will be constructed this year. In total there will be 131 new dwellings constructed, while 175 will be upgraded.</p> <p>Similarly, 220 non-remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community houses will also be upgraded.</p>	
<p><b>Homelessness initiatives</b></p> <p><b>COST</b> <b>\$65 million</b></p>	<p>In partnership with the Commonwealth, \$65 million will be provided in addition to the already allocated \$1.8 million from the 2008-09 Budget. This money will be utilised to fund social inclusion initiatives, such as the Ladder project at Port Adelaide.</p>	<p>The homelessness initiatives are important in reducing the number of rough sleepers and providing a pathway to secure, sustainable housing.</p>

## 7. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

*SACOSS is concerned at the dearth of initiatives in this Budget to target the increasing disadvantage of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander South Australians are significantly more likely to live on a lower income than the wider population, and have a much lower life expectancy.*

*Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are also more likely to be incarcerated in the overstretched and under-resourced prison system. There is an urgent need to address the societal contributors to poverty and disadvantage within this community and to improve their standards of environmental health, housing and essential services to ensure a fairer and more equitable South Australia.*

*SACOSS strongly supports the increasing in funding (in partnership with the Federal Government) for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.*

<b>Item</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>SACOSS Comments</b>
<p><b>Culturally responsive primary health care services</b></p> <p><b>COST \$53.9 million</b></p>	<p>The State Government has pledged \$53.9 million for culturally responsive primary healthcare services with improved patient journeys through hospital.</p>	<p>SACOSS supports the government's moves to improve health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander South Australians.</p>
<p><b>Funding for housing in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities</b></p> <p><b>COST \$124.1 million</b></p>	<p>Over the next four years, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities will receive \$124.1 million in funding, in addition to the \$54.5 million that was allocated in 2008-09. The funding will be utilised to construct new homes in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, while also upgrading existing community housing in these areas.</p>	<p>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander populations are some of the most disadvantaged in our community therefore SACOSS strongly supports the additional funding for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander housing in South Australia.</p>

## 8. Justice

*A major concern of this Budget is the cancellation of the new prison and secure facilities. The current prison overcrowding issues (compounded by significant rises in prisoner numbers each year) will not ease without a commitment to addressing the causes of crime.*

*Features in this Budget such as \$2.4 million for prison teleconferencing facilities and an increase in the police budget to \$661 million maintains the Government’s focus on tertiary responses to crime in our communities rather than crime prevention and early intervention strategies.*

*However, SACOSS does support the increase in funding to the court system that can assist in clearing a backlog of cases and reduce remands rates — which are higher in South Australia than any other jurisdiction in Australia.*

Item	Description	Comments
<p><b>New Prison and secure facilities project cancelled</b></p> <p><b>SAVING \$500 million</b></p>	<p>The Government has cancelled the new prison in Murray Bridge as well as the planned co-located forensic mental health centre and new youth detention centre and pre-release centre (slated for location in Cavan), in an effort to reduce the State’s debt by \$500 million.</p>	<p>The new prisons were going to be built to reduce pressure on the already overcrowded South Australian prison system.</p> <p>The Government plans to use the \$38 million remaining from last year to provide 232 beds across four existing facilities.</p> <p>There is no new money for in-prison rehabilitation programs or support for recently released prisoners.</p> <p>There is no money allocated for staffing, which will have significant implications as prisoner numbers continue to rise.</p>
<p><b>Boost to DNA funding to increase resources for DNA profiling to assist in criminal case solving.</b></p> <p><b>COST \$2.4 million</b></p>	<p>Government has pledged \$2.4 million to increase DNA analysis services to assist in closing criminal cases.</p>	<p>This funding will be provided over four years and is in addition to a sustained funding stream to Forensic Services since 2002.</p>

