



ACT Government
2004-2005 BUDGET

MEDIA RELEASE

BOOST FOR AUTISM SERVICES

The Stanhope Government has set aside \$318,000 in the 2004-05 Budget — and \$1.63 million over the next four years — to expand Therapy ACT's autism assessment and support services.

Disability, Housing and Community Services Minister Bill Wood said in recent years there has been a rapid rise in demand for autism assessment in the ACT, as well as nationally.

“As a result of this funding, Therapy ACT's autism assessment program will be expanded and developed as a multi-disciplinary assessment team in line with evidence-based best practice,” Mr Wood said.

“Therapy ACT will be able to use the funding to implement an autism support service that assists families of children newly diagnosed with autism.

“An autism support service will be implemented to assist families of children newly diagnosed with autism, along with intensive parent education and training programs to assist parents to better understand autism.

“Families will also be provided with strategies to improve their capacity to better support both parents and the children affected, and to deal with grief.

“Expanding the program should improve links between parents and community supports, and will facilitate an easier transition to appropriate early intervention programs for children with autism,” Mr Wood said.

Statement Ends.