Weston Creek Walk-in Centre opening soon

Canberra’s fourth Walk-in Centre is set to open in Weston Creek next month.

Housed in the Community Health Centre next to Cooleman Court on Parkinson Street, the Weston Creek Walk-in Centre will provide free treatment and advice for injuries and illnesses such as colds and flus, cuts, bruises, strains, sprains and minor limb fractures.

Walk-in Centres are free and open from 7.30am to 10pm daily.

More at health.act.gov.au

Canberra also has Walk-in Centres in Gungahlin, Belconnen and Tuggeranong

In this issue

⇒ New Molonglo emergency station
⇒ More police on the beat

A message from the Chief Minister

Canberra is one of Australia’s safest cities – and we’re determined to keep it that way. We’re hiring more police officers and upgrading their equipment; there are more firefighters across our city and we’re building new stations for our emergency services.

That safety also extends to preparing for bushfires. Our city will experience a long hot summer and now is the time to prepare your family for bushfires. Check out the full Bushfire Survival Plan kit in this edition.

Andrew Barr
**Take care**

Summer’s just around the corner and work parties, festivals, school formals and end-of-year celebrations are ramping up. We’ve got all the information you need to party smart, make the most of your nights out and stay safe. You’ll find transport options, event details, tips for students (and parents!) as well as what to do and where to go if you need extra help when you’re out.


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**More police for the ACT**

As our city grows, the ACT Government continues to invest in policing to ensure the capital remains one of the safest places in the country. Over the next four years the Government will fund more than 60 new staff. It will also support ACT Policing as it moves to a new policing model that will mean more police connected with the community. The Territory is also investing in new state-of-the-art technology so our police will be more visible across the city.


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**New laws to better protect children**

A number of changes to ACT law came into effect from 1 September 2019 to better protect children from abuse. They include:

‡ the introduction of a new failure to report offence (applies to all adults 18 years+)
‡ expansion of Mandatory Reporting
‡ changes to the Reportable Conduct Scheme.

The changes are an important step as the ACT Government continues working towards a safer society for children and a stronger legal framework for survivors.


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**Better healthcare at the Canberra Hospital**

We’re building a new emergency, surgical and critical care facility at the heart of the hospital campus. Construction will start next year on the expansion, and we’d like your views on the services it will provide.


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**Making our roads safer for new drivers**

From 1 January 2020, there will be a range of changes for L and P plate drivers to improve their safety on our roads.

Meet your local police officer:
Constable Rachel Lokugamage

Constable Rachel Lokugamage recently joined ACT Policing after working as a Protective Service Officer at Garden Island in Sydney.

On patrol, no day is the same and for Constable Lokugamage, the best aspect of her job is working in a great team.

“A recent highlight was the rapid arrest of a man who had stolen a vehicle,” she said.

More at act.gov.au/our-canberra

Farrer nature play space ready for little explorers

Local children now have a range of exciting opportunities to be active, grow and learn with a new nature play space open in Farrer.

The play space includes a range of zones for children to climb, scramble, hide and rest. Children will also be able to zoom around on a mountain bike circuit next to the play space. Another nature play space in Woden’s Eddison Park is being built.

More at natureplaycbr.org.au

Love trees in your suburb?
The ACT Government is planting 17,000 trees over the next four years. Tell us where you want to see more trees in your area.

Visit yoursay.act.gov.au

New emergency station in Molonglo

A new emergency services station will be built in the Molonglo Valley as a local base for both ACT Ambulance Service and ACT Fire & Rescue operations.

The new station will help to keep Canberrans in nearby fast-growing suburbs safe.

The investment in emergency services also aims to ensure our emergency response times remain among the best in Australia no matter where people live across our city.

More at act.gov.au/our-canberra

New firefighters for south Canberra

The ACT Emergency Services Agency is strengthening its firefighting services across the ACT by hiring new firefighters.

Twenty firefighter recruits will finish their training soon, and 36 more will begin training early next year.

More at act.gov.au/our-canberra
Canberrans be fire ready

Canberra can expect a long hot summer ahead with an increased risk of bushfires.

Right now is the time to prepare your home and discuss an action plan with your family. A written Bushfire Survival Plan saves lives and means decisions have been made ahead of any possible bushfire threat. Complete your Bushfire Survival Plan inside.

More at esa.act.gov.au

Four simple steps to creating your bushfire survival plan

1. Discuss with your household what you will do in a bushfire.
2. Prepare a plan and your home for bushfire.
3. Know the bushfire alert levels.
4. Keep information, numbers, websites, and apps.

Top 5 actions to make your home safe

1. Trim
   Trim overhanging trees and shrubs. This can stop the fire spreading to your home.

2. Mow
   Mow grass and remove the cuttings. Have a cleared area around your home.

3. Remove
   Remove material that can burn (e.g. door mats, wood piles, leaves, paint, furniture).

4. Clear
   Clear and remove debris and leaves from gutters to prevent embers setting alight.

5. Prepare
   A sturdy hose or hoses that will reach all around your home. Have a reliable source of water.

Stay informed

The ACT Rural Fire Service strongly advises saving these numbers, links and app now.

In an emergency call: Triple Zero (000)
For information on bushfires call Access Canberra: 13 22 81

For Fire Danger Ratings visit the ACT Emergency Services website: esa.act.gov.au

Install the RFS ‘Fires Near Me’ app

Local radio, local ABC/emergency broadcaster frequency, TV and news websites.

Stay up to date at: facebook.com/ACTESA and twitter.com/ACTESA

For more stories and information from across Canberra, visit act.gov.au/our-canberra or follow us on social media.

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