

ACT GREENS

BUDGET 2021-22

The full list of ACT Greens election commitments delivered or progressed by this budget is below:

Home for All

- Adding 400 more public housing dwellings with a funding boost to the Growing and Renewing Public Housing program.
- Providing more community housing and affordable rentals, by progressing 'build to rent' opportunities in Turner, Lawson and Gungahlin and transferring existing CHC properties to government ownership.
- Responding to homelessness with an immediate funding boost of 12.7% to specialist homelessness services, to increase capacity and reduce the number of people turned away. This funding delivers the next tranche of the Greens' \$18 million commitment to expanding specialist homelessness service capacity.
- Increasing youth-specific social housing support, with \$7 million to expand the Safe and Connected Youth Program to provide therapeutic respite accommodation to young people at risk of homelessness.
- Ensuring homes that are fit for all, with \$80 million to increase public housing maintenance.
- Taking action on building quality, with \$5.4 million over four years and additional compliance officers to enhance Access Canberra's capacity to regulate building quality and respond to increased supply in the construction sector.

Real Climate Action

- Kickstarting Australia's electric vehicle sector with financial incentives for

people to switch to an emissions-free vehicle. This funding delivers two years free registration for people bringing new or second hand EVs into the ACT, and interest-free loans through the Sustainable Household Scheme to install charging infrastructure or help with the upfront costs of purchasing an EV.

- Making it affordable for everyone to switch from polluting fossil fuel gas to efficient electric appliances for their heating, cooking and hot water. Interest-free loans are now available through the Sustainable Household Scheme and support for low-income renters and owners will be offered through the Vulnerable Household Energy Support Scheme, because we know it's lower-income households who can benefit most from energy efficiency.
- Implementing a social cost of carbon to facilitate better government decision-making, making us the first jurisdiction in Australia to do this. The social cost of carbon measures, in dollar terms, the harm caused by one tonne of greenhouse gas emissions and allows the government to make more comprehensive cost/benefit assessments that factor in the impacts of climate change.
- Progressing toward our target of a net-zero emissions ACT Government by 2040 with a major upgrade to the Callam Offices in Woden, early planning for a depot for zero-emissions buses, and the purchase of nine emissions-free emergency services vehicles, including Australia's first electric fire truck.
- Empowering communities to help reach our emissions targets and build climate resilience with another \$600,000 in Community Zero Emissions Grants over four years.
- Providing rebates for energy efficiency upgrades at community clubs, to help them reduce their emissions, costs and reliance on pokies revenue, to ultimately reduce gambling harm (also listed below in 'Reducing Harm').

Urban Biodiversity Sanctuary

- Advancing the ACT's circular economy and reducing potent methane emissions from landfill with a trial of food and organic waste recycling in Belconnen, and scoping for permanent processing facilities. 'FOGO' is complementary to the ACT's incremental ban on single-use plastics, giving biodegradable replacements a new life, once they're disposed of, as high-quality compost.
- Planting more trees, 54,000 through this budget, to bring biodiversity to the suburbs and draw down local temperatures in summer, supporting Canberra's most vulnerable people and enhancing the Territory's resilience to climate change.

- Valuing community participation in caring for the ACT's environment, with guaranteed long-term funding for groups including Landcare, Parkcare, the ACT's three catchment groups and ACT Wildlife, as well as citizen science programs such as Frogwatch and Waterwatch, to enable localised and dedicated care from people who love and truly understand their neighbourhoods.
- Increasing the value of environment grants for the first time in around 15 years, to more than \$300,000 per year over the next four years, to support community-led biodiversity and nature protection projects.
- Supporting new and existing volunteer groups to adopt urban open spaces for biodiversity outcomes, with the continuation of grants through the Adopt-a-Park program.
- Providing increased and stable funding to invasive species management with \$3 million over four years to establish an Invasive Species Response Team, who will respond to emerging biosecurity threats that are accelerated by climate change and provide support to rural landholders facing the same challenges.
- Funding the restoration of golden sun moth habitat, natural temperate grasslands and riparian zones.
- Developing stronger policy frameworks around environmental offset operations and delivery, as well as monitoring and research.
- Investing another \$5 million to expand the Healthy Waterways program, to tackle water pollution that causes algal blooms, with a focus on building water quality infrastructure like floating wetlands and rain gardens, and improving water quality through water sensitive urban design.
- Employing an additional ParkCare ranger in Canberra's north.

