



Australian Capital Territory

# Budget 2011-2012

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## \$1 million for 32 new fire brigade recruits

The ACT Government is continuing to build frontline services for the future, investing \$1.1 million to recruit 32 firefighters to the ACT Fire Brigade, Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Simon Corbell MLA, said today.

“Recognising the demands of our growing city, giving priority to investing in our frontline services and anticipating the retirement of a number of long serving senior staff, it is very important that we actively replenish the firefighting workforce,” Mr Corbell said.

“That is why the ACT Government will provide more than \$1 million in funding to the Brigade to conduct an additional two new recruit colleges in the next financial year.

“Each new college will train 16 new recruits in all the basic skills a firefighter in the ACT Fire Brigade requires,” Mr Corbell said.

Recruits for the first of the two newly funded recruit colleges, have already been identified in an earlier recruitment process, and will start their training in August. The Government will advertise in July for the second college which is expected to start in early 2012.

“The ACT Fire Brigade recruits undertake a comprehensive 16 week training programme resulting in the attainment of nationally recognised formal qualifications under the Public Safety Training package,” Mr Corbell said.

“The ACT Fire Brigade provides a vital service to the ACT community, and it is important that we continue to invest money to ensure the service remains one of the best brigades in Australia.”

Mr Corbell said the ACT Government will also allocate \$801,000, over the next four years, for new personal protective equipment to fire officers.

“The funding will provide personal protective equipment, like new generation helmets and breathing apparatus to the recruits to ensure they can undertake their role as firefighters to the highest safety standards.

“Traditionally the Brigade receives hundreds of applications from not only Canberra, but across Australia and overseas whenever they advertise for recruits. I expect it to be no different for these next recruit colleges,” Mr Corbell concluded.

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