



ACT Government

2002-2003 BUDGET

EXTRA FUNDS FOR THE HOME AND COMMUNITY CARE PROGRAM

The ACT Government is increasing support services for frail aged people and younger people with a disability, Chief Minister, Jon Stanhope, said today.

The ACT Budget 2002-03 provides an additional \$629,000 in recurrent funding for the joint Commonwealth/ACT Home and Community Care (HACC) Program. As part of the Program, the ACT is required to match Commonwealth growth funds provided through Commonwealth Special Purpose Payments.

“Being able to choose where you live is an issue of dignity and human rights that able bodied people often take for granted.

“Many frail older people and people with a disability prefer to be supported and cared for in their home or in the community.

“My Government respects that choice and will work to provide the necessary funding and resources to enable people to enjoy their chosen environment.

“The Home and Community Care Program supports a wide range of services to help people who need basic support to continue to live in the community.

“Without this support they would have to move, prematurely and against their wishes, into a hostel, nursing home or other institution.

“In the ACT we currently have nearly 24,000 people eligible for assistance through the HACC Program.

“With the proportion of our population over 65 years of age expected to triple between 1998 and 2051, we can expect the demand for home and community care services to grow substantially.

“The extra funding will meet our commitments to the Program, with priority services aimed at supporting people most in need,” said Mr Stanhope.

The HACC Program is a joint initiative of the Commonwealth and State and Territory Governments. The program was introduced in response to recommended changes in the balance between institutional and community based services for older people and younger people with a disability.

The additional funding will bring the total annual funding for the HACC Program for clients in the ACT to over \$15 million.

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