



ACT Government  
**2004-2005 BUDGET**

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**MEDIA RELEASE**

**ALCOHOL AND DRUG PROGRAMS FOR SCHOOLS AND MINORS**

Young people are the main focus of two new programs funded in the ACT Budget that aim to reduce their use of alcohol, drugs and tobacco, said Health Minister Simon Corbell today.

**School education alcohol and drug program**

Funding of \$562,000 has been allocated over 4 years to a School Education Alcohol and Drug Program, an initiative of *The Canberra Plan* to build a stronger community.

“The aim of this program is to identify and implement ideas that have been successful in reducing drug use, delaying uptake of drugs and developing resilience in school children,” said Mr Corbell. “Early intervention through school-based programs is an opportunity to use peer mentoring to teach young people about the risk factors for developing certain health conditions or behaviour throughout a person’s life.”

The program will target 10 primary schools and 10 secondary schools each year, as well as involve 50 teachers a year in professional development.

**Tobacco compliance program**

Another program - funded \$642,000 over 4 years – will target the illegal supply of tobacco to minors.

“The ACT Government has funded the initiative to test whether tobacco retailers are complying with the legislation. This program will use young people to catch out retailers who do the wrong thing. Although surveys reveal a drop in tobacco use by young people over recent years, about 15 per cent of males and 16 per cent of females aged between 12 and 17 in the ACT report using tobacco. We need to ensure that retailers help us to reduce the take up of this life-threatening habit.

**Extra case management and framework**

Funding of \$416,000 over 4 years has also been provided to increase case management of clients using pharmacotherapy treatments who have complex needs and to develop and implement a case management framework.

“Case management provides a consistent framework from which alcohol and other drug services can be delivered,” said the Minister. “To deliver the best outcome for the client, a range of services and sectors need to work together collaboratively and have a clear understanding of the framework they are working in and their role within it. Protocols between services are a fundamental component of this approach that will be developed and implemented.”

**Statement Ends.**