



**ACT**  
Government

Australian Capital Territory

# Budget 2023–24

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Women's Budget Statement

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### Acknowledgement of Country



The ACT Government acknowledges the Ngunnawal people as traditional custodians of the ACT and recognise any other people or families with connection to the lands of the ACT and region. We acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of this city and this region.



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# Ministers' Foreword

A budget is a statement of a government's priorities, and this Women's Budget Statement shows how the ACT Government is prioritising gender equity. In this year's Budget, we continue to invest in programs and services delivering real changes in the lives of women and girls<sup>1</sup> in the ACT.

From housing to safety, to health and the economy, the ACT Government remains committed to removing barriers so women and girls can reach their potential and fully participate in all aspects of life. We are proud that this Budget progresses the ACT Women's Plan 2016-26 to continue the work on advancing gender equality.

In this Budget, the ACT Government is making record investments improving housing choice, access and affordability. Funding will flow for growing, renewing and improving public housing, as well as supporting the development of affordable rental homes which will help support vulnerable and low-income women who over-represent those needing public housing. Specifically, the Ginninderry Women's Housing Initiative in this Budget will deliver more affordable rental dwellings for low-income women as they transition from renting to home ownership. This year's Budget also provides further funding to deliver new homelessness services for women and asylum seekers.

The ACT Government is also continuing to prioritise funding for health services, including for women and children. We will expand the paediatric services at Canberra Hospital to meet the needs of a rapidly expanding 0 to 17-year-old cohort in the region, as well as developing skills in the Emergency Department and expanding nursing staff. This will enable us to provide more timely support to children and young people in need, and help ease the burden on their carers, who are often women.

We will roll out free three-year-old preschool for one day a week to Canberra families from the start of 2024. In addition to the significant benefit for children, this initiative supports women's workforce participation by enabling choice for women who are often the primary carers for their children. The funding also includes additional supports for the early childhood education and care workforce, which is primarily women.

As we make progress to address the fundamental issues that matter to women and girls across our city, we will continue to work with our community to make our territory a fairer place.



**Andrew Barr**  
Chief Minister



**Yvette Berry**  
Minister for Women

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<sup>1</sup> The Women's Budget Statement is about the impact of government expenditure on women and girls, terms we use inclusively to mean all people who identify as a woman or girl. Where relevant, the Women's Budget Statement may also consider how expenditure may impact gender diverse people.

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# ACT Wellbeing Framework

## How the ACT Wellbeing Framework helps us to understand the experience of women and girls in the ACT

The ACT Wellbeing Framework includes 12 domains that reflect key areas impacting the quality of life of Canberrans. The domains allow us to consider the broad and intersectional impact of our policies, programs, and investment decisions for all people in the community including women and girls.

The ACT Government uses the Wellbeing Framework as a way of thinking about how we are doing, and as a way of informing decision-making and investment in the Territory. The domains of the ACT Wellbeing Framework don't exist in isolation. They relate to each other, more or less closely, and sometimes in complex ways.

The wellbeing of any group in our community depends on how these domains work together for that group and its members. Women and girls represent approximately half of our ACT community.

Of course, women and girls are not a single uniform group. They vary in age, in their backgrounds, in their experiences in their lives up to this point, and in their individual attributes, relationships and their capabilities. We know that the wellbeing domains impact differently depending on gender and identity.

### 12 Wellbeing Domains

- > Housing and home
- > Health
- > Education and life-long learning
- > Safety
- > Economy
- > Living standards
- > Time
- > Governance and institutions
- > Environment and climate
- > Access and connectivity
- > Social connection
- > Identity and belonging

# Housing and Home

Having access to a secure and suitable home is fundamental to so many parts of life including by providing basic shelter, making it easier to engage in school and work, helping us maintain good health and friendships and providing comfort, security, and happiness.

We know that increasing access to affordable housing is a challenge across the country and Canberrans are also feeling the impact of the rising cost of renting or buying a home.

Access to appropriate housing that is affordable and secure is important across the private, public and social housing landscape. A lack of affordable accommodation is the primary reason that women return to abusive relationships<sup>2</sup>.

This ACT Budget represents a record investment in housing, designed to improve choice, access and affordability. This investment focusses on low income and vulnerable Canberrans and will mean that more Canberra women have access to a safe and comfortable home.

