

ACT LABOR

**POLICY POSITION**

**STATEMENT**

Released 19 September 2020. Updated 07 October 2020





## Foreword from Chief Minister Andrew Barr

In these uncertain times, ACT Labor has the right plan to support Canberra and protect local jobs.

We understand that a large part of our job, is to protect your job.

ACT Labor has always recognised that employment means more than putting food on the table and being able to pay the rent or mortgage. It provides meaning, structure, connection and opportunity in people's lives.

That's why our plan is to grow Canberra's employment base to 250,000 jobs by 2025, as part of our economic recovery.

ACT Labor is progressive, experienced and has a strong track record of delivering on our promises.

We built a network of five nurse-led walk-in centres to provide free healthcare, where and when you need it. We delivered Stage 1 of our city-wide light rail network, on time and on budget. We've built new schools and continued to upgrade the schools we know and love.

Our city is now powered by 100 per cent renewable electricity, which is driving down energy bills. We delivered a green waste bin to every household that wanted one.

Despite the bushfires and COVID-19 pandemic, the ACT still has the strongest labour market and lowest unemployment rate in the nation. The Canberra economy remains resilient, but we will keep working with local businesses to give them confidence to invest and hire.

Most importantly, we are doing everything we can to protect and create jobs in the ACT.

When our city faced the COVID-19 pandemic, the ACT Government stood up and dedicated hundreds of millions of dollars to support workers, households and businesses.

We made sure our health system was ready for whatever lies ahead, and we created new jobs in the ACT public service to support Canberrans that were left behind by Job Keeper.

We know the pandemic isn't over. We are working every day to protect the health and livelihoods of our community.

I hope you will support us with your vote, so we can keep delivering our plan.

My team of experienced MLAs has worked with the community on what matters to them and how we can continue to support an inclusive and active city.

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

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# Health

## What we stand for

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

## What we have achieved this term

Over the past decade we have invested more than \$1 billion in healthcare infrastructure and doubled our investment in frontline services.

From the innovative nurse led walk-in centres to a specialist women and children's hospital, regional cancer centre and rehabilitation and teaching hospital, we've been building a health system that provides better care, closer to home.

Canberrans love the convenience of our five nurse led walk-in centres – treating minor injuries and illness from 7.30am to 10pm, 365 days a year. In 2019, 67,000 patients received professional and compassionate care from our advance practice nurses, nurse practitioners and allied health staff across the centres in **Tuggeranong, Belconnen and Gungahlin**.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the newly opened **Weston Creek** walk-in centre has been a vital part of the response – it was designed specifically to help manage an infectious disease outbreak. In August, we opened the **Inner North** centre in Dickson, providing care closer to home for Inner North residents.

Not only do people receive great care at our walk-in centres, data shows us they are taking pressure off our busy emergency departments, with fewer non-urgent presentations.

The COVID-19 pandemic has created many health challenges. The ACT Labor Government has worked hard to coordinate our doctors, nurses and non-government partners to improve the way services are delivered under these tough conditions.

Over the past four years, we have:

- Established a network of five nurse led walk-in centres providing free healthcare across Canberra.
- Opened the University of Canberra Hospital in 2018 – a specialist rehabilitation hospital, offering quality healthcare through state-of-the-art technologies and innovative therapy spaces.
- Established Canberra Maternity Options to provide pregnant women with a streamlined, territory-wide service to help them find the maternity care that best suits them, refurbished Calvary's birthing suite and created a publicly funded home birth program.

- Delivered two new mobile dental clinics to ensure more Canberrans get better access to publicly funded dental services – including children and those who are doing it tough.
- Expanded Calvary Public Hospital’s Emergency Department with 22 new treatment spaces – a 50 per cent increase for Calvary and a 20 per cent increase in emergency department spaces across the ACT.
- Expanded Hospital in the Home across Canberra and Calvary hospitals and invested in better acute care services in aged care to keep people out of hospital wherever possible.
- Delivered more elective surgeries than ever before (now over 14,000 per year), with more theatres, more beds and more doctors and nurses.
- Boosted bulk billing in Canberra’s south by investing more than \$1 million into new bulk billing practices in Tuggeranong and Molonglo.
- Supported specialist primary care providers to deliver more GP, psychology and allied health services for young people, refugees and asylum seekers, homeless Canberrans and vulnerable public housing tenants in the inner north.
- Launched a new Healthy Canberra Plan to help keep Canberrans well throughout their lives, while reducing demand on our hospitals.
- Enabled pill testing trials at music festivals and fully decriminalised the personal use of cannabis by adults to reduce the harm associated with illicit drug use.
- Improved end-of-life care options and lobbied for the ACT to have the right to make its own decisions on voluntary assisted dying legislation.

## What we will continue to do

A re-elected ACT Labor Government will continue to strengthen the capacity of the ACT health system to meet the health and wellbeing needs of Canberrans and invest in the facilities that will bring health care closer to home.

We will:

- Hire 400 more doctors, nurses and other health professionals to keep our health system growing to meet the needs of our growing city. They will work in the expanded Canberra Hospital and across our community-based services, including walk-in centres.
- Continue to respond to COVID-19 based on expert public health advice and ensure our doctors, nurses, pathologists and other healthcare workers get the support they need.
- Complete the major expansion of the Canberra Hospital, delivering the biggest healthcare infrastructure investment since self-government, with a new emergency, surgical and critical care facility to ensure we keep meeting the acute care needs of Canberra and region residents.

- Deliver an expanded Centenary Hospital for Women and Children, including improvements to the 12-bed Paediatric High Care Unit and a new Adolescent Mental Health Unit.
- Continue the planning and design work for a new northside hospital to provide efficient, high quality services for residents right across Canberra and the surrounding region, ready for construction to start mid-decade.
- Deliver a world-class Digital Health Record for all ACT public health services to enable our healthcare workers to deliver better informed, more integrated care and to empower patients and carers with better access to their health information.
- Progress, negotiations for the new enterprise agreement for nurses and midwives, including the implementation of mandated nurse/midwife to patient ratios.
- Build Territory-wide public maternity services that are more mother and baby-centred, with improved access to continuity of care and carer models when that is the family's preference.
- Make the evidence-based parenting programs 'Relaxing into Parenting + Baby Makes Three' more widely available to parents preparing for the arrival of their first child.
- Continue to work across government and with the community to develop a First 1000 Days Strategy to ensure Canberra's children are getting the best start in life.
- Improve coordination of care for children who have serious long-term or life-threatening illnesses, and their families.
- Strengthen chronic disease management services using a patient care navigator model to support people with chronic and complex health conditions.
- Invest in more mental health support for Canberra's young people, to improve access and timeliness of care, better use new technologies, and provide more support for the most vulnerable children and young people in our community.
- Work with Aboriginal Health and Community Services to deliver a culturally appropriate residential alcohol and other drug rehabilitation service for the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.
- Ensure all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children have timely access to ear, nose and throat outpatient appointments and elective surgery.
- Work with the United Ngunnawal Elders Council and the Ngunnawal Bush Healing Farm Advisory Board to finalise the Healing Framework and deliver new residential programs.
- Strengthen the capacity of the ACT health system to meet the health and wellbeing needs of older Canberrans with complex health issues; and improve dementia care and access to wider government services for Canberrans living with dementia.

- Continue to advocate for the Canberra community to be given back the democratic right, by the Commonwealth Parliament, to respectfully debate and decide whether to enact voluntary assisted dying legislation.
- Always support a woman's right to choose. ACT Labor has led the way in abortion law reform by making abortion a health matter and introducing exclusion zones to protect people from being harassed or targeted. We will reduce the upfront cost of surgical abortion in the ACT, so women will be able to make difficult choices about their health care based solely on what is best for them and their body.

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 focus of bringing care closer to your home, when you need it most.

We will expand the range of services available, and show new ways to deliver health services that are better for the whole community, whether you're a first time parent, part of a growing family, a young person moving out of home, or a senior Canberran with limited mobility.

Our campaign announcements will show how a re-elected ACT Labor Government will work with local communities to keep you healthy, independent and able to live your best life, no matter what suburb you live in, or your age.

*Additional major Health portfolio commitments have been released over the past week, and will be attached as a standalone ALP Health Policy Statement at [Attachment A](#). These new announcements, and further health portfolio announcements made through the campaign, should be read in conjunction with this Statement.*



# Education

## What we stand for

We believe that every child deserves a great education and the opportunities that flow from it.

Our public education system must welcome all children as they come, with a diversity of backgrounds and circumstances, and support them towards their brightest future. Our education system must also mould mature and resilient young adults. It will achieve these things by providing equity of access for all children and responding to the needs of each individual.

We also know that teachers change lives. After personal factors related to a child, teachers are the single most significant factor in student achievement. Investing in teachers means investing in children.

## What we have achieved this term

- In 2018 we started providing all public school students in years 7 to 12 with a Chromebook so that everyone has access to the tools they need for learning. When the COVID-19 pandemic arrived, the ACT was the best placed in Australia to transition to remote learning. We also extended this program to provide Chromebooks to public school students in years 4, 5 and 6.
- We have fulfilled our commitment to employ an additional 20 school psychologists, bringing the total number of school psychologists to 81 across the public-school network.
- We established the Academy of Future Skills, which now has a home on the southside and the northside of the city. The academy sparks excitement and passion in public school students and will help set them up with the skills they need for the jobs of tomorrow.
- We released the *Future of Education Strategy*, which outlines our plan for education in the ACT over the next decade. This strategy is based on what we heard from the community throughout a 16-month consultation, with input from more than 5,000 people. Our clear plan is building an education system that values equity, student agency, access and inclusion.
- Drawing on the principles of the *Strategy*, we established the Muliyan off-campus flexible learning program, for students who need a different style of education to traditional classroom learning. It's changing lives for the better by helping young people re-engage in learning and return to mainstream school.
- In 2017, we launched the Safe and Inclusive Schools Initiative to equip schools with resources and support to provide a safe and inclusive environment for LGBTIQ+ people. The initiative is available to all schools in the ACT- government and non-government schools and steps in to take the place of the Safe Schools program.



### *Made ACT public schools a great place to work*

- In January 2020, more than 300 former contract school cleaners accepted secure jobs with the ACT Government. Having these essential workers on staff ensures their valuable skills and experience are more likely to remain with our all-important public education system. In response to COVID-19, we hired an additional 180 cleaners to conduct dedicated hygiene cleaning activities throughout each school day to keep school communities safe.
- ACT Labor demonstrated how much we value public school teachers by reaching a new enterprise agreement that has ACT public school teachers as the highest paid in the nation. We also improved teacher safety by working with the ACT Branch of the Australian Education Union to develop and implement a nation-leading occupational violence policy and management plan.
- We are also providing better support for new teachers through coaching and mentoring, and investing in the learning needs of established teachers, including scholarships to undertake a Master of Education degree.

