



## ACT Government

# 2003-2004 BUDGET

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### BUDGET CONTINUES TO SUPPORT THE SPORTING CAPITAL

The 2003-04 ACT Budget continues to support Canberra as Australia's sporting capital by upgrading sporting facilities and providing support for major sporting events and women's elite sport, Sports Minister Ted Quinlan said.

"We are providing \$850,000 for upgrading the National Hockey Centre's hockey field to international standard, with the new field to be of the wet synthetic type. This funding will also support improvements to drainage, lighting and fencing work at the Hockey Centre," he said.

"We have also allocated \$1 million for the upgrade program of sportsgrounds, pools and recreation facilities.

"Change rooms will be built at O'Connor Enclosed Oval and at Conder playing fields. The pavilions at Deakin West and Woden Park Athletics Field will be refurbished.

"We are installing new training lights at Gordon playing fields and Isabella Plains oval and carrying out improvements to Dickson pool, such as landscaping, shade screens, seating and regrouting of the pool."

Mr Quinlan said the budget maintains the Government's commitment to hosting major sporting events by providing additional funds for its agreement with the Australian Football League.

"We are providing \$250,000 a year for the next three years for staging four AFL matches at Manuka Oval each year. Under our agreement, the AFL will promote football at junior and school-age level in the ACT and will also make reasonable endeavours to provide live broadcasts of the ACT matches into other states," he said.

Funding for the Sport and Recreation Grant Program has been increased in line with CPI, bringing it to \$2,518 425 next financial year.

The Minister said the budget continues to support women's sport to address the current inequitable funding levels.

"Like last year, we are providing \$180,000 to the ACT's champion women's elite teams. The Canberra Capitals Basketball team will receive \$100,000, while the Canberra Strikers Hockey team and the Canberra Eclipse Soccer Team will each receive \$40,000," he said.

"\$60,000 will also be provided for women's sport under the Sport and Recreation Grant Program, and four \$5000 female coaching scholarships are being funded through the ACT Academy of Sport."

Media Release



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“In addition, next financial year, we will be implementing the ACT Actively Ageing Framework, which aims to develop a coordinated approach encouraging physical activity for older Canberrans, as there are significant health benefits flowing from a physically active ageing community.

“Canberrans are the highest participants in sport and recreation in the country, and this budget will help us maintain this position,” Mr Quinlan concluded.  
**Statement ends.**