## New Investment

- > \$60 million investment in **Affordable Housing Project Fund** which includes \$4.5 million for the **Ginninderry Women's Housing Initiative**, a Build-to-Rent-to-Buy pilot program in the ACT. This project will deliver up to 22 affordable rental dwellings for low-income women in Strathnairn to transition from renting to homeownership.
- > An additional \$177.1 million for **Housing ACT to grow, renew and maintain high quality public housing** will help ensure that public housing in Canberra is safe, comfortable, and meeting the needs of tenants.
- > \$20.064 million over the next four years to address service gaps due to increased **demand for services from Canberrans who are at risk of or are experiencing homelessness**, and in response to the outcomes from the comprehensive Homelessness Commissioning engagement. The number of women experiencing homelessness has grown significantly since the 2016 Census,<sup>3</sup> and domestic and family violence remains a primary driver.<sup>4</sup> Investing in sufficient service provision is crucial to meeting women's housing and safety needs.
- > \$40.632 million over three years to provide a range of **measures to address issues associated with high energy bills, poor thermal comfort and energy hardship**, with a focus on community and private renters, and low-income homeowners.
- > \$55.890 million in additional funding provisioned in this Budget to deliver 140 new public housing dwellings as part of the **Growing and Renewing Public Housing Program**. Public housing provides those most in need with secure and sustainable long-term and appropriate housing. Women are over-represented in many vulnerable groups accessing public housing including victims of domestic violence and single parent households.

2 Equity Economics, 'NOWHERE TO GO: The Benefits of Providing Long-Term Social Housing to Women That Have Experienced Domestic And Family Violence', (July 2021)

3 Australian Bureau of Statistics, 'Estimating Homelessness: Census' (2023)

4 AHURI, 'Housing, homelessness and domestic and family violence', Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute, (2022)

## Continuing Support

Safe and secure housing for women is a key priority and the ACT Government has invested in a range of programs to address women's overrepresentation among those experiencing housing insecurity including:

- > developing policy responses addressing **housing affordability for low-to-medium income households**,
- > **Growing and Renewing Public Housing Program**,
- > public housing repairs and maintenance including **domestic violence security works**, and **disability modifications**, and
- > expanding existing and specialist **homelessness services**.

**The ACT Government's Common Ground** housing model supports people experiencing or at risk of homelessness to move into permanent housing. Common Ground Dickson was officially opened on 7 October 2022 and responds to new and emerging groups at risk of homelessness, including older women, single mothers, and families with children.

**Safer Families Assistance** provides \$2,000 to people affected by domestic and family violence to help with costs associated with maintaining or establishing a home in the ACT.

**The ACT Rent Relief Fund** provides grants for up to four weeks rent capped at \$2,500 to households in the ACT's private rental sector who are experiencing either rental stress or severe financial hardship.

The ACT Government also continues to provide **specialist homelessness services** to women experiencing domestic and family violence including MacKillop House in partnership with CatholicCare.

# Health

The ACT Government recognises that improving our health outcomes involves a focus on both our physical and mental wellbeing.

The state of our health affects our participation in a wide range of activities that make our lives meaningful, including our education, employment, relationships and broader social connections, and our general outlook on life.

Ensuring appropriate, accessible, and affordable services are available will provide crucial support for women and girls in the Canberra community.

## New Investment

- > \$16.816 million over four years for the design and construction of **a new community-based health service in South Tuggeranong** that will include specific provision for women's and children's health services, improving accessibility and wellbeing for women and girls in growing regions of Canberra.
- > \$1.416 million over two years to **strengthen the ACT health system to meet the health and wellbeing needs of older Canberrans** with complex healthcare needs. This includes establishing a Centre of Excellence for Older Canberrans, with a focus on data, evidence, leadership and continuous improvement. This initiative will provide meaningful impact for women's wellbeing.
- > \$22.544 million over four years to fund the **expansion of paediatric services** at Canberra Hospital to meet the needs of a rapidly expanding 0 to 17-year-old cohort in Canberra and the surrounding region, as well as developing skills in the Emergency Department and expanding nursing staff. Better services for children mean better services for women, who are over-represented among primary carers for children and young people.
- > \$2.316 million over three years from 2024-25, to enable the mental health **Safe Haven program to establish a new location at the Canberra Hospital**, providing a comfortable and safe alternative to the Emergency Department for patients seeking support for a mental health crisis. Ensuring appropriate, accessible and affordable services are available will provide crucial support for women and girls in the Canberra community.

