

SACOSS State Budget Snapshot 2012-2013

31 May 2012



SACOSS

*South Australian Council
of Social Service*

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Overview

SACOSS has prepared this snapshot of the 2012-2013 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's Strategic Plan, our budget submission and the *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.

1. Economic Data

This Budget comes against a backdrop of revenue restraints driven particularly by decreased GST revenue. The large deficit figure has grabbed many of the headlines, but it is significant that budgeted expenditure is less than last year. This underlines the point that a key issue is the falling revenue stream for the state government.

SACOSS is now calling for an urgent conversation about alternative revenue streams in order to protect the long term interests of the state.

SACOSS also notes that the many of the estimates results for the 2011-12 financial year are well below last year's budget estimates. This reflects broad economic trends and adjustments in the mid-year financial review, but raises questions about the reliability of current estimates.

The headline economic data for South Australia is as follows:

Item	2012-13 Budget	2011-12 Estimated Result	2011-12 Budget
Gross State Product - growth	2.75%	1.5%	2.75%
Net debt	\$5,329m	\$4282m	\$3,825m
Employment Growth	0.75%	0.5%	1.5%
SA Wages Growth		3.4%	
Unemployment Rate		5.2%	
Gross State Revenue	\$15,059m	\$15,838m	\$15,727m
Gross State Expenditure	\$15,926m	\$16,122m	\$15,990m
State Budget Deficit	\$867m	\$284m	\$263m

2. Poverty

Poverty remains a persistent feature of South Australian society and is "multi-dimensional". However, the inability to meet basic living costs is a key indicator of poverty and in turn a driver of other aspects of poverty and disadvantage. Over the last few years cost of living pressures have made meeting these basic costs more difficult with rapidly rising prices for a range of essential goods and services, most notably energy and water, fuel, and in the first six months of the year, food.

These pressures effect all households, but impact more on lower income households both because they tend to spend proportionately more of their income on the necessities whose prices are rising, and because they do not have the reserves or room to manouver in their budgets. For those whose incomes are pegged to the Consumer Price Index (eg. those on Newstart and other base level allowances), rising prices are causing major household pressures and the demand for anti-poverty services has increased markedly in the past year.

Item	Description	SACOSS Comments
Utilities Hardship Support Program \$4.2m	\$4.2m over 4 years to assist lower income households reduce financial hardship associated with utilities related cost of living pressures	The details of this are yet to be determined, but given the impact of utilities prices on low income households, this initiative is welcomed though it does not compensate for previous cuts to anti-poverty services.

SACOSS' 2012-13 Budget Submission proposals in relation to poverty alleviation were:

- Restoration and expansion of financial and rural counselling.
- Comprehensive Review of State Government Concessions.

3. Sector Development

The community sector provides a huge range of support and services for the most vulnerable and disadvantaged South Australians. To provide high standard, professional services requires support and investment in the organisations and people who provide those services. Fair Work Australia's much anticipated Equal Remuneration Order to provide pay equity for those in the sector is a welcome development to acknowledge the skills and commitment of staff and a step towards a sustainable workforce. However, it will create cost pressures on agencies who deliver the services to cover the pay increases and retain the vital services.

Item	Description	SACOSS Comments
Funding Community Sector Pay Equity	<p>On the 8 June 2011 the State Government announced a commitment to fund its share of the increased costs that result from the Fair Work Australia equal remuneration decision.</p> <p>SACOSS understands that provision has been made for funding the state government's share of the increased costs but due to negotiations with the Commonwealth, this amount is not being published.</p>	This commitment is un-costed pending the FWA decision, but SACOSS welcomes the clear commitment to fund pay equity.
Cuts to public sector Jobs: \$86.6m Efficiency Dividend: \$129.5 per year by 2016	Cutting 1,000 jobs from the Public Service and increased 'efficiency dividend' from 0.25% to 1% per year.	These cuts cause major concern especially if they are not well-targeted and involve front-line services. The government cannot assume (as they have previously) that the non-government sector will have the capacity to absorb any unmet need that results from the cuts.
Disability sector support	See comments in Disability Section	

While the promised funding for the outcomes of the pay equity case is welcome, detail is urgently needed as the pay increases take effect before the end of the year. A major review of the funding model for the sector is required as short-term service contracts undermine organisational planning, sustainability, and staff attraction and retention.

