



ACT Government

Building a stronger community sector

Embargoed until 1 May 2001

The Minister for Health, Housing and Community Services, Michael Moore, said that the community sector was a major beneficiary in this year's Budget.

In addition to the many initiatives to be delivered by non-government organisations, the Budget also provides increased direct assistance for community organisations.

"We value these organisations highly, for they are a vital part of our community," the Minister said.

"Accordingly, we have dedicated \$1 million in ongoing funding and \$1.8 million in infrastructure funds to direct assistance to the community sector."

Building Community Capacity

Non-government organisation and community group funding has been increased by \$1 million for 2001-02.

Organisations funded through the Department of Health Housing and Community Care will be increased by \$0.6 million, with the Department of Education and Community Services receiving an extra \$0.4 million.

This initiative will facilitate improvements in service delivery by the non-government sector through current service purchasing arrangements.

The additional funding will be used to enhance the capacity of the non-government sector to meet needs and improve the quality of services provided.

"These funds will be earmarked to ease the operating challenges of the sector, without requiring additional services," Mr Moore said.

Griffin Centre Enhancement

Mr Moore is confident the new Griffin Centre Enhancement initiative will be welcomed by ACT community organisations.

The ACT Government Budget has committed \$1.7 million in 2001-02 as part of the replacement of the Griffin Centre on Section 56 and part of Section 35 Canberra City.

This initiative will enable additional space to be provided and also provides for fit-out of the new centre.

"The extra space will provide meeting, office and storage space for a range of additional community organisations that serve the ACT community and the wider region," Mr Moore said.

The enhancement of the new Griffin Centre is consistent with the ACT Government's promotion of Canberra as a clever capital and builds on the Government's social capital objectives.

Helping Community Service Organisations to Help the Community

The ACT Government will implement new technology to simplify ACT organisations' methods of reporting and streamlining data collection.

The Department of Education and Community Services contracts with about 83 non-government organisations. As part of their service purchasing arrangements, all organisations report to the department on a regular basis.

\$100,000 has been allocated in the 2001-02 Budget for a flexible data collection and reporting system.

The system will allow providers to:

- Import and use data from other data collection systems;
- Have customised data, thus allowing reporting to multiple stakeholders (including other funding areas within the ACT Government);
- Access and analyse demographic data on all of their clients, regardless of the funding source; and
- Access and analyse demographic data across all services participating in the data collection.

Mr Moore said: "This proposal supports the Government's commitment to social capital by helping community services to better use resources and provide more efficient services.

"This is all about using our resources in a clever way and working together to get the best possible outcomes for the Canberra community, including families, children and young people."

Statement ends

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