



**ACT**  
Government



# Our Canberra November 2023

ACT Government



Easy English

## Help with this book



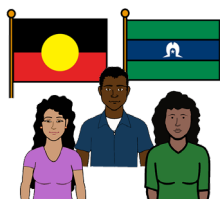
You can get someone to help you

- understand this book

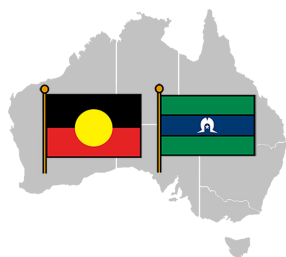


- find more information.

## We acknowledge the First Nations Peoples



**First Nations Peoples** are the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

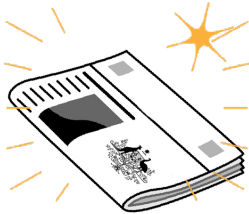


**Acknowledge** means we understand that the First Nations Peoples belong to this land.

## About this book



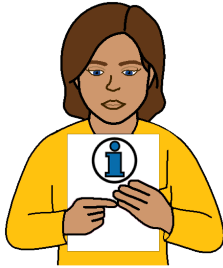
This book is from the ACT Government.



This book is the Easy English **newsletter**  
**Our Canberra.**

A newsletter tells you about lots of new things that

- you should know about
  
- you can do.

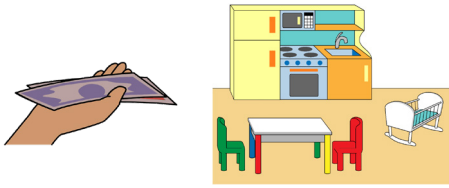


The newsletter is for November 2023.

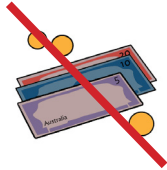
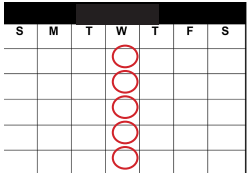


The next newsletter will be in December 2023.

## Do you have a 3 year old child?



We will help families in Canberra pay for child care.



You could get 1 day of child care for free each week.



Your child **must**

- be 3 years old now

or



- turn 3 years **before 30 April 2024.**



The program starts next year.

You can find out more online.

Website

[education.act.gov.au/early-childhood/coming-soon-free-three-year-old-preschool](http://education.act.gov.au/early-childhood/coming-soon-free-three-year-old-preschool)



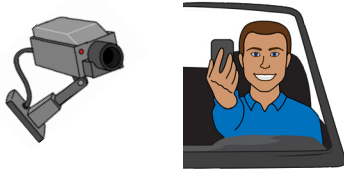
## Do not use a mobile phone when driving



It is dangerous to use a mobile phone when driving.



You could cause a crash.



We have new road cameras that see if a driver uses a mobile phone.



If we see you with a phone when driving

- we will give you a warning

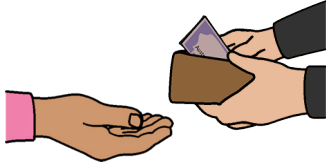


- you will need to pay a fine from early 2024.

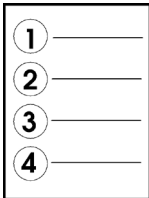
## Do you have a seniors card?



We have made a list of things you can get cheaper with a seniors card.



The list also shows what support you can get from the government.



The list is called  
**Seniors Card Discount Directory.**



You can get the list at

- the ACT library



- the Hughes Community Centre.

You can also get the list online.

Website

[actseniorscard.org.au/index.php/act-seniors-card-discount-directory](https://actseniorscard.org.au/index.php/act-seniors-card-discount-directory)



## Learn about scams



A **scam** is when someone tries to trick you to get your money.



There are many new scams around.



Scams can happen to anyone.



**Scamwatch** is a website that tells you

- how to be safe from scams
- what new scams are around
- who can help if a scam happened to you.



Visit Scamwatch to learn more.



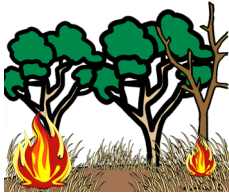
Website

[scamwatch.gov.au](http://scamwatch.gov.au)

## Get ready for bushfires



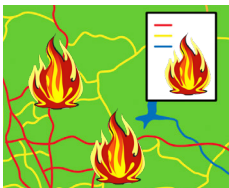
Our firefighters do **prescribed burns** to protect you from bushfires.



Prescribed burns means firefighters burn some bushland before the fire season.



When we burn some bushland now it can stop fires from spreading in summer.



You can check where prescribed burns happen right now.

Website

[environment.act.gov.au/ACT-parks-conservation/bushfire-management/prescribed-burns](http://environment.act.gov.au/ACT-parks-conservation/bushfire-management/prescribed-burns)





## If you see a fire break out



Call triple zero.

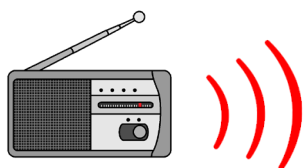
000

## If we know of a fire near you



We will send warning messages

- to your mobile phone



- over the radio



- on social media like Facebook.

You can check online if there is a fire near you.



Website

[esa.act.gov.au](http://esa.act.gov.au)

## What do the fire warnings mean?



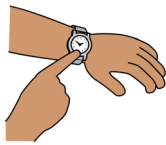
### Advice

Advice means



- there is a fire near you

- there is **no danger** right now



- wait for more information.



