



ACT
Government

Australian Capital Territory

Budget 2024–25

Budget at a Glance

Acknowledgement of Country



The ACT Government acknowledges the Ngunnawal people as traditional custodians of the ACT and recognise any other people or families with connection to the lands of the ACT and region. We acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of this city and this region.

© Australian Capital Territory, Canberra 2024

Material in this publication may be reproduced provided due acknowledgement is made.

Produced by the Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate. Enquiries about this publication should be directed to the Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate.

GPO Box 158, Canberra City 2601

act.gov.au

Telephone: Access Canberra – 13 22 81



Accessibility
Ph 13 22 81



Interpreter
Ph 131 450

Chief Minister's message

This Budget delivers more public health services, it provides targeted cost of living relief, invests in improving housing choice, access and affordability and builds the infrastructure our growing city needs.



While our economy is on track for a 34th year of consecutive growth, the rate of growth will be slower and we know parts of our community are still experiencing cost of living pressures. Recognising these challenges, we are working to assist Canberrans by increasing targeted cost of living supports.

At the same time as addressing these pressing challenges, we are not losing sight of the need to make strategic investments today to prepare us for a prosperous and more sustainable future that continues to improve the wellbeing of our community.

The Budget delivers a significant investment in health, providing more services in our hospitals and across our community health network, supporting the workforce to continue to grow and ensuring Canberrans can access the right care, when and where they need it.

We are continuing to increase housing supply, support more social and affordable housing, and cut stamp duty.

We are investing further in the foundations of our education system, providing life-long benefits and setting children up with the best chance for success.

By supporting families to electrify their household appliances through the Sustainable Household Scheme and other actions in our Integrated Energy Plan, we are assisting the ACT community's transition to a cleaner future.

And by continuing to invest in supporting new businesses and the growth of our arts and entertainment sectors and the knowledge economy, we are helping to further guide the diversification of the ACT economy and support future economic prosperity.

This Budget reflects our priorities and aspirations for our growing community – to be the best place in the country to live, to work, to invest, to study and to call home.

Andrew Barr
Chief Minister, Treasurer

A focus on Canberra's wellbeing

Canberra is one of the most liveable cities in the world. The ACT is taking a wellbeing approach to maximise our benefits and to meet the challenges we face.

At its heart, the ACT approach to wellbeing is about understanding and acting on what is important for the wellbeing of our people, our environment, and our institutions – individually, and as a whole. This means identifying and responding to areas of need and delivering change over time.

A wellbeing approach recognises that a strong economy and well-functioning institutions are crucial to the wellbeing of our people and our overall wellbeing as a community. It also considers other aspects of our quality of life, such as our access to healthcare and education, our level of social connection, and our safety within our communities – the things that the community told the Government most mattered to them.

Wellbeing in the ACT means recognising the balance between the things that are important and need urgent attention right now, and the things that will impact wellbeing over longer time periods sometimes across generations, and which require longer term consideration, recognition and investment.

Incorporating a wellbeing approach, measurement and impact assessments into the processes of government is a gradual and considered effort. This year we are releasing our first Wellbeing Budget Statement – a clear signal as we continue down this path of embedding the wellbeing framework in our decision making.

In the lead-up to the 2024-25 Budget, the Government identified six priority areas where investment will make a particular difference to wellbeing. These are: *Housing, Physical and mental health, Women, Early years, Cost of living, and Addressing marginalisation and disadvantage.*



Budget overview

The 2024-25 Budget continues to deliver more services for Canberra's population, investing in our health system, continuing assistance with cost of living pressures and associated housing pressures, improving wellbeing, supporting marginalised and disadvantaged Canberrans and supporting economic growth.

Despite numerous headwinds and slower national and global economic activity, the ACT economy remains robust with a positive outlook. Public demand, business investment, and an easing yet strong labour market, along with wages growth and population inflows are expected to continuously underpin economic activity in the ACT despite weakened household consumption and residential investment.

Moderate real Gross State Product (GSP) growth is forecast in 2023-24 and 2024-25 as higher interest rates and cost of living pressures dampen household consumption and housing investment. This follows very strong GSP growth of 4.3 per cent in 2022-23 - the highest among all states and territories in Australia and above the ACT's long-run average of 3.75 per cent. Economic growth is expected to strengthen gradually from 2025-26, as inflation stabilises, and growth in real household incomes supports stronger private demand.

