



ACT Government

2002-2003 BUDGET

BUDGET FUNDS BILL OF RIGHTS COMMITTEE

The 2002-03 Budget contains an allocation of \$89,000 to continue the work of the committee examining a possible Bill of Rights for the ACT, Chief Minister, Jon Stanhope, said today.

Mr Stanhope said the committee, established in April, was consulting with the community before making recommendations to the Government.

The committee is chaired by Professor Hilary Charlesworth of the Australian National University.

“I envisage that the committee will take into account various models established by other jurisdictions in the development of Bills of Rights,” Mr Stanhope said.

“It has released a Discussion Paper outlining these models, and is engaged on a wide-ranging process of consultation.

“The funding in the Budget will enable the work to continue, and for the committee to make its recommendations to the Government around the end of the year.”

The Committee’s terms of reference include:

- determining whether a Bill of Rights for the ACT is feasible and desirable;
- if so, the form the document should take;
- whether, and to what extent, it should include economic, social and political rights, and
- whether individuals’ responsibilities as distinct from rights should be included.

“The committee has determined its own processes and has planned six public meetings,” Mr Stanhope said.

“It will also meet with key community groups. As well as the Issues Paper, flyers will be distributed throughout the community, and a pamphlet, providing information and seeking submission, is being developed for inclusion in the *Chronicle* newspaper.

“If legislation is to be developed, I envisage it will be introduced into the Legislative Assembly in the Autumn sittings of 2003,” Mr Stanhope said.

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