

Community Services

NSW State Budget 2010/11

Minister's Message

Community Services will receive a seven per cent boost or \$107 million to its budget in 2010/11, bringing total funding to \$1.67 billion to support children, families and communities in NSW.

This increase is vital at a time when the child protection system is undergoing significant reforms through the *Keep Them Safe* program. This is a crucial time for Community Services as it implements significant, cross-government programs to support families in need.

About 1,600 non-government organisations will be funded again this year to deliver out-of-home care, early intervention and child protection services, and a diverse range of community building and strengthening programs across NSW.

I'm especially pleased this year to announce two important funding initiatives. The first is \$1.9 million for 'Forgotten Australians', to provide enhanced counselling and support services for care leavers and help them access Community Services records about their time in care.

We are also providing a \$10 million enhancement to community organisations such as Neighbourhood Centres, to support the vital work they do to support the disadvantaged and marginalised in local communities across NSW.



Linda Burney MP
Minister for Community Services



2010/11 Budget Highlights

OVERVIEW

Community Services promotes and enhances the safety and wellbeing of children, young people and their families and provides services that support and strengthen the community.

To achieve these outcomes, the agency works closely with other government and non-government organisations, and within the legal framework set by the *Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998*, the *Community Welfare Act 1987* and the *Adoptions Act 2000*.

The 2010/11 Budget has allocated a total of \$1.67 billion, an increase of \$107 million over the previous year. This budget will continue to fund frontline services and programs in child protection, out-of-home care, prevention and early intervention and deliver funding to approximately 1,600 non-government organisations across NSW.

Community Services	2009/10 Budget \$m	2010/11 Budget \$m	% change
Total Expenses	1,563.9	1,671.0	6.9
Capital Expenditure	29.0	38.4	32.1

- Community Services** – \$244.3 million to support and strengthen families and communities, providing opportunities for people to break the cycle of disadvantage including accommodation services for those facing homelessness and providing disaster welfare assistance.
- Prevention and early intervention** – \$337.7 million including Brighter Futures early intervention program and other early intervention initiatives to help stop children from entering or escalating in the child protection system and the delivery of early childhood services.
- Statutory Child Protection** – \$408.8 million to make sure children who need statutory intervention are safe, either at home or in out-of-home care.
- Out-of-home care** – \$680.2 million to support children and young people who cannot live at home safely and their carers.

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

- \$51.9 million increase in out-of-home care funding to help improve life outcomes for children in care and assist the transfer of OOH services to the NGO sector. This funding includes \$6.2 million to reduce the number of children going into care for extended periods through extra family supervision services combined with shorter term court orders where appropriate; \$4.5 million for family restoration and support services so children who have been removed have the best chance to rejoin their family; and \$1.8 million for a statewide carer recruitment campaign building on efforts to recruit and retain foster carers.
- A total of \$47 million for community development and support services that build communities – this includes an additional \$10 million to enhance social inclusion services that strengthen communities experiencing disadvantage.
- \$127.1 million to provide accommodation and support services (such as advocacy, living skills and outreach services) to people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless under the National Affordable Housing Agreement.

- additional Commonwealth funding of \$27.8 million for programs under National Partnership Agreements, further reflecting joint Commonwealth and State investment in early childhood development. This will include an additional \$5.3 million to improve the rate of preschool attendance (universal access), \$19.6 million to build and operate the Indigenous child and family centres.
- \$60.2 million to deliver early intervention Brighter Futures services to more than 4,550 families to provide ongoing tailored support to vulnerable families.
- \$1.4 million for disaster welfare assistance to families and communities that experience natural and other disasters.
- \$1.9 million to support Forgotten Australians – to provide enhanced counselling and support services and to help care leavers to access Community Services records about their time in care.

WORKING WITH OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS

About 62% or \$1,039.2 million of Community Services total budget is spent on supporting or procuring services from non-government organisations or other external providers.

Funding (\$m)	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	Change \$m
Preschools and child care services	116.3	140.5	164.2	176.6	12.4
Contracted child protection services	79.0	80.1	89.8	67.2	(22.6) ¹
Crisis support services	120.0	122.6	127.3	130.0	2.7
Child protection support for families	3.5	3.6	3.9	3.9	–
Community development and capacity building	43.8	46.3	38.8 ²	85.8	47.0 ¹
Contracted early intervention services and support for families	39.5	49.8	53.6	60.2	6.6
Out-of-home care (including carer payments)	306.1	345.7	465.1	504.5	39.4
Concessions and charitable programs	6.6	6.7	6.7	6.8	0.1
Disaster response services	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	–
Other minor grants programs	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	–
Total external services and grants	719.0	799.5	953.6	1,039.2	85.6

Note (1) \$29.1m in Community Services Grants Program (CSGP) for community development, previously under contracted child protection services, transferred to community development and capacity building.

Note (2) \$3.5m for the Better Futures program transferred to Communities NSW.

KEEP THEM SAFE

A total of \$105.2 million is budgeted for *Keep Them Safe* in 2010/11 to implement major reforms to the Child Protection system following the release of the NSW Government's *Keep Them Safe: A Shared Approach to Child Wellbeing* released in March 2009.

Work under *Keep Them Safe* includes the ongoing trial of structured decision-making tools to assess children at risk of significant harm; the Foster Carer Recruitment project; implementation of out-of-home care reforms and work to enhance information sharing and develop supporting technology.

Funding of \$3.7m will help strengthen and expand intensive family based services (IFBS) for Aboriginal families. IFBS work intensively with Aboriginal

families who are at risk of having their children removed or need intensive intervention to facilitate reunification and the safe return of their children.

A total of \$4.5 million in early intervention funding will go to advice and support services and parenting programs, while \$7.2 million will be dedicated to Intensive Family Preservation Services to provide intensive, short-term, in-home crisis intervention services that teach skills and provide support for vulnerable families, especially where a child is at risk of entering out-of-home care.

This financial year \$8 million of the Brighter Futures early intervention funding has been allocated as part of *Keep Them Safe*.

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

A \$38.4 million capital program which includes:

- \$13.2 million for construction of nine child and family centres – with centres in Campbelltown, Blacktown and Ballina due to open in 2011 and those in Toronto, Nowra, Brewarrina, Gunnedah, Lightning Ridge and Blacktown due to open doors in early 2012.
- \$11.5 million to improve systems that record and manage information about families and children – this funding will be invested in redesigning the

agency's Key Information Directory System (KIDS). Upgrading the key client information system will allow caseworkers to access a family's history more efficiently and in turn, make better decisions about a child's safety.

- \$4.5 million for caseworker accommodation across NSW with a focus on rural and remote sites.
- \$3.8 million for minor works including maintenance, computer/printer replacement and ensuring IT systems align with needs.

BUDGET BY PROGRAM AREA

Budget Comparison 2007/08 to 2010/11

Program area (\$m)	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	% change
Community Services	190.0	194.9	193.1 ¹	244.3	26.5 ²
Prevention & Early Intervention	226.9	263.2	321.0	337.7	5.2
Statutory Child Protection	390.2	395.2	421.5	408.8	(3.0) ²
Out-of-home Care	453.1	495.2	628.3	680.2	8.3
Overall Agency budget – total expenses	1,260.2	1,348.5	1,563.9	1,671.0	6.9

Note (1) \$4.4m for the Better Futures program transferred to Communities NSW.

Note (2) \$29.1m in Community Services Grants Program (CSGP) for community development, previously under Statutory Child Protection, transferred to Community Services.

www.communities.nsw.gov.au

Stronger families, stronger communities