

June 2026

Members briefing note: 2026-27 ACT Budget summary

Key points

- The ACT Budget was handed down on 10 June 2026, with key focus areas including housing, tourism and health, namely the development of a new Northside Hospital.
- This Budget includes new initiatives worth more than \$910 million over four years to support public health care, mental health and community wellbeing, and health infrastructure (further detail below).
- Through this Budget, the ACT becomes the first jurisdiction in Australia to abolish stamp duty for all first home buyers.
 - Stamp duty exemptions will also be expanded for pensioners, eligible National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) participants and all home buyers who have not owned property in the last five years.
- \$770 million for new and expanded housing and a range of other tax cuts to support home ownership, and \$367.9 million to deliver the new Public Housing Pipeline together with the new Land Release program through to 2030-31 seeks to enable 30,000 new homes in the ACT by the end of 2030.
- A \$29.8 million climate action and environment package aims to assist with cost of living pressures and support responsive climate action in the home, extending rebates to cover the costs of rooftop solar and other energy-efficient upgrades.
- A four year, \$72 million investment in Canberra’s visitor economy will expand the Major Event Fund, upgrade venues such as GIO stadium and the Canberra Theatre, launch a new marketing campaign, and seek to secure international cricket fixtures.

Budget highlights

Health

- The centrepiece of health spending in this ACT Budget is for development of the new Northside Hospital, with the Government investing \$1.34 billion over the next seven years. Key features of the new hospital will include:

- a state-of-the-art emergency department with a dedicated paediatric short stay unit and better support for mental health presentations
- a 14-bed intensive care unit
- a co-designed Birth Centre, six birthing suites, maternity inpatient unit and special care nursery
- eight operating theatres with future proofing for two more to be brought online when required
- two endoscopy suites with space for a third
- more than 200 new inpatients beds,
- expanded outpatient spaces to support pre-admission clinics, specialised outpatient clinics and allied health clinics, and
- more than 700 additional car parking space
- \$23.4 million to operate the new Acute Palliative Care Unit at the Canberra Hospital, initially funding eight beds, with the capacity to expand to 12 beds and including a dedicated family space that is culturally safe and trauma-informed
- \$21.7 million for new medical equipment
- \$14.1 million for improving well-being and career development for junior medical officers
- \$12.1 million to increase lung cancer specialist services, including the rapid access lung cancer clinic, supporting delivery of the National Lung Cancer Screening Program and enabling earlier detection
- \$8.2 million to expand the Canberra Hospital Paediatric Fracture Clinic and establish a dedicated paediatric orthopaedic service
- \$3.9 million will provide better access to specialised life-saving screening, treatment and support services at North Canberra Hospital for people at higher risk of breast cancer
- \$3.1 million over two years to support the development of voluntary assisted dying policy in the ACT, including establishment of a citizens' jury
- \$1.9 million to boost the ACT's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workforce – supporting Indigenous Allied Health Australia (IAHA) to continue its Health Academy program in the ACT, training 30 students annually
- \$1.2 million for a culturally informed perinatal mental health 'Safe Space' service – delivering a comprehensive perinatal support model that will provide continuity of care through peer mentoring, advocacy and education
- In addition, the Budget includes funding in the Health portfolio for:
 - Upgrades to critical hospital infrastructure and medical equipment
 - Operations at the South Tuggeranong Health Centre (expected to open later in 2026)
 - An outpatient transport service for individuals with chronic conditions
 - Safe and effective management of medicine and vaccinations, including upgrades to Canberra Script (ACT's real-time prescription monitoring system)
 - Additional funding to support free abortion services for ACT residents
 - Expansion of Autism Spectrum Disorder assessment services.

Of interest to ACRRM members

- \$14.1 million over four years has been allocated in this Budget to Junior Medical Officer’s well-being, pastoral care, and career development. This initiative aims to improve workplace culture, reduce fatigue and burnout, and promote Canberra Health Services as an employer of choice for medical professionals. The specific goals of this package include:
 - Targeted Pastoral Care: Implementing well-being and stress-management programs to combat the systemic pressures, long hours, and high burnout rates often experienced during medical training
 - Career Development Support: Providing structured pathways and professional support to help junior doctors transition through prevocational (PGY1/2) and vocational training
 - Workforce Retention: Fostering a supportive environment to keep talented junior doctors within the Canberra Health Services system
- The ACRRM Policy Team will continue to work with members, monitor developments and consider these issues in public policy processes and representations to government as relevant.

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ACRRM acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the custodians of the lands and waters where our members and staff work and live across Australia. We pay respect to their elders, lores, customs and Dreaming. We recognise these lands and waters have always been a place of teaching, learning, and healing.