



More health services
for Canberra



No stamp duty for
first home buyers



Upgrades for
Kingston shops

Our CBR.

Inner North, Inner South and City

July 2026

More homes for Canberrans



Find out more inside

Message from the Chief Minister

From 1 July 2026, first home buyers in the ACT will not have to pay stamp duty when they buy a home to live in.

This removes a large upfront cost that young buyers usually need to save for when purchasing their very first home.

The stamp duty removal extends to other eligible Canberrans, including pensioners, people with disability and those buying off-the-plan or turn-key units. These changes remove previous property value limits, allowing more people to qualify for reduced or no stamp duty.

The ACT Government is also supporting the delivery of more public, community and affordable housing to assist those most in need.

Work is continuing across Canberra on local infrastructure projects, along with ongoing investment in essential services such as health and education.

All Budget initiatives within this edition of Our Canberra are subject to the passing of the 2026–27 ACT Budget in the Legislative Assembly.

Andrew Barr



Read more online.

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Produced by Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate.



ACT
Government

Stamp duty removed for all first home buyers

Stamp duty has been abolished for all first home buyers, with expanded exemptions for other eligible groups, including pensioners and people buying a new unit titled property.

The missing middle housing changes are also now in effect, paving the way for more low rise townhouses, terrace houses and duplexes across Canberra. This will give people more choice when it comes to purchasing a home.

A range of incentives will support this missing middle housing across our city.

A new Canberra House Pattern Book will fast-track new builds with quality pre-approved designs.

Land releases will support close to 26,000 homes, helping meet the ACT Government's commitment to enable 30,000 new homes by 2030.

These measures help remove key barriers to home ownership, allowing more Canberrans to enter the housing market sooner.

For more information, scan the QR code and stay up to date.



More homes for those who need it most

The 2026–27 ACT Budget invests in more social, public, community and affordable housing across Canberra.

A new Public Housing Pipeline program funds the delivery of 450 additional homes through new builds, redevelopment projects and purchases, many with Australian Government support.

Delivery will be streamlined through Territory Priority Projects legislation, allowing Canberrans to move in sooner.

The Budget also includes more funding to improve public housing repairs, maintenance and upgrades, and to bring vacant properties back into use.

Investment in new crisis and transitional housing and community organisations will further assist vulnerable Canberrans.

These measures align with the ACT Government's commitment to growing Canberra's public housing portfolio to 13,200 homes by the end of 2030.

Investing in public health services

The Budget invests in public health services and the health workforce to improve access to timely, high-quality health care.

Funding will expand and establish new specialist services. These include a new Acute Palliative Care Unit and paediatric orthopaedic care at Canberra Hospital, enhanced breast cancer screening and support at North Canberra Hospital for people at high risk, and more specialist lung cancer services.

These initiatives aim to strengthen Canberra's health system, support early detection and treatment, and meet the needs of a growing community.

The Budget also includes more support for health workers, with an investment in the wellbeing, development and retention of junior doctors.



Progress continues on the new Northside Hospital Project

The 2026–27 ACT Budget includes funding to progress construction on the new Northside Hospital Project in Bruce.

Main construction is expected to start in 2027–28. Canberrans can continue to access North Canberra Hospital while the new hospital is being built.

The hospital's seven-storey clinical services building will feature over 300 treatment spaces including:

- an emergency department
- a 14-bed intensive care unit
- eight operating theatres with two more able to be brought online when required

- a co-designed birth centre, six birthing suites, maternity inpatient unit and special care nursery
- two endoscopy suites with space for a third
- more than 200 new inpatient beds
- expanded outpatient spaces
- more than 700 additional carparking spaces.

There will also be upgrades to the intersections connecting Haydon Drive and Mary Potter Circuit, plus a new 100-place childcare centre built on site.

Scan the QR code for more.



Upgrades for Kingston shops

Public spaces at Kingston shops will be upgraded as part of the 2026–27 ACT Budget.

Proposed improvements may include new seating, lighting and landscaping as well as improved access, such as new paths.

The upgrades aim to support local businesses and encourage people to stay longer at their local shops.

Planning will begin this year and draft designs will be shared with the community once complete.

Updates in your region



Accessible EV charging bays have been installed at the charging stations at both Southwell Park, Lyneham, and Hillside Lane, Civic. These have extra space and improved accessibility design elements.



Sensored lighting upgrades in Telopea Park are now complete, improving visibility, safety and energy use.



The design for the brand-new Throsby Park Playground behind Griffith shops is now available. It features new play equipment and more shade.

Scan the QR code to view.



Read more online.

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**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.



Targeted cost of living relief for Canberrans

The Budget delivers further targeted support to help Canberrans with the cost of living.

This includes more funding for frontline food relief services. This will support increased demand and ensure help is available for those in need.

A new Housing Crisis Support Fund will assist eligible low-income households experiencing rental stress.

The Fund provides support for short-term rental costs, helping people stay in safe, stable housing, as well as a Crisis Support Payment to help with essential expenses.

Budget funding will also strengthen the Emergency Material and Financial Aid (EMFA) scheme, and expand the Education Equity Fund.

More support measures are available at act.gov.au/costoflivingsupport

Investing in Canberra's arts scene

Through the 2026–27 ACT Budget, investment in local artists, arts organisations and creative industries will increase by 25%.

Ongoing funding will support local talent, providing certainty to artists, creatives and organisations and helping them plan, invest and grow.

This support will strengthen the ACT's cultural calendar, enhancing the experiences that attract people to live in, work in, and visit the Territory.

It will also benefit the community by making diverse, high-quality arts,

entertainment and experiences more accessible, and will create local jobs.

To read more about this investment, scan the QR code.



Winter in the City 8–18 July

Free afternoon circus and evening fire performances, right in the heart of the city. **Scan the QR code.**



What's on

Until 9 August

Winter in the Woods
National Arboretum

Throughout July

Arthur Boyd: Tapestries
National Gallery of Australia

15 July

**City Renewal Authority
plant giveaway**
Haig Park

17 July

**Vika & Linda – Where Do You
Come From?**
Canberra Theatre Centre

19 July

Young Rangers Program
Jerrabomberra Wetlands

25 July

Movie Marathons at the NFSA
National Film & Sound Archive

26 July

Paws Party
Haig Park

Canberrans can also cheer on the Raiders, Brumbies and Brave this month at GIO Stadium Canberra, Vikings Park and AIS Arena.



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



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