



ACT Government

2002-2003 BUDGET

FUNDING FOR CANBERRA MEDICAL SCHOOL

The Stanhope Government has confirmed its commitment to medical education in the ACT by providing more than \$17 million over four years for the Canberra Medical School, Chief Minister, Jon Stanhope, said today.

The 2002-03 ACT Budget provides \$9.8 million over four years in expenses and \$7.45 million in capital costs to establish the Canberra Medical School. An additional \$70,000 is available in 2002-03 for design work on the medical school.

“The former Government committed the ACT to the establishment of a medical school without making the appropriate budgetary provisions for either the recurrent or capital costs.

“This has left my Government in a difficult position, as the full costs of establishing and staffing a medical school are only now becoming apparent.

“I am, however, committed to the development of the medical school as it will bring many benefits to the ACT and surrounding region.

“The Canberra Medical School will enhance our public health system and improve patient care and outcomes.

“It will also help us overcome difficulties in recruiting and retaining doctors and medical specialists. A supply of locally trained doctors should help resolve problems with the under-supply of general practitioners and overall medical practitioner numbers in the ACT.

“It will also add to Canberra’s well deserved reputation as a centre of excellence in training, research and development,” said Mr Stanhope.

The Canberra Medical School will build on the existing Canberra Clinical School, the teaching and research strengths of the Australian National University and the University of Canberra and the facilities, staffing and skills of The Canberra Hospital and Calvary Hospital.

Funding of \$500,000 will be made available in 2002-03 for specialist staffing positions to allow both increased research and training and high quality services for patients.

These additional positions will support the teaching program of the Canberra Medical School. In addition, the ANU will fund academic positions.

The capital funding will be used to provide an additional 500m² extension to the library at The Canberra Hospital, as well as refurbishment of other facilities for teaching and faculty/administrative support.

A new building and a refurbishment of Residence A at Calvary Hospital will also be undertaken to accommodate medical students. Buildings at both The Canberra Hospital and Calvary Hospital will be known as the Health Sciences Education Facility.

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Media Release

