

December 2023

Our CBR

Woden, Weston Creek
and Molonglo Valley

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Christmas arrives in the city



Message from the Chief Minister

It has been a big year for Canberra and there is a lot to look forward to in 2024, including the opening of the Canberra Hospital expansion.

The expansion will include more operating rooms, more treatment spaces and more intensive care beds to expand the overall capacity of the Canberra Hospital.

As we get closer to the end of the year, I want to thank the Canberrans working hard to keep our city safe and cared for.

Remember, your local Walk-in Centres are open seven days a week, including Christmas Day and New Year's Day, between 7.30am and 10pm.

Have a safe and happy festive season.

Andrew Barr



Read more online.

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ACT
Government

Services available during the holiday season

Some ACT Government services will be closed or have restricted opening hours during the festive period. This includes Access Canberra service centres, although online transactions can still be carried out at any time.

However, don't forget ACT Walk-in Centres are open seven days a week, including Christmas Day and New Year's Day, between 7.30am and 10pm.

If you find yourself with a non-life threatening injury or illness, head to your local nurse-led Walk-in Centre.

Scan the QR code to view all ACT Government service changes over the festive season.



Increased stamp duty concession **for home-buyers**

The ACT Government is supporting more Canberrans to buy a home by increasing the stamp duty concession for off-the-plan unit purchases to include properties valued up to \$800,000.

For contracts signed and exchanged on or after 27 November 2023, home-buyers will not have to pay stamp duty on off-the-plan apartment or

townhouse purchases valued up to (and including) \$800,000.

Previously, the concession – for contracts signed and exchanged from 1 July 2023 – applied to properties valued up to \$700,000.

Scan the QR code for more information, including eligibility requirements.



Reduce your risk around waterways this summer

Many Canberrans choose to beat the heat with a visit to the region's natural waterways.

Before you go:

- let someone know and avoid going alone
- know your limits
- understand the dangers
- be prepared for an emergency.

Read more about water safety and other summer safety tips online.



Read more online.

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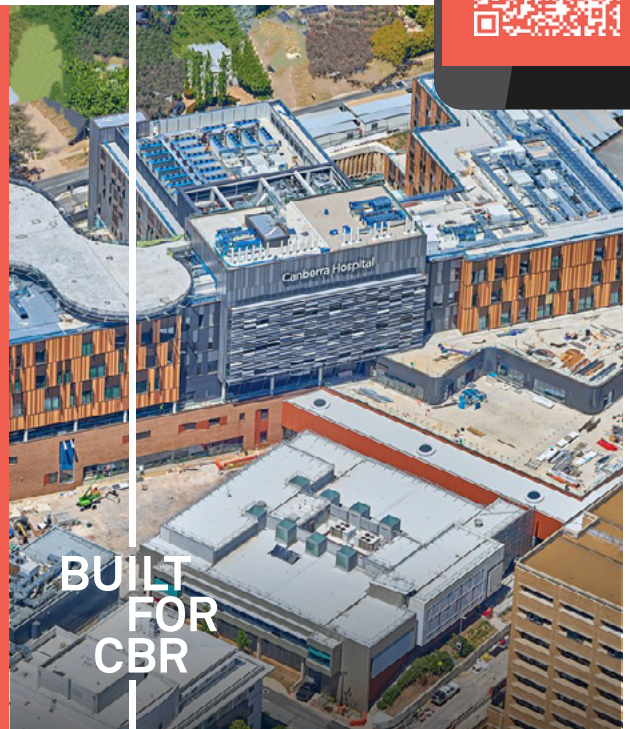
Bigger, better Canberra Hospital on the way

There are big changes coming to Canberra Hospital next year, with the opening of the brand-new Critical Services Building.

The 44,000m² facility will transform the campus, moving most of the critical care services on campus into the one building. It will feature a larger emergency department with a dedicated children's emergency area. There will

also be more intensive care beds and surgical theatres, along with modern treatment spaces and inpatient wards, making for a more comfortable hospital stay.

Construction is currently progressing well on this new state-of-the-art building. More details will become available as the completion date approaches.



Planning for the future of **Canberra** schools

Woden, Weston Creek and Molonglo Valley schools will continue to be built and modernised in line with the updated ACT Infrastructure Plan.

As part of this plan, a new Molonglo college is in the early design stages and the Garran Primary School modernisation and expansion completed design will increase the school's capacity to 975 students.

A new primary school and early childhood education and care service in Whitlam is in the design stage.

The ACT Infrastructure Plan outlines the ACT Government's vision of providing every Canberra child with modern, sustainable and safe school infrastructure.



An artist's impression of the Garran Primary School modernisation work

Upgrades begin at **Stirling** netball courts

Work has begun at the popular Arawang Netball Association courts in Stirling. All courts will be fully resurfaced, benefitting players, officials and spectators. The courts will also receive improved fencing, drainage and stormwater management.

The work is due to be completed in the first half of 2024.

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



Festive finds in the city

Experience Christmas in the city centre and Braddon this month with free merry-go-round rides, roving weekend entertainment and a Christmas City Party.

It's all part of Festive Finds in the City – an initiative inviting you to enjoy free entertainment and explore the array of restaurants, cafes and shops on offer.

An online gift guide is also available, including offers from local businesses to help you find that perfect present.

Help bring the spirit of Christmas to the city this year and join in the festivities.

Scan the QR code to discover the program.



Fee-Free TAFE to continue

Fee-Free TAFE – a jointly funded initiative of the Australian and ACT governments – will continue until 2026.

Canberra Institute of Technology (CIT) will deliver another 3600 places over three years, with a focus on priority learners and areas of skills demand.

This year, CIT has seen a strong uptake of Fee-Free TAFE enrolments in the care sector, such as childcare, aged care, disability care and community services.

Applications for Semester 1 2024 are now open. Scan the QR code for more.

What's on in December & January

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|-------------------------|---|
| Until 24 Feb | Sunset Cinema Australian Botanic Gardens |
| 12 Dec | BBL Thunder v Heat Manuka Oval |
| 15 Dec | A Very Canberra Comedy Festival Christmas Canberra Theatre Centre |
| 16 Dec | The Little Burley's Big Christmas Bash! Queen Elizabeth Terrace |
| 19–24 Dec | Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol Canberra Theatre Centre |
| 31 Dec | New Year's Eve Lake Burley Griffin |
| 11 Jan | WNBL Capitals v Lynx National Convention Centre |
| 19 Jan | Kate Miller-Heidke Canberra Theatre Centre |
| 30 Jan | Walter Trout at the Zeppelin Room Harmonie German Club |

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

Free travel on Christmas Day

Bus and light rail services are free on Christmas Day. During the festive season and especially on New Year's Eve, why not leave the car at home? View the timetable online.

