

2.4 COST OF LIVING STATEMENT

In this Budget, the ACT Government sets out a plan to build a healthier and smarter city, transform Canberra through urban renewal, grow the Territory economy and improve liveability and opportunity that the city offers its citizens.

The ACT Government delivers a wide range of services and infrastructure to Canberrans: from schools and hospitals, buses and municipal services, emergency services, to sports, arts and cultural events. It delivers services to support the most vulnerable and disadvantaged in our community. The Government also delivers programs to stimulate job and business growth and promote economic investment in the ACT. These services, programs and supports boost the ACT economy and generate local jobs. The services improve the quality of living for ACT residents. The Government also provides support to ease cost of living pressures and help those who need assistance.

On average, ACT residents have the highest incomes in the country and are among the healthiest, smartest and most productive members of the Australian community. Canberrans also donate more money and volunteer more time to community activities than their counterparts across the country. The ACT's economy continues to perform strongly, with one of the country's lowest unemployment rates, one of its highest workforce participation rates and population growth well above the national average.

The Government is committed to making sure taxes, fees and charges remain affordable, that important services are available to low income households and that assistance is provided to those who need it. The Government is mindful that not all households will at all times be able to share equally in the prosperity delivered by a strong economy. The Government wants to ensure that when families and individuals find themselves in difficult situations, appropriate support programs, targeted assistance and concessions are available.

This Cost of Living Statement provides an overview of Canberra households and an outline of the services and infrastructure delivered by the ACT Government. It outlines the effect of the Government's taxes, fees and charges and the concessions that offset these taxes, fees and charges¹. It provides a snapshot of a range of representative households to highlight ACT Government taxes and charges, available concessions and where these will apply in different circumstances and different life stages.

¹ As required under Section 11(1)(f) of the *Financial Management Act 1996*

ACT Households

ACT residents are on average relatively younger, have a higher level of education and higher incomes than the rest of Australia. Canberra families have an average of 1.8 children and 48 per cent of people aged 15 and over are married. At the 2011 Census, 10.7 per cent of the ACT's population was 65 years of age and over, and 25.3 per cent were 19 years of age or under.

Employment status in the ACT mirrors that of the rest of Australia – with 65 per cent working full-time and 25 per cent working part-time. The majority of households (67.3 per cent) own their own home, with or without a mortgage, while 30.6 per cent rent. The vast majority (91.8 per cent) of households own at least one motor vehicle.²

In the ACT, the median weekly family income for families with children was \$3,060 while for the rest of Australia it is \$2,310³. Furthermore, wages in the ACT have increased; the wages price index in the ACT rose by 3.4 per cent from the March quarter 2012 to the March quarter 2013, compared to a lower increase of 3.2 per cent nationally. Since June 2012, the Reserve Bank of Australia has decreased the cash rate four times, from 3.75 per cent to 2.75 per cent. Lowering the cash rate reduces pressure on mortgage holders and helps to improve housing affordability.

ACT Government

Public services

Canberrans expect and experience a high standard of public services. That is why the ACT Government continues to provide high quality public services across the Territory. The provision of these public services shields households from some cost of living pressures. For example, households with school age children in public education receive its benefit at nil cost. On a national basis, ABS data indicates health care costs are rising by 10.05 per cent per annum⁴ hence households are significantly shielded from this increasing cost of health care.

The table and chart below show where and to what age group ACT Government services and infrastructure are delivered.

² 2011 Census Australian Capital Territory STE. QuickStats.

