

Australian Capital Territory

Budget

2025–26

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.

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Contents

Treasurer’s message.....1

A focus on Canberra’s wellbeing3

Budget overview.....5

Where our money goes.....7

Health9

Secure and affordable housing 12

Jobs, entertainment, sport and culture16

Education and training 17

Transport and city services.....20

Cost of living..... 22

Environment and climate..... 23

Community support, social inclusion
and safety 25

Treasurer's message

The Government is investing in our growing city and delivering for the ACT.



Through the Budget we are making a record investment in health, building on our record of delivering quality services and new infrastructure. This supports our commitment to make sure all Canberrans have access to high quality public healthcare, where and when they need it, and responds to growing demand and increased costs to support our local hospitals.

In recent years, facing extraordinary challenges like a pandemic and natural disasters, the ACT Government stepped in to support the community and support business and the impact on the economy. The Government also used the Budget to extend important relief to support cost of living in the inflationary period that followed.

Today our economy is very strong, with growing wages, lower inflation and the lowest unemployment rate in Australia. With inflation and interest rates coming down, this now provides the foundation to get the Budget on a more sustainable footing.

As a responsible Government, we will continue to invest in the high level of services Canberrans enjoy whilst also addressing the fiscal pressures that we face. Our commitment is to invest in the future of Canberra and embrace the opportunities it provides us.

This Budget delivers on our commitments to the community and makes important progress on our ambitious reforms to support more housing. As we work to enable 30,000 new homes in Canberra by 2030, we will build more homes, with more choice for all Canberrans.

The importance of having a home cannot be understated. It provides the foundation for so many aspects of a person's life – for health, education, work, family and so much in between.

That's why this Budget advances work to deliver more housing diversity and more affordable housing, whether you're a first home buyer, ageing in place or supporting a growing family.

The Budget further invests in our local construction industry to drive this commitment with more investments in skills and education, to boost productivity and provide the next generation with good, secure, well-paying jobs.

Our significant pipeline of major infrastructure projects will continue, including new cultural and sporting investments, like a new Canberra Aquatic Centre at Commonwealth Park, the future Canberra Convention and Entertainment Centre Precinct, and the Canberra Theatre Redevelopment. We are investing in further work to progress a new northside hospital, provide more investments in public and active transport including light rail, more electric buses, safer roads and better walking and cycling infrastructure.

The Budget provides more targeted cost-of-living relief and invests in the community for the future, so that Canberrans who need it most don't fall behind. This includes recognising the important role of our community sector with more support so they can continue their mission for our most vulnerable Canberrans.

Our youngest Canberrans and their families will benefit from our strong foundational investments in education and early childhood, from three-year old pre-school to further investments in public school infrastructure across our city, and in our growing suburbs.

The future for Canberra is bright, a city of opportunity and growth. By making these decisions now, we will ensure that current and future generations enjoy the same high quality of life our city is known for – the world over.

Chris Steel MLA, ACT Treasurer



A focus on Canberra's wellbeing

Canberra is one of the most liveable cities in the world and is ranked as the city with the highest quality of life in the world¹. The ACT's wellbeing approach prioritises investments that ensure Canberrans continue to enjoy quality services and a high standard of living.

Canberra is an inclusive and progressive city. As a community, we value fairness, opportunity and equality. Wellbeing is at the heart of our Budget, recognising that while there are challenges we must face, our first responsibility is to deliver policy, service delivery, investment and decision-making that is focused on supporting all Canberrans.

By placing wellbeing in the centre of decision making, we recognise that through a strong economy and investment in services, the Government can provide additional support for Canberrans who need it most. The wellbeing framework considers key aspects of supporting Canberrans' quality of life, such as access to healthcare and education, strengthening community safety and supporting vulnerable Canberrans – the things that the community tells us they value most.

In this Budget, we have strengthened our commitment to affordable housing, to expand access to essential health services, and to build a more inclusive economy, increasing the opportunity to participate in, and to benefit from, economic growth so that no one is left behind.

The Government prioritises investment in areas that matter most to people's lives—such as safety, health, education, housing, as well as climate action. These investments reflect a long-standing commitment to supporting the wellbeing and future of our community.