SACOSS' 2012-13 Budget Submission proposals in relation to sector development were:

- Funding the outcomes of the pay equity case and fund an implementation task force in South Australia.
- Indexation of contracts to cover increasing costs of service provision.
- Move to longer term funding models for community service organisations.

4. Child Safety and Wellbeing

SACOSS continues to argue for instituting a 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.

Last year's Budget contained headline spending on child protection which was welcome. This year's budget has fewer significant initiatives in the child safety and wellbeing area. Budget initiatives are aimed at addressing the growth in the numbers of children in state care but are weighted towards institutional care and not specifically aimed at reducing the incidence of child abuse and family breakdown.

Item	Description	SACOSS Comments
Alternative home based care \$1.16 million for 1 year	This initiative provides resourcing for children requiring alternative care arrangements.	SACOSS supports alternative home-based models of care for children in state care and therefore welcomes extra funding in this area.
Residential Care Facilities \$2.03m capital	This initiative provides for construction of new community residential care facilities to accommodate and support children in state based care.	SACOSS continues to believe that residential care homes are not the best answer for children under State care.
Infant and family support \$3.31m	This initiative is a pilot program to support vulnerable families with infants and young children.	SACOSS welcomes the provision of additional multidisciplinary supports above those currently available to improve health and wellbeing outcomes for infants, children and families. This is a good early intervention initiative focused on areas of great need.

5. Disability

Support for people with disabilities and for disability services will be particularly important in this Budget in order to build on the federal government commitment to the National Disability Insurance Scheme and to implement the state government's own Stronger Together disability plan.

This Budget offers a 33% increase in spending (\$212m over 5 years) for families and people with disabilities to access long awaited services and supports. SACOSS welcomes this commitment to overall funding for disability to begin to meet current unmet demand. We note that funding is only a part of the solution to ensuring the active participation and contribution of people who live with a disability. It will be crucial to ensure that funding is used wisely and invested in community capacity building rather than traditional and institutionalised services.

Item	Description	SACOSS Comments
Disability community visitors scheme \$2.3m	This scheme will provide a visiting, advocacy and inspection service to disability clients in state funded accommodation to ensure their rights and wellbeing are protected.	This is an important step forward for empowering people with disabilities and safeguarding their human rights.
Disability housing construction \$61.5m	The initiative provides for capital grant funding to the South Australian Housing Trust for the construction of new community based disability housing.	This is a welcomed initiative aimed at providing accessible housing options. Again, it will be crucial to ensure this housing provides for individual choice rather than a model of group housing.
Disability services additional support \$44.8m	This initiative provides additional support for people with a disability and/or their families/carers with a range of accommodation support, community support, community access and respite services for carers.	This is a welcome initiative and it will be crucial to ensure that the support provided leads to people being better able to live well in the community.
Disability sector support \$1m over two years	This initiative provides for support to not-for-profit organisations to undertake business planning in preparation for the transition from the current block funding arrangements to a more competitive disability services environment.	SACOSS endorses the acknowledgement of the need for capacity building for the disability sector and its stakeholders, although we note that there is also a need for investment in building the capacity of our community to welcome people with disabilities.

National Disability Insurance Scheme Launch \$20m over three years	This initiative provides for a bid to become a launch site for the National Disability Insurance Scheme in South Australia.	The NDIS will be potentially historic for the disability sector and a major opportunity for people with disabilities and their families. SACOSS notes that this will be contingent on Commonwealth and state governments coming to an agreement about funding.
Strathmont Centre \$21.6m	This initiative provides for transition of all remaining residents currently accommodated at the Strathmont Centre into community-based supported accommodation.	SACOSS welcomes this long overdue initiative and congratulates the government on their decision to finally close this facility.

