



# ACT Government

## 2002-2003 BUDGET

---

### **2002-03 ACT BUDGET: DELIVERING ON OUR COMMITMENTS AND PROGRESSING OUR VISION**

The 2002-03 ACT Budget delivers on the Stanhope Government's commitments and progresses its vision for Canberra.

"This budget restores and enhances the basic services Canberrans want their Government to provide," Chief Minister Jon Stanhope said.

"In particular, it supports our education and health systems and assists those people in greatest need.

"The budget progresses our long-term strategies for Canberra, which are outlined in a supplementary budget paper, *Shaping Canberra's Future*.

"*Shaping Canberra's Future* presents the Government's vision and its priorities in the areas of education and training, health, planning, sustainability, economic growth, community engagement and safety, and public service capacity.

"This budget reflects our principles – the principles for which the Government was elected – and our vision for Canberra as a strong, confident and prosperous community asserting its place in the country's affairs as the nation's capital. This is a vision of both inclusiveness and supporting those in need."

The Chief Minister said that despite the challenging financial environment inherited by the Government, it has progressed its vision and addressed its priorities in the 2002-03 budget, delivering on many commitments made in the 2001 Election.

"In the area of education and training, we have delivered on our promise to invest a further \$27 million into education over the period of this budget. This is on top of maintaining funding to education in real terms," Mr Stanhope said.

"We are reducing Year Three class sizes in government schools by employing 55 additional teachers, 40 in 2003 and a further 15 in 2004.

"We are building a new primary and high school in Gungahlin, and providing funds to refurbish older schools and for transportable classrooms.

"We are improving IT facilities in schools, with funding for the Laptops for Teachers program and for upgrading general IT capacity in government schools.

"This budget demonstrates our belief in the strategic importance of education to Canberra and that it is a key investment in our future."



AUSTRALIAN  
LABOR  
PARTY

---

**Released: 25 June 2002**

**Inquiries: Greg Friedewald 205 0434 or 0408 680 471**

The Chief Minister said a quality health service is essential for Canberra, and that the Government is addressing the health care of those in greatest need in the budget.

“This budget is a strong budget for health. It delivers on our promises to increase resources in the areas of mental health, disabilities and respite care,” Mr Stanhope said.

“Funding has been provided to address disability requirements to ensure services better meet community needs. With the announcement last week of a new Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services, we are well on the way to reforming this important area of service delivery.

“The budget also improves services for cancer sufferers and their families, providing faster access to treatment and enhanced counselling and support services. We are also providing a program of step-down support for people returning home after hospital care, and addressing Indigenous drug and alcohol issues.

“We are funding important enhancements to the emergency departments of Calvary and Canberra hospitals, and for anticipated growth in demand for medical and surgical needs at the hospitals.

“The Government has also decided to support the establishment of a Canberra Medical School.”

The Chief Minister said the budget will continue the Government’s strategic planning approach, with funding for the development of the strategic planning framework and the strategic spatial plan. This will take account of transport, population growth, employment location, land availability, retail and leisure activity, ecological constraints and community and environmental values.

“We have also provided funding for the comprehensive transport plan, which will consider the infrastructure and service requirements for the ACT community to 2020,” he said.

Mr Stanhope said the Government will also progress its sustainability agenda through the budget.

“We are funding a range of environmental, economic and social initiatives which will ensure we preserve the things that Canberrans love about the Territory and enhance our legacy for future generations,” he said.

“Pursuing a sustainable future is about making decisions that fully integrate economic, social and environmental considerations. An example of how we are progressing sustainability in this budget is our approach to public transport.

“Accessible, affordable and reliable public transport helps reduce greenhouse gases, provides better access to services and jobs, and can even help alleviate poverty.

“We are making a major investment in public transport, with \$46.8 million over five years. As promised, we are reintroducing single zone tickets for travel on ACTION buses, and we are purchasing low floor, more accessible, environmentally-friendly buses.

“Our approach to sustainability is a long-term one, as sustainability cannot be achieved over night, or over any single budget cycle.”

The Chief Minister said the 2002-03 budget helped deliver on the Government’s commitment to foster a diversity of economic activity and development, a priority in *Shaping Canberra’s Future*.

“For example, the budget will encourage growth in the knowledge based industries through support for the Information and Communication Technology Centre of Excellence and for a new Knowledge Fund. Knowledge based industries are a key area being investigated through the Economic White Paper.”

The Chief Minister said that the budget addresses the Government’s priority of making Canberra a safe and inclusive place to live and work.

“Community engagement and safety are major concerns of the Government and of all Canberrans,” Mr Stanhope said.

“In this budget, we are funding initiatives to enhance multiculturalism and encourage young people’s involvement in decision-making. We are supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples through a range of initiatives, and we are funding the examination of the need for a Bill of Rights.

“We are improving safety by providing more police for the Territory, and building a new police station in Woden. We are also upgrading the periodic detention centre to a remand facility.”

The Chief Minister said that the budget builds on public service capacity, another priority in *Shaping Canberra’s Future*.

“We are committed to investing in the Public Service. The budget funds a number of public service IT maintenance initiatives and upgrades vital to the effective operations of the ACT Public Service,” he said.

Mr Stanhope said that the 2002-03 ACT Budget was just part of the Government’s approach to shaping Canberra’s future.

“Our vision for Canberra is a long-term one. It won’t be delivered in just one budget cycle, but with this budget, we are taking the first steps by restoring and enhancing the basic services that the Canberra community cares about,” he said.

**Statement ends 25 June 2002**