



ACT Government

2002-2003 BUDGET

DELIVERING REAL IMPROVEMENTS IN HEALTH

The ACT Budget 2002-03 demonstrates the Stanhope Government keeps its promises and is committed to achieving genuine improvements in the health and wellbeing of the people of the ACT, Chief Minister, Jon Stanhope, said today.

The budget delivers \$428.4 million to health and community care in 2002-03, with initiatives ranging across all areas of community based and acute care. This figure includes \$7 million for new initiatives, \$6.3 million for increased indemnity costs and \$23 million for nursing, SACS and The Canberra Hospital.

“This first budget shows that my Government is very serious about rebuilding the health system and improving the health and wellbeing of the Canberra community.

‘It also proves that we are very serious about keeping our promises to the people of Canberra.

“We promised to put an extra million dollars a year into mental health, and we’ve exceeded that promise.

“We promised to put an extra million dollars a year into respite care, and we’ve more than delivered on that promise.

“We promised to put an extra million dollars a year into disability services, and we’ve delivered more than twice that amount in one budget.

“In this budget we’ve identified the priority areas of health and community care and we’re putting in the resources to make a genuine and sustained difference.

“The Liberal Government left the cupboard pretty bare, but my Government is not willing to let the health and welfare of the Canberra community suffer due to their economic mismanagement.

“The Liberal Government had seven years in which to build a health system in which we could all take pride. Instead they ran down The Canberra Hospital and seriously neglected priority areas in the community.

“Immediately upon gaining office my Government began the long process of rebuilding our public health and community care system.

“We put an extra \$6 million into The Canberra Hospital, we fixed the nurses dispute and we held an open and consultative health summit.



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“We acted promptly to address the issues raised by Justice Gallop in his report on disability services, establishing the Disability Reform Group and, more recently, creating a separate agency for disability policy, planning and service delivery and establishing broader management of human services and community development.

“We conducted a long overdue review of the governance arrangements for health and community care, culminating in the recent structural changes to the health portfolio and the termination of the purchaser/provider model within the portfolio.

“This budget continues the process of reform. In addition to the priority areas of mental health, respite care and disability services, we have put additional resources into both public hospitals and into supporting people making the transition from hospital to home.

“We’re giving women greater choice in childbirth options and we’re acting to keep homebirth safe and viable in the ACT.

“We’re helping to protect the safety and quality of our blood supply and we are increasing the capacity of our hospice to provide flexible palliative care.

“Through the establishment of the Canberra Medical School, we are contributing to improved patient outcomes and supporting the continued development of the ACT as a centre of medical excellence.

“In an environment of economic constraint, this budget is providing genuine support to the most vulnerable members of society and is further strengthening the capacity of our health system to meet the needs of the community,” said Mr Stanhope.

The ACT Budget 2002-03 funds the initiatives listed on the next page.

Alcohol and drug initiatives	
Indigenous youth alcohol and drug project	\$170,000 in 2002-03
Pharmacotherapy subsidy to community pharmacists	\$130,000 in 2002-03
Mental health initiatives	
Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services Enhancement Package	\$466,000 in 2002-03
CALCAM Adolescent Mental Health Day Program	\$500,000 in 2002-03
Mental Illness Education ACT youth mental health literacy and education program	\$85,000 in 2002-03
Expansion of Older Persons' Mental Health Service	\$322,000 in 2002-03
Cancer care	
Growth in radiotherapy support services	\$330,000 in 2002-03
Expanded haematology services	\$250,000 in 2002-03
Psychosocial support services for cancer clients	\$155,000 in 2002-03
Respite care	\$1,000,000 in 2002-03
Convalescent care	\$600,000 in 2002-03
Home and Community Care Program matching funds	\$629,000 in 2002-03
Additional services and support in disability services	\$2,500,000 in 2002-03
Synthetic blood products	\$450,000 in 2002-03
Psychogeriatric Care	\$300,000 in 2002-03
Establishment of the Canberra Medical School	\$500,000 in 2002-03
Finalisation of nursing pay rise	\$11,791,000 in 2002-03 (second appropriation)
Increases in the Social and Community Services Award 2000 and Community Service (Home Care Act) Award 1998	\$2,800,000 in 2002-03 (second appropriation)
Relieving funding pressures at The Canberra Hospital	\$8,700,000 in 2002-03 (second appropriation)
Extension of Canberra midwifery program	\$100,000 in 2002-03
Expansion of hospice services	\$76,000 in 2002-03
Growth in demand at Calvary Emergency Department	\$300,000 in 2002-03
Growth in throughput at The Canberra Hospital and Calvary Public Hospital	\$1,264,000 in 2002-03

Statement ends 25 June 2002