



## ACT Government

# 2003-2004 BUDGET

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### A BOOST FOR COUNSELLING SERVICES IN HIGH SCHOOLS

The Stanhope Government has committed an additional \$2.6 million over the next four years for counselling and welfare services in ACT government schools. This initiative will provide a youth worker in every government high school.

In the first year of the initiative, around eight youth workers will be employed. This number will rise to 17 in the second year, ensuring youth worker support is available for every government high school. The employment of additional youth workers will increase the ability of schools to respond to the increasingly diverse needs of students.

“The youth workers will play an important role in supporting students and will complement and extend the existing counselling and welfare services,” Minister for Education, Youth and Family Services, Ms Katy Gallagher said

“We recognise the importance of providing a mix of welfare services to ensure students are given every opportunity to continue on with their education.”

The initiative follows on from the Government’s review of counselling services funded in the last budget. The review investigated how to enhance counselling services for schools including, closer links with other agencies and the development of multidisciplinary teams.

Although the Government has yet to fully consider and respond to the recently completed review, it is intends to explore suggestions relating to a multi-disciplinary approach.  
**Statement ends.**

Media Release



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