



ACT Government
2004-2005 BUDGET

MEDIA RELEASE

HEALTH SERVICE REACHES OUT TO GUNGAHLIN'S YOUNG

Gungahlin parents whose children have a mental illness will have access to a new service thanks to \$624,000 of recurrent funding from the 2004-05 ACT Budget.

Health Minister Simon Corbell said two outreach clinicians would be stationed at the Northside Child and Adolescent Mental Service office as a result of the funding of \$624,000 over four years.

"The clinicians will assess and treat children and adolescents in the Gungahlin area who are experiencing moderate to severe mental illnesses," said Mr Corbell. "They will also link with schools in the Gungahlin area to more effectively support teachers to recognise and educate children and teenagers who have mental health issues."

Mr Corbell said the program would provide families with more equitable access to the ACT's Child and Adolescent Mental Service.

"It is important in newly developing areas such as Gungahlin that these services are provided on par with those provided in other town centres. The Government has been committed to providing these sorts of services across Canberra so that residents have easy access to them wherever they live.

"Last year the Government allocated Budget funding to extend the Belconnen mental health team to provide an outreach service to adults in Gungahlin. This service has been welcomed by clients and their families.

"The Government is now extending this service to children and adolescents to improve access and support our children in line with *The Canberra Plan's* focus to build a stronger community."

Statement Ends.

