



More health services
for Canberra



No stamp duty for
first home buyers



Progress on Northside
Hospital Project

Our CBR.

Belconnen

July 2026

More homes for Canberrans



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



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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.

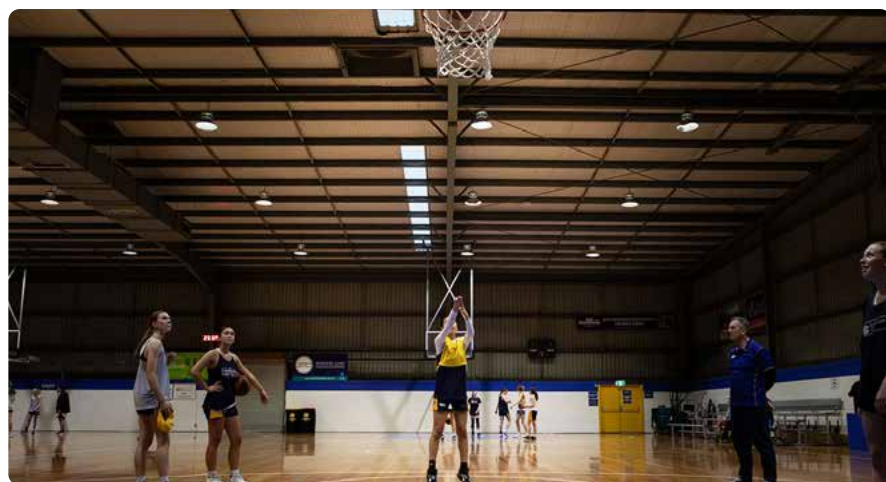
The hospital's seven-storey clinical services building will feature over 300 treatment spaces including:

- 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.



Major expansion for Belco Basketball Stadium

Budget funding will see three new indoor courts built at Belconnen Basketball Stadium. This will bring the number of indoor courts to seven, along with two existing outdoor courts.

New retractable seating for up to 1,800 spectators will allow the courts to be turned into a flexible show court. This will allow Canberra to host larger events and competitions. There are

also extra change rooms and toilets on the way, plus more car parking.

The major expansion will help meet demand within Canberra's fast-growing basketball community. Planning work will continue in the second half of this year.

The project is being delivered in partnership with Basketball ACT.

Updates in your region

The 2026–27 ACT Budget includes funding for several projects that will benefit Belconnen residents.



Better transport connections between Belconnen and the city are being designed, including new bus lanes on Haydon Drive and Belconnen Way. This project is jointly funded by the ACT and Australian Governments.



The ACT Budget will fund upgrades to the public spaces at Kippax shops in Holt.



Cricket facilities at Kippax Oval in Holt will also undergo improvements, including new nets and a review of the existing concrete slab.

Scan the QR code for more.



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

9–17 July

Warehouse Circus Holiday Program
Kaleen

11 July

NAIDOC in the North 2026
Belco Arts Centre

15 July

City Renewal Authority plant giveaway
Haig Park

17 July

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

25 July

Movie Marathons at the NFSA
National Film and Sound Archive

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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