



Australian Capital Territory

# Budget 2011-2012

## Media Release

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### Budget delivers \$85 million to meet growing demand for health services

The ACT Government will meet growing demand for health services within the Canberra community, by delivering an additional \$85 million over four years in recurrent funding to health services in the 2011-12 Budget, Minister for Health and Treasurer, Katy Gallagher MLA announced today.

"This years Budget demonstrates our commitment to meet the increasing demand for critical care and acute care services in our public hospital system and to deliver the best in public health care for Canberrans.

"Health care is a major priority for this Government. Our focus is on continual investment to ensure our health services are adequate to provide for an integrated and contemporary healthcare system for the future.

"Through the 2011-12 Budget, we will deliver more elective and specialist surgical services, enhanced health services for older Canberrans, expanded women's and children's services, and improved and expanded health services for cancer sufferers.

"We continue to invest in more doctors, nurses and therapists as the level of demand for health services for critically ill people continues to grow. Additional intensive care capacity is integral to the performance of our public hospitals," Ms Gallagher said.

The Minister said the Budget would provide the following recurrent funding over the next four years:

- \$10.4 million to meet growing demand for surgical services, including \$6 million for elective surgery;
- \$8.3 million to increase our critical care capacity through additional intensive care beds at Canberra Hospital;
- \$7.7 million for increased service demand in Obstetrics and Gynaecology at Canberra Hospital;
- \$2.9 million to support people in our community suffering from chronic disease, and to implement a range of activities to reduce secondary diseases for people with diabetes;
- \$13.8 million to provide additional beds in Mental Health;
- \$17.4 million to meet demand for acute services at the public hospitals;

- \$6.7 million for expansion in radiation oncology through commissioning of a 4th linear accelerator;
- \$4.2 million to meet demand for mental health services;
- \$4.2 million to meet continuing growth in cancer service activity; and
- \$4.2 million to meet the growing demands for health services by older Canberrans.

“These services will further increase the capacity of our hospitals while providing enhanced access to new types of care.

“The additional funding for elective surgery builds on the \$90 million already provided over the past seven years by this Government, to increase access to surgery,” Ms Gallagher said.

Ms Gallagher said the funding allocation for older Canberrans would enable Rehabilitation, Aged and Community Care to continue to meet the increasing demand for services as our population ages.

“In addition to this recurrent funding, the Government has provided capital funding to continue to deliver our major capital investment program with an additional \$129.1 million in funding.

“This additional capital funding will provide for a number of important projects such as a new Central Sterilising Service, enhancements to the new Integrated Cancer Centre and further planning and staging work on the hospital facilities design at The Canberra Hospital and on the north side of Canberra,” Ms Gallagher concluded.

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