



Australian Capital Territory

# Budget 2011-2012

## Media Release

No. 13

### \$10.4 million to help reduce elective and specialty surgery waiting times

The ACT Government will provide increased access to surgical services to meet growing demands on the health system with an additional \$10.4 million invested over the next four years, Health Minister and Treasurer, Katy Gallagher MLA announced today.

“This additional funding will provide over \$6.2 million over the next four years to further increase access to elective surgery and an additional \$4.2 million over four years to enhance paediatric ophthalmology and plastic surgery services.

“This means that we can undertake 11,000 elective surgery procedures in the 2011-12 financial year, an increase of over 300 procedures over the current year and provide around 100 more emergency surgery procedures in the specialty areas of paediatric ophthalmology and plastic surgery.

“The 2011-12 Budget will build on additional ACT and Commonwealth funding for elective surgery which has been delivered in recent years, with ACT Health estimating that approximately 1,000 more people will access elective surgery in 2010-11 compared with the previous year.

“Growing demand for elective surgery has seen the number of people being added to the elective surgery waiting list increasing each year. Targets for both public hospitals for 2010-11 under the ACT elective surgery access plan total 10,712 – well above the 2009-10 outcome of 9,778, and we are well on track on to meet these ambitious targets.

“Working closely with the Commonwealth and the private sector and through continued and sustained investment by the ACT Government, means we are better able to meet the growing demands on our surgical services and deliver some of this additional and much needed activity,” Ms Gallagher added.

The Minister said she expected to report a continued drop in the number of patients experiencing a long wait over 2010-11.

“The Government has demonstrated an ongoing commitment to improving access to elective surgery, delivering record levels of surgery each year and specifically targeting the number of people experiencing long waits for their surgery.

“Significant improvements in reducing the amount of long wait patients have been noted in a number of specialties, including urology, general surgery, plastic surgery, gynaecology and neurosurgery.

“Today’s additional funding ensures that we can continue to build on this important work,” Ms Gallagher concluded.

**3 May 2011**

**Media Contact: Tanya Davies Ph: 6205 0242 (w) 0402 399 907 (m)  
tanya.davies@act.gov.au**