

Policing and Community Safety

ACT Labor is committed to building a better city and stronger community which ensures the safety of all Canberrans now and into the future.

We are determined to continue to fight crime and the causes of crime to ensure that Canberra retains its reputation as one of the safest cities in Australia.

ACT Labor is continuing to improve safety in public places with more police on the beat than ever before. We have boosted police numbers with 122 extra police on the beat and 16 extra patrol cars now on duty.

ACT Labor is expanding and upgrading the CCTV network in the City Centre and, for first time, is providing CCTV coverage in the Manuka and Kingston entertainment precincts. We are also working to build closer partnerships with local communities and businesses, police and security officers to further improve public safety on our streets.

ACT Labor has achieved positive results for the community. During the term of the current ACT Labor Government, burglary and break and enter offence rates have hit a 10-year low. Car theft has also been slashed by 26%.

ACT Labor remains committed to an evidence based approach which not only reacts to crime when it occurs, but also actively works to reduce the causes of crime.

A fairer and safer Canberra is ACT Labor's ongoing goal and commitment.

Jon Stanhope
Chief Minister

Simon Corbell
Minister for Police and Emergency
Services

A Strong Record of supporting Police and improving Public Safety

ACT Labor has made a significant investment on behalf of all Canberrans to provide for a safe Canberra.

ACT Labor's focus is not only on providing better resources to our police, but also investing in initiatives which reduce the opportunities for crime to occur and which provide a safer environment for all Canberrans.

Our Record

Since it was elected the ACT Labor Government has:

- Provided an extra 122 police officers on the beat since 2001-02; with 878 sworn and unsworn personnel protecting Canberrans;
- Ensured extra resources to allow for a new policing roster, bringing an additional 16 patrol cars onto the streets;
- Introduced the successful Property Crime Reduction Strategy with burglary and break enter offence at their lowest level for 10 years at the end of 2007;
- Motor vehicle theft has been reduced by 26 per cent since 2003.
- Expanded and modernised Closed Circuit Television Networks (CCTV) in the City Centre, Manuka and Kingston;
- Introduced the engine immobilisers scheme providing 5000 rebates for citizens that don't have a vehicle immobiliser in their car to help prevent car theft;
- Legislated for new police powers to issue on the spot fines to tackle anti-social behaviour in public places;
- Installed new secure motorcycle bays in Woden and the City Centre to help prevent motorcycle theft; and,
- Built the new Woden Police Station.

In the most recent Budget 2008-09 the ACT Labor Government has:

- Boosted Prison and Offender Related Initiatives [\$2.442 million in 2008 09, \$10.115 million over four years];
- Targeted programs to address offenders' criminal behaviours and to provide them with the skills and support needed to successfully return into the community;
- Improved Liquor Regulation [\$0.241 million in 2008 09, \$1.004 million over four years];
- Provided \$17.6 million for a new Belconnen Police Station. The new police station at Belconnen adjacent to the existing Winchester facility, will provide modern and effective police facilities for the northside of Canberra;
- Expanded the CCTV network with \$7.9 million over four years; and,

- Funded the upgrade of CCTV in Civic, installation of CCTV at Manuka Oval, Exhibition Park, and popular entertainment night spots.

Moving Forward

Suburban Policing Consultative Committees

ACT Labor believes residents need to have more direct involvement on how Police service their local neighbourhood. By giving Canberrans a direct say on police priorities and activities in their suburb, public confidence in policing and perceptions of safety can be further improved and connections with the community strengthened.

ACT Labor will trial the establishment of two Suburban Policing Consultative Committees, one on the northside and one on the southside of Canberra.

The Committees will include representatives of residents and ACT Policing Officers assigned to these suburbs as part of the Suburban Policing Strategy (SPS).

The Consultative Committees will work collaboratively to identify issues of concern to local residents and help target police activities in these areas. ACT Policing will then report back to residents on what they have done to tackle the issues identified by the Committee.

This innovative approach will provide further accountability between police and the community and help police target local issues in a neighbourhood.

ACT Labor will provide \$300,000 over 12 months for a trial of Suburban Policing Consultative Committees. The trial will then be evaluated to determine its success.

Community Safety CCTV Partnership Program

A re-elected ACT Labor Government will work with business and property owners, police, private security providers and city rangers on a co-ordinated community safety partnership to integrate the use of CCTV and other strategies to combat crime and anti-social behaviour in Canberra's entertainment areas.

Under the Community Safety CCTV Partnership Program business owners, police, city Rangers, liquor and parking inspectors and security officers will work together as part of a co-ordinated strategy to improve safety in the entertainment areas in Manuka, Kingston and Civic.

This program will involve the co-ordination of law enforcement, liquor licensing, security activities and community consultation with local businesses. ACT Labor will provide \$1.5 million over four years to staff the program and fund an educational and awareness campaign to help improve public safety in the city's key entertainment precincts.

ACT Labor recognises the need for local community involvement to ensure crime is addressed from the ground up, bringing together all the relevant parties in a community-government partnership.

CCTV works best when it is used as a proactive tool. The new Community Safety CCTV Partnership will allow police, private business and property owners, private security providers and various government agencies to work together to identify crime hotspots and tackle them.

The focus will not just be on tackling crime but also using CCTV to identify improvements to public spaces, preventing damage to public or private property, improvements in traffic flow and parking, and crowd control.

Gungahlin Police Station 24 hours a day – 7 days a week

ACT Labor will provide \$3.1 million in recurrent funding to ensure the Gungahlin Police Station operates 24 hours a day – 7 days a week from January 2009. This initiative will provide an additional 24 police officers and an extra 2 dedicated patrol cars stationed at Gungahlin from next year to provide Gungahlin residents with a permanent, full-time police station.

ACT Labor has committed to this initiative in response to population growth in the Gungahlin area. The Gungahlin Police Station, which first opened in 1998, currently operates from 7am to 11pm, seven days a week.

The population of Gungahlin has doubled from 16,000 to 32,000 residents in this time and ACT Labor believes it is now appropriate to increase the police presence to a permanent, full-time basis. A full time Police Station is an essential expansion for the Gungahlin district, and will ensure the implementation of the shift overlap to cater for busy times

ACT Labor will also provide \$200,000 in capital funding to provide additional space for the extra officers to be located at the station.

A full-time Gungahlin Police Station will allow police to provide enhanced traffic enforcement capabilities, investigations and community engagement beyond business hours. Currently, officers from the Belconnen and City police stations patrol Gungahlin and respond to incidents that occur outside of Gungahlin station's opening hours.