### *Built, expanded and upgraded schools for our growing city*

The ACT Labor Government has made significant investment in public school infrastructure, to ensure that every child in the ACT has access to fit-for-purpose learning environments at their local school.

This has included:

- Building and opening Margaret Hendry School in Taylor, the first all-electric, carbon neutral school in the ACT.
- Investing \$85 million in public school capital upgrades, including classroom and staff room upgrades, improved outdoor learning spaces and cultural and sensory gardens, energy efficiency improvements, bathroom and change room upgrades and school expansions.
- Upgrading heating systems across nine ACT public schools.
- Upgrading school roofs.
- Expanding and upgrading Belconnen High School.
- Developing a purpose-built STEM facility at Caroline Chisholm High School.
- Investing about \$50 million to expand schools in Gungahlin, as well as providing expansions where needed across the city; and
- Allocating \$29 million to expand Franklin Early Childhood School from a P-2 to P-6 school.

We also provided \$15 million in infrastructure funding for non-government schools, consistent with needs-based funding principles.

## What we will continue to do

We will continue implementing the *Future of Education Strategy*.

### **Infrastructure**

We will continue building and expanding schools to meet the needs of our growing city while upgrading older schools to make them contemporary, more comfortable places for students to learn and for staff to work.

New school projects will include:

- A new public primary school in Molonglo which will be ready to welcome students for the 2021 school year, with a co-located high school to open in 2023. It will have a purpose-built gymnasium for roller derby and other sports as well as two sportsgrounds. This school will be the second carbon neutral school in the ACT.
- A new public primary school in Throsby ready for the 2022 school year.
- A new public high school in Kenny ready for the 2023 school year.
- Continue supporting school communities with funding for the Physical Activity Foundation and the Active Streets for Schools program.

We will also continue upgrades to our Student Administration System, including a transition to digital permission forms.

### **Supporting best practice pedagogy**

- We will continue to roll out the Positive Behaviour for Learning framework to all public schools. Positive Behaviour for Learning is an evidence-based framework for building a positive school culture and improving social, emotional, behavioural and academic outcomes for students.
- We will keep investing in the University of Canberra Affiliated Schools Program, an exciting initiative of the *Future of Education Strategy* designed to improve student learning from high-quality teaching and instructional leadership.
- We will continue to build partnerships between schools and the community to develop community schools. We know that community schools – schools that partner with community agencies to provide an integrated focus on academic, health and social services and youth and community development – contribute to better school outcomes and better community outcomes.

### **Student wellbeing and equity**

We will:

- Continue to provide Chromebooks to public school students in years 7-12 with this initiative demonstrating its worth during the period of remote learning due to COVID-19.
- Expand wellbeing supports in public schools and ensure every public school has access to a social or youth worker.

- Double the capacity of the Muliyan Off-Campus Flexible Education Program, which caters for 30 students on the southside of Canberra, and set up a second campus in Canberra's north, to meet increasing demand for the program.
- Work alongside the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community to develop a culturally safe space for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students experiencing vulnerability or disengagement from their public school. The program will run at Boomanulla Oval in Narrabundah.
- Recommit to, review and strengthen the Safe and Inclusive Schools Initiative and will consider how we can enhance the initiative.
- ACT Labor will build on existing supports to establish a whole-school approach to developing respectful relationship and gender equality among children and young people.
- Expand the bursary scheme to give low-income public-school families the opportunity to participate in activities on the same basis as their peers.
- Review the delivery of disability education together with people with disability and carers, and plan for the renewal of several aging specialist schools.

### *Preparing students for the workforce*

Today's generation of school-leavers are entering adult life facing a global economic recession created by the COVID-19 pandemic. A re-elected ACT Labor Government will make sure that students have the skills and experience they need to get a job, by:

- Establishing a new program to ensure that students on a vocational education and employment pathway have early access to vocational qualifications and training.
- Prioritising opportunities for young women, particularly in non-traditional occupations.

### *Teaching workforce*

We will continue developing programs to attract talented, passionate staff, so our children continue to receive the best possible education.

Specifically, we will:

- Work with the University of Canberra to ensure talented graduates want to work and progress in the public-school system. University of Canberra teaching students will receive early offers of employment on completion of their third year of study, while psychology students will be able to complete the practical experience components of their qualification in public schools.
- Establish a school leadership academy to build on mentoring and coaching, and to provide leadership qualifications for teachers.
- Develop a school workforce strategy, in conjunction with Catholic and independent schools, to encourage more people to become teachers and to keep as many people in the profession as possible.
- Increase the number of teacher librarians in public schools, and support teachers to complete their post-graduate qualification in teacher librarianship.

- Develop a languages strategy for ACT public schools, to make sure that students can pursue language studies. A key part of this will involve working with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community to ensure that future generations can learn Ngunnawal language and culture.

*Additional Education portfolio commitments will be made over the campaign. These will be attached as a standalone policy statement at [Attachment B](#) and should be read in conjunction with this document.*

# Transport

## What we stand for

Investing in transport infrastructure and a public transport network is essential to creating faster and easier commutes, and improved quality of life.

We are committed to tackling climate change by investing in public transport transitioning to zero emissions, plus more footpaths and bike paths to help make the switch to walking and cycling easy for as many people as possible.

## What we have achieved this term

### *Public transport*

ACT Labor has fundamentally improved public transport in our city with the delivery of light rail. We have:

- Launched light rail stage one in 2019, with one million trips taken in the first six months. We exceeded the number of passengers expected in 2021, a year early.
- Undertaken the necessary preliminary work to bring light rail to Woden, designing stage 2A (from the City to Commonwealth Park) and progressing the environmental approvals process for the entirety of stage 2. Pre-feasibility studies for future extensions to Belconnen and Tuggeranong are also underway.
- Seen an increase in the number of people using public transport. Although COVID-19 led to a significant decrease in the numbers of people catching public transport across the world, our network has continually operated at normal levels. ACT Labor has provided 692 additional services each weekday to help reduce crowding, while providing more services across Canberra.
- Implemented a new integrated bus and light rail network. Underpinned by 10 rapid services, including light rail, this network delivers frequent and reliable services across Canberra. We listened to community feedback and have continued to make improvements.
- Finalised Transport Canberra's *Zero-Emission Transition Plan* which will provide a roadmap to make the switch from diesel and CNG buses to a 100 per cent zero-emission fleet with all the supporting infrastructure, investment and skills required to get us there.

## *Active travel*

We have invested in walking and cycling as a key way to make our city more liveable, by:

- Expanding the role of the Active Travel office and schools-based active travel initiatives.
- Introduced school crossing supervisors to make it easier for kids to walk or ride to school.
- Investing in key missing links across our shared path network through major investments in cycling infrastructure, including the Belconnen Bikeway, Heysen Street link, Corinna Street separated cycleway, Flemington Road shared path extension and Tuggeranong Town Centre cycle improvements.
- Building new signalised intersections and crossings to support pedestrian and cycle priority and safety.

## *Roads*

The ACT Labor Government has delivered significant upgrades and improvements to roads and intersections across the Territory. We know that safe road infrastructure is important for Canberrans using their cars alongside public transport and active travel options:

- In Gungahlin, we completed the duplication of Gundaroo Drive stages one and two, between Mirrabai Drive and the Barton Highway.
- We delivered the Horse Park Drive duplication from the Federal Highway to Mulligans Flat Road, finishing the final stage and opening all four lanes between the Federal Highway and Well Station Drive to traffic in May 2019.
- We constructed the Ernest Cavanagh Street extension, ensuring traffic flows around the Gungahlin Town Centre faster and more safely.
- In Molonglo, we successfully duplicated Cotter Road from Yarralumla to John Gorton Drive, and Ashley Drive from Erindale Drive to Johnson Drive, making commuting faster for our growing community.

## What we will continue to do

### *Light rail*

- A re-elected ACT Labor Government will build light rail to Woden. We will continue to seek environmental approvals from the Commonwealth for Stage 2A to Commonwealth Park and Stage 2B to Woden, so procurement and construction can begin as quickly as possible at the best value for money, creating and supporting thousands of jobs.
- We will deliver the Mitchell light rail stop to provide better access to the Mitchell business district and the future residents of Kenny.

### *On-demand travel*

- ACT Labor knows how important our flexible bus service is in keeping people with mobility issues connected to the community. We will improve the flexible bus service by trialling a new demand-responsive transport service with an 'Uber-style' booking app (in addition to booking on the phone).
- We will also increase the number of buses used for the on-demand service, replacing the entire fleet over time with new low-floor, accessible, electric small buses.

### *Woden Interchange*

- We will build a new Woden CIT campus and a new Woden interchange, helping transform the Woden Town Centre as a great place to live, learn and work, with better transport.
- Consistent with the Woden Town Centre Master Plan, we will build a new Woden interchange on Callam Street to provide a more accessible, attractive and safer bus interchange and we will build the Woden light rail station as part of the project.

### *Ticketing system*

- ACT Labor will ensure Canberra's public transport has a modern account based ticketing system that provides passengers with convenient and flexible payment methods, such as tapping on and off with a credit card.

### *Active travel*

A re-elected ACT Labor Government will:

- Update the Active Travel Framework to provide coordinated active travel networks across the Territory.
- Build new, strategic cycling and pedestrian connections.
- Invest in maintaining the existing trunk cycle path network to ensure that these 'cycle highways' receive as much maintenance as our roads.
- Build all new major roads with either on-road cycle paths and/or off-road shared paths.
- Continue supporting school communities with funding for the Physical Activity Foundation and the Active Streets for Schools program.
- Continue to support the role of the ACT Government's Active Travel office and develop a public education campaign about the practical measures people can take to get started.
- Trial new ways of using roads that most efficiently move people and goods, while better supporting sustainable transport modes. This work will also look at best practice road intersection design and protected cycle way design from around the world, to inform trials in areas supported by the ACT Movement and Place Framework that prioritise walking and cycling.



