

**ACT LABOR**

# **POLICY POSITION STATEMENT**

2024



**PROGRESSIVE  
PRACTICAL  
PROVEN**



## Chief Minister's Foreword

I am proud to lead the ACT Labor team, and set out a Labor platform, for the 2024 election that is **progressive, practical and proven**.

Labor's team of experienced MLAs and candidates has been listening to our community on what matters to you.

Our plan is to invest in Canberra, our community and our economy, to meet the health, education, transport and recreation needs of coming generations, while ensuring Canberra remains one of the most liveable places in the world.

Only Labor will construct the major infrastructure Canberrans want in a modern city, and build the affordable housing residents require, while protecting the green spaces we love.

And as Australians continue to struggle with a cost-of-living crisis, Labor's focus is on delivering practical solutions for Canberrans under financial pressure.

If re-elected, Labor will make a record investment in our public healthcare system, which will include hiring 800 more nurses, doctors, specialists and other health workers to give Canberrans the best possible care. We will keep improving our network of Walk-in Centres that deliver the healthcare you need, straight away and for free.

We will build and renew more public schools and hire more teachers.

Labor delivered Stage 1 of our city-wide light rail network, is constructing Stage 2A right now, and is the only party that has the determination and capacity to further extend it through the National Triangle and onwards to Woden.

In 2020, Labor set a target of growing Canberra's total employment base to 250,000 local jobs by 2025. We passed that mark two years early, so in our 2024 economic plan we are setting an ambitious target of 300,000 local jobs by 2030.

Forward-thinking Labor policy means the ACT is now powered by 100 per cent renewable electricity. We have set a target of zero net emissions by

2045, while making sure we don't leave households behind in the transition.

And we will continue to develop and implement progressive, nation-leading social policies that directly improve people's lives.

This document is not exhaustive, but provides a snapshot of our achievements, and the policies we will implement as part of our plan, if re-elected.

Labor's platform seizes the opportunities coming to our city over the rest of the decade. I hope you will support us with your vote, so we can keep delivering our progressive, practical and proven plan for Canberra.

## Table of Contents

Health.....	6
Education.....	11
Cost of living support.....	14
Transport .....	16
Labor's Plan for Tuggeranong.....	20
Labor's Plan for Woden and Weston Creek.....	24
Labor's Plan for Molonglo.....	26
Labor's Plan for Belconnen.....	29
Labor's Plan for Gungahlin .....	33
Labor's Plan for Inner North .....	35
Labor's Plan for the Inner South .....	38
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander policy.....	40
ACT Public Sector .....	42
Arts, culture and the creative economy .....	44
Business and Better Regulation.....	48
Building Quality and Construction .....	50
Carers .....	52
City Services .....	53
Children, Youth and Family Services .....	62
Community Clubs and Gaming.....	64
Community Engagement .....	68
Community Development and Services .....	70
Community Safety (Police & Crime Prevention).....	72
Climate Change .....	74
Disability.....	77
Early Childhood Development .....	79
Environment and heritage protection .....	82
Multicultural Affairs .....	85
Housing and Land Release.....	87

<b>Human Rights.....</b>	<b>91</b>
<b>Integrity -Protecting and Strengthening Integrity in Government .....</b>	<b>93</b>
<b>Justice reform .....</b>	<b>95</b>
<b>LGBTIQA+.....</b>	<b>96</b>
<b>Mental Health .....</b>	<b>99</b>
<b>Planning and Urban renewal.....</b>	<b>104</b>
<b>Prevention of domestic, family and sexual violence .....</b>	<b>108</b>
<b>Seniors .....</b>	<b>110</b>
<b>Sport and recreation.....</b>	<b>111</b>
<b>Tax reform .....</b>	<b>114</b>
<b>Tourism and Major Events .....</b>	<b>116</b>
<b>Veterans.....</b>	<b>119</b>
<b>Vocational education and training .....</b>	<b>120</b>
<b>Women.....</b>	<b>122</b>
<b>Worker’s rights and workplace safety .....</b>	<b>124</b>
<b>Youth.....</b>	<b>127</b>

## Health

### What we stand for

Delivering better healthcare for all Canberrans when and where they need it, by expanding and supporting our dedicated health workforce and investing in the infrastructure needed for a growing Canberra.

### What we have achieved this term

The Labor Government is delivering a comprehensive health services plan to build a better health care system for Canberra residents, now and for coming generations.

Labor announced, developed and has now opened the new state-of-the-art Critical Services Building as part of the \$660 million Canberra Hospital Expansion Project, the single largest health infrastructure investment since self-government. The Critical Services Building is the first all-electric hospital in Australia and has significantly increased Canberra's emergency department, operating theatre and intensive care capacity.

We also completed the expansion of Centenary Hospital for Women and Children, and opened the community-based Weston Creek Imaging Service and a new Health Centre in Molonglo focused on child and family health.

This term, Labor set the platform for the next decade of our health system to deliver on our vision for a more accessible, accountable and sustainable healthcare system providing healthcare when and where Canberrans need it. Our comprehensive plans set out pathways for our health service development, workforce, infrastructure, the maternity system, child and adolescent health services and health research.

ACT Labor knows our frontline public health workers are indispensable to delivering the care Canberrans need. This is why at the 2020 election, Labor committed to expanding this workforce by an additional 400 health professionals – more nurses, midwives, doctors and allied health professionals. We met this commitment two years ahead of schedule and we have continued to grow our workforce, investing in them, and supporting the next generation of healthcare professionals to deliver better care for Canberrans now and into the future.

To support the health workforce across our public health services we delivered more wellbeing supports, significant culture reforms that are improving results in workforce surveys and made investments in our future health professionals and junior medical officers. We have ensured our health workers remain among the best paid in the country, with some of the best workplace conditions because we know an investment in our health workforce is an investment in our community.

Labor also delivered phase one of nurse-patient ratios across our public hospitals and has started rolling out phase two of nurse- and midwife-to-patient ratios. These are world leading ratios that enable our nurses and midwives to deliver safer care for Canberrans while also improving their working conditions.

To support our health workforce to deliver care more effectively and safely, Labor implemented a Digital Health Record across all public health services, connecting care and improving consumer experiences with MyDHR. This change means better care for Canberrans when and where it is needed.

Delivering state-of-the-art health facilities has been central to Labor's commitment to delivering better health care with more than \$600 million invested since 2020.

This term, Labor made an historic change to the ACT's public health services by bringing the ACT's public hospitals together under Canberra Health Services to support the delivery of a new northside hospital and a more accessible, accountable and sustainable health system.

Over the past four years, we have also:

- Coordinated a nation-leading response to the COVID-19 pandemic in the ACT.
- Established a range of new services for children and families, including the Paediatric Liaison and Navigation Service, a Paediatric Hospital in the Home service, and a Paediatric Gender Service, in addition to upskilling emergency department and intensive care staff to have specialist skills in working with children.
- Started work to deliver health infrastructure for specialised services, including a new Watson Health Precinct for alcohol and drug rehabilitation and youth mental health, a Southside Hydrotherapy Pool, a palliative care ward at Canberra Hospital, expanded endoscopy services, and the creation of a new Cancer Research Centre and Cancer Wellbeing Centre.
- Continued our work to make the ACT the best place to have a baby with the launch of *Maternity in focus: The ACT Public Maternity System Plan 2022-2032*. We have completed early actions include extending publicly available homebirth to the northside of Canberra and expansion of eligibility for the homebirth program to cover those birthing for the first time.
- Implemented free surgical and medical abortions for ACT residents and made it easier to access the oral contraceptive pill.
- Supported specialist primary care providers to deliver more general practice, psychology and allied health services for young people, refugees and asylum seekers, homeless Canberrans, and vulnerable public housing tenants.



- Made Canberra safer by trialling a drug checking service and decriminalising possession of small amounts of some drugs to reduce the harm associated with illicit drug use.

## What we will continue to do

A re-elected ACT Labor Government will continue to deliver on our comprehensive vision and plan for our healthcare system. We will do this by continuing to invest in and support our health workforce to deliver exceptional care to Canberrans. We will continue to deliver on our detailed plans for health infrastructure and improved maternity and child and adolescent health services across the community. We will continue to expand services at our public hospitals and build on our partnerships with non-government partners to support those who need it most.

We will:

### *Support and grow our health workforce*

- We will hire an additional 800 health care workers across our hospitals, Walk-in Centres, community health centres and outreach services. That means more doctors, more nurses, more midwives, more allied health professionals and more support staff for our growing city.
- Continue to deliver on the ACT Health Workforce Strategy 2023-2032 to support a sustainable health workforce in the ACT.
- Continue the implementation of Mandated Minimum Nurse/Midwife-to-Patient Ratios across ACT public health services by completing the rollout of Phase 2 of ratios across remaining inpatient areas and scoping community-based services ratios for nurses and midwives.
- Support world-class training, research and innovation as part of a learning health system by expanding access to resources to support health workers including a research data warehouse and tools to assist health researchers.
- Supporting low-paid workers to ensure they have secure employment and wages that mean they don't get left behind with the increased cost of living. An ACT Labor Government will:
  - Insource cleaning services at Canberra Health Services to support these essential health workers to be directly employed by the ACT Government.
  - Continue the insourcing project team at Canberra Health Services to support the continued development of options for insourcing services.

### *Build Canberra's health infrastructure for the future*

- Begin construction on the more than \$1 billion northside hospital mid-decade, aiming for completion in 2030-31.



- continue work to modernise and expand Canberra Hospital in line with the *Canberra Hospital Master Plan 2021-2041*.
- Complete construction of the new South Tuggeranong Health Centre in 2025, and deliver the new Inner South, North Gungahlin and West Belconnen Health Centres. Each health centre will meet the needs of the local region as part of an integrated health system, working across government with non-government organisations, local primary care providers and the community.
- Complete construction of the Southside Hydrotherapy Pool to deliver rehabilitation and supportive care for people in Canberra's south.
- Complete construction of the Watson Health Precinct, delivering new purpose-built youth mental health and alcohol and other drug facilities and a community-controlled Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander residential alcohol and other drug rehabilitation service in partnership with Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health and Community Services.

#### *Expand and increase healthcare services*

- Continue the modernisation of public health services that is delivering significant improvements to emergency department wait times, hospital capacity and community-based services that support more care closer to home.
- Implement our nation-leading voluntary assisted dying framework and undertake an early review of eligibility and access for people who lose capacity through advance care directives and/or enduring power of attorney.
- Continue the ACT's nation-leading approach to minimising the harm caused by alcohol, tobacco and other drugs by implementing the actions outlined in the *ACT Drug Strategy Action Plan 2022-2026*.
- Progress our commitment to be the best place in Australia to have a baby through the vision set out in *Maternity in Focus*.
- Keep Canberrans healthy and prevent them from developing chronic diseases through the *Healthy Canberra: Preventive Health Plan 2020-2025*.
- Expand and establish new health services and deliver more specialist services as part of the *ACT Health Services Plan 2022-2030*.
- Increase access to elective surgery and other procedures at Canberra Hospital and North Canberra Hospital as well as working with private hospital partners.

- Expand and scale up access to virtual care to help more people to access health and hospital services at home while being supported by our expert teams.
- Boost outpatient services, including more prevention and support for oral health, which will reduce hospitalisation and other flow-on impacts of untreated oral health issues in vulnerable communities.
- Continue to improve treatment and care for older Canberrans, including support programs to help older people stay out of hospital.
- To support a gym service at the Chifley Wellbeing Hub so Canberrans can continue to access this vital health service in the community.

Alongside these policies, a re-elected ACT Labor Government will also deliver a range of new initiatives that we will announce in the lead up to the election, building on our practical and proven plan for our health system.

# Education

## What we stand for

ACT Labor believes that all members of our community should have full and equal access to high quality free public education at every stage of their lives.

ACT Labor is committed to investing in our schools and our educators. We will continue to implement the billion-dollar Education Infrastructure Plan, maintaining and upgrading the existing schools we know and love, while building new schools across our growing city.

ACT Labor understands our teachers are expert professionals. We are committed to recruiting and retaining the best public school teachers in Australia. ACT Labor will continue to ensure our public school teachers are the highest paid in the country, and provide all teachers and support staff with nation-leading working conditions.

## What we have achieved this term

Over the past four years, we have:

- Increased the number of teachers and support staff in ACT public schools by more than 800.
- Established the Future of Education Equity Fund, supporting more than 5,000 students each year with the costs of educational expenses.
- Funded 25 more teacher-librarian positions in ACT public schools and grown the pipeline of qualified teacher-librarians through a dedicated scholarship program.
- Rolled out an additional 25 youth and social workers across public schools to support students and families.
- Piloted free breakfast and lunch three days a week at five public schools.
- Launched a 10-year *Inclusive Education Strategy* and strengthened disability education in ACT public schools through hiring a new team of expert disability inclusion coaches working across our Tuggeranong public schools.
- Legislated the right of every child with disability to attend their local public school.
- Built and opened three new public schools, with fourteen more new builds, modernisations or expansions funded and in the construction pipeline.
- Delivered \$99 million in upgrades to the established public schools Canberrans know and love, focusing on accessibility, thermal comfort and enhancing cultural integrity

- Delivered a nation-leading new Enterprise Agreement that ensures our public school teachers are some of the best paid in the country.
- Supported whole-school approaches to respectful relationships education through a new team of Gender Equity Coaches to support ACT public schools.
- Established the education justice partnership, which provides public college students with free legal aid.
- Supported local P&Cs with grants to encourage parental engagement.
- Began work with the Winanggaay Ngunnawal Language Group on creating bi-lingual early years readers for use in ACT public schools.
- Supported more than 50 students to undertake an Australian School-based Apprenticeship through a new Head Start program, which matches ACT public school students with local businesses in need of skilled workers, and provides wrap-around supports during their training.
- Funded additional eSafety supports for families and schools with dedicated eSafety officers, parent and carer workshops and eSafety info sessions.

## What we will continue to do

A re-elected ACT Labor Government will continue to:

- Provide free Chromebooks for all public high school and public college students.
- Provide free internet access to households who need it.
- Strengthen evidence-informed literacy and numeracy teaching across all ACT public schools through a new program, Strong Foundations, ensuring every child reaches their potential while also reducing workloads for school staff through more system support.
- Back our public school teachers by ensuring they remain the highest paid in the country.
- Ensure all public schools have access to youth workers, social workers and psychologists.
- Implement our *Inclusive Education Strategy*, including develop a new adjustments-based funding model for students with disability.
- Prioritise the safety of school staff through reviewing and implementing changes to how occupational violence is managed schools.

We will:

- Expand support available to low-income families through the Future of Education Equity Fund.
- Continue the rollout of inclusion coaches in ACT public schools, starting with Belconnen public schools.

- Expand free meals in schools to 20 public schools.
- Deliver our billion dollar school build, constructing new public schools and renewing existing public schools.
- Undertake a comprehensive audit of school infrastructure to guide a strategic and planned approach to upgrades, and expand our program of upgrades and maintenance across our public schools through a \$150 million investment, including, improving heating and cooling in public schools through a dedicated audit program and a \$30 million investment, so that our public schools are comfortable places to teach and learn, no matter the weather.
- Fund innovative principal wellbeing initiatives.
- Trial an independent parent advocacy service.
- Establish new scholarships to encourage mid-career entrants to study teaching and build the pipeline of teachers in priority areas, such as inclusive education and language teaching.
- Strengthen career pathways for Learning Support Assistants through new scholarships enabling them to study teaching while working in ACT public schools.
- Provide more support to vulnerable young people, by increasing the number of mental health practitioners in our schools.
- Explore ways to expand flexible education offerings so students from all backgrounds who need additional support to engage with learning can thrive at school.
- Offer every ACT public school student a free school camp at Birrigai so that they have the experience of learning about culture and place on-country.
- Conduct a survey of to assist in understanding and developing a model to introduce Punjabi language teaching in schools, where this would benefit the local community.

## Cost of living support

### What we stand for

Labor understands that cost-of-living pressures are being felt by many Canberrans. We can't fix everything, but Labor will continue to find practical ways to support those who need it most. This particularly includes non-discretionary expenses such as transport, energy, health and educational costs.

### What we have achieved

We have:

- Established a network of Nurse-led Walk-in Centres that provide free healthcare for a range of minor illnesses and injuries without an appointment, saving families time and money.
- Set up an Education Equity Fund to ensure all kids get to experience the full benefits of public school, like having the right equipment, wearing a new uniform, and getting music lessons.
- Commenced free three-year-old preschool one day a week.
- Provided every public high school and public college student with a free Chromebook, worth hundreds of dollars, to ensure every student has digital equity of learning.
- Created the Rent Relief Fund to help tenants stay in their homes during a period of severe financial stress, by paying their rent for four weeks up to \$2500.
- Brought in the Fuelcheck scheme so that service stations report their prices in real time, helping motorists can find the cheapest price near them.
- Shifted to long-term renewable electricity contracts, meaning that over the past two years our electricity prices are increasing below the level of inflation, unlike other states like NSW and Queensland.
- Expanded the Utilities Concession (now Electricity, Water and Gas Rebate) eligibility criteria to include anyone with a Commonwealth Health Care Card, meaning 12,000 more households will benefit from \$800 in support, taking the total number of eligible households to 43,800 (around a quarter of total households).
- Increased the Taxi Subsidy Scheme's cap by 15 per cent – and removed the requirement to apply for additional trips – to ensure Canberrans with a disability or mobility restriction can continue to access an affordable alternative and get out and about in the community.
- Made buying a house more affordable by:

- Reducing stamp duty in every Budget since 2012.
- Reforming the planning system to allow more affordable houses to be built in existing suburbs.
- Dedicating at least 15 per cent of the Indicative Land Release Program residential land for affordable, community and public housing.
- Setting up an Affordable Rental Real Estate Management model to encourage property investors to rent their investment properties at 75 per cent of market rate or less.
- Introducing a 25 per cent Lease Variation Charge remission for registered community housing providers to encourage the development of more affordable rental housing.

## What we will do

In the current cost-of-living crisis facing Australians, ACT Labor has made a series of commitments to help Canberrans dealing with financial pressure right now.

We will:

- Continue to provide a \$800 energy bill rebate to household doing it tough, in addition to \$300 for every household from Federal Labor
- We will make public transport free every Friday
- Reduce the cost of caravan and camper trailer registrations by \$150
- We are already supporting local trainees and apprentices with a \$250 payment right now and we providing another \$250 payment to support them next year, with an additional \$250 for first year apprentices to help them purchase their first set of tools or equipment
- Incentivise GPs to bulk bill more Canberrans more often with a new \$11 million fund that will financially support new bulk billing practices to move and open in the ACT, and help existing bulk billing practices to expand.
- Double free three-year-old preschool to two days per week, and make hours more family-friendly, saving young families around \$2600 a year.
- Cover the cost for every student at public primary schools to go on a camp to Birrigai.
- Keep cutting real estate stamp duty in every Budget next term, with a focus on affordable housing, owner-occupiers and first home buyers.



# Transport

## What we stand for

ACT Labor will deliver a practical, proven plan for public transport in Canberra. As Canberra's population nears half a million people, we are getting on with the job of building for our city's future. We've proven that Canberra benefits from an integrated public transport network. Work needs to continue on the north-south mass-transit line in light rail, supported by a growing electric bus fleet to the suburbs.

ACT Labor's progressive and practical public transport plan will see more rapid services, more frequent local services, more electric buses purchased than any other party, and we'll build light rail to Woden. We will continue to deliver the public transport services our growing city needs, and we'll do it in a way that benefits all Canberrans.

## What we have achieved this term

### *Light Rail*

- A construction contract has been signed for light rail to Commonwealth Park. A re-elected Labor Government will start major works on this next stage of the network at the same time as finalising the raising London Circuit project, with operations expected to commence in 2028.
- The expanded light rail depot at Mitchell is already complete in anticipation of extending the line to Commonwealth Park. A local team is starting to install batteries on all light rail vehicles, required for wire-free running through the city and the Parliamentary Triangle. The LRS2A business case was released in August 2019.
- In July 2022, the Labor Government signed a contract for five new light rail vehicles, retrofitting batteries on the existing fleet, and expanding the light rail depot, to enable wire-free operations.

### *Zero Emission Transition*

- The Government has committed to a fully zero emission bus fleet by 2040 or earlier and has set out the pathway in the *Zero Emission Plan for Transport Canberra*.
- Twelve battery electric buses were added into the Transport Canberra bus fleet in early 2023, which are housed and charged at Tuggeranong Bus Depot.
- Labor has delivered on our commitment buy 90 battery electric buses.
- The ACT is a leader on zero emissions transport with the largest fleet of electric buses delivered per capita in Australia (as reported in May 2023).

### *MyWay+ Ticketing System*

- A contract was signed with NEC in February 2023 to deliver a new and improved public transport ticketing system for Canberra, called MyWay+.
- This new system will provide a simpler payment system, with customers able to tap on and off public transport using debit and credit cards and devices, such as their phone or smart watch, in addition to traditional travel cards and paper tickets.
- The improved system will also provide a new real time passenger information system and journey planner. Customers will be able to plan their journey, track the arrival of their next service, and pay for their travel, all from a web portal or mobile app.
- MyWay+ will be delivered in late 2024. From 20 September, travel is free for at least six weeks during the period the switchover from the existing fare collection system to the new ticketing system.

