



# ACT Government

## 2002-2003 BUDGET

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### GOVERNMENT COMMITTED TO SPORT AND RECREATION

The 2002-03 Budget will help maintain Canberra's position as the city with the highest participation in sport and recreation, Sport Minister Ted Quinlan said.

The budget continues to support sport and recreation in the ACT through increased funding for the Sport and Recreation Grant Program and through redirecting existing funding to target sectors such as older people and women. The budget also maintains the commitment to host major sporting events such as Kangaroos games at Manuka until 2003 and the Ninth Masters Games in Canberra.

"Canberrans are the highest participants in sporting and recreational activities in the country. Participation in sport and recreation are vital in maintaining a healthy lifestyle, and it is hoped that this budget will allow all sectors of the community, such as older people and women, to gain greater access to activities and facilities," Mr Quinlan said.

"The budget continues to support increased funding for the Sport and Recreation Grant Program in accordance with CPI to \$2.45 million in 2002-03. The grant program provides funding to sport and recreation bodies to stimulate the development of sport and physical recreation activities in the ACT.

"Furthermore, it continues the support announced last year for bringing AFL games to Manuka Oval and to promote AFL code at junior and school age levels, with \$250,000 in 2002-03, and a further \$650,000 for the Ninth Masters Games to be hosted again in Canberra in November 2002.

To balance the current inequitable funding levels for women's sport, the Minister said that funding to champion women's elite teams would be increased this year.

"This will make the contributions to women's teams increase from \$110,000 to \$180,000 overall, with the Canberra Capitals Basketball team receiving \$100,000, and the Canberra Strikers Hockey team and the Canberra Eclipse Soccer Team receiving \$40,000 each.

"Individual sportswomen and women's sporting teams fight a continual battle for recognition, media coverage, funding and sponsorship. This budget, in conjunction with the funding incentives we've introduced for licensed clubs to make donations to women's sport, go some way to redressing that," he said.

Mr Quinlan also stated that the budget provides substantial support for sports facilities.

"\$432,000 will be provided over four years for the forecast operational subsidy requirement at Manuka Oval. Manuka Oval is a significant community asset which is the home base for local cricket and AFL, and the funding will ensure it remains a quality community asset," Mr Quinlan said.

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Media Release



“Significant improvements will also be made to Canberra Stadium, with an expansion of ‘Club Stadium’, the venue’s successful corporate members’ lounge, and improvements to the media facilities. These improvements will assist Canberra Stadium in its preparations for next year’s Rugby World Cup.”

In addition, \$1 million will go towards the Facilities Improvement Program, previously the sportsground improvement program, which will enhance or refurbish existing sports ground facilities to improve their capacity to meet the needs of users. The scope of works includes components such as the provision/or refurbishment of lighting, canteens, toilets, storage areas and change rooms, car parking areas and major remedial landscape works. Another \$250,000 will also be provided for general minor new works to be carried out at sportgrounds and leisure centres.

**Statement ends 25 June 2002**