

### **Appendix 3: ACT Labor Policy Platform for the 10<sup>th</sup> Assembly**

ACT Labor took a comprehensive package of ongoing policies and programs, and new election commitments, to the electorate in the 2020 election campaign, focussing particularly on protecting local jobs, strengthening our health and education systems, and addressing climate change. The key priorities ACT Labor will progress this term are listed below.

This is not ACT Labor's full set of commitments across all portfolio areas. Any policy commitments included in the Agreement have also been removed from this Appendix. Please refer to ACT Labor's Policy Position Statement, and associated Health, Education, Jobs, Environment, Climate Change, and Better Suburbs Statements at [actlabor.org.au](http://actlabor.org.au) for more information.

#### **Protecting local jobs**

In Government, ACT Labor will act to protect and create secure local jobs. This term, as the local and national economy emerges from the COVID-19 economic crisis, the Government will:

- 1.1. Grow the ACT's employment base to more than 250,000 local jobs by 2025, including creating and supporting over 2,000 jobs through our package of renewable energy policies
- 1.2. Continue the \$4 billion pipeline of significant job-creating infrastructure projects such as Light Rail Stage 2, the Canberra Hospital Expansion, the new CIT Woden Campus, a new multipurpose indoor facility at EPIC, and new schools
- 1.3. Establish Choose CBR digital discount program to incentivise spending with eligible businesses that need it most, in industries like tourism, hospitality, and retail.
- 1.4. Maintain the size and real wages of the public sector to deliver the essential services a growing community needs
- 1.5. Ensure workers' rights are upheld and strengthened in all sectors across the ACT

#### **Delivering high quality health care for Canberrans**

ACT Labor will always deliver high quality health care when and where Canberrans need it. To continue to strengthen Canberra's health system, the Government will:

- 2.1 Employ an additional 400 doctors, nurses and allied health workers this term
- 2.2 Continue to provide accessible COVID-19 testing facilities across Canberra for as long as is needed
- 2.3 Expand the range of services available at our five nurse-led walk-in centres
- 2.4 Roll out five new local walk-in health centres in South Tuggeranong, West Belconnen, North Gungahlin, Molonglo and the Inner South between 2021-22 and the middle of the decade, offering accessible public health care across Canberra
- 2.5 Deliver 60,000 elective surgeries over the next four years, and establish an Elective Surgery Centre on the University of Canberra campus
- 2.6 Complete the major expansion of the Canberra Hospital, delivering the biggest healthcare infrastructure investment since self-government, with a new emergency, surgical and critical care facility to ensure we keep meeting the acute care needs of Canberra and region residents
- 2.7 Continue the planning and design work for a new northside hospital, with the aim to start construction by mid-decade
- 2.8 Invest \$15 million in more mental health support for Canberra's young people

## Education

ACT Labor believes in providing a high-quality education to every child, and in welcoming and helping all children to reach their potential. To keep delivering on this principle, in this term the Government will:

- 3.1 Continue to implement our Future of Education Strategy, which prioritises equity and inclusion. This includes continuing the successful provision of free Chromebooks to all public high school students, trialling free meals at five public schools, and establishing a \$12 million Education Equity Fund to help parents buy school uniforms, glasses and sports clothes, and pay for excursions and camps, so all children can fully participate in school life.
- 3.2 Finalise construction of a new public primary school in Molonglo, to be ready for students for the 2021 school year, with a co-located high school to open in 2023
- 3.3 Commence construction on new high schools in Taylor and Kenny, and a new primary school in North Gungahlin
- 3.4 Renew and upgrade Narrabundah College
- 3.5 Increase capacity for college students in Canberra's North through a \$50 million investment over the next term of government
- 3.6 Invest \$130 million over four years in a school infrastructure maintenance, upgrade and renewal program

## Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander policy

The Government is committed to self-determination and Closing the Gap in outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Canberrans, and to the Uluru Statement of the Heart. To progress these goals, the Government will work with the ACT's traditional custodians and our diverse Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community, to:

