



ACT Government
2003-2004 BUDGET

**IMPROVEMENTS TO CHILD
PROTECTION SERVICES**

An investment of more than \$2.1 million over the next four years has been allocated in this Budget to enhance child protection.

The Stanhope Government is committed to protecting the vulnerable and supporting children and young people in need of care and protection.

“Children and young people at risk of abuse and neglect are among the most vulnerable in our community. It is essential that government continues to invest in a system which delivers the support and protection required by children and young people in need,” Ms Katy Gallagher, Minister for Family Services said.

Improvements have already been made to support families in the ACT. This initiative builds on the reforms already in action. Funds will be used to:

- Introduce a centralised intake system for reports of suspected child abuse; and
- Improve the process of assessing risk and keeping children safe.

The centralised intake system will provide one point of contact for the public to report concerns. This will result in greater consistency of responses including data collection and quality assurance.

“This initiative and the reforms implemented recently are aimed at enhancing work practices of those involved in child protection and most importantly improving the outcomes of the children and families in need of family services support,” Ms Gallagher said.

Statement ends.

Media Release

