

RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE STATE PLAN

NCOSS recommends

1. That the state plan be prefaced with a clear vision statement that includes a commitment to the 'ongoing improvement in the living standards and wellbeing of all NSW residents, including those people and communities currently experiencing disadvantage and social exclusion'.
2. That the state plan include an overarching statement of values which includes:
 - Recognition and respect for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as our first peoples;
 - Respect for the dignity and human rights of all people in NSW;
 - A commitment to the full and effective participation of all people in society; and
 - Compassion and support.
3. That the state plan include a clear commitment to realize 'in partnership with Aboriginal communities, a significant improvement in the living standards of Aboriginal people in NSW'
4. That success measures on overcoming disadvantage be included in the plan (either from existing policy or specific to the state plan). These should include measurable improvements in life expectancy, health, education, employment, housing, transport and legal outcomes, at least up to state average.
5. That a specific new theme, 'A Fairer Society that reduces disadvantage and respects diversity' be included in the plan with a small number of key actions that the NSW Government can take (or significantly influence)
6. That associated performance measures for reducing disadvantage be included in the plan. (see suggested indicators in detailed submission and in revised state plan summary)
7. That the State Plan contains a clear commitment to strong and sustainable local communities, in which specific roles and actions of government and NGOs are included. Potentially this could be included under the proposed theme of 'A Fairer Society that reduces disadvantage and respects diversity.'
8. That the importance of community development as processes for building community resilience and involving people in the decisions that affect their lives be clearly stated in the plan.

9. That the State Plan adopts a strengths based approach which enables rather than labels. For example the full and effective participation of older people, young people and people with disability in all aspects of society should be promoted through the plan.
10. That the State Plan includes a set of performance measures (measures of success) which are appropriate, meaningful and easy to use and understand.
11. That the measures of success relate to each of the priorities in the plan which in turn clearly demonstrate that they will improve the living standards and wellbeing of all citizens.
12. That whilst ensuring the document is not too long, the State Plan explains where intersections occur with other more detailed plans, e.g. City of Cities , Two Ways Together, Aboriginal Education Plan.
13. That the State Plan does not weaken key benchmarks identified in these existing plans.

Plan ahead

14. That the broad institutional framework detailed in the draft plan be implemented, however more detail is needed on how accountability for results will work in practice.
15. That lead responsibility for the State Plan's implementation across government agencies rest with the Premiers Department.
16. That an annual progress report be tabled to Parliament by the Premier.
17. That public agency Annual Reports are refined so that each agency reports on its progress of achievements against the Plan's goals (where applicable).
18. That Auditor General's reports include a statement of performance against the state plan.
19. That Governmental oversight be undertaken by the Cabinet Social Justice Committee, with advice from the Social Justice Reference Group.

Respect and responsibility

20. The 'Respect and Responsibility' theme be re-named to 'Safe, vibrant and harmonious communities' or alternatively 'Rights, responsibility and respect'.

21. That specific reference is made to protecting and promoting human rights as this is a key responsibility of government.
22. That within the priority of reducing violent crime, specific reference is made to domestic violence, family violence, sexual assault and elder abuse.
23. That the plan includes a priority around an improved and integrated response to these types of violence. (Noting that we may need to see reporting rates go up before we can see the response rate improve over time)
24. That the priority of reduced levels of re-offending be amended to include reduced levels of recidivism.
25. That the plan includes a success measure based on lowering the recidivism rate across the corrections and juvenile justice systems.
26. That the plan also include a success measure based on lowering the proportion of people in contact with the criminal justice system (including the juvenile justice system) who have an intellectual or other form of disability, including mental illness.
27. That the strategy of supporting police be amended to read 'to continue to support the police force, backed up with appropriate powers and latest technology.'
28. That a priority under harmonious communities be the development and implementation of a statewide anti racism strategy including responses to systemic discrimination, racial violence and racial and religious vilification.
29. Harmonious communities priorities (and associated measures) should also include reducing systemic discrimination, violence and vilification against Aboriginal people, people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, Gay, Lesbian, Bi-sexual, Transgender and Inter-sex communities and people with a disability
30. That the priority of 'increasing access to justice for all' be added to the plan.

