

NCOSS Pre-Budget Submission

A safe and thriving community 2026 – 2027



NCOSS identified three Guiding Principles and subsequent recommendations to ensure the 26/27 Budget responds to the needs of the community, enhances wellbeing and boosts economic outcomes.



Focus on prevention, early intervention and addressing root causes of inequality



Focus on housing and wellbeing supports for people living in poverty and disadvantage



Focus on the viability and resilience of the social sector, which provides essential services to the community

Recommendations include:

Early Intervention

Develop a budgeting mechanism that incentivises and enables investment in early intervention.

Preventative Health

Increase health spending on genuine prevention to at least 5% and increase support for regional healthcare access.

15 New Youth Hubs

Maximise the lessons of projects like the Mirrung School Gateway and fund 15 new youth hubs in NSW.

Recommendations include:

Homelessness

Support Specialist Homelessness Services to meet the growing demand and increase baseline funding by 50%.

Neighbourhood and Community Centres

Provide Neighbourhood and Community Centres with long-term core funding.

Domestic and Family Violence

Increase core funding for specialist DFV Services by 50%.

Recommendations include:

Indexation Model

Implement a sector-specific indexation model that covers genuine cost growth.

Workforce Strategy

Co-design with the sector a workforce strategy to ensure this vital sector can continue to recruit and retain an essential and valued workforce.

Essential Workers

Widen the definition of essential workers to include the community sector.

For individuals and families on low incomes, the increasing cost of basic essentials is forcing difficult daily choices, severely impacting their ability to maintain a healthy, productive life with dignity, and cementing cycles of intergenerational disadvantage. The 26/27 Budget must address these increasing needs to help break the cycles.



Failing to proactively address systemic poverty is not only a moral failure but also generates significant, avoidable long-term economic costs for the NSW budget and the broader economy, requiring decisive action now.



Essential community services provide a vital safety net for the most vulnerable, supporting those experiencing homelessness, escaping domestic violence and facing eviction, making them indispensable to community well-being.



The ability of frontline services to deliver this critical support is under threat, as rising service costs outpace government funding. There is an urgent need to increase funding to meet the cost of delivering services, stabilising the sector and ensuring service continuity.