## What we will continue to do

### *Light rail*

- Only Labor has the commitment and capability in government to build Light Rail to Barton and Woden. If you want Light Rail to service both North and South Canberra, it's simple: Labor must be in government.
- ACT Labor is investing now to ensure that Canberra is a connected, sustainable and vibrant city in the future.
- The extension of light rail will benefit Canberra by providing frequent, high quality mass transit across a city that will reach half a million people by the end of the decade and more than 780,000 people by 2060.
- Building light rail to Woden will help create a fast frequent and reliable transport spine that better connects some of our major town centres. This will make it easier to get between town centres as well as improving suburban accessibility in combination with our strengthened bus network.
- This major, complex project requires several Commonwealth and Territory planning and environmental approvals, which require a substantial amount of design, assessment, and consultation to be undertaken.
- An extended light rail line will deliver benefits for Canberra for decades to come; a better public transport system that will move more Canberrans efficiently around our growing city.

### *Future of Light Rail Stage 2a*

- Extending the current Gungahlin to City route to Commonwealth Park demonstrates the ACT Government's commitment to delivering light rail in the City to Woden corridor.
- Raising London Circuit construction is expected to be completed by late 2024-early 2025, which is a critical enabling project supporting light rail to move through the city.
- Work on the stops, tracks and light rail systems as part of LRS2A is currently planned to commence in late 2024. Construction and testing is expected to take approximately three years, with services commencing from January 2028.
- Construction of the light rail depot expansion started in 2023. The first new LRV is expected to arrive in mid-late 2024, with retrofitting of the existing fleet with on board energy systems commencing shortly thereafter.
- The project will provide three new stops built at Edinburgh Avenue, City South and Commonwealth Avenue, extending the network by 1.7 kilometres - providing a greater connection between the city and the lake.

### *Future of Light Rail Stage 2b*

- Now that a contract has been signed for the LRS2A main works, the ACT Labor Government is also progressing early design and planning for Stage 2B through the Parliamentary Triangle to Woden.
- The ACT Government has funded \$50 million in the 2023-24 ACT Budget to progress the development of an Environment Impact Statement (EIS) and design and technical studies on the Stage 2B route.
- Labor in Government is engaging with the community in 2024 on the design of Stage 2B as part of the development of the EIS.
- Light rail will provide rapid transit to residents along Adelaide Avenue and Yarra Glen, who have only been able to watch the rapid bus drive past them on the way to Civic from the Woden Town centre.

### *Delivering MyWay+ for better ticketing and route planning*

- ACT Labor knows that making it easy to pay for services is one of the keyways to encourage more people to catch public transport. MyWay+, a nation leading public transport ticketing system, is in the final stages of delivery.
- The new service will put the power of our proven public transport system in the hands of Canberrans with new ways to pay and an easy

to use smartphone app. Canberrans will be able to use their debit card, credit card, smart phone, smart watch, travel card or paper ticket to pay for public transport, and will be able to track their services in real time and plan their journey in a way that suits them.

### *Improved Bus Services and Zero Emission Transition*

- ACT Labor will uplift and increase the frequency of existing bus services, to guarantee local services running every 20 minutes on weekdays.
- ACT Labor will also deliver additional rapid bus services:
  - A new rapid service between Lanyon and the City to replace an existing peak bus service. We will consult with the community on the preferred route, which will be delivered alongside new and upgraded stops along Drakeford Drive to support better access to new and existing services.
  - A new rapid service to support growth in West Belconnen, and replace the existing 'small bus' service from Ginninderry to Kippax. This route will run from Ginninderry, West Belconnen, and other Belconnen suburbs through to the City.
  - A new rapid service for the Molonglo Town Centre following the completion of the Molonglo River Bridge. We will consult with the community on the preferred route and connection to other town centres.
- The service uplift will be accompanied by more park and ride facilities, new bus shelters, and upgrades to existing bus stops to ensure accessibility.
- Now that the Government has 106 battery electric buses joining the fleet we are updating the Zero Emission Plan for Transport Canberra to reflect recent procurements in electric buses and charging infrastructure, and future planning.
- ACT Labor will purchase 110 new electric buses and hire 350 bus drivers over the next term to support delivery of the expanded bus network. This purchase will see ACT Labor continue our pathway to a zero emission's fleet by 2040 or earlier.

## Labor's Plan for Tuggeranong

ACT Labor has been working hard to deliver more services and infrastructure in Tuggeranong. We've upgraded the Tuggeranong Town Centre, started construction on the new South Tuggeranong Health Centre and begun major roadworks and upgrades across the region. From potholes to playgrounds and housing to health centres, ACT Labor has a plan to build the infrastructure Tuggeranong needs and improve the things locals love.

### Health

We'll deliver more health services in Tuggeranong, so you can access the right care, in the right place and at the right time.

We'll open the South Tuggeranong Health Centre in Conder. It will include a diabetes clinic, pathology and child health services.

We'll keep expanding services at Tuggeranong Walk-in Centre so you can access more health services, closer to home. And we'll hire more nurses and health workers in Tuggeranong.

We'll open a new Hydrotherapy pool in the Tuggeranong Town Centre to help people with chronic pain and conditions.

### Roads

We're duplicating Athllon Drive to improve safety, ease congestion and make your commute faster. Sulwood Drive is being upgraded to include a new road pavement, traffic lights, shared path, and improved access to the car park at the base of Mount Taylor.

We'll continue working with the Federal Government to complete the major upgrade of the Monaro Highway, starting with the new flyover at Lanyon Drive. And we'll keep working to improve safety and traffic flow at intersections across Tuggeranong, including Tharwa Drive and Norman Lindsay Street into Lanyon Marketplace.

### Transport

We'll improve bus services in Tuggeranong, helping people to get to where they want to go faster and easier. This includes a new rapid bus service between Lanyon and the City. To support this new rapid service, we'll build new and renewed bus stops along Drakeford Drive, between Athllon Drive and Sulwood Drive, in Kambah. We will also work with the operators at SouthPoint Tuggeranong on plans to better integrate the shopping precinct for public transport.

## Schools

We'll keep making improvements to our public schools across Tuggeranong, including Calwell Primary, Fadden Primary, Gordon Primary, Monash Primary, Theodore Primary and Isabella Plains Early Childhood School.

We'll upgrade the Photography Lab Learning Space at Lake Tuggeranong College, to provide students and staff with access to a more modern and fit-for-purpose space.

We've hired a team of disability inclusion coaches across Tuggeranong public schools so that every local student, regardless of their abilities, can engage successfully with their education.

We'll also support more Tuggeranong families by expanding our free preschool program for three-year olds, saving families up to \$2600 a year

## Local Shops

ACT Labor has a plan to improve local shops in Tuggeranong. We're already making improvements to Calwell, Lanyon and Monash Shops. Adding to this, we'll undertake major upgrades to the public spaces and facilities at Erindale and Chisholm Shops. ACT Labor will continue to support the expansion and redevelopment plans at Kambah Village.

As part of ACT Labor's Housing Plan, we'll work to deliver more houses closer to local shops. This will give more housing choices and help to rejuvenate local shops and group centres. We'll work with Southpoint Tuggeranong on potential opportunities to provide more housing in the Tuggeranong Town Centre.

## Sports

ACT Labor will support local sports teams by improving facilities and playing fields across Tuggeranong. We'll install a new portable grandstand for the Gordon Playing Fields for a better spectator experience, alongside work underway to improve lighting. We'll upgrade change rooms at Calwell, Chisholm and Wanniasa playing fields to be more female friendly. ACT Labor will further upgrade the pavilion at Wanniasa District Playing Fields (Wanniasa 2) with improved safety lighting, heating and general amenity and provide additional change room capacity.

Caroline Chisholm Senior School and Gowrie cricket nets will get an upgrade and we'll work with the Pine Tennis Club in Chisholm on their expansion plans.

We'll work to increase parking at Wanniasa Playing fields to make weekend sports easier for families. We'll upgrade facilities at the Tuggeranong Leisure Centre and Erindale Active Leisure Centre. And we'll keep working with a private company to construct the new indoor ice



sports facility. This is all in addition to work already underway to upgrade the Calwell netball courts.

## Parks and playgrounds

We'll replace playgrounds across Tuggeranong, including Kambah, Wanniasa, Bonython, Isabella Plains, Gilmore and Conder. And we will upgrade Tuggeranong skatepark.

Upgrades at Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve will make it easier to visit and explore the national park. We'll improve the bushland and landscape across Tuggeranong by re-naturalising waterways and creeks. We'll also open a new viewing platform at Tuggeranong Creek in Calwell so more people can enjoy native wildlife.

We'll open a new dog park in Lanyon, in addition to the one in Greenway. And we'll keep working to improve the water quality at Lake Tuggeranong.

## Community facilities

We'll support more arts and community events in Tuggeranong. Improvements to Tuggeranong Arts Centre and Lanyon Homestead will make them more accessible and usable for community and art groups. And we'll support the Canberra Museum and Art Gallery to set up a permanent exhibition space at Lanyon Homestead.

More seating and desk spaces will make Tuggeranong library an even better place for working, meeting and relaxing. We will also help upgrade the Gordon community centre to support the work they do in the community.

## Footpaths

We'll set up a \$5 million fund to invest in better footpaths across Tuggeranong. This will build new footpaths and improve existing ones to make Tuggeranong suburbs more accessible and better connected. We'll also keep working on upgraded footpaths and pedestrian crossings to make it safer for kids to walk to school, including outside Mary MacKillop College and Trinity College.

To make it safer and easier for residents to move around, we'll set up a \$2.5 million fund to improve streetlights across Tuggeranong.

We'll build on recent upgrades to make even more improvements to Tuggeranong Foreshore, with better footpaths, lighting and seating - connecting Tuggeranong Lake to the upgraded Tuggeranong Town Centre. Walking and cycling paths will also be improved along Athllon Drive, including a new underpass under Sulwood Drive to separate cyclists from traffic. We'll open a new 4km long and 3m wide asphalt, o-road path along Sulwood Drive.





## Labor's Plan for Woden and Weston Creek

ACT Labor has been working hard to deliver more services and infrastructure in Woden and Weston Creek. We've completed the first stage of the Canberra Hospital Expansion, started construction on light rail to Woden and completed upgrades at Cooleman Court. From local shops and sports facilities to hospitals and schools, ACT Labor has a plan to build the infrastructure Woden and Weston Creek needs and improve the things locals love.

### Health

We've opened a bigger emergency department, ICU and more operating theatres at the Canberra Hospital. We'll continue making upgrades and opening new facilities at the Canberra Hospital campus - including the Cancer Research Centre, new pharmacy services and a new palliative care ward.

To make it easier for patients, visitors and staff, we'll build more parking at the Canberra Hospital. We're expanding services and hiring more nurses at the Weston Creek Walk-in Centre so you can access more healthcare, closer to home.

### Community Facilities

We're building a new Woden Community Centre to provide residents and community groups a place to host events, meetings, arts and community activities. Better seating and desk spaces will make Woden Library even better following recent upgrades.

Work is also underway on an upgraded playground at Lyons oval. A re-elected Labor Government will also consult with Woden residents on improved recreational facilities in Eddison Park.

### Roads

We're duplicating Athllon Drive to ease congestion, improve travel times between Woden and Tuggeranong and provide better public transport access to the new Woden Bus Depot. We're also upgrading key intersections with traffic lights along Streeton Drive to make the intersections safer as the region grows.

### Transport

Construction is underway on Light Rail to Woden, easing traffic congestion and connecting Woden to the City and Gungahlin. Only a vote for ACT Labor will see light rail delivered to Woden. Work is also underway on a new Woden bus interchange as part of the CIT Woden redevelopment, and a new bus depot in Woden.

## Schools

We're building a new CIT in Woden to provide students and teachers with state-of-the-art facilities, a new multipurpose hall and improved public spaces and greenery in the heart of Woden.

Across Weston Creek and Woden, we're making improvements and upgrades to our public schools. We're upgrading Canberra College, Curtin South Preschool, Duffy Primary, Farrer Primary, Hughes Primary, Mawson Primary, Malkara School and Lyons Early Childhood School.

These upgrades are in addition to the significant expansion and upgrade of Garran Primary School. This expansion will include a new full-sized double court gymnasium to deliver additional indoor sporting facilities available for hire.

## Local Shops

Labor will continue improving local shops right across the region, including the next stage of upgrades at Coleman Court in Weston.

We'll make further upgrades at Mawson shops, including improvements to pedestrian and public spaces at Mawson Place. This is in addition to the new toilet at Mawson shops. We will also release land for a supermarket at Mawson shops as part of a 'shop top' housing development.

We will also work with the operators of Westfield Woden to explore options for build-to-rent housing, providing more affordable homes in the area.

## Sports

To support sport in Woden, we're making upgrades and improving sport facilities across the region, including pavilion, grandstand and other upgrades at Phillip District Oval and the restoration of Garran Oval.

We'll deliver lighting upgrades at Waramanga Oval and new field lights at Stirling Playing fields. We will also improve Mawson playing fields with upgraded toilet facilities, as well as upgraded change rooms at Hughes and Phillip playing fields to be more female friendly. Feasibility work is underway on additional indoor sporting facilities in the Woden Town Centre, exploring co-location with a future Woden High School on Hindmarsh Drive. We will also provide two additional playing fields in Stirling.

## Footpaths

We'll set up a \$5 million fund to invest in better footpaths across Weston Creek and Woden. This will build new footpaths and improve existing ones to make suburbs more accessible and better connected. This will include work on the Streeton Drive cycleway.

## Labor's Plan for Molonglo

ACT Labor has been working hard to deliver more services and infrastructure in Molonglo. We've built two state-of-the-art schools, opened a new Health Centre in Coombs and is building the Molonglo River Bridge. From emergency services to community facilities, ACT Labor has a plan to provide the infrastructure and services Molonglo locals will need well into the future.

### Town Centre

Labor's Plan for Molonglo includes the development of a new Molonglo Town Centre to provide the growing region with more services, more jobs and more housing.

Under ACT Labor, the ACT Government will deliver new services in the town centre. This includes a new Molonglo Library, a new community centre and a new child and family centre.

The town centre will include a new Molonglo Police Station in addition to the new Molonglo Emergency Services Station. We'll also include a flexible working hub for ACT Government employees to work closer to home. A re-elected Labor Government will develop a tender process in the next term to lease new commercial space for these services.

As part of the planning for a future Molonglo Town Centre, we will support a 'community club of the future' - a pokie free club venue in the precinct.

The future Molonglo Town Centre will include more well-located housing through mixed use developments, providing more housing options for Canberrans. We will also commence an expression of interest process for additional community facilities at dedicated community zoned land located in Molonglo for places of religious worship.

### Health

We've opened a bigger emergency department, ICU and more theatres at the Canberra Hospital. We'll continue making upgrades and opening new facilities at the Canberra Hospital campus, including more parking. We're expanding services and hiring more Health workers at the Weston Creek Walk-in Centre.

We'll build on the success of the Health Centre in Coombs by expanding paediatric services to provide more families with access to even more health services, closer to home.

## Schools

We're building a new primary school and Early Learning Centre in Whitlam that will cater for more than 700 students. And we will continue planning for a new public high school and college in the Molonglo Town Centre which will include a range of new community facilities. We will also release land for two new non-government schools in Molonglo.

## Parks and Playgrounds

We're building a new toilet block for families and visitors at Ruth Park Playground in Coombs. We'll improve the Molonglo River Reserve, including new habitats for native animals and new recreational paths.

We'll also protect Coombs Peninsula and 'Bluetts Block' in Stromlo from future development.

## Sports

Work will begin next year on the Stromlo to Cotter Mountain Flow Trail, a new 15km bike trail to link the two popular recreational spots. We'll invest in the staged implementation of the Stromlo Forest Park tracks and trails master plan, working with the local community and bike groups to support better mountain biking and other facilities at the park.

Construction will also start on the Stromlo District Playing Fields, providing much needed facilities for local sporting teams.

## Roads

We'll complete the Molonglo River Bridge and John Gorton Drive extension – the largest bridge project in ACT history. The bridge and extension will improve traffic and support the growing region.

We'll also start work on stage 1 of the Molonglo Parkway-Drive Connector, linking the future town centre from John Gorton Drive to the Tuggeranong Parkway.

We will also explore options to improve public transport and traffic flow on Cotter Road, from Streeton Drive to the Tuggeranong Parkway.

## Footpaths and bikepaths

We will complete the missing link in the path network at Coombs Peninsula, making it easier for locals and visitors to explore and enjoy the area.

Work is already underway on a seven-kilometre off-road shared path for walking and cycling along John Gorton Drive, including an underpass connecting the future town centre to Denman Prospect.

We'll begin construction on the new pedestrian and cyclist bridge near the RSPCA in Coombs. Together with the new bike path extensions in Holder

and Coombs, these paths will cut the ride time between Civic and Molonglo down by 15 minutes.

## Transport

We'll use the new Molonglo Bridge to provide a new rapid bus service that will connect a new public transport interchange in the Molonglo Town Centre, north to the city or Belconnen. Service frequency will also be increased on the existing R10 Rapid service that runs from Denman Prospect to the City.

## Labor's Plan for Belconnen

ACT Labor has been working hard to deliver more services and infrastructure in Belconnen. We've upgraded local schools, built the Belconnen Bikeway and improved our local shops. And as more people choose to call the area home, ACT Labor has a plan to build the infrastructure Belconnen needs and improve the things locals love.

### Bruce Health, Education and Sport precinct

A re-elected Labor Government will provide a major investment to deliver the Bruce Health, Education & Sports precinct. This precinct will include a new state-of-the-art hospital in Canberra's North, renewed CIT Belconnen campus, and new Canberra Stadium & AIS Sports precinct.

The ACT Government acquired the former Calvary Public Hospital to build a new, modern hospital on the campus with more services and more health workers.

A re-elected Labor Government will continue renewal plans for the Bruce CIT campus and will explore opportunities for more collaboration with the University of Canberra. We are also building a new Yurauna Centre at CIT Belconnen, a dedicated Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Educational Centre of Excellence.

We'll continue working with the Commonwealth Government on plans for a major facelift and facility expansion of the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) precinct in Bruce. As part of this work, a re-elected Labor Government will seek Commonwealth support for a new Canberra Stadium in the precinct.

### Shops

We'll continue upgrading local shops in Belconnen, including future stages of upgrades to Charnwood Shops and Kippax shops. This is in addition to work already underway at Macquarie Shops and Evatt Shops, including new public toilet facilities.

We have also reached an agreement with the owners of Kippax Fair that will see a substantial investment in the shopping precinct. This includes a new parkland, playground, BBQ, community space and more housing. And we'll build a modular toilet facility at Dunlop shops.

### Parks and playgrounds

A re-elected Labor Government will deliver a major renewal of the rapidly growing Belconnen Town Centre. This includes an upgrade of Margaret Timpson Park, incorporating a new playground, public toilet, BBQs, picnic tables, landscaping, and accessible ramp to the park on the northern edge. Design work is already underway on plans to widen and renew the Emu Bank Foreshore. A re-elected Labor Government will support this work with new landscaping, murals, picnic tables and a new water play area.



We will also build: a new recreational walking loop around Palmerville Heritage Park; a new, all-abilities public playground in Florey; and build a new playground in McKellar.

We will also upgrade the playground and public toilet in Umbagog Park.

## Housing

As part of ACT Labor's Housing Plan, we'll work to deliver more housing close to services and shopping centres. This will give more housing choice for people and help to rejuvenate our shopping centres and suburbs.

A re-elected ACT Labor Government will continue work with the Commonwealth Government to deliver thousands of new homes at the CSIRO Ginninderra site. We're building more affordable housing in Strathnairn and releasing more land for housing across the region. We will continue to work with the University of Canberra on the implementation of their campus masterplan, which includes more housing, commercial and community facilities in Belconnen.

We will also work with the operators of Westfield Belconnen to explore options for build-to-rent housing, providing more affordable homes in the town centre.

## Roads

We will complete the full duplication of Gundaroo Drive to link Belconnen and Gungahlin. We'll also start the duplication of William Hovell Drive to improve safety and reduce travel times between West Belconnen and the City. Labor will also start work on improvements to Drake Brockman Drive to support the growth of Ginninderry.

## Footpaths

We'll set up a dedicated \$5 million Belconnen footpath fund. This fund will be used to upgrade, maintain and build new footpaths to make Belconnen suburbs more accessible and better connected. We will invest \$9 million in delivering the next stages of the Lake Ginninderra path upgrades around Diddams Close and along the western foreshore.

The street light columns on the eastern Ginninderra Drive bridge will be repositioned to allow for ease of movement through this currently congested area. This will build on work already underway to widen and improve the path next to John Knight Memorial Park and along the eastern foreshore.

We will also build a seven kilometre walking and cycling path along William Hovell Drive, and we'll complete the remaining stages of the Kuringa Drive shared path, enhancing the connection to Spence shops.

## Transport

A re-elected Labor Government will deliver more bus services for Belconnen residents. This includes a new West Belconnen Rapid Service from Ginninderry to the City, which will be supported by a new Park and Ride.

We will also increase services on the popular R2 service between Belconnen and Fyshwick via the City.

Planning and design is underway on the Belconnen to City Transitway. As this progresses, we'll build stage one of the bus priority measures and consider bus stop upgrades and footpath and cycleway connections, whilst future-proofing the corridor for light rail.

## Sports

A re-elected Labor Government will expand the Belconnen Basketball stadium in partnership with Basketball ACT and renovate and refurbish the pavilion at Jamison Oval. We'll provide new toilets and better amenities at the netball courts at Charnwood, and an upgrade to Latham Oval and facilities. Change rooms will also be upgraded at Aranda and Giralang to make them female friendly.

