



Australian  
Capital  
Territory  
Government



# Progressing Social Capital

I N C A N B E R R A



**BUDGET 2001**

**Australian Capital Territory**

Canberra 2001

## Guide to the Budget Papers

### Structure and Content of the 2001-2002 Budget Papers

The 2001-2002 Budget is presented in four Budget papers.

#### Budget Paper No 1 – 2001-2002 Budget Speech

The Treasurer's Speech to the Legislative Assembly highlights the Government's Budget strategies and key features of the Budget.

#### Budget Paper No 2 –

##### The 2001-2002 Budget at a Glance

Presents a summary of the overall budgetary position together with information on the Government's expenditure in key service delivery areas. It provides cross references to other budget papers to assist readers in locating details of specific budget measures.

#### Budget Paper No 3 – Budget Overview

Contains summaries of the 2001-2002 Budget and forward estimates for the general government sector, the public trading enterprise sector and the total Territory Government. Details of the projected 2001-2002 Budget results are provided, as well as background information on the development of the 2001-2002 Budget, including consultations with the community, economic conditions, and intergovernmental financial relations. The *Appropriation Bill 2001-2002* is appended.

#### Budget Paper No 4 – Budget Estimates

Provides information on each department and their respective output classes, including descriptions of functions, roles and responsibilities, together with major strategic highlights. Full accrual financial information is provided for the general government sector as well as details of the Territory's public trading enterprises.

#### Progressing Social Capital in Canberra

Provides information on the Government's agenda for building Social Capital in Canberra. The paper describes Social Capital in Canberra, why it is important to the community and details the many examples of community, business and government partnerships which contribute to building Social Capital in Canberra.

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# Chief Minister's Message

The Government's second Supplementary Budget paper on Social Capital is an opportunity to share information about the real progress that has been made towards developing the Social Capital of the Territory. It also allows us to reflect again on the importance to Canberra of Social Capital.

Canberra has a strong community, due largely to the commitment of individual Canberrans. Certainly, the Government can do its part to build Social Capital but it is the strength of community commitment which enables the Government's contribution to social capital to have impact.

*Canberra: Building Social Capital*, released as a Supplementary Budget Paper in May last year, helped generate broader community interest and debate about the Social Capital principles.

Community organisations and the business sector have continued to show leadership in working with the Government to build Social Capital. They have participated actively in events and programs aimed at developing community participation and a sense of belonging.

In the past year there has been real progress on the Government's Social Capital initiatives, most of which are multi-year programs. I am delighted to be able to report on this progress in this paper and to detail the complementary nature of the broad suite of Government policies and programs that seek to achieve the goal of building Canberra's Social Capital.

A strong community features people participating fully in society and harbours a myriad of personal networks which include trust, respect and spirit of working together. Creating such a place is a long term task. This paper sets out a future path of Government action and discusses how we will tell whether we have been successful or not.

However, the Government cannot succeed without a sustained commitment from business, community organisations and Canberrans themselves. In the long run, Canberra's Social Capital will be built by all of us and we will all enjoy the benefits.

## Introduction

### The Paper outlines:

- the way forward for assisting Social Capital to grow
- the Government's progress to date
- assessing Social Capital.

...creating a sense of belonging...

The ACT Government's commitment to social capital was spelled out in the 2000-01 Supplementary Budget Paper *Canberra: Building Social Capital*. A range of broad reaching programs and projects was funded to the amount of \$3.5m a year through to 2003-04 and an extra \$1m was provided from 2001-02 for other Social Capital programs. The Government has made assisting Canberra's Social Capital to grow a central plank of its policy agenda.

*Canberra: Building Social Capital* also set on the record the Government's recognition of the vital contributions that the community and business sectors make to the building of Social Capital. Both have long-standing commitments to the notion of building community and enhancing its capacity.

Twelve months on it is appropriate to:

- consider the way forward for Canberra to build its Social Capital (including identifying further funding opportunities);
- record the achievements to date in the Government's Social Capital programs; and
- identify the Government's role in assessing the Territory's levels of Social Capital.

## Reaffirming the Social Capital Vision

The Government's vision for a Canberra with strong social capital focuses on assisting community spirit and capacity to grow, and developing a sense of belonging. Trust between people and a culture of helping others is at the centre of strong Social Capital. So too are the networks in our community that promote resilience – these are based on social ties and they foster a sense of belonging.

New partnerships will be forged and a greater sense of belonging to the community created when the community, business and Government sectors work together on building Social Capital. Those who now feel disconnected will benefit, but so will people who act collectively to resolve these issues.

The building of Canberra's Social Capital will further cement the principles that bind us together – respect for people, an understanding and valuing of diversity in society and a willingness to work together for a common good.

## Social Capital – what is it?

The term “Social Capital” has been discussed extensively in academic literature in recent years. Researchers, governments, businesses and communities all recognise the importance of social connections and networks for developing strong communities.

Writers and people working on Social Capital issues usually identify the following as indications of strong Social Capital in communities:

- trust between people;
- a willingness to do favours for others and expectation that the same would be done in return;
- common perceptions of right and wrong and of what is for the community’s good; and
- a willingness to work together to forge partnerships and develop community spirit and participation.

A community with high levels of Social Capital is one in which people feel a sense of belonging and want to contribute to their community, where the community is able to support its members, is open to diversity and is proactive rather than reactive.

Australian and international researchers have spoken about the existence of three main kinds of capital:

- financial capital, the economic foundations of our society;
- physical capital, which relates to environmental considerations, such as the availability and sustainability of natural resources; and
- human capital, which is the sum of the skills and knowledge held by members of our society. <sup>1</sup>

The term “Social Capital” has been coined to reinforce the importance of social factors in society, including the economy and the environment – and to highlight the importance of developing and maintaining them. **Social Capital** needs to be managed and enhanced with the same care and commitment as the other three more traditionally accepted “capitals” – together they all contribute to a strong society.

Social Capital ...developing strong communities.

1 Cox, E *1995 Boyer lectures* 'A Truly Civil Society', Lecture 2 "Raising Social Capital"

## Social Capital – who's contributing

*Community organisations* serve the community in many ways, including by helping to deliver the Government's broad social policy agenda. They often know more than Government about community aspirations.

*Business* contributes daily to our economic well-being and is a strong supporter of community building, including the new Canberra Community Foundation.

*The community* builds Social Capital through a vast network of community groups, sports, recreation and cultural associations, and neighbourhood relationships.

*Government* has policies and programs which help people to participate in the community and which offer opportunities for people to come together to build strong networks.

