

December 2023

Our CBR

Inner North, Inner South and City

In this edition:

- Changes to services over the holidays
- Stamp duty concession changes

- Update on Canberra's new hospitals
- Garden City Cycle Route update

Christmas arrives in the city



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.

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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.

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Big changes coming to Canberra's public hospitals

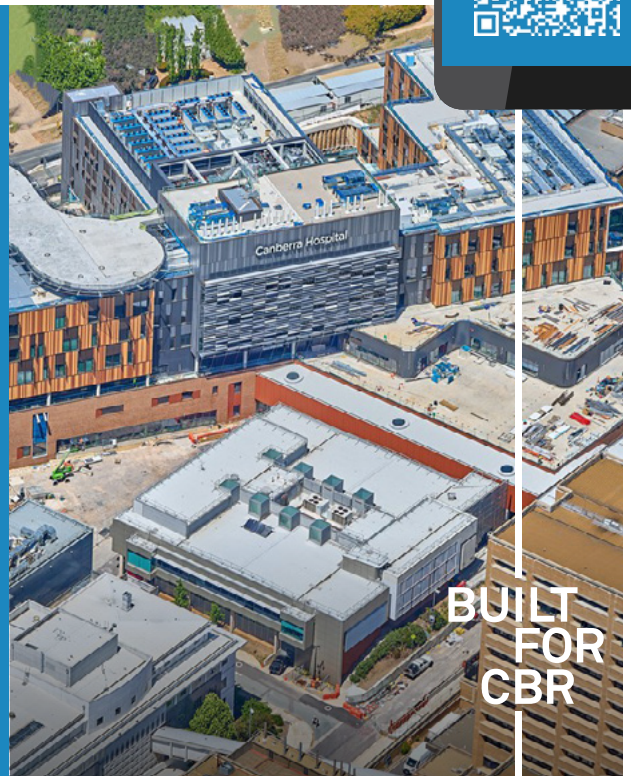
The brand-new Critical Services Building at the Canberra Hospital is on track to open next year.

This will move many of the critical care services on campus into the one building, with a larger emergency department, dedicated children's emergency area, more intensive care beds and surgical theatres, and modern treatment spaces and inpatient wards.

Early planning continues for the new northside hospital, to be built on the Bruce hospital campus.

Construction is set to begin by mid-decade, to deliver a state-of-the-art health facility for the Canberra community and health workforce.

Services will continue to operate at the North Canberra Hospital until construction is complete.



Work continues on Garden City Cycle Route

The Garden City Cycle Route will provide a safe, functional cycle route connecting schools, local centres and green spaces.

It will use existing streets to link to Watson, Downer, Hackett, Dickson, Ainslie and Braddon before connecting to the city and lake edge via the inner-city cycle loop on Bunda and Allara streets.

Design is now underway on the first stage of work, including the connections between the city and Braddon from Cooyong Street, along Torrens and Ijong streets and along Angas Street to Majura Avenue.

Construction is expected to start in 2024. This project is jointly funded between the Australian and ACT governments.



Canberrans inform inner-north playground design

Canberrans were asked to comment on the preliminary design for the new playground in Watson.

Most respondents were supportive of the design as well as the play and recreational spaces and picnic facilities included.

This feedback has helped finalise the designs. Construction of the playground, to be built beside Canberra Technology Park, is expected to begin in 2024.

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 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

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



For more events and details,
visit 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.