Supporting Our Community

HEALTH

- Improving emergency department response with \$22.9 million over four years to expand the Emergency Medical Unit at Canberra Hospital to 18 treatment spaces, and create a new Acute Medical Unit that will speed up the process of admitting patients from the ED, to have their care commenced by a multidisciplinary team. The funding will also appoint a new 'medical navigator' role to tailor care for ED patients and deliver an additional 1,920 hours of emergency surgery each year, and eight surgical beds.

- Scoping and planning for a Northside Hospital, to meet the needs of the ACT's growing population.
- Developing a mandated minimum nurse/midwife to patient ratio framework to improve patient outcomes better support frontline health workers.
- Employing more nurses and midwives to start meeting agreed ratios.

MENTAL HEALTH

- Progress toward building an additional five supported accommodation houses to enable people living with enduring mental illness to live safely and well in the community, with \$184,000 in this budget to develop a model of care.
- Delivering a culturally appropriate program to focus on suicide prevention, intervention, postvention and aftercare tailored for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Canberrans, with \$2.2 million over the next four years.
- Providing more support to Parentline, with \$169,000 to fund phone referrals, counselling, face-to-face sessions and regular phone 'check-ins' for parents and carers.
- Increasing youth access to mental health support, with \$463,000 in 2021-22 for a phased implementation of an integrated face-to-face and digital mental care program for young people, starting with a trial of the Moderated Online Social Therapy program (MOST) program, and \$7 million in the out years for continuation of this service contingent on results from the scoping study and trial.
- Further youth-focussed support with \$851,000 for Catholic Care's Youth and Wellbeing program to provide multidisciplinary outreach service for people aged 12-25 years living with mental health concerns.
- Expanding acute mental health services by funding an additional 10 acute mental health inpatient beds at Canberra Hospital in the refurbished Low Dependency Unit.
- Continuing to support the Home Assessment and Acute Response Team (HAART), which provides urgent mental health assessment and intervention in the community.

EDUCATION

- Continuing the rollout of free universal early childhood education, with targeted funding to support the provision of services to three-year-olds who are experiencing vulnerability or disadvantage. The Greens want to accelerate this

rollout for the developmental wellbeing of all young kids, and to support women's economic recovery from COVID-19.

- Meeting growing demand on ACT schools with funding to build a new high school in Taylor, expand Margaret Hendy School, adding nine new modular learning centres, commencing design works for a new primary school in Strathnairn, modernising Narrabundah College and preparing to modernise Garran Primary School.
- Ensuring children have safe and healthy learning environments, free from hazardous materials, with \$14 million over four years to accelerate the removal of hazardous materials from schools.
- Employing more teacher-librarians to support students with their digital literacy and research skills.
- Introducing innovative curriculum options to meet the varied needs of ACT students, with the pilot of a program to help year 12 students participate in an apprenticeship.
- Supporting the mental health and wellbeing of students with an additional 25 youth and social workers to be employed, ongoing free and confidential legal advice to public college students and a trial of free breakfast and lunch for vulnerable students.

LISTEN DEEPLY TO FIRST NATIONS PEOPLE

- Recognising language, cultural and spiritual identity with funding to undertake consultation and co-design work with the local First Nations community on the Ngunnawal Language Centre, and funding to support work with the Winanggaay Ngunnawal Language Group.
- Upholding the rights of First Nations people with \$311,000 in this budget to establish an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Commissioner, specifically to address adverse experiences of young First Nations people in the ACT child protection system.
- Establishing the \$20 million Healing and Reconciliation Fund to deliver the ACT's Closing the Gap commitments, and support community-led processes and supports in child and family services, justice, housing and disability.
- Fully delivering the ACT Greens' commitment of \$2.2 million for a First Nations mental health, suicide prevention and postvention program (also listed above under 'mental health').

- Seeing through the delivery of new purpose-built accommodation for Gugan Gulwan Youth Aboriginal Corporation on their current premises in Wanniasa, with \$15 million in this budget for construction, to enable them to continue delivering important youth support services and integrated services for families.

