

July 2023

Our CBR

Belconnen

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ACT Budget invests in Canberra's future



Free preschool for three year olds - find out more inside

Message from the Chief Minister

The ACT is the fastest growing jurisdiction in Australia, with more and more people choosing to call Canberra home. In response to this growth, this year's ACT Budget invests in the infrastructure our growing city will need now and into the future. The budget includes the largest infrastructure investment pipeline in the ACT Government's history.

The ACT Government is also investing more in our public healthcare system, a comprehensive housing package, and additional support for Canberrans with the cost of living.

Importantly, the 2023-24 Budget is focused on improving the wellbeing of all Canberrans, particularly for women and children. Find out more about the investments this year's budget makes in Belconnen here.

Andrew Barr



Read more online.

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Boosting Canberra's public health workforce

The ACT public health workforce is getting a big boost in the 2023-24 Budget with funding allocated over the next four years for more health professionals across Canberra's public health services, more professional development opportunities, improved workplace conditions and expanded health services for Canberrans.

This investment will mean an additional 570 health professional positions have been funded since the 2020-21 ACT Budget.

New initiatives in this budget include increasing resourcing at North Canberra Hospital, initiatives to support health workers, a program to increase the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workforce, and study support payments for health professional students studying in the ACT.



Australian Capital Territory
**Budget
2023-24**

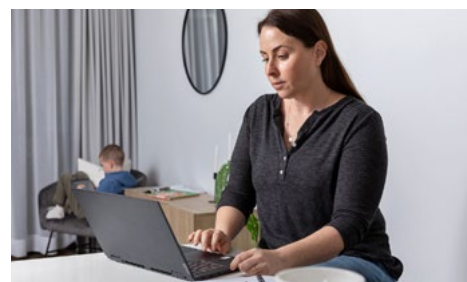
More affordable housing options for Canberra

To increase housing supply, choice and affordability, the ACT Government has a range of initiatives in the 2023-24 Budget.

The investments focus on bolstering the community housing sector, encouraging build-to-rent developments, and growing, renewing and improving public housing. The ACT Government will continue to release land for more homes, including a second site for a

large-scale build-to-rent development with a minimum affordable rental component of 15 per cent.

This budget also funds 140 public housing dwellings as part of the eight-year *Growing and Renewing Public Housing Program* and establishes a new \$60 million Affordable Housing Fund to support the community housing sector to deliver more rental properties.



Addressing cost of living pressures

Through the 2023-24 ACT Budget, the ACT Government will introduce new measures and expand existing measures to reduce some cost of living pressures faced by Canberrans. This includes extending the Utilities Concession to Commonwealth Health Care Card holders, benefitting an additional 12,000 Canberrans, and increasing the concession to \$800 in 2023-24. Find out more online.



Read more online.

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Investing in Belconnen's public schools

The ACT Government is delivering significant investment in public education infrastructure as a part of the 2023-24 ACT Budget.

This includes funding to plan for the modernisation of Fraser Primary School, ensuring this great school can continue to cater to the needs of students and staff well into the future.

The budget also includes funding to support infrastructure upgrades at northside specialist schools. This work will support the city's future schooling needs.



Australian Capital Territory
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2023-24**



Upgraded northside sporting facilities

Belconnen's growing number of netball players are set to benefit from new budget funding. The Belconnen Netball Association courts in Charnwood will be upgraded. This work includes court resurfacing and work to prevent future water damage and surface cracking.

Night-time training and match play will be made easier at the Hawker District Playing Fields with new and upgraded LED lighting. New toilets and changeroom facilities will also be installed.

Lake Ginninderra path improvements

Infrastructure investment to support the Belconnen region forms part of the 2023-24 ACT Budget.

The popular Lake Ginninderra path circuit linking recreational facilities in the area will be upgraded.

The upgrades will include new path connections, wider paths, improved drainage and amenities such as lighting and seating.

