

December 2023

# Our CBR

Belconnen

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## Christmas arrives in the city



Find out more inside

### Message from the Chief Minister

It has been a big year for Canberra and there is a lot to look forward to in 2024, including the opening of the Canberra Hospital expansion.

The expansion will include more operating rooms, more treatment spaces and more intensive care beds to expand the overall capacity of the Canberra Hospital.

As we get closer to the end of the year, I want to thank the Canberrans working hard to keep our city safe and cared for.

Remember, your local Walk-in Centres are open seven days a week, including Christmas Day and New Year's Day, between 7.30am and 10pm.

Have a safe and happy festive season.

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.



**ACT**  
Government



## Services available during the holiday season

Some ACT Government services will be closed or have restricted opening hours during the festive period. This includes Access Canberra service centres, although online transactions can still be carried out at any time.

However, don't forget ACT Walk-in Centres are open seven days a week, including Christmas Day and New Year's Day, between 7.30am and 10pm.

If you find yourself with a non-life threatening injury or illness, head to your local nurse-led Walk-in Centre.

Scan the QR code to view all ACT Government service changes over the festive season.



## Increased stamp duty concession **for home-buyers**

The ACT Government is supporting more Canberrans to buy a home by increasing the stamp duty concession for off-the-plan unit purchases to include properties valued up to \$800,000.

For contracts signed and exchanged on or after 27 November 2023, home-buyers will not have to pay stamp duty on off-the-plan apartment or

townhouse purchases valued up to (and including) \$800,000.

Previously, the concession – for contracts signed and exchanged from 1 July 2023 – applied to properties valued up to \$700,000.

Scan the QR code for more information, including eligibility requirements.



## Reduce your risk around waterways this summer

Many Canberrans choose to beat the heat with a visit to the region's natural waterways.

Before you go:

- let someone know and avoid going alone
- know your limits
- understand the dangers
- be prepared for an emergency.

Read more about water safety and other summer safety tips online.



## Read more online.

Scan this QR code for all your Our CBR articles in one place, or visit [linktr.ee/ourcanberra](https://linktr.ee/ourcanberra)







# Planning underway on new northside hospital

The ACT Government is investing more than \$1 billion to build the new northside hospital on the Bruce hospital campus.

It will deliver a modern, state-of-the-art health facility for the Canberra community and health workforce.

Construction is set to begin by mid-decade. Services will continue to operate at the

North Canberra Hospital until construction is complete.

The project is in the early planning stage. Over the coming years there will be close consultation with the community, stakeholders and clinicians to ensure the new hospital meets the ACT's changing health needs into the future.

Find out more online.



Artist's impression of the new northside hospital

**BUILT FOR CBR**

# Preparing for the future of Belconnen schools



The updated ACT Infrastructure Plan aims to provide every Canberra child with modern, sustainable and safe school infrastructure.

As part of this plan, there will be a new primary school and early childhood education and care service built in Strathnairn, which is now in the concept planning stage.

Planning is also underway to modernise Fraser Primary School.

The ACT Government will continue to monitor the city's growth and plan for future demand, ensuring future generations always have access to a school close to home.



## Moving forward on Gundaroo Drive duplication

Work is continuing on the third stage of the Gundaroo Drive duplication, between Barton Highway and Ginninderra Drive.

Traffic is currently using both northbound lanes between Baldwin Drive and Chuculba Crescent while significant bridge and underpass works are being carried out.

In early 2024, four lanes are expected to open for the entire length of the project. The new traffic lights at the Owen Dixon Drive intersection will also begin operating.

This project is jointly funded by the ACT and Australian governments. Scan the QR code to find out more.



Artist's impression of the Strathnairn childhood education and care service

## Acknowledgement of Country



We acknowledge the Ngannawal 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



Ph 13 14 50





## Festive finds in the city

Experience Christmas in the city centre and Braddon this month with free merry-go-round rides, roving weekend entertainment and a Christmas City Party.

It's all part of Festive Finds in the City – an initiative inviting you to enjoy free entertainment and explore the array of restaurants, cafes and shops on offer.

An online gift guide is also available, including offers from local businesses to help you find that perfect present.

Help bring the spirit of Christmas to the city this year and join in the festivities.

Scan the QR code to discover the program.



## Fee-Free TAFE to continue

Fee-Free TAFE – a jointly funded initiative of the Australian and ACT governments – will continue until 2026.

Canberra Institute of Technology (CIT) will deliver another 3600 places over three years, with a focus on priority learners and areas of skills demand.

This year, CIT has seen a strong uptake of Fee-Free TAFE enrolments in the care sector, such as childcare, aged care, disability care and community services.

Applications for Semester 1 2024 are now open. Scan the QR code for more.

## What's on in December & January

<b>Until 24 Feb</b>	<b>Sunset Cinema</b> Australian Botanic Gardens
<b>12 Dec</b>	<b>BBL Thunder v Heat</b> Manuka Oval
<b>15 Dec</b>	<b>A Very Canberra Comedy Festival Christmas</b> Canberra Theatre Centre
<b>16 Dec</b>	<b>The Little Burley's Big Christmas Bash!</b> Queen Elizabeth Terrace
<b>19–24 Dec</b>	<b>Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol</b> Canberra Theatre Centre
<b>31 Dec</b>	<b>New Year's Eve</b> Lake Burley Griffin
<b>11 Jan</b>	<b>WNBL Capitals v Lynx</b> National Convention Centre
<b>19 Jan</b>	<b>Kate Miller-Heidke</b> Canberra Theatre Centre
<b>30 Jan</b>	<b>Walter Trout at the Zeppelin Room</b> Harmonie German Club



For more events and details,  
visit [events.canberra.com.au](https://events.canberra.com.au)

## Free travel on Christmas Day

Bus and light rail services are free on Christmas Day. During the festive season and especially on New Year's Eve, why not leave the car at home? View the timetable online.

