



ACT Government
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MEDIA RELEASE

ADDRESSING DISABILITY SUPPORT NEEDS

The Stanhope Government will commit a further \$5.75 million over four years to support people with disabilities in the ACT.

Disability, Housing and Community Services Minister Bill Wood said the Government currently provides \$48.88 million in direct funding to assist people with a disability who have support needs.

“This initiative is a welcome addition to the process of disability reform, with \$1.25 million in the first year, increasing to \$1.5 million in the second and third years, to provide direct support to people who have unmet needs and to create stronger links to the community,” Mr Wood said.

“This is a further example of the Stanhope Government delivering on its commitment to implement the recommendations of the Board of Inquiry into Disability Services.

“It will see a move away from the traditional funding arrangements, in which funding is paid directly to providers who decide what services will be provided to whom, to a more individual approach that strengthens links with the community as a first option.

“The funding will enhance the number of community support workers whose role it will be to link individuals and families with the resources in their local community and develop new support options where resources may be limited.

“Existing programs and services respond to those people with disabilities who have high and complex care needs. This initiative responds to the needs of people with disabilities whose needs may be less complex but remain unmet.

“The service system will be similar to local area coordination arrangements operating in some other states, and will establish strong links with the Family Centres that we are introducing in the regional centres.

“One of the priority areas for the community support workers will be those ‘transition stages’ in people’s lives – for example, from childhood to adolescence, to young adulthood and employment, and to post employment, where early intervention is most likely to minimise the effects of their disability,” Mr Wood said.

Statement Ends.

