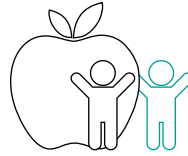




February 2020

Free education for three-year-olds starts



A group of Belconnen's three-year-old children will start receiving free early childhood education this month.

The children are part of a trial offering 15 hours a week of free education for three-year-olds.

The program will start at two locations in Belconnen.

→ More at education.act.gov.au/early-childhood

In our back-to-school issue

- More psychologists in schools
- Better safety around Belco's schools



A message from the Chief Minister

This summer's bushfires in our region, and associated smoke, have been a challenge for all Canberrans and I thank you all for your patience and hard work over recent weeks.

I would particularly like to thank our staff at the ACT Emergency Services Agency, Canberra Health Services and ACT Health, and the ACT Rural Fire Service volunteers, for keeping our community safe and healthy in difficult and testing circumstances.

I'm proud of the amazing community spirit Canberrans have shown over the summer and the ACT Government will continue to work hard to protect Canberrans throughout the remainder of the bushfire season.

Andrew Barr





School cleaners now on staff



Canberra's school cleaners are now ACT Public Service staff.

More than 300 former contract cleaners have accepted secure jobs with the ACT Government.

→ More at act.gov.au/ourcanberra



From left to right: Sahlu Mebrahru, Ucubatisae, Van Phuc Le, Kiba Lhamo, Kinley Pem and Lydia Utting.

Devices for all high school students

Every ACT public high school student will have use of a Chromebook this year.

This enables all students to access a device regardless of family circumstances.



New Motor Accident Injuries Scheme in place



If you are injured in a motor vehicle accident from 1 February you will receive fairer, faster and more comprehensive support under the ACT's new Motor Accident Injuries Scheme.

The scheme will provide lower premiums, too.

→ More at act.gov.au/maic



Better safety around Belco's schools



Remember to slow down to 40km/h in school zones once school goes back from Monday, 3 February.

You'll notice improvements around some Canberra schools, including new footpath connections, refuge islands, speed humps and children's crossings, some with school crossing supervisors.

Parents should familiarise their child with their school route so they can

confidently and safely walk, ride or catch the bus or light rail each day.

→ For more and to use the TC journey planner, visit transport.act.gov.au

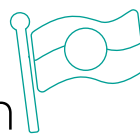


Free school vaccinations

Free vaccinations are offered to all Canberra students in Years 7 and 10 to keep them, their families and our community healthy by reducing the spread of preventable diseases.

→ More at act.gov.au/ourcanberra

Leading the way in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education



Indigenous Education Officer Tikarra Looke has worked tirelessly to ensure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander voices, histories, cultures and stories are part of learning at Kingsford Smith School in Holt.

Tikarra was recognised for Leadership in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education at the 2019 ACT Public Education Awards.

Her work has involved finding scholarships and grants for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and advocating for Indigenous student voices at school events and celebrations.

→ More at act.gov.au/ourcanberra



Connecting student teachers with schools



Student teachers are bringing their learning into five University of Canberra-affiliated schools across Belconnen.

Kaleen, Maribyrnong and Giralang Primary are affiliate schools, as are the secondary college at Lake Ginninderra and the high school at Kaleen.

Delivered in partnership with the university, the program includes

placements for student teachers, professional development and collaborative research opportunities with UC academics.

→ More at education.act.gov.au

More psychologists in Belconnen schools



More psychologists are supporting our schools in the Belconnen area.

Five new school psychologists joined the ACT public school system this year. The total number working across our schools is now 81.

School psychologists work with families, school staff and other allied health professionals to provide a strong support network for students.

→ More act.gov.au/ourcanberra



Raelene Farrell is one of the psychologists supporting ACT students.

Greening up the Belconnen dog park



Improvements will soon get underway at the Belconnen dog park on Diddams Close near Lake Ginninderra.

→ More cityservices.act.gov.au



Festival of culture returns



Get set for your annual summer fix of world street food and cultural diversity.

The National Multicultural Festival is back from 21 to 23 February. More than 200,000 people are expected to flock to the festival's food stalls and enjoy performances from many lands on six stages over the three days.

There will be information stalls, cultural displays, and on Saturday, the vibrant sea of colour and sound that is the festival parade.

→ More at multiculturalfestival.com.au



Celebrate Enlighten

Canberra and the skies above will be transformed during the annual **Enlighten Festival** from 28 February to 15 March.

Illuminations will light up national attractions and more after dark from 28 February to 9 March. The Night Noodle Markets will operate alongside the light displays. Also on the program are:

- > **7 to 15 March:** Canberra Balloon Spectacular
 - > **6 March:** Lights! Canberra! Action!
 - > **8 March:** Symphony in the Park
 - > **9 March:** Canberra Day celebrations
 - > **14 March:** Hit 104.7 Skyfire
- For more, visit enlightencanberra.com

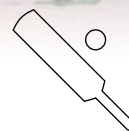
Balloon Spectacular
7-15 March



Rugby is back!

Catch the Brumbies v Reds when Super Rugby returns on 31 January.

→ For tickets, visit premier.ticketek.com.au



Howzat!

See some of the world's best cricketers in action when five matches of the ICC Women's T20 World Cup are played in Canberra from 26 to 28 February.

Catch the following games at picturesque Manuka Oval:

- > **26 February:** England v Thailand and West Indies v Pakistan
- > **27 February:** Australia v Bangladesh
- > **28 February:** South Africa v Thailand and England v Pakistan

→ For tickets, visit tickets.t20worldcup.com



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

