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ACT Budget 2000  
Health Portfolio 12

## Extra Help for Women with Breast Cancer

Funding to help local women meet the cost of a breast prosthesis following a mastectomy will be increased, the Minister for Health and Community Care, Michael Moore, announced today.

The measure, confirmed today, was first announced in the draft ACT Budget for 2000-2001.

Effective from 1 March this year all public patients and partially insured private patients will receive \$210 towards their first breast prosthesis.

Women undergoing bilateral mastectomy will receive up to \$420 towards the provision of two prostheses.

The initiative increases the amount of funding and significantly extends eligibility for the prosthesis scheme.

At present, only women who receive a pension receive a maximum of \$130 towards the first prosthesis.

*"The diagnosis and surgery for breast cancer is traumatic enough without the additional imposition of financial worries," Mr Moore said.*

*"Financial assistance may go some way towards easing the pain of diagnosis and surgery for breast cancer.*

*"This initiative is another step towards the provision of a fully integrated cancer and consumer focussed service that meets the needs of cancer patients in the ACT and surrounding region."*

Extending the scheme is expected to cost approximately \$88,000 over four years.

H12\_1st Mastectomy