### *Better roads to keep our city moving*

ACT Labor knows the value of good roads to keep our community moving, whether it's in a private vehicle, on public transport or hauling freight. As part of the next stage of our comprehensive road improvement plan for our growing city, we will:

- Duplicate the road currently named William Slim Drive, from the Barton Highway to Ginninderra Drive, with a new carriageway to improve safety, on-road cycle lanes, and a bridge over Ginninderra Creek.
- Duplicate William Hovell Drive from Drake Brockman Drive to John Gorton Drive, with designs completed and construction to begin shortly. This will improve travel times for Ginninderry residents and existing West Belconnen residents travelling to the city.
- Undertake major upgrades to the Monaro Highway, building a flyover at Lanyon Drive, and begin construction on a new grade-separated interchange at Isabella Drive.
- Duplicate 3km of Athllon Drive from Drakeford Drive to Sulwood Drive in Kambah/Wanniassa and from Melrose Drive to Shea Street in Phillip. The duplication will include priority for public transport and safety improvements for pedestrians and cyclists.
- Construct the final stages of John Gorton Drive including the 227.5m Molonglo River Bridge at Coppins Crossing. This will make it quicker and safer for residents of the Molonglo Valley to get to Belconnen and the City and improve access to Denman Prospect, Whitlam and the future Molonglo Town Centre.
- Work with other states and territories and the Commonwealth to set the parameters to trial and encourage electric vehicle take up.

*Additional Transport portfolio commitments will be made over the campaign. These will be attached as a standalone policy statement at [Attachment C](#) and should be read in conjunction with this document.*

## Climate change

### What we stand for

Canberra has shown the world that you can grow as a sustainable, prosperous city, while reducing carbon emissions and combating climate change.

ACT Labor's determination and success to move to 100 percent renewable electricity in the ACT is now driving down your power bills – most recently a decline of 2.6 per cent in the cost of electricity for ACT households and businesses for the 2020-21 financial year.

If the Australian Government can't act to take effective steps at the national level, it's up to the States and Territories to do the work. As our city grows, we will continue being a national and international leader, growing jobs while reducing our reliance on carbon emissions and pollutants that cause global warming.

### What we have achieved this term

- Powered Canberra with a 100 per cent renewable electricity.
- Reduced total carbon emissions by 40 per cent.
- Legislated an emissions target of zero net emissions by 2045.
- Power prices have dropped by 2.6 per cent in 2020-21 due to our investment in renewable energy sources.
- Supported the renewable and clean technology sector to grow.
- Rolled out battery storage to Canberra households.

### What we will continue to do

ACT Labor will continue to lead the effort to combat climate change, nationally and globally, while helping households reduce their energy costs. Now that we have reached 100% renewable electricity Labor will tackle the other large sources of emissions whilst creating and protecting jobs in the clean energy sector. As we move to zero net emissions by 2045, we will:

- Support tens of thousands of Canberra households to transition to more personally-produced and stored renewable energy, and significantly reduce their power bills, by establishing a \$150 million zero-interest loans scheme to purchase solar panels, batteries and high efficiency heat pumps, and encourage households to move away from gas.
- Tackle our largest source of emissions in transport by transitioning Canberra's entire public bus fleet to zero emissions by 2037 or earlier. We will buy 90 battery electric buses in the next term, building a new zero-emissions bus depot in Canberra's North and building electric bus infrastructure at the new Woden Depot.
- Bring down waste emissions by up to 30% by recycling food waste, extending the green bin collections to include food, so that it can be turned into compost and reduce methane emissions from our landfill.

- Plant and care for the 450,000 trees necessary to reach a 30 per cent tree canopy target.
- Continue to pioneer innovations to reduce emissions, transforming our city into the place where innovators come to build the solutions to tackle climate change; and support new clean industries to create high-tech jobs across our city.
- Ensure climate change outcomes continue to be considered as part of government decision making, procurements and projects.
- Help our city and its residents adapt to current and unavoidable global warming, and invest in measures to protect our city from more intense and frequent natural disasters, such as bushfires.
- Continue to upgrade ACT government facilities to assist in reducing the number of carbon emissions produced.

# Financial support for Canberra households

## What we stand for

The COVID-19 pandemic is having a big impact on the budgets of many Canberra households. We are doing everything we can to help Canberra families by reducing fees and charges, protecting local jobs and investing in our community.

We are helping Canberra households save time and money by:

- Delivering green bins for garden waste to every home that wants one;
- Commencing free bulky waste pickups, and
- Committing to deliver a food and organic waste composting service.

Under a re-elected Labor Government, around 35,000 Canberra households will receive a \$900 rebate to help pay for their electricity and other utilities bills. This includes households supported by Commonwealth concessions schemes such as pension card holders. The \$900 rebate is a \$200 increase on the existing Utilities Concessions rebate. This rebate will be applied automatically to the Canberra households already eligible for the utilities concession scheme. These are the households who need our assistance.

## What we have achieved this term

Our actions are helping to protect our community from the worst of the economic and financial impact of the COVID-19 pandemic being experienced around the world.

Canberra households are now benefiting from lower electricity prices, lower petrol prices and lower car insurance premiums.

ACT Labor has set household rates at an average of 0 per cent for this financial year. Combined with our one-off \$150 residential rates relief payment to every household, that means **there will be a real reduction in rates for more than 110,000 Canberra households**, in a year when they will need it most. We have also frozen most government fees and charges such as parking, public transport and vehicle registration, water and sewerage prices.

We have delivered green bins to every household that wants one, for free fortnightly green waste pickups – saving families time and tip fees. The Canberra Liberals opposed providing households with green bins.

Since we began reforming the Compulsory Third-party Insurance Scheme to allow competition in 2013, premiums have been steadily falling for ACT motorists. With the introduction of the new scheme, premiums are on average \$60 less than what they were on 1 February 2019.

We've created and protected Canberra jobs through good times and bad, and still have the country's lowest unemployment rate.

## What we will continue to do

### *Electricity prices*

- We will keep making the necessary investments in our electricity network to keep prices low.
- The Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission's final decision on regulated electricity prices in the ACT will see an average price decrease of 2.56 per cent from 1 July 2020. The ICRC specifically referenced the ACT Government's investment in 100 per cent renewable electricity as a key factor driving prices lower.
- ACT households and businesses continue to have some of the lowest costs and most reliable electricity supplies in the country. Average ACT households should see a decrease of around \$43 in their annual electricity bill for 2020-21. Higher electricity users will see even bigger savings.

### *Petrol prices*

- ACT Labor will keep the pressure on big petrol companies.
- When the pandemic hit the ACT and petrol prices around Australia dropped below \$1, ACT motorists were at first paying 20-30 cents a litre more than motorists in Sydney and nearby regional centres.
- ACT Labor called on the big petrol providers to do better through the Canberra Petrol Challenge. We demanded local petrol stations start charging Canberrans at the Australian national weekly average price for fuel, or the Government would impose stringent price regulations. Within a week, local petrol stations were charging motorists the lowest average price in Australia.
- We are keeping those prices low. Since April, Canberra's average weekly fuel price has stayed around, or below, the national average. We have advised the major petrol retailers that if prices again move to consistently higher than the national average, we will legislate to force prices down.
- A re-elected ACT Labor Government will continue to monitor fuel pricing to achieve fairness for Canberra motorists, and investigate the feasibility of adopting the NSW FuelCheck scheme for real-time fuel pricing.

### *Insurance*

- We have removed insurance duty – still currently charged in NSW at up to 9 per cent – from all insurance products, saving Canberrans hundreds of dollars a year on the car, household and other insurance products. We will never reintroduce such duties.

### *Car insurance*

- ACT Labor will retain the fairer, simpler and cheaper Compulsory Third-party Insurance Scheme now in place in the Territory. The Canberra Liberals have committed to abolish this scheme and return the higher premium costs to injury compensation law firms.
- Under Labor, Canberra motorists will continue to save through reduced premiums. Premiums set by the private sector insurers have been as high as \$644 for the

average passenger vehicle in today's dollars. With the new Motor Accident Injuries Scheme, the average passenger vehicle premiums will be \$458.

- Under the new Compulsory Third-party Insurance Scheme, everyone who is injured in a motor vehicle accident from 1 February is entitled to receive treatment, care and lost income benefits for up to five years, no matter who was at fault.
- The new scheme also provides quicker access to benefits, allowing recovery to get underway as soon as possible and ongoing support for those who need it most. People who are more seriously injured continue to be able to make a claim for further compensation through common law.

### *Government fees and charges*

We know that many families and businesses are experiencing financial stress due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and that every bit of financial support counts. ACT Labor is helping to lower the cost of doing business, and the cost of living, during this pandemic, by:

- Not increasing a range of government fees and charges such as parking, business registration and development application fees in the 2020-21 financial year.
- Freezing a range of other fees and charges at 2019-20 levels, including: birth, death and marriage registrations fees; building fees; domestic animal fees; emergencies fees; land title fees; planning fees; public health fees; security industry fees; and vehicle registration fees.

### *Residential rates*

There will be no increases in residential rates for a majority of households in 2020-21.

Our commitment, combined with our July 2020 \$150 residential rates rebate, provides an actual rates reduction next year for more than 110,000 Canberra households, in a year when they will need it most.

More than 110,000 residential properties have a rates reduction (almost 65 per cent of properties): more than 76,000 houses (67 per cent of houses); and more than 34,000 units (60 per cent of units).

Another 24,000 residential properties will have a rates increase of only between zero and one per cent (14 per cent of properties).

In future years, ACT Labor will set household rate increases at an average 3.75 per cent to fund essential hospital, school, municipal and community safety services.

## *Support for renters*

Throughout the pandemic, the ACT Labor Government has made sure the right support has been available to Canberra renters who need help. This has included:

- A moratorium on evictions for non-payment of rent for households impacted by COVID-19.
- Incentives to encourage landlords to provide reduced rents during the pandemic.
- A rental increase freeze during the pandemic.
- Restrictions on negative listing being made about renters suffering COVID-related financial stress on tenancy databases.

This comes on top of further reforms we have passed in this term of government to better protect Canberra renters, such as legally protecting renters from excessive rent increases and implementing a maximum of two weeks rent in advance to ease financial stress.

## *Stamp duty*

ACT Labor has a long track record of reducing stamp duty in the ACT. In 2020, the stamp duty on a \$750,000 home is \$22,200; in 2012 it would have cost \$31,800, saving the purchaser \$9,600. We will continue to cut stamp duty, by:

- Fully removing stamp duty for eligible first home buyers, making it easier for more Canberrans to purchase their first home.
- Until 30 June 2021, significantly reducing the stamp duty for eventual owner-occupiers on the purchase of:
  - New land single residential blocks, to **zero**
  - Off-the-plan apartment and townhouse purchases up to \$500,000, to **zero**; and
  - Off-the-plan apartment and townhouse purchases between \$500,000 and \$750,000, **by \$11,400**.



## Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander policy

### What we stand for

ACT Labor stands in solidarity with the traditional owners of the ACT, the Ngunnawal people, 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 through self-determination we will see equitable life outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Canberrans.

ACT Labor is strongly committed to the Uluru Statement from the Heart and knows the importance of Voice, Treaty and Truth to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Under Labor, the ACT is unique in having a democratically elected First Nations voice to the ACT Government and Legislative Assembly. Discussions on a treaty have begun with the United Ngunnawal Elders Council. We are committed to truth telling, including through, the creation of the ACT Reconciliation Day public holiday.

### What we have achieved this term

ACT Labor recognises the strengths of Canberra's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community. We are investing in early intervention with more culturally appropriate services and initiatives to address the impacts of intergenerational disadvantage. We are committed to working with the community to build stronger families, with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people growing up safely in their homes and community.

We know healing and addressing intergenerational disadvantage and trauma is a complex process, but by working in genuine partnership with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community we will make progress. These steps include:

- In 2019, the ACT Labor Government and the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body signed the *ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Agreement 2019-2028*. The Agreement delivers the policies and services most important to our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.
- We established Reconciliation Day as a new public holiday, making the ACT the only jurisdiction to have a public holiday in recognition of Reconciliation and the contributions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in our community.
- We invested \$12 million and secured an additional \$4.5 million from the Commonwealth for Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health and Community Services to build a new facility for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to receive comprehensive, culturally appropriate health care in the ACT.
- We launched and continue to implement the recommendations of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-led *Our Booris, Our Way* review into the overrepresentation and experiences of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, young people and families in out of home care.

- We understand the importance of Boomanulla Oval as a sporting facility and meeting place for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Canberrans. We have invested in the restoration of facilities and brought the oval back into use for winter sport in 2019 and are working with the community to transition to sustainable community control.
- We partnered with Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health and Community Services to deliver Australia's first holistic and autonomous Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander primary health provider in a correctional environment.
- We worked with Aboriginal-controlled organisations to deliver Family Group Conferencing and Functional Family Therapy for families engaged, or at risk of engagement, with the child and youth protection system, empowering families to identify the right responses to their circumstances to enable them to keep their children safe in their family, community and culture.
- We established an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Practice Co-design Forum to develop early support measures for families and children, developed and led by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.
- We have delivered dedicated and culturally appropriate homes for older Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Canberrans.

## What we will continue to do

A re-elected ACT Labor Government will:

- Work with Gugan Gulwan Youth Aboriginal Corporation to deliver a purpose-built facility to better deliver services valued by the local community.
- Deliver on the comprehensive ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Agreement action plans right across government.
- Implement the recommendations of the *Our Booris, Our Way* review to ensure more Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people grow up connected to their family and culture.
- Work with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Practice co-design forum to shape policies and services for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.
- Undertake discussions on Treaty with traditional owners informed by Treaty processes underway in other states and territories and the ACT's own unique circumstances.
- Work with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community on the future of the Yarramundi Cultural Centre and a plan to transition it to community control.
- Work with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community on the development of a culturally appropriate residential drug and alcohol rehabilitation service, to complement existing services, including the Ngunnawal Bush Healing Farm.
- Implement the recommendations from the *We Don't Shoot Our Wounded* report, taking action to improve domestic and family violence responses for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.
- Support justice reinvestment so we build stronger communities, not more prisons.
- Work with traditional custodians to care for Ngunnawal country, including through the Dhawura Ngunnawal Caring for Country Committee.

- Continue to work with Ngunnawal community to assess the impact of bushfire on the Namadgi National Park and work with them to restore cultural and heritage sites as required.

## ACT public sector

### What we stand for

We recognise the essential work ACT public servants undertake on behalf of their community – from health, education and municipal services, to policy development – keeping Canberra competitive and innovative.

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

ACT Labor will also ensure public servants are paid fairly, and enterprise negotiations are always conducted in good faith, unlike the Commonwealth Liberal Government.

The ACT public sector is the best in the country. We will continue to set an example for our colleagues in the Australian Public Service and support them by opposing decentralisation and outsourcing of core government functions.

### What we have achieved this term

- ACT Labor has met its 2016 public service jobs guarantee, maintaining the size of the public service to meet the needs of our growing community.
- Ensured ACTPS officials' real wages are maintained and increased through good faith enterprise bargaining.
- Retained scheduled wage increases for all non-executive public servants through the COVID-19 pandemic, unlike other states and the Commonwealth.
- Kept key government functions like CIT, ACTION, ICON Water and the Land Titles Office in public hands, while other jurisdictions are selling off their assets and cutting jobs.
- Hired hundreds of new ACT Public Service workers during the COVID-19 pandemic on secure, short and medium-term contracts, to undertake essential cleaning, maintenance, phone line, environmental and administrative work.
- We directly employed hard working school cleaners to get them off dodgy contracts and into secure, stable and WHS-compliant employment.
- We created the Insecure Work Taskforce, which is moving long-term contracted public servants into secure, stable, permanent employment.
- We created a new independent Office of the Work Health and Safety Commissioner, supported by 12 additional staff, to provide even stronger and more transparent enforcement of ACT work health and safety laws.
- We released a new values-led Government Procurement Direction which considers a range of ethical, environmental, economic and social factors to ensure that procurement processes and outcomes reflect our values as well as support local jobs, the local economy and recovery efforts.

## What we will continue to do

- A re-elected ACT Labor Government will grow the size of the ACT Public Service to deliver the essential hospital, walk-in centre, school, municipal, and community safety services the growing Canberra community needs.
- We will not sell public assets or outsource services like ACTION or ICON Water.
- We will bring forward legislation to prevent the outsourcing and privatisation of public sector jobs, in line with our commitment to protect the public service.
- We will 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.
- Under Labor, ACT public servants will continue to maintain real wages.
- We will support the Work Health and Safety Commissioner to keep Canberrans safe, with resources and new and improved safety legislation.
- We will strengthen the ACT Public Service's commitment to fair, secure employment by expanding the role of the Insecure Work Taskforce and continuing to identify opportunities to make jobs permanent.
- We will expand programs to 'insource' work and support high quality public services with a capable and strong public sector workforce.
- We will continue creating an even more expansive and integrated procurement framework, that ensures taxpayer resources prioritise social outcomes and fair conditions for workers.
- We will continue to fight any Commonwealth efforts to "decentralise" the Australian Public Service, because we know the APS and ACTPS work collaboratively and constructively together when both based in this city.

## Arts and creative industries

### What we stand for

ACT Labor believes participation in the arts is important for all people.

The arts reflect who we are as individuals and help build community identity. We recognise that, at an individual level, the arts contribute to wellbeing and health – physical, mental and emotional. At a broader level, the arts and our creative sector are a significant employer in Canberra, making a vital contribution to our economy as well as being an important tourist drawcard.

Artists and arts organisations, as well as event producers are also important drivers of the diverse offering of cultural and community events in the ACT, providing opportunities for people to have great experiences together in appreciation of multiculturalism, sport, live music, outdoor theatre, comedy, food, wine and beer, and a host of other areas.

Although the arts and creative industries have been significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, they remain integral to our community recovery and our community resilience.

### What we have achieved this term

- We invested record funding in the arts including more than \$10 million every year in organisational funding, grants and capacity building; more than \$9 million every year to support the Cultural Facilities Corporation which runs the Canberra Theatre, the Canberra Museum and Gallery, and the ACT's three significant historic homes; and a range of capital investment in properties that house arts organisations.
- We built Stage 2 of the Belconnen Arts Centre, bringing a theatre and new gallery and event spaces to Canberra's west.
- We established the Ministers' Creative Council of eminent arts professionals and advocates to provide strategic advice on the needs of the ACT arts sector to the ACT Government.
- We have led the nation with our arts response to COVID-19, including financial support of \$3.3 million to artists and art organisations and \$2.5 million to the Canberra Theatre Centre.
- We delivered a large number of successful major arts and cultural events including Floriade, Enlighten, Reconciliation Day, Canberra Day, Christmas in the City, New Year's Eve, Australia Day, Windows to the World, and the Nara Festival, and provided over \$500,000 in smaller event grants.

## What we will continue to do

- A re-elected ACT Labor Government will continue the Canberra Theatre Centre expansion and redevelopment project. A modern, expanded theatre will help further transform Canberra into an arts hub for our broader region, attracting bigger theatre shows and live music tours to the ACT and, with them, more opportunities for Canberrans to engage with the arts. It will also attract tourists to the capital to further grow Canberra as a domestic tourism destination.
- We will introduce a new winter innovation festival and a visual arts festival. These festivals were well-advanced in development prior to COVID-19 and will be established when safe to do so, providing important opportunities to showcase innovative industries and accomplished artists in the ACT to new audiences.
- We will deliver the Kingston Arts Precinct, with detailed design work already underway, to provide new purpose-built facilities for a number of Canberra's visual arts organisations. Creating an arts hub will add amenity to the thriving precinct and become a destination for great arts and events experiences as well as restaurants, accommodation and shopping.
- We will invest in refreshing the major arts organisation for the south, the Tuggeranong Arts Centre, through new capital improvements, and will continue our investment in Gorman House as an important historic building for Canberra and the home to many artists and arts organisations.
- We will help the arts sector and our creative industries recover from the devastating effects of COVID-19 with a focus on sustaining jobs, building career resilience and valuing the role of artists in our community recovery.
- We will continue to strongly fund artists and events by providing grants and will refresh our approach to arts organisation funding to improve transparency and accountability by introducing a new funding framework in close consultation with the sector.
- We will continue to run major signature events including Enlighten and Floriade for the enjoyment of all Canberrans, in new and interesting COVID-safe ways, as well as continuing to strengthen the connections between our events and festivals and Canberra's town centres and local communities.



## Business

### What we stand for

ACT Labor is creating an economic, regulatory and policy environment that allows businesses to invest with confidence, continuing to grow the number of secure local jobs. We are supporting businesses through the current pandemic and the resulting greatest economic challenge since self-government.

On 27 August the ACT Labor Government released its Jobs and Economic Recovery Plan, which will invest \$4.9 billion in stimulus measures over coming years and has set an ambitious job creation target of having 250,000 people employed in local jobs by 2025. Much of this funding will flow directly to local businesses to maintain a strong pipeline of work and give them confidence to keep employees in work.

