

Our CBR

Central

February 2021

Back to school for Canberra's kids

Students, families and staff have a lot to look forward to this year, following a challenging 2020 full of change, resilience, and innovation.

All ACT public school students in Year 7 will receive a new Chromebook in 2021. This ACT Government program, now entering its fourth year, continues to help our students learn, think, create and work in an increasingly digital future.

Remember that 40km/h school zones are back in place, so please slow down to protect our young Canberrans.

→ For more on back to school, visit: act.gov.au/our-canberra

Photograph:

Majura Primary School students are excited for 2021.

MORE INSIDE >
**ACT Budget
2020 – 2021**
What's in it
for you?



Message from the Chief Minister

The ACT Government has been focused on helping those who most need it since the global pandemic began.

This includes more investment in social and public housing, to help with climate action initiatives like installing solar panels.

Our focus remains: to help those who most need it; to protect and create secure local jobs; to continue essential services and to invest in the social, environmental and economic infrastructure of the future.

Canberra's recovery continues, and we'll keep driving this in the months and years ahead.

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/subscribe



Back on track to school!

Planning to catch a Transport Canberra bus or light rail service to school this year? Here are some tips:

- Plan your journey using the online TC Journey Planner.
- Top up, purchase and register your MyWay card online or at one of many recharge agents across Canberra.
- Stay COVID Safe. Remember, no cash is being accepted on bus services and entry and exit is from the rear door only.
- Walking, cycling or scooting to school is a great way to stay COVID Safe. Use crossings and underpasses and don't forget your helmet!

➔ More at transport.act.gov.au



COVID-19 vaccine roll out

A COVID-19 vaccine program will be rolled out nationally in early 2021. The ACT Government will provide Canberrans access to safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines.

Initial doses will be made available to priority groups. To keep our community safe, we must continue practising good hygiene and physical distancing, use the Check In CBR app, and get tested if you have any COVID-19 symptoms – no matter how mild.

➔ Stay up to date at covid19.act.gov.au/vaccine

Free training is still available

School leavers, young people and job seekers in the ACT can now apply to a range of FREE courses available through JobTrainer.

➔ More at act.gov.au/jobtrainer



FREE vaccinations for students

Year 7 students are offered two doses of the HPV vaccine and one dose of the diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough vaccine.

Don't forget to sign and return the consent cards to your child's school.

➔ More at health.act.gov.au/adolescent-immunisation

Sportsground improvements

Works have been completed at more than 20 local sportsgrounds to ensure community changeroom facilities are inclusive and comfortable to use.

Upgrades to facilities were recently completed in Narrabundah, including:

- lockable shower cubicles
- power points for accessories adjacent to wet areas
- individual toilet cubicles
- privacy considerations
- shelving in appropriate locations for personal accessories.

A new access driveway at the Narrabundah Ball Park was also completed recently.

➔ More at cityservices.act.gov.au/Infrastructure-Projects

A change is coming to London Circuit

Planning is now underway to create better connections between the city and the lake by raising London Circuit to form a level intersection with Commonwealth Avenue.

The new connection will significantly improve walking, cycling and public transport links between the CBD and the Acton Waterfront. This major road project also provides an important foundation for extending light rail to Woden.

There will be opportunities to have your say on this project in the coming months.



Creating a more sustainable Canberra

Through investments in the 2020-21 Budget we are transitioning to a cleaner future and providing Canberrans opportunities to contribute to our vision.

Zero-interest loans up to \$15,000 will be established for households and not-for-profit community organisations to invest in rooftop solar panels, household battery storage, zero emission vehicles and efficient electric appliances.

All new zero emissions vehicles purchased in the ACT from May 2021 until June 2024 will receive two-year free registration and work will commence in 2021 on delivering ACT's Big Battery.

Helping the community recover from COVID-19

Through the 2020-21 Budget the ACT Government is continuing to support businesses, industries and community members most affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

- The ChooseCBR program will receive a funding boost to drive more sales through local business.
 - The Fast Track infrastructure program will continue to protect and create local jobs, whilst delivering upgraded facilities for the community.
 - A Future Jobs Fund will be established that includes a grant program targeting growth industries and higher education.
 - More mental health and wellbeing services will be provided to meet the additional needs of the community.
- ➔ More at act.gov.au/our-canberra/ACTbudget

Photograph: The Knox Made in Watson participated in ChooseCBR.



NEW Walk-in Health Centre

Feasibility and site selection work will soon begin for four new Walk-in Health Centres across Canberra, including one for the Inner South community.

Enlighten Festival

lights up Canberra

Canberra will shine bright with culture and creativity as the Enlighten Festival brings together the best autumn events.

Held across 17 days from 26 February, Enlighten Festival will offer in-person experiences across five hero events.

Entry to events is free, however, you will be required to register and book experiences in advance.

→ [Book your Enlighten Festival experience at enlightencanberra.com](https://enlightencanberra.com)



Check In CBR App



The free, fast and secure way to check in and assist with contact tracing.

→ More at covid19.act.gov.au



Enlighten Illuminations

26 February - 8 March 2021

See the Parliamentary Triangle precinct come to life after dark.

Witness thought-provoking large scale projections on some of the capital's most loved and iconic buildings, including the National Portrait Gallery, National Library of Australia, Australian Parliament House, Museum of Australian Democracy, National Gallery of Australia and Questacon.

→ [Book your Enlighten Festival experience at enlightencanberra.com](https://enlightencanberra.com)

Symphony in the Park

7 March 2021, 6.30pm-10pm
Stage 88, Commonwealth Park

We guarantee this is not your standard symphony experience.

Back by popular demand, the Canberra Symphony Orchestra will once again be taking to the stage with BABBA to perform ABBA's greatest hits. Framed by the tree-lined landscape of the iconic Commonwealth Park, bring a picnic blanket and prepare for a night of nostalgia, great tunes and delicious eats.

Canberra Day

8 March 2021, 10am-6pm
Parliamentary Triangle

Canberra is turning 108 in 2021!

Make the most of the public holiday and start the day at the Canberra Balloon Spectacular before joining Canberra Day festivities celebrating local businesses, attractions and the community.

Canberra Balloon Spectacular

6-14 March 2021, 6.15am-10am
Patrick White Lawns

Wake up to the view of hot air balloons floating across the city during the Canberra Balloon Spectacular.

Held over nine days, the Canberra skyline will be a flurry of colour, sound and movement. Head to Patrick White Lawns to be there as pilots inflate and launch their balloons and enjoy hot drinks and breakfast as the balloons ascend into the sky. Or, for a morning to remember, experience the thrill of hot air ballooning with a balloon ride.



→ To see the full program and to register for all events, visit enlightencanberra.com



Receive fortnightly **Our Canberra** updates directly to your inbox.

Produced by: Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate

