



## ACT Government

# 2003-2004 BUDGET

---

### BUDGET TARGETS THERAPY SERVICES

The Stanhope Government is to provide more than \$2.3 million over four years to enhance allied health services to post-school aged adolescents and adults with disabilities.

The Minister for Disability, Housing and Community Services, Bill Wood said the funding announced in the 2003/04 Budget would support the provision of a new *Single Therapy Service* in the ACT.

Specifically the funding will facilitate:

- the employment of new therapy staff, including psychologists, social workers, occupational therapists, speech pathologists and physiotherapists;
- the development of services for adolescents; and
- the establishment of a specialist *Behaviour Intervention Program* for post-school young people and adults with complex multiple disabilities.

“The Government is committed to the provision of inclusive services to enable all ACT residents, whatever their circumstances, to participate as much as possible in community life,” Mr Wood said.

“A number of recent reviews, including the Board of Inquiry into Disability Services, identified significant gaps in allied health services for adolescents and adults. This is especially the case for those people with challenging behaviours.

“The budget will provide an extra 5,000 hours of therapy service for people with disabilities in the ACT.

“The Government is determined to substantially reform of the disability sector. In this budget it is responding to a clearly identified gap in services to young people with disabilities and to adults who are at high risk of injury - and at risk of injuring others - due to their challenging behaviour.

“The funding will enhance behaviour management services for these people, thereby reducing the incidence of physical abuse, aggression and assault. The *Behaviour Intervention Program* will assist people with disabilities and their carers to better manage high risk challenging behaviours.

“It will also enable development of services for adolescents and enhance the capacity to provide consultation and advice in relation to safe transport options for people with disabilities.”



Mr Wood said that following extensive community consultation a *Single Therapy Service* will be established within the Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services.

“This new service will commence on 1 July, integrating child and adult therapy services currently provided by the Child Health and Development Service (CHADS) and Disability ACT.

“The Single Therapy Service, supported by the funding initiatives announced in the 2003/04 Budget, will further improve access to therapy services for people with disabilities in the ACT.

“Certainly, the Government’s will not be realised without the provision of adequate allied health services, especially as they pertain to adolescents and adults.”

“The Stanhope Government’s disability reform agenda - *Steps to Reform* - will not be achieved without this commitment to enhancing allied health services to post-school aged adolescents and adults with disabilities through the establishment of a *Single Therapy Service*,” Mr Wood said.

**Statements ends**