The robust growth in ACT's labour market is expected to slow over the forward years in response to the lower national net overseas migration. However, the ACT's labour market participation continues to be well above the national rate and public investment is expected to grow strongly in 2024-25, supported by the ACT Government's investment in social and affordable housing, assistance with cost of living measures, measures under the Integrated Energy Plan and further investments into the education sector.

The headline net operating balance is forecast to improve each year across the forward estimates as we return to a balanced position. In addition, this Budget also delivers a strong increase in the net operating cash position over the four years to 2027-28, increasing our capacity to fund key infrastructure improvements to meet future community needs.



Where our money goes

Health

\$2.6 billion

Environment,
sustainable development
and climate change

\$229 million

Justice

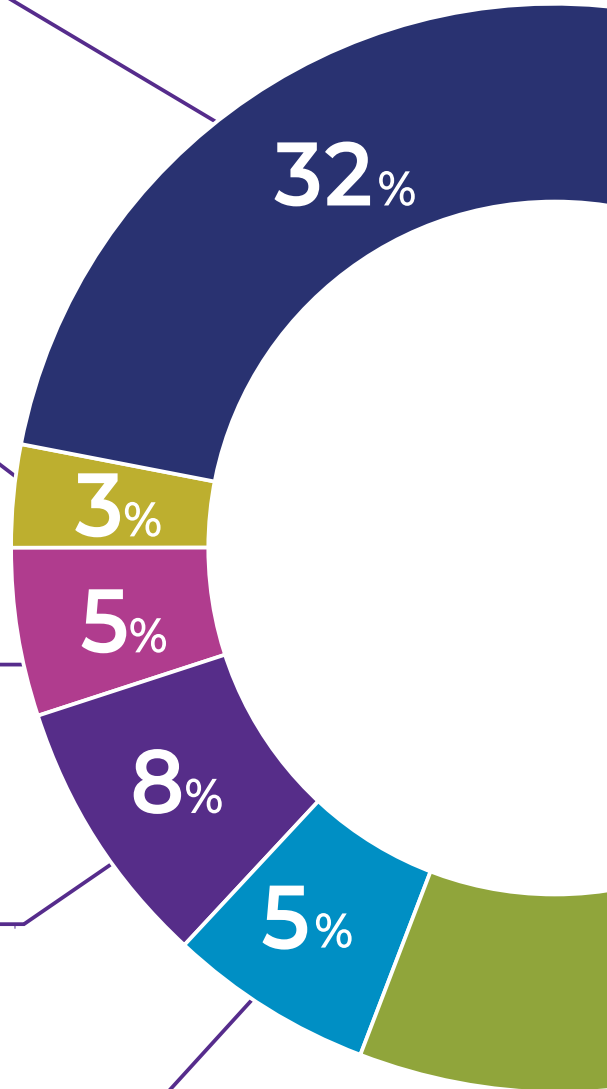
\$373 million

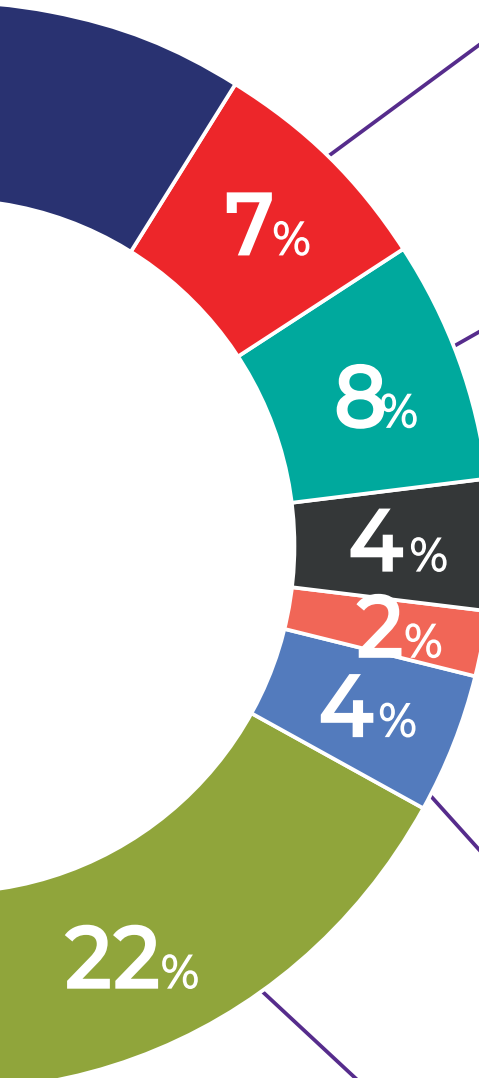
Community services

\$653 million

Emergency services
and policing

\$454 million





City services

\$570 million

Access Canberra and government services

\$666 million

Transport

\$327 million

Economic development, tourism, sports and arts

\$167 million

Housing

\$295 million

Education

\$1.8 billion

Health and community wellbeing

Our health is intricately linked to our wellbeing across many aspects of our lives, including our engagement with education and employment and our ability to participate in the community.

