



ACT Government

2002-2003 BUDGET

GOVERNMENT PLEDGES MORE PLACES TO SUPPORT FAMILIES IN NEED OF OCCASIONAL CHILD CARE IN TIMES OF CRISIS

The ACT Labor Government has pledged more than \$400,000 over the next four years to support families in crisis who need to access emergency short term child care. In 2002-03 \$103,000 has been allocated, \$105,000 in 2003-04, \$108,000 in 2004-05 and \$110,000 in 2005-06.

“This initiative will provide ten emergency child care places, in occasional care services across the ACT, to assist vulnerable families within our community to access short term child-care in times of family emergencies or crisis. “

“Emergency child care places will be used by Family Services clients, children at risk, families referred by other agencies and also families requiring short-term care due to emergencies such as medical or family crises.” Mr Corbell said.

The Stanhope Labor Government made an election commitment to programs to support children and families in the early years of childhood. The provision of emergency child care places for families experiencing an emergency or crisis will potentially assist at risk families and children in our community.

The Government recently initiated a review by an independent consultant of ACT funded occasional care services. The consultant’s draft recommendations include the funding of ten emergency child care places, or the equivalent of 20,400 hours in a year, in occasional care services. The report highlights the importance of occasional care services in meeting the needs of families requiring access to child care that is flexible, affordable and responsive to their needs. ACT funded occasional care services provide this flexibility by enabling families to book and pay for the hours they require.

The Stanhope Labor Government is committed to supporting vulnerable members of the ACT community in a financially prudent and sustainable way. This Budget initiative is aimed at a vulnerable group in the community, those families who are in crisis and need emergency child care. By committing more than \$400,000 over the next four years, the Government is putting in place a sustainable and timely service.

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