# Canberra's Social Capital: The Government's New Priorities

The Government continues to pursue innovative ways to help Canberra's Social Capital grow through this year's Budget. The underlying theme of the 2001-02 Budget is that of building capacity in people to participate fully in the community by creating life opportunities through education, employment and improved health.

A wide range of health, education, housing and community services initiatives are funded in the Budget and will help address people's ability to participate in the community. They will provide opportunities for Canberrans to develop new networks and relationships – Social Capital can only be truly built when people boost their participation in the community.

The Government's funding for these initiatives is just part of the story. The ultimate success is largely up to the community, as people develop or extend networks and links to other people, build trust and take up opportunities to work together.

This year's initiatives build further on those funded in the 2000-01 Budget – all of which still have a substantial journey ahead given they are funded until 2003-04.

All up, there is approximately \$31.5m in Government funding to 2004-05 for programs that contribute to Canberra's Social Capital. This figure includes:

- the continuing funding for programs announced in last year's budget;
- the extra \$1m per year to 2003-04 announced in last year's budget for Social Capital programs which is part funding this year's Social Capital-related budget initiatives; and
- an additional \$19.127m in this year's Budget initiatives.

## 2001-02 Budget Initiatives

This year's Budget themes confirm the Government's continuing focus on building capacity in people to participate fully in the community. The Government's funding commitment to new initiatives which address Social Capital objectives is as follows:

2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
\$3.989m	\$5.482m	\$4.940m	\$4.716m

### Future of Existing Social Capital Programs

*Enabling positive contributions to the community ...* programs such as *Health of Young People at Risk, Youth Suicide Prevention, Well Babies and Intensive Youth Support* will contribute to this aim.

*Facilitating networks in the community ...* the *Community Renewal Program, Schools as Communities* and community web presence projects will concentrate on providing opportunities for people to shape their local living environment.

## Enabling participation in the community

Home-Based Outreach for Young People with Special Needs	2001-02 \$'000	2002-03 \$'000	2003-04 \$'000	2004-05 \$'000
Expenses	120	123	126	129

Support young people with special needs (eg. mental illness, substance abuse problem, disabilities, and behavioural problems) to assist their independence and wellbeing in the community.

Alcohol and Drug Family Skills Based Programs for Parents	2001-02 \$'000	2002-03 \$'000	2003-04 \$'000	2004-05 \$'000
Expenses	82	83	85	86

Support families and friends affected by alcohol and other drug use. The program will provide for ACT implementation of the NSW Family Drug Support Stepping-Stones skills based program.

Protecting Children	2001-02 \$'000	2002-03 \$'000	2003-04 \$'000	2004-05 \$'000
Expenses	351	359	367	375

Raise the level of child protection through:

- improved child protection decision making;
- an increased level of support to the Indigenous community; and
- strengthening the capacity of people generally to keep their families safe.



PHOTO: ANDREW TATNELL, BIG ISLAND PHOTOGRAPHICS

Expansion of the Out of School Education Program	2001-02 \$'000	2002-03 \$'000	2003-04 \$'000	2004-05 \$'000
Expenses	120	122	124	126

Expand the Out of School Education Program which provides young people with the opportunity to re-engage in education in a non-threatening, flexible and informal environment.

### Budget 2001-02...

assisting young people and families to develop Social Capital.

Youth Connection Family Support	2001-02 \$'000	2002-03 \$'000	2003-04 \$'000	2004-05 \$'000
Expenses	75	76	77	79

Provide a specialised family counselling service for 60 of the most at-risk families that will focus on providing these families the skills needed to participate more fully in the community.

Support of Learning for Life	2001-02 \$'000	2002-03 \$'000	2003-04 \$'000	2004-05 \$'000
Expenses	100	102	105	107

Expand the work of the successful “Learning for Life” Program of the Smith Family which supports disadvantaged young people from primary school through to university to participate more fully in the education process and recreational activities. The Program provides financial assistance (scholarships) directly to the student or the student’s family who meet the eligibility criteria of low income and commitment to their child’s education.

Support for Students at Risk	2001-02 \$'000	2002-03 \$'000	2003-04 \$'000	2004-05 \$'000
Expenses	206	211	211	211

Establish a Case Management Youth Support Program to support students at risk of early school leaving, to improve transitions between education, employment and training activities for young people.

## Enabling networks

Festivals Strategy and Incentives	2001-02 \$'000	2002-03 \$'000	2003-04 \$'000	2004-05 \$'000
Total Expenses	250	250	250	250

The new office of Festivals ACT program will provide an opportunity to assess the status, role and needs of festivals in the ACT, and will play a central role in developing a strategic and coordinated approach to the support and management of the increasing number of community festivals in the ACT. The strategy will include targeted criteria for government support for festivals.

Charnwood Recreation and Skate Park	2001-02 \$'000	2002-03 \$'000	2003-04 \$'000	2004-05 \$'000
Capital Injection	0	500	0	0

This initiative provides funding to enable the Canberra Christian Life Centre to establish a community recreation area and skate park in the grounds of the former Charnwood High School site. The concept of a community park and skate facility was initiated with

Budget 2001–02’s support for ‘Learning for Life’ program...

recognising the non-Government sector’s role in improving lives.

Festivals in the ACT...

supporting community participation.

the Charnwood Community under the Government's Community Renewal program.



Budget 2001-02 recognises that social networks are built in a range of community settings and supports their development with targeted programs.

Increase in Multicultural Grants	2001-02 \$'000	2002-03 \$'000	2003-04 \$'000	2004-05 \$'000
Expenses	50	50	50	50

The Multicultural Grants Program assists community groups with projects that advanced community harmony, community participation in the National Multicultural Festival, and with community development activities. The 100 per cent increase in funding will enable more applications from Canberra's 120 multicultural communities to be supported.

Redressing the Digital Divide	2001-02 \$'000	2002-03 \$'000	2003-04 \$'000	2004-05 \$'000
Expenses	500	826	805	501

Redress the 'digital divide' between the information rich and the information poor and provide a package of measures to address priority areas (this will be subject to the findings of the Digital Divide Taskforce). Enhanced access to information resources for all parts of the society will improve opportunities for networking in the community.

Community Linkages in Housing	2001-02 \$'000	2002-03 \$'000	2003-04 \$'000	2004-05 \$'000
Expenses	500	512	523	535

Link public housing tenants to:

- employment programs/opportunities, living skills (eg. parenting, family, computer skills and school tuition);
- clinical services (ie. community nursing, mental health);
- support and advocacy services (eg. debt management, drug and alcohol services); and
- pastoral services provided by local churches and other community based organisations.