This Budget recognises that a healthy Canberra community depends on state-of-the-art infrastructure and equipment, but also on measures to improve the mental wellbeing of our community and our health practitioners. This Budget supports the continued development of key health infrastructure projects across Canberra, including the new Northside Hospital. The Budget also paves the way for reforms broadening end of life choices for Canberrans. Importantly, this Budget also funds the additional recruitment of nurses and midwives to improve patient experience and alleviate nursing and midwifery workloads.

The 2024-25 Budget includes new initiatives worth more than **\$920 million** over four years for health for public health care, mental health and community wellbeing, and health infrastructure. This brings expenditure on health and community wellbeing to **\$2.6 billion in 2024-25** and the investment in health infrastructure to **more than \$1 billion** over the next five years.

\$920_m

for health care, including:

\$700_m

for investing in public health care

\$78_m

for better care in the community

\$131_m

for improving Canberra's health infrastructure

\$10.5_m

for expanding Mental Health Services

The 2024-25 Budget funds:

- > works to complement the construction of the new North Canberra Hospital.
- > the second phase of the Canberra Hospital Master Plan.
- > the construction of two new community health centres in North Gungahlin and the Inner South, and early design work for an additional centre in West Belconnen.
- > more than 137 new nurses and midwives to work across the Canberra Hospital, North Canberra Hospital, and the University of Canberra Hospital.
- > additional endoscopy, cataract, elective and emergency surgeries, and additional support for maternity and neonatology services.
- > the implementation of Voluntary Assisted Dying and ongoing support for the service.
- > ongoing funding for the second Police, Ambulance, and Clinician Early Response team (PACER), a multi-disciplinary team which provides safe assessment and treatment of people experiencing acute mental health crises.





Health centres for Canberra

The ACT Government is committed to building a stronger health care system that is more efficient, with lower rates of avoidable hospital admissions, reduced health inequalities, and improved health outcomes – particularly for those living with serious and continuing illness. Supporting this commitment, the Government is delivering on five community-based health centres across the Territory, to alleviate the pressures on hospital emergency departments and provide local communities more direct access to health services.

The first of these new facilities – the Molonglo Canberra Health Services Centre – opened in 2022, providing women’s and family health care to the region. Co-located at the Molonglo Valley Medical Centre in Coombs, a team of highly skilled registered nurses and midwives provide pregnancy care and support, maternal and child health, women’s health counselling, and children’s asthma services.

In the 2023-24 Budget, the Government provided design and construction funding for the South Tuggeranong Health Centre in Conder. The centre will offer a range of community-based services that reflect the

changing health needs of the Tuggeranong community, including paediatrics, pathology collection, diabetes clinics, falls and falls injury prevention, dementia care, and chronic disease programs. **Construction is expected to begin in the second half of 2024 and be completed by the end of 2025.**

In this Budget, we are investing \$53 million over four years to construct two new health centres in the Inner South and in North Gungahlin and to undertake design work for the West Belconnen centre.

The North Gungahlin Health Centre, to be built on Kingsland Parade in Casey, and the Inner South Health Centre will provide convenient connection to local shops and public transport.

Both centres will support easier access to preventative health services and treatment for chronic disease, and will be staffed by a multidisciplinary team of health professionals, including nurses and allied health workers. Design and site selection for the West Belconnen Health Centre will progress in 2024-25, as we look to complete this Territory-wide health infrastructure investment.

New health centres



Education and life-long learning

A quality education is fundamental to our full participation in society and sets us up for better wellbeing outcomes across all aspects of our lives.

The Government is committed to ensuring that children and young people have access to, and are supported to participate in, quality education close to their homes. The Government recognises the importance of building strong foundations in literacy and numeracy to ensure lifelong success but also understands the need for flexibility later in a young person's education. This Budget also recognises vulnerable families in Canberra are facing unprecedented financial strain and provides additional funding for the Meals in School Pilot Program and the Future of Education Equity Fund to support families in the Territory.

