New operating theatres at Calvary Public Hospital

More people can have elective surgery at Calvary Public Hospital when two new operating theatres open.

There will also be a bigger Emergency Department with 41 new doctors and nurses to staff the new ED when its expansion is complete.

The first theatre will be ready by next year and the second theatre in 2020-2021.

More at health.act.gov.au

Growing services for Canberra

Canberra’s direction through the 2020s depends on the decisions and investments we make as a community today. Canberra is a great place to live, work, start a business and raise your family. We want to make sure it keeps getting better into the coming decade.

In this Our CBR edition, you’ll see how we’re increasing health services across Canberra and future-proofing our hospitals for our growing city. We are building new schools and expanding existing ones, we’re making our transport networks faster, safer and cleaner, and we’re expanding support to keep cost of living down.

Andrew Barr
Chief Minister
Need help buying an affordable home?

A mix of units, apartments and townhouses are available to buy as part of the Affordable Home Purchase. Eligible homebuyers can purchase properties across new development sites including in the city, Lyneham, Gungahlin Town Centre, Taylor, Coombs, Wright, Whitlam, Strathnairn, Belconnen Town Centre, Lyons, Phillip, Moncrieff, Throsby, Lawson and Greenway.

More at planning.act.gov.au

Find savings with the Assistance website

From bus fares to funerals, the Assistance website will suggest savings to help with the cost of living in Canberra. The website also includes a new savings finder tool, so you can quickly see what discounts, rebates and other concessions you might be eligible for across Canberra.

Find savings at act.gov.au/assistance

Total mobile ban for L and P drivers

It is already illegal to call, text or use social media while driving and now L and P drivers can’t use bluetooth handsfree or speaker mode. Evidence shows that devices, even hands free, are not safe to use while driving. The safety of young drivers and other road users is a top priority for our community to achieve zero deaths or injury on ACT Roads.

More at justice.act.gov.au

Helping older Canberrans

The Pensioner Duty Concession Scheme helps eligible pensioners who own their home to move to accommodation more suited to their needs. Property value thresholds are also being adjusted to better target the scheme to those most in need. The Pensioner Duty Concession Scheme will continue to 30 June 2020.

More at revenue.act.gov.au

Did you know that in Belconnen there are...

- 18 public schools
- 8,409 public school students
- 895 public school teachers
- 99 parks
- 147 playgrounds
- 36 sports grounds maintained
**Better connecting Belconnen & Gungahlin**

Plans are underway to duplicate the major arterial road between Belconnen and Gungahlin. It will become a dual carriageway making commuting easier. Key features of the planned duplication include:

- two lanes in each direction between Ginninderra Drive and the Barton Highway
- 6.4 kilometres of new on-road cycle lanes
- new signals at the Dumas Street intersection.


**Hawker Primary School grows**

Enrolments are increasing in ACT public schools each year. Hawker Primary School has 344 students from Kindergarten to Year 6 and it will increase capacity by 50 students next year. Transportable classrooms will provide flexible, high-quality learning environments for our students.


**Belconnen Arts Centre expansion update**

The Belconnen Arts Centre expansion is underway, doubling the size of the centre. The Arts Centre will soon include a flexible theatre space, new dance and rehearsal studio, exhibition space and a café. The developments will provide more opportunities for the community to engage with the arts. The new extension is expected to be complete by March 2020.


**Aranda & Holt to become age friendly**

Canberrans of all ages should be able to move more freely around their suburb. The community has provided feedback through Fix My Street and other avenues to shortlist upgrades to Aranda and Holt, as part of the Age Friendly Suburbs Program.

Stay up to date on upgrades in your area at [yoursay.act.gov.au](http://yoursay.act.gov.au)
Looking for ways to enjoy winter in Canberra?

Rug up and make your way down to Wintervention in Civic from 5-21 July. Ice skate, enjoy local food or visit the Winter Food and Makers Markets (5-7 July).

Warm Trees is back again for 2019. The knitted installation brightens up trees at the National Arboretum Canberra.

Tiptoe through the knitted tulips, see a giant cargo bike knitted installation and discover the sea of colourful scarves wrapped around trees in the Himalayan Cedar forest.

This year features the world’s largest handcrafted frieze of colourful tulips, decorated bicycle wheels and groves of magical colour.

More at nationalarboretum.act.gov.au

Warm Trees at the Arboretum

You know great people. You know their stories.

Be great and nominate a Canberran for an Australian of the Year Award by 31 July 2019.

Dr Sue Packer AM (pictured) from Canberra won the 2019 Senior Australian of the Year award for her work advocating for the rights of children.

Nominate now at australianoftheyear.org.au

Nominate an Australian of the Year for the 60th anniversary

Nominate now at australianoftheyear.org.au