1 Oxford Economics Global Cities Index 2025



Budget overview

The 2025–26 Budget continues the Government's strong record of maintaining accessible, quality services for all Canberrans.

This includes a record investment in our public health system to support our growing city and make sure Canberrans have access to the healthcare they need, where and when they need it. This investment delivers more high quality services and responds to increased costs and demand in the public health system.

Like other jurisdictions, the Territory's public health system is growing to meet the needs of our growing population while responding to increased demand for outpatient services, emergency department presentations and admitted patient care. We are providing the public health system with the financial investment it needs to meet the rising, market driven costs, which includes increases in the costs of medical and surgical supplies, blood products and personal protective equipment.

Over the past several years, with pandemic, natural disasters and high inflation, the Government has supported the economy and local jobs by making significant investments in infrastructure and supporting a range of community support programs. During this time, the Government extended economic stimulus to a larger part of the community, with a broad range of fees and charges being paused, reduced or waived.

The ACT has a strong economy with strong wage growth, high workforce participation and one of the lowest unemployment rates in the country. The outlook for the economy is positive, with

strong GSP growth over the forward estimates. Employment is forecast to continue to increase in the coming years, underpinned by an increase in private demand and solid growth in the ACT's population. The ongoing strength of the local economy provides the foundation to get the Budget on a sustainable footing. While we work towards improving the Territory's fiscal position over time, we continue to ensure we deliver on our commitments to the community, deliver city-shaping, generational infrastructure projects and support continued economic growth.

This includes achieving our ambition for 30,000 homes by 2030, through further investment in public, community and affordable homes and supporting the Government's work to build more homes with more choice for all Canberrans. We are investing further to address family, domestic and sexual violence. We will continue to provide further support for vulnerable Canberrans through ongoing support for the community sector, homelessness services and mental health supports.

The budget deficit in 2025–26 is now estimated to be **\$424.9 million**, improving each year across the forward estimates to a surplus of **\$330.6 million** by 2028–29. In addition, this Budget 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