Volunteer Support for Bushfire and Emergency Services	2001-02 \$'000	2002-03 \$'000	2003-04 \$'000	2004-05 \$'000
Expenses	90	92	94	96

Provide innovative approaches to recruitment, retention, training and skills development for ACT Bushfire Service and ACT Emergency Service volunteers. These volunteer services not only protect life and property but also provide an opportunity for people to develop trust and respect through working together.

## Building participation and developing networks

Building Community Capacity	2001-02 \$'000	2002-03 \$'000	2003-04 \$'000	2004-05 \$'000
Expenses	1,000	1,023	1,046	1,070

Facilitate improvements in service delivery by the non-government sector through current service purchasing arrangements, particularly in health and community services areas. Additional funding will be used to further enhance the capacity of the non-government sector to meet needs and improve the quality of services provided. This will also assist the sector to assist Canberra's Social Capital to grow.

Recreation Support Program for at Risk Youth	2001-02 \$'000	2002-03 \$'000	2003-04 \$'000	2004-05 \$'000
Expenses	225	225	0	0

Establish a community-based program to provide accessible sport, recreation, and support programs for at risk youth, to increase community participation and encourage the constructive use of leisure time. The target group would include young people aged between 12 and 25 years who are at risk of homelessness, substance abuse, being victims of crime, or becoming involved in the juvenile justice system.

Drug and Alcohol Initiatives	2001-02 \$'000	2002-03 \$'000	2003-04 \$'000	2004-05 \$'000
Expenses	0	625	768	786

Build capacity in the community to support drug and opiate dependent people, and people with other dependency problems, including targeted services for women and teenagers.

Parenting Services in Gungahlin	2001-02 \$'000	2002-03 \$'000	2003-04 \$'000	2004-05 \$'000
Expenses	220	201	204	207

Support young families living in the Gungahlin area. This will include providing extra clinical space and enhancing child health services through co-location and partnerships with other services.

The Government's support for Bush fire and Emergency Volunteers builds on its already considerable assistance for the International Year of the Volunteers.

Sport and recreation programs for at risk youth.

Indigenous Youth Centre	2001-02 \$'000	2002-03 \$'000	2003-04 \$'000	2004-05 \$'000
Expenses	100	102	105	108

Establish an Indigenous Youth Centre and an Indigenous High School Support Centre to:

- support Indigenous students and other young people to perform better at school;
- assist their transition from school to work; and
- assist them to access culturally appropriate recreation services and other support.



**Future Community activities ...**

other Town Centres might conduct their own community festivals, such as occurred with the Tuggeranong Moon Festival.

**Future Priorities for building Social Capital**

Creating life opportunities through education, employment and improved health will always be a focus for future Government planning and expenditure. This year's Budget initiatives confirm this.

However, Social Capital cannot be truly built unless people who benefit from programs to boost their participation in the community are given the opportunity to develop greater networks of relationships. Developing links to other people, building trust and working together are largely up to individuals, but Government can and does assist.

Future Government priorities will

- include developing programs that facilitate local groups:
  - taking charge of their community's development; and
  - drawing community members into cooperative activities—the Community Renewal Program is an example.
- support for facilities and events that allow Canberrans to come together in community activities – such as development of youth and aged people's centres and continued support for events like the Canberra National Multicultural Festival.

There are also ongoing opportunities for community ideas for building social capital to be supported by the Canberra Community Foundation. Success in growing these ideas will be heavily dependant on continuing partnerships between Government, business, the community sector and applicants.



**Future Government Social Capital programs ...**

the "Health Promoting Social Capital" program:

- strengthening and developing community networks
- increasing capacity in the Health Promotion sector
- fostering partnerships to achieve the health goals of the community.

## Government's Social Capital Agenda - Progress to date

The Government allocated \$3.5m in 2000-01 (growing to \$4.5m in later Budget years) to Social Capital programs. There were two main areas of focus:

- assisting networks to develop by creating opportunities for people to come together; and
- assisting people to gain the confidence to play a part in their community, and to feel a sense of belonging.

The information below describes progress to date on the programs.

### Schools as Communities Program

	2000-01 \$'000	2001-02 \$'000	2002-03 \$'000	2003-04 \$'000
Expenses	700	700	700	700

**Program aim:** Strengthening families and the community as a whole.

**Delivery:** Partnerships between schools, communities and business.

**Current participants:** Charnwood, MacGregor, Holt, Higgins, Narrabundah, Richardson and Isabella Plains Primary Schools and Ginninderra High School.

**Specific initiatives:**

- Community Outreach workers working with students and at risk families.
- The community proposing strategic projects to strengthen families and communities, and build partnerships with school, families, community groups and business.

**Contact Officer:**

Manager, Child Abuse Prevention, Department of Education and Community Services,  
Phone: 6207 1091



## Canberra Community Foundation

	2000-01 \$'000	2001-02 \$'000	2002-03 \$'000	2003-04 \$'000
Expenses	500	500	500	500

**Foundation aim:** To provide opportunities for community groups and individuals to implement projects that have a lasting effect on community.

**Delivery:** Provide funds for community projects (the first to occur in June 2001). Partnerships are a key objective for the Foundation, with applicants seeking support from business and the community to complement the money sought from the Foundation. The first round received over 170 inquiries and in excess of 80 applications. A large number of Canberra businesses are supporting the projects.

**Contact Officer:**

Senior Manager, Policy Group, Chief Minister's Department

Phone: 6205 0468

## Barnardo's Kids Friends Program

	2000-01 \$'000	2001-02 \$'000	2002-03 \$'000	2003-04 \$'000
Expenses	40	40	40	40

**Program aim:** To support disadvantaged children and their families, by expanding the Kids Friends Project to include teenagers.

**Delivery:** The program matches the children with a special Friend who offers a reliable companion for when they encounter difficulties in life. Children are referred to the program through many different agencies including Family Services, Juvenile Justice, non-government agencies, the Police, schools, parents and children themselves. Volunteers are crucial to the program, as they are the children's "friends".

**Current participants:** Open to children 6 to 16 years of age. There are currently 50 friendships in place, with ten additional volunteers awaiting assignment of children.

**Contact Officer:**

Manager, Youth and Community Services, Department of Education and Community Services

Phone 6207 7753

**Did you know ...**

Canberrans have two opportunities each year to seek support from the Canberra Community Foundation for their ideas for developing their community.

**Key Business Partners for the Canberra Community Foundation.....**

- The Snow Foundation
- Impulse Airlines
- Liangis Investments
- APP Pty Ltd

...using 'Friends' to address disadvantage in children.

healthy nutrition...

in schools and families.

