

Our CBR

Belconnen edition



December 2020

Support Canberra's jobs this summer

Canberrans have shown our local businesses strong support throughout a tough 2020 and this can continue through the summer months.

Canberrans can get up to \$40 worth of discounts each day if they spend at participating businesses across Canberra.

This will help our local businesses with their economic recovery. Shopping locally over the festive period, or donating to local charities, will also help the Canberra community recover from a tough 12 months.

The pandemic is not over and the ACT Government will continue to support local businesses to keep the economy moving and keep people in jobs. This is one part of our plan to create and protect over 250,000 local jobs by 2025.

→ More at choosecbr.act.gov.au



MORE INSIDE >
The Belconnen Bikeway
is now open, providing
better access to the
town centre.

The Cook Grocer, Cook



Message from the Chief Minister

It's been a year like no other, with bushfires, hail and a global pandemic and economic crisis presenting immense challenges.

The pandemic isn't over and we will feel the impacts of 2020 for many years to come.

As we enter the festive period, there will still be many Canberrans working hard to keep our city safe and cared for.

Please be COVID-safe. When you're out and about in Canberra, download the Check In CBR app and check in to the venue you're at. This will help ACT Health with contact tracing.

When you're travelling across Australia, always be mindful of the ABC of COVID safe travel. Avoid COVID-affected areas; behave in a COVID-safe way; and check back when you're home by monitoring the COVID website of the state or territory you visited.

→ Visit covid19.act.gov.au for up-to-date information.

Andrew Barr



**MORE NEWS,
MORE OFTEN**

Stay up to date with what's
happening in your region and beyond.
Sign up for our e-newsletter at act.gov.au/our-canberra



Stay COVID Safe this festive season

Let's keep CBR safe and strong over the holidays.

Whether you're travelling interstate to visit family and friends, or hosting or attending an end of year event, it's important to continue practising COVID-safe behaviour.

Remember to keep your physical distance, practise good hand hygiene, stay home if you are unwell and get tested if you have any COVID-19 symptoms.

→ More at covid19.act.gov.au



Preparing for an emergency

A year ago, Canberra was covered in a thick blanket of smoke from one of the worst bushfire seasons on record.

The ACT Emergency Services Agency's new-look Survival Plan will help you prepare not just for bushfires, but for multiple hazards at the same time.

You can edit your plan online – making it easier for you to save a copy on any device, to share it with family and friends, and update it each year.

→ More at esa.act.gov.au/survival-plan

Walk-in Centres open all summer

If you or a family member face a minor illness or injury this summer, advanced practice nurses and nurse practitioners at Canberra's Walk-in Centres can help.

While the Weston Creek Walk-in Centre is currently operating as a COVID-19 testing clinic, the Tuggeranong, Belconnen, Inner North and Gungahlin centres are open every day of the year from 7.30am to 10pm, including Christmas Day. No appointment is needed for this free service.

→ More at walkincentre.act.gov.au

Better care for Canberra kids

The Centenary Hospital for Women & Children's newly refurbished Paediatric High Care Ward has opened with 12 beds for very unwell children and those with complex needs.

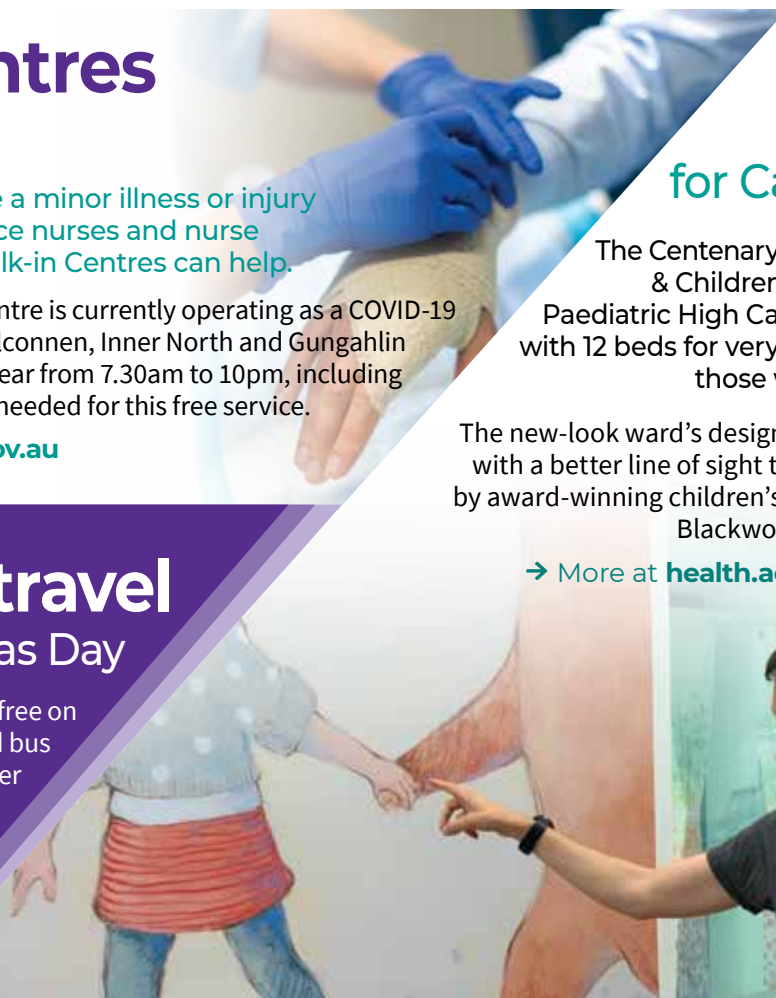
The new-look ward's design provides clinical staff with a better line of sight to patients. An artwork by award-winning children's book illustrator Freya Blackwood adds some sparkle.

→ More at health.act.gov.au/paediatic

Free travel on Christmas Day

Bus and light rail services are free on Christmas Day. There is a reduced bus timetable in place over the summer holiday period.

More at
transport.act.gov.au





Belco bikeway now open

It's now easier to cycle across Belco along the new bikeway.

The new bikeway runs from Coulter Drive in Florey through to the University of Canberra, providing better access to the Belconnen Town Centre for cyclists and pedestrians.

The bikeway is made up of 4.7km of shared and separated cycling and pedestrian facilities.

There's also about 200 new trees along the route and 4,000 new shrubs.

→ Stay up to date at cityservices.act.gov.au/infrastructure-projects



Fast-tracked infrastructure in Belconnen

Shade structures have been installed at Canberra High School in Macquarie and bus shelters have been upgraded across the region as part of the ACT Government's fast-tracked infrastructure and maintenance works across Canberra.

These projects have helped to protect local jobs during our COVID-19 recovery and deliver better services for our community.

→ More at act.gov.au/fasttrack

New place to play in Higgins

Kids of Belco have somewhere new to ride and run with the improved and refreshed play space at Westhoven Street in Higgins now open.

Featuring a dirt bike track, accessible spinner, a picnic shelter and more – it's the place to play these school holidays.

→ Stay up to date at cityservices.act.gov.au/infrastructure-projects



Free training through the JobTrainer Fund

School leavers, young people and job seekers in the ACT can now apply for fee-free training through the JobTrainer Fund, which will help Canberrans build new skills that lead to future job opportunities.

With a range of full qualifications, pre-apprenticeships and short courses on offer, you are sure to find a course that will suit you. JobTrainer can give you a qualification for free and set you up for success.

→ Enrol in JobTrainer today and visit act.gov.au/jobtrainer



Christmas fun in Civic

Celebrate Christmas in Civic!

Canberra's very own unique kaleidoscopic Christmas tree and summer decorations will deck the city centre. There will also be performances by local artists, family activities, giveaways and more.

→ More at act.gov.au/cityrenewal



Free entry this December at Tidbinbilla

If you're excited to spend time outdoors this summer, then be sure to visit the newly-opened Rock Wallaby Wander at Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve.

It's an easy 1km walk through an open woodland, where you'll wander past Brush-tailed Rock-wallabies in their rocky habitat. Tidbinbilla is the only place in the ACT where this threatened species can be found.

The Tidbinbilla team have also recently upgraded the Nil Desperandum Track, Cascades Trail and Xanthorrhoea Loop so there are plenty of other places to explore. And there's free entry until the end of December.

→ More at tidbinbilla.act.gov.au



Services available during the holiday season

Some ACT Government services will be closed, or have restricted opening hours, during the festive period.

→ More act.gov.au/xmas-shutdown

Boost for mowing operations

Canberrans will see more mowing happening over the summer to tackle a particularly challenging season due to record rainfall.

This additional investment will create 24 new jobs and provide more equipment as teams on the ground continue to work seven days a week to keep up with increased demand.

Grassed areas near roads and intersections will be prioritised to maintain line of sight for motorists.

→ More at cityservices.act.gov.au



Celebrate New Year's in the capital

This year Canberra will ring in the new year with three nights of delicious meals and musical performances at some of our city's favourite eat streets.

While fireworks won't form part of this year's New Year's Eve celebrations, Canberrans can count down to 2021 across multiple nights from 29 to 31 December.

And your celebratory meal will taste all the sweeter because you're choosing local. By supporting one local business, you are supporting many, including local producers, their suppliers and regional growers.

→ More at events.act.gov.au/nye

