

February 2024

Our CBR

Gungahlin



Free three-year-old preschool begins



Message from the Chief Minister

As school returns for another year, the ACT Government is making sure every child has access to a great education.

Starting this year, all three-year-olds in the ACT can access 300 hours of free preschool education, ensuring quality early learning before school.

We know that getting ready for a new school year can be difficult for some families. To help cover some of the costs like uniforms, excursions, sports and music, eligible families will be able to access financial support through the ACT's Future of Education Equity Fund.

Andrew Barr



Read more online.

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Remember, the first day of every ACT public school term in 2024 will be a student-free day.

School's back for another year

With Canberra kids back in the classroom, now is the ideal time to take advantage of the ACT Government services available to parents and carers of school-aged children.

- **The Future of Education Equity Fund** is now open to help with back-to-school costs. Eligible families can seek assistance for education essentials such as book packs and uniforms.
- ACT three-year-olds can now benefit from 300 hours of **free preschool** at over 140 locations. This will save the average family around \$1,329 a year.
- Are you concerned about your child's development? The start of a new year is a good time to contact the **Child Development Service**, to access free drop-in clinics and assessments.

Scan the QR code for more, including eligibility requirements.



New Canberra Hospital building to open in 2024

Canberra Hospital's new Critical Services Building is due to open later this year.

The internal fit out will continue over the coming months, fitting state-of-the-art equipment and finalising modern and welcoming spaces for patients, visitors and staff.

The end result will deliver a bigger and better hospital with a larger emergency department, more operating theatres and more treatment spaces.

January–March

- > Welcome Hall fit out
- > Major equipment installed
- > Inspections and helipad testing

April–June

- > Construction complete
- > Community tours and open day

July–September

- > Building officially opens

Next steps for light rail

Light Rail Stage 2A, connecting the city with Commonwealth Park, is coming. The ACT Government has signed a major works contract with long-time delivery partner Canberra Metro.

Stage 2A will extend the light rail network by 1.7 kilometres. This will add three new stops – at Edinburgh Avenue, City South and Commonwealth Park.

The extension will deliver improved public transport for the future, while helping shape the development of Canberra's city centre.

Work on Stage 2A is planned to begin in late 2024, with construction and testing expected to take approximately three years.

Find out more at builtforcbr.act.gov.au



Read more online.

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New and improved infrastructure in Gungahlin

It's going to be a big year for local infrastructure improvements. Construction is well underway on the new recreation park in Casey.

The park – which will include play equipment, cricket nets and a multi-purpose court – will be completed in the middle of the year.

Upgrades to the Burrumarra Avenue playground in

Ngunnawal are almost complete. The area will be fully fenced and include nature play elements and picnic facilities.

Construction will begin this year on additional improvements at Yerrabi Pond District Park, including more parking, new toilets and picnic facilities. Work will also begin soon on a new fenced dog park in Franklin.



It's time to stop it or **cop it**

Drivers detected using their mobile devices by mobile device detection cameras will start receiving fines from later this month.

If a camera detects you using your mobile device while driving, you will receive a fine and demerit points.

Three transportable cameras work 24 hours a day, seven days a week on major roads across Canberra. These include Horse Park Drive, Gundaroo Drive and Flemington Road. Fixed cameras are also located on Hindmarsh Drive and Gungahlin Drive.

Find more at act.gov.au/roadsafety



New Gungahlin schools update

Canberra's newest public school, Shirley Smith High School in Kenny, welcomed its first year 7 students this week.

This fully electric, state-of-the-art school will cater for up to 800 students.

Work is progressing on the new high school in Taylor. This will open at the beginning of 2025 and families can enrol students from April this year. Community members can soon have their say on a school logo and uniform.

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



Travel the globe in three days

Canberra's award-winning National Multicultural Festival returns from 16 to 18 February.

Head along to catch incredible cultural showcases and performances, explore hands-on workshops, eat your way across the globe by visiting hundreds of food

stalls, share family activities, and discover the iconic festival parade.

Entry is free, and so is all public transport across the weekend. Leave your car at home, if you can, as parking will be limited.

View the full program at multiculturalfestival.com.au



Enlighten Festival returns

Watch Canberra light up with culture and creativity from 1–11 March 2024. Enjoy must-see events like Enlighten Illuminations (1–11 March) featuring a new immersive virtual reality swing experience.

In a world premiere, this year's Symphony in the Park on 10 March will feature The Canberra Symphony Orchestra taking to the stage with the legendary Hoodoo Gurus.

The ever-popular Canberra Balloon Spectacular returns from 9–17 March to fill the skies with colour and movement.

The Canberra community can also experience local film festival Lights! Canberra! Action! on 8 March, followed by Canberra Day celebrations on 11 March.

For more information head to enlightencanberra.com

What's on in February

2–3 Feb **Tasting Australia with Adam Shipp**
National Museum of Australia

3 Feb **Haig Park Turns 100**
Haig Park

4 Feb **A-League Women: Canberra United v Melbourne City FC**
McKellar Park

6 Feb **Dettol Men's 3rd ODI: Australia v West Indies**
Manuka Oval

9 Feb **Ian Moss: Rivers Run Dry**
Canberra Theatre Centre

10 Feb **Lunar New Year 2024**
Dickson

15 Feb **WNBL Round 14: UC Capitals v Bendigo Spirit**
Southern Cross Stadium

23–25 Feb **Royal Canberra Show**
EPIC

24–25 Feb **Sri Chinmoy Canberra 100km Relays and Solo Run**
Rond Terrace

 For more events and details, visit events.canberra.com.au

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something
new

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