



ACT Government

2002-2003 BUDGET

PARENTLINK SERVICE

“The Stanhope Government has pledged more than \$400,000 over the next four years to support families with the continuation of the ParentLink telephone service, following the withdrawal of NRMA sponsorship.

“The telephone service is central to the delivery of parenting advice, guidance and referral, and is key to providing the “connections” for parents to the broad range of services in the ACT” Mr Corbell said.

Mr Corbell said that “the ACT Labor Government has demonstrated a strong commitment to providing quality information to assist parents. Support for parents through an integrated government approach is highlighted in a number of key policy areas including youth affairs, women and community services.”

The NRMA has sponsored the ParentLink Telephone Service for the past two years, with \$100,000 per annum matched by the ACT Government, however the NRMA informed the ACT Government last month that sponsorship will not continue past 30 June 2002, due to “changing priorities for community sponsorship.”

The commitment of the Stanhope Government to the ParentLink service will ensure that this vital service continues will strengthen and support families in relation to the care and protection of their children.

In 2002-2003 \$100,000 has been allocated, \$103,000 in 2003-04, \$105,000 in 2004-05 and \$108,000 in 2005-06.

“The highly successful ParentLink campaign promotes attitudes and behaviours in parents and the general community that nurture and support children and strengthen families”, Mr Corbell said.

The ACT ParentLink campaign draws on the messages from the experience of other Australian states. Research also indicates that early intervention with families has consistently been shown to prevent juvenile crime and drug and alcohol misuse. International research has established that young people do not become young offenders when parents are interested, confident and able to set clear limits on behaviour.

Mr Corbell said, “Parenting is a tough job. The aim is to provide parents with increased opportunities to further build confidence and enhance skills.”

ParentLink provides a telephone service where professionals provide parenting advice and guidance. ParentLink provides materials to address the needs of special groups. ParentLink encourages greater awareness of the importance of parenting and the range of supports that are available.

Statement ends 25 June 2002



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