



ACT Government
2004-2005 BUDGET

MEDIA RELEASE

BOOST FOR EMERGENCY ACCOMODATION

The Stanhope Government has provided \$381,000 - \$1.6 million over the next four years - in the 2004-05 Budget to increase funding for emergency accommodation in the ACT.

Disability, Housing and Community Services Minister Bill Wood said the funding will be directed to the Canberra Emergency Accommodation Service (CEAS), which this year has been involved in a pilot partnership with Anglicare and Lifeline.

“Through this unique approach, people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness will receive immediate access to crisis accommodation options, including motel and caravan accommodation,” Mr Wood said.

“This service also offers other flexible responses to homelessness, including financial assistance, brokerage funds, as well as improved access to supported accommodation options through an information and referral telephone line.

“This initiative will enable CEAS to continue to meet demand for services on an ongoing basis and align with Government policies that provide a practical response to homelessness.

“Anglicare reported a high level of usage during the pilot and I am pleased the Government is in a position to fund the service on a permanent basis.

Mr Wood said an unprecedented \$55.8 million would be spent in the next four years in response to homelessness in the Territory.

He said this includes the allocation of \$13.4 million announced last financial year, \$1.6 million over the next four years for CEAS, and \$40.8 million over 4 years for the Supported Accommodation Assistance Program.

“The monies underpin the *ACT Homelessness Strategy*, a landmark four-year plan to address the causes and effects of homelessness in the ACT. The Strategy forms part of the Social Plan, with its core principles of access, equity and participation,” Mr Wood said.

Statement Ends.