- > \$17.298 million over four years to fund the project team and operational costs for the **Eating Disorders Residential Treatment Centre** in the ACT. This funding supports the \$13.5 million commitment from the Commonwealth Government to build the centre, which will provide an intensive psychological and therapeutic recovery model in a home-like environment for people with an eating disorder. Women are nearly four times more likely to experience an eating disorder in their lifetime, and this investment will support a significant number of women in their recovery journey.

## Continuing Support

The **Women's Health Service** is a free service providing full health checks, cervical screening, nutrition advice and counselling for vulnerable women in the ACT and region.

Continued investment in **maternal health initiatives** supports mothers and children including through the delivery of *Maternity in Focus: The ACT Public Maternity System Plan 2022-2032*. Other ongoing maternal health programs include Maternal and Child Health (MACH) nurses, Mums and Bubs Physiotherapy service, and Perinatal and Infant Mental Health Consultation service. These programs complement the pregnancy and birth services delivered by the ACT Government.

Accessible **reproductive health services** that are free for all ACT residents, including free medical abortions up to 9 weeks gestation and surgical abortions up to 16 weeks gestation. Free long-acting reversible contraceptives will also be made available, if wanted, at the time of abortion. Making these services free for all ACT residents, including those without access to Medicare, gives pregnant people greater ability to make their own decisions about their healthcare.



# Education and Life-long Learning

Education has a transformative impact on individuals and communities and is central to empowering women and girls to participate equally in the community and workplace.

While educational attainment leads to opportunity in later years, the wellbeing of girls in their school years is also vital to their life outcomes as it enhances their employability, health literacy, confidence, sense of identity and self-worth.

Learning over the life course through vocational education and training or higher education is also important for ensuring women and girls gain new skills in response to changes in life circumstances or economic conditions and have equitable and ongoing access to opportunities.

Post-secondary education and training is also associated with better health and social wellbeing. For example, higher levels of education and training can provide the skills to access health information to support informed health decision making.

## New Investment

- > \$1.25 million over three years to support **improved educational outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander secondary school students** through the ACT Indigenous Allied Health Australia Health Academy. The Health Academy will support young Aboriginal people, including women, to complete Year 12 with a Certificate III in Allied Health Assistance. The program is likely to have a greater impact on women, due to the gendered nature of the healthcare workforce.
- > \$56.070 million over four years to roll out **free three-year-old preschool** to Canberra families one day per week. We expect more than 5,000 three-year-olds across Canberra to be eligible for free three-year-old preschool from the start of 2024. The funding also includes additional supports for the early childhood education and care workforce, which is primarily women.

## Continuing Support

The ACT Government continues to support **gender equality in ACT Schools** through whole of school approaches and work to address gender biases and stereotypes, promote the inclusion of all genders from a young age, create a culture of acceptance and equality, prevent domestic and family violence, and reduce discrimination and harassment. Initiatives include coaching, professional learning, provision of resource materials, and by implementing the Positive Behaviour for Learning Framework.

The **Audrey Fagan Program** continues to provide women with access to education, mentoring and networking opportunities, including through enrichment grants, guidance, and support to become a board member or director, and participation in a Leadership and Communications Program designed to enhance their confidence, leadership, and public speaking skills.

# Safety

Ensuring safety for women and girls in our community is crucial for achieving gender equality. It is a fundamental right to be and feel safe.

How safe we feel in our homes and communities can impact how much control we have over our lives and our environment and in turn impact our wellbeing.

## New Investment

### Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence

- > \$14.024 million over four years is committed to Victims Support ACT to **streamline and improve services for victims in the ACT**. Survivors of sexual assault and family violence are the service's highest users, making this funding particularly impactful for women in the ACT.
- > \$6.044 million over four years for the Domestic Violence Crisis Centre to continue the **Room4Change program**. This will ensure perpetrators of domestic and family violence and their families can access support through a residential men's behaviour change program, which centres the safety of victim-survivors and holds perpetrators to account.
- > \$3.581 million over four years for Legal Aid and the Women's Legal Centre ACT to **enhance and expand the Health Justice Partnerships service offering**, which provides women with free and confidential legal advice in healthcare and family settings to reduce barriers to domestic and family violence support, to all child and family centres.
- > \$9.445 million to increase funding over four years to a range of ACT **domestic, family and sexual violence frontline services** to meet high levels of demand and sustain service delivery, which is responsive to the needs of victim survivors. This investment also includes an increase over four years to base funding for the Safer Families Assistance Program and a comprehensive review of the domestic, family and sexual violence services system in the ACT. This initiative is partially offset by Commonwealth funding under both the Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence National Partnership Agreement, and the Women's Safety Package.

