



Your health – our priority

The Government is getting ready for the future with a \$889 million investment in ACT health services, to ensure all Canberrans have access to a high quality, effective public health system now and into the future.

ACHIEVEMENTS

The Government has provided Canberrans with a high standard of health care through:

- an additional 147 hospital beds since 2001-02, which is the highest in over a decade;
- increased elective surgery procedures, with an estimated record 9,600 performed in 2007-08;
- an increase in total inpatient separations (excluding chemotherapy and endoscopy services) of 36 per cent from 2001-02 to 2006-07;
- increased expenditure on health services which has almost doubled from 2001-02 to 2008-09;
- a decrease of 15 per cent in the number of people waiting longer than one year for surgery, with 96 per cent of patients requiring surgery within 30 days admitted on time in the second quarter of 2008;
- an increase of 143 per cent in expenditure to support people with mental illness from 2001-02 to 2008-09;
- improvements in Emergency Department waiting times when compared with the same period last year; and
- 95 per cent of urgent radiotherapy patients received care within 48 hours and all patients needing emergency dental treatment were seen within 24 hours in 2006-07.

ACT BUDGET 2008-09 – READY FOR THE FUTURE

The 2008-09 Budget provides \$300 million over four years to begin the health infrastructure program, *Your health –*

our priority, that will take our health system into the next decade and beyond. Major projects to be undertaken include investing in:

- a Women's and Children's Hospital to improve hospital services for women and children (\$90 million);
- a suite of mental health facilities including an Adult Acute Inpatient Unit, a Secure Adult Unit, a Mental Health Assessment Unit, and the design of a Young Person's Unit (\$37.6 million);
- a new Community Health Centre at Gungahlin (\$18 million);
- a new 16-bed Intensive Care and High Dependency Unit at Calvary Hospital (\$9.4 million);
- improved breast cancer screening by providing digital mammography (\$5.7 million);
- a Neurosurgery Suite integrated with state-of-the-art imaging systems (\$5.5 million);
- refurbishment of community health centres (\$5 million);
- a new 16-bed Surgical Assessment and Planning Unit (\$4.1 million);
- an additional 24 beds at The Canberra Hospital (\$2.4 million); and
- design for a new Skills Development Centre (\$1.3 million).

The 2008-09 Budget is also providing funding to enhance:

- growth in demand for hospital services, including elective surgery and cardiology services;
- critical care capacity and cancer services; and
- support for people with a mental illness, chronic disease and older Canberrans.





FACTSHEET No: 4

ACT BUDGET 2008-09 INITIATIVES

INITIATIVE	WHAT DO THESE INITIATIVES DELIVER FOR THE FUTURE?
<p>\$300 million over four years for <i>Your Health – our priority</i> infrastructure program which includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$90 million for a Women’s and Children’s Hospital; • \$37.6 million for a suite of mental health facilities; • \$18 million for a new Community Health Centre at Gungahlin; • \$9.4 million for a new 16 bed Intensive Care and High Dependency Unit at Calvary Hospital; • \$5.7 million for improved breast cancer screening; • \$5.5 million for a Neurosurgery Suite • \$5 for the refurbishment of community health centres; • \$4.1 million for a new 16 bed Surgical Assessment and Planning Unit; • \$2.4 million for an additional 24 beds at TCH; and • \$1.3 million for the design of a new Skills Development Centre. 	<p>The <i>Your health – our priority</i> infrastructure program demonstrates the Government’s strong commitment to and investment in health. These funds will be the first tranche of investment in the health infrastructure to redevelop and reconfigure the existing facilities, and build new facilities in hospital and community settings to meet the health needs in the next decade and beyond.</p>
<p>\$16.8 million over four years for growth in demand for acute services.</p>	<p>This will ensure that ACT public hospitals are better able to meet increased demand for hospital services.</p>
<p>\$12.6 million over four years to meet increasing demand for elective surgery.</p>	<p>This builds on initiatives over the past five years by the Government to continue to meet demand for elective surgery and address the large number of people waiting beyond standard timeframes for care. The 2008-09 funding will ensure that our public hospitals can effectively balance the growing demand for emergency and elective surgery.</p>
<p>\$10.5 million over four years to increase critical care capacity across ACT public hospitals.</p>	<p>Two additional critical care network beds will provide a flexible mix of intensive care unit and high dependency unit beds dependent on demand.</p>
<p>\$8.5 million over four years for expanded and enhanced mental health services.</p>	<p>This initiative addresses identified mental health needs in the ACT including community non-government services, enhanced ability for carer and consumer participation, enhanced access to community mental health care across the continuum with qualified and skilled staff.</p>
<p>\$4.2 million over four years to enhance existing and establish new aged-care specific services.</p>	<p>Recognising the ACT is expected to have a higher proportion of older people than the rest of Australia in coming years, this initiative establishes an Older Person’s Dietetic Service, expands the Rapid Assessment of the Deteriorating and At Risk (RADAR) service – Community Rehabilitation Team. Physiotherapy, clinical psychology and occupational therapy services will be enhanced as well as the ACT Equipment Loan Service.</p>
<p>\$4.2 million over four years to provide for the increasing demand for cancer services.</p>	<p>This funding will ensure the Capital Region Cancer Service has access to the necessary resources to provide for increasing demand for services. This will include an extra 3 beds and expanded outpatient services.</p>
<p>\$4.2 million over four years to build on existing ACT and national programs aimed at the prevention of chronic disease.</p>	<p>Focussing on ensuring appropriate care in patient self-management and risk reduction support services, this initiative funds an expansion of services for the rapidly growing number of ACT residents living with chronic disease.</p>
<p>\$5.9 million over four years for a second Cardiac Catheter Laboratory at The Canberra Hospital.</p>	<p>This will enable the Canberra Hospital to meet future demands for Interventional Cardiology in the ACT.</p>
<p>\$964,000 over four years for a Sleep Studies Laboratory.</p>	<p>This is required to diagnose and treat sleep disordered breathing and non-respiratory sleep disorders.</p>
<p>\$579,000 over four years to expand palliative care services.</p>	<p>Two new positions will enhance the provision of the current palliative service, with a specific focus on the needs of people living in residential aged care facilities.</p>

BUDGET 2008 - 2009

Further information

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