



ACT Government
2004-2005 BUDGET

MEDIA RELEASE

ENHANCED EMERGENCY RELIEF FUNDING

The Stanhope Government will provide \$150,000 in this year's Budget — \$618,000 over four years — to enhance emergency relief services for vulnerable ACT residents.

Disability, Housing and Community Services Minister Bill Wood said emergency relief was broadly targeted at families, households on low income, and people who are financially disadvantaged or experiencing financial crisis.

“Emergency relief offers essential support for people when they are most vulnerable, and provides a range of basic and essential resources such as financial relief, household goods and clothing, food, financial information, advice and referral,” Mr Wood said.

“Those to benefit from this initiative will include vulnerable families, young people, people with disabilities, older people, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

“It will also assist people leaving the criminal justice system, people in public housing, people with mental health, alcohol and other drug and gambling issues, as well as those experiencing financial disadvantage or social isolation.

“Individuals or families can often be clients of a range of different service systems and this funding will help to meet their sometimes quite complex needs.

“An enhanced service system will include improved linkages with a range of relevant networks and build opportunities to establish more effective models of early intervention and prevention.

As well, the new service system will focus on sectors of the ACT community that experience the highest level of vulnerability, such as women and children.

“This initiative is in line with several of the themes of *The Canberra Plan*, including Investing in Our People and Building a Stronger Community, and reinforces the Government's strong commitment to social justice,” Mr Wood said.

Statement Ends.