

September 2023

Our CBR

Gungahlin



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.



Margaret Hendry School **expansion complete**

The Margaret Hendry School expansion in Taylor is now complete.

Students are enjoying exploring the new two-level learning environment. Purpose-built general and specialist spaces cater for food technology, and Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Maths (STEAM) classes.

The new spaces are adaptable to allow for diverse learning experiences. The expansion allows the school to accommodate up to 600 additional primary school students, ensuring the Margaret Hendry School community can grow alongside its surroundings.



**BUILT
FOR
CBR**



Artist's impression

Throsby Home of Football closer to kick-off

Throsby's new football facility is another step closer.

The development application has been approved, and detailed design will soon get underway on this exciting addition to the Gungahlin region.

Throsby Home of Football will include multiple outdoor football fields and

indoor futsal courts. There will also be office space for Capital Football staff and additional amenities.

The facility will be located on the corner of Horse Park Drive and Gecko Way. It will support women's football, the community and this exciting sport well into the future.

Upgrades for Gungahlin primary schools

Ngunnawal Primary School will soon receive upgrades to its outdoor learning area, with new play equipment.

Palmerston Primary School students are making use of a new all-weather shade structure over the courtyard. A new accessible ramp has also been added to the preschool area.

These sustainable initiatives are part of a wider program to upgrade and modernise ACT public schools.



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

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.