\$2.9 billion

Environment,
sustainable development
and climate change

\$238 million

Justice

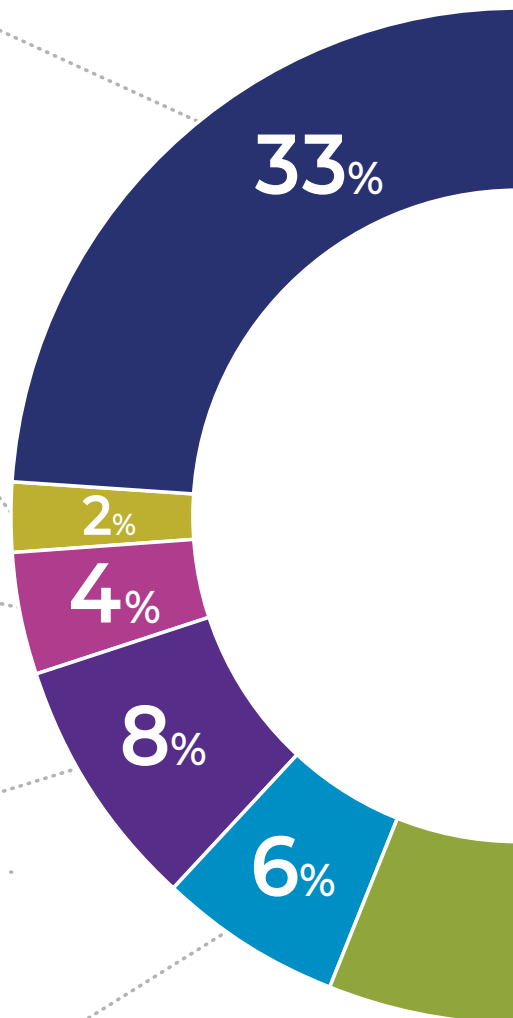
\$396 million

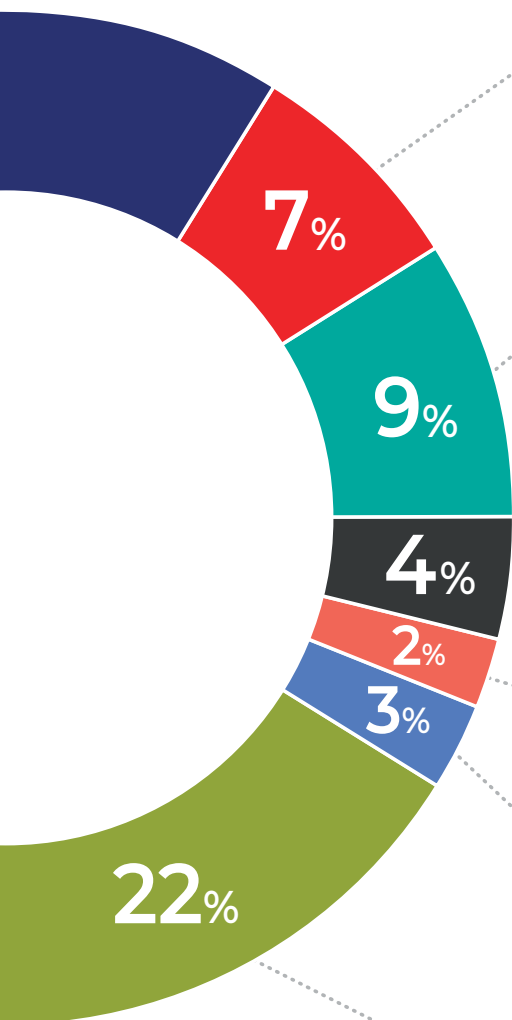
Community services

\$675 million

Emergency services
and policing

\$490 million





City services

\$591 million

Access Canberra and
government services

\$788 million

Transport

\$341 million

Economic development,
tourism, sports and arts

\$173 million

Housing

\$302 million

Education

\$1.9 billion

Health

Investing in the health of Canberrans is one of the most important ways we can support our community.

In this Budget the Government will deliver a record investment in our public health system to support our growing city, deliver more quality services and address growing demand. This Budget also includes significant targeted support for those in various stages of their health care journey, with initiatives ranging from strengthening youth mental health support to bolstering end-of-life support services.

A healthy Canberra community depends on state-of-the-art infrastructure and equipment. Importantly, this Budget continues investment in key health-care related infrastructure projects, including early works for the new Northside Hospital, the Canberra Hospital Master Plan and the construction of the Inner South Health Centre. With these investments, the ACT Government is committed to ensuring Canberrans continue to get the health support they need by providing services that are accessible, timely and effective.

The 2025–26 Budget includes new initiatives worth more than **\$1.196 billion** over four years to support public health care, mental health and community wellbeing, and health infrastructure.

\$1.196b

for health care, including:

\$980.1m

for investing in public health care

\$13.8m

for better care for our community

\$148.4m

for improving Canberra's health infrastructure

\$33.7m

for expanding mental health services

\$20m

for supporting our health workforce and other services



Supporting high quality and sustainable health care in the ACT

The ACT Government is committed to building a stronger health care system that is more efficient and results in improved health outcomes. The Government is investing over **\$980 million over four years** in this Budget over a variety of initiatives that will improve access to high-quality public health care as well as address the growing demand for, and rising cost of public hospital services. This investment includes:

- > \$718 million to continue to respond to the growing demand in outpatient services, emergency department presentations and admitted patient care. Funding will also address key increases in costs, including supplies, blood products, support services and personal protective equipment.
- > \$103 million to continue to expand elective surgery and enable the delivery of the Government's commitment of 70,000 elective surgeries over four years.
- > \$80 million for support to long stay patients, with a focus on meeting their care and support needs and ensuring they are in the most appropriate care setting.
- > \$27 million to support the ongoing delivery of chronic disease services, including continued access to dialysis and home therapies.
- > \$23 million to continue optimising patient flow through public hospitals, and manage the end-to-end patient experience across acute, planned and subacute/maintenance care. This includes extending services beyond our hospitals, into community settings and people's homes, ensuring cost-effective and patient-centred delivery of exceptional care across the ACT.
- > \$17 million to continue to deliver expanded endoscopy services at Canberra Health Services.
- > \$13 million to support targeted interventions that enable more efficient delivery of care and improved revenue generation across the public health system.