## Child and Youth Nutrition Program

	2000-01 \$'000	2001-02 \$'000	2002-03 \$'000	2003-04 \$'000
Expenses	70	70	70	70

**Program aim:** To promote healthy nutrition through the provision of school-based nutrition education and food skill development activities, and improve family eating habits.

**Delivery:** In selected ACT schools.

**Current participants:** The project began (as a pilot) at Narrabundah Primary School in Term One 2001. After evaluation it will be expanded to other schools where need is identified.

**Long term community goal:** Partnerships and networks across the community and Government will increase community awareness of the importance of nutrition in maintaining health and wellbeing.

**Contact Officer:**

Director, Child, Youth & Women's Health Program, ACT  
Community Care

Ph: 6205 1197

Well Babies at a glance...

Alyssa Jane Cook, a prominent television personality, will provide information for young women in the local media.

## Well Babies Project

	2000-01 \$'000	2001-02 \$'000	2002-03 \$'000	2003-04 \$'000
Expenses	90	90	90	90

**Program aim:** To raise the awareness of young women contemplating pregnancy about:

- good nutrition, particularly folate intake during pregnancy; and
- the risks associated with smoking and alcohol consumption during pregnancy and while breastfeeding.

**Delivery:** An information and training campaign in the first year and the development of young women's knowledge, skills and community networks in subsequent years. A training kit is being provided for health professionals. It is anticipated that support networks among young women across the ACT will assist with decisions regarding health, behaviour, and pregnancy.

**Contact Officer:**

Director, Healthy City Canberra, Department of Health, Housing and Community Care

Phone: 6207 2499

## Intensive Youth Support Program

	2000-01 \$'000	2001-02 \$'000	2002-03 \$'000	2003-04 \$'000
Expenses	130	130	130	130

**Program aim:** To provide intensive supervision and community support for young people considered at risk in the community.

**Delivery:** The program is a partnership between community (particularly the Indigenous community), and Government. It supports young people with accommodation and educational/training options. It seeks to ensure the safety of vulnerable young people who may be homeless and / or have significant mental health and drug or alcohol problems.

**Current participants:** The program has nine clients.

**Contact Officer:**

Manager, Social Capital Programs, Department of Justice and Community Safety

Phone: 6207 1040

## Young Sex Offenders Counselling Program

	2000-01 \$'000	2001-02 \$'000	2002-03 \$'000	2003-04 \$'000
Expenses	200	200	200	200

**Program aim:** To assess and provide a therapeutic intervention program for young sex offenders.

**Delivery:** Two psychologists conduct assessments on young sex offenders for the Children's Court and deliver a therapeutic program for child, adolescent and young adult sex offenders. The program uses the Victorian Department of Human Services' MAPPS Program (Male Adolescent Program for Positive Sexuality).

**Current participants:** Six clients have been referred to the program by the Court for assessment.

**Contact Officer:**

Manager, Social Capital Programs, Department of Justice and Community Safety

Phone: 6207 1040

### Intensive Youth Support Program – the key players

- Government agencies;
- Gugan Gulwan Aboriginal Youth Corporation; and
- Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health Service.

...early intervention to improve lives.

...home-based assistance to break the re-offending cycle.

## Accommodation Support for Young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Offenders Program

	2000-01 \$'000	2001-02 \$'000	2002-03 \$'000	2003-04 \$'000
Expenses	185	185	185	185

**Program aim:** To assist young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to break the cycle of constant re-offending, subsequent to supervision by Youth Justice or release from custody.

**Delivery:** ACT Housing has made available suitable premises, which will be managed by Aboriginal Hostels Limited. An Indigenous Case Manager will live-in, providing intensive support to the young people, including living skills development and support in finding educational and vocational opportunities.

**Contact Officer:**

Manager, Social Capital Programs, Department of Justice and Community Safety

Phone: 6207 1040

...helping families to play a part in the community.

## Healthy Families – Complex Need Project

	2000-01 \$'000	2001-02 \$'000	2002-03 \$'000	2003-04 \$'000
Expenses	125	125	125	125

**Program aim:** To address child health, family wellbeing and participation in the community, with a focus on home and community support for mothers and babies with complex or special needs.

**Delivery:** Ante natal and post natal home visits and other home-based family support is provided for up to six months, including family assessment, parenting support and education.

**Contact Officer:**

Executive Director, Community Health and Housing, Department of Health, Housing and Community Care

Phone: 6205 0839

## Health of Young People at Risk Project

	2000-01 \$'000	2001-02 \$'000	2002-03 \$'000	2003-04 \$'000
Expenses	70	70	70	70

**Project aim:** To increase wellbeing, resilience and quality of life, and develop young people's attitudes, trust and participation in the community.

**Delivery:** Since January 2001 a generalist Youth Counsellor, appointed jointly by the ACT Government and the Junction Youth Health Service, has been supporting young people at the Junction.

**Contact Officer:**

Executive Director, Community Health and Housing, Department of Health, Housing and Community Care

Phone: 6205 0839

## Community Renewal Program

	2000-01 \$'000	2001-02 \$'000	2002-03 \$'000	2003-04 \$'000
Expenses	500	500	500	500

**Program aim:** To identify and resolve critical issues for the community through a range of projects. This is one of the Government's most ambitious Social Capital programs, in terms of geographic coverage and the attempt to develop networks in the community. Individual projects target neighbourhood identity, lack of recreational activities, infrastructure, planning and environmental issues, urban youth issues, vandalism, crime and safety, alienation, isolation, poverty, unemployment and drug and alcohol issues.

**Delivery:** A wide range of mechanisms is being used to implement projects, the focus being on achieving a true partnership between communities and government and permitting groups of people to shape their local areas.

**Specific initiatives:** Projects implemented so far include:

the *Safer Road Use - Youth Sporting Clubs Project*, which targets awareness of alcohol usage and drink driving in youth sporting clubs.

The Suburban Living Projects are located in Charnwood, Narrabundah and Isabella Plains. In Charnwood projects are underway to develop: Charnwood's image, parks, community housing, shopping centre art works, a community newsletter and a memorial park.

At Isabella Plains consultation is on-going to identify community-valued projects.

...helping youth to stay connected to the community.

### Community Renewal at glance ...

Narrabundah residents are developing community gardens and landscaping areas, a skate park area for youth, a community newsletter, a tenant participation project and a regular meeting of the existing community organisations to promote all of their services and facilities.

### Future opportunities for community renewal...

- Dickson Community Project – Rosevear Place ...combining business, education, cultural, tourism, hospitality, entertainment and community services in a sustainable fashion.
- Water Catchment Management ... community involvement in tree planting, water watch events, waterway clean ups and weed removal.
- A Belconnen Youth Project ... developing a sense of place between the Belconnen Mall and Lake Ginninderra College.
- Gungahlin Sense of Identity ... lifestyle enhancement and developing community identity.