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<p><b>Additional funding for an expedited opening of the Sturt Street Courts</b></p> <p><b>COST \$500,000</b></p>	<p>The Government announced \$4.2 million for a refurbishment of two new courtrooms in Sturt Street in the 2008-09 Budget. These additional funds are designed to hasten the process to clear backlogs of cases. The courtrooms are expected to re-open in September.</p>	<p>SACOSS welcomes the expedited opening of the new courtrooms, particularly in relation to reducing remand rates which are higher than any other jurisdiction in the country (ABS, 2007). However SACOSS still advocates for a revised approach to the concept of remanding prisoners, in order to ensure the justice system is both fair and swift.</p>
<p><b>Additional funding for the Special Justice of the Peace Program</b></p> <p><b>COST \$450,000</b></p>	<p>The program assists by allowing additional sittings and allows Magistrates to concentrate on more complicated matters.</p>	<p>SACOSS welcomes initiatives to increase case flow and reduce time spent on remand.</p>
<p><b>An increase in the police budget of more than 5% in 2009-10</b></p> <p><b>COST Budget raised to \$661 million</b></p>	<p>Police will receive a budget boost of over 5% in the 2009-10 period.</p>	<p>SACOSS maintains that crime rates have decreased in South Australia over the last decade — in line with worldwide trends — and that funding would be better directed to prevention, early intervention and restorative justice initiatives.</p>
<p><b>Police Complex at Yalata on the west coast of South Australia</b></p> <p><b>COST \$3.3 million</b></p>	<p>The Government will fund the development of a police complex at Yalata on the far west coast of South Australia.</p>	
<p><b>Prison video conferencing facilities at Yatala &amp; Adelaide Women's prison</b></p> <p><b>COST \$2.4 million</b></p>	<p>The Government has pledged \$2.4 million to provide video conferencing facilities in SA prisons, which they propose will improve the efficiency of the criminal justice system.</p>	

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<b>Establishment of a community corrections centre at Gawler</b>	The Government is providing \$1.1 million for the establishment of a community correction centre in Gawler.	This Centre will be to cater for existing need only.
<b>COST</b> <b>\$1.1 million</b>		

## 9. Mental Health

*The prevalence rates of mental illness remain disturbingly high in South Australia. ABS figures from 2008 demonstrate that 7.3 million out of the 16 million 16-85 year olds in Australia had experienced a mental illness in their lifetime. Further it is important to recognise that mental illness comprises 13% of the total burden of disease and injury in Australia. In addition the risk of mental illness is much greater amongst vulnerable and disadvantaged populations.*

*The funding and initiatives announced by the State Government have been guided by the Social Inclusion Unit's 'Stepping Up: a Social Inclusion Action Plan for Mental Health Reform 2007-2012'. The State Government has made an investment (in partnership with the Federal Government) of \$91.1 million, over five years, which is mostly capital investment. This means that there has been no new money announced in this Budget.*

*The mental health spending is not reflective of the amount of need in the community and is also not congruent with increasing health budgets overall. Mental health spending is likely to be in the range of 6-8 % of the total SA health budget, which is over \$4billion in the 2009-10 Budget.*

*While SACOSS welcomes the ongoing implementation of the Social Inclusion Unit's 'Stepping Up' report, this Budget fails to address both the sustained underinvestment in mental health, and the current and future financial and social burden of mental health illness in the community.*

<b>Item</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>SACOSS Comments</b>
<b>Non-clinical community based support</b>  <b>COST</b> <b>\$10.3 million</b>	The Government has pledged \$10.3 million in non-clinical based support for people with a mental illness.	While initially announced two years ago, SACOSS supports this initiative as community based support is vitally important for the successful integration of people with mental illnesses in the community.
<b>Community Mental Health Centres</b>  <b>COST</b> <b>\$3.3 million</b>	Six Community Mental Health Centres will be developed that will integrate existing services.	SACOSS supports the development of the six new mental health centres and the three new intermediate care facilities.
<b>Three new intermediate care mental health facilities</b>  <b>COST</b> <b>\$10.5 million</b>	The Government has invested \$10.5 million in the construction of three new intermediate mental health care facilities within existing country hospitals.	