The 2025–26 Budget also funds:

- > Early and enabling works for the design and construction of the new northside hospital.
- > Continued work on the Canberra Hospital Master Plan including progressing planning and design for the new Pathology and Clinical Services Building, and a feasibility plan for a mental health precinct at the Canberra Hospital campus.
- > The construction of the Inner South Health Centre.
- > New imaging and x-ray services at the Belconnen Community Health Centre.
- > Improved palliative and end-of-life care services in the community to support people's end-of-life choices.
- > Continuation of a range of community-led youth mental health programs to provide mental health care that is accessible, timely and effective.
- > More support for perinatal mental health services for birth parents and families through the Perinatal Wellbeing Centre and Perinatal Mental Health Alliance.
- > Continued operations at the Eating Disorders Residential Treatment Centre.
- > Improved access to primary care and bulk billing appointments.



Secure and affordable housing

The ACT Government has an ambitious goal to enable 30,000 homes by 2030 and is investing in a range of housing initiatives to deliver Canberrans more homes with more choice and meet the needs of our growing city.

With a population set to reach half a million by 2030, we are committed to planning for and investing in solutions to support more housing for the entire community. We recognise that the solution lies in strategic investments at all levels, including public, community and affordable housing, especially for those who are most vulnerable. That is why in this Budget, we are making it easier to buy your first home, boosting support for homelessness and crisis accommodation services, and addressing the skills needed in the building and construction sector. Together with our commitment to increase the supply of public and private housing properties available to Canberrans, these measures are designed to address every step in building and enabling more homes.

This Budget includes new initiatives worth more than **\$145 million to continue delivering a comprehensive package of housing measures**, which include a mix of immediate relief measures as well as continued commitment to our targets to increase long-term housing supply.

The ACT Government is working closely with the community housing sector to deliver a pipeline of social and affordable housing for Canberrans, by releasing land for Community Housing Providers and drawing on funding initiatives, including the ACT Government's Affordable Housing Project Fund, the National Housing Accord and Housing Australia Future Fund.

\$145.2m

to enable 30,000 homes by 2030, including:

\$20m

to increase the Affordable Housing Project Fund

\$12.5m

to support more Build-to-Rent projects

Enabling 30,000 more homes by the end of 2030

The ACT Government is continuing work towards the commitment of enabling 30,000 more homes by the end of 2030 through a range of initiatives, recognising that housing security has long-term impacts on the wellbeing of the people in our community. This Budget, we are:

- > Releasing land over the next five years to support 25,948 more homes in new suburbs such as Macnamara, Jacka and Molonglo, as well as urban sites in Belconnen, Coombs, Wright and the City.
- > Providing an additional \$20 million for the Affordable Housing Project Fund, bringing the total funding to \$100 million, which will contribute towards the commitment to deliver 5,000 additional public, community and affordable rental dwellings in Canberra by the end of 2030.
- > Engaging with the Commonwealth Government to deliver 85 homes as part of the Housing Australia Future Fund, which will contribute towards the commitment to grow the public housing portfolio to 13,200 homes by the end of 2030.
- > Funding planning and technical studies to support the supply of new housing and community facilities, including to support more well-located housing around shopping centres and public transport corridors.
- > Continuing support for the National Capital Design Review Panel to meet demand and provide timely advice on projects.
- > Partnering with the Commonwealth and all other states and territories to deliver National Competition Policy reforms, which will encourage competition in sectors like housing and planning, reduce red tape, and simplify regulations and improve service delivery.



The 2025–26 Budget also features other housing or related initiatives, including:

- > Extension of a funding boost for overall homelessness service delivery and continued funding to support operations of existing specialist homelessness service providers.
- > Funding to support the construction of the MyHome development in Curtin to provide long-term residential accommodation and care for individuals with enduring mental illness who face barriers to accessing the private rental market.
- > Continuing our support to transform the public housing portfolio, with older homes being replaced with modern, energy-efficient and accessible homes, continuing the largest per capita investment in public housing in Australia, and allocating funding for investment in future public housing projects.
- > Crisis accommodation programs, including a program with wraparound services for vulnerable women and children escaping domestic and family violence at risk of homelessness, with a priority for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families.
The Government will also fund a trial that will use existing Housing ACT properties to provide crisis accommodation in response to homelessness.
- > Financial assistance for Build-to-Rent providers for delivery of new affordable rental homes and financial support to low-income homebuyers experiencing delays in the construction of their house and land packages purchased under the Affordable Home Purchase Scheme.
- > An increase to the property cap under the Affordable Community Housing Land Tax Exemption Scheme from 250 to 1,000 properties.
- > An increase to the price threshold for the Home Buyer Concession Scheme, the Pensioner Duty Concession Scheme and the Disability Duty Concession Scheme from 1 July 2025 to \$1.02 million and indexed annually. Reducing stamp duty will help to lower barriers to Canberrans seeking to fulfil their goal of home ownership.
- > Support for skilled workers through increases in subsidies to 90 per cent for qualifications in the building and construction sector through the User Choice (Australian Apprenticeships) program, to support an increase in housing supply in the ACT.



Affordable Housing Project Fund

The 2025–26 Budget provides an additional \$20 million for the Affordable Housing Project Fund, bringing the total funding to \$100 million.

Over 800 new affordable rental homes will be supported through the Affordable Housing Project Fund pipeline. These homes will be managed by Community Housing Providers.

Several projects have previously been announced, including:

- > Build-to-rent-to-buy homes through the Ginninderry Women's Housing Initiative.
- > Affordable rental homes as part of a Build-to-Rent development in Phillip, being delivered by CHC Australia and the Canberra Southern Cross Club.
- > Affordable rental homes in Curtin, being delivered by Marymead CatholicCare Canberra and Goulburn.
- > Affordable rental homes in Turner being developed by Canberra Police Citizens Youth Club (PCYC), CHC Australia and the Snow Foundation.

The following projects are also being provided with financial assistance to facilitate over 450 affordable homes, including support for:

- > Wesley Mission, to develop affordable housing in Curtin.
- > CHC Australia, to develop affordable housing in Taylor.
- > Assemble, in partnership with Housing Choices Australia, to develop affordable housing in Belconnen.
- > Housing Plus, to develop affordable housing in Taylor.
- > SEARMS, an Aboriginal Community-Controlled Organisation, to develop affordable housing in Gungahlin.

Jobs, entertainment, sport and culture

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

We are continuing our commitment to invest in once in a generation, economy-boosting infrastructure, which will support our city to grow, attract tourists and major events, and support local artists, musicians and businesses. This Budget includes funding to support planning and design works for a new Convention and Entertainment Centre Precinct, a city shaping project that will position Canberra as a national destination for large conferences and events in partnership with the Commonwealth Government.

Growing the visitor economy is a focus of the ACT Government, with this Budget delivering 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 Canberra's visitor experiences.

The Government will continue to invest in supporting new businesses, with this Budget supporting the extension of the Canberra Advice and Support Service, the Social Enterprise Grant program and Industry Event Sponsorship. The Government is encouraging growth in the key sectors and new investment into the ACT with a dedicated concierge to identify and facilitate responsible investment.

In this Budget, the Government will invest **\$191 million over four years** to boost Canberra's visitor economy and further

economic development priorities outlined in CBR Switched On, including:

- > Progressing work on designing a new Canberra Aquatic Centre in Commonwealth Park to replace the ageing Civic Pool with the support of the Commonwealth Government.
- > Planning and design activities for a new Canberra Convention and Entertainment Centre Precinct.
- > Continued investment in local start-ups and innovators through providing operational funding for the Canberra Innovation Network.
- > Collaborating with Telstra Corporation Limited to reopen Telstra Tower as a visitor destination.
- > Investing in Canberra's arts and creative sector through increasing funding for arts projects and design focused initiatives.
- > Continuing 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.
- > Implementation of the ACT Small Business Strategy through the extension of the Canberra Advice and Support Service, the Social Enterprise Grant program and Industry Event Sponsorship.
- > Supporting a National Basketball League pre-season basketball tournament at the AIS Arena and a Socceroos match at GIO Stadium.

Education and training

Supporting future generations of Canberrans to get the skills they need for the job they want is fundamental to our success as a city.