In addition to the recent investment in the half pipe Belco Skate Park, we'll build a new skate park at Kippax shops in Holt and upgrade the skate bowl at Charnwood.

## Schools

Across Belconnen, we're making upgrades and improvements to our public schools, from classrooms to playgrounds and outdoor learning spaces.

These schools include Canberra High School, Charnwood Dunlop Primary School, Evatt Primary, Fraser Primary, Hawker Primary, Latham Primary, Macgregor Primary, Maribyrnong Primary, Mount Rogers Primary, Weetangera Primary, Kingsford Smith School, Melba Copland Secondary School and Southern Cross Early Childhood School. We'll also work with Charnwood Dunlop School to deliver a new all-abilities playground.

To support young families in Belconnen's newest suburbs, we're building a brand new primary school and early learning centre in Strathnairn.

We're also working with the University of Canberra to undertake a feasibility study on sites for a future public primary school on campus.

## Health

In addition to work on a new Northside hospital in Bruce, we will build a new Health Centre in West Belconnen to provide locals with access to free health services, closer to home. We're also expanding services at the Belconnen Walk-in Centre and hiring more nurses.



## Labor's Plan for Gungahlin

ACT Labor has been working hard to deliver more services and infrastructure in Gungahlin. Labor delivered light rail, and we've expanded services at the Gungahlin Walk-in Centre. We've also expanded public schools to respond to growth in the region, with two new public schools opened and a third opening next year. From paths and playgrounds to housing and health services, ACT Labor has a plan to build the infrastructure Gungahlin needs and improve the things locals love.

### Town Centre

A re-elected ACT Labor Government will expand the town centre to the east, providing residents with access to more employment opportunities, more affordable housing options, more commercial opportunities and new community facilities.

The Gungahlin Town Centre expansion will include a new playground for children and young families to enjoy, an improved bike path network, a life-long learning hub featuring a new CIT, and a new public library. This will also include hireable classrooms for multicultural groups undertaking community language schools.

A re-elected Labor Government will invest \$10 million to improve pedestrian safety and reduce congestion in the Gungahlin Town Centre. There will be a particular focus on improving traffic flow from the town centre onto The Valley Avenue, traffic calming and pedestrian access on Hibberson Street and Ernest Cavanagh Street and intersection improvements.

We're building a new Community Centre in the town centre which will also have a dedicated youth centre.

### Health

We're making sure all Canberrans can access free healthcare when and where they need it by building a new health centre in Casey and expanding services at the Gungahlin Walk-in Centre.

We're also building a new Northside Hospital on the existing North Canberra Hospital campus, investing more than \$1 billion to build a bigger hospital with more services and more health workers.

### Roads, Paths and Transport

We will continue to improve Gungahlin's road network.

We will investigate intersection upgrades and road widening along Gungahlin Drive from Gundaroo Drive through to Overall Avenue in Casey to improve traffic flow.

We will also work on a corridor plan for Mirrabai Drive to guide future improvements and deliver a walking and cycling path to connect the historic Hall Village to the broader Gungahlin path network.

We're extending light rail so Gungahlin residents can travel beyond the city. A vote for Labor will see the current Gungahlin to City light rail route extended to Commonwealth Park, the National Triangle and Woden.

## Sports

Construction will begin on the new Amaroo Tennis facility and new district playing fields in Throsby.

A re-elected Labor Government will build a new pavilion and more playing fields in Taylor. We will also provide new cricket nets in Bonner and upgraded change rooms at the Gungahlin Enclosed Oval and Harrison Playing Fields to make them female friendly.

Planning and design is underway on a new indoor sports centre in Casey. We will also work with AFL Canberra on a feasibility study for pavilion upgrades at Amaroo Reserve and we will also build additional netball courts in Jacka.

## Education

The new life-long learning hub in the Gungahlin Town Centre will allow for an expansion of the Gungahlin College, including more learning spaces and upgrades to the oval.

We're building a second college in Nicholls, planned to open before the end of the decade, and we're also upgrading Gold Creek School, Harrison School and Ngunnawal Primary School.

## Community Facilities

We'll make further upgrades to Palmerston shops now we've expanded the car park. We're upgrading facilities at EPIC to support major multicultural events, weddings and festivals. We will also commence an expression of interest process for additional community facilities at dedicated community zoned land in Gungahlin for places of worship.

We're planning for a new Emergency Services Station in Casey to improve response times and support the community. The new Casey station will increase space at the Gungahlin Joint Emergency Station which will become a dedicated police station.

## Parks and playgrounds

We're building new and improved parks and playgrounds across Gungahlin, including upgrades at Yerrabi Pond District Park with new toilets, play equipment and picnic facilities. In addition to the recently completed Casey Community Recreation Park, we will complete the dog park currently under construction in Franklin.

We will also build a new playground at the Amaroo Shops and we'll build a new skate park in Jacka.

## Labor's Plan for Inner North

ACT Labor has been working hard to deliver more services and infrastructure in the Inner North. We have expanded services across our network of Walk-in Centres, opened new playgrounds and made improvements to local schools. From paths and playgrounds to housing and health services, ACT Labor has a plan to build the infrastructure the Inner North needs and improve the things locals love.

### Health

A re-elected Labor Government will build a new Northside Hospital on the existing North Canberra Hospital campus, investing more than \$1 billion to build a state-of-the-art hospital with a bigger emergency department and more treatment spaces.

We're also expanding services and hiring more nurses at the Inner North Walk-in Centre so locals can access free healthcare, closer to home.

### Transport

It was ACT Labor that built light rail for Canberra, providing a reliable public transport network from Gungahlin to the city through the Inner North. We will continue extending the light rail network, starting with the city to Commonwealth Park extension and on to Barton and Woden, for Inner North residents who work in those centres.

We will increase the frequency of bus services to every 20 minutes on a weekday, across all local bus routes in the Inner North. We will also improve the frequency of weekend services on local routes, with hourly buses on Sundays.

### Schools

We're working with the community to upgrade schools including Majura Primary, Lyneham High, Campbell Primary and Campbell High School, O'Connor Cooperative School and Turner School.

### Community

We'll build a new Canberra Theatre Precinct with a new 2000 seat lyric theatre. This will attract international acts and visitors to Canberra.

To support local arts and community groups, we're also upgrading Gorman Arts Centre.

To support local sports, we will upgrade change rooms in Ainslie, O'Connor and at Reid Oval to make them female friendly.

We're building a new emergency services station in Acton to improve response times in the Inner North. We'll also continue to work with ACT Police on a new, modern City police station.



## Parks and playgrounds

We have recently completed a major new park and playground on Aspinall Street in North Watson. Construction has also begun on a new destination playground for the Inner North on Windeyer Street, providing families with new play equipment, toilets, a BBQ area and new sports facilities.

We are building a new, lively precinct at Acton Waterfront, with a new playground being added to the recently completed boardwalk.

A re-elected Labor Government will work with the National Capital Authority to remove Monash Drive (running behind Hackett, Ainslie and Braddon) from the National Capital Plan to ensure this area is protected from future road construction.

## Paths and Roads

The first stage of the Garden City Cycleway is under construction, providing a safer and improved cycling network through the Inner North. A re-elected Labor Government will deliver the next stages of the cycleway to Dickson, Downer and Watson.

We will also invest in new and improved footpaths in the Inner North. This will be in addition to work already underway to upgrade and improve footpaths in Braddon, O'Connor, Reid and the City.

We are delivering raised crossings on Bauhinia Drive in O'Connor to improve pedestrian safety and strengthen this key cycle route.

If re-elected, ACT Labor Government will also build a raised crossing on Challis Street in Dickson.

Upgrades to Beltana Road in Pialligo are close to completion, which will support local businesses and improve traffic conditions for residents and visitors.

## Shops

We'll continue upgrades to Braddon, Garema Place and Dickson Shops to support local businesses.

A re-elected Labor Government will build a new public toilet at Downer Shops.

We will keep working to revitalise the Sydney and Melbourne Buildings and complete upgrades to Odgers and Verity Lanes.

## Housing

As part of ACT Labor's Housing Plan, we'll work to deliver more houses closer to local shops. This will provide more housing choice and help to rejuvenate local shops and suburbs. We are also supporting a new build-to-rent development in Turner.

## Labor's Plan for the Inner South

ACT Labor has been working hard to deliver more services and infrastructure in the Inner South. We have begun work on a new Health Centre in Griffith, made improvements to our public schools and delivered new cycling infrastructure. From paths and playgrounds to housing and health services, ACT Labor has a plan to build the infrastructure the Inner South needs and improve the things locals love.

### Health

We are building a new health centre in Griffith to provide residents with access to more health services, closer to home. The health centre will be staffed by a multi-disciplinary team of nursing, medical and allied health professionals. We have opened the new Critical Services Building at the Canberra Hospital, and we'll continue investing in upgrades and improvements to the Canberra Hospital. This includes more car parking to make it easier for patients, visitors and staff.

### Public Transport

We will continue building the light rail network, starting with the City to Commonwealth Park extension. ACT Labor will increase the frequency of bus services to every 20 minutes on a weekday across all local bus routes in the Inner South. We will also improve the frequency of weekend services on local routes, with hourly buses on Sundays. The popular R2 service will get a boost in frequency running from Belconnen to Fyshwick via the City, Barton and Kingston.

### Schools

We are expanding local public schools throughout the Inner South, including Telopea Park High and Narrabundah College. We are also making upgrades to Alfred Deakin High and Narrabundah Early Childhood School. To support students and their families, we are currently piloting the Free Meals in Schools program at Narrabundah Early Childhood School.

### Shops

A re-elected Labor Government will make upgrades to the Griffith and Kingston Shops and build a new public toilet at Red Hill shops. Work is underway to upgrade Narrabundah shops, including upgraded paths, seating and art murals. As part of ACT Labor's Housing Plan, we will work to deliver more houses at local shops. This will provide more housing choices and rejuvenate local shops and suburbs.

## Sports

We will upgrade the change rooms at Griffith and Narrabundah playing fields to make them female friendly. We will also continue improvements at Manuka Oval to attract international sports games to Canberra.

## Parks and Public Spaces

A re-elected Labor Government will build new playgrounds across Canberra. This includes a new playground at Griffith Shops. We will continue making improvements to Telopea Park. We have already replaced dead and dying trees while respecting the heritage value of the area, and we will deliver improved lighting and a new path from Darling Street to Gosse Street.

We will also build the Kingston Arts Precinct to support Canberra's art sector and provide locals with access to a lively arts and entertainment venue. We will also investigate options to build a new dog park in the Inner South.

## Paths and Roads

Across the Inner South, we will upgrade paths to improve accessibility and keep our suburbs connected. We will deliver stage two of the Kingston Cycleway, connecting Bowen Park through the Kingston Foreshore with Cunningham Street near the Railway Station.

We are delivering raised crossings around Telopea Park and New South Wales Crescent in Kingston and on the West Basin cycle path alongside Alexandrina Drive in Yarralumla. A re-elected Labor Government will construct a new pedestrian crossing at Flinders Way and Monaro Crescent to help more children walk to and from school safely.

Planning and design work is underway to improve Hume Circle, the intersection of Canberra Avenue, Wentworth Avenue and Sturt Avenue in Griffith. As part of this work, a re-elected Labor Government will upgrade the surrounding footpaths and complete missing links.

## Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander policy

### What we stand for

ACT Labor stands in solidarity with the traditional owners of the ACT and all other members of the ACT's diverse Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.

We are committed to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander self-determination, and understand it is only through self-determination that we will close the gap and achieve equitable life outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Canberrans.

ACT Labor remains committed to the Uluru Statement from the Heart and to implementing Voice, Treaty and Truth in genuine partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. The ACT led the nation in the Voice referendum, reflecting the progressive values of Canberrans and our commitment to reconciliation.

### What we have achieved this term

Over the past four years, we have:

- Established a \$20 million Healing and Reconciliation Fund to support the Government's work to Close the Gap and progress reconciliation in the ACT.
- Strengthened the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body, in recognition of the Elected Body's critical role in promoting self-determination, providing it with more resources to do its work and elevate the voices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the ACT.
- Worked with Gugan Gulwan Youth Aboriginal Corporation to deliver a purpose-built facility to enable this important organisation to deliver expanded services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, young people and families.
- Funded Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health and Community Services to develop an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander residential alcohol and other drug rehabilitation facility and service.
- Established the Aboriginal Service Development Branch in the Community Services Directorate to deliver on our commitment to strengthen the Aboriginal community-controlled sector.
- Worked with Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations such as Yeddung Mura and Yerrabi Yurwang to expand the breadth and depth of community-controlled service delivery in areas such as justice and child and family services.

- Facilitated initial consultation with traditional custodians on what a Treaty might look like for the ACT.
- Supported Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-led organisations to run events and activities to promote healing and reconciliation in the ACT following the outcome of the referendum.
- Released the ACT's first Implementation Plan under the National Agreement on Closing the Gap.

## What we will continue to do

A re-elected ACT Labor Government will continue to work in genuine partnership with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community to promote self-determination, implement the Uluru Statement from the Heart and close the gap.

We will:

- Continue to implement the *ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Agreement 2019-2028* and the *National Agreement on Closing the Gap*, delivering the policies and services across government identified as being most important for our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.
- Deliver on the remaining recommendations of the *Our Booris, Our Way* review to ensure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people grow up connected to their family and culture.
- Strengthen and grow the community-controlled sector in the ACT by implementing the ACCO Establishment and Expansion Fund.
- Further support and strengthen the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body, in recognition of its critical role in promoting self-determination.
- Commence a process of truth telling in the ACT, in line with a framework developed in close consultation with community.
- Support traditional custodians to progress a Native Title process.
- Work with the Elected Body to establish an interim management committee for Boomanulla Oval on the pathway to returning it to community control.
- Work in partnership with community to deliver residential services at the Ngunnawal Bush Healing Farm and transition the service to community control.

## ACT Public Sector

### What we stand for

Labor understands and respects the essential work ACT public servants undertake on behalf of their community.

ACT public servants have pride in their work. The ACT public service is unique – public servants at the Territory level operate our hospitals, schools, and essential city services, while leading the nation on social, economic and taxation policy development. Our public sector punches above its weight and makes important contributions at the local and national level.

We will continue to properly support high quality public services by protecting jobs and growing our public sector workforce as our city grows.

Labor's key principles:

- We will not outsource or privatise functions currently conducted by public servants, except where these are transitioning to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community control.
- We always conduct enterprise agreement negotiations with respect and in good faith.
- We support insourcing work wherever possible, and resource our teams to do the best job possible.

### What we have achieved this term

ACT Labor in Government has worked hard to make the ACT public service an attractive and supportive employer, no matter what your job. We have:

- Completed enterprise agreement negotiations across a wide range of public employment agreements and the common core. The enterprise agreements depart from the usual percentage-only increase, and, in the context of a high consumer price index and cost of living pressures, have been deliberately structured to provide the highest pay increases to the lowest-paid workers.
- The agreements combine multiple fixed-dollar increases over the life of the agreement as well as percentage increases. This means that every year workers on lower salaries obtain higher increases than what would be provided if a simple recurrent percentage was applied for all levels, growing their real wages.
- Recognised there are immediate cost-of-living pressures on workers and paid an initial \$1,250 cost of living supplement payable upon enterprise agreement commencement.
- Passed legislation and established an Insourcing Framework to prevent the outsourcing and privatisation of public sector jobs, and



fully assess what tasks and positions should be returned to the public sector.

- Kept key government functions like ACTION, ICON Water and the Land Titles Office in public hands, while over the past decade other jurisdictions have been selling off their assets and cutting jobs.
- Passed legislation and provided additional resources for the Work Health and Safety Commissioner to keep Canberra workers safe, such as establishing the offence of industrial manslaughter under the WHS Act.
- Strengthened the ACT Public Service's commitment to fair, secure employment by expanding the role of the Insecure Work Taskforce and made more jobs permanent.
- Successfully fought the previous Coalition Abbott-Turnbull-Morrison Government's efforts to "decentralise" the Australian Public Service by shifting agencies to regional areas, with no thought of the impact on Canberra-based families.

## What we will continue to do

A re-elected ACT Labor Government will:

- Continue to grow the size of the ACT Public Service to keep delivering a high standard of essential health, school, municipal, and community safety services the growing Canberra community needs.
- Ensure public servants are paid fairly, and enterprise negotiations are always conducted in good faith.
- Not sell public assets or outsource services like ACTION or ICON Water.
- Support ACT public servants in their right to join their union through the ACTPS Union Encouragement Policy, and work collaboratively with unions to ensure workers are protected and supported across the ACTPS.
- Continue and expand the Secure Work Taskforce to make more public sector jobs permanent.



## Arts, culture and the creative economy

### What we stand for

ACT Labor believes participation in the arts is important for all people. While the arts and creative industries continue to recover from the pandemic, it is more important than ever to support and recognise the achievements and quality of artists and arts organisations in our city.

The arts are central to community wellbeing, as well as driving economic growth. We have an ambition for Canberra to be recognised as Australia's arts capital.

### What we have achieved this term

Over the past four years, we have:

- Released a statement of ambition for the arts, together with a four-year policy and action plan, with most actions delivered or significantly progressed.
- Reformed our night-time economy, reducing fees for venues and encouraging greater engagement with arts and culture.
- Implemented fit-for-purpose Noise Standards in the City Centre Entertainment Precinct.
- Invested record funding in the arts, including providing a 10 per cent increase in funding available to arts organisations.
- Introduced a new Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Arts grants program to increase the development of self-determined projects.
- In response to the pandemic, delivered over \$1.2 million to ACT live entertainment venues over two rounds of the Amp It Up! program and \$350,000 for a third round of HOMEFRONT funding to support 68 ACT artists.
- Delivered a range of creative and cultural events, such as street art Surface Festival, winter innovation festival Uncharted Territory.
- Greatly improved the transparency of arts funding.
- Secured Season 1 of AUSTIN, a major screen production filmed in Canberra with an international cast and national and international audience, strengthening our screen industry's capacity and capability, and growing our reputation for film and television productions.
- Hosted Symphony in the Park, which led a world-first premiere of much-loved Australian band Hoodoo Gurus collaborating with the Canberra Symphony Orchestra
- Improved the gender representation of our public artwork collection, installing a new statue commemorating the Hon Susan Ryan AO and commissioning an artwork recognising Stasia Dabrowski OAM.

- Upgraded arts facilities across Canberra, including Belconnen Arts Centre, Tuggeranong Arts Centre, Canberra Potters, The Street Theatre.
- Implemented a trial of free loading zone permits for musicians loading and unloading equipment into venues across the ACT.

## What we will continue to do

A re-elected ACT Labor Government will:

- Continue delivering and reporting on the Arts, Culture and Creative Policy 22-26 and action plan.
- Continue to deliver major infrastructure investments in the arts and creative industries like the Kingston Arts Precinct and the new 2,000-seat lyric theatre at Canberra Theatre Centre.
- Progress with planning and design for a city-shaping convention and entertainment precinct that will ensure Canberra is on the national and international touring circuit, attracting the kinds of artists that play at Hordern Pavilion in Sydney or Festival Hall in Melbourne.
- Significantly increase Arts Activities funding to \$1.5 million per annum from 2025-26. This investment represents a 50% increase in direct funding to artists and arts projects.
- Increase investment in arts organisations and centres to approximately \$11.25 million per year from the next round of Arts Investment Organisation Program starting 2027 – a 25% increase.
- Invest \$5 million in the screen and gaming sectors over the next term to continue the Canberra Screen Investment Fund and Canberra Screen Attraction Fund, expanding to include eligible gaming productions.
- Achieve recognition as an international City of Design through the UNESCO Creative Cities Network. This \$3.3 million investment will cement Canberra's reputation as an internationally significant city that supports, exemplifies and showcases all elements of design. It includes the expansion of the Design Canberra Festival and dedicated funding to support artists and organisations to contribute to our City of Design and the Festival.
- Enhance our urban and suburban footprint with art, lighting and design works to enhance the look and feel of our city and assets, including opportunities for artists to deliver public art projects across the city on arterial roads, pavements, and bus shelters. This is a \$3.5 million commitment.
- Establish a panel of street, urban and visual artists to engage with government directorates to better explore, design and deliver murals and other works.
- Undertake a feasibility study to establish a textiles hub, with a focus on locations in Canberra's south. This work will identify a fit-for-purpose space for our smaller craft and textiles communities to be co-located, creating a dedicated destination for locals and visitors while also supporting workshops and the upcycling and re-use of materials.

- Commit to two new public art commissions to honour significant women and or gender-diverse Canberrans, which will continue improving the gender representation in the ACT's public art collection. This will be supported by an "arts and design trail" to enhance the discovery and promotion of our public art collection.
- Increase the annual collection of important social and cultural artefacts and artworks from the Canberra region. This investment will allow CMAG to increase its collection, and the display and sharing of it with the community, including a permanent exhibition space at Lanyon Homestead.
- It is important that the ACT's origins and authentic identity are reflected appropriately in its symbols and insignia. The ACT is a unique combination of people and place – a progressive and inclusive society on Ngunnawal land. ACT Labor will finalise the work done in this area, drawing on the recommendations of the Legislative Assembly Committee report on the design and adoption of an ACT coat of arms/insignia that authentically expresses its people and place. A re-elected Labor Government will reinvigorate the Community Reference Group process to facilitate community input, leading to the adoption of an appropriate design for a Territory coat of arms/ insignia.
- Better recognise Canberra artists and their contributions by exploring opportunities to support existing programs and awards.

