



MEDIA RELEASE

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State Budget surplus at the cost of vulnerable people

The Mid-Year Budget Review forecast of \$2.6 billion surplus has come at a cost to vulnerable and at-risk people in Western Australia.

John Bouffler, spokesperson for the #YourHelpWA campaign, says that more than 450 Community Services Organisations are calling on Premier Mark McGowan and Treasurer Ben Wyatt to share the State's wealth and increase funding to Western Australia's community services organisations.

"While the McGowan Government is celebrating the return to surplus, the community services sector is in crisis and it is having a devastating effect on the vulnerable people it supports by providing care and services for a vast range of reasons including domestic violence, mental health, emergency food relief, community health care, homelessness and substance misuse," Mr Bouffler said.

"The State Government must act quickly and increase funding to the community services sector by 20 per cent which will help fund high-quality services in our community and help the vulnerable people who need it most.

"Western Australia is a prosperous State but the Premier and Treasurer are ignoring the needs of more than 500,000 people who rely on community services," he said.

Mr Bouffler says that while State Government revenue is increasing, endemic social issues in Western Australia are placing a huge burden on the community services organisations to fill the widening gap that has been created by inadequate public funding.

The #YourHelpWA campaign reminds all Western Australians that the money the State Government collects in taxes, fees and royalties is your money and you have every right to tell parliament that more of it needs to be spent on helping the growing number of people in need.

For more information about the campaign visit www.YourHelpWA.com.au and follow, like and share content on the @YourHelpWA Facebook page, Twitter and Instagram accounts.

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