



ACT Government  
**2004-2005 BUDGET**

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**MEDIA RELEASE**

**VETERANS' MEMORIAL FOR THE CANBERRA DISTRICT**

The ACT Government is further progressing its commitment to build a Canberra Veterans' Memorial somewhere near the heart of Civic.

The 2004-05 Budget will contain initial funding of \$50,000 to cover research and design for a Canberra Veterans' Memorial to honour people from the Canberra district who served in a military conflict. The commitment to a Veterans' Memorial to honour those from the Canberra district who served Australia in a military conflict was contained in the ACT Government's Social Plan, released by the Chief Minister in February 2004.

Chief Minister Jon Stanhope said he had been surprised and disappointed that a city the size of Canberra did not have its own memorial.

"A memorial to honour those who have made the ultimate sacrifice is a feature of most Australian towns," Mr Stanhope said.

"While Canberra is the home to the most distinctive monument to the nation's military sacrifice, the Australian War Memorial, our city has no memorial or cenotaph it can call its own. We want to commemorate both those who served and those that have made the ultimate sacrifice."

"On coming to office I was determined to rectify this long standing omission, and to appropriately honour Canberrans who served in a military conflict."

Selection of the site for the memorial is yet to be finalised but the Chief Minister said he favoured a central location in the heart of the city.

"It deserves to be in a prominent location befitting its importance for our city. We anticipate the memorial will be officially dedicated in 2005 as part of Australia's commemorations to mark the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of an end to conflict in the Second World War.

"One of the challenges, especially for a city like Canberra which has had such a transient population over the years, will be to ensure that those from this district who served in military conflict are appropriately honoured."

Mr Stanhope said he expected that the final design would reflect the simplicity and solemnity found in many of the memorials in towns and villages across the country.

"I expect it will become an important new focal point for our veterans and we hope it will be the venue both for reflection and reunions in the future."

