



BUDGET 2008 - 2009 READY FOR THE FUTURE MEDIA RELEASE

No. 25

ENSURING OUR WORKERS HAVE A SAFE FUTURE

Minister for Industrial Relations, Andrew Barr, today said the 2008-09 ACT Budget provides extra funding to ensure the safety of workers in the ACT and funding to ensure Canberrans are treated to a great day out on Family and Community Day.

The 2008-09 Budget contains \$1.471 million for the implementation of the Work Safety Legislation which the Government hopes will come into effect this financial year to replace the *Occupational Health and Safety Act 1989*.

“The Stanhope Government believes every worker has the right to a safe and secure working environment,” Mr Barr said.

“The new work safety legislation which the Government hopes will be passed by the ACT Legislative Assembly this year provides a revised framework for regulating work safety in the Territory. The funds provided in this Budget will boost promotion and awareness amongst business operators to assist them to understand their roles and responsibilities under the new legislation.

“The funds will also enable revision of priority codes of practice and regulations and improve training and development within the inspectorate. Ongoing funding is also allocated to the Office of Regulatory Services for additional permanent inspectors to increase regulatory and compliance measures in relation to work safety.

“We want to ensure that all ACT workers are employed in workplaces that guarantee the health and safety of all employees.”

Mr Barr said the Budget also contains funding of \$160,000 for Family and Community Fun Day.

“We held the first ever Family and Community Fun Day in November last year and it was a huge success with many families spending the day together at the events run by the ACT Government and Unions ACT,” Mr Barr said.

“Last year the event held at Glebe Park, provided free, safe, quality family entertainment including Kids@Play activities for children, amusement rides, food and games. And as the day falls on Melbourne Cup day, a big screen was provided to allow families to enjoy the ‘race threat stops the nation’. The funding in this year’s ACT Budget will ensure Family and Community Day 2008 is an even bigger success, and an even better day for Canberra families,” Mr Barr said.

Statement ends

6 May 2008

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