ACT Government

Our Canberra October 2026

Easy Read version





About this newsletter

This newsletter is from the ACT Government.



A newsletter tells you about lots of things that

- you should know
- you can do.



This newsletter is for October 2026.

New changes will help people build more homes







The ACT Government has changed planning rules to help people build more medium-sized homes like

- townhouses
- duplexes
- granny flats.



These types of homes are often called missing middle homes.



The new rules mean homes can be built faster, so people can move in sooner.



You can read all about these planning changes on our website.



Website

act.gov.au/our-canberra/housing

You might be able to get faster internet



More people in Canberra can now connect to nbn full fibre internet.



nbn full fibre is faster and more reliable than older copper networks.



Some homes and businesses in Canberra can already connect to the new network.



The ACT Fibre Upgrade Program helps make upgrades so homes and businesses are ready to connect to the network.



If you live in the north of Canberra, your nbn delivery partner is called Ventia. If you live in the south of Canberra, your nbn delivery partner is called Service Stream.



Ventia or Service Stream will contact you if

- your area is ready and
- you can connect to the new network.



You will then need to call your internet provider if you want to connect.



Website

act.gov.au/our-canberra/nbn

Help for renters in financial stress



The new Housing Crisis Support Fund helps people who may be homeless or at risk of homelessness.



Some people can get a one-off payment to help with rental costs. This helps make sure they do not need to move out.



You may be able to get support if you are

- renting in the private housing market and
- having trouble paying your rent.



There is also help available for new public housing tenants.



What this means

- More people will have a safe place to stay.
- More people can stay in stable housing.
- More people can get help when money is tight.
- Help is there for those who need help most.



Website

act.gov.au/our-canberra/housing-fund

Keep watch for bird flu in Canberra



Some birds in Australia have been found to have bird flu. This is a disease that is also called H5.





There is low risk to humans. If you see a sick or dead bird

- do not touch it
- keep pets away from it
- take note of what you see and where it is
- call the Emergency Animal Disease Hotline on 1800 675 888.



Website

agriculture.gov.au/campaigns/birdflu

It is time to prepare for bushfires and storms





Bushfire and storm seasons have started. This is the time of year with the most risk of

- bushfires
- big storms
- flood
- heatwaves.

The ACT Emergency Services Agency is known as the ESA. It has good advice to help you prepare for a possible emergency.



Planning ahead is the best way to protect yourself, your family and your home in an emergency.



There are some simple things you can do now.



Talk with the people around you

Have a conversation about what you and your loved ones will do in an emergency.



The ESA has a guide to help you discuss the decisions you might have to make.



You can see it on their website. Go to esa.act.gov.au/chat



Make an emergency plan

An emergency plan says what you will do and where you will go if you are in danger.



Having a plan will help protect

- your loved ones
- yourself
- your home.



The ESA has a guide to help you make your plan.



You can see it on their website. Go to

esa.act.gov.au/plan



Pack an emergency kit

This is a collection of things you and your family might need in an emergency.



These things might include

- medicines and scripts
- a first aid kid
- a torch and spare batteries
- a battery operated radio
- water.



The ESA has a list of all the things you might include in your emergency kit.



You can see it on their website. Go to [esa.act.gov.au/act](esa.act.gov.au/act)





Prepare your house

Here are some things you can do now to prepare your home.

- Clean leaves, sticks and rubbish from your roof gutters.
- Move piles of wood away from your house.
- Cut back any tree branches that hang over your roof.
- Keep your grass short and green.
- Close any open spaces under your house.
- Seal up gaps and vents in your roof and walls.



You can find more information on preparing your home on the ESA website. Go to esa.act.gov.au/be-emergency-ready/resources-plans/survival-plan

What to do if there is an emergency near you



If there is an emergency near you, you need to be ready to act. You should

- follow emergency warnings and advice
- tune in to local radio
- not go anywhere if you do not have to.



Websites

If you can use the internet, you can see up to date information on

- the ESA website – esa.act.gov.au
- the ESA Facebook page – facebook.com/actemergencyservicesagency
- the ESA account on X – x.com/ACT_ESA

Outdoor swimming pools are open



Dickson Pool and Manuka Pool are now open for summer.



These outdoor pools are a great option for keeping cool in hot weather.



They are great for the whole family. You can cool down, swim laps and play.



Both pools have ramps for wheelchair access.



Websites

Visit each pool's website to see opening times and entry fees.

- Dickson Pool website – dicksonpool.com.au
- Manuka Pool website – manukapool.com.au



The next newsletter will be for December.

Contact us for more information



Use the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS)

Call 131 450. Give the TIS officer the phone number you want to call.

Use the National Relay Service (NRS)

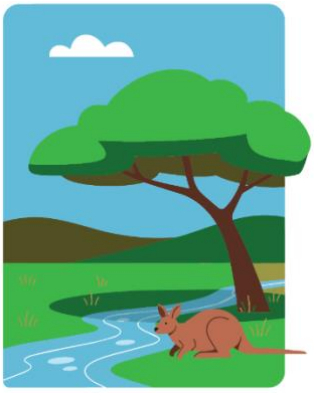
Visit the National Relay Service website.

Acknowledgement of Country



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are the First Peoples of Australia.

They have always looked after **Country**. Country means the land, water, sky and everything in them.



We respect the important connection they have with Country.