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ACT Budget 2000
Health Portfolio 07

More Funding of Disability Services for Children

The ACT Government will provide an extra \$1.037 million over four years to help children with a disability, the Minister for Health and Community Care, Michael Moore announced today.

"It is essential that we support children as much as possible to overcome their disabilities which may limit their quality of life and undermine their potential," Mr Moore said.

"We need to act as early as possible to avoid growth problems. This funding will strengthen the service response for early assessment and intervention."

The measure, confirmed today, was first announced in the draft ACT Budget for 2000-2001.

"The earlier intervention and ongoing services will reduce the inevitable pain and effort families with a disabled child experience," Mr Moore said.

"It will also save the child, the family and the community in the longer term as earlier intervention is likely to create greater independence and a better quality of life in the future."

"Providing high quality and appropriate disability services to the local community is a key priority for the ACT Government."

"Unmet need is an area of critical concern, and we will continue our efforts to address this problem. We will be targeting areas of identified need with the aim of providing extra clinical and community services."

"Children with a disability and their families will benefit directly from the extra money, which will also reduce the need for crisis intervention," he said.

Areas of identified need cover the provision of appropriate services for children with complex behavioural and support requirements, including services for children with autism spectrum disorder and cerebral palsy.

Therapy services for children within special schools will also be increased.

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