... and opportunities for youth, the elderly, people of culturally diverse backgrounds and those people living in isolation and poverty.

*Sustainable Communities* – the ACT Government is working with local communities in Macgregor, Holder, Rivett, Page and Lyons to develop a sustainable future for their communities.

*Safe Routes* – this project seeks to promote community participation and pedestrian/cycling activity in the Inner North through identifying safe routes within residential areas and to and from Civic.

*Community Gardens* – there are currently six organic vegetable plots and nineteen urban Landcare groups located around Canberra, all contributing to community gardening. This project is working with the Canberra Organic Growers Society to implement three more gardens in Belconnen, Woden/Weston Creek and Tuggeranong. These gardens promote interaction between people and a culture of working together.

*Community Walking* – the Government is working with the Australian Heart Foundation to develop signposted walking paths to help the community to become active, provide social interaction and improve our quality of life. The first of these walking trails will be in the Tuggeranong Valley.

*Future Canberra* – this project brings together community groups, Government, business, educational institutions, and schools to discuss the future directions for the city and to participate in community celebrations that are taking place during 2001. The project involves a visual representation through which people can describe their place in Canberra, past achievements and their vision for the future.



*Lake Tuggeranong Moon Festival* – the festival is a family celebration of the different cultures of children and young people.

*Community Theatre Development Project* – the project explores how urbanisation and the effects of city living impact on participants’ lives, how the provision of services (or lack of them) affects their everyday existence, particularly where children and young people are involved.

**Contact Officer:**

Project Officer, Community Renewal Project, Department of Urban Services

Phone: 6207 5753

### Community Mentoring Program

	2000-01 \$'000	2001-02 \$'000	2002-03 \$'000	2003-04 \$'000
Expenses	100	100	100	100

**Program aim:** To develop a new generation of Canberra community leaders through leadership skills development amongst potential leaders which draws on a business and community based mentoring process.

**Delivery:** Through workshops, seminars, presentations and mentoring and undertaking real-world projects and actions that make a difference for Canberra. These projects will be generated from the community and might include activities like those under the Community Renewal Program or the Canberra Community Foundation.

**Contact Officer:**

Manager, Information Management, Department of Urban Services

Phone: 6207 6349

...developing tomorrow's  
community leaders...

**Did you know ...**

Community organisation can launch their own web sites and access web design training through the *Community Links* and *Community Online* projects.

## Community Links Portal

	2000-01 \$'000	2001-02 \$'000	2002-03 \$'000	2003-04 \$'000
Expenses	80	80	80	80

## and Community Online Programs

	2000-01 \$'000	2001-02 \$'000	2002-03 \$'000	2003-04 \$'000
Expenses	50	50	50	50

**Project aim:** The *Community Links* portal will host online information from community groups, including events information, using a dedicated Department of Urban Services IT system.

The *Community Online* project will provide the actual web presence for community groups and organisations. The program is open to all community organisations and will provide a long term benefit in terms of allowing greater interaction between community groups and their members.

**Contact Officer:**

Manager, eServices, Department of Urban Services

Phone: 6205 0218

## Good Beginnings – Parents as Teachers

	2000-01 \$'000	2001-02 \$'000	2002-03 \$'000	2003-04 \$'000
Expenses	80	80	80	80

**Program aim:** To empower all parents to give their children the best possible start in life through providing an early childhood parent education and family support program.



**Delivery:** The program, which provides families with a home visit at least once a month during the first three years of their child's life, aims to:

- teach parents to stimulate their children's intellectual, language, social and motor development;
- increase parents' feelings of competence and confidence;
- strengthen family relationships;
- prevent child abuse and neglect; and
- provide for early detection of developmental problems.

**Current participants:** The program is being delivered in Isabella Plains and Richardson initially, with home visits available to approximately 70 families. Group meetings and play sessions will be available to families with a child under three years of age. The program commenced in March 2001 after appointment and training of staff. Maternity, Child Health and Family Care Nurses in Tuggeranong assist in publicising the program.

**Contact Officer:**

Director, Children's Services Branch, Department of Education and Community Services

Phone: 6205 7661

### Healthy Families – Drug and Alcohol Project

	2000-01 \$'000	2001-02 \$'000	2002-03 \$'000	2003-04 \$'000
Expenses	200	200	200	200

**Project aim:** To support children and families with problematic alcohol and other drug use.

**Delivery:** The project is being delivered by the Alcohol and Drug Foundation of the ACT. It links a range of Government and non-government agencies to support parents and address early behavioural problems in children in families with drug and alcohol problems.

The project employs a part time child psychologist and a part time family therapist. It fully funds an accredited childcare centre at Karralika which helps ensure that mothers are able to attend treatment.

**Contact Officer:**

Manager, Drug and Alcohol, Department of Health, Housing and Community Care

Phone: 6205 0909

**Good Beginnings**

...skills for parents.

...partnering to address drug and alcohol problems.

...helping Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Young People to participate in the community.

## Healthy Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Young People Project

	2000-01 \$'000	2001-02 \$'000	2002-03 \$'000	2003-04 \$'000
Expenses	120	120	120	120

**Project aim:** To address the increase in substance use by young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and improve the level of service to young Indigenous people while also addressing issues relating to mental health.

**Delivery:** The project will be delivered with support from the Indigenous community and alcohol and drug agencies in the ACT. The search for an appropriate health worker is on-going.

**Contact Officer:**

Manager, Drug and Alcohol, Department of Health, Housing and Community Care

Phone: 6205 0909

## Addressing Post-natal Depression

	2000-01 \$'000	2001-02 \$'000	2002-03 \$'000	2003-04 \$'000
Expenses	70	70	70	70

**Project aim:** To raise community awareness and understanding of ante natal and post natal depression.

**Delivery:** The Post Natal Depression Support Group (PNDSG) has implemented a public awareness campaign. Since its implementation in July 2000, the project has made over 200 community announcements on local television and radio. It doubled the number of support groups and training programs within its first six months.

Programs are also being developed to address ante natal depression as a way of preventing the post natal phase. Men also are benefiting through programs for partners of women affected by ante natal/post natal depression.

**Contact Officer:**

Manager, Mental Health and Corrections Health, Department of Health, Housing and Community Care

Phone: 6207 1066

...assisting mothers.

## Preventing Youth Suicide

	2000-01 \$'000	2001-02 \$'000	2002-03 \$'000	2003-04 \$'000
Expenses	120	120	120	120

**Project aim:** Preventing youth suicide by enhancing people's sense of belonging. The focus will be on developing the capacity of people to support and care for one another.