The first stage of works will be delivered along Emu Bank and through John Knight Memorial Park. Additional path improvements will be delivered throughout Belconnen, with new funding for the community path network aimed at improving safety.



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.



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Planning for Canberra's future

With an anticipated population of 500,000 by 2026-27, the ACT Government is investing in Canberra's future. Modern infrastructure, better connectivity and revitalised facilities will make life easier and more enjoyable for all.

As part of the updated ACT Infrastructure Plan, the government will increase the capacity in the ACT's hospital and community health settings to ensure Canberrans can access high-quality, modern healthcare services when and where they need them.

New and upgraded infrastructure will prioritise community-focused care, improved patient outcomes and greater alignment of health service delivery and will improve the work environment for the ACT's health workforce with state-of-the-art facilities. This will be delivered through:

- improving the campus environment
- community health infrastructure, including nurse-led Walk-in Centres and other smaller-scale health infrastructure investments located across Canberra.

For more information about the updated infrastructure plan visit builtforcbr.act.gov.au

Projects include:



Canberra Hospital Expansion

The Canberra Hospital Expansion Project is delivering a new Critical Services Building at the Canberra Hospital campus. The new all-electric facility will include a new emergency department, more operating rooms, more treatment spaces and more intensive care beds. Construction is expected to be completed in 2024.

More projects on next page →

The ACT Government is continuing to plan for a new, more than \$1 billion northside hospital which will deliver the required capacity to meet the demands of our growing and ageing northside population for the next 50 years.

Early planning and design is progressing, with construction expected to commence mid-decade.

The ACT Government is investing more than \$16 million to commence the roll out of four health centres, delivering community-based services in South Tuggeranong, West Belconnen, Inner South and North Gungahlin to provide accessible public health care across Canberra's suburbs. Building on the popularity of Canberra Health Services at Molonglo, the new health centres will provide even more health services closer to home for the Canberra community.





More funding for **Sustainable Household Scheme**

The ACT Government will provide more funding for the Sustainable Household Scheme in the 2023-24 ACT Budget.

The scheme provides zero-interest loans to help households with the up-front costs of purchasing and installing energy-efficient electric appliances and vehicles, insulation, rooftop solar and batteries.

Changes to the scheme were introduced on 1 July 2023. The changes will prioritise Canberrans transitioning to electric and households who need it most.

Free preschool for three year olds



Free preschool will be available to Canberra three year olds for one day per week from the start of 2024. This will generate an average saving of \$1329 per child for the family of a three-year-old preschooler.

Delivered through Early Childhood and Education Care centres, this ACT Budget initiative will set Canberra kids up for a lifetime of learning. The funding of more than \$50 million over four years aims to improve equitable access to quality early learning.

Find out more by scanning the QR code above.

What's on in July

- 7-16 Jul** **Uncharted Territory**
Various locations
 - 7 Jul -20 Aug** **Inherited Exhibition by Rebekah Lane**
Belconnen Arts Centre
 - From 8 Jul** **Capturing Canberra – press photography**
Canberra Museum and Gallery
 - 13 Jul** **Rugby League The Musical**
The Street Theatre
 - 15 Jul** **The Ten Tenors: Greatest Hits Tour**
Canberra Theatre Centre
 - 22 Jul** **Funkaars – Australian Indian Classical Jazz Fusion**
The Street Theatre
 - 29-30 Jul** **Handmade Market – Winter EPIC**
 - 30 July** **Winter Wonderland at the Haig Park Village Markets**
Haig Park
- Canberrans can also cheer on the Raiders at GIO Stadium this month.**



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

What do you think of the tracks and trails at **Stromlo Forest Park**?

Whether you're a runner, mountain biker, road cyclist, horse rider or just love the park, it's time to have your say to help improve it for everyone. A new five-year Tracks and Trails Masterplan will address existing trails, plus plans for new trails on the western and eastern sides of the park.

Find out more at YourSay Conversations or scan the QR code.



YOUR SAY
CONVERSATIONS