The 2024-25 Budget includes new initiatives worth **\$100 million** over four years to support education and skills. This brings expenditure on education and skills to **\$1.8 billion in 2024-25** and the investment in education and skills infrastructure to more than **\$1.1 billion** over the next five years.

The Budget funds:

- > a continuation of the Government's investment into Early Childhood Education in the ACT, with the rollout of Early Childhood Teacher registration and the waiving of the registration fee for the first two years to encourage uptake.
- > a reduction in workload pressures for teachers to address recommendations from the Teacher Shortage Taskforce.
- > the refurbishment of the existing Lyneham High School Gymnasium.
- > the complete roof replacement at Charnwood Dunlop Primary School, Dickson College and Melba Copland Secondary School – College Campus. The Government will also undertake strategic planning of the school roof replacement program.
- > increased support to the Future of Education Fund to help meet increasing demand.
- > the expansion of HeadStart to include an additional cohort of 50 students. HeadStart is an innovative initiative which provides senior secondary students each year with the opportunity to commence an apprenticeship and extend the completion of their ACT senior secondary certification by a year.
- > the provision of breakfast and lunch for three days a week at five ACT public schools nominated through the Meals in School Pilot Program.
- > additional equipment for CIT's Campus in Woden to continue building CIT as a state-of-the-art educational institution and ensure CIT can deliver contemporary and flexible learning environments.



\$100m

for education and skills, including:

\$37m

for investing in public education and early years

\$41m

to support skills development

\$22m

for new and improved schools

Strong foundations

Strong literacy and numeracy foundations lead to greater levels of school completion and higher lifelong earnings, benefitting the economy and community more broadly. Conversely, the economic impact of illiteracy in Australia has been estimated to be as high as \$44 billion annually.

The 2024-25 Budget invests \$24.9 million over the next four years for a new suite of system-wide literacy and numeracy initiatives, called Strong Foundations, will ensure all students at ACT public schools have access to consistent, high-quality literacy and numeracy education.

Under *Strong Foundations* Canberra families will have access to:

- > evidence-informed and consistent teaching practices in every classroom;
- > common assessments, including a year 1 phonics test;
- > advice and resources for parents; to support their children with literacy and numeracy; and
- > multitiered systems of support for students in every public school.

Strong Foundations will contribute to reduced teacher workloads through more system support. It will also enable school staff to collaborate and move between ACT public schools without needing to learn new systems and ways of working.



Supporting jobs and business growth

The Government is continuing to deliver against the economic development priorities outlined in CBR Switched On, which was launched in March 2022.

This mission-led approach supports creating a city focused on liveability, sustainability and wellbeing. It brings a commitment to facilitating investment, supporting innovation and economic growth and attracting and retaining a skilled workforce.

The Government will continue to invest in supporting new businesses, for example through a second year of the Social Enterprises Grant program and the Priority Investment Program. The Government is encouraging growth in the key sectors of space and quantum, and new investment into the ACT with a dedicated concierge to identify and facilitate responsible investment.

In addition, the Government is planning precincts to support the infrastructure our growing city needs and encourage new economic activity. This includes investment in the Convention and Entertainment Centre, the Bruce Sports, Health and Education and the renewal of Exhibition Park precinct.

Growing the visitor economy is a focus, with investment to drive domestic and international tourism as well as exploring how a new attraction in a revitalised Telstra Tower can add to the breadth of visitor experiences.

In this Budget, the Government will invest **\$36 million over four years** to boost Canberra's visitor economy and further economic development priorities outlined in CBR Switched On, including:

- > continuing and expanding resourcing within Access Canberra to progress Government's night-time economy reforms.
- > continuing the Brand Canberra Program to support the growth of the ACT's tourism industry and visitor economy and promote a distinct identity and unified expression of Canberra.
- > supporting programs that will drive international and domestic tourism and grow the ACT economy.
- > promotion of cricket content through establishing a new Cricket Partnership Agreement for 2024-2026 with Cricket Australia and Cricket NSW.
- > collaboration with ACT Brumbies through a one-year Performance Partnership Agreement and hosting of the British and Irish Lions tour match.
- > supporting local food production, of community growing education activities and hands-on training opportunities.