- > \$1.012 million over two years to progress work towards the establishment of a comprehensive, best practice and evidence-based **multi-disciplinary centre for victim-survivors of sexual violence**. The centre will improve victim-survivor access to supports and provide a coordinated, integrated response, reducing the burden on victim-survivors. This initiative will also fund research into forensic and medical care and alternative civil justice mechanisms to increase access to restorative justice, providing recommendations for pilot programs and informing best practices in specialist care as well as market research to inform community-led consent initiatives.

### Workplace safety

- > \$3.610 million over two years to provide **crucial safety improvements for nurses and midwives** across the ACT's health facilities, a workforce overwhelmingly comprised of women.
- > \$2.950 million over four years to continue a **system-wide safety culture transformation across the ACT Education Directorate**, where women comprise more than 70 per cent of the workforce, including an enhanced focus on reducing occupational violence in ACT public schools.
- > The ACT Government is developing **E-Learning modules for ACT public service employees** to increase understanding of gender equity and knowledge of work rights and entitlements under the *ACT Women's Plan 2016-26*.

## Continuing Support

The **Safer Families Initiative** provides ongoing funding for initiatives including for frontline domestic violence and rape crisis services and legal aid for women presenting in health and hospital settings.

The **Family Violence Safety Action Pilot** provides intensive case management, case coordination and information sharing to support individuals and families at the highest risk of lethality from domestic and family violence.

The ACT Government continues to **enhance capacity and integrated service delivery** across the family and domestic violence service system and work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to scope, design and implement **culturally appropriate and community-led response** to domestic and family violence.

The ACT Government is continuing to implement the recommendations in the **Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Steering Committee's final report**.

The Sexual Assault and Child Abuse Team within ACT Policing has also increased the level of service to the community to **improve the justice system's response to sexual assault**.

The **SafeHome Program** improves security for households that are victims of or vulnerable to home burglary.

# Economy

Women's financial security is essential to their economic wellbeing and is dependent on their ability to equitably participate in the workforce.

Financial security is also linked to women's safety, particularly when considering options to leave a situation of domestic and family violence.

## New Investment

- > \$7.807 million over four years to **support local startups and Canberra's innovation ecosystem** will benefit women entrepreneurs, the fastest growing subgroup of SMEs in Australia.
- > \$570,000 in 2023-24 to continue to implement the **Secure Employment Framework** supporting secure and ongoing employment in the ACT public sector. Women are over-represented in insecure work. This is a commitment under the *ACT Women's Plan 2016-2026*.
- > \$35.802 million over four years to fund **initiatives under the ACT Public Sector Education Directorate (Teaching Staff) Enterprise Agreement**. This will include additional staff and complementary workload reduction initiatives in response to the recommendations made by the Teacher Shortage Taskforce. Women comprise approximately 75 per cent of the ACT Education Directorate's staff (as at 2021) and will be the primary cohort benefitting from improved workplace conditions and opportunities provided by these initiatives.

## Continuing Support

The **Women's Return to Work program** provides one-off individual grants to support women who have been out of the workforce for an extended period to prepare for and obtain employment.

The introduction of **Flexi Hubs** supports ACT Government employees, including parents, to participate more actively in the workplace. They provide a safe place for people to work while supervising children and are available in three locations to enable work from nearer to home than employees' regular office.

The **Women in Construction Procurement Policy**, currently in development between the ACT Government and industry partners, will help to bridge the gender pay gap and make construction sites more inclusive workplaces for everyone. Increasing the ratio of women in the construction sector brings broad benefits including addressing skills shortages, increasing productivity, and improving mental health outcomes.

ACT Government supports the **Mobile Debt Clinic** run by CARE ACT to assist Canberrans experiencing financial abuse as a result of domestic and family violence.