Ensuring continued access to high-quality education is a key priority for the Government. By supporting the current and future education and economic needs of the ACT, we are setting up children and young people with the tools and skills they need for their future, closer to home.

A positive schooling experience has a profound impact on the life of a young person, particularly delivering access to modern equipment, nutritional school lunches and outdoor camps, to make sure every child gets the absolute most of their education. Investments we make will have impacts on the immediate wellbeing of children and a ongoing impact on future resilience, as well as health, learning and social development outcomes. The Government also understands the need for career-oriented education later in a young person's life and skilling the workforce for the future.

The 2025–26 Budget includes new initiatives worth \$138 million over four years to support education related initiatives.

The 2025–26 Budget funds:

- > The implementation of National Reform Directions to provide a multi-tiered system of support for students and schools that need it most, including a wellbeing investment for student learning and engagement, and support for the teaching workforce under the Better and Fairer Schools Agreement.
- > Better education infrastructure including:
 - Further investment for the construction of Whitlam School.
 - Establishment of a \$15m fund for the replacement of heating and cooling assets within ACT Public Schools.
 - Upgrades for Fraser Primary School and Melba Copland Secondary School.
 - Support for the opening of the new CIT Woden campus.
- > Cost of living measures including:
 - Free school camps at Birrigai to ensure every child in an ACT public primary school between years 3-6 can access one free school camp each year.
 - An expansion of the Future of Education Equity Fund in the 2025 school year to help meet demand for an additional 1000 students.



> Improved wellbeing and digital experiences including:

- Expansion of the School Youth Nurse Program from January 2026, ensuring that a School Youth Health Nurse is available in every high school, three days per week.
- A continuation of the Free Meals in Schools program which includes provision of breakfast and lunch for three days a week at five ACT public schools.
- The enhancement of the Digital Access and Equity Program through which a Chromebook device will be provided for every student studying at ACT public schools between Years 7 to 12.
- Continuation of phase 1 of the CIT Cloud Campus Program and commencement of phases 2 and 3, to modernise CIT's learning and teaching environments, and business and administration systems.

> Investment in the workforce of the future including:

- Delivery of 30 teaching scholarships for domestic students commencing their undergraduate or postgraduate study between 2026 and 2029 calendar years.
- Continuation of the Try-a-Trade program at five ACT public schools in 2025–26 and expansion of the program to ten ACT public schools from 2026-27 onwards.
- Support to establish a TAFE Centre of Excellence for Electric Vehicles which will deliver industry and school engagement activities, partnerships with tertiary education institutions, development of training products and apprenticeships.

Free school camps at Birrigai Outdoor School

School excursions and camps form an important part of school education in developing student wellbeing, supporting curriculum delivery and contributing to a positive school culture.

This Budget, the Government will deliver on its commitment to deliver free school camps for ACT public primary school students between years 3 and 6. By providing \$3.3 million over four years we are making one school camp each year at Birrigai Outdoor School free. Funding will cover the cost of accommodation, meals, activities, staffing and transportation costs.

Birrigai offers curriculum-aligned programs that include First Nations culture, outdoor adventure and Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) activities with onsite accommodation and catering – making it an ideal venue for primary school aged children to be inspired to view the world differently and connect to Country in the ACT.

Free school camps at Birrigai will remove barriers to participation in school life and help ease financial pressure for thousands of Canberra families each year.



Transport and city services

Improving our transport networks, local community infrastructure and outdoor spaces maintains Canberra as a liveable, sustainable and connected city.

The 2025–26 Budget includes new initiatives worth more than **\$234 million over four years** related to transport and more than **\$120 million over four years** related to city services and community infrastructure.

The 2025–26 Budget includes:

- > Continued support to extend light rail from City to Woden under the Light Rail Stage 2A project and completing the delivery of enabling works including Raising London Circuit.
- > Progressing works on the duplication of Athllon Drive in Tuggeranong.
- > Active travel projects including more path and lighting renewal and infill right across the city, an upgrade of the Lake Ginninderra Shared Path, and a path upgrade design and construction package.
- > A series of improvements to road networks and pedestrian safety across the Territory.
- > Continued support for the transition to a zero emissions public transport fleet by procuring 30 additional battery electric buses to replace and grow the bus fleet.
- > Making the public transport network safer through more Bus Network Officers and new Transport Enforcement Officers on Canberra's bus network.
- > 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.