SACOSS' 2012-13 Budget Submission proposals in relation to disability support were:

- Initiatives to build capacity of people with disabilities to optimise individualised funding.
- Free Public Transport for people with disabilities on International Day for People with Disabilities (3rd December)

6. 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. There appears little in the budget in relation to schools expenditure. The investment in targeted industry training is welcome, although there also needs to be attention to whole-of-workforce/population initiatives.

We still need to ensure that the long term unemployed and those at-risk groups are not left behind by employment, education and training programs.

Item	Description	SACOSS Comments
Mining and Engineering Industry Training Centre \$38.3m over three years	This initiative provides a training centre for the mining, engineering, defence and transport industries, located at the TAFE SA Regency campus.	An attempt to capitalize on the mining boom and recognises that “skills shortages” currently exist within the SA workforce. However, it is important that building skills in a specific area does not disadvantage, de-fund, or otherwise adversely affect other TAFE services and educational qualifications.
Country Fire Service and State Emergency Service Training \$2.6m	Extra training officers for the Country Fire Service and State Emergency Service volunteers to help deliver accredited training to volunteers.	Support for volunteers is always welcome.
Improving school facilities \$11.3m	This initiative will improve facilities at Salisbury East High School and Windsor Gardens Vocational College.	Continued improvement of education facilities remains important, particularly in areas of high need.
Advanced Manufacturing Strategy \$8.3m	This initiative aims to support innovation and growth in the South Australian manufacturing.	We recognise that manufacturing has been a major source of jobs and welcome efforts maintain and increase opportunities for a manufacturing base.

SACOSS’ 2012-13 Budget Submission proposals in relation to employment, education and training were:

- Provision of “gap funding” to the *South Australia Works – Working Regions* program to enable it to work with those who fall through the cracks in the Commonwealth system.
- Comprehensive funding package to implement the commitments and realise the aspirations of the *Advancing the Community Together Partnership Agreement*.

7. Health

The continued investment in health services is welcome and health spending remains 31% of the State budget in 2012/13. Health spending has more than doubled in the last 10 years. Total savings required across the forward estimates are \$400 million. However, total spend in the same period is projected as \$20 billion.

Significant capital expenditure continues with much needed improvements to health facilities and infrastructure. The need for infrastructure in country areas remains a concern.

While the spend on infrastructure and services is welcome there is no evidence of a strengthened investment in partnering with consumers and non-government service providers to deliver real health reform and sustainability. Furthermore the great majority of health spending continues to be directed towards tertiary treatments rather than primary prevention and early interventions.

We note that the positive mental health initiatives announced as part of the state budget are the result of Commonwealth funding. They finalise the reforms which form part of the five-year 'Stepping Up' plan that is due to be completed in 2012. There is now a desperate need for a new plan which capitalises on the positive reform of mental health services.

Item	Description	Comments
<p>Digital health care</p> <p>\$142.6m over 10 years (EPAS)</p> <p>\$30.4m over 2 years (EPLIS)</p> <p>\$18.7m over 3 years (ESMI)</p>	<p>The new Enterprise Patient Administration System (EPAS) will deliver a statewide electronic health record in SA.</p> <p>The three linked initiatives – EPAS, EPLIS and ESMI includes new digital system for pathology testing and digital imaging services.</p>	<p>The initiative has potential to assist with timely clinical decision making and consumers to make informed decisions. However, this is limited because it is clinician controlled with little opportunity for consumer input to own record.</p> <p>Successful implementation requires significant cultural change to ensure that clinicians adopt consumer centred practices.</p>
<p>Capital projects</p> <p>\$489.3m in 1 year</p>	<p>Capital expenditure includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lyell McEwin stage C \$50m - NRAH site works \$30m - Repat GH \$18.5m - WCH \$15m - Modbury \$15m - TQEH \$11m - FMC \$2m 	<p>Significant capital investment in improving hospitals, new buildings and facilities.</p> <p>However, bricks and mortar do not automatically deliver better care and improved health outcomes.</p>