# Living Standards

Access to adequate financial resources to manage our daily lives is critical to wellbeing.

In November 2022 the gender pay gap in the ACT was 10 per cent, below the Australian gender pay gap of 13.3 per cent.

However, we know we can continue to improve financial equity for women. Nationally, women earn an average of \$13,182 less than men each year.<sup>5</sup>

Women and girls can be disproportionately affected by financial hardship when faced with compounding gendered issues, including greater caring responsibilities and insecure work. Local organisations have reported an increase in young women accessing services such as food security programs,<sup>6</sup> highlighting the importance of addressing the gendered aspect of need in our community.

## New Investment

- > \$37.780 million over four years to **provide cost of living relief for people with low incomes**, including an increase to utilities concessions and the Taxi Subsidy Scheme.

## Continuing Support

The ACT Government continues to invest in initiatives targeted at disadvantaged children and families.

Ongoing support for **Roundabout Canberra** to continue providing essential items for vulnerable families needing assistance, supporting women and children most affected by cost-of-living pressures.

# Time

The amount of time a person has to themselves and their autonomy to choose what to do with that time directly affects their ability to access services, build and maintain relationships, work, learn, socialise, provide care, and heal.

For women, time is often demanded differently. Women are more likely than men to undertake unpaid caring and domestic roles, resulting in less time spent on other activities.

## New Investment

- > \$2.289 million in 2023-24 to **enhance capacity of schools across the ACT**, enabling more children to attend school in their local areas and supporting shorter commute times for parents and carers.

## Continuing Support

As a commitment to supporting those who selflessly give their time to others, the ACT Government is continuing its work to deliver the **ACT Carers Strategy 2018-2028**. The Strategy was developed by a diverse group of carers, in collaboration with the ACT Government, and is driven by the Carers Strategy Governance group, which includes carers with a range of expertise and lived experience. Action Plans under the Strategy deliver community-based initiatives, awareness-raising, and peer-to-peer support.

<sup>5</sup> Workplace Gender Equality Agency, 'Gender Pay Gap Data', Australian Government.

<sup>6</sup> YWCA Canberra, 'Submission to the Inquiry into Cost of Living Pressures in the ACT', Legislative Assembly for the Australian Capital Territory, (March 2023), 4.

# Governance and Institutions

Communities have higher wellbeing when people are confident that government and institutions are acting ethically.

This means having ‘checks and balances’ to make sure we have a fair democratic government and ensuring the government considers a diversity of opinions. In this year’s Budget, the ACT Government is investing in improving women’s access to justice and strengthened procurement systems.

## New Investment

- > \$2.324 million over four years committed to support a suite of community legal assistance funding initiatives that will significantly **support women’s access to justice**, given they are over-represented in vulnerable and lower socio-economic groups needing legal assistance, particularly with domestic and family violence and discrimination matters. Initiatives include:
  - boosting the ACT’s community legal sector to enhance existing services including resources for the Women’s Legal Centre’s Domestic and Family Violence and Employment and Discrimination Law practices; and
  - expanding access to Legal Aid by increasing the income threshold for eligibility to reflect income growth over recent years.

## Continuing Support

The **Walking with Women on the Pathway to Change program** is part of the Women Offenders Framework and the broader Rehabilitation Framework in operation at the Alexander Maconochie Centre to ensure best practice principles are maintained for women.

The **Audrey Fagan Board Traineeship Program** for women wanting to start their board careers connects participants to a board and mentor and provides them with an opportunity to receive support to further their interests in corporate governance and to participate in a professional mentoring relationship to assist with achieving career goals.

The **Women in Emergency Services Strategy** focuses on inclusive recruitment practices and supporting women’s development to gain leadership roles, increasing the representation of women in our emergency services.

The ACT Government continues work on preparing **the third and final action plan of the ACT Women’s Plan 2016-26**. This plan sets out how ACT Government, community members and the community and private sectors can work together towards equity for women and girls. The Third Action Plan will focus on: Health and wellbeing, Safety and inclusion, Leadership and workforce participation, Housing and homelessness, and appropriate and accessible services.

# Environment and Climate

Canberrans value our access to nature through and around the city. As our climate changes, the risk of extreme events, such as fires, floods and storms, will escalate. These climate related hazards can exacerbate gender inequalities, including poorer health and wellbeing outcomes.

