



NCOSS Women's Budget Statement 2017

Recommendation

The NSW Government, as part of its commitment to developing a NSW Women's Strategy, introduce a Women's Budget for NSW, enabling it to assess the implications of the budget, for men and women, in all their diversity.

Women in NSW

In NSW, women remain at greater risk of poverty and disadvantage than men across their lifecycle.

- **As children**, on average girls receive 11% less pocket money than boys.
- **As young adults**, more women graduate from higher education and yet receive lower than average graduate salary.
- **As adults**, a woman's average weekly earnings will be 19.3% lower than men's.
- **In retirement**, women retire with just half the superannuation savings of men.

This is a result of systemic and systematic issues in our society that place multiple layers of disadvantage and vulnerabilities on women at different points throughout their lifecycle. We also know that there is not a level playing field for all women and the picture of disadvantage is worse for different groups of women – Aboriginal women, women from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, young women, older women, women with disability, and women in regional, rural and remote NSW.

NSW needs a Women's Budget

Budgets are important, they matter and have implications for men and women in different ways. This is because the positions of women and men in society are different. Policy and programs on health, families, increasing workforce participation, early childhood development, taxation, caring, transport, and energy, all have gender implications – which are important to recognise, measure and account for.

Ultimately, if we are to successfully break down barriers, move to achieving gender equality, and ensure that government policies and programs are effective, efficient and fair, we need gender responsive budgeting and data against which we can assess our progress – or lack of.

NCOSS will work hard to make gendered responsive budgeting a key part of the development of the NSW Women's Strategy and a reality for women in NSW.



New Year for Women Wins



FINANCIAL LITERACY

Develop a comprehensive, gender specific financial literacy program to reach all young women and girls.



EMPLOYMENT

Increase access and affordability of early childhood education and care. NSW should align its investment in early childhood education and care with the majority of other States.

While overall investment in Early Childhood Education increased to **\$435 million**, the NSW Government continues to spend less on early childhood education services than any other state and territory. More work needs to be done to increase the access and affordability of early childhood education, and improve women's ability to participate in the workforce.



HOUSING

Develop a shared home ownership or mixed equity model to provide older women with pathways to a secure home.



SUPERANNUATION

Form a shared position across business, government and civil society on improving women's ability to earn superannuation across their life cycle to address the inherent gender inequality in the current superannuation system.

The NSW government should take the lead and model best practise.

In NSW we have started the conversation, with the Government funding the establishment of NCOSS women advisory panels and superannuation working group. Now we need to move that conversation to action.



The development of the NSW Women's Strategy presents a significant opportunity to achieve economic empowerment for all women and address gendered poverty across their lifecycle.

About NCOSS Women

NCOSS Women is a committed team at NCOSS focused on leading and driving the New Year for Women Campaign and on working to address the array of issues surrounding gender equity and gendered poverty in NSW. We bring together a brave, collaborative, inclusive and active movement for change.

Want to get involved?

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