<p>Deferred developments at Queen Elizabeth & Modbury Hospitals</p> <p>\$77m savings</p>	<p>Delayed expenditure for QEH Stage 3 to 2015-16 and 36-bed rehabilitation in-patient unit at Modbury Hospital to 2016-17.</p>	<p>This does need to be closely examined and implications for both areas reviewed.</p>
<p>Country Health</p> <p>Including</p> <p>\$8.5m GP Plus</p> <p>\$79.9m general upgrades</p>	<p>More health services in regional SA allowing more people to access elective surgery, chemotherapy, renal dialysis and mental health care closer to home.</p> <p>All four country general hospitals being upgraded – Port Lincoln, Whyalla, Berri and Mount Gambier.</p> <p>GP Plus at Port Pirie</p>	<p>Record spend, developing infrastructure and provides services closer to home for regional communities</p>
<p>Paramedic out of hospital care</p> <p>No clear funding allocation</p>	<p>Expansion of extended care paramedic out of hospital service delivery model, an increase by six paramedics.</p>	<p>Very welcome target—important for effective after hours care and avoidance of hospitalisation.</p> <p>The lack of expenditure attributed to this target is of concern.</p>

SACOSS’ 2012-13 Budget Submission proposal in relation to Health and Wellbeing was:

- Creation of a fund to cover the gap in Commonwealth pharmaceuticals payments for people with chronic illnesses.
- Funding for the implementation of the *Eat Well Be Active* Strategy.
- Creation and funding of the position of policy officer at SACOSS to monitor and support community sector health service providers’ participation in the processes of health reform.

8. Housing and homelessness

Housing remains the largest expenditure item in most household budgets and is a key determinant of health, well-being and life experience. However, secure housing remains unaffordable for many South Australians who struggle with high rents, inappropriate housing and insecure tenure.

Affordable housing is a high priority for both home buyers and renters, while access to appropriate housing stock is required for those with disabilities and special needs. The great majority of social housing built recently in South Australia has been the result of the Commonwealth's economic stimulus plan and the National Partnership Agreement on Social Housing. The state government has not committed significant investments, although initiatives like the establishment of the Urban Renewal Authority signal new interest in this area.

Item	Description	SACOSS Comments
Stamp duty concession for off-the-plan apartment purchases in the Adelaide City Council area \$5.1m	Removal of stamp duty on purchases of off-the-plan apartments in the Adelaide City Council area. Full stamp duty concession for the first two years (capped at stamp duty payable on a \$500 000 apartment) and a partial concession for the next two years.	SACOSS considers that this is a well-targeted measure to encourage people to reside in the city. However, affordability remains a primary concern for low income groups particularly young people.
First home bonus grant \$5.6m over two years	The first home bonus grant will remain at \$8000 for eligible first home contracts entered into before 1 July 2013. The government had previously announced that the bonus grant would be reduced to \$4000 from 1 July 2012, and end from 1 July 2013.	SACOSS is disappointed that this grant remains in place as it is likely to inflate or maintain high prices at the lower end of the market.
Disability housing construction	See comments in the Disability Section	

SACOSS' 2012-13 Budget Submission proposal in relation to Housing was:

- Conditional transfer of a proportion of Housing Trust stock to community housing organisations.

9. 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 notes with concern that most initiatives directed towards supporting indigenous South Australians focus on remote communities at the potential expense of communities in the rest of the state.

Item	Description	SACOSS Comments
Aboriginal Heritage Act reforms \$7.6m	This initiative provides for reforms resulting from the review of the <i>Aboriginal Heritage Act 1988</i> which will have the objective of delivering improved protection and management of Aboriginal heritage.	SACOSS welcomes the proposed reforms if it puts Aboriginal people at the centre of decision making about their cultural heritage, and emphasises proactive agreement making between Aboriginal people and other stakeholders.
Spirit Festival \$1m	This initiative provides for the continuation of the Spirit Festival, a Break the Cycle initiative.	As a celebration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts and culture, SACOSS welcomes continued support for the Spirit Festival.
Remote areas energy infrastructure \$2.1m for 2012-13	This initiative provides support for the delivery of electricity to remote off-grid Aboriginal communities including an additional one megawatt diesel generator and fuel storage facilities for the central power house on the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yunkunytjatjara Lands.	SACOSS strongly welcomes provision of essential services to remote off-grid Aboriginal communities.