The ACT Infrastructure Plan Update

The ACT Infrastructure Plan Update is a proactive investment plan that supports and promotes the anticipated growth of the region and ensures Canberra's reputation as one of the world's most liveable cities is maintained. Consistent with this, the 2024-25 ACT Infrastructure Investment Program delivers \$1.4 billion in 2024-25 and \$8.1 billion over the five years to 2028-29 for the services our community needs today while laying the foundation for population and jobs growth to ensure Canberra's continued prosperity.

Over 2023-24, the Government has progressively updated the ACT Infrastructure Plan, which outlines intentions for new and improved infrastructure across the city for the next five years and beyond.

The updated Plan includes seven sectors which cover all key aspects of government policies and programs aimed at fostering economic and employment growth and social cohesion while improving the wellbeing of all Canberrans.

The seven sectors are:

- > Health;
- > Education;
- > Transport;
- > Entertainment, Arts and Sports;
- > City Services, Recreation and Community Facilities;
- > Housing, Land Release and City Planning; and
- > Climate Action, Energy and Environment.

The Plan adopts a staged approach to planning and delivering our infrastructure needs to achieve optimal timing and funding of investment. In the context of national industry and market capacity constraints and price volatility, this is particularly important.

The investment priorities in the Plan work in synergy to provide for a growing Canberra with a focus on investing in enabling infrastructure and seek to drive private sector investment into our renewal precincts, as well as supporting new housing and commercial opportunities.

Cost of living

Cost of living increases are being felt across Australia, and the ACT is not immune. Consultation with the community on the 2024-25 Budget highlighted the continued need to support the community to deal with current cost of living pressures, with a particular emphasis on supporting Canberrans experiencing vulnerability and hardship.

In this Budget, we are expanding our commitment to support the wellbeing of the Canberra community and those most in need. This includes:

- > increasing the Electricity, Water and Gas Rebate (formerly, the Utilities Concession) for 2024-25 by \$50, from an annual rebate of \$750 to \$800 (approximately 43,800 households).
- > providing a one-off payment of \$250 to apprentices and trainees, who tend to earn just above the threshold to qualify for Commonwealth financial assistance but are still among the lower income earners relative to others in Canberra.
- > rebates of up to 50 per cent for pensioners on their general rates (capped at \$750) and a \$98 rebate for the Police, Fire and Emergency Services Levy.
- > full motor vehicle registration concessions for all eligible recipients (approximately 66,750 registrations).
- > extending the Rental Relief Fund to assist those experiencing rental stress or financial hardship.
- > increasing access to stamp duty concessions for first homebuyers.
- > increasing the Future of Education Equity Fund in 2024 for families with financial hardship impacting access to and engagement in the education system for ACT students.
- > increasing the value of vouchers available through the Utilities Hardship Fund.
- > providing additional funding for community organisations, including Roundabout Canberra, Scouts ACT, Fearless Women and Women's Health Matters to ensure their ongoing delivery of essential services to vulnerable Canberrans.
- > increasing funding support for emergency material and financial aid programs and food relief services.
- > increasing assistance through the Taxi Subsidy Scheme.
- > raising the Funeral Assistance Scheme asset threshold for eligible recipients from \$2,000 to \$8,000.



Secure and affordable housing

Canberra, alongside other parts of Australia, continues to face an unprecedented housing crisis. This Budget demonstrates our continued commitment to the extraordinary measures taken last year as we recognise that solutions to this crisis are multi-faceted and involve not only increasing the number of public and private housing properties available to Canberrans, but also implementing enabling measures to modify the taxation regimes and other regulations which shape our housing sector. We are using every lever at our disposal to increase housing access, choice and affordability. Together, these measures are designed to ease the burden faced by many in our community as they seek to secure new housing or seek to remain in their homes.

This Budget includes new initiatives worth more than **\$285 million over four years**, which include a mix of immediate financial relief measures as well as continued commitment to our targets to increase long-term social housing stock.

We are increasing housing stock across the board with a range of new initiatives designed to increase access, choice and affordability. This Budget builds on the efforts to bolster the community housing sector initiated in the 2023-24 Budget, with additional funding of **\$20 million** for the **Affordable Housing Project Fund** to aid in meeting our ambitious target of 600 affordable rental homes by 2025-26.