The ACT Government has committed \$187.0 million for climate and environment in this Budget, including to continue the critical work to meet the Government's ambitious **emissions reduction and living infrastructure targets**, its **energy affordability agenda**,

and to **support urban and community adaptation and resilience to climate change**. The ACT Government's work on Climate Action is an important element in the pursuit of gender equity due to higher impacts and risks climate change poses for women.

# Access and Connectivity

Ease of transport and travel around our city, as well as the accessibility of the services we need, are essential for maintaining our wellbeing.

It is critical that we enable those who may need additional support to maintain their independence to access responsive, tailored services. This can only be achieved when the needs of our community, including women and girls, are effectively considered.

Women and girls may have different and more complex access and connectivity needs due to safety concerns, lower incomes, household and child raising responsibilities, and higher prevalence of multiple chronic health conditions requiring regular access to multiple health services. It is important for women to be able to get around the city safely and efficiently and have access to safe and child friendly public spaces such as parks, which are critical to enhancing women's connectivity and overall wellbeing.

The ACT Government has committed funding in this Budget to continue to ensure Canberrans can access services and to **support travel and transport** around our city. This includes \$29.5 million over four years to deliver **active travel improvements**, with a specific focus on ensuring all people in our community are supported to go where they want to, including parents and carers getting children safely to school. Funding will also deliver improved lighting for safety, and improved footpaths, which are particularly important to women and older Canberrans.

# Social Connection

Social connection means being connected with family, friends, and community. Being close with others lessens loneliness and encourages resilience, especially when dealing with events that disrupt our lives.

Connecting with others through sport, culture, spirituality, and the arts, and having people to rely on improves our sense of safety and our feelings of identity and belonging. Participating in sport, for example, is a crucial part of maintaining physical and mental health.

## New Investment

- > \$7.425 million over two years in grant funding to Netball ACT to deliver **improvements at each of the five district netball associations in the ACT**. Women and girls comprise more than 90 per cent of active netball players in the region.
- > \$28.408 million over four years for the delivery of a **Gungahlin Community Centre**, which will provide increased social connection opportunities, including for groups such as carers and the elderly.

## Continuing Support

**Healthy Canberra**, the ACT Government's preventive health strategy, and **Best Start for Canberra's Children: The First 1000 Days Strategy** deliver innovative community-based activities and target support around social connection for priority groups.

Upgraded **sportsground amenities for women and girls** and the **Women's Sport and Recreation Participation and Leadership Program** support women and girls to participate in sports and recreation activities.



# Identity and Belonging

Full participation in the community comes from feeling safe to express our identity, having a strong sense of belonging, and feeling confident to practice our values and shape institutions, society, and culture.

Identity can be complex, multifaceted, and intersectional as people belong to many different community groups and play multiple roles.

We know that many women across the community face additional barriers to full expression of their identity and to feelings of belonging and may face additional and intersecting forms of discrimination. This includes women with disability and other health challenges, women from the LGBTIQ+ community, women from diverse cultural backgrounds and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women.

## New Investment

- > \$3.305 million in additional funding over two years to enhance and grow the **National Multicultural Festival**, including enhancing public safety and accessibility. This will support improved safety for women participating in the event. The investment will also increase funding for community participation grants which will enhance participation by cultural performers, and small food business owners.
- > \$300,000 over two years for a **major public artwork** by a woman or non-binary identifying artist to celebrate a significant woman. Increased representation of women as artists and as subjects of public art in the ACT Government public art collection will strengthen the importance the community places on the contribution of women to society.

## Continuing Support

Actions under the **Capital of Equality Strategy** support the wellbeing of LGBTIQ+ Canberrans, including the nation-leading Variations in Sex Characteristics (Restricted Medical Treatment) Bill 2023, to protect the rights and choices of people with variations in sex characteristics in medical settings. This legislation represents the first time an Australian government has acted to meet the recommendations of multiple international human rights bodies in relation to intersex human rights.

The ACT Public Service continues to deliver **diversity and inclusion programs** and to connect women and other diverse candidates with information about opportunities to join Government, business and community boards, councils, and committees through the ACT Government Diversity Register.

The **ACT Women's Awards** recognise and celebrate women's achievements and are presented each year to women who improve the status and lives of women and girls in the ACT. The Women's Honour Roll showcases the achievements of women in the ACT and those who are excelling in their field.