GENDER-LED RECOVERY

- Creating more jobs and certainty in community service industries, where a strong majority of workers are women, by boosting the capacity of specialist housing and homelessness services and providing long-term funding certainty to community services sector organisations.
- Strengthening responses to domestic, family and sexual violence with an additional \$8.8 million over four years to increase support to the Canberra Rape Crisis Centre and Domestic Violence Crisis Centre to help them meet increasing demand, to fund Legal Aid and Women's Legal Centre to support women presenting in health and hospital settings, for private rental assistance for women leaving violent homes and culturally appropriate responses for local First Nations communities, among other supports.
- Reconvening the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program for government, stakeholders and community to work together on prevention, response, law reform and workplace safety interventions.
- Making it safer for women to move around the city, with upgrades such as improved lighting at Yerrabi Pond and more separated bike lanes.
- Investing in a secure foundation for women, with more social, community and affordable housing, which is disproportionately needed by women in the ACT.

PROMOTING SOCIAL INCLUSION

- Reducing the burden of poverty with \$100,000 in this budget to better coordinate the ACT's food relief programs and to better assess community needs. This complements the short-term COVID-19 food relief programs to improve access to food over the long-term.
- Funding disability advocacy services
- Supporting older Canberrans with the continuation of the weekday Flexible Bus Service, which supports people aged 70 and over, as well as people with disability

and their carers, to attend medical and other appointments, with pick-up and drop-off at or near their homes.

- Improving footpaths and delivering more footpath maintenance to improve accessibility for Canberrans of all ages and abilities (detailed in the 'modernising transport' section below).
- Supporting LGBTIQ+ Canberrans with additional funding of \$623,000 over four years for A Gender Agenda to continue their work with vulnerable trans, gender diverse and intersex Canberrans. This includes peer support, intersex specific project work and the peer-based navigation and providing The Friday Centre information service.
- Ensuring ACT Government assistance and concessions are targeted to support people who need it most, with an additional \$120,000 for the Refugee, Asylum Seeker and Humanitarian program to provide financial assistance for its clients who hold an ACT Services Access Card, and \$118,000 to support a community partnership to provide emergency payments to vulnerable families.
- Improving support for multicultural communities with funding in this budget to develop and deliver the Multicultural Recognition Act, which will enshrine the existing Multicultural Advisory Council in legislation and establish a Multicultural Charter for the ACT.

PAYING ARTISTS

- Delivered the Greens' proposed \$1 million extra COVID support for artists, with another \$350,000 in Homefront grants and over \$700,000 in Amp It Up! grants, for venues to pay musicians and technicians to play live gigs.
- Creating more jobs for artists, with funding for a new public artwork to be commissioned from a female or non-binary artist. The Greens want a total of 100 jobs for artists to be generated by the government this term.
- Providing more support for artists to reach audiences outside of traditional venues, by waiving all Hawker permit fees from September 2021 until the end of June 2022 to allow micro-businesses to trade outside more easily, and charging a community rather than commercial rate for independent theatre companies to use the Causeway Community Hall in Kingston.
- Progressing the Greens' decade-long campaign for entertainment precincts, with \$250,000 in this budget to fund preparatory works to change noise restrictions and planning regulations to create vibrant hubs of music, art and food around Canberra.

- Supporting arts-friendly infrastructure with \$839,400 in this budget to develop the sound stage and virtual effects studio at the Academy of Interactive Entertainment in Watson.
- Conducting a range of building improvements at arts venues such as the Old Bus Depot in Kingston, the Tuggeranong Arts Centre Theatre, Canberra Theatre Centre, and the Canberra Museum and Gallery, including to meet health and safety requirements. The Greens want a separate budget for these works so they don't detract from funding artists and producers.

SPORT AND RECREATION

- Upgrading local sport and recreation facilities with \$950,000 for lighting and amenity improvements at Mawson playing fields, Kambah District playing fields, and cricket facilities in Taylor and Melba.
- Installing and upgrading outdoor equipment so that everyone has access to quality local activity facilities, with \$5.3 million to upgrade playgrounds in Kaleen, Ngunnawal, Chisholm, Gordon, Lyons and Aranda, create two new dog parks in Franklin and the Lanyon Valley and refresh existing dog parks in Casey and O'Connor; as well as \$4.8 million for improvements along the Tuggeranong Foreshore.
- Repairing waterways to improve water quality for people using Canberra's lakes for fun and watersports like rowing, paddleboarding, swimming, triathlon, sailing and dragon boating.
- Improving walking and cycling infrastructure to make it more appealing and easier to access outdoor recreation (detailed in the 'modernising transport' section below).