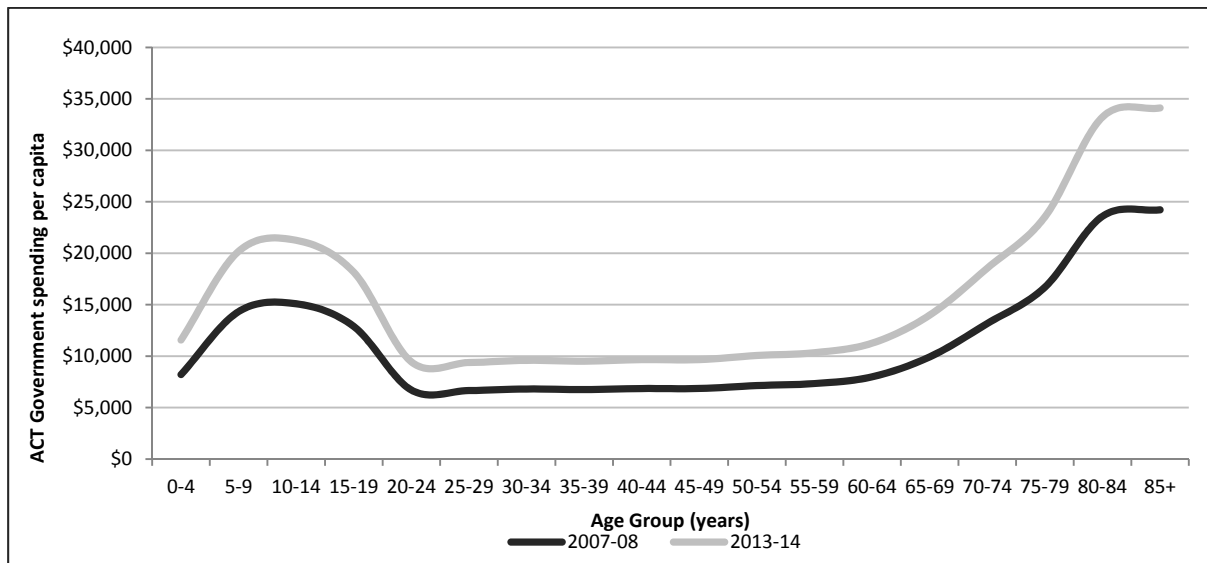
³ 2011 Census Australian Capital Territory STE. QuickStats.

⁴ CAGR for Health Costs since 2000-01 – Australian Bureau of Statistics Cat. No. 5512.0 General Government Expenditure by Purpose

**Table 2.4.1
What Your Money Delivers**

Total government expenditure on services: \$4,578 million in 2013-14	
Health and Community Care	\$1,300.0 m
Government schooling	\$657.0 m
Territory and Municipal Services	\$444.5 m
Disability and Community Services	\$283.5 m
Non-government schooling	\$225.9 m
Justice and Community Safety	\$205.7 m
Housing	\$156.7 m
Policing	\$152.3 m
Planning and Regulation	\$149.3 m
Environment, Sustainability and Land Management	\$147.8m
Vocational Education and Training (VET)	\$144.8 m
Public Transport	\$136.7 m
Emergency Services	\$122.7 m
Government Operations	\$111.2m
Sport and Recreation	\$46.2 m
Tourism Venues and Events	\$41.3 m
Arts, Culture and Heritage	\$28.2 m
Land and Property Services	\$27.1 m
Business and Industry Development	\$10.6 m

**Chart 2.4.1
ACT Government Spending Per Capita by Age Group**



Source: Chief Minister and Treasury Directorate

ACT Government Taxes and Fees

The ACT Government collects revenue directly via taxes and fees. The revenue is used to support the provision of high quality services and infrastructure to the community as detailed throughout the Budget papers. About 31 per cent of ACT Government revenue is derived from own-source taxation. Another 43 per cent is provided by the Commonwealth Government, as outlined in Chapter 4, Federal Financial Relations. The remainder is provided from a range of other income sources including the sales of goods and services, interest and dividend income.

The ACT Government's own-source revenue is generated mostly from annual taxes levied on businesses, households and investors. Annual taxes levied on businesses include commercial conveyance, rates, insurance duty, and payroll. Investors are subject to land tax (included in rates for the commercial sector) and, where relevant, the Lease Variation Charge. The annual taxes levied on households are on property, general and other insurance. Annual fees are charged for motor vehicles licensing and registration and public transport. Other administrative fees, charged on a one-off-basis, cover the costs of transactions and include such things as commemorative certificates and land title fees.

ACT Government taxation forms a small part of overall household costs. The most recent ABS data shows average taxation per capita in the ACT is below the national average and that ACT per capita taxation is lower than Western Australia, Victoria and New South Wales.⁵

In the 2012-13 Budget, the ACT Government announced a taxation reform package to make the Territory's taxes fairer, simpler and more efficient. The first phase of the changes, the 5 Year Reform Plan, sets out the broad direction for reform and makes some measured changes to the taxation system, which are continued in this Budget. The plan improves the overall fairness of the taxation system and sets the Territory's taxation system on a path to a more sustainable footing.

Other Taxes and Fees – Utilities

Utilities costs are outside the direct influence of the ACT Government, but they are nonetheless a significant cost of living consideration for many households, a fact recognised by the Government in the provision of a range of utility concessions. Water and sewerage service charges and electricity charges are determined by the Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission (ICRC) through an independent process. Though the ACT Government is able to and does make submissions to the ICRC during the determination process, prices are set independently of the ACT Government. Natural gas prices are not regulated in the ACT. All utility charges incorporate the costs of factors of production, the impact of various Commonwealth, state and territory energy and environmental programs, as well as taxes and charges.