### What we have achieved this term

- We abolished insurance tax to make it more affordable for businesses and reduce the level of under-insurance.
- We abolished duty on all commercial property transactions of \$1.5 million or less to promote investment in the territory.
- Our economic growth has been among the fastest in Australia for the past five years, which has supported the creation of over 4,600 new businesses and close to 20,000 additional jobs.
- Attracted billions of dollars in economic potential to the territory through facilitated investments like the UNSW Canberra City Campus and the Academy of Interactive Entertainment – diversifying our economy and creating thousands of new local jobs.
- Grew international education to be the ACT's first \$1 billion export industry, up more than 70 percent in the last 5 years, creating more jobs and opportunities for Canberrans.
- Invested more than \$10 million in the Canberra Innovation Network (CBRIN) to empower entrepreneurs and Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) to reach their potential and deliver world class innovation.
- Established the \$9.75 million Priority Investment Program to encourage industry, research and tertiary sectors to work together to attract investment, create new jobs and grow our economy.
- Established the \$5 million CBR Screen Fund to grow Canberra's screen industry.
- Established the Canberra Cyber Security Innovation Node with AustCyber to grow this key capability area of our economy.

- Implemented Canberra’s International Engagement Strategy to create new opportunities for business in our priority markets including establishing in-market representatives for Trade and Tourism development in Singapore.
- Implemented the ACT Governments Business Development Strategy.
- Developed and implemented the Canberra Region Local Industry Participation Policy to ensure local businesses, particularly SMEs are given every opportunity to compete for ACT Government contracts and build local capability.

As part of our COVID-19 response to support small business owners:

- Provided a \$750 utilities rebate for small business customers.
- Waived payroll tax for six months for any business impacted by the prohibited activities list.
- Offered interest-free 2020-2021 payroll tax deferrals to businesses with wages below \$10 million.
- Waived all food business registration, liquor licensing, infection control licencing, ride share, hire car, taxi license, outdoor dining and other fees for one year.
- Rebated the commercial rates fixed charge for 94 per cent of commercial property owners.
- Established a scheme to encourage landlords to pass through rent reductions to tenants by offering commercial rates credits.
- Rebated fixed water and sewerage charges for clubs, hotels and accommodation providers.
- Reformed liquor licensing to support diversification, enabling venues with an existing ‘on’ licence to transition to a general licence free of charge, and reducing fees for microbreweries.
- Paid ACT Government invoices earlier.
- Reduced red tape, including modernising areas of the statute book.

## What we will continue to do

- We will maintain our \$2m payroll tax free threshold, which is the highest in the country and is set at a level that allows small businesses to grow significantly larger than NSW before starting to incur tax liability on their staff.
- We will explore new ways to give further opportunities to local SMEs to do business with government, support local innovation and build local capability.
- Investigate increasing the local industry weighting, in ACT Procurement, subject to constitutional and free trade requirements.

- We will build further on our economy’s key capability areas like ICT, cyber security, defence, renewable energy, space and health innovation to create new jobs and research opportunities that continue the diversification of our economy.
- A re-elected ACT Labor Government will appoint a Minister for Business and a Minister for Regulatory Services to work on the implementation of our jobs and economy recovery plan.

## Building quality

### What we stand for

ACT Labor understands that buying a home is one of the biggest investments a person will make in their life.

As the city grows, and more living options become available for residents – from single detached residences in our new suburbs, to apartments in our town centres – Canberrans deserve to have confidence in the building system, and the quality of the residences they purchase.

ACT Labor believes that Canberra homeowners should be protected from unethical operators in the construction industry, through a stringent and enforced licensing scheme; and a tough, uncompromised building certification process.

We are also improving the future maintenance of buildings; governance arrangements of multi-unit complexes; and fair distribution of building costs.

### What we have achieved this term

- We have more than doubled the size of the building inspectorate over the last four years. More building inspectors means we can conduct more rigorous checks that buildings are up to standard.
- We have been undertaking nation-leading reforms, including a mandatory code of practice for certifiers, exams to ensure builders have the skills and knowledge they need, and minimum design documentation requirements for building plans. These reforms will lead to buildings that are better designed and built to a higher quality, with certifiers checking them closely.
- We have passed laws to make the directors of building companies personally liable for building defects, with a maximum penalty of \$1.62 million if they don't properly rectify shoddy work. This will help to prevent companies from shutting down a company, and re-opening under a different name, to avoid fixing defects.

### What we will continue to do

- A re-elected Labor Government will establish an expert team of publicly funded certifiers within the ACT Public Service, to break the conflict of interest that arises from certifiers being hired and paid for by the developers whose work they are assessing.
- We will set up an Australian-first licencing scheme for property developers. It will require developers to meet a “fit and proper person” test and apply to undertake higher-risk developments (such as apartment builds). It will include a stringent and rigorously enforced penalty scheme, up to and including barring developers from working in the ACT.
- We will also introduce a registration scheme for engineers, based on the Victorian model, to ensure expert engineering works conducted onsite meet the necessary standards, as recommended by the Shergold Weir Report.

## Carers

### What we stand for

ACT Labor strives to ensure Canberra continues to be an inclusive community where all Canberrans feel they belong, 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 of carers in the ACT.

### What we have achieved this term

- The First Action Plan developed under the *ACT Carers Strategy* includes 25 actions grouped across five broad themes: services and supports for carers; recognition and awareness; inclusion; support for young carers; and workforce and skills recognition.
- We have worked with lead agencies to support carers and progress work captured under the strategy. Further actions under the strategy have promoted the creation of digital services for carers to promote carer wellbeing and respite.
- The strategy has also responded to the COVID-19 pandemic by providing additional support to carers. This includes the development and distribution of 5,000 carer recognition packs to raise awareness of the role and contribution of carers. We have also provided financial support to Carers ACT to distribute payments to young carers to meet additional expenses, maintain wellbeing, and support educational participation throughout the pandemic.

### What we will continue to do

A re-elected ACT Labor Government will:

- 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.
- Support the distribution of digital supports and information targeted at carers.
- Continue implementing the Community Recovery Plan, which has a focus on ensuring Canberra's recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic is inclusive.
- Introduce legislation to formally recognise the essential role carers play in our community.
- Establish a Ministerial Advisory Council to provide advice on how to best support our carers.
- Create a mentoring program for carers.
- Develop a respite handbook for carers, as well as links, to support them to take care of themselves.

## Children, youth and families

### What we stand for

ACT Labor is committed to strengthening families, keeping children safe and empowering Canberra's young people.

We support the right of all children to grow up safely in an environment that fosters positive relationships, access to education and employment, and enables young people to be their fullest and most productive selves.

ACT Labor believes in empowering Canberra's children and young people to influence and shape the community and city they live in. We know young people aren't disengaged spectators and want more of a say in government policies and services.

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. There is more work to do to improve supports and services that respond to the unique needs of children, young people and their families.

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

The over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people in out-of-home care is unacceptable. The ACT Labor Government initiated a review into this overrepresentation, which was co-designed and overseen by a wholly Aboriginal steering committee. We will continue to implement the recommendations of this review in genuine partnership with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.

Our Youth Justice Blueprint, launched in 2012, has had a significant impact in reducing the number of young people coming into contact with the youth justice system. But we know there is more to do to close the gap for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people and to ensure that all young people who spend time in Bimberi Youth Justice Centre or on community orders are better supported to build a positive future.

## What we have achieved this term

- Stepped up to support Youth Week when the Commonwealth Government ceased funding. We have also continued to celebrate the Young Canberra Citizen of the Year awards and support a variety of youth-led activities in ACT Youth Week.
- In 2018, we supported the Youth Advisory Council to run an ACT Youth Assembly, bringing together more than 100 young Canberrans to discuss and make recommendation on issues that matter to them, including civic participation, youth mental health, youth homelessness and equity for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people. A second Youth Assembly is planned for when COVID-19 gathering restrictions ease.
- We have encouraged younger people to participate in ACT Government decision-making with the introduction of more online engagement opportunities and deliberate outreach to young people on a wide range of issues.
- We have worked with the Youth Coalition of the ACT to establish the Safe and Connected Youth Project as a collaborative pilot with local non-government organisations to better address the needs of young people at risk of disengaging with family and becoming homeless.
- Through *A Step Up for our Kids*, the ACT Government's out-of-home care reform strategy, we have reduced new entries into care and stabilised the number of children and young people in out-of-home care. Our increased early intervention and support means more children are staying at home safely with their families.
- We are acting on the recommendations of the *Our Booris, Our Way* review in response to the unacceptable overrepresentation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in out-of-home care.
- We introduced Family Group Conferencing to empower Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families to work through their challenges and identify and implement the solutions that will work for them.
- We funded Gugan Gulwan Youth Aboriginal Corporation to deliver Functional Family Therapy in partnership with OzChild. Functional Family Therapy delivers culturally specific and safe therapy for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families at risk of ongoing involvement in the child protection system.
- We have reduced the number of young people under youth justice supervision by 27 per cent since 2011-2012 (and 33 per cent for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people).
- We have established Early Support, a ten-year process to better identify Canberrans needing extra support, ensuring that support is provided when needed and keeping more Canberrans out of crisis services.

## What we will continue to do

A re-elected ACT Labor Government will listen to children and young people on the issues that matter to them:

- We will work with the Youth Advisory Council to build on the Youth Assembly model, our online engagement platforms, and ACT schools' strong commitment to student voices to ensure that we consistently and effectively engage with children and young people across all areas of government.
- We will continue learning from the Safe and Connected Youth pilot to deliver an ongoing, coordinated service response that meets the needs of young people aged eight to 15 years old who are at risk of homelessness, or engagement with the child protection or youth justice systems, as a result of family breakdown.
- Working across government and with the community, we will continue to develop the First 1000 Days Strategy, recognizing that the earliest days a child's life are critical in shaping their future health and wellbeing.
- We will create a Territory-wide Child and Family Network, building on our popular and successful Child and Family Centres in Tuggeranong, West Belconnen and Gungahlin and our investment in non-government services. Through a mix of physical centres, outreach and in-home services, and online engagement, families will be able access a continuum of support, from universal programs for new parents through to intensive case management for families at risk of engagement with statutory services.
- Building on the *A Step Up for Our Kids* out-of-home care strategy, we will continue to work towards earlier support for vulnerable families; more therapeutic, trauma-informed care for children and their families and carers in the out-of-home care system; and a system that is more restorative, transparent and engaged across the government and the community sector.
- We will fully implement the recommendations of the *Our Booris, Our Way* review in collaboration with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and organisations. This will include the establishment of an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People Commissioner and supporting the development and engagement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled organisations.
- We will develop a new Youth Justice Strategy that builds on the success of the *ACT Youth Justice Blueprint 2012-2022*. This will include restorative approaches that support young people in the context of their families and communities, with a pilot of Functional Family Therapy – Youth Justice to be conducted in 2021.
- In support of our commitment to reducing recidivism and Closing the Gap in youth justice, we will implement a Youth Justice Throughcare program to be delivered in partnership with community organisations.