Modernising Transport

- Expanding the Age Friendly Suburbs program to improve paths and crossings for people of all ages and abilities in Reid, Chifley, Scullin and O'Connor.
- Better connecting Canberra with walking and cycling paths to support healthier, zero-emissions transport options.
- This budget invests in a Garden City cycle route through Braddon, an off-road cycling path along Sulwood Drive at the base of Mount Taylor in Kambah, more

support for Active Travel and Safety Support for Schools, early design and planning to improve cycle connectivity in the Gungahlin Town Centre, active travel upgrades in Pialligo, and more funding for cycle path maintenance, new community paths and filling in missing links.

- Empowering local communities, who know their paths best, to guide the Government's active travel improvements. This budget will deliver a Household Travel Survey, a detailed model of vehicle, pedestrian and cyclist interactions in the Gungahlin Town Centre, and an update of the Canberra Strategic Transport Model to reflect 2021 Census data.

Reducing Harm

- Preparing to raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 14 years of age, with \$795,000 over two years to develop and cost the reforms and to conduct community consultation.
- Fully delivering the Greens' \$5 million commitment to establishing an environmental upgrades fund for Canberra's community clubs, to cut emissions, stimulate investment in improving community facilities and reduce gambling harm. The Community Clubs Building Energy Efficiency fund will support clubs to reduce their costs and their reliance on pokies revenue by making energy efficiency improvements with rebates of up to \$75,000 (also listed above in 'Real Climate Action').
- Making the justice system work for everyone with a dedicated full-time Coroner to reduce delays for bereaved family, friends and witnesses involved in inquests, and allow a more consistent, restorative approach to coronial proceedings.
- Extending the Therapeutic Care Court to hear care and protection matters in the Children's Court, taking a holistic approach to help reduce the risk of children and young people entering or remaining in the criminal justice system and supporting their families to remain connected and together where it is safe for them to do so.
- Upgrading the Galambany Circle Sentencing court room, with culturally appropriate furniture and design, as well as modernising the audiovisual capabilities of the room.
- Increasing funding to Legal Aid with \$2.5 million over four years to maintain and strengthen their capacity to represent, support and assist vulnerable members of the Canberra community, including front-line service support for victims of family

violence and the elderly, and for vulnerable witnesses.

- \$2 million for community legal services, including Canberra Community Law, the Aboriginal Legal Service NSW/ACT, the Environmental Defenders Office, Women's Legal Centre ACT and Care Inc. Financial Counselling Service.
- Supporting the Official Visitor Scheme with additional funding for the Human Rights Commission, to enable the Official Visitor to conduct more visits to monitor the delivery of services in corrections, mental health, disability, children and young people, and housing assistance.

Greens Job Package

- Creating jobs in the ACT's public services with additional staffing in government programs workplace health and safety, active travel and safety support for schools, school libraries, homelessness services, building quality monitoring and enforcement, digital services, health services and mental health care, multicultural recognition, the ACT Integrity Commission and the new Office of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Commissioner.
- Creating jobs in the community sector with funding increases and funding certainty for environmental organisations, the specialist homelessness sector, community mental health services and disability advocacy.
- Helping community sector organisations meet higher wage costs mandated by a recent Fair Work Commission decision, with \$4 million over four years to increase the community sector indexation rate applied to annual grants funding.
- Growing the ACT's climate-ready workforce through the JobTrainer program that provides free vocational training for Canberrans in high-demand industries including renewable energy and sustainability.
- Boosting clean industries Canberra by incentivising rapid uptake of electric vehicles and energy efficiency upgrades in homes and businesses, as well as the maintenance they'll require.
- Beginning to create more jobs for artists, with a public artwork by a female or non-binary artist to be commissioned with funds from this budget (also listed above in 'Paying Artists').