



Australian Capital Territory

# Budget 2011-2012

## Media Release

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### Hospitals to get \$17.4 million boost for acute care

The ACT Government will deliver an additional \$17.4 million over the next four years to meet the growing demand for acute hospital-based services for the people of the ACT and the surrounding region, with more funding for beds, services and additional nursing staff, Minister for Health and Treasurer, Katy Gallagher MLA announced today.

The funding provided in the 2011-12 Budget will increase the capacity of ACT hospitals by providing for the equivalent of 20 additional acute care beds, and will establish a new service for people suffering from neurological disorders such as Parkinson's Disease.

"The establishment of this new service will mean that Canberrans who currently may have to travel interstate for treatment, can have their appropriately coordinated, community based treatment in the ACT, and will work to significantly improve outcomes through reducing the need for acute services," the Minister said.

"This new service will provide for additional nursing staff to enhance communication, encourage self-management at home or in community settings, provide education and support to the patient, their carers and families, and assist with accessing appropriate health and community services.

"This year's investment in the health needs of our community and that of our surrounding region builds on the continued and sustained investment by this Government over previous successive budgets.

"Our commitment to deliver a comprehensive and long term plan to meet the future health needs of our community means that we will continue to increase capacity of our hospital system ensuring we are ready to cope with the increased demand expected into the future."

“Since coming to office, the ACT Government has provided a 36 per cent increase in bed capacity for our public hospitals, from 670 beds in 2001-02 to over 900 available hospital beds in the current financial year, bringing bed occupancy rates at our hospitals down to 85 per cent, on target with national benchmarks, and down from almost 92 per cent just two years ago,” Ms Gallagher concluded.

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