



23 May 2000

ACT Budget 2000  
Health Portfolio 01

# The Health Portfolio at a Glance

The Minister for Health and Community Care, Michael Moore, today welcomed the growing contribution the ACT Government was making towards the health of the Canberra community.

*"The 2000-01 Budget released today contains initiatives totalling **\$15.8million** for public health in Canberra," the Minister said.*

*"Significant new spending has been targeted towards areas of special need, with a large pool of funds also made available to react rapidly to emerging demand.*

*"In particular, \$8.8 million in new **Growth Needs** funding means that the Government has fire-walled our community's health services against the financial shocks felt in other jurisdictions.*

*"These outcomes are made possible by the good financial management displayed by the Government over recent years. We are seeing the benefits of our rising economy flow through Government into health services that benefit all in our community," Mr Moore said.*

The Budget increases funding to acute hospital services, but also has a particular emphasis on primary and community care services, in line with the directions set in the Government's *Setting the Agenda* strategy.

The portfolio's gains are partly offset by a \$2.4million deduction which recognises the need for the ACT public hospital sector to contain its high expenses to no more than 10% above national benchmark levels.

*"I am particularly pleased that the health portfolio will be making a contribution to the Governments **Building Social Capital** initiatives," the Minister said.*

*"It should be a top priority for a caring government to provide special services to those individuals and families who are at risk of disconnection from the benefits of a wealthy society.*

*"I am delighted that this Government is leading the agenda in this country in addressing social disadvantages," he said.*

**Key features** of the 2000-01 Budget include—

- The new Growth in Needs funding pool – an initiative unveiled in January's Draft Budget – has been confirmed at **\$8.8 million**.\*

- **\$3.5million** for electronic service delivery;
- Other initiatives to a total value of **\$2.5 million**;
- **\$10.1million** in capital works initiatives within the portfolio;\*
- The portfolio's contribution to the Government's *Building Social Capital* package - **\$935,000** in new initiatives aimed at disadvantaged members of our community;\*
- The Elective Surgery funding pool – announced at \$3 million in 1998 and boosted to \$6 million in 1999 – continues at the rate of **\$6 million**, for the purchase of extra surgery to reduce waiting times;

(\* More information is provided in a separate media release issued today)

The 2000-01 Budget includes **new and increased services** to the community, including:

- \$800,000 for the trial of a supervised injecting place;
- \$636,000 for child and adolescent mental health services;\*
- \$414,000 for the launch of the ACT Genetics Service at the Canberra Hospital;\*
- \$325,000 for child and adolescent mental health support – a Building Social Capital initiative;
- \$250,000 for increases in disability services for children;\*
- \$200,000 for dual diagnosis client accommodation support;
- \$190,000 for a nucleic acid testing initiative for blood product screening;\*
- \$140,000 for the *Depression Initiative* – a Building Social Capital initiative;
- \$125,000 for an increase in methadone places from 600 to 700;
- \$120,000 for indigenous youth health poly-diagnosis – a Building Social Capital initiative;
- \$120,000 for more attention to youth suicide – a Building Social Capital initiative;
- \$100,000 for an additional indigenous health worker;\*
- \$90,000 for the *Well Babies* program – a Building Social Capital initiative;
- \$80,000 for a mobile oxygen scheme;
- \$70,000 for child and youth nutrition funds – a Building Social Capital initiative;
- \$70,000 for *Youth at Risk* – a Building Social Capital initiative;
- \$50,000 for official visitors to mental health facilities;
- funds (under negotiation) for increased diabetes resources, including free needles.\*

(\* More information is provided in a separate media release issued today)

**NB: Attached** is a table summarising Health and Community Care portfolio initiatives.