A wide range of everyday living expenses are outside the direct influence of the ACT Government such as food and fuel prices. These impacts are not included in the Statement.

⁵ Taxation Revenue, Australia 2011-12, Australian Bureau of Statistics – Cat. No. 5506.0

Targeted Assistance and Concessions

Targeted assistance and concessions programs help offset cost of living pressures for some households, especially those on low incomes. These programs apply differently to households depending on their circumstances and are reviewed and adjusted on a regular basis to ensure they remain targeted and appropriate.

The ACT Government provides a number of concessions and rebates to help with housing costs. In this Budget the First Home Owner Grant is being increased from \$7,000 to \$12,500 for home buyers purchasing their first home. This can be applied to any new property with a total value of \$750,000 or less. Eligible purchasers also have access to the Home Buyer Concession Scheme, which assists persons purchasing residential land or a home by charging stamp duty at a concessional rate; for certain eligible households the stamp duty is reduced to \$20. In addition, the Home Buyer Concession Scheme has also been expanded in the 2013-14 Budget. The income eligibility criteria has been increased from \$150,000 to \$160,000. The property threshold for which a full concession is available will increase from the 25th to the 40th percentile. This will provide a full duty concession for a property valued up to \$425,000 with a partial concession available for a property valued up to \$525,000 (the 65th percentile). Alternatively, eligible purchasers can defer the duty on their property through the Deferred Duty Scheme.

The ACT Government also assists low income households in the rental market through the provision of affordable housing programs. This is in addition to the provision of public housing for people who have difficulty obtaining housing in the private rental market and/or have special needs. The total rent rebate provided by Government for public housing concessions (the gap between the market rent of the portfolio versus the amount collected in rebated rents from tenants) was in the order of \$133 million in 2012-13. This made a significant difference to people on low incomes, easing their cost of living pressures.

The 2012 Targeted Assistance Strategy (the Strategy) was aimed at those people and families who sit just above the concessions safety net and are not receiving government income support but are at risk of 'financial shock'. These families are more likely to experience financial stress but less likely to seek assistance from community or welfare organisations. The focus of the Strategy was on how to ease household pressures and reduce the shock of a big bill hitting the family budget. The Strategy provides a total of 34 short, medium and long term recommendations on how Government, business and community groups can better target assistance to Canberrans in need. The ACT Government continues to work across all its Directorates to advance the recommendations.

One outcome of the the Strategy was to establish the ACT Government Assistance website www.assistance.act.gov.au. Launched in April 2013, the website provides a single portal for government and community assistance. It has been promoted by Government and its community sector partners and has received positive feedback from the community as well as over 76,000 visits in its first year. Other initiatives have included targeted energy efficiency schemes; building financial capacity through the flexible payment of fees and fines and better access to public dental schemes.

Eligibility for concessions is based on incomes and asset tests, determined by the Commonwealth. Persons eligible for concessions are generally holders of Commonwealth Health or Pensioner cards. There are also a number of age related concessions through the Seniors Card which qualify a holder for public transport and motor vehicle registration concessions. Concessions are predominantly targeted to low income earners, i.e. young people, people with a disability, concession card holders and seniors.

Assistance to Households through Concessions

In 2013-14, the ACT Government will provide a significant range of concessions to households, most notably in the areas of General Rates, the Fire and Emergency Services Levy, driver licence and motor vehicle registration fees, public transport fares and utility charges. Concessions are also available for some eligible individuals for spectacles, the energy costs of life support equipment, the Taxi Subsidy Scheme, energy and water efficiency programs and EWaste. Information on available concessions can be found on the ACT Government's Assistance website and/or by phoning Canberra Connect.

A range of Commonwealth concessions and assistance programs are also available to offset eligible households' living costs, however these payments have not been included in the tables that follow.

Cost of Living Statement

Under Section 11(1)(f) of the *Financial Management Act 1996*, the Territory is required to provide a statement about the effect of Territory taxes and fees on households and the concessions that offset these taxes and fees.

The Government is mindful that in calculating the impact of taxes, fees and charges on a representative household, it is not possible to capture the full range of household types, financial circumstances, or specific usage patterns of government service. A number of household scenarios are presented as a basis for highlighting the differential impact for different household types and different circumstances.