10. Justice

A major focus of this budget is spending on capital works rather than crime prevention, early intervention, rehabilitation, reparation and access to justice. However, SACOSS welcomes funding to assist Victims of Crime as a first step towards addressing this imbalance.

Item	Description	Comments
Funding for NGOs helping Victims of Crime \$2.1m	Money for NGOs providing services to victims of crime with a large portion going to Yarrow Place rape and sexual assault service, including for rural justice.	SACOSS welcomes this funding.
Additional prisoner accommodation \$22.3m over five years	This initiative provides for 86 new prison beds at Port Augusta Prison.	SACOSS is concerned that a major focus of this budget is spending on capital works rather than crime prevention, early intervention, rehabilitation, reparation and access to justice
Mobilong Prison security system \$10.9m over two years	This initiative makes provision to upgrade prison electronic security systems at Mobilong Prison.	Again, this is an infrastructure investment which does not address the causes of crime.
Building High-dependency unit at Yatala \$3.5m in 2013-14	This initiative assists in the construction of a new high dependency unit at Yatala Labour Prison, and will provide 26 prison beds to accommodate prisoners with high care needs.	As above.
Expansion of Treatment Intervention Programs in Courts	Expanding programs to remaining metropolitan courts: Whyalla, Port Augusta and Port Pirie, as well as to increase referrals to the Abuse Prevention program and expand the Abuse Prevention program to Whyalla, Port Augusta and Port Pirie.	SACOSS supports this target, but worries that there is no clear additional funding to meet the target.
Youth Justice initiatives	See section on Young People	

SACOSS' 2012-13 Budget Submission proposal in relation to Justice was:

- Funding for an independent review of the youth justice system.
- Funding for an expansion of diversionary court programs.

11. Taxes, Fees, Concessions & Charges

Government fees and charges are set to rise an average of 3.3% in this year's Budget. 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. Adelaide CPI for the last year (March Qtr 2011-March Qtr 2012) was 1.8%. This means that these price rises are above CPI and will impact particularly on people whose incomes are fixed to CPI.

While SACOSS recognises the necessity of fees and charges, 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
Water Security Rebate \$45.7m	A one-off rebate of \$45 for smaller water users, and \$75 for larger household users.	The rebate is welcome, but will not cover price increases. SACOSS estimates the nett result will mean 12% price increase for those on concessions, 14-15% for those without concessions.
Water concession increase	Increase in base concession announced last year will be honoured	Increase in concession is welcome, but concessions have not kept pace with rising prices.
Motor registration fees, public transport fares	Metroticket price rise from \$4.70 to \$4.90 and multitrip from \$30.90 to \$31.90. Registration fee price rises of \$3.00, \$7.00, and \$10.00 for 4, 5-6, and 7+ cylinder cars Driver's licences up by \$5 (2.7%)	These increases are less than last year, but well above CPI.
Compulsory Third Party Insurance	Compulsory Third Party Insurance on cars rise by 4.7%.	The Treasurer says that a no-fault scheme currently under consideration could drop CTP by \$40 a year, but the extent of benefits also needs to be considered. It is a complex issue and should not be sold just on the basis of cheaper premiums.

SACOSS' 2011-12 Budget Submission proposals in relation to Concessions were:

- Comprehensive Review of State Government Concessions.
- Free Public Transport:
 - For all between 9am and 3pm daily
 - For those with a disability on International Day for People with Disabilities

12. Transport and Infrastructure

Transport and infrastructure is vital, not just for the economy, but for society. People rely on our transport system and other public infrastructure 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 low income and disadvantaged people.