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<p><b>Capital Program for the redevelopment of Glenside Campus</b></p> <p><b>COST</b> <b>\$17.4 million</b></p>	<p>The Government has pledged \$17.4 million towards the redevelopment of Glenside Campus to build a 129 bed mental health hospital, 15 bed intermediate care facility and 20 supported accommodation places.</p>	<p>SACOSS welcomes increasing supports and mental health, intermediary and supported accommodation places but argues for an increased share of the overall health budget to adequately reflect the mental health need that is present in the community.</p>
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## 10. Taxes, Fees, Concessions & Charges

Government fees and charges are set to rise an average of 4.2% in this year's Budget, which is above CPI. Increases in the price of public transport, as well as the increase in fees and registration for car owners, will have the greatest impact on low income households.

While SACOSS recognises the necessity of fees and charges in South Australia, the State Government must recognise the need for equity in setting these charges, and ameliorate the impact on those most vulnerable.

Item	Description	SACOSS Comments
<b>Average raise of 4.2%</b>	Government fees & charges will rise an average of 4.2%	This is above CPI and as such will be problematic for many low income and disadvantaged people.
<b>Metrotickets</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4.3% rise in multi-trip</li> <li>• 4.7% rise in single ticket</li> </ul>	Metroticket prices will rise from \$27.80 to \$29.00 for a peak time multi-trip, and from \$4.20 to \$4.40 for a peak time single ticket	While this is a comparatively low increase in price, it will still have a considerable impact on isolated communities and low income groups, especially when taken in conjunction with other rising costs (e.g. water bills).
<b>Pensioner transport concessions</b>  <b>COST</b> <b>\$42.2 million</b>	Holders a of State Seniors Card will travel free on public transport between the hours of 9:01am and 3:00pm on weekdays, weekends, and public holidays	The government needs to consider horizontal equity and the inclusion of other vulnerable groups in this initiative.
<b>Motorist fees</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4.16% average car rego rise</li> <li>• 3.8% rise in drivers' license fee</li> </ul>	Car registration fees will increase: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4-cylinder cars: \$95 to \$99</li> <li>• 5/6-cylinder cars: \$193 to \$201</li> <li>• 7+-cylinder cars: \$280 to \$292</li> </ul> Ten-year drivers' licenses will increase from \$260 to \$270.	These increases will place pressure on low income groups, by making what can be their sole form of transport more expensive. The impact on those not on public transport routes will be significant.

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>4.16% average speeding fine rise</b></li> <li>• <b>8.2% rise in premiums</b></li></ul>	<p>Speeding fines will increase:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Less than 15km/h: \$182 to \$190</li><li>• 15-30km/h: \$290 to \$302</li><li>• More than 30km/h: \$435 to \$453</li></ul> <p>Increase in compulsory third-party insurance premiums; a Class 1 vehicle (average family car) will rise from \$410 p.a. to \$444 p.a.</p>	
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## 11. Transport and Infrastructure

*Transport infrastructure is vital, not just for the economy, but for society. People rely on our transport system as a whole to connect them with employment, education and training opportunities, health and community services, and for social participation. Given that many South Australians do not own a car, public transport is even more vital for the low income and disadvantaged, and recent State and Commonwealth funding for public transport infrastructure is welcome. Additionally, infrastructure itself is vital for economic growth, as well as acting as a stimulus for skills formation and job creation.*

*Given recent stimulus funding from the Commonwealth Government, it is vital that the State Government utilises the opportunities presented by this spending, and the economic downturn, to provide real opportunities for vulnerable South Australians.*

