

September 2023

Our CBR

Belconnen



Support for cost of living



[Find a list of initiatives inside](#)

Message from the Chief Minister

National cost-of-living pressures are causing financial challenges for many Canberra households.

There are ACT Government programs to help Canberrans with everyday costs including energy bills, health care and transport. There are also programs to assist with sustainable home upgrades and support to rent or buy a home.

The recent ACT Budget included further cost of living relief, including expanding the Utilities Concession eligibility criteria to support more households with the costs of heating and cooling their homes. Around one in five Canberra households are now eligible for support with their energy bills.

For more information, visit the Government's cost of living support website at act.gov.au/costoflivingsupport.

Andrew Barr



Read more online.

Scan this QR code for all your Our CBR articles in one place, or to sign up for fortnightly updates directly to your inbox.



Refreshed website provides support

The ACT Government's cost of living website makes it easier for eligible Canberrans to find support for energy, rates, education, health and transport costs.

Find out what support you can get to help with everyday costs by visiting act.gov.au/costoflivingsupport.



Apply for help with energy bills

If you have an eligible concession card, you can apply for the Utilities Concession. This will give you up to \$800 off your energy bills in 2023–24. You can apply via your energy provider.

The Utilities Concession is applied to your electricity bill and covers electricity, natural gas, water and sewerage and is calculated on a daily basis, with rates depending on the season.

Head online to see if you're eligible.



Get free health care at a Walk-in Centre

Canberrans can receive free health care at one of Canberra's five Walk-in Centres.

Nurses provide free assessment and treatment of non-life-threatening injuries and illnesses.

Anyone over one year of age can attend – with or without a Medicare card.

The centres are open 365 days a year, 7.30am to 10pm, in Belconnen, Tuggeranong, Dickson, Weston and Gungahlin. No appointment is necessary.

Initiatives to help reduce your cost of living

The ACT Government has a number of initiatives available to help support eligible Canberrans with the cost of living. These include:

- Assistance with the cost of energy bills via the Utilities Concession
- Free or discounted travel on ACT public transport
- Rates rebate or deferral
- Help paying for school essentials via the Education Equity Fund
- Discounted vehicle registration and licence renewal
- Free health care at a Walk-in Centre
- Interest-free rental bond loans
- Fee-free TAFE to train, retrain or upskill
- Free advice to save money on home energy and water bills.

Find out more about these and other cost of living supports online.



Progress continues on the Molonglo River Bridge

Design work is progressing on the John Gorton Drive extension and Molonglo River Bridge.

You may have noticed activity near Coppins Crossing as work to support the design takes place.

Once complete, the bridge will become Australia's longest weathering steel bridge, and Canberra's highest road bridge.

This project is also delivering:

- bus queue jump lanes and two bus stops
- off-road shared paths
- a new intersection connecting to the Molonglo Group Centre
- new native animal habitat.

This project is jointly funded by the ACT and Australian governments. Find out more online.

Artist's impression



BUILT FOR CBR



Florey Oval refresh now underway

Work to refresh part of Florey Oval has begun.

Due for completion by the start of 2024, the oval will be a fun and engaging space for Florey Primary students and the local community to enjoy.

The upgrade will add several features, including:

- a sensory garden
- a pump track for bike riding

- goal posts
- an irrigated lawn oval for recreation and play
- drinking bubblers, seating and shaded green spaces.

Ngunnawal elements feature in the design, including the Buru (kangaroo) tracks path and a yarning circle to be named after Ngunnawal Elder Aunty Violet Sheridan.

New and upgraded paths for Belco

A new 2.5-metre-wide shared path has been completed in Lawson, connecting Solong Street to Ginninderra Drive.

Upgrades to Scullin paths will begin later this year. Part of the Age Friendly Suburbs Program, the work aims to improve path access for older Canberrans and those with more specific mobility needs.



Acknowledgement of Country



We acknowledge 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.



Accessibility
Ph 13 22 81



Interpreter
Ph 131 450



Celebrate spring at Floriade

Floriade returns to Commonwealth Park from 16 September to 15 October.

Themed Floral Wonderland, Floriade will offer a captivating program of activities, food and wine, workshops, stalls, and entertainment including the Wonderland Spiegeltent.

The ever-popular NightFest is also back, offering after-dark entertainment and illuminations between 28 September and 1 October.

An accessible walking trail will also bring the festival of flowers into the heart of the city centre.



Traffic changes on Commonwealth Avenue in place. Plan ahead and follow signage.

Stay up to date by visiting builtforcbr.act.gov.au/travel-impacts.

Check you're enrolled to vote

Later this year, all eligible Australian citizens aged 18 years and over will vote in The Voice Referendum. The Australian Government has committed to holding the referendum between October and December 2023.

Check your enrolment details are up to date or enrol now at aec.gov.au/enrol

Get informed.
[Voice.gov.au](https://voice.gov.au)

What's on in September

8-10 Sep	Canberra Moon Festival City Walk
9-10 Sep	GAMMA Expo – Gaming & Pop Culture Festival Thoroughbred Park
15 Sep	Kate Ceberano: My Life Is a Symphony Canberra Theatre Centre
16 Sep	The White Album Concert Canberra Theatre Centre
17 Sep	AMB 100 Mountain Bike Marathon Stromlo Forest Park
21-23 Sep	Possum Magic Canberra Theatre Centre
23-24 Sep	Fox Superflow Sealed by Stan's Stromlo Forest Park
24 Sep	Your Local Wedding Guide Expo EPIC
Until 29 Oct	Plant Stories: Woven Tapestry Natives Botanic Gardens

Canberrans can also cheer on the Raiders at GIO Stadium this month.



For more events and details, visit events.canberra.com.au

YOUR SAY
CONVERSATIONS

How do you feel about same-day alcohol delivery?

The increased access to alcohol through the convenience of online ordering and same-day delivery comes with the potential for increased risk of alcohol-related harm to the ACT community.

Have your say on the regulation of online ordering and same-day delivery of alcohol to reduce harm and enhance community safety. Scan the QR code to share your thoughts.