The big transport infrastructure news is the suspension of plans for electrification of rail. However, one upside of being locked into contracts to purchase electric trains which will now only be used on one line, is that the existing diesel trains can now be used for more frequent services across the network.

Item	Description	SACOSS Comments
Suspension of some of the planned rail network electrification upgrade \$372.9m saving over five years	This initiative suspends electrification of the Gawler and Outer Harbor rail lines. The electrification of the Adelaide to Noarlunga rail line (including the Tonsleyline) will proceed, along with the extension and electrification of the rail line from Noarlunga to Seaford.	Given the financial constraints of the budget, SACOSS understands this move and notes the potential for existing diesel trains to run more frequent services across the network.
Parks Community Centre redevelopment \$28.7m	The initiative will provide for capital expenditure for the redevelopment of the Parks Community Centre facilities.	SACOSS warmly welcomes this redevelopment which will breathe new life in to this important community facility.
Building the Adelaide Entertainment Centre's Park'n'Ride \$11.7m in 2012-13	Construction of a multi-storey car park at the Adelaide Entertainment Centre. The car park will increase parking capacity by 602 spaces which will be utilised as a Park'n'Ride facility and for major events.	This is welcome if the Park'n'Ride facility remains free or inexpensive to utilise and free trams continue to operate.

SACOSS' 2011-12 Budget Submission proposal in relation to Transport was:

- Free Public Transport:
 - For all between 9am and 3pm daily
 - For those with a disability on International Day for People with Disabilities

13. 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.

This Budget is delivering a previous commitment to a 5% increase energy concessions, and the increase to water concessions from July 1st is as follows:

<i>Financial year</i>	<i>Increases from 1 July 2011</i>	<i>Increases from 1 July 2012</i>
<i>Home owner-occupiers</i>		
<i>Minimum</i>	<i>\$125</i>	<i>\$155</i>
<i>Maximum</i>	<i>\$235</i>	<i>\$265</i>
<i>Tenants</i>		
<i>Minimum</i>	<i>\$72</i>	<i>\$90</i>
<i>Maximum</i>	<i>\$182</i>	<i>\$200</i>
<i>Sewerage</i>	<i>\$105</i>	<i>\$110</i>

Water prices will rise 25% for 2012-13. Average household water bills are currently \$660 per annum (water only).

The government is offering a rebate for 2012-13 of \$45 per customer (for 120kL pa) or \$75 for those who consume more than this (average = 190 kL). The rebate reduces the price rise on the average water consumption to 14%.

The net impact on Concession recipients using a modest 120kL pa is a 12% price increase for both renters and owner occupiers. Concession recipients consuming the average 190kL pa are 10% worse off if renting and 12% if owner occupiers. For those without the concession, the net impact is a 14-15% price increase.

SACOSS estimates that the average electricity customer will experience a bill rise of an extra \$340 per year. The total value of the energy concession is \$158.

SACOSS is deeply concerned by the drastic increase in water costs for households already struggling to pay for essential services. SACOSS welcomes the additional expenditure in 2012–13 for a utilities hardship support program to assist lower income households reduce financial hardship associated with utilities related cost of living pressures (\$1.0 million).

14. Young people

Many of the policies covered elsewhere in this *Snapshot* have particular impacts for young people. For instance, the impact on affordable housing of the first home bonus grants, changes to apprentice and training funding and infant and family support directly and disproportionately impact on young people. Home ownership remains unaffordable for many young people and there is much work to be done in supporting young renters, particularly in overcoming age-based discrimination.

