



ACT Government

2003-2004 BUDGET

HOUSING THE CANBERRA COMMUNITY

The Stanhope Government's 2003/04 Budget funds a major improvement and expansion of public, community and affordable housing stock.

"\$70 million dollars would be spent on ACT Housing's capital program in 2003/04," Minister for Disability, Housing and Community Services, Bill Wood, said today.

Capital works will include \$9 million to continue a major fire safety program, as well as \$6 million for the on-going program of upgrading major flat complexes. A total of \$26 million has been allocated the repair and maintenance of ACT Housing's 11,450 properties.

"ACT Housing will continue to improve the quality and diversity of its portfolio by purchasing new properties and upgrading existing stock to better meet the needs of tenants and applicants.

"The Capital program, for example, includes the construction of 24 units for older persons on the former Burnie Court site.

"The Stanhope Government will further its affordable housing initiatives by building on the \$3 million initiative announced in last year's Budget for community housing.

"A further \$3 million has been allocated in the 2003/04 Budget for affordable housing purposes.

"The Stanhope Government will shortly (this Thursday) deliver its response to the Report of the Affordable Housing Taskforce.

"To help meet the demand for housing the Stanhope Government is making available 1600 new Greenfield blocks in Gungahlin. This would result in more housing being built in Canberra in the next financial year.

"The Stanhope Government has allocated \$8.8 million towards the purchase of housing stock in urban Canberra to replace rural properties lost in the January bushfires.

"ACT Housing would receive an insurance payment to cover the cost of the buildings destroyed in the bushfires - however, another \$8.8 million was required to cover the land component of the cost of acquiring more than 50 replacement homes.

"Demolition is proceeding of the 80 ACT Housing properties destroyed in the bushfires.

"Modern homes will be built on the affected *urban* sites, with older homes replaced with new residences that meet today's standards of construction and energy efficiency. The houses are expected to be completed before the end of the year.

Media Release



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“The Stanhope Government is also committed to addressing homelessness and better meeting the needs of people requiring emergency housing, encouraging the movement from SAAP to more sustainable housing.

“The Stanhope Government will spend an unprecedented \$13.3 million over four years to confront the problem of homelessness in the ACT.

“The Government is moving decisively to address gaps in the delivery of crisis services, particularly for families, men and couples.

“A total of \$2.4 million will be spent in 2003/04 to support homeless families, men and couples.

“In the next two years this money will provide crisis and transitional accommodation, as well as support for more than 90 families, 90 men and 12 couples.

“The initiatives funded will assist in addressing the root causes of homelessness, not just its symptoms - They seek sustainable solutions to the problem by assisting people to gain independent living skills and reducing the likelihood of reoccurring homelessness.

“Facilities to be constructed include the:

- Ainslie Village Boarding House (\$500,000), accommodating eight people;
- Older Women’s Boarding House (\$1 million), accommodating eight people in Chapman; and
- Singles Boarding House, accommodating 22 people in Gungahlin.

“The Budget also provides \$205,000 for the Canberra Emergency Accommodation Fund which helps homeless people access short-term accommodation.

“This budget progresses the Stanhope Government’s ongoing commitment to public, community and affordable housing in the ACT,” Mr Wood said.

Statement ends