**Delivery:** Vision for Youth Through Knowledge and Education (VYNE) program, which is associated with Calvary Hospital, provides the program. It features youth suicide awareness and prevention training services and common protocols for their treatment to government and non-government organisations across the ACT.

**Contact Officer:**

Manager, Mental Health and Corrections Health, Department of Health, Housing and Community Care

Phone: 62071066

## National Depression Initiative – beyondblue

	2000-01 \$'000	2001-02 \$'000	2002-03 \$'000	2003-04 \$'000
Expenses	70	70	70	70

**Project:** The ACT Government has made a five year financial commitment to beyondblue, the National Depression Initiative. beyondblue is conducting research into prevention, treatment and management of depression. It is also providing professional training and development and raising community awareness of depression as an illness, in order to reduce stigma and discrimination.

**Contact Officer:**

Manager, Mental Health and Corrections Health, Department of Health, Housing and Community Care

Phone: 6207 1066

**At a glance ...**

the Yellow Ribbon program is designed to encourage and empower young people to ask for help. In 2001/2002 Vision for Youth Through Knowledge and Education is seeking to further expand its services to the broader population.

...addressing depression.

# Making a Comprehensive Contribution to Canberra's Social Capital – other Government programs

## Building participation skills

The ACT Government's integrated *Health, Education and Community Services* policies and programs are enhancing people's capacity to play a part in the community. For example:

### *Families...*

...the Family Group Conferencing Program brings family members, including extended family members, together when there are serious concerns for the safety and wellbeing of children.

...Primary health care nursing staff provide early detection, education and clinical support to assist children's development and to build stronger parenting.

### *Youth...*

...assistance in developing social networks and the skills to contribute to the community.

...helping isolated young people (particularly those living out of home) to meet in small groups and develop a sense of "connectedness".

...the POGO X-plore Youth Internet Portal helps develop youth culture and links between young people.

### *Education...*

... programs for children to develop as members of the community and make the transition from education to employment.

...vocational education and alternative approaches to learning (such as out of school programs) for children unable or unwilling to attend school.

### *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people...*

...social, cultural and economic opportunities to enable their full participation in society.

...assistance with developing business activities.

...connecting young people with their culture.

...reconciliation as a means to connect Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and the wider community.

The Government's *Economic and Employment Policies* provide a sound economic base for the Territory and increase employment opportunities for Canberrans...enabling more people to take an active part in their community.



*Older persons...*

- ...addressing the on-going learning needs of older people.
- ...retraining for older drivers.
- ...measures to assist older people to remain connected to the community.

*Women...*

- ...increased opportunities in decision making and leadership.
- ...encouraging continuing education and access to paid work.
- ...providing for safety from violence in their homes and in public places.
- ...improved access to appropriate and affordable health services.

*Young and adult offenders...*

- ...addressing factors that contribute to offending.
- ...health and education programs, financial management advice and assistance with Government welfare programs.
- ...assisting offenders to accept responsibility for the consequences of their actions.
- ...positively connecting adult offenders on periodic detention orders to the community through involvement in environment care and assistance for ACT pensioners.

The Governments's broad education and health policies are providing life opportunities for all Canberrans.

**Did you know ...**

the Government supports Canberrans working together in Adopt a Road; urban and rural Landcare; nature reserve parkcare groups; water catchment and water watch groups; festivals and major events; in Clean up Australia programs; and in precinct management at shopping centres and local area master planning.

## Building Networks

*Planning and provision of services..*

...enabling local neighbourhoods to build social capital through innovative and flexible planning processes.

....supporting networking through delivery of a range of state and municipal services, including public transport and parks maintenance.

*Schools, preschools and child care facilities...*

...making them a place where enduring relationships can grow between parents.

...helping the development of playgroups, babysitting clubs, shared transport arrangements and parent education groups.

**Did you know ...?**

The ACT Government will transfer 1000 public housing properties to community housing associations by 2005.

*Housing choices...*

...developing a viable community housing sector.

...encouraging greater participation of tenants in the management of their future.

...supporting sustainable community development.

...beneficiaries include youth and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander groups.

Supporting *cultural diversity* and a vibrant multicultural city...

The ACT Multicultural Grants have supported:

- establishment of a Bangladeshi dance troupe to participate in the Canberra National Multicultural Festival;
- Australians for Reconciliation; and
- a pilot program of cultural diversity awareness training for community groups.

# Assessing Social Capital

The Government is investing substantial financial and intellectual resources into helping Canberra's Social Capital to grow. As a responsible financial manager it needs to tell the effect this investment is having.

Others too will want to know the outcome: the community organisations which have been building social capital through their own programs; the business sector which supports so many community activities; and the community at large.

## The Debate on Assessment

Assessing Social Capital is challenging because social capital is in many ways invisible or intangible. Groups and communities demonstrate social capital in how they work together and through the outcomes that we see achieved. Yet, an observer cannot tell (by looking at three or four people in a group) the quality of each relationship, its length or how much trust has been developed or how big a favour may be asked and granted.

Assessing Social Capital requires a mix of quantitative and qualitative analysis. Over the 1990s there has been a growing interest in measurement of social capital at an academic level and some work at the community program level in Australia (for example, Paul Bullen and Jenny Onyx's work in NSW Local Government areas<sup>2</sup>).

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) released a Discussion Paper *Measuring Social Capital: Current Collections and Future Directions* in November 2000. Its purpose was to focus on gathering Social Capital related information in the shorter term.

ABS and others pose a number of questions around whether social capital is a resource held by a group or whether it is accrued by individuals. While consensus is emerging that it is held by a group, the debate still has some distance to go.

To date researchers into measurement of Social Capital have incorporated measures based on common Social Capital themes. These themes have been identified by Peter Sandeman and encompass:

- Social networks and support structures;
- Empowerment and community participation;
- Civic and political involvement;
- Trust in people and social institutions
- Tolerance of diversity; and
- Altruism and philanthropy.<sup>3</sup>

The Australian Bureau of Statistics is developing a survey to assess Social Capital nationally.

2 Onyx, J and Bullen, P  
"Measuring Social Capital in five Communities in NSW"  
*Journal of Applied Behavior Science*, Vol 36 No 1 March 2000

3 Sandeman, P, McClure, P and Leech, M *Strengthening Australian Communities* Occasional Paper No. 1 Mission Australia 1999

Some questionnaires have already been developed that focus on the following areas:

- Contact with family / friends
- Number of close friends
- Ability to ask for small favours
- Support in times of crisis
- Work friends and connections
- Active involvement with group /community activities
- Voluntary work
- Actions taken due to concern about an issue
- Level of trust
- Fear of crime
- Neighbourhood problems.<sup>4</sup>

4 Australian Bureau of Statistics  
Discussion Paper *Measuring Social  
Capital: Current Collections and  
Future Directions* November 2000

## The ACT Government's approach

The Government has various evaluation processes to assess Canberra's Social Capital.