## City Services

### What we stand for

Canberra's open and public spaces are the centres of our community – our parks, playgrounds, shopping centres and libraries are where people come together.

The look and feel of our city is one of the best things about living in Canberra. From increasing our tree canopy to reducing waste, to cleaning our drains, sweeping our streets and patching our roads and footpaths and upgrading our shops and playgrounds, ACT Labor is committed to keeping it beautiful.

### What we have achieved this term

#### *City Presentation (maintenance, mowing, cleaning)*

The ACT Labor Government has focused on a clean and well-maintained city and expanding city services. We have:

- Passed the *Litter Legislation Amendment Act 2019* introducing larger fines for littering and making it easier to remove abandoned vehicles and made amendments in 2017 to reduce the amount of shopping trolleys being abandoned.
- Undertaken community engagement in the Better Suburbs participatory budgeting exercise.
- Invested an additional \$14m for mowing, graffiti prevention and lake cleaning.
- Invested more in additional maintenance work and increased the amount of street-sweeping by 15%.
- Invested \$8.8 million through our stimulus program to improve the look and feel of the city – more cleaning, weeding, leaf collection and cleaning gross pollutant traps.

#### *Local Shops*

Local shops are important community meeting spaces and ACT Labor has upgrade shopping centres across our city. Through our stimulus program we invested in shops in Gordon, Hackett, Kaleen East, Macgregor, Macquarie, North Lyneham, Page, Weetangera, the two local shops in Spence and two local shops in Kambah will be refreshed.

We have:

- Invested \$8m for Tuggeranong Laneways, Tuggeranong Town Square, and Anketell Street upgrades along with footpath improvements.
- Invested \$3m to upgrade Hibberson Street into a one-way shared zone.
- Funded the 'Woden Experiment' activating Woden Town Square.
- Invested in building new car parking spaces at Palmerston Shops and Cooleman Court.

## *Community infrastructure*

ACT Labor has invested and improved our community infrastructure.

We have committed to ensuring that all Canberrans can access cemetery and crematorium services as the city grows, whether this mean equitable access for all regions of Canberra, or ensuring that our multicultural community has access to the services they need here rather than having to travel interstate. ACT Labor has demonstrated its commitment to continuing to provide Canberrans with the most popular and effective library system in the country.

We have maintained parks and other green space throughout our suburbs. Parks and playgrounds act as meeting places for the community and ACT Labor will continue to ensure all Canberra suburbs have open space and places for children to play.

The ACT Labor Government has:

- Invested \$2.67m for the construction of a new crematorium at Gungahlin Cemetery.
- Commenced feasibility into a future site for a cemetery on Canberra's southside at Southern Memorial Park.
- Abolished fines for late library items.
- Invested \$1.66m to upgrade Woden Library including providing after-hours access for community spaces and built a new premises for the ACT Heritage Library and Archives ACT.
- Invested \$3.19m for libraries to boost service delivery.
- Invested \$8.43m in playgrounds over the last 4 years.
- Built 5 new nature play spaces across the city – Farrer, Eddison District Park, Glebe Park, Yerrabi Pond and Kambah District Park and we are building 5 new playgrounds – Torrens, Richardson, Waramanga, Higgins, Narrabundah.
- Refreshed 50 playgrounds.
- Funded 32 local projects through the 'Adopt a Park' program to help care for local parks in the city.
- Started upgrading 45,000 of the 80,000 streetlights across the ACT to LED. This has led to a 32% reduction in electricity required for streetlights.
- Invested \$19m to upgrade the stormwater network in Fyshwick, Waramanga, Page and Weetangera with other investments to maintain the over 6000km of water infrastructure.

## *Waste*

In the last four years, the ACT Labor Government has progressed towards our target of diverting 90% of waste from landfill by 2025 finalising the *ACT Waste Management Strategy*, the *Waste Feasibility Study* and action plan. Canberrans are some of the nation's best recyclers, and the ACT Labor Government is working to deliver new services to that it is even easier for us all to reduce the amount of waste we're producing.

We have:

- Provided green bins to every region in Canberra to reduce organic waste going into landfill.
- Provided free bulky waste collections to all households in Tuggeranong and Gungahlin.
- Introduced a container deposit scheme with 21 return points across the ACT.
- Invested \$21m in upgrades to the Materials Recovery Facility, which will lead to a lower rate of contamination in recycled material and allow for more processing of recyclables.
- Installed 100 new recycling bins, 40 standard bins, and 10 smart solar bins across the city.
- Invested \$7.55m for ongoing funding of concession card bulky waste and funding for GIVIT.
- Provided certainty to the community and industry by releasing a Waste to Energy policy for the ACT

## *Urban Forest*

Trees are an important part of the character of Canberra, but is also a key factor in mitigating the effects of climate change and supporting biodiversity. ACT Labor is committed renewing and enhancing our tree canopy by planting more trees in our city as well as maintaining and caring for our existing canopy.

There are 766,000 trees in Canberra's urban forest and 7,000 trees have been planted in the last four years across our urban environment. An additional 9,677 trees have been planted in greenfield suburbs from 2016/17 to 2018/19.

We have consulted on a comprehensive urban forest strategy to grow our urban tree canopy to 30% by 2045.

## *Animals*

Many Canberrans own a pet and over the past four years the Government has had a strong focus on delivering programs to support responsible pet ownership, improve animal welfare outcomes, and to improve community safety.

We have:

- Passed the *Animal Welfare Legislation Amendment Bill 2019* making the ACT a national leader in animal welfare outcomes with stronger approaches to animal cruelty, and the recognition of animals as sentient beings.
- Amended the *Domestic Animals Act 2000* giving the ACT some of the strongest laws in the country to tackle dangerous dogs.
- Introduced the new Canberra Model for Dog Management promoting responsible pet ownership.
- Doubled the number of rangers in TCCS.
- Implementing an accreditation scheme for assistance animals which clarifies public access rights.
- Expanded cat containment to Stathnairn, MacNamara, Gungahlin Town Centre (East) and Whitlam and consulted on the draft ACT Cat Plan.
- Undertaken upgrades at Domestic Animal Services.

## What we will continue to do

A re-elected ACT Labor Government will continue to invest in our suburbs, whether it's Farrah or Florey, Banks or Bonner to ensure all Canberrans get the same high-quality services.

We will:

- Bring forward the rollout of the successful bulky waste pickup service to all Canberrans by next year.
- Roll out a food waste service - provide every house with a free green bin, kitchen caddy and weekly pickup.
- Protect and grow our tree canopy with a real plan to plant trees that will survive for generations, planting the 450,000 trees we need to reach a 30% tree canopy across the city.
- Invest in our local shopping areas – like our commitment to upgrade Beltana Road in Pialligo.
- Build on our track record of new and better playgrounds across Canberra.
- Improve our parks and public spaces – like our commitment to a new dog park in Lanyon.

*Additional City Services portfolio commitments will be made over the campaign. These will be attached as a standalone policy statement at [Attachment D](#) and should be read in conjunction with this document.*

## Community clubs

### What we stand for

ACT Labor recognises clubs play an important role in the social life of many Canberrans as meeting places, employers of more than 1,700 people, and supporters of essential community groups, sporting codes and our rich multicultural community.

We also understand that the Government needs to protect club patrons experiencing gambling harm, ensure there are rigorous and well-enforced safeguards in place, and continue to help clubs move away from over-reliance on gaming revenue.

Clubs have been under incredible pressure throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, which is why the ACT Labor Government stepped in to support clubs stay afloat and keep 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. That is why we have worked directly with all clubs, and implemented constructive proposals from Canberra Community Clubs, to help clubs resume operations, recover and thrive.

### What we have achieved this term

- We have reduced the number of poker machine licenses from 4,938 to 3,888, a reduction of more than 20 per cent, while helping clubs diversify their revenue streams and move away from an over-reliance on gaming revenue. That means a strong clubs sector with fewer pokies in our suburbs.
- We provided a community club grant of \$10,000 to every small and medium club to provide immediate assistance to fund cost-saving measures, such as putting solar panels on a club's roof.
- We established and renewed an ongoing tax rebate for small-to-medium clubs of 50 per cent of their gaming tax revenue.
- We established a new small clubs liaison role to work with and assist clubs to navigate regulatory and administrative requirements.
- We instituted quarterly tax lodgements for small clubs to ease their administrative burden.
- We reviewed the ACT Community Contributions Scheme to improve the transparency of funding – and to maximise this benefit to the community.
- In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, we stepped in to keep clubs alive and staff employed. In doing so:
  - We distributed \$3.3 million from the Diversification and Sustainability Support Fund to fund workers' wages.
  - We provided payroll tax waivers for clubs which incurred them.
  - We waived or refunded gaming machine tax liabilities for the first quarter of 2020.

- We provided clubs with a six-month rebate of their fixed water and sewage charges.
- We paid \$15,000 for every gaming machine license voluntarily surrendered, to help with clubs' immediate cashflow issues.
- We enabled clubs to claim staff wages and COVID 19-related community aid as community contributions.

## What we will continue to do

ACT Labor recognises that clubs have gone through a period of significant reform over the past five years, including the biggest reduction in poker machine authorisations on record.

Now is a time for consolidation of these achievements, and ensuring clubs remain a viable and positive force in their local community. A re-elected ACT Labor Government will help clubs secure their future over the long term, support their communities, and protect their patrons, by:

- Actively working with clubs to help them utilise their additional funding, and the fees and charge waivers derived from the surrender of their machines, to move to other income-generating activities. In particular, we will work with the industry and the planning authorities to find ways of expediting consideration of land development proposals from clubs which are vital to their diversification and long-term sustainability strategies.
- Continuing the small and medium clubs tax rebate.
- Matching, dollar for dollar, money allocated to the Diversification Fund to allow clubs to undertake other revenue-generating projects.
- Contributing the government share of the Diversification Fund throughout the COVID-19 gaming room lockdown, to match the funding that was anticipated but not able to be paid by clubs.
- Conducting a review into water costs for high-intensity users of non-potable water, notably golf clubs.
- Continue the 50 per cent discount for the Water Abstraction Charge (WAC), by extending the offset for investments against the charge for a further 12 months and allowing the offset to be claimed against more recent investments to help clubs continue to adapt as we undertake the non-potable water review.
- Work with clubs to find ways to increase the supply of locally supplied water.
- Offering future optional poker machine licence buyback rounds, in consultation with clubs.
- Developing, in close consultation with clubs, a better coordinated and enforceable self-exclusion scheme for patrons who experience problem gambling.
- Beginning work on a collaborative plan between the government, industry and relevant unions to help build a long-term, sustainable Club sector in the ACT.