ACT Household Scenarios

The scenarios below present the estimated impact of Territory taxes, fees and utility charges and the concessions which offset them on five representative households. Other potential savings, which can reduce cost of living pressures, are also outlined

When comparing these tables to the 2012-13 Cost of Living Statement, please note parking costs have been included in the 2013-14 Cost of Living Statement. Water and sewerage are presented with a range of prices because the ICRC will not issue its final pricing determination for 2013-14 until 12 June 2013. Also note that the Commonwealth Government *Clean Energy Household Assistance Package* helps low and middle income households manage the impact of the carbon price on their costs of living and utility charges. See Table Notes for the full breakdown of figures represented in the tables.

Household One

Shashi and Ravi are a single income family renting in Monash. They have a household income of \$65,000 a year and access to Centrelink Health Care Cards. Their daughter, Aanya, has a disability and the family currently receive support through Disability ACT, their local school and other community organisations. As a result of initiatives funded in this Budget they will be able to apply for a number of grants under the Enhanced Service Offer as part of the ACT transition to DisabilityCare. The grants are available for:

- up to \$12,000 to purchase flexible supports and services through to December 2014;
- up to \$10,000 for aids, equipment and minor modifications; and
- up to \$5,000 for items, activities and supports which may enhance their quality of life.

Table 2.4.2 shows the costs of taxes, fees and charges net of concessions and the percentage change from 2012-13 to 2013-14 for Shashi, Ravi and their family.

Table 2.4.2
Estimated Impact of Territory Taxes and Fees, and Utility Charges 2013-14 on Household One

Government Taxes and Fees, and Utility Charges	Net of Concessions	Gross	Concessions	Net of Concessions	Change	Savings
	2012-13	2013-14	2013-14	2013-14		2013-14
	\$	\$	\$	\$	%	\$
Property						
Savings: Reduction in duty on contents insurance						-13.64
Transport						
Fees: Driver licence fee, vehicle registration, road safety fees and CTP insurance and ACTION fares	1,143.56	2,222.40		1,249.00	9.22	
Concessions: Drivers license, registration, ACTION fares			-973.40			
Savings: Reduction in duty on car insurance						-28.00
Utilities						
Fees: Electricity, gas, water and sewerage	3,581.48	4,001.60		3,595.45	0.39	
		4,163.60		3,757.45	2.53	
Concessions: Energy, utility, water and sewerage			-406.15			
Other Concessions Potentially Available through DisabilityCare						
Flexible supports and services through to December 2014			12,000.00			
Aids, equipment and minor modifications			10,000.00			
Items, activities and supports which may enhance their quality of life.			5,000.00			

Source: Chief Minister and Treasury Directorate

Other concessions available to Shashi and Ravi include:

- being a priority household for the purposes of the Energy Efficiency Improvement Scheme to help manage utility costs;
- Special Needs Transport to and from school for Aanya;
- free ambulance travel;
- a range of free dental health services are available for all family members;
- the No Interest Loan Scheme to purchase essential household items; and
- access to the Land Rent Scheme, if the family decides to enter the property market.

Household Two

Sam and Cameron are currently renting in Gungahlin and will buy their first house in Franklin in 2013-14. They will buy a townhouse for \$410,000. Their household income is \$120,000.

As a result of initiatives announced in this Budget, Sam and Cameron will have access to the First Home Owner Grant which has increased in 2013-14 from \$7,000 to \$12,500 for the purchase of a new home. They will also be eligible for the Home Buyer Concession Scheme (HBCS) which will allow them to reduce conveyance duty on their home purchase from \$13,050 to \$20.

Sam works full time and Cameron studies and works part-time. Sam catches the Red Rapid bus service to work, to save on parking costs. Cameron cycles to work in Dickson and university most days. They will use the Franklin Community Recreation Irrigated Park, funding for which is included in this Budget.

Table 2.4.3 below shows the costs of taxes, fees and charges net of concessions and the percentage change from 2012-13 to 2013-14 for Sam and Cameron for their new home.