This Budget also continues to support the Growing and Renewing Public Housing program, the largest per capita investment in public housing in Australia. Given these investments, we are closer to meeting our 400 new dwelling growth commitment by

2026-27. We have an ambitious but achievable total capital works program for Housing ACT, of over half a billion dollars over the next four years. We will also be continuing to deepen our collaboration with the Commonwealth, including on the National Housing Accord, which brings Commonwealth, state and territory governments, industry and the community together.

\$285m

for housing and homes, including:

\$118m

to strengthen social housing assistance

\$80m

for housing choice and quality

\$87m

for increasing affordable rental housing and home ownership



The 2024-25 Budget also funds other discreet initiatives, including:

- > additional capacity for the Rent Relief Fund to provide a capped amount of financial assistance for up to four weeks' rent to low-income private renters (or people in occupancy agreements) in rental stress or financial hardship.
- > the operations of the Education First Youth Foyer which will provide 20 beds at the new CIT Woden Campus to support young people aged between 16 and 24 engaged in education who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

- > funding for repairs, maintenance and upgrades of public housing stock as well as tenancy services.
- > additional funding to expand specialist homelessness service capacity, to respond to increased demand for homelessness services in the ACT.
- > increasing the Home Buyer Concession Scheme income eligibility threshold from \$170,000 to \$250,000 and temporarily extending off-the-plan duty concessions to properties up to \$1,000,000.

Affordable Housing Project Fund

The Budget will increase the significant investment in the Affordable Housing Project Fund from \$60 million to \$80 million, with the additional \$20 million to help meet the ACT Government's commitment to grow affordable rental properties by 600.

Since the launch of the Fund in 2023-24, the ACT Government has agreed to support an estimated 280 new and well-located affordable rental homes across six Build-to-Rent projects. Additional projects are being considered for support in early 2024-25.

Over the last 12 months, the Government announced four of the projects by community housing providers across Canberra to be supported through the Fund. These are:

- > Ginninderry Women's Housing Initiative – Strathnairn (22 dwellings)
- > CHC Australia and Canberra Southern Cross Club – Phillip (70 dwellings)
- > CHC Australia and Canberra Police Community Youth Club – Turner (45 dwellings)
- > Marymead CatholicCare – Curtin (54 dwellings).

Announcements for more projects will be made in 2024-25 as negotiations with providers are finalised.



Community support, social inclusion and safety

Across our community, wellbeing is supported by a sense of belonging to a community where we are connected, safe, valued and can express ourselves.

The support of our community plays a vital role in fostering wellbeing, including through access to services provided by community sector organisations. The Government recognises the challenges that people in our community are facing with the increasing cost of living and knows that these challenges can have a greater impact on the wellbeing of the more vulnerable members of our community.

The 2024-25 Budget includes new initiatives worth more than **\$85 million over four years** for community support, social inclusion, justice and safety. This brings total expenditure on these services to **\$1.480 billion in 2024-25** and funding for enabling infrastructure to more than **\$217 million** over five years.

The 2024–25 Budget funds:

- > enhancements to youth justice, child and youth protection, early childhood services and targeted justice interventions.
- > support to frontline responses to sexual violence, including the development of a recovery model for complex trauma.
- > expanded programs to support young adults previously in out of home care arrangements to transition to independent living.
- > the continuation of programs to support the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community, including the continuation of key justice interventions to reduce overrepresentation of First Nations people in the ACT criminal justice system as well as the establishment of an Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation Establishment and Expansion Fund to build capacity across the sector.
- > the continued provision of short-term accommodation and wraparound services for those leaving prison.
- > additional support for the ACT’s community based legal assistance sector, including funding to establish a First Nations Graduate Program to work across the community legal sector.
- > supporting the full and equal participation in all aspects of community life of people with a disability.

Domestic and family violence prevention initiatives

Throughout the ACT and Australia, incidents of domestic violence continue to increase. It's crucial that frontline services are well-equipped to respond. The 2024-25 Budget includes new initiatives worth \$12 million over four years to address domestic, family and sexual violence including coercive control. The Government will pursue its efforts across a range of government services to reduce the incidence of family violence and mitigate the impacts to families, which includes providing financial,

mental health and therapeutic supports to victims and their loved ones. In this budget, we are increasing our resourcing to the Family Safety Hub, the Safer Families Team and are hiring experts specifically tasked with reducing the risk of deaths from family violence. The Domestic Violence Crisis Service, Canberra Rape Crisis Centre, YWCA, Beryl Women Inc, and Women's Health Matters will all receive funding boosts.