## Community safety

### What we stand for

All Canberrans should feel safe in their community. ACT Labor is acting to target, disrupt and prosecute organised criminal gang members.

ACT Labor will enact laws that police need to effectively combat organised crime and provide the necessary resources to make sure organised criminal gangs that operate within the ACT face the full force of the law.

We do not support anti-consorting laws, as the experience of their use in other jurisdictions shows that they are ineffective in stopping biker gangs, and instead end up disproportionately affecting the vulnerable, including homeless people and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

### What we have achieved this term

#### *ACT Policing*

- We worked closely 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.
- We have made the largest ever investment in police staff and resources to keep our city safe as it grows, totalling almost \$34 million.
- We delivered more police on our streets with the recruitment of additional operational and support staff.
- We created new community-focused and crime prevention police services model.
- We provided the tools, technology, governance, policies and resources that our police officers need.

#### *Combatting serious crime*

- In 2016 and again in 2018, we expanded Taskforce Nemesis to target organised crime syndicates including criminal motorcycle gangs.
- We introduced new laws for the *Confiscation of Criminal Assets (Unexplained Wealth) Amendment Act 2020* to further disrupt organised crime and seize the criminal profits of these groups.
- We have funded the ACT Director of Public Prosecutions to attack serious and organised crime, including to strip criminals of their criminal profits.
- We passed new laws to tackle criminal gangs, including ways to disrupt their business models. We also gave police greater powers to deal with criminal gang offences, creating stronger penalties, and provided more funding to the Director of Public Prosecutions.
- The effectiveness of our laws and police action has halved the number of bikies operating in Canberra.

## What we will continue to do

- A re-elected ACT Labor Government will keep resourcing ACT Policing and the Director of Public Prosecutions to tackle criminal gangs, while examining evidence about the effectiveness of any proposed law changes.
- We will continue to oppose anti-consorting laws on the grounds they are ineffective and harm other vulnerable groups.
- Complete a feasibility study to understand the needs for Gungahlin and Winchester Stations.
- Review protections for police and other frontline workers.
- Oppose the Commonwealth Government's pay freeze for ACT Policing.



# Disability

## What we stand for

ACT Labor strives to ensure Canberra continues to be an inclusive community where all Canberrans feel they belong, are valued and supported. We believe people living with disability have the same rights as all Australians. We also believe the role of government is to help remove barriers to people with disability exercising those rights and ensure they receive the support needed to participate fully in society.

## What we have achieved this term

- ACT Labor has fostered a strong and inclusive Canberra community, supporting Canberrans living with disability.
- In 2019, we launched the *Disability Justice Strategy* to ensure people with disability in the ACT have equal access to justice and support for their right to equality before the law. We have worked with community stakeholders to introduce disability justice support workers into key agencies to assist individuals in disability services.
- We launched the *COVID-19 Disability Strategy* to support people with disability, their carers and the broader disability sector during the COVID-19 pandemic and into the recovery phase.
- We passed laws to impose corporate criminal liability on institutions that abuse and neglect vulnerable adults, including people with a disability.
- We have made Canberra more accessible and inclusive by fast-tracking accessibility upgrades to some of our community facilities.

## What we will continue to do

- A re-elected ACT Labor Government will continue delivering grants to support disability inclusion.
- We will promote the adoption of disability inclusion and action plans across the government.
- We will support participants in the NDIS through the Integrated Service Response Program.
- We will continue implementing the *COVID-19 Disability Strategy* to support people with disability, their carers and the disability sector during our recovery.
- We will actively seek opportunities to continue making community facilities more accessible for all Canberrans to access and enjoy.
- We will continue implementing the Community Recovery Plan, which has a focus on ensuring our community recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic is inclusive.
- We will develop and implement a disability employment strategy, to promote employment opportunities across our whole economy.
- We will continue developing and implementing a disability health strategy.

## Early Childhood Development

### What we stand for

ACT Labor believes that no child should miss out on quality early childhood education. Early learning sets children up at the start of life with the learning and development they need to grow through school education and into adult life. ACT Labor is committed to improving access to high quality, affordable education that works in partnership with community and health services, to support the unique needs of each child.

ACT Labor values the important role of early childhood educators as professionals and significant influencers on the learning and development outcomes of children.

### What we have achieved this term

In August this year, the ACT Labor Government released *Set up for Success: an Early Childhood Strategy for the ACT*, which maps out how an ACT Labor Government will make sure every child is set up for success with the early learning and development they need.

Key to the Strategy is transitioning to universal access to preschool for three-year-old children in the ACT.

This year, the government began providing free access to preschool for the three-year old's in our community who would most benefit. This first phase offers up to 500 places for priority children for 15 hours per week, 600 hours per year. In addition, there are 100 places in Koori preschool for three-year-old Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.

The government has also piloted the successful Prep for Pre and Big School Ready programs, which help young children and their families make the transition to school education.

### What we will continue to do

A re-elected ACT Labor Government will commit to work towards 15 hours per week, 600 hours per year, free universal early childhood education for three-year-old children. This nation-leading move will help create a fairer early childhood education and care system in the ACT. As we transition to universal access, we'll evaluate the model so that we know it's working for children and families.

ACT Labor acknowledges that early childhood educators provide foundational education for our children and help them develop the skills they need for the future, alongside caring for them to keep them safe and meet their emotional needs. Early childhood educators worked all the way through the COVID-19 pandemic, showing enormous dedication by ensuring that parents who needed to keep working could, and keeping our youngest minds happy, healthy and learning.

We will continue to advocate for improved recognition of early childhood educators, for example through support for their equal wage claim.

ACT Labor will continue awarding scholarships for early childhood qualifications, expanding access to more people and providing support to improve completion rates.

An ACT Labor Government will implement *Set up for Success: An Early Childhood Strategy for the ACT*, including:

- We will work with early childhood educators and their union to develop professional standards and work with Education Council to explore a new national workforce strategy to attract, support and retain a high-quality workforce.
- We will also fund additional professional learning for early childhood educators, to ensure that they stay up to date with best practice and understand their legal responsibilities. Just like teachers, early childhood educators need to keep their skills and expertise current to provide the best possible education for our children.
- We will also explore options for the ACT Government to provide early childhood education and care alongside school opportunity to improve access for all Canberra families.
- We will develop a territory-wide approach to effective transitions, ensuring that the systems support our children.
- We will continue the Prep for Pre and Big School Ready programs to support children and families in the lead up to preschool and kindergarten.
- We will amend the *Education Act 2004* to give early childhood education and care the legal recognition it warrants as foundation to the learning and development of children.

## Emergency services

### What we stand for

ACT Labor is committed to keeping Canberrans safe through continued investment in our emergency services.

Our approach is to deliver well-resourced, community-focussed services to enhance public safety and respond to the changing needs of our growing city.

### What we have achieved this term

- We made significant staffing investments across the ACT Emergency Services Agency, including new firefighters and ACT Ambulance Service paramedics.
- We signed a new enterprise bargaining agreement with the Firefighters Union so that we have more local firefighters, new equipment and improved facilities.
- We funded new and upgraded ACT Ambulance Service, ACT Fire and Rescue, ACT Rural Fire Service and ACT SES facilities.
- We provided new vehicles and equipment to support our emergency service workers, including new state-of-the-art ambulances and firefighting trucks.
- We have worked to ensure that the ACT Emergency Services Agency is well-prepared to respond to emergencies, including through the development of a new Strategic Bushfire Management Plan.
- We established the ACT as a strategic bushfire fighting aerial hub for south-east Australia.

### What we will continue to do

- A re-elected ACT Labor Government will recruit an additional 99 new firefighters and add new fire trucks and equipment.
- We will continue to recruit an additional 30 new paramedics and acquire 10 state of the art ambulances, as well as our station upgrade and replacement program.
- We will build new fire and ambulance stations in the City and Molonglo.
- We will hire more rangers to conduct bushfire preparations in Namadgi National Park, Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve and our other parks and reserves.
- We will strengthen our bushfire preparedness and responses, with continued investments in our volunteer firefighters.
- Deliver on the blueprint for change.
- We will upgrade SES facilities, including in Hackett.

## 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 this term

- We established the ACT Integrity Commission, Australia's strongest integrity framework. The Commission incorporates the best aspects of legislation operating in other jurisdictions, including human rights compatibility; and provides an effective and enduring way to deter, investigate and root out conduct that has no place in the ACT public sector.
- We passed legislation that bans property developers making donations to any political parties and independent candidates. ACT Labor has refused donations from property developers since 2016, unlike the Canberra Liberals.
- We legislated Australia-leading freedom of information (FOI) reforms and began automatically releasing ministerial expenses, travel costs, and other Open Access information.
- We passed legislation to strengthen whistle-blower laws and better protect those who report wrongdoing in the public sector.
- We created two authorities with strong governance structures, the Suburban Land Agency and City Renewal Authority, to manage Territory land sales and development.
- We removed the risk of political interference in complaints against Legislative Assembly members by ensuring the work of the independent Commissioner for Standards cannot be interfered with.
- We commissioned a wide-ranging Legislative Assembly review of the lobbyist register to assess whether it is meeting its objectives.
- We ensured the ACT election process is more democratic by passing laws to allow voters to enrol to vote up to and on election day and funding the Electoral Commission to operate the standard number of polling places in 2020 while protecting voters against COVID-19 transmission.

### What we will continue to do

A re-elected ACT Labor Government will maintain high levels of integrity and confidence in public administration in the Territory over the next term:

- We will ensure the ACT Integrity Commission continues to be appropriately funded and staffed to meet its responsibilities. This includes conducting an independent review of its functions and effectiveness during the term to determine if any improvements are required.
- We will introduce legislation into parliament that bans any donations from foreign sources, to apply to all parties and candidates.

- We will re-introduce legislation into the Assembly that includes ‘real-time’ reporting of donations – requiring donations to be declared within seven days of receipt. The Canberra Liberals and ACT Greens voted against ACT Labor’s real-time reporting reforms in 2020.
- We will progress a broader definition of ‘lobbyist’ and a stronger lobbyist register, to capture people working directly for for-profit companies operating in the ACT.