Table 2.4.3
Estimated Impact of Territory Taxes and Fees, and Utility Charges 2013-14 on Household Two

Government Taxes and Fees, and Utility Charges	Net of Concessions	Gross	Concessions	Net of Concessions	Change	Savings
	2012-13	2013-14	2013-14	2013-14		
	\$	\$	\$	\$	%	\$
Property						
Fees: <i>General rates, Fire and Emergency Services Levy</i>	1,089.28	1,189.13		1,189.13	9.17	
Savings:						
<i>Duty from home and contents and life insurance</i>						-46.00
<i>First Home Owners Grant</i>						-12,500.00
<i>Home Buyer Concessions Scheme</i>						-13,030.00
Transport						
Fees: <i>Driver licence fee, vehicle registration, road safety fees and CTP insurance and ACTION fares</i>	902.60	966.88		966.88	7.12	
Savings: <i>Rewards for Safe Driving and reduction in duty on car insurance</i>						-38.78
Utilities						
Fees: <i>Electricity, gas, water and sewerage</i>						
<i>from</i>	4,656.78	4,557.84		4,557.84	-2.12	
<i>to</i>		4,886.22		4,886.22	4.93	

Source: Chief Minister and Treasury Directorate

Household Three

Arthur and Jessie live in their own home in Waramanga and both receive a full pension. Arthur has had an ACTION Gold Concession Card for two years, since he turned 75 and this year Jessie, 72, will have hers as a result of the initiative funded in this Budget which reduces the eligible age to 70. Jessie catches the bus to Woden most weekdays to volunteer and twice a week they drive to local community-run Seniors Groups.

Table 2.4.4 below shows the costs of taxes, fees and charges net of concessions and the percentage change from 2012-13 to 2013-14 for Arthur and Jessie.

Table 2.4.4
Estimated Impact of Territory Taxes and Fees, and Utility Charges 2013-14 on Household Three

Government Taxes and Fees, and Utility Charges	Net of Concessions	Gross	Concessions	Net of Concessions	Change	Savings
	2012-13	2013-14	2013-14	2013-14		2013-14
	\$	\$	\$	\$	%	\$
Property						
Fees: <i>General rates, Fire and Emergency Services Levy</i>	947.40	1,749.00		1,067.50	12.68	
Concessions: <i>Rates, Fire and Emergency Services Levy</i>			-681.50			
Savings: <i>Home and contents insurance savings, life insurance</i>						-60.00
Transport						
Fees: <i>Driver licence fee, vehicle registration, road safety fees, CTP insurance and ACTION fares</i>	802.60	1,953.60		598.20	-25.47	
Concessions: <i>Drivers license, registration, and ACTION fares</i>			-1355.40			
Savings: <i>Reduction in duty on car insurance</i>						-28.00
Utilities						
Fees: <i>Electricity, gas, water and sewerage</i>						
<i>from</i>	3,185.98	3,935.21		3,151.06	-1.10	
<i>to</i>		4,231.05		3,333.90	4.64	
Concessions: <i>Energy, utility, water and sewerage</i>						
<i>from</i>			-784.15			
<i>to</i>			-897.15			
Other Concessions Potentially Available						
Spectacles			22.00			
Dog owner licenses			29.90			
Life support energy			121.87			

Source: Chief Minister and Treasury Directorate

Other concessions available to Arthur and Jessie include:

- being a priority household for the purposes of the Energy Efficiency Improvement Scheme to help manage utility costs;
- if one or both of the couple have a disability that prevents them, for a minimum period of six months, from using public transport, they would be entitled to access the Taxi Subsidy Scheme. The scheme provides a 50 per cent to 75 per cent subsidy towards the cost of taxi transport. This is up to \$22.50 or \$34.50 per trip, depending on whether they can use a standard taxi or not, or a maximum of \$2,835 or \$4,347 respectively per year;
- as Arthur and Jessie age, if one of them find themselves needing to use electrically operated life support equipment at home (such as a dialysis machine or respirator, as prescribed by an ACT medical practitioner), they would be entitled to a Life Support Rebate of \$121.87 per annum on their electricity account. If the equipment depended on a fresh supply of water, they may also be entitled to a reduction in water usage charges; and
- an exemption from the normal \$831 Emergency Ambulance Service fee, if they use an ambulance to travel to hospital in an emergency.

Household Four

Ainslie and Brook live in Kaleen. They have an annual household income of \$156,000, own their own home (valued at \$555,000) and both work full time. They have two children: Morgan in primary school and Katie in high school. They share school drop offs for Morgan and Katie catches the bus to school. Most days one of them catches the bus to work and the other drives their family sedan. They have building and contents insurance for their home and life insurance.

Both children belong to local sports clubs and play sport at ovals around the city. The whole family regularly use their local library. As a result of initiatives included in this Budget the family will be able to use the Belconnen Community Health Centre and the Walk-In Centre.