Item	Description	SACOSS Comments
<p><b>Noarlunga Rail Line and Seaford Extension</b></p> <p><b>COST</b> <b>\$51.8 million in 2009-10</b></p>	<p>Funding will in part supplement existing Commonwealth funding for the Noarlunga-Seaford rail extension, and will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Purchase of 14 new electric trains: \$4 million in 09-10</li> <li>• Acceleration of funding for the electrification of the Noarlunga line: \$29.8 million in 09-10</li> <li>• Extension from Noarlunga to Seaford: \$18 million in 09-10</li> </ul> <p>These add to existing promises of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$42 million for free off-peak travel for seniors card holder</li> <li>• \$37 million for train refurbishments</li> </ul>	<p>Public transport infrastructure spending is welcome as a long term investment in transport options for South Australians.</p> <p>SACOSS would welcome more substantial concessional treatment of other low income and disadvantaged groups on public transport.</p>
<p><b>Emergency Services Radio Network Upgrade</b></p> <p><b>COST</b> <b>\$100 million over 4 years (\$151 million over 6 years)</b></p>	<p>Upgrade of radio network to ensure clearer calls and less drop-outs. Includes \$26.6 million for replacement of 6,300 handsets.</p>	<p>Communications infrastructure is vital in order for emergency services to respond to crises.</p>
<p><b>Surf Lifesaving Headquarters</b></p>	<p>The government will provide \$1.1 million for the \$4.3 million Surf Central Headquarters at West Beach.</p>	<p>Surf Lifesaving not only provides a service to South Australian beachgoers, but represents social</p>

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<b>COST</b> <b>\$1.1 million</b>		infrastructure.
<b>Desalination Plant</b>  <b>COST</b> <b>\$833 million in 2009-10</b>	In partnership with the Commonwealth, the construction of the Port Stanvac desalination plant will continue in 2009-10. The capacity of the plant will be increased from 50 to 100GL.	Strategies which utilise alternative water sources and take pressure of the River Murray are essential for water security in SA.
<b>South Road Upgrade</b>  <b>COST</b> <b>\$683 million</b>	In partnership with the Commonwealth Government, funding for the continued transformation of South Road into a non-stop corridor from the Southern Expressway to the Port River Expressway	Transport corridors shorten travel times and lower carbon emissions, serving to benefit individuals and the environment.
<b>Northern Expressway</b>  <b>COST</b> <b>\$267 million</b>	Commonwealth/State funding for continued work on the Northern Expressway.	The Northern Expressway forms an important part of the development of the northern suburbs, and should be accompanied by a more robust public transport system.

## 12. Utilities

*Utilities such as water, electricity and gas represent basic human rights, as well as important prerequisites for health and wellbeing. However, at least 15% of South Australian households struggle to pay utility bills because they are on very low incomes, paying significantly more for electricity, gas and water as a percentage of income than higher income households, despite using less.*

*Predicted spikes in energy prices over the coming years need to be mitigated by a much more comprehensive investment in energy efficiency measures than has been allocated in this Budget. Increasing water prices need to be balanced by measures to mitigate the impact on low income households.*

Item	Description	SACOSS Comments
<b>Renewable energy funding</b>  <b>COST \$20 million over two years</b>	New fund to foster renewable energy industry in SA. Funding of \$20 million over two years, including \$1.6 million over two years for geothermal research at the University of Adelaide.	Shows State Government commitment to sustainability and a focus on the “green industries.” SACOSS strongly supports the principle of linking sustainability initiatives with employment, education and training programs that target the long term unemployed and vulnerable.
<b>Increase in water bills</b>	SA Water’s annual residential water supply charge will decrease from \$157.40 to \$137.60. However, the increased cost of the new three-tier usage charging scheme will mean the average residential water bill will rise from \$340.60 to \$387.50 per quarter.	The net result of these changes is an increase in water charges, placing further pressure on low income households.  The possible decrease in water usage resulting from this increase does have environmental/sustainability benefits, although this must be weighed against social equity issues.
<b>National Strategy for Energy Efficiency</b>  <b>COST \$2.2m over two years</b>	Aims for an overall reduction in energy costs for SA consumers.	Good example of State/Federal co-operation.

### 13. Young people

*Young people need access to high quality, relevant education and training during this period of downturn. However, they also need access to jobs.*

*SACOSS is cautious about the breadth of education and training opportunities to be made available to young people. These must meet the needs but also the aspirations and interests of young people to ensure that they are best placed to kick-start their preferred careers once the financial downturn ends.*

*Public transport is an important area of investment in support of young people and their social and economic engagement. This Budget focuses on metropolitan Adelaide, but does little to recognise the absence of public transport services in regional communities, and this continues to be an issue of serious concern for young people.*

*Specific detail is covered in other areas of this document.*