



ACT Government

2003-2004 BUDGET

\$2M BOOST FOR ELECTIVE SURGERY TO TREAT 600 MORE PATIENTS ANNUALLY

The ACT Government has targeted surgical waiting lists at Calvary Hospital by allocating \$2 million per annum in additional funding for elective surgery in the 2003-04 Budget, said Minister for Health, Simon Corbell said today.

“Our hospitals and health professionals have a consistently high response to category one surgery cases, but waiting times for less urgent elective surgery, category two and three, are far too long, and the Stanhope Government is committed to reducing this wait,” he said.

This additional \$2 million per annum will be used to treat patients predominantly in those areas currently experiencing longer waiting times, including orthopaedics, ophthalmology, general surgery, plastic surgery and ear, nose and throat surgery.

“We estimate that approximately 590 additional people will receive elective surgery each year with this funding.

“That is 590 Canberrans who will have greatly improved health outcomes and quality of life.

“Patients with the highest clinical need who have been waiting the longest will be the greatest beneficiaries of this Budget initiative. It will initially be aimed at people already on the elective surgery waiting lists so they will have their surgery more quickly than would otherwise be possible.

“This is one Budget initiative of which I am particularly proud, it will go a long way towards alleviating a very unsatisfactory area of our health system,” Mr Corbell concluded.

Statement ends.

Media Release



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