Table 2.4.5 below shows the costs of taxes, fees and charges net of concessions and the percentage change from 2012-13 to 2013-14 for Ainslie, Brook and their family.

Table 2.4.5
Estimated Impact of Territory Taxes and Fees, and Utility Charges 2013-14 on Household Four

Government Taxes and Fees, and Utility Charges	Net of Concessions	Gross	Concessions	Net of Concessions	Change	Savings
	2012-13	2013-14	2013-14	2013-14		
	\$	\$	\$	\$	%	\$
Property						
Fees: <i>General rates, Fire and Emergency Services Levy</i>	1,508.80	1,660.00		1,660.00	10.02	
Savings: <i>Reduction in duty on home and contents and life insurance</i>						-66.00
Transport						
Fees: <i>Driver licence fee, vehicle registration, road safety fees and CTP insurance and ACTION fares</i>	4,122.22	4,600.61		4,600.61	11.61	
Savings: <i>Rewards for Safe Driving and reduction in duty on car insurance</i>						-38.78
Utilities						
Fees: <i>Electricity, gas, water and sewerage</i>						
	<i>from</i>	5,252.14	5,160.04	5,160.04	-1.75	
	<i>to</i>		5,512.72	5,512.72	4.96	

Source: Chief Minister and Treasury Directorate

Household Five

Francis lives in social housing in Narrabundah and is on full Centrelink benefits. She uses the local bus at a full concessional rate and participates in a range of community programs to improve her skills. She recently took out a No Interest Loan to replace her washing machine and in 2013-14 will apply for a micro-credit loan under the micro-credit initiative announced in this Budget. This will provide Francis some capital to start her own cleaning business as well as provide her with business skills and mentoring to give her business the best chance of success.

Table 2.4.6 below shows the costs of taxes, fees and charges net of concessions and the percentage change from 2012-13 to 2013-14 for Francis.

Table 2.4.6
Estimated Impact of Territory Taxes and Fees, and Utility Charges 2013-14 on Household Five

Government Taxes and Fees, and Utility Charges	Net of	Gross	Concessions	Net of	Change	Savings
	Concessions			Concessions		
	2012-13	2013-14	2013-14	2013-14	%	2013-14
	\$	\$	\$	\$		\$
Transport						
Fees: <i>ACTION fares</i>	258.00	1,020.00		280.80	8.84	
Concessions: <i>ACTION</i>			-739.20			
Utilities						
Fees: <i>Energy and gas</i>	1,580.23	2,026.10		1,619.95	2.51	
Concessions: <i>Energy and utility</i>			-406.15			

Source: Chief Minister and Treasury Directorate

Other concessions available to Francis include:

- the Supportive Tenancy Service which provides support to people in housing stress, or who may have an 'at risk' tenancy regardless of the reason.

TABLE NOTES

ACT Household Scenarios

General

Costs for 2012-13 are as per the 2012-13 Budget Cost of Living Statement unless otherwise indicated. Costs for 2013-14 may include changes that occurred during 2012-13 that were not forecast at the time of the 2012-13 Budget.

Transport

Where CTP premiums apply – CTP premiums increased from 1 September 2012. The CTP Regulator Levy, included in the CTP premium (at \$0.50) in 2012-13, came into effect as a separate levy (\$1.00) on 1 May 2013.

For drivers licence fees, the cost of a five year drivers licence is divided proportionally for each year. For 2013-14, drivers are assumed to receive the 20 per cent Rewards for Safe Driving discount.

Parking costs have been included in the 2013-14 Cost of Living Statement (they were not included in the 2012-13 Budget).

Utilities

Consumption

Electricity consumption figures are based on a 'per person per household' basis for the ACT sourced from the energymadeeasy.gov.au website and rounded to the nearest 100 kWh. Natural gas and water consumption figures are derived: using electricity consumption proportion as a proxy for determining a base level; and per person consumption differentials calculated using average residential consumption and average number of persons per household.

Note: ACT average residential consumption: electricity (8,200 kWh); natural gas (47.42 GJ); and water (180 kL). Sources: ICRC and National Water Commission. The average number of persons per household in the ACT is 2.6. Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2011 Census QuickStats: Australian Capital Territory.

Pricing

An increase in electricity price for 2013-14 is based on the estimated increase in the Consumer Price Index for 2013-14 in lieu of the Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission's (ICRC) regulated retail electricity price reset for 2013-14. An increase in natural gas price for 2013-14 is based on the New South Wales Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal draft increase in the regulated retail price for gas supplied by ActewAGL for 2013-14.