## Business and Better Regulation

### What we stand for

Small business is the engine room of our economy and we have more businesses in the ACT than ever before, with the growth rate of businesses outstripping every other state and territory.

We are ambitious for businesses in this city and improving their operating and regulatory environment.

### What we have achieved this term

In the past four years, we have:

- Grown the number of businesses in the ACT to a new record.
- Delivered our 250,000 local jobs by 2025 target, two years early.
- Released the Small Business Strategy, with more than 50 actions to further enhance our business community.
- Supported businesses with a record grant program of support during the pandemic.
- Supported the promotion of women in business, including through sponsoring the Canberra Women in Business Women of the Year award.
- Prepared a Better Regulation Agenda and worked through a detail program of reform, including to the model rules and night time economy.
- Undertaken a business sentiment survey to help benchmark business's engagement with government.
- Significantly improved our proactive engagement with building and construction, providing a safer environment.
- Hosted the inaugural Canberra Small Business Expo with over 100 exhibitors and 1,000 visitors.
- Delivered a Better Regulation Agenda and worked through a detailed program of initiatives, including implementing automatic mutual recognition for a range of occupational licenses, and reforming the ACT Government's procurement practices to increase transparency, streamline processes and provide greater support to local firms.
- Undertaken a business sentiment survey to help benchmark business engagement with government.
- Established the BADJI program to accelerate and support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander business growth.
- Significantly improved our proactive engagement with building and construction industries, providing a safer environment.
- Made it easier to deal with the ACT Government by establishing the Access Canberra Business Assist Team, which provides tailored

support for businesses to understand and navigate permits, licences and approvals required to start or grow their business.

- Transformed our night-time economy, including:
  - Reducing fees for smaller venues and venues supporting arts and live music.
  - Supporting smaller venues to start up and stay open longer.
  - Encouraging new business models at night.
  - Allowing more businesses to supply complimentary liquor without a licence.
  - Extending business trading hours to celebrate one-off special events.
  - Increasing flexibility for businesses to temporarily extend trading hours or amend their floor plans.
  - Implemented fit-for-purpose Noise Standards for the City Centre Entertainment Precinct.

## What we will continue to do

- Continue delivering and reporting against actions and objectives identified in the Small Business Strategy.
- Implement further night-time economy reforms to support Canberra's musicians and artists, and the venues that back them. This includes investigating reforms relating to the management of "vexatious" noise complaints against venues and consideration of the order of occupancy.
- Undertake a significant review of the *Public Unleased Land Act* to ensure that it is fit for purpose and reflects contemporary use and value ascribed to places and assets.
- Develop a comprehensive guide will clearly identify sites which are suitable for community and private events, weddings, hawkers, busking, rallies and activations, and provide information on the available services at the site (water, electricity), approvals required, and any complexities. This will assist amateur to professional event organisers in understanding which area is most suitable for any type of event, and support ease of event delivery.
- Upgrade and improve availability of power and water at sites the ACT Government prioritises for activation, standardising gate and other access, and enhance spaces to expressly support temporary activation, such as busking corners with shade and acoustics, and dedicated spaces for food and coffee vans in our public areas.

## Building Quality and Construction

### What we stand for

Canberrans expect high quality products and fair treatment from the building and construction industry. However, previous outdated and light-touch regulation in this space has allowed for accountability, oversight, compliance, and defect issues to appear. The result is that Canberrans - both consumers engaging the industry and workers employed by the industry - have not had readily accessible ways to seek recourse for problems.

In light of these emerging issues, ACT Labor is implementing the strong building and construction regulatory regime that Canberrans rightly deserve.

### What we have achieved this term

Over the past four years, we have:

- Developed and passed legislation to establish a licensing regime for property developers, to ensure the highest standard of ethical behaviour. Developers will now be held personally liable for up to 10 years if construction faults are not rectified on their developments. Developers will have their license to operate in the ACT revoked for building safety infringements and quality failures.
- Delivered a registration scheme for engineers.
- Delivered Security of Payments reforms to ensure that parties to a dispute in the building and construction sector are not left out of pocket during legal action or where a responsible entity becomes insolvent.

### What we will continue to do

A re-elected ACT Labor Government will continue to:

- Monitor the implementation of property developer licensing to ensure the highest standard of ethical behaviour by developing entities.
- Monitor the implementation of the registration scheme for engineers. further implement Security of Payments reforms to ensure that parties to a dispute in the building and construction sector are not left out of pocket during legal action or where a responsible entity becomes insolvent.
  - Require the creation of Project Trust Accounts (where funds, including retention payments, are held in trust for head



contractors and other parties until payments are due) for ongoing projects, modelled on the Queensland reforms; and

- Require that builders of strata developments take out decennial liability insurance to protect buyers in case of defects, as is the case in NSW.

We will:

- Extend occupational licensing to selected building trades including (but not limited to) waterproofing, painting and decorating, brick and block laying, carpentry, plastering, tiling, concreting and glazing. These new licenses will be developed with reference to the Queensland reforms.
- Re-commit to establish an expert team of publicly funded building certifiers within the ACT Public Service, operating on a fee for service competitive model, to help break the perceived over-reliance between developers and private certifiers..
- Appoint a Strata Commissioner for strata community oversight, reform, dispute resolution, and education.
- Implement a fair and accessible dispute resolution process which provides affordable and quick access to justice for homeowners, apartment owners, contractors, and workers.
- Implement regulatory oversight of construction defect remedies.
- Following the review of residential building work insurance, we will implement required reforms.
- Continue to work to lift standards and practices across the building and construction sector.

## Carers

### What we stand for

ACT Labor strives to ensure Canberra continues to be an inclusive community where all Canberrans feel they belong, and are valued and supported.

We recognise the important role carers play in ensuring everyone in our community is supported. ACT Labor recognises the leadership and extensive work of carers and will continue to look for ways to provide support and formal recognition for carers in the ACT.

### What we have achieved this term

- Legislated to formally recognise the essential role carers play in our community and ensure their needs are responded to and that they are better supported.
- Supported the development of a respite handbook for carers to support them to take care of themselves through easy day to day activities.
- Supported the distribution of digital supports and information targeted at carers.
- Continued to work with Carers ACT and carers to progress the ACT Carers Strategy.

### ACT Labor Government will:

- Explore the feasibility of a carers recognition card so that carers can more easily access services and supports without having to verify every time that they are a carer.
- Explore the feasibility of a mentoring program for young carers to ensure younger people our community with caring responsibilities within continue their education, find employment and build financial security.
- In conjunction with Carers ACT, explore the options for a purpose built carers respite centre including identifying options for a potential site.
- Work with Carers ACT and other carer advocates and providers to progress actions under the ACT Carers Strategy 2018-2028 including a developing a second action plan.
- Continue working with Carers ACT and other care providers to progress actions under the ACT Carers Strategy.
- Support carers to advocate for themselves and the people they care for.

## City Services

### What we stand for

Labor recognises that Canberra's public spaces should be well maintained, accessible and attractive.

The last few years have been tough for Canberra. Extreme weather events, the 2019-20 firestorm threatening south Canberra, unseasonably heavy rainfall for several years, and COVID have all put pressure on city services.

The impacts of climate change, including increasingly common severe storm events, unprecedented weather patterns, and a growing city have created new demands on our mowing and horticultural maintenance services that require ongoing additional investment.

As our city grows, Canberrans also expect high quality services and infrastructure, including roads, playgrounds, waste collection, libraries and more.

We will continue to invest in the services and infrastructure that Canberra needs, and Canberrans expect, to ensure our city remains one of the most liveable in the world.

### What we have achieved this term

#### *Road infrastructure and maintenance*

- Commenced work on the Molonglo River Bridge and extension of John Gorton Drive.
- Commenced work on the Monaro Highway Upgrade in Hume, including the Lanyon Drive flyover, which will provide safer and smoother trips for Tuggeranong commuters.
- Completed sections of the Gundaroo Drive Duplication in Belconnen, with the final section due to be complete by the end of 2024.
- Commenced enabling works on the Athllon Drive Duplication in Woden and Tuggeranong.
- Widening and upgrades along Well Station Drive to support the future high school in Kenny.
- Delivered major upgrades on Sulwood Drive, including new intersections, road pavement and improved access to Mt Taylor carpark.
- Upgrades to more than a dozen intersections across the ACT.
- Delivered a \$153 million uplift to road maintenance as part of our Strategic Road Maintenance plan. This research-led approach is extending the life of Canberra's roads through proactive resealing,

while undertaking more rehabilitation work including an up to 150 per cent increase in asphaltting.

- Increased investment in our annual road maintenance program, which will see resurfacing of the network grow by 268,000 sqm a year to cover an area of over 1.26 million sqm resurfaced per year going forward, concentrating on arterial and collector roads.
- Funded a feasibility study to investigate potential upgrades to the transport corridor between Belconnen and the City.
- Delivered major road rehabilitation, including the complete replacement of end-of-life road pavement, across the city, including on Northbourne Avenue in Central Canberra, David Walsh Avenue in Gungahlin and Isabella Drive in Tuggeranong.

### *Paths and active travel*

- Delivered stage 2 of the Belconnen Bikeway to Bruce and the AIS.
- Filled missing links in the Lake Ginninderra Circuit around the Belconnen Arts Centre, and in the eastern Lake Burley Griffin Circuit near Menindee Drive.
- Delivered the first stage of the Kingston Cycleway with a pop-up lane on Bowen Drive, and commenced design on the second stage through the Kingston Foreshore.
- Delivered shared paths and cycleways across the ACT
- Made Age Friendly Suburbs upgrades to Stirling, Page, Isabella Plains, Narrabundah, Weston, Ainslie, Monash, Kaleen, Hughes, Aranda, Campbell and Holt.
- Delivered new footpaths and street lighting infill across the city to bolster Canberra's 3,190 kilometre path network.
- Invested an additional \$3.7 million in cycle path maintenance, delivering on a 2020 ACT Labor election commitment.
- Delivered additional investments of \$5 million in the 2023-24 Budget and \$5.81 million in the 2024-25 Budget for path maintenance.
- Established a new insourced concrete path replacement crew, enabling TCCS to rapidly respond to cracked, broken and lifted paths without needing to package up work for outsourcing. This crew will also be able to construct small-scale Age Friendly improvements such as new ramps and missing sections of path.
- Established an insourced path grinding crew, which can rapidly undertake repairs to address immediate trip hazards until more permanent repairs (i.e. full path replacement).

### *Urban realm, playgrounds and community infrastructure*

- Delivered a new toilet at Florey Shops and a temporary modular toilet at Mawson Shops while design of a permanent toilet is progressed.
- Delivered new and upgrades playgrounds in Aranda, Chisholm and Ngunnawal.
- Delivered enhancements to the Tuggeranong Foreshore.
- Undertook urban realm and amenity upgrades of shopping precincts at South Kaleen, Charnwood, Cooleman Court, Duffy, Campbell and Palmerston.
- Built new bridges to support recreation at Umbagog District Park.
- Delivered a new half-pipe at Belconnen Skate Park.
- Made improvements to water quality in Lake Tuggeranong through new stormwater infrastructure, weirs and wetlands.

### *City presentation, trees and maintenance*

- Funded and delivered dozens of new vehicles and equipment for City Services to ensure Canberra remains well maintained and presented, including new mowers, street sweepers, articulated loaders, tipper trucks, litter picking utes and library vans.
- Invested in additional staff and resources for our mowing and horticultural crews, including a Rapid Response Mowing Team that is being incorporated into a new baseline of our mowing crews.
- Delivered the new Urban Forest Act and Urban Forest Strategy, which is maintaining and growing our tree canopy and ensuring Canberra remains a bush capital, and commenced minor changes in response to community feedback.
- Planted over 64,000 trees over four years to keep Canberra cool and beautiful, well beyond our target of 54,000 trees.
- Implemented new laws to make it easier and quicker to remove abandoned vehicles and enforce larger fines for instances of littering.

### *Libraries, cemeteries and animal services*

- Rolled out free chargers and power banks at libraries across Canberra.
- Implemented cat containment laws requiring all cats born from 1 July 2022 to be contained 24 hours a day.
- Delivered a new and modern Public Crematorium in Gungahlin with a low environmental footprint and includes a Crematorium Viewing Room, which caters to religious and cultural preferences,

particularly for Canberra's Hindu, Jain, Sikh and Buddhist communities.

- Supported our animal rehoming organisations with grants to support their services, and advanced design of RSPCA's Project Home at Pialligo, with \$40 million committed.

### *Circular economy and waste*

- Delivered a new Circular Economy Act, Strategy and Action Plan, which is guiding our investments and actions in moving away from a throwaway society to one of repair, reuse and recycle.
- Commenced a Food Organics Garden Organics (FOGO) Pilot in Belconnen, Bruce, Cook and Macquarie, and started an expansion of the pilot to over 1,150 new households in Belconnen and Tuggeranong.
- Rolled out a bookable bulky waste collection, available to all Canberra households.
- Expanded the Container Deposit Scheme with new return points, machines and opportunities for Canberrans to get cash back for their recycling.
- Expanded single use plastic bans to protect our environment and reduce waste.

## What we will continue to do

### *Road infrastructure and maintenance*

- Deliver the Molonglo River Bridge, the Lanyon Drive Flyover, William Hovell Drive Duplication, Gundaroo Drive Duplication, first stage of the Athllon Drive Duplication and other major road upgrades across Canberra.
- Started planning on the Molonglo-Parkway Drive Connector, connecting John Gorton Drive and the future Molonglo Town Centre with the Tuggeranong Parkway.
- Continue our uplifted program of road maintenance, deliver major road rehabilitation and pavement replacement on roads that have reached end-of-life, and incorporate the use of recycled and sustainable materials in road resurfacing and construction, such as crushed glass and recycled tyres.

### *City presentation, trees and maintenance*

- Continue to modernise and uplift our City Services fleet and facilities to deliver better, more proactive mowing, horticulture, and maintenance services. This includes the acquisition of more mowers, wood chippers, trucks, street sweepers and other equipment.



- Develop a City Presentation and Roads ACT workforce strategy, with a significant investment in trainees, apprentices and transition programs to ensure a pipeline of future experienced workers in City Services.
- Bring forward the review of the Urban Forest Act based on feedback from community and industry to the beginning of 2025, and improve the application process and the operation of the Act.
- Review and update the Municipal Infrastructure Standards for tree species that are planted in the ACT, including which tree species are suitable to be planted in which locations.
- Continue to fund grants through the Adopt-A-Park program.

### *Circular economy and waste*

- Trial a free suburb-wide kerbside bulky waste collection in 10 northside and 10 southside suburbs, in conjunction with 'Second Hand Sunday' style community events immediately prior to bulky waste collections, allowing Canberrans the opportunity to provide new homes for any second-hand goods. This initiative supports both cost of living and circular economy outcomes, including greater material reuse and repurposing, and helps to reduce illegal dumping.
- Deliver a New Recycling Facility for Canberra following the catastrophic fire that destroyed the old facility.
- Deliver a new large-scale FOGO Facility that will allow the expansion of FOGO collection to all households in Canberra.
- Deliver a new green waste facility for Canberra's northside.
- Provide the option for households to request a larger 360-litre green bin, similar to options already provided for red and yellow bins.
- Deliver a circular economy grants program, supporting grassroots action and innovation in social enterprises, not-for-profits, start-ups and businesses.
- Publish an Urban Wood Reuse Plan by the first quarter of 2025, including a program of supplying wood from removed urban trees for community organisations, mulch for schools, and resale and repurposing. Given strong community sector interest in creative reuse of wood from removed trees, Labor will establish and resource an application process for groups proposing to use wood in local projects for furniture, outdoor play, art and carpentry.



- Continue to identify problematic waste streams, including single-use plastics with suitable alternatives, that can be phased out from circulation.
- Work with the Australian Government and other states and territories to manage and recycle emerging waste streams such as batteries, vapes and solar panels.
- Investigate expanding the ACT Container Deposit Scheme to incorporate other recyclables, such as wine bottles.
- Investigate the feasibility of a textiles hub to reduce problematic textile and clothing waste, in addition to supporting our craft community.
- Update relevant standards and procurement rules to use a greater proportion of recycled material in construction and road maintenance.

### *Paths and active travel*

- Build on work already underway to widen and improve the Lake Ginninderra path circuit, by progressing to the next stage around Diddams Close, along the western foreshore and repositioning the street light columns on the eastern Ginninderra Drive bridge.
- Commence delivery of the West Belconnen Bikeway, a high quality, safe cycleway connecting West Belconnen's suburbs to the Town Centre and through to the City.
- Construct a new recreational walking loop around Palmerville Heritage Park.
- We'll set up a dedicated \$5 million footpath funds in each of Belconnen, Weston Creek and Woden, and Tuggeranong to upgrade, maintain and build new footpaths, in addition to funding for path infill across Canberra.
- Deliver the Streeton Drive Cycleway.
- Build the Sulwood Drive Shared Path, and improvements to active travel along Athllon Drive, including a new underpass at Sulwood Drive.
- Construct the second stage of the Garden City Cycleway linking Watson, Downer, Dickson, Ainslie and Braddon to the city.
- Deliver the second stage of the Kingston Cycleway, through the Kingston Foreshore to the Railway Station.
- Continue improving walking, cycling and other forms of active travel in the Gungahlin Town Centre.
- Build a 7km walking and cycling path along William Hovell Drive.

- Build a 7km off-road shared path for walking and cycling along John Gorton Drive, including an underpass connecting the future town centre to Denman Prospect.
- Begin construction on the new pedestrian and cyclist bridge near the RSPCA in Coombs. Together with the new bike path extensions in Holder and Coombs, these paths will cut the ride time between Civic and Molonglo by 15 minutes.
- Complete the remaining stages of the Kuringa Drive shared path to Tillyard Drive and build the missing link in the path network at Coombs Peninsula.
- Deliver a major renewal and upgrade of the Emu Bank Foreshore, including widening, replaced trees, landscaping, murals, tables and chairs and water play/splash park.
- Improve walking and cycling infrastructure in the Inner North and around Kingston and Griffith shops, including footpath upgrades and raised pedestrian crossings.
- Construct a new shared path along Victoria Street to the historic Hall Village.

### *Urban realm*

- Improve water quality at Lake Tuggeranong and bushland and landscapes across Tuggeranong by re-naturalising waterways and creeks. We'll also open a new viewing platform at Tuggeranong Creek in Calwell so more people can enjoy native wildlife.
- Modernise the Public Unleased Land Act to ensure public land and its use and value is appropriately defined; ensure that encroachment on any public land that is used for through movement, including footpaths, roads and shared paths, is restricted or otherwise appropriately compensated for; and, identify areas for activation and streamline processes for uses of these sites.
- Work with local artists to deliver large murals on major corridors such as Gungahlin Drive, Tuggeranong Parkway and Hindmarsh Drive to beautify our city and deter graffiti in these hotspots.
- Provide graffiti removal kits to identified households for free
- Increase enforcement activity regarding illegal dumping
- Continue to upgrade streetlight fittings to LED and improve streetlight infill, with priority going to areas identified in the Women's Safety Map
- Review locations of and increase availability of public waste and recycling bins, dog waste bag dispensers and/or water bubblers in popular locations, such as Cook Oval

### ***Playgrounds and community infrastructure***

- Complete the shop upgrades in Kippax, Evatt, Macquarie, Narrabundah, Calwell, Lanyon and Monash.
- Fund and deliver the next stages of upgrades at Kippax, Charnwood and Cooleman Court shops.
- Undertake major upgrades at Erindale, Chisholm, Mawson and Palmerston Shops, and support the expansion and redevelopment plans at Kambah Village and Kippax.
- Complete the upgrade at Yerrabi Pond District Park with new picnic facilities and lighting, bridge repairs, two new toilet blocks and amenity improvements.
- Complete upgrades to the Wakool Circuit playground in Kaleen with a water-ecosystem theme and Lyons Oval playground with an autumn forest play theme.
- Build upgraded playgrounds in Kambah, Wanniasa, Bonython, Isabella Plains, Gilmore, Conder, Amaroo, McKellar, Umbagog District Park, Charnwood-Dunlop School and Florey (all abilities).
- Undertake safety compliance inspections and works across ACT playgrounds and renew playground soft-fall and mulch
- Upgrade Margaret Timpson Park, incorporating a new playground, public toilet, BBQs, picnic tables, landscaping, and accessible ramp to the park on the northern edge.
- Upgrade the Tuggeranong, Kippax and Charnwood skate parks.
- Build new toilets at Evatt and Mawson shops, Ruth Park Playground in Coombs, Red Hill, Downer, Margaret Timpson Park, Umbagog District Park and a modular toilet facility at Dunlop shops.
- Open new dog parks in Franklin and Lanyon and investigate a new dog park for the Kingston area.

### ***Critical infrastructure assets***

- Deliver physical security upgrades at directorate sites.
- Continue to undertake safety upgrades to dams.
- Prioritise bridge refurbishment.
- Undertake a review to improve and invest in our stormwater network and underground cabling, acknowledging these ageing assets. This will include continuing to maintain and invest in stormwater infrastructure across the city, particularly Lake Tuggeranong.

