



# ACT Government

## 2002-2003 BUDGET

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### CONSUMER LAW CENTRE FOR THE ACT

The 2002-03 Budget will provide for the establishment of a Consumer Law Centre, Chief Minister, Jon Stanhope, said today.

Mr Stanhope said the Government had promised during the election campaign to increase general community awareness and understanding of consumer rights.

“Our commitment was to ensure that ordinary consumers can access their legal rights, through education initiatives and public comment on issues of importance,” he said.

“The establishment of a Consumer Law Centre will provide a basis for non government consumer advocacy programs and give consumers greater access to an independent advice service.

“The Budget provides \$103,000 in 2002-03 towards the establishment of the Centre.

“The funding is provided on the basis that the service:

- will be located in the community sector,
- can be collocated with a pre-existing service, providing considerable savings both in set-up and on costs, and
- will employ a solicitor with an unrestricted practicing certificate and a legal secretary, to the equivalent of a half time position.

“The Department of Justice and Community Safety is currently negotiating with existing Community Legal Centres to determine where the Consumer Law Centre will be best placed.

“The creation of this Consumer Law Centre will redress the loss of the service formerly provided by CARE which the former Liberal Government defunded,” Mr Stanhope said.

**Statement ends 25 June 2002**

Media Release