### Watch and act

Watch and act means



- the fire is dangerous



- pack your bags

- get ready to leave home.



## Emergency warning



Emergency warning means

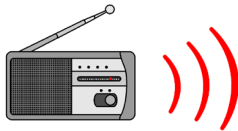
- the fire is very close
- you are in danger now



- you **must** find a safe place now



- do **not** wait.



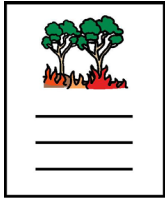
You **must** do what the bushfire messages say.

Fires can be very fast.



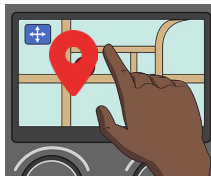
You could die if you wait too long.

# How to stay safe from bushfires



You should make a **survival plan**.

A survival plan says what you will do to be safe if there is a fire.



Where will you go?



How will you get there?



What will you take with you?



You should make the survival plan together with the people in your home.

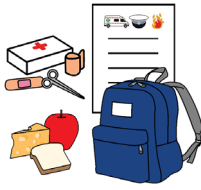
You can get help with a survival plan online.

Website

[esa.act.gov.au/be-emergency-ready/  
resources-plans/survival-plan](https://esa.act.gov.au/be-emergency-ready/resources-plans/survival-plan)



## You should pack an **emergency kit**.



Emergency kit means the things you need if you leave home.

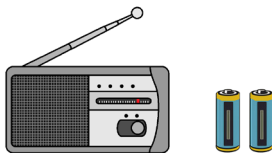


You should pack

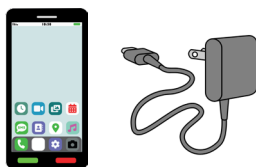
- medicines



- a torch



- a radio that uses batteries



- your phone and charger.

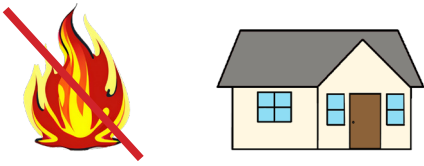
You can see how to pack an emergency kit on our website.

Website

[esa.act.gov.au/be-emergency-ready/  
resources-plans/home-emergency-kit](http://esa.act.gov.au/be-emergency-ready/resources-plans/home-emergency-kit)



## You should make your home safe.



You can help keep fires away from your home.



If you live in a house you should

- clean up the gutters



- clean up old leaves and twigs in your yard



- cut branches that hang over your house.

## How to keep safe in hot weather

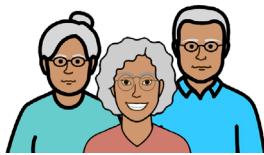


Hot weather can make some people very ill.

For example



- babies and young children



- older people



- pregnant people



- sick people.

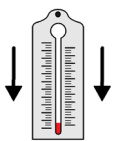


You can keep safe on hot days if you

- stay in the shade



- drink lots of water



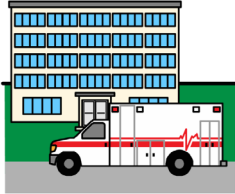
- keep your home cool.



If you start to feel ill in hot weather

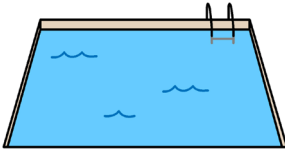
- contact a doctor

or



- go to hospital.

## **Outdoor swimming pools are open**



You can go to an outdoor swimming pool on hot days.

There are outdoor pools in

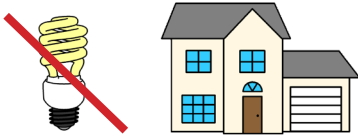
- Dickson
  
- Manuka
  
- Canberra Olympic Pool
  
- Phillip.



## Please use less energy in summer



There can be **power outages** in summer.

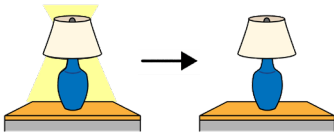


A power outage is when there is **no more** electricity in your home.

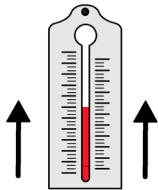
Power outages can happen when people use too much electricity.



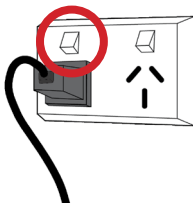
For example, to keep cool.



We should all use less energy in summer.



You can use less energy if you keep the aircon over 23 degrees.



If there are household things you do **not** use, switch them off at the power point.

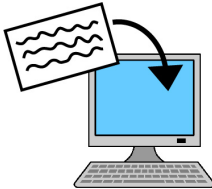


## More information

For more information contact the  
ACT Government.



Call        13 22 81

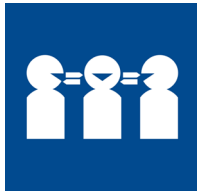


Email        [ourcanberra@act.gov.au](mailto:ourcanberra@act.gov.au)

**You can read our full newsletter online**



Website     [act.gov.au/our-canberra](http://act.gov.au/our-canberra)



### **If you do not speak English**

The Translating and Interpreting Service or TIS can help you make a phone call.



Call            131 450

Give the TIS officer the phone number you want to call.



### **If you need help to speak or listen**

The National Relay Service can help you make a phone call.



Call            1800 555 660



Website    [accesshub.gov.au/nrs-helpdesk](http://accesshub.gov.au/nrs-helpdesk)

Give the relay officer the phone number you want to call.

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