### *Libraries, cemeteries and animal services*

- In partnership with the RSPCA ACT, continue the \$40 million commitment to deliver the new facility for the organisation at Pialligo.
- Undertake major upgrades at the Domestic Animal Services site at Symonston to ensure impounded animals and dogs looking for their forever home are housed in suitable accommodation.
- Commence delivery of new libraries in the future Molonglo Town Centre and Gungahlin Town Centre East.
- Ensure all ACT Government libraries are dementia friendly.
- Progress work on the Southern Memorial Park in Tuggeranong to ensure we meet the needs of all Canberrans, close to where they live.
- Continue supporting our animal welfare and rehoming organisations by continuing to deliver the Companion Animal Care Grants annually.

## Children, Youth and Family Services

### What we stand for

ACT Labor is committed to strengthening families and keeping children and young people safe and connected to their family, culture and community.

We support the right of all children to grow up in an environment that fosters positive relationships, supports access to education and employment, and empowers young people to achieve their aspirations.

We recognise that not all children and young people have safe environments at home. There are complex reasons for family breakdown, including traumatic events and intergenerational disadvantage. That's why we are committed to continuing to improve services that respond to the diverse needs of children, young people and their families.

ACT Labor is implementing a therapeutic and trauma informed model of out-of-home care and family support. We know early support for families helps keep children at home and families together. When it is not possible for a child to remain safely with – or be returned to – their birth family, the out-of-home care system should facilitate security and permanency in a loving family setting with kinship or foster carers, or where appropriate, in a truly therapeutic residential care setting.

The continuing over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people in out-of-home care is unacceptable. While the number of children in care in the ACT is falling, there is more to do. ACT Labor remains committed to working in partnership with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community to address this challenge, in line with the recommendations from the *Our Booris, Our Way* review.

### What we have achieved this term

Over the past four years, we have:

- Raised the Minimum Age of Criminal Responsibility to 12, with a legislated further increase to 14 in July 2025.
- Established a nation-leading therapeutic support system to provide an alternative, non-criminal response to the harmful behaviours of children and young people.
- Launched the *Next Steps for Our Kids 2022-2030* strategy, and accompanying first four-year action plan, outlining our plan to strengthen families and keep children and young people safe and connected.

- Invested more than \$190 million into new infrastructure and initiatives in the child protection and family support system, guided by Next Steps.
- Commenced modernisation of the *Children and Young People Act 2008* to ensure it better meets the needs of children, young people, families and carers.
- Progressed implementation of the *Our Booris, Our Way* review recommendations, including by embedding the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle in legislation and increasing the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff in the child protection system.
- Appointed the ACT's first Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People Commissioner.
- Established the Child and Family Reform Ministerial Advisory Council, bringing together experts, people with lived experience and the non-government sector to break down communication barriers and oversee the implementation of reform.
- Developed Charters for Parents and Families and for Carers, building on the existing Charter of Rights for Children and Young People in care, to improve the experiences and uplift the voices of parents, families and carers when engaging with child and youth protection.
- Established best-practice internal and external decision review processes for child protection decisions, including legislating external merits review through the ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal to commence in 2025.
- Extended the provision of care for young people up to 21 years of age, better supporting care leavers to transition to independent living.

## What we will continue to do

A re-elected ACT Labor Government will continue to invest in Canberra's children, young people, families and communities to ensure every young Canberran can grow up in a safe, healthy and nurturing environment. To continue building on the reforms to children, youth and family services we will:

- Deliver a new Child and Family Centre in Molonglo, providing this growing community with access to facilities and services which will support families and children to thrive.
- Continue to develop therapeutic supports for children and young people who have engaged in harmful behavior in readiness for the minimum age of criminal responsibility to increase to 14 from 1 July 2025.



- Support more Aboriginal community-controlled organisations to grow their capacity to deliver services, enabling them to move into the provision of case management and out-of-home care services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people. This will be a critical step in enhancing self-determination for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the ACT.
- Continue to build a comprehensive Child and Family Network, connecting services across the ACT Government and the non-government sector to ensure children and their families can access universal services, targeted programs and intensive support in a timely way according to their needs.
- Complete the modernisation of the *Children and Young People Act* to deliver a trauma-informed, efficient and effective response to children and young people who are at risk of harm with a focus on early support and strengthening families.

## Community Clubs and Gaming

### What we stand for

Community clubs can and should be part of Canberra's future. They are a major local employer, and a strong supporter of community and junior sports, and cultural events.

Clubs were under incredible pressure throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, which is why the Government stepped in to support clubs to stay afloat and keep 1700 staff employed throughout the shutdown period. We acted quickly to ensure clubs could continue to employ their hardworking staff, reopen, and serve their community over the long term.

But the future of community clubs cannot be linked to the harm caused by gambling addiction, and the ongoing transition away from a business model relying on poker machine revenue, must continue.

ACT Labor believes that the most effective way to reduce the harm caused by pokies is reduce their geographic availability by lowering the number of machines available, alongside the introduction of mandatory harm reduction measures in venues.

### What we've done

ACT Labor has a proven track record on reducing poker machines authorisations. The number of machine authorisations in Canberra has reduced from 5022 in 2015, to 3769 today. This has brought down the per capita number of machines in the ACT from the highest in the country, to below the average across Australian jurisdictions.



We have passed legislation to compulsorily reduce the number of poker machines operating in the ACT to 3,500 by 1 July 2025.

Labor has strengthened the gaming taxation regime, including increasing the point of consumption tax for online betting to 25%.

In 2020 and 2021, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, we stepped in to keep clubs alive and staff employed. In doing so, the Government distributed \$3.3 million from the Diversification and Sustainability Support Fund to fund workers' wages.

We paid \$15,000 for every gaming machine license voluntarily surrendered, to help with clubs' immediate cashflow issues. And we have made the surrender scheme permanent, with \$20,000 paid per machine if a club chooses to entirely remove pokies, to encourage clubs to opt out of pokies without having to find another club buyer.

## What we will do:

A re-elected ACT Labor Government will continue driving down the number poker machines in the Territory, recognising the harm that they cause to our community. Labor will bring forward legislation to see just 1,000 machines operating in the ACT by 2045.

This long-term plan will be achieved by a mandated reduction of 500 machines every four years, through a legislated compulsory surrender process, starting with the (already legislated) mandated reduction to 3500 in July 2025.

ACT Labor's practical plan recognises that while ever there are poker machines in the Territory, we need to do more to reduce the harm. An ACT Labor Government will introduce mandatory, account-based cashless gaming in all ACT venues by 2026-27. This would include a range of harm reduction measures such as mandatory pre-commitment where users set personal spending and mandatory breaks in play. Community clubs would be required to cover the implementation costs of cashless gaming.

Our plan also includes a stronger self-exclusion scheme and the banning of ATMs and EFTPOS withdrawals in clubs with poker machines.

ACT Labor will revolutionise self-exclusion in the ACT. Under an ACT Labor Government, self-exclusion will no longer be a venue-based exclusion. The cashless framework will provide the opportunity for people to exclude themselves from establishing an account. A self-excluded person would be suspended from their account, and/or setting up a new account, for a period of time that they decide. Self-excluded people would still be able to

utilise other community club functions such as dining or events through this model.

A re-elected Labor Government will also explore the establishment of a process to allow third party exclusions.

ACT Labor will continue to work with local community clubs to move towards a more sustainable sector that delivers a long-term community benefit and worker support. To ensure club sustainability as machine numbers reduce, a re-elected Labor Government will commission an independent inquiry to develop a comprehensive club sector transition plan.

ACT Labor would require this inquiry to be undertaken and report to Government in 2025, following extensive engagement with the club sector. The inquiry would see the development of a comprehensive clubs sector transition plan, which will include recommendations to Government on how best to support revenue transition of ACT clubs, with a particular focus on planning and development processes. The inquiry will also look at the level of support provided by clubs to local sporting and cultural groups and events, and how to minimise any impacts on them through the transition. The Government would publicly release this report and its response.

A re-elected Labor Government will also establish a regular review mechanism, effectively a “diversification report card”, gauging the effectiveness of government and sector actions, prior to each stage of required machine authorisation surrender. The relevant Minister will table this review in the Assembly for public awareness and discussion.

A re-elected Labor Government will establish a Community Clubs Diversification Team in ACT Government to provide clubs with a single point of contact for interacting with ACT Government Directorates and agencies. The team will also support master planning of club sites and facilitate social impact assessments conducted by clubs looking to diversify and de-concessionalise all or part of their existing leases.

To further support housing supply in the Territory, a re-elected Labor Government will establish practical ways for community clubs to use their land assets to invest in appropriate housing projects, including affordable housing, aged care and build-to-rent. The outcome will be more affordable housing in accessible locations across Canberra.

An ACT Labor Government will also encourage the establishment of a ‘club of the future’ in the Molonglo Valley – a community club without pokies.

ACT Labor will continue to support jobs in the local racing industry. We will encourage the diversification of the club’s income streams as outlined in the MoU between the clubs and the Government. This includes reforming

workplace arrangements for a small portion of industry trainers and their staff. It is anticipated this reform would require minor legislative amendment. These changes would bring the rest of the industry in line with existing insurance arrangements for jockeys.

ACT Labor also recognises Thoroughbred Park's proposed major housing development as part of our plan to facilitate the construction of 30,000 more dwellings across the Territory by the end of 2030.

Labor will expand the harm reduction research fund, derived from gaming taxes, to ensure the eligibility of a wider range of research and expert advocacy groups, such as the Hope Project and others. This will improve advice to government on further practical harm reduction measures.

Labor will not introduce a Central Monitoring System (CMS). ACT Labor believes a CMS would be a prohibitive cost on clubs and government, estimated to be over \$170 million over 20 years. ACT Labor believes that this level of expenditure will solidify the current number of poker machines in the Territory for decades to come, and is contrary to our policy that we are presenting to the Canberra community to see a future with a minimal number of machines.

# Community Engagement

## What we stand for

A practical and modern approach to community engagement across Canberra.

If re-elected, ACT Labor will modernise the way the ACT Government engages with the community. We understand that Canberrans want the ability to engage with their communities and neighbourhoods and actively contribute to decisions that impact their lives. However, Canberrans have an increasingly diverse understanding of engagement. An ACT Labor Government will streamline our approach to community engagement in Government, making it easier for Canberrans to talk to the Government about the issues and services in their region.

## What we will do:

We are committed to building a systemic approach to localised engagement that ensures community feedback actively informs decision-making processes. This will be achieved through improved contacts points with Government, transparent communication channels and regular updates on how community input is being incorporated into government actions. ACT Labor will also trial engagement targets, placing requirements for ACT Government Directorates to engage with a certain number of Canberrans when they are consulting with the community.

We will:

- Better coordinate ACT Government community engagement activities across each region. This approach ensures that engagement efforts are not siloed by individual projects, but are instead tailored to the distinct characteristics, needs, and existing participation levels of Canberra's suburbs. By packaging up engagement activities, a future ACT Government will better address the interconnectedness of projects and their cumulative impact on communities.
- Localise engagement, including a stronger localised presence for the ACT Government. This will allow for more meaningful interactions, a deeper understanding of local perspectives, and increased opportunities for communities to learn and contribute. It will also streamline the process for Canberrans to have their say on projects and initiatives in their region, making it easier for everyone to participate in shaping the future of their region and our city. It's an opportunity for government to engage more meaningfully with existing community led groups, providing them with more support to increase their ability to connect with their communities.
- Allow Canberrans to have their say, when and how they want. All Canberrans should be able to engage with their local Government.

And ACT Labor will make sure that no matter how Canberrans prefer to provide input – whether its through email, social media, direct mail, town halls or online surveys – everyone, can contribute to future community engagement activity.

By adopting a more coordinated community engagement strategy, ACT Labor is committed to fostering a stronger, more connected Canberra, where every resident has the opportunity to contribute to the development and wellbeing of their community.

## Community Development and Services

### What we stand for

ACT Labor is committed to supporting an inclusive community where we foster connection, and everyone feels valued. Labor recognises government has an important role in providing the services and supports our community needs, and where appropriate working with community partners to achieve this. Labor is committed to developing and maintaining community services which uphold the rights and entitlements of all, to ensure fair and adequate support and assistance.

### What we have achieved this term

- We have progressed new community centres for Gungahlin, Woden and Molonglo.
- We have transitioned the Canberra Relief Network from a temporary to an ongoing model in collaboration with our community sector partners.
- We have initiated a Community Sector Sustainability Program to address the agreed recommendations of the *Counting the Costs Report*.

### What we will continue to do

We will:

- Deliver new community centres in Gungahlin, Woden and Molonglo.
- Within the first 18 months of government update and refresh the Social Compact through a co-design process with the Community Services Sector.
- Establish a unit within the ACT Public Service to be the point of contact for the Community services sector regarding sector policy, supporting community needs analysis and providing greater project co-ordination on sector policy co-design projects.
- Continue to progress the Community Sustainability Program to identify how best the ACT Government can fund our not-for-profit community partners in delivering services to the community.
- Within the first six months of government determine a government position on the appropriateness of applying population growth to indexation for community sector government contracts.
- Continue to evaluate and improve the commissioning approach to deliver better outcomes in partnership with the community sector.
- Work with community sector partners to identify places they can locate with government facilities to deliver their services.

- Continue the expansion of its maintenance and upgrade capabilities and review its facilities to ensure investment in new and upgraded buildings deliver maximum value for community tenants.
- Move towards parity between the public and community sectors for paid parental leave, superannuation and family and domestic violence leave through the Community Sector multi-employer agreement (MEA).
- Explore in conjunction with Volunteering ACT the development of a volunteering passport to make it easier and quicker for volunteers to sign up to volunteering activities and volunteering organisations can provide the best support they can.
- Undertake a review of social food provision in the ACT will allow us to fully understand and best respond to the needs and opportunities.



## Community Safety (Police & Crime Prevention)

### What we stand for

All Canberrans have the right to feel safe in their community and be protected from antisocial and harmful behaviour.

ACT Labor will focus our efforts on crime prevention, including tackling domestic violence, dangerous driving, and organised crime.

ACT Labor will provide appropriate and well targeted policing capabilities for safeguarding our community by addressing recidivism and repeat high-risk offenders.

ACT Labor will uphold the principles of restorative justice, proportionality of sentencing, rehabilitation of offenders, procedural fairness, and presumption of innocence.

### What we have achieved this term

Over the past four years, we have:

- Worked with ACT Policing to reduce crime and ensure Canberra remains one of the safest cities in Australia, with crime rates in the ACT on average lower than they were 10 years ago.
- Delivered the biggest single investment in policing in ACT history, putting more police on our streets to keep Canberrans safe.
- Implemented the new Police Services Model, which focuses on crime prevention and diversion activities, leading to a more sustainable, efficient, and effective policing service and criminal justice system.
- Delivered the combined Police, Ambulance and Clinician Early Response (PACER) teams to better respond to mental health emergencies by providing an integrated model of care involving police, paramedics, and mental health clinicians.
- Delivered the Road Policing Centre (RPC) in Hume, a state-of-the-art facility to support all Road Policing operations.
- Delivered an online reporting portal to provide the Canberra community with an additional way to report certain crimes to the Police.

### What we will continue to do

A re-elected ACT Labor Government will:

- Recruit and train an additional 150 police officers to 2029 – the largest multi-year recruitment drive for the ACT Policing since its establishment.
- Build the Molonglo Police Station as one part of a community support hub in the Molonglo Town Centre.

- Ensure we are investing in the necessary capabilities for ACT Policing to continue keeping Canberrans safe.
- Target dangerous driving, anti-social road behavior and recidivist offenders to keep Canberra roads safe and keep our road toll the lowest in the country.
- Strengthen policing capabilities to enable effective intervention in domestic violence situations.
- Ensure due process in policing and the criminal justice system while reinforcing appropriate accountability and oversight.
- Strengthen protections for police and first responders, to ensure they can do their jobs while staying safe.
- Invest in police training and community awareness raising to enhance cultural understanding between the police and the community.

## Climate Change

### What we stand for

Canberra continues to lead the nation on climate action policy. ACT Labor is committed to addressing climate change. Our community rightly demands it.

While emissions in the ACT are relatively small in the national and global context, we are showing what can and must be achieved rapidly and other jurisdictions are taking note.

We are demonstrating that progressive climate action measures are not just good for the planet – properly implemented, they can also reduce cost of living pressures.

ACT Labor is committed to taking serious action to address climate change. We will do so in a way that brings our community with us and ensures all Canberrans benefit from the transition to net zero, not just those who have the financial means to invest early.

### What we have achieved this term

Over the past four years, we have:

- Secured a grid-scale battery which will deliver 250MW of storage, support grid reliability and help to integrate greater amounts of renewable generation.
- Facilitated more than \$200 million in no-interest loans through the Sustainable Household Scheme, supporting the almost 20,000 households that have participated to electrify their homes and forms of transport.
- Released the ACT's Zero Emissions Vehicles Strategy, to give Canberrans greater access to electric vehicles that are cheaper to run and better for the environment. This strategy sets an ambitious target of 80-90% of new light vehicle sales being zero emissions vehicles (ZEVs) by 2030.
- Implemented an emissions-based registration system for light vehicles to ensure that lower-emission vehicles have lower registration fees.
- Introduced a range of policy reforms including stamp duty waivers for new and used ZEV purchases, and zero interest loans of up to \$15,000 to support the purchase of ZEVs.
- Released the Integrated Energy Plan which sets out the next stage of work for the ACT's transition to an all-electric city.
- Commenced work on electrifying all feasible community and public housing properties in the ACT by the end of 2030.



## What we will continue to do

A re-elected ACT Labor Government will continue our commitment to one of the most ambitious climate action agendas in the world. Our vision for Canberra is that of a vibrant, progressive, inclusive, innovative, and sustainable city where all can share in the benefits of a net-zero emissions future.

A re-elected ACT Labor Government will continue to demonstrate that with a committed and practical Government, you can deliver on an ambitious climate agenda.

We will:

- Ensure a coordinated and planned approach to the transition over the next 21 years, to achieve our goal of net zero emissions by 2045.
- Continue to focus on supporting those most in need to ensure no one is left behind, and on measures that deliver the greatest value for money in terms of the emissions reductions that can be achieved.
- Invest a further \$75 million in loan capital to continue the Sustainable Household Scheme

# Disability

## What we stand for

Central to ACT Labor's core values are respect, diversity and inclusion. It was an ACT Labor Government that led the way as Australia's first human rights jurisdiction, recognising the equal and inalienable rights of all people is central to our identity.

Our work in disability policy aligns our values with actionable change. ACT Labor is committed to realising the vision of a community where people with disability can participate in all aspects of community life. We also understand that creating a community where everyone has full and equal access is a shared responsibility.

## What we have achieved this term

Over the past four years, we have:

- Implemented the Disability Justice Strategy First Action Plan and commenced implementation of the Second Action Plan.
- Developed and commenced implementing the ACT Disability Strategy, Disability Health Strategy and Inclusive Education Strategy supported by an investment of more than \$14 million.
- Passed the *Disability Inclusion Act 2024* to recognise and apply the principles of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to the ACT and establish principles to protect and promote the rights of people with disability to realise their inclusion in the ACT community in full.
- Delivered the government response to the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability.
- Continued to deliver the supports to make housing more accessible for people with disability, including the Disability Duty Concession Scheme, the Special Disability Trust Duty Exemption, and the Pensioner Duty Deferral Scheme.

## What we will continue to do

A re-elected Labor Government will continue to work with people with disability, their families and carers, and representative organisations to build a more accessible and inclusive ACT, where people with disability can fully participate in all aspects of community life.

We will:

- Work with the Commonwealth Government to implement foundational supports for people with disability inside and outside the NDIS, including to improve self-advocacy programs and navigation services, provide low-intensity community services, and establish better supports for parents with disability.
- Support our vital systemic and individual disability advocacy services.
- Develop an ACT Neurodiversity Strategy in close consultation with neurodivergent Canberrans, their families and carers, and relevant stakeholders, which upholds the social model of disability and human rights principles and aligns with other relevant strategies and policies.
- Review the current level of support offered and available to children and adolescents with autism spectrum disorder and serious mental illnesses in the ACT and continue to increase funding for those services over time.
- Work in partnership with the ACT disability community, the Commonwealth and state and territory governments to implement responses to the NDIS review and Disability Royal Commission recommendations.
- Create more inclusive disability services by supporting a peer support program for LGBTIQ+ people with a disability and supporting an Aboriginal Community-Controlled Organisation to deliver culturally safe and inclusive services.
- Continue to implement the disability strategies across all domains, including health, justice, and education to realise the goals and visions of these strategies, which were co-designed with the community to deliver a more inclusive, accessible Canberra.
- Improve the built environment and transport for people with disability, including by implementing actions from the ACT Disability Strategy First Action Plan 2024-2026 and ACT Disability Health Strategy First Action Plan 2024-2026 such as:
  - Supporting people with disability and their families to access public spaces and events by delivering more temporary and permanent changing places facilities.
  - Piloting a minor home modification grant program to support people get home from hospital in a timely way.
  - Improving access to suburban and group centre walkways and footpaths to align with the ACT Design Standards for Urban Infrastructure and the Civic Accessibility Study Guidelines.



- Improve the interface of Fix My Street so that it meets modern accessibility standards.
- Expanding disability inclusion grants to enable non-government and critical services, including primary care and allied health, to improve accessibility;
- Enhancing the accessibility of ACT parks and reserves; and exploring options to increase accessible taxi and rideshare services.

## Early Childhood Development

### What we stand for

ACT Labor understands the vital role of early childhood education in a child's development. The first 1,000 days are a critical time for shaping children and setting them up for a happy, healthy, and fulfilling life.