Water and sewerage – the ICRC's final price determination for water and sewerage services for 2013-14 is due by 12 June 2013. A range of costs is presented for water and sewerage charges in 2013-14. These reflect the possible upper and lower prices, respectively, the prices contained in ACTEW Corporation's submission to the ICRC of April 2013 and the ICRC's draft price direction for water and sewerage services of February 2013.

Revisions for 2012-13 Figures

Electricity – figures are rebased for consumption (as above) and price. Natural gas – figures are rebased for consumption (as above) and price (including GST).

Water – figures are rebased for consumption (as above).

Electricity pricing for the 2012-13 is based on the *Always Home@ActewAGL Plan*.

Natural gas – pricing for 2012-13 is based on the *Always Home@ActewAGL Plan*. Water and sewerage prices are based on ACTEW ACT residential prices for 2012-13.

Household One (Table 2.4.2)

Property

For 2013-14, savings comprise a reduction in duty on insurance (\$13.64).

Assumptions

Insurance premiums are \$341.03 for contents insurance.

Transport

For 2013-14, transport fees net of concession comprise: vehicle registration (\$10); Road Rescue Fee (\$16.00); Road Safety Contribution (\$2.00); CTP insurance (\$579.20); CTP Regulator Levy (\$1.00); and the Adult 5 Days a Week ACTION fare (\$640.80).

For 2013-14, savings comprise the impact of reducing the duty on car insurance (\$28.00).

For 2013-14, concessions comprise: driver licence (\$31.40); and vehicle registration (\$294.00); and ACTION's concession fare (\$648.00).

Assumptions

Fees are calculated based on one driver and one car with a vehicle tare weight of 1,155kg to 1,504kg.

Health Card Concession card holders receive one year licences at no charge and a car registration surcharge of \$10.00.

Insurance premiums for 2013-14 are \$700 for comprehensive car insurance.

The Centrelink Healthcare Card provides access to ACTION's concession fare. Shashi travels twice a day at peak time 5 days a week and reaches the monthly travelling cap of 36 (for the 2012 Calendar year) and 40 (for the 2013 Calendar year).

Utilities

For 2013-14, utility charges net of concessions comprise: electricity (\$1,593.61); natural gas (\$1,597.84); water (\$404.00 to \$566.00).

For 2013-14, applicable concessions include: energy and utility concessions (\$406.15). Note, energy and utility concessions are netted from electricity only.

Assumptions

Consumption per year: electricity (8,700 kWh); natural gas (51 GJ); and water (200 kL). Water consumption used is consistent with the 'typical customer' used by the ICRC in its ICRC's draft price direction for water and sewerage services of February 2013.

Supply charges for water and sewerage are assumed to be paid by the lessor as per the Residential Tenancies Act 1997. No concession is provided for water, as Shashi and Ravi are not eligible and the water rebate applies to supply charges only.

Household Two (Table 2.4.3)

Property

For 2013-14, property fees comprise: general rates (\$1,069.13); and Fire and Emergency Services Levy (\$120.00).

For 2013-14, property savings include: the impact of reducing the duty on insurance (\$46.00); First Home Owners Grant (\$12,500) and Home Buyer Concession Scheme (\$13,030).

Assumptions

A townhouse with a AUV of \$180,000 in Franklin.

Insurance premiums for 2013-14 are: \$1,500 for home and contents insurance; and \$300 for life insurance.

Transport

For 2013-14, transport fees comprise: driver licence fees (\$53.90); vehicle registration (\$304.00); Road Rescue Fee (\$16.00); Road Safety Contribution (\$2.00); CTP Insurance (\$579.20); and CTP Regulator Levy (\$1.00).

For 2013-14, transport savings comprise the impact of reducing the duty on car insurance (\$28.00).

Assumptions

Fees are calculated based on two drivers and one car with a vehicle tare weight of 1,155kg to 1,504kg.

Insurance premiums for 2013-14 are \$700 for comprehensive car insurance.

Utilities

For 2013-14, utility charges comprise: electricity (\$1,697.76); natural gas (\$1,358.25); water (\$423.20 to \$568.98); and sewerage (\$456.24 to \$606.44).

Assumptions

Consumption per year: electricity (7,200 kWh); natural gas (42 GJ); and water (160 kL).

Concessions

None.

Household Three (Table 2.4.4)

Property

For 2013-14 property fees net of concessions comprise: general rates (\$1,007.50); and Fire and Emergency Services Levy (\$60.00).

