

NSW Budget Summary

2024-25



ncoss
NSW Council of Social Service

A Sustainable and Supported Sector

Challenge

- Frontline community services are not adequately funded or resourced to meet community need that is increasingly complex and widespread.
- Long-standing issues stemming from inadequate funding growth, over-reliance on short-term contracts, and uncertain and inconsistent approaches to indexation, are becoming more acute.
- The sector workforce has long experienced poor pay and conditions, which has contributed to workforce shortages, health and safety issues, and service viability concerns.

Key Budget Measures

\$126.6m

Legal Aid

\$806.5m

Portable Long
Service Leave

\$200m

Regional digital
connectivity

\$48.1m

Specialist
Refuge Workers

\$29.6m

Women's DV
Court Advocacy

- **\$126.6M for a boost to Legal Aid** and one year funding for the Walama List.
- **\$806.5M to establish a portable long service leave scheme** for the community services sector (fully offset by revenue).
- **Over \$200M to enhance digital connectivity** for rural, regional and remote communities.
- **\$48.1M to expand specialist workers** who support children and young people accompanying their mothers to refugees.
- **\$29.6M for the Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Service.**
- **\$3.6M for Domestic Violence NSW.**

NCOSS Position

- NCOSS celebrates the establishment of the community service Portable Long Service Leave scheme and calls on the NSW Government to cover the additional cost of the Levy.
- NCOSS welcomes the small, targeted investments in Legal Aid and the expansion of the specialist workforce who support children and young people in refuges.
- NCOSS calls on the NSW Government to address the significant unmet needs of the people of NSW. This includes increased investment in domestic and family violence services; tenancy advice services; homelessness supports; financial counselling; mental health services; community legal services; and neighbourhood centres and other similar place-based services.