



ACT Government

2002-2003 BUDGET

TARGETTING FUNDING TO THE MOST IN NEED

In addition to the \$27 million extra funding provided for Education over the next four years, the 2002-2003 Budget also provides funding of \$2.028 million over four years for four new initiatives in the Community Services part of the portfolio, the Minister for Education, Youth and Family Services, Simon Corbell said today.

“In addition, since coming into Government late last year, this Government has provided \$2.745 million per annum through supplementary appropriations to support services within my portfolio for those most in need,” Mr Corbell said.

“Due to the Liberals’ budget mismanagement, we have been forced to redirect funding from other activities to in part provide for these new youth and family support initiatives.

“This is responsible financial management and in re-targeting these funds I have been at pains to ensure that the impact on established services is minimised.

The major part of the savings comes from a one-off reduction in the level of indexation to be made available for existing services. Indexation provided for community grants and non-CIT training will be limited to 1% in 2002-03, saving around \$0.549 million. The CIT receives the full 2.5% indexation.

Future years’ indexation contained in the Forward Estimates is not affected by this one-off decision.

\$365,000 has been redirected from an initiative of the previous government, which had not been implemented. This initiative was intended to provide a supervised bail option after hours facilities as an alternative to placing some youths in Quamby. This proposal will now be revisited as part of a review of intensive youth support needs currently being undertaken. Proposals identified as part of the review to be considered in the 2003-04 Budget.

Two existing accommodation programs (Canberra Fathers and Childrens Service and Macquarie House) have been identified as SAAP programs thus qualifying for Commonwealth funding. This has allowed \$227,000 to be redirected to other priorities.

Finally, around \$100,000 uncommitted funding has been redirected from the Liberals’ Building Community Capacity initiative.

“I am sure the Canberra community would want this Government to not only honour its commitments but also to manage the finances of the Territory in a responsible way. I believe we have achieved our objective of targeting funding to those most in need,” Simon Corbell said.

Statement ends 25 June 2002



AUSTRALIAN
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