Green bins are coming – register now!

Wish someone would help take your garden waste away? Green waste bin services for residents have been brought forward to 1 April.

Take advantage of this convenient service for a one-off $50 fee, or free for eligible concession card holders.

Green bins will be collected fortnightly and can be used for grass clippings, weeds, prunings, flowers and small branches.

➢ For more information and to register visit act.gov.au/greenbins or call 13 22 81

Register now for collections starting 1 April.

New & improved playgrounds

Kids and families across Canberra will soon benefit from new and improved playgrounds across our city.

Funding from the ‘Play Spaces Forum’ will be provided for:
➢ A new Nature Play space at Glebe Park.
➢ New amenities in existing parks and playgrounds in Griffith, Yarraluma, Deakin, Hackett and more.
➢ A whole of suburb review for Narrabundah.
➢ More at yoursay.act.gov.au/bettersuburbs

Message from the Chief Minister, Andrew Barr

Happy New Year to every Canberran. 2019 is going to be another huge one for our city, as we continue to make our community even better.

From opening more great local schools, to delivering better healthcare where and when you need it, and investing in an integrated transport network to keep Canberra connected – we are hitting the ground running in 2019.

I’m particularly pleased we will complete the city-wide rollout of green bins in the coming months, by bringing forward the rollout in Gungahlin into early 2019, along with Woden, the Molonglo Valley, the inner north and the inner south.
Be a **backyard lifeguard**

Every year children under five drown in backyard pools – accidents we can help prevent.

As a community we are all responsible for safety around pools and together we can reduce the risk of children drowning in swimming pools in the ACT. Keep our kids safe this summer and be a backyard lifeguard with these summer safety tips:

- close supervision of children in and around the pool
- knowing CPR, which can save lives and, if performed early, help reduce serious or long-term injuries
- checking that pool barriers meet current safety standards.


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Join a **volunteer emergency service** in 2019

Canberra volunteers are a key part of the ACT’s emergency services, providing frontline response to bushfires, storms and floods.

Volunteer positions include rural firefighters, State Emergency Service members, community education practitioners and community fire unit members.


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**One year of Chromebooks**

It’s been a year since the roll-out of Chromebooks across Canberra public secondary schools and more devices will be provided this year.

Students starting year seven in 2019, along with new students to the ACT public education system in years eight to 12, will receive their Chromebook in term one.

Chromebooks are used as a teaching and learning tool to help develop the capacity of students to analyse information, solve problems and communicate in an increasingly digital world.

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**Your health options**

Do you know how to get the most appropriate medical care for your symptoms?

Canberra has a range of convenient and accessible health services that don’t involve a trip to a hospital emergency department - there’s more than one front door to our health system.

Many of our local health services are free and available after hours, so make sure you choose the best care for your symptoms next time you need help.

Teachers shine at education awards

Jennifer Tabur of Lyneham High School was awarded 2018 New Educator of the Year at the annual ACT Public Education Awards. Ms Tabur co-directed the school’s musical productions in recent years and is the musical director of the large band program, which won silver at the Australian National Eisteddfod.

The awards are a celebration of the outstanding achievements of school leaders, teachers, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander education leaders, school support staff and volunteers in the ACT public education system.

More at education.act.gov.au

Most popular baby names 2018

The most popular baby names of 2018 have been released. While William and Amelia are the reigning names across Canberra, others were more popular in central Canberra.

Henry was the most popular boys’ name across the inner north and inner south, while Chloe and Zoe tied for the top girls’ name. Hugo, Ethan and Noah were also popular in the central region, while Harper, Matilda and Evelyn were popular choices for girls.

Birth registration is now available online at act.gov.au/birthregistration

Manuka Oval Media Centre complete

Construction of the new media centre at Manuka Oval is now complete.

The new permanent media centre will be used to broadcast Canberra’s first international Cricket Test Match, with the Australian men’s team against Sri Lanka. The media centre will provide more opportunities for Canberra to host world class sport in the future.

Visit the Cricket Australia website to get your tickets now cricket.com.au/tickets

Improvements to historic buildings complete

Come and see the recently completed improvements to Canberra’s city centre.

The Sydney and Melbourne buildings have new seating and pedestrian areas, improved lighting and cycle paths, which will re-invigorate the area. The City Bus Station has also been extended along Alinga Street.
Starting school in 2019?

Here are some tips for a safe and stress-free first day of school for your child.

➤ Talk to your child about what to expect and who to ask for help.
➤ Label all your child’s belongings.
➤ Consider the school route, likely road crossings and reinforce road safety.
➤ Apply sunscreen before leaving for school.

➤ Clarify after school pickup arrangements or who is collecting them.
If your child is starting kindergarten in an ACT Public School in 2019, make sure you get your copy of ‘Starting School: A Guide for Families’.
➤ To get your copy go to education.act.gov.au

Grab ’n Go lunchbox

If you’re looking for easy prep ideas for your kid’s lunchbox, download a Grab ’n Go school lunchbox shopping list from the ‘Parents’ section at act.gov.au/freshtastes

Our favourite festival is back

The National Multicultural Festival is back for its 23rd year. Join us in Civic for this musical and culinary celebration of Canberra’s diversity.
This year’s headline acts are the iconic Christine Anu, chef Mark Oliver and up and coming star Isaiah Firebrace.

Leave the car at home

Late Night Rapid bus services will operate during the festival and have teamed up with Uber to get you home safely. Services on both the Blue 300 and 200 Red Rapids to and from the City are running every 20 minutes. Connect with Uber until 3am to receive a discount.

➤ More at multiculturalfestival.com.au

Australia Day

There’s a lot going on across Canberra this Australia Day.
Support our Australian of the Year Awards local nominees on 25 January. Then on 26 January enjoy the National Flag Raising and Citizenship Ceremony, children’s activities, and an evening concert with a fireworks finale.
You can celebrate the public holiday on 28 January at Lanyon with a walking tour and live music near the lawns.

➤ More at events.act.gov.au/australia-day

Produced by: Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate.
For more stories and information from across Canberra, visit act.gov.au/our-canberra or follow us on social media.