### Program / Project level

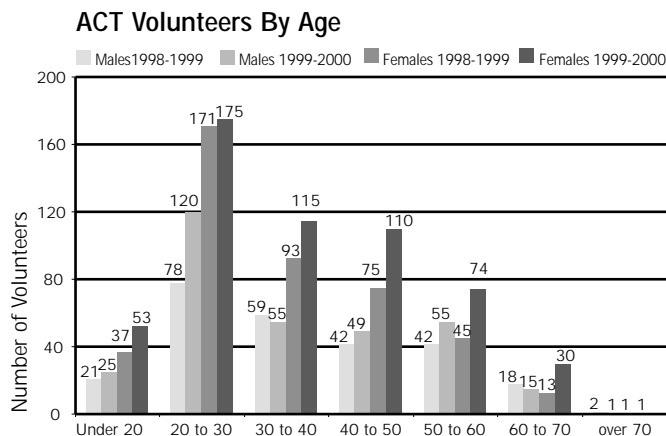
Performance indicators have been developed for each social capital program. They mix quantitative and qualitative questions, focusing on how many people are involved and how their lives are enhanced.

A good example of the mix of measures is shown in the Community Renewal Program's performance indicators:

- Number of successful projects.
- Percentage of customers satisfied with the projects.
- Percentage of people who believe the projects contributed positively to their quality of life.
- Number of projects that demonstrate successful partnerships across community, business and government.
- Number of projects that lead to community initiated activity and networks.
- Number of volunteers contributing to the Community Renewal Program.
- Number of projects that have attracted additional non-government funding.
- Percentage of people involved in the projects that have established ongoing relationships.

Successful applicants for Canberra Community Foundation projects will be expected to report on the manner in which their projects have develop Social Capital. Service providers working in the community on the Government's behalf will also be providing reporting on the degree to which their programs are producing social capital outcomes.

### Territory-wide assessment



Source: Volunteering ACT unpublished data

The Government's approach to Assessing Canberra's Social Capital

- at the Program/Project level
- Territory-wide.

Aboriginal and Torres Straits Islander, Multi-cultural communities and youth demographic surveys are scheduled for this year.

Assessing Canberra's Social Capital on a Territory-wide basis will not be as simple as conducting a single survey. A range of measurement tools will contribute to providing a guide to how we are doing in this area.

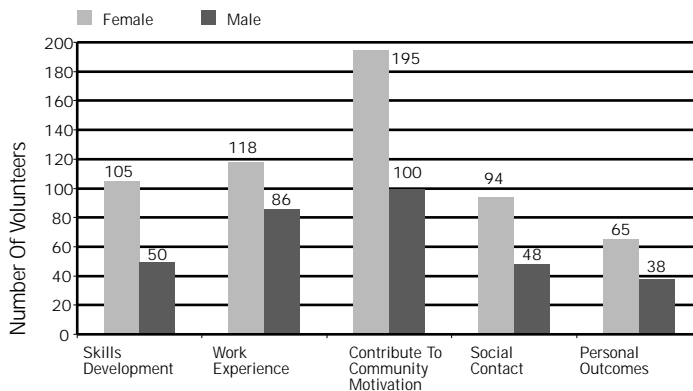
The Government's demographic surveys of the ACT provide useful information on the health, employment, education, participation in networks and general quality of life opportunities for these groups.

The Government's annual State of the Territory and State of the Environment Reports will also assist in providing indicators of Canberra's Social Capital. For example, the State of the Territory Report already provides information on participation in community activities, sport and recreation, volunteering, attendance at cultural venues and visits to parks and nature reserves. The ABS's survey on Social Capital in 2002 will also be an important statistical tool.

The Government intends to work further on interrogating existing statistical data to develop information on Canberra's Social Capital. It expects to work with academics and experts in the field to further refine its Social Capital indicators. This data will also help guide future program delivery and provide benchmarks for future comparison in assessing Canberra's Social Capital.

### Social Capital: How are we doing so far ?

Motivation For Volunteering 1999-2000



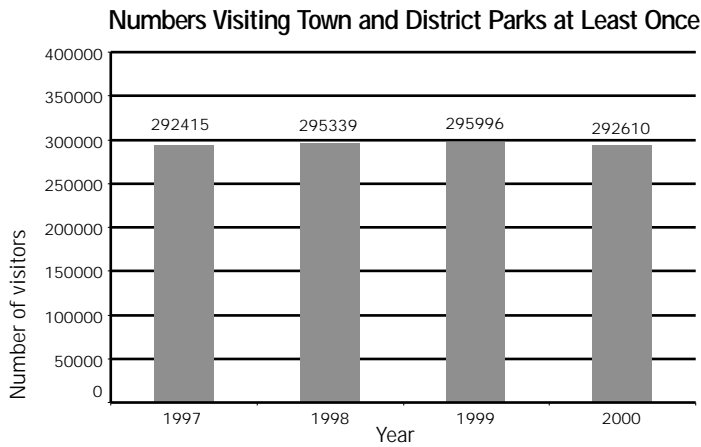
Source: Volunteering ACT unpublished data

Building Social Capital is not an over-night job, nor is it one with a neat end point. The Government and the community sector recognises that developing community capacity is a long term task often with intangible results and one that must be on-going.

However, the Government's Social Capital programs have already realised results. For example, the Schools as Communities Program in its first month of operations in February / March 2001:

- assisted 32 families
- made thirteen referrals to other Government and non-government sector community services; and
- helped coordinate three people's cases where the assistance of a number of agencies was required.

Data on Canberra's Social Capital will take time to gather. The case studies set out on the following pages are a useful initial snap-shot of the effect that Government programs are having on people's lives and how this is allowing more participation in their community. The case studies also demonstrate how people working together can make a difference for their community.



Source Canberra Urban Parks and Places, ACT Department of Urban Services

## Case Studies on Building Social Capital

From offending ...  
to contributing to the  
community.