In this term of government, ACT Labor has delivered the ACT's biggest ever investment in early childhood education. We are committed to supporting every child to get a strong start before school. We believe providing earlier and better supports to children and their families is one of the strongest investments we can make in our community.

ACT Labor values early childhood educators. They are brain builders, helping children to develop the skills they need for the future. That's why we have enhanced supports and career pathways for early childhood educators, to ensure we can attract and retain a pipeline of dedicated professionals.

ACT Labor understands the importance of allied health in supporting our community to access the most accurate information and assistance when it comes to their child's development. This is why we will continue building our Child and Family Network, to engage with new parents and families, especially the most vulnerable.

### What we have achieved this term

Over the past four years, we have:

- Launched the *Best Start for Canberra's Children: The First 1000 Days Strategy*.
- Released the ACT's first early childhood workforce strategy, *Valuing Educators, Values Children*.
- Legislated to recognise early childhood education in the two years prior to formal schooling as part of our education system.
- Rolled out universal access to free three-year-old preschool.

- Expanded the Child Development Service to provide free therapeutic intervention for some of our littlest Canberrans.
- Recognised the professionalism of early childhood teachers by enabling them to register with the Teacher Quality Institute, alongside their peers working in schools.
- Supported women with flexible career pathways into early childhood education through the Early Learning Connection Program, a wrap-around financial and training support program.
- Expanded access to publicly funded autism assessments for children.

## What we will continue to do

A re-elected ACT Labor Government will continue to:

- Provide scholarships for people studying early childhood teaching degrees.
- Support Koori preschools, providing culturally safe early learning for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.
- Provide free loans of equipment like wheelchairs, communication devices and mobility aids for children and young people with disability or experiencing developmental delay.

We will also:

- Double universal free three-year-old preschool, saving families on average \$2 600.
- Make life easier for working families by expanding the availability of age-appropriate Outside School Hours Care at four-year old public preschools.
- Support new parents with a Baby Bundle including essential items and information to support the safety, health and wellbeing of a newborn and their family. We will work with Roundabout to deliver this initiative and to provide other essential items to the families who need it most.
- Increase access to evidence-based prenatal and postnatal parenting programs and playgroups to improve support beyond parents with a first child to parents with diverse needs, parents with disability and culturally and linguistically diverse families.

## Environment and heritage protection

### What we stand for

ACT Labor will protect our natural environment as our city grows. By listening to experts, we have improved our parks and reserves, to protect and create new natural spaces for Canberrans to enjoy. We want the ACT to continue leading the nation in environmental protection and sustainability, by keeping Canberra powered by 100 per cent renewable electricity and moving to zero net carbon emissions by 2045.

### What we have achieved this term

- We have shown we can grow our city and achieve sustainability, while protecting our environment and tackling climate change.
- We have rebuilt and rehabilitated Namadgi National Park following the 2020 bushfires.
- We have created new reserves and protected threatened species, woodlands and grasslands.
- We have improved the quality of water entering our lakes and waterways through the ACT Healthy Waterways Project.
- We have supported environmental volunteers and citizen scientists to undertake important conservation work, including through ParkCare, ACT Waterwatch and our catchment groups.
- We have increased funding to ACT catchment groups and ACT Wildlife to encourage more people to be more active in caring for nature.
- We have led the nation on climate change action through renewable energy.
- We have continued the annual Canberra and Region Heritage Festival.
- We have begun construction works on existing infrastructure and completed final feasibility and business planning to deliver an iconic mountain bike trail network, to position Canberra as the 'mountain bike capital of Australia'.

### What we will continue to do

- A re-elected ACT Labor Government will continue to protect what Canberrans love most about the bush capital – trees, open spaces, and easy access to parks and 37 nature reserves, spanning almost 11,000 hectares across our city.
- ACT Labor will review current licensing arrangements and identify a framework for those snake handlers suitably qualified to register ownership of venomous snakes for educational and training purposes in the ACT.

- ACT Labor will explore options in conjunction with wildlife rescue groups for a site to be designated a Wombat Conservation Sanctuary. This can be used for Wombats needing to be rehomed due to habitat loss, or disease outbreaks in their habitat.
- ACT Labor will work with Canberra Organic Growers Society to explore suitable sites for community gardens.
- We will continue improving our lakes and waterways, including delivering on our 10-year plan for a healthier Lake Tuggeranong.
- We will appoint an ACT Government Landscape Architect and establish an office of the Landscape Architect to lead and develop a landscape plan for the ACT. The Landscape Plan will build on the work of environment and planning directorates to ensure that our natural and urban environments thrive, and Canberra remains the bush capital and a city in a landscape.
- Continue to review our environmental legislation and regulatory settings including supporting the Statutory Review of Nature Conservation Act with a view to making sure it is modern and fit for purpose.
- We will undertake a review of the Environment Protection Authority and Conservator and Flora and Fauna to ensure they are best positioned to deliver their regulatory responsibilities.
- Increase funding provided to weed management to better tackle invasive species such as St Johns Wort to reduce their damaging impact on our environment.
- Develop a managing the interface policy to guide best practice between urban and non-urban areas. The focus of the policy will be on reducing the spread of weeds and other pests throughout the city.
- Support our pollinators so they can thrive by developing a community information and education program to support bees and pollinators. The campaign will include awareness raising on why it is important to have pollinators, planting guides to support pollinators.
- Employ additional dedicated volunteer co-ordinators within TCCS to support the Urban Parks and Places Program and other urban community on-ground programs who work to keep our urban environment healthy.
- Review of how to best assist local environmental groups with their ongoing needs and activities. As part of this review, we will work with the Environmental Peak Groups to identify how Government can better support their initiatives.
- Continue to work on implementation of the Canberra Region Local Food Strategy and support local farmers, what they bring to the community and their important part they play in regional food production and conservation.

- Continue to support reforms to the ACT Heritage Council and assessment process.
- Continue to work in partnership with the Dhawura Ngunnawal Caring for Country Committee to protect cultural sites and to sustainably care for the lands of the ACT.
- We will incorporate environmental improvements into our major infrastructure projects, including building safe fauna crossings as part of the William Hovell Drive Duplication to protect our native wildlife and prevent animal collisions.

## Multicultural Affairs

### What we stand for

ACT Labor is committed to ensuring Canberra continues to be an inclusive, progressive and proudly multicultural city. One of the best things about living here is our multicultural community. ACT Labor abhors any discrimination, including racism, islamophobia and antisemitism.

ACT Labor upholds the rights of all Canberrans to equal participation in every aspect of our communal life. ACT Labor recognises the importance of multiculturalism and the significant value Canberra's growing cultural diversity contributes to our community.

ACT Labor remains committed to eliminating racism and discrimination and will continue to strengthen anti-racism and discrimination policy and legal frameworks.

### What we have achieved this term:

In the past four years, we have:

- Delivered the 25<sup>th</sup> National Multicultural Festival, the biggest and most well-received festival in its history, which has been recognized nationally as Best Community Event.
- Achieved the Established and Advanced accreditations in Welcoming Cities.
- Passed the Multiculturalism Act, including a multicultural charter.
- Established the Multicultural Advisory Council in legislation.
- Supported the community with grants in 2021 and 2022 when the festival was not able to be held, including multicultural performances and food at the 2023 Canberra Day even.
- Created a Lunar New Year event in Dickson.
- Banned the physical and online display of Nazi symbols.
- Supported migrants and refugees with the Access Card as well as grant funding to assist with housing.

### What we will continue to do:

A re-elected ACT Labor Government will continue to:

- Improve and expand the National Multicultural Festival to ensure it remains Australia's paramount community event.
- Continue providing support for resettlement of the most vulnerable refugees, asylum seekers and humanitarian entrants living in the ACT.



- Continue strengthening anti-racism and anti-discrimination frameworks to protect our multicultural community and promote Canberra as an open, inclusive, and welcoming city.
- Refurbish the Fitzroy Pavilion in EPIC to enable more function space for multicultural and other communities.
- Review the data privacy requirements in relation to the administration of grant programs, particularly as it relates to the provision of data through third parties in the administration of grant funding.

## Housing and Land Release

### What we stand for

ACT Labor believes that everyone deserves a safe, secure, and accessible place to call home so they can live their best life. That is why under Labor, we will enable the construction of 30,000 more homes by 2030.

We know that Canberrans want more social housing and homes to buy and rent across the city. Labor's plan will deliver the housing future generations will need, while putting in place necessary environmental protections on sensitive land.

As part of Labor's comprehensive housing plan to enable 30,000 more homes for Canberra's growing population, we will deliver 5,000 additional public, community and affordable rental dwellings in Canberra by the end of 2030.

We will increase public and community housing every year and grow the Housing ACT property portfolio to 13,200 homes by the end of 2030.

That's over 1,000 more public housing homes, on top of the existing Growing and Renewing Public Housing Program and the Social Housing Accelerator. The delivery of new public housing will be declared as a major project in the next term of Government if Labor is re-elected.

We will achieve this through a combination of future budget investments and strategic partnerships with Housing Australia (through the Housing Australia Future Fund), superannuation funds, community housing providers and build-to-rent providers.

properties

### What we have achieved this term

Over the past four years, we have:

- Cut stamp duty in every Budget through the term for owner-occupiers, saving homebuyers tens of thousands of dollars and removing a barrier to home ownership.
- Delivered 700 new public housing homes, 94 per cent of which are accessible.
- Supported local Community Housing Providers to start building 280 new affordable homes through the \$80 million *Affordable Housing Project Fund*.
- Supported more than 200 landlords to rent their properties at affordable rates to Canberrans in need through the *Community Housing Land Tax Exemption Scheme*.

- Released thousands of blocks across Canberra to deliver more homes where people want to live.
- Overhauled the planning system to allow more affordable dual occupancies to be constructed in existing suburbs, increasing potential residences by thousands of houses, and making best use of existing infrastructure, shops, schools and health services, without affecting local amenity.
- Charging no stamp duty for owner-occupiers purchasing a home off the plan worth less than \$1 million – increasing housing supply and making it easier to own your own home.
- Launched a range of initiatives to promote sustainable housing, including the Demonstration Housing Project, Whitlam Innovation Precinct and North Wright Compact Housing precinct.

In the 2024 Budget, the ACT Government outlined a comprehensive land release program that will see tens of thousands of new homes built over the next four years. This includes both medium density infill sites and new suburban land that will give more housing choices, where people want to live.

## What we will continue to do

A re-elected Labor Government will continue to work with the Commonwealth Government to provide thousands of new homes at the CSIRO Ginninderra site. We will also work with Thoroughbred Park on additional housing opportunities as part of our plan to enable 30,000 additional homes in Canberra by the end of 2030.

In addition to new suburban housing, ACT Labor will also encourage the construction of new, well-designed ‘missing middle’ housing in established suburbs. Following the development of a missing middle design guide, a re-elected Labor Government will make changes to the planning system to encourage the construction of low-rise housing in existing residential areas. More housing choices like townhouses, terraces, row houses and duplexes in existing suburbs will address a key gap in the Territory’s mix of housing types.

We have heard from many Canberrans that they want to see renewal at their local shops. Labor will encourage new investment in these important community hubs by supporting additional housing at local shopping and group centres. By encouraging mixed-use developments and ‘shop top’ housing, Canberrans will have access to even more well-located housing options.

We also have a plan to make it cheaper to buy a home as well. For more than decade, ACT Labor has been reducing the upfront costs of buying a home in the nation’s capital by cutting stamp duty in every Budget since

2012. And that will continue. Over the next four years we will progressively remove stamp duty for all first home buyers, pensioners and off the plan unit titled purchases. We will also remove stamp duty for all vacant land purchases for new housing. This will apply no matter the buyer's income, or the value of the new apartment, townhouse, duplex, or vacant land - as long as it is the buyer's principal place of residence. Through these measures, Labor is supporting first home buyers, downsizers, and those building or buying new homes that increase the overall supply of housing in the Territory.

ACT Labor will continue to release more of our practical and proven housing plan for Canberra's future, including our plan to build more social and affordable housing. As more people choose to call our city home, Labor will continue to deliver the housing and infrastructure Canberrans need.

A re-elected ACT Labor Government will continue to:

- Make the Planning System easier and quicker to use so Canberrans can build, subdivide or improve their properties.
- Work with the Commonwealth Government on first home buyer initiatives to help Canberrans into homes of their own.
- Expand the *Community Housing Land Tax Exemption Scheme* so more Canberrans can rent their homes at affordable rates.

We will:

- Build and buy more than 1 400 new public housing homes by the end of 2030.
- Release more land for residential development over the next four years.
- Double the Public Housing Tenant Participation Grants, to support public housing tenants to participate in the activities they love.
- Progressively insource public housing repairs and maintenance to achieve better outcomes for tenants and workers.
- Within the first year of the parliamentary term, assess domestic violence upgrades, disability modifications, reactive repairs and customer service functions of the contract for insourcing.
- Expand the multi-unit property maintenance insourcing trial to 10 properties by 2026, including Illawarra Court and Ainslie Flats.
- 
- Partner with larger states like NSW and Queensland to purchase, at scale, modular housing to significantly reduce the time, and cost, to deliver new public housing dwellings.

- Conduct dedicated annual land releases for public and community housing projects.
- Increase the Affordable Housing Project Fund to \$100 million, supporting the construction of hundreds of additional affordable rentals.
- Invest an additional \$5 million to target chronic homelessness, youth homelessness, older women and those escaping domestic violence.
- Make 75 public housing properties available for specialist housing and homelessness services, including to Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations, adding to the more than 700 already operated in partnership with community housing providers.

## Human Rights

### What we stand for

The ACT was the first jurisdiction in the country to establish a Human Rights Act. Our human rights culture has evolved and grown so that it is central in all our decision making. We have added additional rights as our community has grown and changed and supported the Human Rights Commission to implement them. We support those who are victims with financial assistance and counselling and support some of the most vulnerable members of our community who are dependent on service providers through the Official Visitors Scheme.

We have, and always will, champion the development and protection of the Human Rights of Canberrans.

### What we have achieved

In the past four years, we have:

- Passed nation-leading voluntary assisted dying legislation after decades of denial from Federal Liberal Governments
- Reformed our discrimination laws, including establishing a positive duty to eliminate discrimination and to make reasonable adjustments
- In an Australian first, enshrined a national-leading right to a healthy environment
- Introduced a human rights complaints mechanism through the ACT Human Rights Commission
- Reformed our surrogacy laws to better support parents and LGBTIQA+ families, advance reproductive rights, and provide single parents with a pathway to parenthood
- Promoted the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people through the establishment of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People Commissioner
- Removed barriers to gender recognition for, and promoted the rights of, transgender, gender diverse and intersex people through amendments to the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act
- Supported the rights of Victims through investing in Victims Support ACT and reforms to improve the Victims of Crime (Financial Assistance) Act 2016
- Invested in the Official Visitors scheme to provide safeguards, complaint resolution and independent oversight of services for people in government institutions and community facilities who are dependent on service providers
- Invested in the Human Rights Commission in working towards an inclusive Canberra community that respects and realizes human rights, and ensures access to justice for Canberrans

- Established the Code of Conduct for Health Care workers in legislation to better protect people accessing health services from non-registered health care workers

## What we will continue to do:

- Implement Voluntary Assisted Dying in the ACT
- Review the Voluntary Assisted Dying Act for potential improvements including eligibility for those without decision making capacity and under 18s.
- Continue to support and uphold the Human Rights of Canberrans through:
  - Human Rights Act education.
  - Implementation of the Human Rights complaints mechanism expansion of the pathway to the ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal.
  - Review the newly introduced Right to a Healthy Environment.
  - Improving support to the ACT Human Rights Commission.
  - Review the Victims of Crime Charter.
- Continue to protect and support victims of crime through funding to Victims Support ACT.
- Continue to support the rights of Canberrans who rely on services through the Official Visitors Scheme.
- Finalise a roadmap and timeline for the inclusion of the remaining rights found in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in the ACT's Human Rights Act
- Review and strengthen hate crime and vilification laws



## Integrity -Protecting and Strengthening Integrity in Government

### What we stand for

ACT Labor stands for continual improvement of decision-making processes, transparency and integrity across the government and the public sector.

### What we have achieved

In government, we have:

- Ensured the ACT Integrity Commission continues to be appropriately funded and staffed to meet its responsibilities.
- Provided additional training and support to ACTPS Staff to ensure they understand their responsibilities.
- Introduced amendments to the Integrity Commission Act following an independent review of its functions to increase effectiveness and to improve the operations of the Commission. This included:
  - Made employment with the Commission more accessible for people who are former ACT public servants.
  - Required the Commission to develop and publish a witness wellbeing policy.
  - Simplified the non-disclosure notice framework.
- Legislated Australia-leading freedom of information (FOI) reforms and began automatically releasing ministerial expenses, travel costs, and other Open Access information.
- Introduced legislation into parliament that bans any donations from foreign sources, to apply to all parties and candidates.
- Introduced legislation into the Assembly that includes 'real-time' reporting of donations - requiring donations to be declared within seven days of receipt.

### What we will continue to do

We will:

- Maintain high levels of integrity and confidence in public administration in the Territory over the next term.
- Undertake a review of the *Financial Management Act* to modernise it and bring it into line with community expectations and standards.
- Fund the Integrity Commissioner to undertake a piece of work in relation to lobbying with a key outcome being an education piece aimed at providing education and support to MLAs and their staff.
- Review the framework of ACT Government Boards and Committees to further strengthen the integrity of these organisations.
- Strengthen independence of the Public Sector Standards Commission and staff of the Professional Standards Unit (PSU). We

will introduce legislative amendment to the PSM Act confirming independence of the PSSC and staff of the PSU.

- Continue to progress work to implement recommendations from the review into the *Integrity Commission Act*, in consultation with stakeholders, including:
  - Progressing work on obtaining telecommunications intercept powers for the Commission, and
  - Clarifying the SERBIRs role, including to act as a central point for fraud and maladministration reporting within an agency.
  - Look at amending the *Integrity Commission Act* to provide an ability to appointment part-time commissioners as required to assist deal with corruption investigations in a timely manner.
  - Look at reviewing the *Integrity Commission Act* to strengthen the power of the Commission to compel witnesses to attend including prescribe circumstances where the Commission may apply for an arrest warrant and allow the Commission to directly summons material during an examination, under certain circumstances.

## Justice reform

### What we stand for

ACT Labor will continue to champion a justice system that is accessible, efficient, and transparent; and introduce laws which are evidence-based, human rights compatible and balanced. ACT Labor will also use a trauma-informed approach to guide any legislative reforms to the justice system. ACT Labor is committed to progressing restorative and rehabilitative programs as part of a justice response.

### What we have achieved

We have:

- Strongly committed to strengthening protections for victim/survivors of family and domestic, sexual and personal violence by responding recommendations from the Sexual Assault Prevention Response (SAPR) Report, and the Sexual Assault (Police) Review.
- Modernised affirmative sexual consent laws to define sexual consent as being 'based on a free and voluntary agreement'
- Increased the age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 14 to reduce the number of young people coming into contact with the criminal justice system
- Legislated a raft of changes to road safety and criminal legislation to improve public safety by addressing dangerous driving in the ACT.
- Legislated to overturn a High Court decision to improve sentencing practices in the ACT to now allow the prosecution to provide advice on sentencing range.
- Legislated that complaints about breaches of the Human Rights Act be made to the Human Rights Commission for confidential conciliation.

### What we will continue to do

If elected, a Labor Government will:

- Support an expansion of restorative justice accessibility criteria and seek to support the establishment of community-based restorative practice in the ACT.
- Trial electronic monitoring for domestic and family violence perpetrators.
- Explore international evidence-based programs that specifically target recidivist offending, with the view to a pilot in the ACT.
- Investigate transition programs for detainees back into the workforce.
- Amend the Evidence Act 2011 to limit access to sensitive evidence.
- Continue to educate around coercive control and work with stakeholders towards criminalising coercive control.
- In consultation with ACT Policing, look at expanding the legal definition of what it means for a protection order needing to be "personally served" on a respondent.

- In consultation with ACT Policing, the DPP, ACT Courts and Victims Support ACT, look at legislating mandated timeframes for witnesses to receive relevant information about a case before the court, including court outcomes and changes to bail conditions.
- Review and strengthen hate crime and vilification laws.

## LGBTIQA+

### What we stand for

ACT Labor has a proven track record of protecting LGBTIQA+ rights. Through implementing nation and world leading legislative reforms to valuing our community through visibility, awareness and education, we have made Canberra the most LGBTIQA+ inclusive city in Australia.

We are committed to continuing this legacy, with a focus on further strengthening awareness, supports and protections, particularly for gender-diverse and intersectional minorities such as those with a disability or those from a multicultural background.

### What we have achieved this term

- Delivered the first Capital of Equality Strategy (2019-2023).
- Developed and commenced implementation of the second Capital of Equality Strategy (2024-2029).
- Strengthened funding for LGBTIQA+ individuals, initiatives and organisations through the Capital of Equality grants program which delivered significant capacity building and outcomes for the community.
- Delivered legislative protections for people born with variations in sex characteristics and established wrap around support services for intersex people and their families.
- Improved processes for changing birth registration and birth certificates for trans and gender diverse people, particularly young people.
- Reformed our surrogacy laws to better support parents and LGBTIQA+ families, advance reproductive rights, and provide single parents with a pathway to parenthood.
- Supported our LGBTIQA+ community organisations like Meridian and A Gender Agenda to deliver targeted services, support and build capability within the sector.
- Supported the delivery of LGBTIQA+ events including Canberra's very own pride festival "SpringOUT".
- Strengthened the Discrimination Act 1991 to better protect equality rights of the LGBTIQ+ community.

