



# ACT Government

## 2002-2003 BUDGET

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### INCREASED SUPPORT FOR THE ARTS

The 2002-03 budget confirms the Government's commitment to supporting arts in the Canberra community with the announcement of an additional \$2.045 million in 2002-03 to ensure sustainability, innovation and community access to the arts remain at the core of arts development in the ACT. \$1.31 million of these new funds are recurrent.

"The arts are very important for our community, not only in terms of building a rich cultural life in the ACT, but statistics show that the arts are very important for our economy. ACT citizens and visitors attend more, spend more and are more likely to be employed in the arts than their counterparts in any other state or territory," said ACT Arts Minister, Bill Wood.

The Minister said that an election promise would be kept to restore funding to the National Institute for the Arts, which was removed by the previous Government.

"This Government recognises the valuable contribution the Institute makes to the ACT through the Canberra School of Music and the Canberra School of Art. The Institute will receive annual funding of \$800,000 for the next four years, in addition to existing funding of \$800,000 per year.

"The additional funds will allow the Institute to expand its range of services to include a music education program in schools and colleges; a series of public concerts; support for professional orchestral programs; community access to training and venues; and presentation of art and new media activities in public places."

Mr Wood said the budget also delivers on Labor's commitment to planning for suitable arts facilities, particularly for arts access groups. An Arts Facilities Strategy will be developed, and \$650,000 in capital funds in 2002-03 will be provided to upgrade facilities for arts activities in the ACT.

"This Government has already relocated PhotoAccess, Canberra's public access photographic centre, to newly renovated premises in the Manuka Arts Centre. Under the new budget, Gorman House will be upgraded, and Megalo printmaking studio and ArtSound FM, Canberra's music and arts radio, will be relocated to more suitable premises.

"We will continue final planning and design work for two major new arts facilities - the Contemporary Glass Centre on the Kingston Foreshore.

"We have also allocated an additional \$160,000 per year for repairs and maintenance to arts facilities. This funding effectively doubles the existing funding for facilities upkeep.

Media Release



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Mr Wood said the 2002-03 ACT budget has increased funding for arts activities and projects by \$350,000. Extra support will go to the Arts at the Cutting Edge Program, the key multi-year funded arts organisations, and other cultural initiatives.

“Excellence and innovation are a feature of the ACT arts scene. To ensure the growth of high quality, innovative arts activity, we have provided additional funding to the Arts at the Cutting Edge Program. This funding will significantly advance new innovative projects initiated by progressive arts organisations and arts practitioners.

“Arts organisations receiving multi-year funding will also receive extra support from 2002-03 to enhance the key role these organisations play in providing arts services to the ACT community.

“This Government will be presenting a new program of public artworks in public places and community contexts, and will also allocate \$85,000 to extend the City Walk Sculpture Program.”

Mr Wood said festivals and community celebrations were another cultural activity important to the Government and community alike.

“The Government has made a commitment to continuing the Festival Development Fund to support initiatives including enhancement of existing festivals; ‘seed’ funding for new and innovative festivals; and development opportunities for the festival sector.

“The Stanhope Government believes the arts have the power to enrich the lives of all citizens and through this budget is creating opportunities for all citizens to participate in and experience the arts. This Government is making a significant commitment to arts development to ensure that the ACT community continues to benefit from the arts,” said Mr Wood.

**Statement ends 25 June 2002**