### Changing lives

Several years ago the ACT Children's Court referred a 15 year old female offender to the ACT Government's Community Unit to perform community service work for property related offences. The girl presented with a range of challenging behaviours and non-compliance to her court orders. Her family also reported that her behaviours at home were threatening the stability of the family unit. Her family had moved interstate several times as a result of her father's employment and she had lost former school friends and significant networks. Her sense of isolation and her behaviours resulted from seeking inappropriate friendships. The family said she enjoyed outdoor activities and was excellent caring for her baby niece. Her situation was managed through performing community service work on outdoor activities near to her home and later with a child care centre. She also participated in the Coping Skills Modules program that she reported as providing her with an insight into her behaviour. To give her family some respite from her behaviour, she was accommodated in a youth refuge. Refuge staff mediated between the girl and the family and established mechanisms to minimise family tensions.

At 19, the girl visited her former Youth Service worker and reported the significant progress she had made in the intervening years. She was employed full time, taking classes at CIT to improve her job prospects, renting a house jointly with her boyfriend and they were saving the deposit for a house.

Building Social Capital  
through cultural expression.

### Croatian Folklore Ensemble Croatia

The Croatian Folklore Ensemble Croatia received a \$2,200 grant through the ACT Multicultural Grants Program to create authentic national costumes.

Costumes were created by community volunteers from traditional materials (some specially purchased in Croatia) and to traditional designs.

This project is an example of where a relatively small amount of Government funding has contributed to a community-based project involving significant volunteer effort as well as additional funding from the community. The Grant has acted as a catalyst for the ACT Croatian community to engage its young people and to maintain its cultural heritage not only through the creation of the costumes themselves, but also through music, dance and performance.

## Community Building

In the early 90s when Gungahlin was still a series of sheep paddocks with small clusters of new houses, the ACT Government provided funds to Northside Community Service to employ a Community Development worker for Gungahlin.

With her car as her office, the worker made contact with all new residents to find out how they would like to see their community develop. Car pools, playgroups, volunteer support, church, social and recreation groups sprang up providing opportunities for residents to meet, share experiences and develop friendships.

Northside Community Service supported the new residents in their efforts to build their own community service until they were ready to manage on their own. Gungahlin Regional Community Service is now a focal point for a thriving and growing community.

## Community Houses

Tuggeranong Link began in the 80s when Richardson was considered the southern end of Tuggeranong. With their neighbourhood house or centre as the focal point, residents got together to set up playgroups, craft classes and activities for all ages and rented out space for occasions such as family and community celebrations. The houses are all voluntarily managed by community members.

With the aid of a government funded community development worker, community members of all ages, cultures and languages make the decisions about what activities and projects they will participate in. They have built partnerships with local businesses and services and have successfully applied for a range of government grants.

Grants from Sport and Recreation, Healthpact, Adult Community Education have assisted the groups to expand their activities and projects which range from playgroups, seniors keep fit and social groups, adult literacy, return to work courses, drama, and children's groups.

The Link now comprises 5 houses – Chilsholm, Gilmore, Richardson, Isabella Plains and Conder and plays an important part in forming networks in the Valley community.



PHOTO: ANDREW TATNELL, BIG ISLAND PHOTOGRAPHICS

Connecting people to the community.

## Schools as Communities

A young Mother who is caring for two children, 5 years of age and the other 1 month, dropped in to the Schools as Communities room. The 5-year-old is in kindergarten at the school. The mother is currently caring for the children on her own. She lives in a housing complex with few links to other parents or social networks. Her child and infant are her primary focus. However, she is concerned about safety issues at her residence and she feels isolated from other people. She asked about playgroups for both herself and her child.

The community outreach worker was able to provide options for playgroups in the area and has offered to go with her to the first session of the playgroup.

The mother was also invited to be involved in an afternoon tea coming up at the school and is now involved in assisting the kindergarten class teacher with reading time. She has a real skill in English and is proving to be an asset to the teacher.



PHOTO: SANDY SPEARS

## Suburban Living in Narrabundah

The Government's Suburban Living Project's community planning in Narrabundah involved the Southside Community Services, National Council Of Women, Salvation Army, National Youth Roundtable, Victims of Crime, Boomunulla Oval indigenous works, Canberra Community Housing for Youth, Eco Villages, ACT Shelter, Woden Youth Centre, YMCA, Alcohol and Drug Foundation of the ACT, the Australian Federal Police, Narrabundah College and Narrabundah Primary School students, Gowrie Court, and a member of the Southside Local Area Planning Advisory Committee.

The issues which emerged were maintenance and development of public space; shopping precinct refurbishment; community spirit; entertainment options for youth; social isolation; public housing; community services; and financial strain emerged as issues from these community discussions.

Narrabundah community leaders and residents suggested the following projects could be further developed and implemented by the community in partnership with community organisations, businesses and government:

- Public Space Development Project
- Community Precinct Development Project
- Skate Park Project
- Tenant Participation Project
- IT Access Project

An additional outcome from the community consultation is that community service providers are now meeting monthly to determine the best way they can promote the whole area and each others' services. A newsletter is also being produced to promote dialogue in the community on issues of concern.

A community designing its future.

## Community Gardens

The Canberra Organic Growers Society (COGS) is a non-profit community organisation incorporated in the ACT. It aims to encourage the growing of fruit and vegetables for self-consumption using organic principles. It achieves this aim through the operation of community gardens and running education courses and seminars on organic gardening.

Community gardens are located at Mitchell, Charnwood, Oaks Estate, Curtin, Erindale and Theodore. They help to form social bonds, people working side by side, are able to break down all sorts of social barriers. People are able to work for a common goal, regardless of their background, origin, age or ability to speak fluent English.

COGS have already been approached by several people who have indicated a wish to participate in an organic community garden in the Belconnen Woden and Tuggeranong regions. The physical work required to establish the garden would be largely undertaken by plot holders except where there is a requirement for work to be undertaken by a licensed tradesmen, such as plumbing work required to connect to the town water supply.

A grant of \$30,000 has been provided for the three new gardens from the Government's Community Renewal program to enable this successful community initiative to be further advanced.

Social interaction through shared objectives.

## Conclusion

The Government is committed to building Social Capital. It is funding programs that will permit people to participate more fully in their community. It is also determined to support Canberrans taking action to shape the future of our City – the Canberra Community Foundation and the Multi-cultural Grants are just two examples of the help that is provided.

However, the Government expects a great deal of the running on Social Capital to be made by the community itself. People recognise the value in developing a spirit of trust, consideration of others and working together. Community organisations and the business sector will have a large part to play in supporting these community aspirations.

The joint efforts of Government, business, community organisations and the community itself will see Canberra's Social Capital continue to grow.

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Additional references on Social Capital and its measurement can be found on the ACT Government's Social Capital Website  
[www.act.gov.au/socialcapital](http://www.act.gov.au/socialcapital)