- Continued to support the ACT Government Office for LGBTIQ+ Affairs to deliver a coordinated whole of government approach to delivering community outcomes.
- Conducted the first LGBTIQ+ Communities Survey to measure achievements over the first Capital of Equality Strategy and identify gaps to inform future government policy.
- Extended funding for the Beyond Project, a partnership between Domestic Violence Crisis Service and A Gender Agenda to support trans and gender diverse people at risk of experiencing family and domestic violence.
- Continued the Safe and Inclusive Schools Program.
- Delivered the LGBTIQ+ Health Scoping Study and invested more than \$9.7 million to continue implementing the recommendations of the Scoping Study including key actions to improve mental health for the LGBTIQ+ community.
- Completed co-design of a gender focussed health service.
- Established a whole of government Data Collection framework for Sex, Gender, Sexual Orientation and Sex Characteristics.

## What we will continue to do

- Continue implementation of the Second Capital of Equality Strategy (2024-2029) to maintain Canberra's position as the most LGBTIQ+ city in Australia.
- Support SpringOUT as Canberra's own pride festival.
- Hold an event to celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the ACT achieving the highest "yes" vote in the marriage equality plebiscite.
- Promote visibility, awareness and capability building of individuals and organisations through continuation of the Capital of Equality Grants Program.
- Establish a peer-led community-based gender-focussed health service.
- Review and strengthen hate crime and vilification laws, including to protect our LGBTIQ+ community.
- Further review parentage and surrogacy laws to remove barriers to starting a family.
- Support the CBR Pride hub and investigate its expansion.
- Implement our commitment to the Darlington Statement for the protection of intersex Canberrans.
- Create more inclusive disability services by developing a peer support program for LGBTIQ+ people with a disability.
- Continue to enable access to support services for LGBTIQ+ people experiencing family and domestic violence.

- Continue and expand programs to ensure our schools are safe and inclusive environments for all students regardless of their gender identity, sexual orientation or variations in sex characteristics.
- Continue to advocate for the Commonwealth Therapeutic Goods administration to move to an individual risk assessment or other model that allows blood donation by all in our LGBTIQ+ community.
- We will continue to support capacity building within the health sector to ensure medical professionals across the sector understand the specific needs of the LGBTIQ+ community, particularly our trans and gender-diverse community.

## Mental Health

### What we stand for

ACT Labor has listened to the community about the importance of good mental health and we are focused on providing a comprehensive continuum of care that recognises the diverse needs of the ACT community. We understand the critical need to reduce fragmentation across the mental health system to ensure consumers and carers don't fall through the gaps. We also know the mental health workforce needs to be supported with safe workplaces that prioritise their wellbeing and development to deliver the best care to the community.

### What we have achieved this term

ACT Labor has been focused on improving the health and wellbeing of Canberrans by investing in programs to improve the mental health of the community, including additional funding for the community sector and public mental health services to increase capacity across the mental health system.

The ACT Labor Government has made substantial investments to better support the mental health of young people and significantly reduced emergency department waiting times for people presenting in a mental health crisis. There is more work to do and ACT Labor will continue to prioritise support for the growing mental health needs of the community.

Over the past four years, we have:

- Created an online youth navigation portal to provide young people with options for support and to assist them in accessing the care they need from the mental health system.
- Expanded support for young people with complex co-occurring mental health, trauma, disability and/or drug and alcohol use, including through additional funding for Marymead CatholicCare's Youth Wellbeing Outreach program.
- Implemented the Orygen Moderated Online Social Therapy (MOST) platform in conjunction with existing mental health services to improve evidence-based support for young people.
- Implemented mental health services across a range of settings, including supported accommodation, step-up step-down for young people and adults, counselling and support, mental health promotion and stigma reduction, psychosocial support, recovery services, suicide prevention and postvention.
- Supported the Youth Aware of Mental Health Mental Health and Suicide Prevention program for young people aged 14-16 years, delivered to Year 9 students.



- Expanded the Police, Ambulance and Clinical Early Response (PACER) team to provide a therapeutic response to people in crisis and reduce emergency department presentations.
- Improved support for patients who present frequently to the ACT's public hospitals by providing intensive case management through the Liaison and Navigation Service and a Primary Care Pilot to provide better access to a General Practitioner with coordinated wraparound support.
- Delivered an additional 10 mental health beds at Canberra Hospital through the refurbishment of Ward 12B.
- Implemented the Nurses and Midwives Towards a Safer Culture Project that included the delivery of Safewards across the Adult Mental Health Unit at Canberra Hospital and the Older Persons Mental Health Unit at North Canberra Hospital to support safer workplaces for our teams and better outcomes for patients.
- Delivered the Adolescent Mental Health Unit alongside the Adolescent Day Service as part of the expansion of the Centenary Hospital for Women and Children.
- Ensured a Mental Health Workforce Strategy was delivered that supports long-term planning and support the mental health workforce in the ACT.
- Delivered investments in supporting mental health in the workplace by expanding the Work Health and Safety Liaison grant program delivered through Unions ACT to support education and awareness, including around psychosocial hazards.
- Worked with the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation ACT Branch to deliver Phase One of Mandated Minimum Nurse/Midwife-to-Patient Ratios in the Adult Mental Health Unit and Ward 12B at Canberra Hospital, and the Acacia Unit and the Older Persons Mental Health Unit at North Canberra Hospital.
- Included a custom designed six-bed space in the new Critical Services Building Emergency Department to provide specialised assessment and management of patients presenting with complex care needs.
- Delivered the ACT Health Services Plan with key actions to strengthen mental health services as part of the broader health system to ensure they are accessible, accountable and sustainable, including specific actions to support the mental health needs of diverse groups.
- Delivered *Maternity in Focus: The ACT Public Maternity System Plan 2022-2032* and the First Action Plan to ensure services develop a

comprehensive response to the perinatal mental health needs of women and families.

- Finalized the LGBTQ+ Health Scoping Study and invested more than \$9.7 million to implement recommendations of the Scoping Study including key actions to improve mental health for the LGBTQ+ community.
- Continued planning for the transformation of public hospital and community-based health services, including mental health services through the Canberra Hospital Master Plan that includes a new mental health precinct, development of the new northside hospital and new health centres across the ACT.

## What we will continue to do

A re-elected ACT Labor Government will continue to deliver for young people, support our mental health workforce and deliver the infrastructure and services to support Canberrans when they need mental health care.

### Young people

Enhance the supports available for young people through:

- Continued funding to deliver critical community mental health programs such as MOST, WOKE, Stepping Stones, Youth Aware of Mental Health, MindMap, and the ACT Child and Youth Mental Health Sector Alliance.
- Reducing waiting times for the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service and deliver on the actions of the Child and Adolescent Clinical Services Plan to connect care across the health system, including mental health to better support children and families.
- Delivering a new facility for the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service – CAMHS Cottage – a day program that supports young people with moderate to severe mental health issues which impacts their ability to attend school.
- Improve continuity of support for young people engaged with the youth justice and child protection systems with a focus on trauma-informed care.

### Workforce

Support our workforce to safely provide more public mental health services:

- Continue working with the ANMF ACT to deliver Phase Two of Mandated Minimum Nurse/Midwife-to-Patient Ratios, including at the Dhulwa Mental Health Unit, Gawanggal Mental Health Unit and the

Adult Mental Health Rehabilitation Unit to support our teams to deliver better care for consumers.

- Delivering the Nurses and Midwives: Toward a Safer Culture Project across mental health areas, including the delivery of the Safewards program across all public mental health services to promote a safer environment.
- Upskill workers across public health services to understand the impact of trauma on people's lives, including their mental health.
- Work with General Practitioners, who are increasingly supporting patients with complex lives and mental health challenges, to ensure their skills are recognised and that they can access wellbeing and professional development opportunities.

## Infrastructure

Deliver on the infrastructure needed to provide exceptional care:

- Complete feasibility and design for a new mental health precinct on the Canberra Hospital campus as part of the Canberra Hospital Master Plan, focusing on consumer-centred infrastructure for acute mental health services that will support the region for the next 40 years.
- Continue to design with the community a new high-quality, state-of-the-art mental health inpatient facility for the new northside hospital.
- Ensure new community-based facilities embed mental health services, addressing areas of need and identifying opportunities to deliver more services closer to home.

## Service planning

Make sure the services we're offering meet the needs of Canberrans:

- Develop and implement a co-designed consumer-centered mental health services plan by the end of 2026.
- Improve integration and care pathways across the service system, including pathways between alcohol and other drugs services and mental health, suicide prevention and postvention, primary care and physical healthcare services.
- Work with stakeholders to benchmark and expand public community mental health services in every region of the ACT to ensure Canberrans can access support where and when they need it.

Alongside these policies, a re-elected ACT Labor Government will also deliver a range of new and expanded initiatives that we will announce in the lead up to the election, that build on our practical and proven plan for our health system.

## Planning and Urban renewal

### What we stand for

Labor believes that safe, secure and affordable housing is central to the security and dignity of all Canberrans.

That's why ACT Labor's priority is housing supply, planning for more homes and providing more housing choices in places people want to live.

Canberra's population is growing rapidly and we want to make sure current and future residents continue have great quality of life and are well connected to services and employment.

Consistent with the ACT Planning Strategy. We will continue to deliver a city that is compact and efficient, diverse, sustainable and resilient, liveable, and accessible. Development will be concentrated in town and group centres, and along major transport corridors. 70% of new development will be within our existing urban footprint.

ACT Labor believes in a planning system that had a greater focus on design consistent with the values of Canberrans living in planned city. Our plan is to provide more housing that is well designed, sustainable and affordable.

### What we have achieved this term

Over the past four years, the Government has delivered on our commitment to implement a comprehensive re-design of the Territory's planning system which is focused on outcomes.

In Government Labor has delivered the new planning system to get better design outcomes in the built environment of Canberra as the city grows. This followed the planning system review which was largest consultation ever undertaken by the ACT Government with community and industry.

The old planning system focused on process and rules and in many cases didn't deliver the type of development Canberrans wanted. The new outcomes-based system has a greater focus on design in planning - that requires developers to respond to design guides established for the first time under the new system.

A key feature of the planning system was district planning. A of 'key sites' and 'change areas' identified by the ACT Government through new district strategies which will be a focus of urban regeneration and planning for new housing and other facilities as our city grows. This will deliver the bulk of new housing over the coming years of between 117,000 to 148,000 dwellings over the next 25 years.

This substantial planning work leave the ACT in the best position of any jurisdiction to support the commitment we made this term to the National Housing Target of build 1.2 million new well-located homes over five years, from 1 July 2024, with the ACT committed to deliver more than our population share.

This will be delivered through a mixture of greenfield land release, urban renewal sites and within existing residential and commercial zones. And we've made a commitment under National Planning Reform Blueprint obliging the ACT undertake planning, zoning, land release and other reforms, such as increasing density, to meet our share of housing supply targets.

Already in the 2024/25 ACT Budget featured a plan to release land for 21,422 more homes over the next five years. The plan outlined more housing including continued greenfields development new suburbs such as Macnamara and Jacka, as well as future stages of Denman Prospect and Whitlam.

Our new planning system has implemented some initial changes to improve housing choices within existing suburbs. The new system brought in technical changes to increasing housing supply and choice. This included subdivision and block consolidation on RZ2 blocks and allow homeowners to build a secondary residence of their standard residential block (RZ1), then subdivide it as long as it meets existing planning rules and is under a 120m<sup>2</sup> footprint (excluding garages). This is just the start.

Now that the foundations of the outcomes-based planning system are in place - we can look at future changes to encourage more well-designed houses across the city under this new planning system.

Labor has outlined the next stages of planning reform which will be focused on housing supply and includes more housing along transport corridors, at shopping centres and by enabling the missing middle.

## What we will continue to do

With the ACT's population set to reach 500,000 people by the end of 2027, ongoing increases in the supply of housing will be required to meet demand. A re-elected Labor Government will enable 30,000 new homes to build, buy and rent by the end of 2030.

ACT Labor housing proposals at key sites and change areas across the Territory identified in the ACT Government's District Strategies.

These developments will contribute to our goal of enabling 30,000 new homes by the end of 2030. For example, a re-elected Labor Government will continue to work with the Commonwealth to provide housing at the



CSIRO Ginninderra site in Belconnen. This development will provide land for thousands of new homes for Canberrans over the next 15 years.

A key focus of the ACT Government's planning strategy and district planning policies is to build housing in key transport corridors and shopping centres. This will revitalise local shopping hubs and connect more Canberrans with public transport amenities and employment.

A re-elected Labor Government will also progress planning for urban infill in areas suitable for gentle urbanism such as transport corridors, including the current and future light rail corridors and Thoroughbred Park's proposed housing development in Lyneham.

A re-elected Labor Government will build more housing and better shops. Following a review planning of controls around our local shops and group centres, we will encourage more mixed-use developments and 'shop top' housing with a particular focus on the use of underutilised land at group centres. As part of our plan to encourage renewal at local shops, a re-elected Labor Government will investigate tougher measures for property owners who leave their shop spaces vacant or unused.

Under Labor's Plan, we want to see a greater diversity of housing – more townhouses, more terraces and more duplexes on blocks in Residential Zone 1 (RZ1) and other residential zones. A re-elected Labor Government will commit to implementing the missing middle design guide which is currently in development. We believe that is important that the reform is design-led, working with ACT architects and the community to get the balance right for new and existing residents. Once that work is complete, a re-elected Labor Government will implement changes to the Territory Plan to enable the construction of additional missing middle housing in the ACT.

In addition, a re-elected Labor Government will develop a 'pattern book' of endorsed building designs that can be used to fast track more low-rise 'missing middle' homes for Canberrans. Once the designs have been finalised, including through a competition, they will provide an accelerated pathway for smaller home builders to deliver more housing for Canberrans.

ACT Labor recognises that as our city grows, we need a greater mix of housing types, including more places to rent. A re-elected Labor Government will maintain the direct financial assistance that is available to support build-to-rent developments delivering a affordable housing.

A re-elected Labor Government will continue to remove stamp duty in the next term to make it more affordable to buy a home. ACT Labor will target the next stages of tax reform at the cohorts most in need. Over the next four years we will progressively remove stamp duty for all first home buyers. We will progressively remove all stamp duty for pensioners. We will progressively remove all stamp duty for off the plan unit titled purchases.



And we will progressively remove stamp duty for all vacant land purchases. This will apply no matter the buyer's income, or the value of the new apartment, townhouse, duplex, or vacant land they are buying - as long as it is their principal place of residence.

ACT Labor will also support more housing community club owned land. A re-elected ACT Labor Government will also revise the Territory Plan to allow residential development in Commercial Zone 6 (CZ6) land owned by not-for-profit clubs if there is no net-loss of existing community and leisure facilities. A Clubs Diversification Team in Government will also help to fast-track master-planning, approvals processes and deconcessionalisation steps to help clubs build residential housing on their land.

We will be monitor and evaluate the new planning system to ensure it is achieving its intended outcomes. As with any new system there will be a need to make refinements as it rolls out.

As more and more people choose to call our city home, Labor will continue delivering the housing and infrastructure and community facilities Canberrans need, while keeping the green spaces we know and love.

## Prevention of domestic, family and sexual violence

### What we stand for

Being and feeling safe at home and in the community is a fundamental right. ACT Labor values women's autonomy, economic independence, health and wellbeing, and right to live in Canberra free from all forms of violence, including domestic, family and sexual violence. We are committed to preventing violence against women in all its forms.

Ensuring that our frontline services are resourced, and that the community know that help is available when they most need it, is critical to supporting anyone impacted by domestic, family and sexual violence.

Improving systemic responses to sexual violence is a key priority for ACT Labor. In recent years, the prevalence of sexual violence in our community has been highlighted, and we are committed to working to ensure that our support systems and justice systems deliver.

ACT Labor recognises the specific needs that different parts of our community have when it comes to domestic and family violence. That's why we are continuing our work to implement recommendations from the *We Don't Shoot Our Wounded* report in partnership with our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community. This will be a key priority if re-elected.

### What we have achieved this term

Over the past four years, we have:

- Made record investments in frontline domestic, family and sexual violence services.
- Continued funding *Room4Change with DVCS*, a specialist perpetrator behaviour-change program.
- Rolled out training for teachers, health staff and other frontline public servants on responding to DFV.
- Partnered with PCYC to deliver the Solid Ground program to support young people experiencing domestic and family violence.
- Delivered the first review into homicides identified as or suspected to be Domestic and Family Violence incidents.
- Passed legislation to improve information sharing between government agencies to detect and prevent instances of domestic and family violence.
- Continued to implement recommendations from the *Listen. Take action to prevent, believe and heal* report.

- Signed a National Partnership Agreement to receive funding from the Commonwealth Government and endorsed the *National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children 2022-2032*.
- Delivered a landmark review into Sexual Assault cases that have not proceeded to charge in the ACT.
- Worked with the Commonwealth to stand up five Aboriginal Community Control Organisations to provide supports for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people impacted by domestic and family violence.
- Invested in addressing the risk of coercive control by providing training to frontline agencies such as ACT Policing to enable them to identify and respond to coercive control.

## What we will continue to do

A re-elected ACT Labor Government will continue to work with our community sector partners to prevent and respond to domestic, family and sexual violence in our community.

We will:

- Continue to work with the community sector to codesign a comprehensive intersectional, evidence-based ACT Domestic and Family Violence strategy that aligns closely with the *National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children 2022-2032*.
- Continue to use the Safer Families Levy to fund frontline services only, piloting innovative responses to family and domestic violence, including programs for perpetrators.
- Implement recommendations arising from the Sexual Assault (Police) Review.
- Continue working with our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community to implement recommendations from the Long Yarn report.
- Roll out our Affirmative Consent Education Campaign across the community.
- Work with specialist services, frontline responders, and our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community, to consider next steps in addressing and criminalising coercive control.
- Investigate making a legislative change that extends communication privilege to non-counselling DFV services.
- Continue to embed specialist domestic and family violence expertise in statutory child protection services to ensure children, young people and victim-survivor parents are appropriately supported.

## Seniors

### What we stand for

ACT Labor is committed to ensuring Canberra's seniors have equitable access to all services. We want to ensure seniors are involved, connected and valued members of our community, who are safe, secure, and free from abuse as we build a city for all ages.

### What we have achieved this term

- Continued to deliver actions under the Age-Friendly City Plan.
- Worked with COTA to improve the ACT Seniors Card including undertaking a review of the card to inform future improvements.
- Ensured all ACT Government shopfronts are dementia friendly.
- Progressed works to ensure all ACT Government libraries are dementia friendly.
- Provided support for trials of dementia friendly events, piloting a seniors arts festival and implementing the Gold Soul Program.
- Commenced work on the establishment of a Centre of Excellence for the Care of Older Canberrans, to develop a model of care for different levels of Behavioural and Psychological Symptoms in Dementia, and to continue the SPICE program (Sustainable, Personalised Interventions for Cognition, Care, and Engagement), which provides allied health-led support for people living with dementia and their families and carers.

### What we will continue to do

We will:

- Continue to progress and complete the review into the ACT Seniors Card to maximise the benefits and value of the card
- Explore a Northside Seniors' Hub to provide face to face access, information, services and support for older Canberrans.
- Develop the next Age-Friendly City Plan to support the Age Friendly City: a vision for our city policy.
- Explore the feasibility of a carers recognition card so that carers can more easily access services and supports without having to verify every time that they are a carer.
- Continue working to ensure all ACT Government libraries are dementia friendly.
- Continue to support activities that support intergenerational connection.
- We will establish a new team of transport officers on buses and at transport interchanges to promote safety and accessibility for passengers using public transport.

- Develop the Centre of Excellence in the Care of Older Canberrans, including through joint work between North Canberra Hospital and the University of Canberra.

## Sport and recreation

### What we stand for

ACT Labor believes that all Canberrans should be able to have fun, keep fit and socialise through community sport and recreation. From netball to rowing, the ACT has the highest community sport participation in the country, which ACT Labor is proud of.

Supporting our elite athletes is also integral to supporting the sport community in the ACT. You can't be what you can't see, and supporting elite teams provides inspiration and goals for those who want to move from social sport to something more competitive.

Helping local clubs to flourish is key to achieving outcomes for both community and elite sport. Providing excellent government facilities and helping to upgrade club-owned facilities allows clubs to coach and nurture players to build skills and have fun.

### What we have achieved this term

Over the past four years, ACT Labor has:

- Upgraded over half of all ACT Government pavilions to be female friendly.
- Lit more ovals to allow night matches and training.
- Constructed a dragon boat facility at Grevillia Park.
- Upgraded the Woden Valley Enclosed Oval.
- Refurbished and expanded the Weston Creek Tennis Club.
- Commenced construction on a new tennis centre in Amaroo.
- Supported 120 local aspiring and elite athletes per year through ACT Academy of Sport programs and scholarships.
- Invested \$167 million on ACT Government Sports and Recreation infrastructure upgrades and oval reactivations; and
- Provided \$3.2 million in grants to local sports clubs for upgrades.

### What we will continue to do

A re-elected ACT Labor Government will continue to support community and elite sport to ensure the ACT remains the most active community in the nation.

