

INVESTING IN HEALTH

The ACT Government is continuing its investment and commitment to delivering high quality health services and will deliver over \$164 million over four years for growth and new initiatives in the ACT health system, Chief Minister Katy Gallagher announced today.

The ACT Government is making a record investment in Health and Community Care allocating almost \$1.4 billion in 2014-15. The budget will also deliver \$122 million over four years in capital funding in the 2014-15 ACT Budget under the Health Infrastructure Program - the government's largest infrastructure program and investment in our future.

This funding will build on health services delivered in hospitals, nurse-led Walk in Centres and in the community, as well as meet the need for future infrastructure expansion to address increasing demand for public health services.

These investments will deliver more doctors and nurses, hospital beds and expansion of services in state of the art health care facilities.

Meeting demand for health services

\$54.6 million for more general inpatient beds and Hospital in the Home

The 2014-15 ACT budget will provide an additional 31 inpatient hospital beds in the 2014-15 financial year. 16 of these beds will be opened at Canberra Hospital and 15 will be opened at Calvary Public Hospital.

This initiative will also see an increase of 39 full time equivalent (FTE) staff at Canberra Hospital in 2014-15 for the delivery of these additional inpatient services.

A further six bed equivalents will be provided through expansion of the Hospital in the Home program.

The 2014-15 Budget also provides \$1.5 million for the continuation of birthing services at Calvary Public Hospital.

\$34.1 million towards elective surgery including bariatric surgery

This funding of \$33.0 million over four years will fund up to an additional 500 elective surgery procedures in 2014-15. It is expected that this will reduce the number of people on the waiting list to 300 people by June 2015.

This initiative also includes \$1.03 million over four years for bariatric surgery. Bariatric surgery provides a surgical option for people struggling with obesity and is closely linked to the newly opened Obesity Management Service.

\$15.1 million in expansion of intensive and critical care services

As the major tertiary referral and trauma centre for the ACT and surrounding region it is essential the Canberra Hospital continues to deliver the highest quality intensive care facilities. Funding in the 2014-15 ACT Budget will see increased capacity of intensive care services to meet demand for critical and high dependency admissions. This funding provides two additional Intensive Care Unit beds at Canberra Hospital and 1 additional Intensive Care Unit bed at Calvary Public Hospital.

Increased investment in health services for women and children

Over the past three years, the number of births at ACT public hospitals has increased by 16%, with Canberra Hospital experiencing a 20% increase over the same period.

\$8.8 million will be provided for the expansion of services, five additional beds and 15.4 FTE staff. In addition, \$1.9 million will enhance current services for women, youth and children.

This continued investment will see high quality health services continue to be delivered in the hospital and in the community.

\$10.4 million for more cancer services and staff

Demand for cancer services continues to grow and cancer remains the major cause of morbidity and mortality, with cancer accounting for 19% of disease and injury in Canberrans (Chief Health Officer Report 2012).

The 2014-15 Budget includes:

- **\$8.5 million to provide more staff and services at the Canberra Region Cancer Centre; and**
- **\$1.9 million to expand lymphoedema services at Calvary Hospital .**

Other budget initiatives include:

- **\$3.5 million to provide better emergency department services**
- **\$1.3 million to expand Calvary Ophthalmology services**
- **\$1.2 million to expand endoscopy services**
- **\$9 million to expand outpatient and imaging services.**

Investing in community health services

\$11.7 million will deliver more staff and services and nurse-led Walk in Centres at Belconnen Community Health Centre and Tuggeranong Community Health Centre

\$9.4 million will fund an additional 8 FTE staff in 2014-15 and enable services to be expanded to deliver more services at the Belconnen Community Health Centre.

An additional \$2.3 million will fund the expanded operation of the newly refurbished Tuggeranong Community Health Centre. This includes \$449,000 in 2014-15 for an additional 4.5 FTE staff.

This initiative also includes full year funding for the new Belconnen Walk in Centre (funding for the Tuggeranong Walk in Centre has already been allocated).

\$3.8 million to expand community nursing

Community nurses support our most vulnerable people in their homes and a further \$3.8 million over four years will extend this existing community nursing program in the areas of maternal and child health, community nurses and oncology nurses.

\$8.9 million investment in mental health care

This 2014-15 ACT Budget continues the government's commitment to caring for those in our community affected by mental illness. These initiatives include:

- \$4.2 million to expand Community Mental Health services - including enhanced care for children and young people and their carers.
- \$2.1 million to improve suicide prevention services including support for people affected by suicide and further investment in the Mental Health Community Policing Initiative. Funding is also provided for research and promoting community awareness of suicide and suicide prevention under this initiative.
- \$2.6 million for implementation for the amended Mental Health (Treatment and Care) Act, which will come into effect in the 2014-15 financial year.

Health Infrastructure Program – investing in your healthcare

University of Canberra Public Hospital

The University of Canberra Public Hospital will provide sub acute health services as part of the ACT public hospital network. The hospital will also provide opportunities for teaching and research through partnerships with the University of Canberra. Total estimated investment is not reported at this time due to commercial sensitivities and procurement model considerations.

\$43.5 million for a Secure Mental Health Unit

Funding has been allocated to design and construct a 25 bed facility that co-locates acute and rehabilitation beds on the same site. This funding will deliver a safe and structured environment for people with moderate to severe mental illness.

\$19.1 million investment for Calvary Hospital to deliver a carpark and allow hospital expansion and electrical substation

This capital funding initiative will enable construction for a 700 vehicle car park on the Calvary Bruce hospital campus. This will be a net increase of 530 vehicle spaces. Construction of the carpark will also enable the continued investment and expansion of health services at Calvary Public Hospital to meet demand in the major growth areas of Canberra. The works will also enable upgrading of an electrical substation on the campus to support increased demand from additional clinical services and equipment.

\$1.6 million for 15 additional beds at Calvary Public Hospital

This investment forms part of a four year program to deliver an additional 54 acute beds at Calvary Public Hospital from July 2013 to June 2017. This program recognises the projected increased demand for health services and will deliver an additional 15 acute beds in 2014-15 at Calvary Public Hospital.

Other initiatives included under the Health Infrastructure Program include:

- **\$24.3 million for the redevelopment of Canberra Hospital**
- **\$27.7 million Health Infrastructure Program – Project Management**
- **\$5.6 million for infrastructure upgrades.**