

# Media Release

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## **NSW GOVERNMENT INDEXATION DECISION MAINTAINS CRITICAL SUPPORT SERVICES AS DEMAND SKYROCKETS**

**The NSW Government today announced that indexation in the amount of 5.75 per cent will apply to community services grants in the Health and Communities and Justice portfolios from 1 July.**

The announcement is much welcomed and has been hard fought, coming on the back of significant advocacy from the peak social services body, NCOSS, the Australian Services Union and others.

**“This announcement by the NSW government provides certainty,” said NCOSS CEO, Joanna Quilty.**

**“It means community organisations providing essential support can meet rising costs of service provision including wage increases, and keep their doors open at a time of significant demand.**

“The NSW social service sector goes above and beyond to support people and communities, but its predominantly female workforce has long been undervalued.

**“We’re talking about employees who provide services to people who are homeless, who can’t afford to feed their family, who are fleeing violence, or who are struggling with health issues.**

**“Just because these employees have good hearts, and have made it their job to help the poorest or most vulnerable, doesn’t mean we can take advantage.**

“Our gratitude is not enough. These employees deserved a pay rise, particularly after their herculean efforts during the recent rolling crises of pandemics, fires and floods.

“This month the Fair Work Commission determined a 5.75 per cent wage for community sector workers, next month a 0.5 per cent super increase kicks in, and meanwhile CPI is through the roof.

**“If the Government didn’t step in to provide sufficient indexation to social services, we would have been forced to cut those services when people need them most. This decision prevents that outcome. It provides certainty and we welcome it.**

**“With so many households struggling with the cost of living crisis and tough economic conditions, the essential support and practical assistance provided by community organisations are needed more than ever.**

“We look forward to working with the NSW Government to understand the details of this announcement, the organisations it applies to, the implementation timeframes and next steps.”

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