For the 2013-14 property savings comprise: reduced duty on home and contents insurance (\$60.00).

Assumptions

Median rates in Waramanga.

In 2013-14, insurance premiums are \$1,500 for home and contents insurance.

Transport

For 2013-14, transport fees net of concessions comprise: driver licence fees (\$0.00); vehicle registration (\$0.00); Road Rescue Fee (\$16.00); Road Safety Contribution (\$2.00); CTP Insurance (\$579.20); and CTP Regulator Levy (\$1.00).

For 2013-14, transport savings comprise the impact of reducing the duty on car insurance (\$28.00).

For 2013-14, concessions comprise: drivers license (\$31.40); vehicle registration (\$304.00); and ACTION (\$1,020.00).

Assumptions

Fees are calculated based on one driver and one car with a vehicle tare weight of 1,155kg to 1,504kg.

Insurance premiums for 2013-14 are \$700 for comprehensive car insurance.

For 2012-13, Jessie accesses the off-peak single trip 5 days a week and reached the monthly travelling cap of 36 (for the 2012 Calendar year) and 40 (for the 2013 Calendar year).

Utilities

For 2013-14, utility charges net of concessions comprise: electricity (\$1,291.61); natural gas (\$1,358.25); water (\$355.20 to \$489.98); and sewerage (\$146.00 to \$194.06).

For 2013-14, applicable concessions include: energy and utility concessions (\$406.15); water rebate (\$68.00 to \$79.00); and sewerage rebate (\$310.24 to \$412.38). Note, energy and utility concessions are netted from electricity only.

Assumptions

Consumption per year: electricity (7,200 kWh); natural gas (42 GJ); and water (160 kL).

Household Four (Table 2.4.5)

Property

For 2013-14, property fees comprise: general rates (\$1,540.00); and Fire and Emergency Services Levy (\$120.00).

For 2013-14, property savings include the impact of reducing the duty on insurance (\$66).

Assumptions

Median rates for Kaleen.

Insurance premiums for 2013-14 are: \$1,500 for home and contents insurance; and \$300 for life insurance.

Transport

For 2013-14 transport fees comprise: driver licence fees (\$53.90), vehicle registration (\$304.00), Road Rescue Fee (\$16.00), Road Safety Contribution (\$2.00), CTP Insurance (\$579.20), CTP Regulator Levy (\$1.00), School Student ACTION fare (\$264.93), Adult ACTION fare (\$1,288.80) and Parking (\$2,080.00).

For 2013-14, transport savings comprise the impact of reducing the duty on insurance (\$28).

Assumptions

Fees are calculated based on two drivers and one car with a vehicle tare weight of 1,155kg to 1,504kg.

Insurance premiums for 2013-14 are \$700 for comprehensive car insurance.

A 30 ride paid cap for students is reached taking rides to and from school.

ACTION fare is \$2.65 with MyWay Card capped at 40 paid trips per month. The 2012-13 figure has been amended to take the increase in the cap from 36 to 40 into account.

Parking costs have been included in the 2013-14 Cost of Living Statement (they were not included in the 2012-13 Budget). A 12 month parking voucher is purchased for Zone B City Centre parking.

Utilities

For 2013-14, utility charges comprise: electricity (\$2,301.75); natural gas (\$1,837.44); water (\$564.60 to \$767.08); and sewerage (\$456.24 to \$606.44).

Assumptions

Consumption per year: electricity (10,200 kWh); natural gas (60 GJ); and water (230 kL).

Concessions

None.

Household Five (Table 2.4.6)

Transport

For 2013-14, transport fees net of concessions comprises the Adult 5 Days a Week ACTION fare (\$280.80). Concessions comprise ACTION's concession fare (\$739.20).

Assumptions

The Centrelink Card provides access to ACTION's concession fare. Francis is assumed to travel off peak time 5 days a week twice a day and reaches the monthly travelling cap of 36 (for the 2012 Calendar year) and 40 (for the 2013 Calendar year).

Utility Charges

For 2013-14, utility charges net of concessions comprise: electricity (\$741.43); and natural gas (\$878.52).

For 2013-14, applicable concessions include: energy and utility concessions (\$406.15). Note, energy and utility concessions are netted from electricity only.

Assumptions

Consumption per year: electricity (5,700 kWh); natural gas (33 GJ); and water (125 kL). Water and sewerage charges are paid by Housing ACT. Otherwise they are valued at: water (\$352.50 to \$469.93); and sewerage (\$456.24 to \$606.44).

