



ACT Government  
**2004-2005 BUDGET**

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**MEDIA RELEASE**

**OLDER COMMUNITY CENTRES TO BE REFURBISHED**

The Stanhope Government will provide \$560,000 for Minor New Works to refurbish the ACT's government-owned Community Centres. A further \$250,000 - \$750,000 over four years – will be spent on the Therapy ACT facility in Holder.

Disability, Housing and Community Services Minister Bill Wood said \$350,000 would go towards the refurbishment and upgrading of older community centres to meet current building standards and space requirements, and to improve amenity for community accommodation and use.

“All buildings reach a stage where repair and maintenance programs are no longer adequate to keep them in appropriate condition, functionally efficient, or cost effective,” Mr Wood said.

“Many of our older community facilities fall into this category and are in need of upgrades.

“These works will improve community sector accommodation and amenity, and extend the economic life of the buildings. Works will include the refurbishment of toilets, halls, meeting rooms and office space to acceptable standards through the replacement of fittings and upgrading of surfaces where they no longer meet current standards.

“There is also \$210,000 available for OH&S and access and equity upgrades in the Community Centres. This program aims to make the buildings safe and accessible for all and, specifically, to meet the needs of those with disabilities.

“Access to facilities for people with disabilities and the elderly is an issue in many community centres and may prevent people in need from receiving help from government-funded community services and programs.

“The Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services recently completed a building condition assessment which identified a number of problem areas for both access and safety, such physical access, exterior lighting, fire detection and prevention systems.

“Undertaking the works through this program will improve safety for users of community facilities and reduce the risks associated with public liability issues for the Government,” Mr Wood said.

**In a boost for the staff and clients of Therapy ACT, the Stanhope Government will also provide an additional \$250,000 - \$750,000 over two years - in the 2004-05 Budget for further refurbishment of the organisation's Holder premises.**

“This funding will build on last year’s allocation of \$500,000 for a roof upgrade and improved security at the facility.

“We need to ensure the building is in a fit state with appropriate access for clients with disabilities and suitable accommodation, including ventilation and heating.

“The facility needs to meet current health and safety requirements and building code standards, and will provide an acceptable work environment for staff and clients of Therapy ACT and Single Therapy Services,” Mr Wood said.

**Statement Ends.**