Environment, climate and transport

We know that Canberrans are willing to make climate-conscious choices that reduce emissions as we shift towards a more sustainable future

This Budget will continue to make climate conscious choices more affordable and accessible to all Canberrans as we transition to lower-emission energy solutions.

Accessible services and places also support our daily lives and improve our wellbeing, and improving our transport networks and active travel opportunities helps position Canberra as a liveable and sustainable city.

The 2024-25 Budget includes new initiatives worth more than **\$273 million over four years** to support the environment and climate action, and transport initiatives of more than **\$71 million over four years**. This brings expenditure on climate, environment and transport to **\$1.1 billion in 2024-25** and the investment in enabling infrastructure to more than **\$2.2 billion over five years**.

The 2024-25 Budget includes:

- > the electrification of all feasible community and public housing by 2030.
- > a fit-for-purpose regulatory framework for our electricity network.
- > measures to phase out the use of gas appliances, support for the electrification of complex buildings, support for loans to owners' corporations for EV charging infrastructure and studies to develop EV charging hubs in the ACT.
- > measures to improve water use efficiencies in the Territory.
- > active travel improvements including small-scale path network improvements, line marking, construction of missing path links, lighting infill and design of high priority active travel links.
- > grant payments to eligible vulnerable households for electrification upgrades.
- > continued support for our targeted tree planting program to maintain and expand the existing tree canopy across Canberra's urban forest, to achieve 30 per cent urban tree canopy cover in Canberra by 2045.
- > a series of improvements to road networks across the Territory.
- > further resourcing for the design and construction of Light Rail Stage 2 including for light rail between Alinga Street and Commonwealth Park (Stage 2A) and progress the design of the next stage of light rail from Commonwealth Park to Woden (Stage 2B).

Integrated Energy Plan

The ACT Government has released the Integrated Energy Plan (IEP) to help transition homes, businesses, and transport away from fossil fuel use over the next two decades and help achieve an affordable and sustainable energy supply for the community.

Through the first phase of the Integrated Energy Plan, the Government has prioritised support for community members who cannot transition to electricity themselves. This includes supporting social and public housing tenants and low-income households to electrify all feasible public and community housing properties by 2030.

Funding of \$58 million is allocated over the decade for the Vulnerable Home Energy Support Scheme.

The \$5.2 million Community Partnership Electrification Program will also cover the up-front costs of energy efficiency upgrades and electrification for around 350 low-income households.

Electrification is the cheapest pathway to net zero and delivers the greatest benefits to the community. The Government is committed to providing cost of living relief, ensuring energy is affordable and Canberrans can make the best energy choices.

The Plan will guide our Territory's long-term path to achieving net zero emissions by 2045, building on the momentum of securing 100 per cent renewable electricity in 2020, and the financial incentives and support provided to help households and businesses electrify.





Early concept design of a transformed Canberra Theatre Centre

Community infrastructure, venues and arts and culture

Canberrans value spaces to participate in a variety of events, entertainment, arts and sports activities.

Economy-boosting investment in infrastructure provides these spaces and increases our city's ability to attract tourists and major events and to support local artists, musicians, and related businesses.

The 2024-25 Budget includes new initiatives worth more than **\$76 million over four years** related to community infrastructure, venues and events, sports, arts and culture. This brings total investment in associated infrastructure to **\$110 million** in 2024-25 and more than **\$880 million** over five years.

The 2024-25 Budget includes:

- > further support for upgrades to the Phillip District Enclosed Oval.
- > commencement of construction of Stage 1 of the Stromlo Forest Park District Playing Fields.
- > early design works for a new or expanded Canberra Stadium, a new Convention and Entertainment Centre, a reopened Telstra Tower, a new Manuka Oval Eastern Grandstand Project, EPIC and Canberra City Pool.

- > continued support to the operations at the National Arboretum Canberra; UC Stromlo Forest Park; GIO Stadium; and Manuka Oval.
- > continuation of design works for the expansion of the Belconnen Basketball Stadium and redevelopment of the Canberra Theatre.
- > upgrades to a large number of community arts, cultural and heritage facilities including the Street Theatre in City West, the Megalo Print Studio, Watson Arts Centre, Canberra Contemporary Arts Space Manuka Gallery, Ainslie Arts Centre and Strathnairn Arts Centre.
- > additional support to Canberra's arts organisations and assist Arts Capital Limited to manage the Gorman Arts Centre through its refurbishment.





Australian Capital Territory

Budget 2024–25