

Gender Budget Watch



Budget 22/23

Tracking government investment in
women and gender equality

Welcome to Gender Budget Watch

Over coming weeks, Federal and State Governments will release budgets for the 2024-25 financial year.

Budget decisions are not gender neutral. What Governments spend money on, often has deeply gendered implications about the value placed on women's work and women's needs.

How much is invested into programs for gender equality and violence prevention has a direct relationship to the safety and economic security of Australian women.

We've launched **Gender Budget Watch** to raise awareness of gender unequal levels of spending. Using Governments' own data, we've measured budget allocations on women, gender equality and violence prevention against total government output and asset expenditure.

At every level of government, women, gender equality and violence prevention, are being short-changed.

Our research has been made possible by decades of committed advocacy by women to apply a gender lens to government spending and economic decisions. While the practice of gender responsive budgeting is still evolving, we now have regular Treasury statements that enable us to track investment and determine whether women receive their fair share.

We've discovered what thousands of advocates have known for years - there's not enough cash for the issues that matter to women and girls.

- Ending Gendered Violence is a national emergency. It needs sustained, national emergency sized budget allocations.
- Women are being hit hard by the cost of living crisis due to lower incomes, insecure work and less support for their business start-ups. They need tailored support to alleviate the pressure and create pathways to prosperity.
- Gender Equality Strategies have been launched with great fanfare, but without funding for key initiatives, dooming them to failure.

This is the first time comprehensive national tracking of spending on women has been compiled for gender equality advocates. We hope you will find it useful and insightful in your efforts to make change

We'll be keeping track every year to measure progress towards budget equality.

In sisterhood,

Tanja Kovac & Dr Maree Overall
Founders and CEOs
Gender Lens Australia



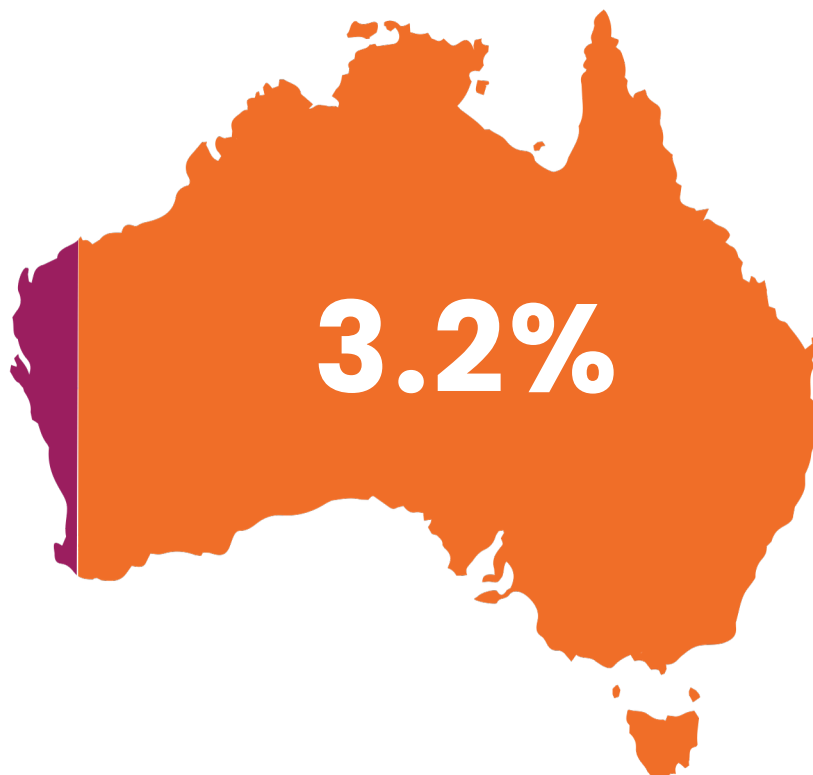
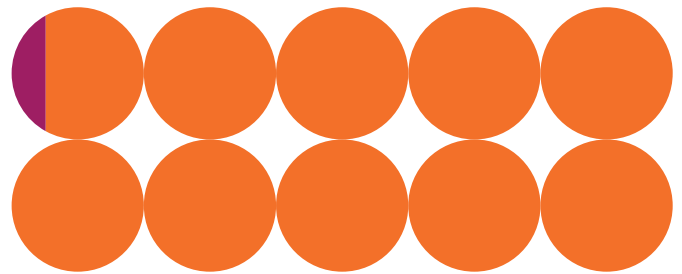