- > Expanding the Taylor District Playing Fields through the detailed design and construction of two new synthetic grass fields, LED sportsground lighting and a pavilion to cater for the projected population growth in Gungahlin.
- > The construction of Stage 1 of the Stromlo District Playing Fields which will include a synthetic grass sportsground with two rectangular fields and a modified AFL oval, LED sportsground lighting and a sports pavilion in Molonglo to facilitate sporting and community recreation activities.

Active Travel

Quality active travel and public transport networks facilitate easy and equitable access to public spaces and critical services, as well as reducing emissions.

To guide the continued development of connected, safe and convenient active travel infrastructure in the ACT, in early 2024 the Government released the Active Travel Plan.

The 2025–26 Budget commits more than \$38 million in funding over the next four years to maintain and enhance active travel infrastructure. This includes path network improvements, line marking, construction of missing path links, lighting infill and design of high-priority active travel links.



Cost of living

Canberra continues to be a great place to live, work, study, invest and raise families. Our community enjoys some of the highest living standards in Australia, supported by strong economic activity.

However, there are some Canberrans who do not share equally in these high living standards. Low-income households remain particularly vulnerable to higher prices for essential items such as food, fuel and energy.

The 2025–26 Budget includes new initiatives worth more than **\$49 million over four years** to support cost of living measures. We are continuing to deliver on our commitment to support the wellbeing of the Canberra community and those most in need. Cost of living assistance measures introduced in this Budget include:

- > Permanently increasing the Electricity, Gas and Water Rebate to \$800 to eligible recipients in 2025–26 (around 40,000 households).
- > Providing a one-off payment of \$250 to all ACT apprentices and trainees working in the ACT and an additional \$250 to first-year apprentice and trainees.
- > Supporting vulnerable new parents with a baby bundle package including essential items and information.
- > Increasing stamp duty concessions for first home buyers, pensioners, and people with disability.
- > Expanding the Future of Education Equity Fund, supporting an additional 1000 recipients.

- > Providing one Chromebook device per student studying in years 7-12 in ACT public schools and adding unlimited device warranty.
- > Establishing a Food Bank Fund to support Canberrans facing financial stress and food insecurity.
- > Providing support to vulnerable Canberrans for their legal needs in relation to the Children's Court.
- > Continuation of Family Settlement Assistance Grants and the Humanitarian Funding Program to support refugee and asylum seekers with living costs.

These initiatives build on a wide range of existing government assistance and concessions that are available to different members of the community. Programs include public transport concessions, discounted registration and drivers license fees and rebates on general rates.

Environment and climate

Moving towards a more sustainable future is important to maintain Canberra's high quality of life and continued wellbeing.

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

The 2025–26 Budget includes new initiatives worth more than **\$190 million over four years** to support the environment and climate action.

The 2025–26 Budget includes:

- > Establishing a TAFE Centre of Excellence for Electric Vehicles.
- > The continuation of the Electrification of Government Gas Assets program, advancing the transition to net zero emissions.
- > Acceleration of funding to upgrade gas appliances to appropriate electric alternatives in 1,600 public housing properties, including make-good requirements, associated ancillary electrical works and gas connection abolishment charges by 2028.
- > Continued support for actions to meet policy and statutory requirements in climate change and energy and reaffirm the Government's commitment to undertake action to reach net zero by 2045.
- > The implementation of several key initiatives to support the transition to electrification including the Energy Efficiency Improvement Scheme; the Home Energy Efficiency Program; the Sustainable Business Program; the First Nations Home Energy Support program; and the commencement of the Commercial Building Electrification pilot program.
- > An extension of the Sustainable Household Scheme by providing low-interest loans for battery storage, zero emissions vehicles and chargers, ceiling insulation and energy efficient electric appliances.
- > Establishment of the Office of Landscape Architect and deliver the ACT's first Landscape Plan and undertake conservation and restoration works to support the Canberra landscape.
- > A variety of measures to improve water quality and use efficiencies in the Territory.
- > Expanded actions to help protect the critically endangered Canberra Grassland Earless Dragon.

