



ACT Government

2002-2003 BUDGET

CANBERRA MIDWIFERY PROGRAM TO GROW

The Canberra Midwifery Program will be extended to allow more women to choose midwifery care or homebirth, Chief Minister, Jon Stanhope, said today.

Budget 2002-03 provides an additional \$100,000 in recurrent funding to support the growth of the Canberra Midwifery Program and to establish a homebirthing service. The funding increase will allow the midwifery program to support an additional 60 women in 2002-03

“My Government recognises the importance of choice in childbirth and we are acting to expand the range of options available to women in the ACT.

“During the election we pledged to ensure independent midwives have access to public hospitals.

“We are meeting that commitment by expanding the Canberra Midwifery Program to include homebirth as one of the options in the midwifery led care program.

“Under this arrangement, The Canberra Hospital will employ the midwives – a model which represents an exciting addition to an excellent program and which will allow women to give birth safely in the comfort of their own home.

“We are also increasing the resources available to the Canberra Midwifery Program to cater for the growth in demand for midwifery led care.

“Many women prefer midwifery led care and choose to have their baby in the home-like environment offered at the birthing centre.

“This Budget provides the additional funding to support women in exercising that choice,” said Mr Stanhope.

The Chief Minister advised the inclusion of homebirth in the Canberra Midwifery Program was subject to the Government’s ability to secure insurance.

“We are confident of our ability to obtain insurance and aim to have the service operating by the end of the year,” said Mr Stanhope.

Statement ends 25 June 2002

Media Release



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