



Kate Carnell MLA

Chief Minister

Australian Capital
Territory

BUDGET INITIATIVES **FOR THE ACT'S INDIGENOUS** **COMMUNITY**

The 2000-2001 ACT Budget contains major increases in practical support to the ACT's Indigenous community, Chief Minister and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs, Kate Carnell, said today.

"The ACT Government has taken a whole of government approach to Indigenous policy by developing the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy Framework and associated strategic policies addressing areas such as education and training, housing, employment, justice and health," Mrs Carnell said.

"This budget addresses a number of these areas, with a particular focus on health and justice issues. Indigenous Canberrans will benefit from the budget initiatives, which are also consistent with our aim to build social capital in Canberra."

The 2000-2001 Budget includes the following initiatives.

- Approximately \$418,000 will be provided over four years for **an extra Indigenous health worker** to help improve Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health.
- \$480,000 will be provided over four years for an **Indigenous Youth Health program**. The program will take a broad holistic approach designed to improve access to mainstream services for young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people experiencing multiple and complex health problems.
- **Child and youth nutrition pilot programs** will be conducted in schools to improve the health status of Indigenous and at-risk children and youth by promoting through a number of activities the benefits of a healthy breakfast.
- \$185,000 a year will be provided for **accommodation support for at-risk Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people**. This will address the need for these young people to have accommodation services available after juvenile justice facilities.
- **An Indigenous teacher** will be engaged to join the literacy/numeracy team to assist schools in working on programs with lower primary grades.

m e d i a r e l e a s e



Kate Carnell MLA

Chief Minister

Australian Capital
Territory

- The Department of Education and Community Services will implement **an employment strategy** to attract and engage more Indigenous teachers to ACT schools.
- \$100,000 a year will be provided for an **extra position in the Heritage Unit** in Environment ACT to focus on the mechanisms for Aboriginal heritage site registration and conservation.
- In the 2000/2001 round of the ACT Heritage Grants Program, \$30,000 of the available \$239,000 has been quarantined to ensure that *at least* this amount is made available for **Aboriginal heritage projects**. In addition, the Heritage Discovery Program will assist Canberra residents and visitors to find out more about our natural, Indigenous and historic places. It will include activities to promote an increased awareness of Aboriginal heritage.

Mrs Carnell pointed out that these initiatives add to the many mainstream and Indigenous specific programs already in place across the ACT Government to address the needs of the Indigenous community.

ENDS/ 23 May 2000

Further information:
Geoff Harris

(02) 6205 0013 - office
(0417) 425 579 - mobile