



ACN Summary of ACT Health Budget 2018/19

In the 2018/19 health budget, the ACT government has promised it will provide faster frontline health care with major new investment in frontline hospital services, nurses and doctors. Specific investments are detailed below:

HEALTH AND HOSPITALS

The ACT government has announced that it will provide \$7.8 billion over the next 4 years in supporting the health of Canberrans. The investment commitments will contribute towards:

1) Health matters

- Roughly \$2 billion a year will be invested in public hospitals to ensure frontline and critical care is provided and available 24/7.
- Canberra hospital will receive \$112 million to address "core hospital services" across its emergency department, intensive care unit and surgeries. It is expected that an additional 12 doctors, 60 nurses and up to 80 beds will be provided over the coming years.
- An additional 4,000 elective surgeries will be provided over the next four years, raising ACT Health's annual target to around 14,000 surgeries a year.
- Expansion of the 'Hospital in the Home' program with 30 nurses and 6 doctors (an extra 24 nurses, 3 doctors and 7 allied health professionals) to service an additional 3000 patients per year. The program will receive \$34.5 million over four years to help take the pressure off hospitals and allow patients to receive care in their homes and community health centres.
- Boosting emergency department staff.
- More hospital beds during the winter flu season and to support maternity services. Roughly 72 more beds will be available in the 2018 winter season, which is almost double the number available in 2017.
- Upgrading the Emergency Department at Calvary Public Hospital.

2) Walk in Centres

- Building five Walk in Centres across Canberra to provide medical care closer to home and ensure people with minor injuries or illnesses are seen quickly without visiting the Emergency Department. Two Walk in Centres are already operating in Tuggeranong and Belconnen. construction on the \$2.9 million Gungahlin Walk in Centre is expected to be complete in late 2018, Weston Creek will open in 2019, and planning is underway for a centre in central Canberra.

3) Opening of a new hospital



- The new University of Canberra Hospital will treat its first patients in July 2018. It will be the largest rehabilitation centre in the ACT, increasing support for people recovering from illnesses, surgery, or injury, and those experiencing mental illness.
 - The new hospital will have a capacity for 140 inpatient beds, 75 day places, and additional outpatient services. The co-location of the hospital's rehabilitation services and specialist staff will make it easier for people to access the care they need.
- 4) Major new health infrastructure
- The ACT Government is progressing plans for the new Surgical Procedures, Interventional Radiology and Emergency Centre (SPIRE), the expansion of the Centenary Hospital for Women and Children, and future hospital options for Canberra's northside.

MENTAL HEALTH

The ACT government has announced that Mental Health funding will grow by 5% in 2018-19 and that it will provide \$646 million over 4 years delivering mental health services. The investment commitments will contribute towards:

- Establishing a new office for Mental Health by 1 July 2018 with a 'whole of government focus' on mental health. The new office will improve coordination of services and access to specialised care.
- Delivering more supported mental health accommodation. Three community-based mental health accommodation facilities will provide long-term supported care for people who need 24-hour support.
- Expanding the Older Persons Mental Health Intensive Treatment Service.
- More community-based services for young Canberrans (teenagers), including through headspace .
- Refurbishing the 10-bed Extended Care Unit at the Brian Hennessy Rehabilitation Centre to help provide a secure facility for people to transition back into the community.
- Way Back Support Service for people who have attempted suicide.
- New Southside step-up-step-down facility to provide short-term residential and clinical treatment for people discharged from hospital.

LGBTIQ COMMUNITY

The ACT Government will be providing \$110,000 to expand a trial of Pre-exposure Prophylaxis treatment to protect against HIV, and delivering more support for intersex, gender diverse, and transgender people and their families through A Gender Agenda.