



Australian Capital Territory

Budget 2011-2012

Media Release

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Capital spending delivers \$129.1 million to healthcare system

The 2011-12 Budget will deliver health capital spending totalling \$129.1 million, providing more essential building blocks to support the ACT Government's redevelopment of the ACT health care system and the infrastructure necessary to support the delivery of public sector health services, Health Minister and Treasurer, Katy Gallagher MLA announced today.

"This funding will ensure that the Canberra Hospital infrastructure is upgraded to support the commissioning of the major projects of our redevelopment program," Ms Gallagher said.

"Infrastructure funding provided in this Budget will allow for the continuation of the Government's health facilities rebuild, and for the continued delivery of a number of important projects integral to ensuring we can meet the needs of a growing and ageing city.

"This investment provides \$41 million to progress the next stage of planning and design for new infrastructure such as a new tower block at The Canberra Hospital which will be designed to accommodate the majority of all inpatient activity at the hospital in the future. This new tower block will ensure that our tertiary referral hospital is able to meet projected increases in inpatient bed numbers in a modern hospital setting able to provide health care in the safest and most efficient way.

"Today's budget also provides \$4 million for preliminary work on the future expansion of hospital services for the north side of Canberra. The Government will be building a new hospital on the north side of Canberra and this funding will be used to explore location options as well as undertake detailed project scoping and preliminary design and financing options.

"Funding of \$15.1 million will enable the inclusion of further enhancements, an additional 10 treatment spaces to the ACT's new Integrated Cancer Centre, construction of which will begin shortly. It will also see the addition of an extra floor that provides cytotoxic pharmacy, pathology space, and a radiation and general storeroom.

"This new contemporary facility will ensure all of our cancer services can be delivered from the one integrated location by consolidating cancer related inpatient and outpatient services, including chemotherapy and radiation therapy, research and teaching programs. The Cancer Centre will also be a support and information centre for patients and their families.

“\$17.3 million over two years for Central Sterilising Services to deliver a new sterilising facility at The Canberra Hospital, replacing the existing facility at Mitchell and providing more timely and responsive sterilising support, operating efficiency and sustainability.”

“\$19.4 million over two years for Staging, Decanting and Continuity of Services to support the decanting and relocation of health services as new facilities are completed and other areas are refurbished. This includes projects such as Stage 1 of the new Women and Children’ Hospital; The new Gungahlin Health Centre; The expanded Tuggeranong Health Centre; The new Adult Acute Mental Health Inpatient Facility and various areas across the main Tower block at The Canberra Hospital.

This also includes \$800,000 to undertake the feasibility and preliminary design work for additional car parking at Calvary Hospital.

“An additional component of funding provided by the Commonwealth under the National Access Program has been earmarked to begin work on providing some important enhancements to the Calvary and The Canberra Hospital Emergency Departments such as additional treatment spaces and enhancements to the waiting room at Calvary Emergency Department.”

“This Budget delivers \$25.7 million in capital spending over two years to upgrade campus-wide infrastructure at the Canberra Hospital, including campus ring mains, replacement plant and equipment and relocation of non-clinical services, while allowing for contingencies.

“The ACT Government has committed to building a new health system to make sure we are ready to meet the health demands of the future, and we are already delivering on this substantial commitment.”

Since the 2008-09 initial investment, the Capital Asset Development Program (CADP) has delivered;

- Two additional operating theatres;
- 24 additional hospital beds;
- A new multi-storey car park at The Canberra Hospital;
- A neurosurgery suite which is among the most advanced neurosurgical operating environments in Australia;
- A six bed Mental Health Assessment Unit;
- Australia’s first nurse led Walk-in-Centre;
- Expansion of the Intensive Care Unit at Calvary Hospital; and
- A 16 bed Surgical Assessment and Planning Unit.

“Since 2008 we have been meeting on our commitment of providing in excess of \$630 million for a range of projects that will deliver an integrated, comprehensive, and contemporary healthcare system which is ready to cope with the demands and needs of our growing city,” Ms Gallagher concluded.

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