



## FACTSHEET No: 8

# Inclusive Canberra

The Government is committed to ensuring that Canberra remains a vibrant, socially inclusive community. All members of our community should have access to services with the same opportunities to achieve success and live their lives to the fullest extent possible.

Initiatives for celebrating the cultures of people from multicultural backgrounds have proven a great success.

Indigenous Australians are more at risk and at a greater disadvantage than other Australians, and while the level of disadvantage is not as great here in the ACT than it is elsewhere, the Government is committed to working to close the gap.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

The Government has a strong record of supporting members of our local multicultural communities and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Canberrans and has:

- created a hub of multicultural activity in the Theo Notaras Multicultural Centre;
- funded the 2008 National Multicultural Festival, which attracted over 170,000 people, and the Multicultural Grants Program;
- helped people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds become job ready through the successful Work Experience Support Program;
- provided free services and programs for refugees and temporary visa holders to the ACT including child care for parents attending English language classes at the CIT;
- introduced legislation in the Legislative Assembly to create an Indigenous Elected Body to advocate for the local Indigenous community;

- provided support for the United Ngunnawal Elders Council, which reports to the Minister for Indigenous Affairs;
- established a Taskforce on Indigenous Affairs across Government to progress issues of importance to Indigenous people in the ACT; and
- completed refurbishment of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Centre at Yarrumundi Reach, which will provide an environment for a dynamic cultural program and additional exhibition space to showcase Indigenous culture.

## ACT BUDGET 2008-09 – READY FOR THE FUTURE

The 2008-09 Budget will continue to ensure that Canberra remains an inclusive city where all residents have the opportunity to live life to the fullest extent, now and in the future, by:

- further supporting 'at risk' Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families through a range of integrated human services;
- funding for NAIDOC Week festivities which will be hosted in Canberra this year; and
- increasing funding for the Multicultural Festival and the Multicultural Grants Program.





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## ACT BUDGET 2008-09 INITIATIVES

INITIATIVE	WHAT DO THESE INITIATIVES DELIVER FOR THE FUTURE?
\$2.5 million over four years for an Integrated Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Family Support Service.	At risk Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families are better supported through targeted intensive family support.
\$624,000 over four years for the Community Sector Support Fund for NAIDOC week, the United Ngunnawal Elders Council and charitable donations.	Indigenous members of the community are able to celebrate their culture and have opportunities to provide advice to the Government on issues that affect their well being.
\$416,000 over four years for Multicultural Grant Programs.	Members of our multicultural community have access to items such as cultural costumes, festivals, radio programs, newsletters and language programs.
\$416,000 over four years for the Multicultural Festival.	All Canberrans have the opportunity to enjoy and share their culture and practise their beliefs.

# BUDGET 2008 - 2009

### Further information

Department of Treasury  
 Finance and Budget Division  
 GPO Box 158, Canberra City ACT 2601  
[www.treasury.act.gov.au](http://www.treasury.act.gov.au)