Transition to Net Zero by 2045

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. This includes:

- > \$21.776 million over four years for electrification of public housing including funding to upgrade gas appliances

to appropriate electric alternatives in 1,600 public housing properties, including make-good requirements, associated ancillary electrical works and gas connection abolishment charges by 2028.

- > \$14.989 million over four years for the Energy Efficiency Improvement Scheme including delivery programs for low-income households and small businesses.
- > \$10.863 million over four years for maintaining core climate change and energy functions and statutory requirements in the climate change and energy portfolio.
- > \$4.14 million over two years to continue to deliver on the ZEV Strategy.



Community support, social inclusion and safety

Supporting vulnerable Canberrans to feel connected, safe and valued is an important wellbeing goal of the Government.

The Government is committed to making Canberra the most welcoming and inclusive city in Australia. It recognises that supporting all members of our community plays a vital role in fostering wellbeing. This Budget, the Government will sustain access to services provided by community sector organisations and provide targeted funding to address the needs of the most vulnerable members of our community.

The 2025–26 Budget includes new initiatives worth almost **\$267 million over four years** for community support, social inclusion, justice and safety.

The 2025–26 Budget includes:

- > A funding boost to community sector organisations to improve their sustainability and support vulnerable Canberrans such as those who are experiencing homelessness, mental health issues and/or domestic, sexual or family violence through improved access to community sector support services.
- > Continued support for frontline domestic, family and sexual violence services in the ACT, including for Victim Support ACT, the Canberra Rape Crisis Service, the Domestic Violence Crisis Service, the Canberra Police Community Youth Club and the YWCA Canberra Domestic Violence Support Service.
- > Support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the ACT who experience domestic, family and sexual violence.
- > Continuation and expansion of the Victim Survivor Voices Pilot, continuation of the Safer Families Collaboration Program and an expansion of the Safer Families Assistance Program.
- > Continuation of the Fearless Women's Empowerment Program that provides counselling and mentoring services to young women.
- > Support for the full and equal participation of people with disability in all aspects of community life.
- > Continuation of Out of Home Care service provision for children and young people with severe disability and/or mental health conditions who cannot remain safely with their families.
- > Upgrades to major ICT systems used by ACT Emergency Services to ensure incidents are managed efficiently to continue to keep our community safe.
- > Funding for Scouts ACT, Kulture Break and a Veteran's Expo and Wellbeing Symposium to promote social inclusion and wellbeing.
- > Doubled annual funding for the Tenant Participation Grants program to support the participation of public and community housing tenants in social, educational and work-related activities.



Cafe Open 7 days
Sweet Little

\$266.7m

for community support, social inclusion
and safety, including:

\$55.2m

for community support and social
inclusion

\$163.3m

for justice and community safety

\$24.5m

for supporting frontline family,
domestic and sexual violence services

\$23.6m

for strengthening emergency services





Major investment to tackle Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence

The Government will make a significant investment in the safety and wellbeing of victim survivors with over \$30 million funded in the 2025–26 Budget to strengthen and expand the Territory's response to domestic, family and sexual violence through trauma informed, person-centred support.

Every Canberran deserves to feel safe in their homes, in their relationships and in their community. This commitment to boost the capacity of frontline services, enhances early intervention efforts for children and young people, and supports the provision of culturally safe support through Aboriginal Community Controlled and led Organisations (ACCOs).

In this Budget, funding strengthens and sustains essential services, including for the Canberra Rape Crisis Service, the Domestic Violence Crisis Service, PCYC and the YWCA Canberra Domestic Violence Support Service.

To respond to *The Long Yarn* report, part of this investment includes \$6 million over three years to Aboriginal Community Controlled and led Organisations to provide culturally safe services, including services delivered by Yhurwun Bullan, Sisters in Spirit Aboriginal Corporation, WhISPers Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Softball Corporation and Yerrabi Yurwang Child and Family Aboriginal Corporation.

Ending violence against women is a national emergency, and this long-term commitment to ending domestic, family and sexual violence in the ACT, delivered in partnership with the community sector and ACCOs, is an important wellbeing priority for the Government and the community.



Australian Capital Territory

Budget 2025–26