- 4.1 Establish a 10 year, \$20 million Healing and Reconciliation Fund
- 4.2 Continue the ACT Reconciliation Day public holiday
- 4.3 Deliver a purpose-built facility with the Gugan Gulwan Youth Aboriginal Corporation to better deliver essential services
- 4.4 Support the development of sustainable Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled organisations in areas such as child and family services, justice, housing and disability
- 4.5 Undertake discussions on Treaty with traditional owners, informed by Treaty processes underway around the nation

## Building quality

This term, the Government will:

- 5.1 Establish an expert team of publicly funded building certifiers within the ACT Public Service
- 5.2 Set up an Australia-first licensing scheme for property developers, including the creation of a "fit and proper person" test and rigorously enforced penalty scheme
- 5.3 Introduce a registration scheme for engineers

## Public transport zero-emissions transition

6. Alongside the initiatives on zero emission vehicle incentives outlined in the Agreement, the Government will continue to transition Canberra's entire public bus fleet to zero emissions by buying 90 battery electric buses in the next term, building a new zero-emissions bus depot in Canberra's North and building electric bus infrastructure at the new Woden Depot

## Emergency services

Following the devastating bushfires that swept through the ACT in January 2020, and to cater to a growing city, the Government will:

- 7.1 Recruit an additional 99 new firefighters and add new fire trucks and equipment
- 7.2 Build new fire and ambulance stations in the City and Molonglo

## Integrity in government

Over the past term, the Government established the ACT Integrity Commission, considered Australia's strongest integrity framework. We also passed legislation banning property developers making donations to political parties. This term, the Government will continue to strengthen public confidence in the integrity of public administration by:

- 8.1 Introducing legislation that bans any donations from foreign sources, to apply to all parties and candidates
- 8.2 Include in the post-election Electoral Act Inquiry terms of reference an examination of options to reduce the risk of potential foreign interference or influence over ACT election processes and political parties
- 8.3 Progress a broader definition of "lobbyist" to strengthen the existing lobbyist register

## City Services, active travel and roads

- 9.1 Invest \$22 million upgrading 12 shopping and business precincts in the next four years
- 9.2 Roll out a household food waste collection service by 2023, starting with a pilot program in Belconnen next year
- 9.3 Continue the essential roads construction and upgrade program, including major upgrades to the Monaro Highway, duplication of major arterial roads, and construction of the Molonglo River Bridge
- 9.4 Roll out an active travel plan, including construction of an off-road shared path along Sulwood Drive, starting construction of the Garden city cycle route, and extension of the Belconnen bikeway
- 9.5 Undertake urban realm upgrades including better playgrounds, new amenities at Yerrabi Pond, widening the Lake Ginninderra path, age-friendly suburbs, a half pipe at the Belconnen skatepark, and replacing and repairing suburban footpaths
- 9.6 Provide a free bulky waste collection service to every house in Canberra by 2021
- 9.7 Co-design a new library and community centre in the Molonglo Valley

## Higher Education, Research and Skills

- 10.1 Establish the \$30 million Future Jobs Fund to provide grants and access to funding that attracts investment from local universities and/or the private sector to save and create new jobs
- 10.2 Keep CIT in public hands, with at least 75 per cent of total VET funding to be provided to CIT as the primary provider of Canberra's vocational education and training
- 10.3 Provide our higher education institutions with zero-cost payroll tax deferrals as they deal with the loss of income from international students

## LGBTIQ+

The Government wants to keep Canberra the most LGBTIQ+ friendly city in Australia. Canberrans achieved the highest participation and 'yes' vote for marriage equality. In the past term we banned sexuality and gender identity conversion practices. We will continue to support our LGBTIQ+ residents and visitors through a variety of measures, including:

- 11.1 Progressively implementing the Capital of Equality First Action Plan
- 11.2 Extending the Capital of Equality Grants Program
- 11.3 Continuing to support our LGBTIQ+ events, including SpringOUT and Yes! Fest

## Sport and recreation

The Government will:

- 12.1 Roll out new and upgraded local sports facilities across Canberra, including lighting, facilities and amenities upgrades at sportsgrounds, make major improvements to the Woden Valley Enclosed Oval, resurface netball facilities across Canberra, upgrade pavilions to make them more female-sport friendly, create a permanent home for dragon-boating, build a Gungahlin tennis centre, and construct the first stage of the Stromlo district playing fields
- 12.2 Continue to support the construction of an Olympic class, twin-sheet ice sports facility in Tuggeranong. The Government announced the proponent to build the facility in September 2020

## Continuing Tax Reform

13. The Government will continue tax reform by cutting stamp duty in every ACT Budget, focussing on supporting prospective owner-occupiers to buy a home

## Workers' rights and workplace safety

The Government will continue to implement its platform of protecting Canberra workers through a range of measures, including:

- 14.1 Continuing and reviewing the effectiveness of the Secure Local Jobs Code, to ensure it is meeting its objective that all businesses obtaining Government contracts are meeting high ethical and labour standards
- 14.2 Introduce stronger workplace regulations to protect tradespeople who are exposed to silica dust
- 14.3 We will support fair working conditions for Canberrans and ensure workers receive fair entitlements by reviewing the Portable Long Service Leave Scheme

## **Community facilities**

- 15.1 Build new community centres at Woden and Gungahlin
- 15.2 Construct a large new multicultural events venue at EPIC for cultural performances and available for hire for large private functions, such as weddings

## **Arts and creative industries**

Canberra's arts and creative sector has been badly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Government will support artists and build the facilities to ensure the arts continue to play an integral role in our community, by:

- 16.1 Continuing the Canberra Theatre Centre expansion and redevelopment project
- 16.2 Introducing a new winter innovation and visual arts festival
- 16.3 Upgrading Gorman House and the Tuggeranong Arts Centre
- 16.4 Continuing grants provision and improving transparency through a new funding framework, in close consultation with the sector
- 16.5 Running major signature events, including Enlighten and Floriade in new and interesting Covid-safe ways, for the enjoyment of all Canberrans and visitors

## **Disability and Carers**

The Government will strive to ensure Canberra continues to be an inclusive community where all people feel they belong, are valued and supported. As part of this effort, we will:

- 17.1 Continue delivering grants programs that support disability inclusion
- 17.2 Support participants in the NDIS through the Integrated Service Response Program
- 17.3 Develop and implement a disability employment strategy, to promote employment opportunities
- 17.4 Progress actions under the ACT Carers Strategy
- 17.5 Introduce legislation to formally recognise the essential role carers play in our community
- 17.6 Develop a mentoring program and respite handbook and supports for carers
- 17.7 Continue to implement the Disability Justice Strategy Action Plan and develop and implement a Disability Health Strategy

## **Multicultural Affairs**

The Government will ensure Canberra continues to be a proudly welcoming and multicultural city, by working on various initiatives, such as:

- 18.1 Consulting with the community on the development of the Multicultural Recognition Act, to establish a multicultural charter, legislate for the Advisory Council, and establish reporting obligations against the Multicultural Framework
- 18.2 Working towards attaining the 'advanced' level in the Welcoming Cities standard, and advocate for a national anti-racism strategy
- 18.3 Constructing a large indoor venue at EPIC for cultural performances and large events such as weddings

## **Children and Youth**

The Government will keep working to protect and support children and young people, and their families, by:

- 19.1 Delivering ongoing coordinated service response for young people aged eight to 15 years who are at risk of homelessness, or engagement with the child protection or youth justice systems
- 19.2 Creating a Territory-wide Child and Family Network, building on our popular centres in Tuggeranong, West Belconnen and Gungahlin
- 19.3 Fully implementing the recommendations of the Our Booris, Our Way review in collaboration with Aboriginal and Torres Strait people and organisations
- 19.4 Develop a new Youth Justice Strategy, including restorative approaches that support young people, with a pilot of Functional Family Therapy – Young People in 2021, and implement a Youth Justice Throughcare program to be delivered in partnership with community organisations
- 19.5 Develop the First 1000 Days Strategy in partnership with the community, recognising that the earliest days of a child’s life are critical in shaping their future health and wellbeing