



SOCIAL CAPITAL – GOVERNMENT, BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY WORKING TOGETHER FOR CANBERRA

ACT Urban Services Minister, Brendan Smyth today announced funding for a range of projects designed to build and enhance social capital in the ACT.

“The ACT Government has allocated funds totalling of \$3.5 million in the 2000/2001 Budget, \$730,000 of which is for Urban Services, for initiatives centred around improving the partnerships between government, business and the community. The range of initiatives are designed to improve the health and well-being of the community by encouraging them to pool together to achieve their goals,” Mr Smyth said.

“These initiatives build on a commitment by the ACT Government to enhance Canberra’s reputation as a clever, caring capital, and reflects the government priority of building a community with a focus on information technology.

“Social capital is all about the health and well being of the Canberra community. The ACT Government has allocated these funds to develop networks based on shared interests, enduring relationships and trust.”

Mr Smyth said the budget allocation would fund the following Urban Services social capital projects:

- **Community Renewal** – Working with precinct community groups to develop partnerships to tackle community issues such as safety, the environment and opportunities for local employment.
- **Community Mentoring Scheme** – Working with future community leaders with the help of Canberra’s business and community leaders to promote the use of advances of technology, such as online transactions and smartcards, to businesses and the community.
- **Community on-line projects** – A project that involves working with small, local groups to participate in the technology advances taking place in the community.
- **Community links webpage** – A new Internet website that details practical steps communities can take to build a successful community.



Brendan Smyth MLA

Australian Capital Territory

Minister for Urban Services

Member for Brindabella

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These initiatives further demonstrate the Government's commitment to look after Canberra's local communities and improve people's quality of life. The community linkages and online projects, which are the focus of Urban Services' initiatives, will encourage small local groups to participate in the technology advances taking place in the community, such as those arising from the implementation of the TRANSACT service.

Statement ends / Tuesday 23 May 2000

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