Gender Budget Watch

TRACKING GOVERNMENT INVESTMENT IN WOMEN AND GENDER EQUALITY

Share of Federal Budget allocated to women and gender equality

3.2%



*Figures based on 2022/3 National Budget Papers.
www.archive.budget.gov.au/2022-23-october/index.html*



Gender Budget Watch

TRACKING GOVERNMENT INVESTMENT IN WOMEN AND GENDER EQUALITY

Share of State/Territory Budgets allocated to women and gender equality

Share of ACT Budget allocated to women and gender equality

10.6% (ACT)



Figures based on 2023/4 State Budget Papers and Women's Budget Statement



Share of NSW Budget allocated to women and gender equality

5.3% State (NSW)



Based on 2023/24 NSW State Budget Paper #2, Vol 1 and Gender Equality Budget Statement



Share of NT Budget allocated to women and gender equality

1.8% (NT)



Based on 2023/24 NT State Budget Papers and Women in the Territory Overview



Share of Queensland Budget allocated to women and gender equality

3.7% State (Qld)



Based on 2023/24 Qld State Budget Overview and the Women's Budget Statement





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TRACKING GOVERNMENT INVESTMENT IN WOMEN AND GENDER EQUALITY

Share of State/Territory Budgets allocated to women and gender equality

Share of NT Budget allocated to women and gender equality

1.8% (NT)



Based on 2023/24 NT State Budget Papers and Women in the Territory Overview



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Share of Tasmanian Budget allocated to women and gender equality

4.2% State (Tas)



Based on 2023/24 Tas State Budget Paper #1 and Gender Budget Snapshot



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Share of Victorian Budget allocated to women and gender equality

11% State (Vic)



Figures based on 2023/4 State Budget Papers. And Gender Equality Budget Statement



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Share of Western Australian Budget allocated to women and gender equality

0.2% State (WA)



Based on 2023/24 WA State Budget Paper #2, Vol 1 and Supporting Women, State Budget Overview



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Gender equality priorities 24/25

1 Sexual Violence Services

Following the Lehrmann v Channel Ten judgement and a rise in sexual offences and gendered violence, investment in sexual violence services is urgent. Law Reform Commission recommendations remain un-actioned and unfunded.

2 Family Violence Prevention

To drive down rates of family violence, best practice investment requires 9-12.5% of total expenditure on responding to the problem via police, courts & the health system to be allocated to prevention. Australian prevention investment languishes at 3%.

3 Funded gender strategies

Both Victorian and Federal Governments released gender equality strategies without investment dollars to drive change. Strategies without \$ are doomed to failure.

4 First Nations women

After a gruelling referendum, the needs of First Nations women deserve priority investment, especially funding to reform child protection to keep aboriginal children with their mothers.

5 Economic Equality

The Women's Economic Equality Taskforce or new Women's Budget Group must become a permanent funded advisory body to Government. We need expert, gender-based economists + women leaders in business, unions, industry, community & academia to be a permanent fixture of government.

6 Cost of Living Relief

Women are bearing the brunt of the cost of living crisis, due to lower wages, insecure work and the gender pay gap. Women also bear the mental and economic load of lean household income and higher expenses. Targeted relief to women must be prioritised to alleviate the burden on the purse.

7 Women's Health

Women are demanding more dedicated investment in health and wellbeing. Women need menopause, PCOS and Endometriosis pain management + dedicated primary prevention programs.

8 Commemorative Justice

The stories and achievements of Australian women, along with gender-based events lack dedicated funding. Women's cultural icons must be respected and celebrated