Item	Description	Comments
Regional theatres \$792,000	Installation of digital projection systems in regional cinemas	Anecdotal evidence – and direct evidence from YACSA’s regional members and young people living in rural and regional areas – shows that movie theatres represent an incredibly important hub for socialising in regional areas. We therefore welcome this initiative which supports young people’s access to entertainment options.
Alternative care support Cost \$19.8m	Additional funding to support children and young people in alternative care	SACOSS notes with continuing distress that the number of young people requiring alternative care continues to increase. While we should be aiming to reduce demand by focusing on early intervention and support for families, the additional funding is welcome in the short term.
Youth justice support services	Implementation of a new service model for community-based and specialist youth justice services	Insufficient detail to comment directly at this time and there has been no dedicated funding announced, but we look forward to government consultation with the non-government sector to determine the most appropriate and effective form for these services to take.
Opening of New Youth Training Centre at Cavan	Funded through previous budgets, this long awaited facility is targeted to open in the coming year.	This should enable the closure of the Magill facility and as such is very welcome.

15. Other Measures

Item	Description	SACOSS Comments
<p>Pokie revenue to increase</p> <p>\$100m revenue</p>	<p>Forward estimates indicate pokie revenue increasing faster than all other gambling revenue - \$100m in 4 years, while falls in SA Lotteries and SA TAB means that total gambling revenue is predicted to increase by \$93m.</p> <p>The Casino has a special pokie tax rate that meant they paid \$18m less tax than other commercial pokie operators – a subsidy twice that received by non-profit clubs.</p>	<p>The figures speak for themselves. The state government continues <i>not</i> to fund community advocacy on gambling policy.</p>
<p>Office of the Public Advocate</p> <p>COST: \$2.1m</p>	<p>Funding in recognition of increasing case load.</p>	<p>Definitely needed to support a vital service.</p>

SACOSS' 2011-12 Budget Submission other proposals were:

- Creation and funding of a position at SACOSS to consult and advocate on gambling policy.

16. Summary of SACOSS 2012 - 2013 Budget Proposals

SACOSS Proposal	Outcome
Income	
Comprehensive Review of State Government Concessions.	Not adopted.
Restoration and expansion of financial and rural counselling.	Not adopted, but \$1 million for a utilities hardship support program to assist lower-income households with utilities related cost of living pressures.
Establishment and funding of a Consumer Credit Legal Centre.	Not funded in the Budget but there is some interest indicated by the Government to explore this.
Health and Wellbeing	
Creation of a fund to cover the gap in Commonwealth pharmaceuticals payments for people with chronic illnesses.	Not adopted
Funding for the implementation of the <i>Eat Well Be Active</i> Strategy.	Not adopted
Creation and funding of the position of policy officer at SACOSS to monitor and support community sector health service providers' participation in the processes of health reform.	Not adopted
Housing	
Conditional transfer of a proportion of Housing Trust stock to community housing organisations.	Not referred to in the budget, but still under consideration.

Economic and Social Participation	
Funding for a NGO liaison officer at all Children’s Centres for Early Childhood Development and Parenting.	Government advises that positions are currently in place to cover these roles. SACOSS recommends a review of the effectiveness of those roles.
Provision of “gap funding” to the <i>South Australia Works – Working Regions</i> program to enable it to work with those who fall through the cracks in the Commonwealth system.	Government has identified major investment to provide access to SA Works for people not on Centrelink benefits.
Comprehensive funding package to implement the commitments and realise the aspirations of the <i>Advancing the Community Together Partnership Agreement</i> .	Not adopted
Free Public Transport: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - For all between 9am and 3pm daily - For those with a disability on International Day for People with Disabilities 	Not adopted
Initiatives to build capacity of people with disabilities to optimise individualised funding.	See Disability Section above.
Justice	
Funding for an independent review of the youth justice system.	Not adopted
Funding for an expansion of diversionary court programs.	Not adopted, but SACOSS welcomes the proposal to expand Treatment Intervention programs and referrals to the Abuse Prevention Program.

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Sustaining Health and Community Services	
Funding for the outcomes of the pay equity case and an implementation task force.	SACOSS understands that a contingency provision has been made for funding the state government's share of the increased costs but due to negotiations with the Commonwealth, this amount is not being revealed.
Indexation of contracts to cover increasing costs of service provision.	Not adopted.
A move to longer term funding models for community service organisations.	Not adopted.
Other	
Creation and funding of a position at SACOSS to consult and advocate on gambling policy.	Not adopted.