We will continue to:

- Complete our program of female friendly pavilion upgrades with \$2 million in funding.
- Support and develop our aspiring and elite athletes.
- Increase our grant funding to local sporting clubs
- Support our elite womens teams with increased funding.
- Expand our playing fields, including at the Taylor playing fields.
- Expand the Belconnen Basketball Stadium.
- Plan and prepare to build a Casey Indoor Sports Centre.
- Provide excellent sport fields facilities at a heavily subsidised rate.
- Upgrade and improve Philip Enclosed Oval.
- Restore Garran Oval.
- Work with the Pines Tennis Club on their expansion plans.
- Work with UC and the AIS on plans for a renewed AIS and new stadium.
- Continue our lighting upgrades of sportsgrounds and ovals to enable night-time games and training.
- Provide pavilion upgrades upgrades at sportsgrounds, including more water bubblers.
- Continue to work on planning for a new indoor sports facility in Woden Town Centre.

We will:

- Increase the funding of our local women's elite sporting teams.
- Create a mountain bike trail maintenance fund.
- Develop an ACT Government Skate strategy.
- Pioneer a Women's coaching and refereeing scholarship program.
- Construct the first stage of the Stromlo and Throsby District Playing Fields.
- Build the Stromlo to Cotter 15km Mountain Bike Flow Trail.
- Start implementing the Stromlo Forest Park Tracks and Trails masterplan.
- More lights and a portable grandstand for Gordan District Playing Fields.
- Upgrade the cricket nets at Caroline Chisholm Senior School and Gowrie.
- Increase parking for the Wanniasa playing fields.
- Upgrade both Erindale Active and Tuggeranong Leisure Centres.
- Significantly upgrade the Tuggeranong Skatepark.
- Upgrade amenities at and expand Charnwood netball courts.
- Upgrade Latham Oval and Pavilion.
- Build a new skatepark at Kippax and upgrade the Charnwood bowl.
- Refurbish and expand the Jamison Pavilion, and light the oval.

- Upgrade and expand lighting at Stirling, Waramanga and Hughes playing fields.
- Upgrade facilities at Mawson Playing Fields.
- Undertake a feasibility study for a new AFL hub for both Gungahlin and Tuggeranong.
- Add cricket nets to Bonner Oval.
- Work with and contribute to a new Pickleball complex at Tennis ACT's Lyneham Centre.
- Refurbish cricket facilities at the Holt Cricket Grounds.
- We will complete the female friendly change room upgrades at the following locations:
  - Calwell
  - Chisholm
  - Wanniasa
  - Hughes
  - Mawson
  - Phillip
  - Ainslie
  - O'Connor
  - Reid
  - Griffith
  - Narrabundah
  - Aranda
  - Giralang
  - Macquarie
  - Kaleen (Turon St)
  - Kaleen (Ashburton St)
  - Gungahlin (Crinigan St)
  - Harrison



## Tax reform

### What we stand for

ACT Labor is creating a taxation system that is fair, efficient, progressive, and properly funds the essential health, education, municipal and community safety services Canberrans deserve.

The old system relied too heavily on inefficient and volatile transactional taxes, penalising people for buying their own home, hiring more people into their small business, or taking out insurance. This acted as a disincentive for people to invest in Canberra.

A stable tax system, not overly reliant on land sales, avoids instability and risk to services. Properly funded, long term and high-quality services are only possible through stable tax revenue.

### What we have achieved this term

In 2012, the Treasurer announced a nation-leading tax reform agenda aimed at removing inefficient taxes over a two-decade period.

Tax reform is delivering real benefits for Canberrans and a more stable revenue base to fund essential services.

The program shifts the ACT's tax mix away from narrowly based transaction taxes (such as stamp duty and insurance tax) towards a broad land tax base through general rates, this ensures all taxpayers are contributing to funding services, not just the small number who purchase property in any given year.

We have:

- Abolished stamp duty for eligible first home buyers. This saves eligible home buyers up to \$34,504 making it easier for young people and those on low incomes to save to purchase their own home.
- Removed stamp duty for owner-occupier buyers of off the plan unit (unit-titled apartment and townhouses) valued at \$800,000 or less.
- fully phased out insurance duty.
- Removed stamp duty for around 80 per cent of commercial transactions.
- Raised the ACT's payroll tax threshold to \$2 million - meaning 90 per cent of ACT small and medium businesses now pay no payroll tax.
- Delivered and expanded assistance to pensioners through a \$750 annual General Rates Rebate and access to the Stamp Duty Deferral Scheme.

- Will continue to cut stamp duty rates for all residential property transactions each and every year.
- This means that someone purchasing a \$800,000 home now pays \$12,000 less stamp duty than when tax reform commenced. For owner occupiers, the saving is even greater at \$15,000. They also save \$20,000 when compared with the stamp duty payable in Victoria, and \$8,000 when compared with the stamp duty payable in NSW.

## What we will continue to do

- Keep cutting stamp duty in every Budget next term, with an ongoing focus on affordable housing, owner-occupiers and first home buyers.
- The current five-year stage of taxation reform (2022-2026) has set the average residential rates increase at 3.75 per cent per annum, which has been below the inflation rate for the last two years.

## Tourism and Major Events

### What we stand for

Labor will strengthen our Tourism industry through a major investment in our 2030 Tourism Growth Fund.

We have a proven track record of delivering. In 2020 we committed to grow the visitor economy to \$3.5 billion by 2030. We achieved this target in December 2023, seven years early. This is money spent in local businesses, including our restaurants, cafes, bars, hotels, tour operators and retailers. We aim to continue to grow this sector with a new target of \$4 billion by 2026 and \$5 billion in economic value by 2030.

### What we have achieved this term

- Grown the visitor economy to \$3.7 billion in 2024.
- The tourism workforce has grown by more than 5,000, or roughly one third, to now support 20,000 jobs and over 4,600 local businesses.
- Working alongside the Canberra Airport and Tourism Australia, we have connected our city with more destinations – making it cheaper and easier than ever to visit Canberra. This included bringing direct international flights back through Fiji Airways.
- We brought Jetstar to CBR – now flying 3 domestic destinations with Melbourne, Brisbane and the Gold Coast.
- Canberra is now directly connected to 14 destinations by air – more than ever before.
- Attracted branded hotels with hundreds of millions of loyalty members worldwide, including Marriott, Crystalbrook and Meriton.
- Continued to support the acquisition of world class performance, exhibition and sport events thorough the Major Events Fund which has generated more than \$1.1 billion in economic activity for the Territory since its creation.
- Attracted international men's and women's sporting events including T20 and One Day Cricket, as well as the Socceroos and Matildas. We have also secured the British and Irish Lions tour, the largest rugby event outside the World Cup, to Canberra in July 2025.

## What we will continue to do

- Deliver against our T2030 Tourism Strategy to grow our visitor economy by an increased target of \$5 billion by 2030, with a revised interim target of \$4 billion by 2026.
- This will be supported through our 2030 Tourism Growth Fund worth approximately \$50 million over the next four years.
- Through this fund, we will:
  - Continue to fund Visit Canberra to drive domestic and international visitation.
  - Support in market campaign activities and in market representation in key international markets including Asia, India and the United States.
  - Continue and grow our aviation stimulus fund to enable partnering with Tourism Australia, Canberra Airport and airlines to connect Canberra with new domestic and international destinations, to drive tourism growth.
  - Develop a new destination marketing campaign for the region.
  - Partner with local tourism businesses to bring new and improved tourism products to Canberra.
  - Specifically focus on supporting local producers and hospitality businesses.
  - Support local tourism businesses through training, mentoring, international readiness and accreditation to help these businesses thrive and grow.
- In partnership with Telstra, we will re-open the iconic Telstra Tower including café, retail space and observation deck and provide opportunities for new tourism businesses to operate from the tower.
- Enhance the Enlighten Festival by featuring drone shows, higher quality illuminations and more interactive experiences.
- Bring back the Birdman Rally to Canberra Day.
- Expand Floriade, by extending the event, opening longer during daylight savings, investing in the creative direction of the festival, providing free transport to the event, and enhancing Floriade in the community.
- Construct a new lyric theatre at the Canberra Theatre Centre to attract more theatre shows to bring in visitors from the region.
- Partner with the Commonwealth Government to deliver a new aquatic centre in Commonwealth Park.
- Finalise precinct planning, business case and reference design on the new Canberra Convention and Entertainment Centre to seek

construction funding partnership from the Commonwealth Government.

- Continue and expand the Major Event Fund to attract high economic impact sports and cultural events.
- Continue to support the Canberra Convention Bureau to attract and retain high quality business events and conferences to the territory, including through increased funding for business event attraction within the Major Events Fund.
- Improve our city's lookouts and viewing points at Mount Ainslie, Red Hill, Mount Taylor, Mount Painter and Black Mountain, as well as our bushwalking trails.
- Finalise the business case and reference design for a new 30,000 seat Canberra Stadium as part of the renewed Bruce Health and Spots precinct to seek construction funding partnership from the Commonwealth Government.
- Partner with Cricket ACT to get Canberra's very own women's and men's Big Bash Club.
- Continue to work with the National Basketball League as it looks to bring back the Canberra Cannons.
- Continue to partner with key tourism and events stakeholders including the Canberra Convention Bureau, the Canberra Airport, the Canberra Region Tourism Leaders Forum, the National Capital Attractions Association and the National Capital Education Tourism Program to grow our visitor economy, creating jobs for Canberrans.

## Veterans

### What we stand for

ACT Labor is committed to supporting Veterans in ways that meet their specific individual and family needs. This includes assisting veterans to transition to civilian employment and civilian life and breaking down barriers between Veterans and civilian employers.

### What we have achieved this term

- Supported Veterans and their family's social connection and wellbeing through the Veterans Grants Program.
- Continued to implement the Veterans' Employment Strategy which is the ACT Government's vision to make the ACT Public Service (ACTPS) a leader in the recruitment and retention of Veterans.
- Begun work on improving homeless services for Veterans at risk of or experiencing homelessness in the ACT.
- Provided funding to commence work on a wellbeing framework for Veterans and their families.

### What we will continue to do

- A re-elected ACT Labor Government will continue to work with Veterans and Veteran Representative Groups to deliver holistic support for Veterans and their families.
- Continue to support Veterans and their family's social connection and wellbeing through the Veterans Grants Program.
- Continue to improve homelessness supports for Veterans at risk of or experiencing homelessness by completing and responding to the commissioning process currently underway.
- We will work with the Veteran Community and Veteran Service providers to explore a wellbeing hub within Canberra providing Veterans and their families with place to come together and connect close to where they live.

## Vocational education and training

### What we stand for

Labor supports a high performing and world-class VET sector to achieving a fairer society and stronger economy.

It's why ACT Labor has supported a high quality and trusted vocational education sector in the ACT that addresses the needs of students, industries and communities.

Labor has put TAFE at the heart of the vocational education sector by ensuring at least 70 per cent of all public funding for vocational education goes to the Canberra Institute of Technology (CIT).

### What we have achieved this term

- ACT Labor has rolled out fee-free TAFE with the Federal Government through CIT to address skills shortages and open doors for Australians who might otherwise be unable to afford training. More than 2500 Canberrans took up the opportunity for free training in 2023. The Albanese and Barr Governments' new Fee Free partnership will fund 3,600 Fee Free TAFE Places in the ACT from 2024 (1200 per year) through CIT.
- ACT Labor is investing even more in the CIT with the CIT Woden project, due for completion in 2025. Woden will soon have a state of the art educational facility, a new light rail ready public transport interchange, and more green spaces for residents, students, commuters and businesses. CIT Woden will have an ongoing and positive impact on the delivery of vocational education and training in the ACT focused on cyber security, hospitality hairdressing and beauty therapy, creative design, and media and music. The investment in new high quality public places and plazas in the Town Centre core and a new multi-purpose hall will support the revitalisation of Woden. A new Youth Foyer is being built in the campus will support up to 20 young people with housing while they study.
- ACT Labor has delivered our commitment to deliver nation leading training to support existing automotive workers to upskill and new apprentices gain skills to work in the new economy. The first students have completing Australia's first Certificate III in Automotive Electric Vehicle Technology at CIT, and Transport Canberra's mechanics have completed skill sets to work on battery electric buses.
- The ACT Government, in collaboration with local brewers and CIT, is launching 'Brewed to Succeed,' a pilot program addressing the specific skills needed in Canberra's brewing industry, aiming to train



employees, strengthen local businesses, and potentially serve as a model for addressing skills shortages in emerging industries.

## What we will continue to do

A re-elected Labor Government will increase training subsidies to 90 per cent for apprentices and trainees in critical skills areas including plumbing, carpentry, bricklaying, air conditioning, landscape construction and more. We expect this new 90 per cent subsidy band to support around 1500 apprentices and trainees in its first year and grow over four years. It's in addition to the 90% subsidy for training electricians already funded in the Budget. Labor's Apprentice package also extends the 90% subsidy to 20 qualifications from early childhood through to commercial cookery and training more VET teachers.

ACT Labor has delivered our commitment to grow the number of jobs in the Territory economy to 250,000 jobs by 2025. Vocational education and training is critical to support ACT Labor's new vision to grow our total workforce to 300,000 by 2030.

ACT Labor is working on implementing the National Skills Agreement and rolling out further tranches of Fee-Free TAFE to addressing labour and skill shortages are opportunities to build a stronger and more diverse city.

In Government, Labor is developing action plans for five key industries identified under the Government's *Skilled to Succeed: Skills and Workforce Agenda*:

- Technology industries (including ICT and cyber security)
- Building and construction industries
- Caring industries (includes early childhood, health, aged care and disability care)
- Experience industries (hospitality, tourism and arts businesses)
- Renewables

With work on the new Woden campus well underway and expected to take its first students in mid-2025, the next area of focus will be the renewal of CIT Belconnen's facilities at Bruce as part of planning for the broader precinct which includes the University of Canberra, the AIS, and the North Canberra Hospital (and future Northside Hospital).

## Women

### What we stand for

ACT Labor believes in gender equality as the cornerstone of a fair and equal society. Every woman contributes to, and has a role to play, in our community, and ACT Labor remains committed to removing barriers so that women and girls can reach their potential, and fully participate in all aspects of life. We also recognise that whilst all women in our community experience some form of disadvantage, all women experience disadvantage differently. We must be conscious of the intersections between people's identities and how this affects the way that they experience disadvantage.

Increasing women's participation in male dominated industries is a key priority for ACT Labor, which is why we are committed to expanding our try-a-trade program, and rolling out our women in construction procurement policy.

During this term, we have recognised the significance of period poverty affecting women and girls across Canberra. That's why we will continue our rollout of free period products across schools, sports pavilions, libraries, and health facilities, and provide funding to our community sector partners to provide products of their own.

### What we have achieved this term

ACT Labor has prioritised innovative and nation-leading programs to improve participation, access and equality for women and girls in Canberra.

Over the past four years, we have:

- Launched the pilot of the Understanding the Building and Construction Industry Program in four public schools to get more girls into the construction industry.
- Piloted an all-women site management team for the construction of the new primary school in Strathnairn.
- Implemented Respectful Relationships Education in schools, and established a Gender Equality Team in Education.
- Developed and piloted the gender sensitive urban design guidelines.
- Established housing pathways for vulnerable women through the delivery of Common Ground Dickson and partnership with the YWCA on the YHomes project.
- Delivered the Return to Work grants program to provide assistance for women who've spent significant periods out of the workforce, such as women exiting the AMC.
- Made medical and surgical abortions free in the ACT.

- Launched the ACT's first women's housing Build-to-Rent-to-Buy scheme at Ginninderry.
- Implemented a yearly Status of Women Report Card to ensure that we can track trends and understand where we need to do more.

## What we will continue to do

A re-elected ACT Labor Government will continue our work to improve the lives of women in the ACT.

We will:

- As part of our pharmacy scope of practice commitment we will expand the scope of the existing Community Pharmacy trial to all ACT community pharmacies to enable easier access to the resupply of selected oral contraceptive pills aged 18-35
- Complete our female-friendly pavilion upgrades at all remaining sportsgrounds, to ensure that female-friendly bathrooms and changerooms are available to all women, everywhere across the ACT.
- Continue to deliver the Third Action Plan under the ACT Women's Plan.
- In consultation with the community and health sectors, develop a Women's Health strategy to address menstruation, menopause and reproductive health.
- Continue our work on gender-responsive budgeting.
- Double universal free three-year-old preschool, saving families on average \$2,600
- Make life easier for working families by expanding the availability of age-appropriate Outside School Hours Care at four-year old public preschools.
- Expand the Women's Health Service to more locations across the ACT, so women can access the care they need when they need it.
- Establish a high-risk breast cancer clinic at the North Canberra Hospital.
- Expand gynaecological services in the ACT, so more women can access specialist care, including hiring more workers at the Canberra Endometriosis Centre.
- Continue to support our health workforce with training and development to identify and treat concerns that overwhelmingly impact women.

## Worker's rights and workplace safety

### What we stand for

The Labor Government stands for the absolute right of all workers to safe, healthy, and secure employment. The right to work, the right to proper and modern entitlements, the right to fair pay, and the right to unionise, are at the core of our values.

We know that when workers are well paid, secure, safe and healthy in their employment, society overall benefits. Dignity and value in employment fosters social cohesion, and economic prosperity alike.

### What we have achieved this term

Over the past four years, we have:

- Amended the Portable Long Service Scheme to ensure more workers receive fair entitlements as they move between employers within their profession.
- Legislated a secure employment package to:
  - Prevent the outsourcing or privatisation of public sector jobs.
  - Prevent public funds being spent unnecessarily on private consultants.
  - Provide secure permanent employment to Canberrans.
  - Ensure essential services are not privatised or outsourced.
- Amended Work Health and Safety laws, regulations, and codes of practice to keep Canberra workers safe on worksites.
- Established industrial manslaughter as an offence in the Work Health and Safety Act.
- Updated dozens of regulations and codes of practice, for example to:
  - Introduce prohibitions on the importation, sale, and use of engineered stone containing products regulations to protect tradespeople from silica dust, and
  - Protecting people working with existing engineered stone products.
- Introduced presumptive cover for emergency services workers and first responders living with mental health injuries and PTSD.
  - Providing an evidence and medical based approach to the support and treatment provided to workers living with PTSD.
- Legislated to provide a modern approach to the management of psychosocial risks and hazards in the workplace, designed to support and protect workers.
- Established a Culture Liaison Officer at Canberra Health Services, to strengthen work culture and provide an avenue for staff to raise wellbeing concerns with management.
- Legislating to ensure modern slavery is identified and stopped within the ACT.

- Continued improvements to Labour Hire Licensing arrangements, and the provision of same-job-same-pay entitlements for workers.
- Developed guidelines to commence trials of the 4-day working week.

## What we will continue to do

A re-elected ACT Labor Government will continue to support and improve workers' rights and entitlements, promoting safe, secure, healthy, and permanent employment for all Canberrans. Employment participation and safe and healthy workplaces are the backbone of a productive and economically prosperous society.

We will:

- Support and promote secure and permanent jobs for Canberrans, both in the public service and in private enterprise.
- Continue to work with employer and workers representatives through consultative bodies and councils to support up to date and modern approaches to WHS regulations, codes of practice, and guidelines.
- Continue to support workers and their unions, and to support genuine wage and entitlement increases for workers both in the public and private sector.
- Ongoing reviews of public service legislation to remove barriers stopping workers from accessing permanent employment entitlements.

For the ACT Public service, Labor recommits to:

- Keep public services in public hands – no outsourcing of core government services programs, or privatisation of productive Government assets.
- Increasing staffing levels in key growth areas of government service delivery, such as hiring 800 more health workers, to maintain level of service and safe staffing levels at all times. This includes maintaining nurse-patient ratios, as delivered this term, and provision of sufficient support staffing to manage any exposure to risk of physical or psychological injury.
- Maintaining and supporting the Union Encouragement Policy, including resourcing to undertake updating of the Policy, to ensure all ACTPS workers understand the role of unions and the benefits membership provides to workers, collectively and individually.
- Provide all new ACT Government workers with access to a union induction session, preferably in-person, soon after commencing employment.

- In acknowledgement of the positive impact the Culture Liaison Officer has had on culture at Canberra Health Services, Labor will make this role ongoing to ensure that culture and staff wellbeing continues to improve, which in turn will result in better outcomes for patients.

## Youth

### What we stand for

Positive life experience and personal growth as a young person is vital to being able to happily transition to adulthood.

Supporting young people through this period in their lives is important, as is listening to them and taking on board feedback when developing programs and policy.

ACT Labor is committed to listening to the voices of young people and incorporating their feedback into government decisions to achieve the best outcomes for everyone in the community.

### What we have achieved this term

Over the past four years, we have:

- Celebrated exceptional young people through the Young Canberra Citizen of the Year awards every year.
- Supported young people who are engaged in community building to undertake projects via grants.
- Supported the Youth Advisory Council to consult on government policy.
- Partnered with Barnardos to establish a new 'Gunners Place' youth and community hub in Gungahlin.
- Expanded Safe and Connected Youth into an ongoing program to support young people under 16 who are at risk of homelessness due to family conflict.

### What we will continue to do

We will:

- Continue to support the Youth Advisory Council as a voice for young people in government.
- Continue the ACT Education Minister's Student Congress, bringing ACT public school students together to discuss issues that matter to them, and create change in their school communities.
- Continue the ACT Youth Assembly, which hosts forums on important issues such as cost of living, gender equality, giving young people another avenue to have their voices heard.
- Continue to support young people to be active in their community through the InterACT Youth Grants.
- Work with young people to design a Youth Strategy for Canberra.



- Deliver targeted supports for young people through re-commissioning the Child, Youth and Family Services Program based on feedback from families, young people and service providers.