Improving services

31. That the theme 'Improving Services' be amended to read 'improving public and community services'.

32. That the priority 'better quality services' be amended to read 'better, more accessible, affordable and appropriate services.'
33. That increased provision of adequate interpreter and translation services for people with disabilities and persons from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) backgrounds be included as a priority in the plan so that they can access services in common with fellow NSW residents.
34. That the plan states that health services include mental health, oral health and preventative services
35. That the priorities for health be amended to include:
- Reducing health inequity through a focus on the social determinants of health
 - Improving health outcomes of Aboriginal people
 - Increased investment in oral health
 - Improved access to health services for people in rural, regional and remote NSW
 - Enhancing the effectiveness of the interface between the health and community care system for an aging population
 - Improved access to health services for CALD communities including refugees.
36. That additional success indicators for health should include:
- The elimination of health status inequities, so that the difference between life expectancy at birth in low income and rural health areas would be equal to or better than the state average life expectancy at birth
 - Bringing Aboriginal health outcomes in line with health outcomes for the general community
 - Increased life expectancy for Aboriginal men and women due to improved health, coming in line with general non-Aboriginal life expectancies.
37. That the priorities for education be amended to include:
- Ensuring universal, affordable access to preschool/prior to school experience at least two days per week
 - Reducing truancy and suspension through improved curriculum relevance and support

- Improving the transition between primary and high school, and high school to work
- Improving education outcomes of Aboriginal children and young people
- Improving life long learning across the community

38. That the year 12 retention rate measure be adopted, however this should also include population group data including young people with a disability

39. That additional measures of success for education should include:

- A reduction in the proportion of early school leavers who are unemployed, including those from rural NSW
- Meeting education outcome targets in the Aboriginal Education Plan
- Increasing proportion of people with disability and older people accessing and completing TAFE, vocational training and other further education

40. That the priorities under transport be amended to include:

- Optimising connectivity between homes, jobs, community participation and transport
- Promoting affordable and accessible public transport options
- Increasing public transport's share of all work-related commuting, (not just commuting at peak hours).

41. That success measures for transport include:

- That working people pay no more than 20% of their net income on transport (10% for people on fixed incomes or low paid employment)

Compassion and support for the most vulnerable

42. That the words compassion and support for the most vulnerable be replaced with 'promoting full and effective participation in the community' and that this sits as a priority under the new theme of 'A fairer NSW that tackles disadvantage and respects diversity'.

43. That this new theme include the following priorities:

- Enabling full and effective participation (as above)

- Promoting strong and sustainable communities through community development and long term investment
- Overcoming locational disadvantage
- Improving the concessions system to help the working poor
- Effective transitioning from acute services across human services
- A comprehensive homelessness strategy for NSW
- Improved recognition and support for Carers
- Protecting children and young people from abuse and neglect

44. That this new theme incorporate the following measures of success:

- Increased labour force and social participation of people with a disability, people with a mental illness and other population groups (measured through ABS data)
- Improvements in community well being and reductions in social deprivation in locations of entrenched disadvantage (measured by Vinson index and ABS data)
- Reduction in the proportion of children experiencing abuse and neglect (measured by Child Protection Notifications, pick up of unallocated cases should also be included as a quality measure)
- Improvements in the out of home care system for those children who do experience abuse and neglect (measured by Out of Home Care placement stability and breakdown rates).
- Reduction in readmission into custodial, acute or homelessness services amongst ex-prisoners, juvenile justice clients, children and young people coming out of care and other points of transition from acute services including mental health (measured by SAAP data including turn away rates).
- Reduction in unmet need for HACC services (HACC, HomeCare, supported accommodation waiting list data)
- Reduction in homelessness across NSW, including hidden homelessness (measured by AIHW data and ABS)

45. That 'Reshaping public housing' is deleted from the list of strategies.

46. That the existing strategy of 'allocate social housing to the most vulnerable' be deleted.

Growing prosperity across NSW

47. That the wording of the theme be amended to read 'growing prosperity for all'.

48. Priorities under this theme should also include:

- Promoting business development initiatives in depressed regional economies where employment and vocational training assistance can be directly targeted to disadvantaged population groups.
- Enhancing the TAFE sector
- The development and implementation of a sector development strategy for the non government human services sector, including a comprehensive workforce development strategy.

49. Measures of success should include:

- Greater shares of full time jobs in local government areas where employment participation rates are currently below state average
- Reduction in proportion of workforce on minimum wages
- Improved workforce retention rates in non government human services

50. That the strategy of returning to surplus by meeting savings targets be removed where such savings would have a negative effect on low income, disadvantaged people, families or communities (thereby contradicting the theme of a Fairer NSW that tackles).

Environment for living

51. That protecting the environment for future generations be emphasized by amending the name of this theme to 'a sustainable environment for living'.

52. That the role of the traditional owners of the land as guardians and custodians of the land, including the living environment be clearly acknowledged.

53. That the priorities be amended to include:

- Engaging Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples with an associated desired outcome of active involvement of that community in the protection of our environment
- Improving the level and locations of affordable housing to rent or buy (including social and community housing)

- Increasing the supply of universal housing
- Reducing green house emissions
- Supporting the development of public transport to reduce car use across the state
- Promoting participation in community, recreational and cultural activities

54. That the measures of success should also include:

- Community feedback that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people feel actively involved in the planning and decision making process
- Reduction in proportion of NSW residents experiencing housing stress (paying more than 30% income in housing costs (data sources include AHURI and ABS)
- Reduction in share of trips by car