## 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 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 led the nation on climate change action through renewable energy.
- We have supported bushfire recovery efforts through ongoing environmental restoration works.
- We have strengthened the *Heritage Act 2004* to introduce new and additional penalties for people who damage heritage places and objects.
- We have introduced strengthened provisions to protect the heritage of the iconic Sydney and Melbourne buildings.

### 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. We will also:

- Plant 450,000 trees to meet our 30 per cent tree canopy target.
- Rebuild and rehabilitate Namadgi National Park following this year's bushfires
- Continue the annual Canberra and Region Heritage Festival.
- Protect our suburbs and surrounding forests and bushland, by not allowing new suburbs in sensitive natural areas like Tuggeranong west of the Murrumbidgee River or in Kowen Forest – both areas the Canberra Liberals indicate they will bulldoze for urban development.
- Develop and implement a Canberra-wide landscape strategy and action plan that guides our urban and non-urban environment policy and management, so that we continue to balance our city's growth with our wish to remain the "bush capital".

- Build on our network of green spaces by identifying new areas where we can invest in our natural assets, so that we are not just maintaining, but also improving, our city's environment.
- Continue improving our lakes and waterways, including delivering on our 10-year plan for a healthier Lake Tuggeranong.
- Upgrade outdated and substandard reserve visitor infrastructure and trails to realise our tourism potential and deliver on our CBR Nature Based Tourism Strategy.
- Begin construction works on existing infrastructure, and complete final feasibility and business planning to deliver an iconic mountain bike trail network, to position Canberra as the 'mountain bike capital of Australia'.
- Fund ACT catchment groups and ACT Wildlife to encourage more people to be more active in caring for nature.
- Formally sign up and take necessary steps to reduce public and private use of pesticides, to become a "bee-friendly city".
- Increase the number of nature playscapes in the ACT.
- Continue hiring more Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Canberrans, including as rangers, as part of our journey of reconciliation, a journey which includes cultural burns and the incorporation of other traditional land management practices, in consultation and partnership with traditional custodians.
- Continue working with the Conservation Council and Landcare Australia to keep improving our natural environment.



## Housing and land release

### What we stand for

ACT Labor will continue to support public housing tenants, and continue to increase public housing, in the Territory.

We understand the need to release new land at a level that provides sufficient stock for people who want to build their own home, or buy a new residence, at an affordable price – while not flooding the market and crashing the value of property for existing home owners. That requires economic experience and sensible land release policy.

We will not allow environmentally sensitive and community-use land, such as Kowen Forest and native grasslands in Tuggeranong west of the Murrumbidgee, to be bulldozed for urban development.

### What we have achieved this term

- The ACT Labor Government has released land for the construction of over 16,500 dwellings. Over the past four we have seen over 20,000 dwellings commence construction.
- Renewed 1,288 public housing properties over the past five years and replaced about 11 per cent of our public housing portfolio (the oldest, coldest, and hardest to live in) with modern homes that suit the needs of tenants.
- Developed the Affordable Home Purchase Program to assist low-to-moderate income earners on the path to owning their own home.
- Invested in an Affordable Rental Real Estate Management Model to encourage property investors to rent their investment properties at 75 per cent of the market rate.
- Established a land tax exemption pilot for properties rented at 75 per cent of the market rate and introduced a 25 per cent lease variation charge remission for registered community housing providers to encourage the development of more affordable rental housing.
- Partnered with Catholic Care and St Vincent De Paul to support 32 individuals with high and complex needs who were sleeping rough into permanent housing.
- Committed \$45 million to extend our existing investment for the 28 organisations that make up the ACT Specialist Homelessness Sector.
- Invested \$6.5 million to support new programs for older women and asylum seekers at risk of homelessness.
- Provided additional funding for Karinya House for Mothers and Babies' accommodation and support services.
- Waived stamp duty for eligible first home buyers.

## What we will continue to do

- A re-elected ACT Labor Government will keep growing and renewing public housing with an \$120 million investment to build 1,260 new homes, including an extra 260 social housing dwellings for people who need them most.
- We will dedicate at least 15 per cent of the Indicative Land Release Program's residential land releases to affordable, community and public housing.
- We will continue delivering on the actions set out in the *ACT Housing Strategy*.
- We will continue to maintain a strong supply of new homes and provide certainty to builders, investors and prospective owner-occupiers through the annual Indicative Land Release Program.
- We will build on the success of Common Ground Gungahlin by finishing a second Common Ground in Dickson, providing social and affordable housing for women, children and families facing homelessness.
- We will develop a shared equity scheme and built-to-rent model for Canberra to enable increased affordable rentals and a pathway to home ownership for people on lower incomes.
- We will introduce an additional youth foyer at CIT Woden, linking youth housing with employment and training opportunities.
- We will develop a program to support social housing tenants to maintain their homes and get access to additional support services.
- We will deliver direct affordable housing projects, building on the success of the Kaleen mixed-tenure approach, with social and affordable housing and the proposed North Wright Demonstration Affordable Housing Project.
- We will explore opportunities to increase the availability of affordable housing for people in the second income quintile.

# Justice

## 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.

## What we have achieved this term

- We implemented the findings of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, including establishing an intermediary scheme in the ACT and joining the National Redress Scheme.
- We funded a number of therapeutic and culturally sensitive forms of justice including for child offenders and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.
- We established a Drug and Alcohol Court to offer an alternative form of sentencing to address substance addiction.
- We legalised small amounts of cannabis possession and use, to get people the rehabilitation help they need, and direct them away from the criminal justice system.
- We reformed the *Residential Tenancies Act* to make renting fairer for tenants and stopped excessive rent increases or evictions of tenants affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- We created a specific criminal offence introducing corporate criminal responsibility for institutions that neglect, abuse or fail to protect vulnerable people, to better protect our seniors and people with a disability.
- We made changes to the *Coroner's Act* to make it more effective and sensitive to the deceased's family and friends and make the coronial process more compassionate and restorative.
- We completed a major redevelopment and modernisation of the ACT's courts buildings, creating hundreds of jobs during the construction phase, and improving the speed and accessibility of our justice system.
- We passed new laws to tackle bikie gangs, including powers for police and prosecutors to disrupt their business model and destroy their profits. We also gave police greater powers to deal with criminal gang offences and provided more funding to the Director of Public Prosecutions.
- Improved end-of-life care options and lobbied for the ACT to have the right to make its own decisions on voluntary assisted dying legislation.

## What we will continue to do

- A re-elected ACT Labor Government will continue working toward creating a Centre for Restorative Justice to ensure justice in Canberra is accessible, fair and healing.
- We will conduct a review of the rates and causes of Indigenous incarceration in the ACT, which will be led and informed by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait community.
- We will keep working to support the establishment of a mandatory national register of enduring power of attorney instruments.
- We will keep working to enhance support measures for young people at risk of entering the criminal justice system and consider the appropriateness of raising the age of criminal responsibility.
- We will oppose any legal attempt to restart greyhound racing in the Territory.

## LGBTIQ+

### What we stand for

Canberra is and should always be the most welcoming and supportive city for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer (LGBTIQ+) people in Australia.

### What we have achieved this term

- We established the Office for LGBTIQ+ Affairs to deliver practical reforms, events and programs to further establish Canberra as the most LGBTIQ+ friendly city in Australia.
- We developed the Capital of Equality strategy and have begun implementing the accompanying action plan. The action plan sets out practical steps and reforms we will undertake to ensure Canberra continues to be the most LGBTIQ+ welcoming and inclusive city in Australia, by removing barriers and improving access to services.
- Banned sexuality and gender identity conversion practices in the ACT.
- We launched the Safe and Inclusive Schools Initiative, teaching the teachers to ensure the safety and wellbeing of every LGBTIQ+ student.
- We engaged a broad cross-section of the LGBTIQ+ community in partnership to deliver grassroots, on-the-ground services and programs through initiatives such as the Capital of Equality grants.
- We led our community to achieve the highest participation and highest 'yes' vote in the country in the national plebiscite on marriage equality.
- We implemented changes to the *Discrimination Act* to ensure LGBTIQ+ students and staff cannot be discriminated against in our educational institutions.
- We continued to be the principal sponsor of key community events such as SpringOUT.
- We provided more than \$500,000 in funding to support A Gender Agenda build support services for our trans and intersex community.
- We progressed work on reforms to ban surgical interventions on children born with variations in sex characteristics.

### What we will continue to do

- We will progressively implement the *Capital of Equality First Action Plan*. Beyond the initiatives listed in the plan, a re-elected ACT Labor Government is committed to working in partnership with the community to identify remaining barriers to equality to inform and develop future action plans.
- We will continue funding important initiatives such as the Capital of Equality Grants Program, SpringOUT, and capability-building funding for community organisations.
- We will continue to focus on the mental health and wellbeing of the LGBTIQ+ community, working with the community to develop programs and support mechanisms to bring about a significant improvement in LGBTIQ+ mental health.

- 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.
- We will continue to implement our commitment to the Darlington Statement for the protection of intersex Canberrans.
- We will continue to support community access to the Pride Hub Canberra.

## Mental health

### What we stand for

ACT Labor recognises that enhancing our quality of life requires a comprehensive approach to supporting people's mental health and wellbeing.

We are committed to investing in our mental health care through an accessible and integrated system, from community-based support and education, through to inpatient treatment and rehabilitation.

### What we have achieved this term

The ACT Labor Government has been focussed on improving the health and wellbeing of Canberrans by investing in improved community and hospital-based mental health services:

- We established the ACT's first mental health portfolio in 2016 and the Office for Mental Health and Wellbeing in 2019 to guide our whole-of-system response to improving the delivery of mental health care in the community.
- Over the past 10 years, we have doubled the number of inpatient mental health beds from 61 in 2009 to 123 in 2020. This has included:
  - establishing a new Mental Health Short Stay Unit, delivering six new beds at Canberra Hospital in 2016;
  - opening the Dhulwa Mental Health Unit which included an additional 10 high dependency unit beds in 2016 and seven rehabilitation beds in 2017;
  - developing the 20-bed Adult Mental Health Rehabilitation Unit and Day Service at the University of Canberra Hospital in July 2018;
  - adding an additional three beds at the Adult Mental Health Unit, bringing the total number to 40 beds; and
  - refurbishing and relocating the Older Persons Mental Health Service and the adult mental health unit at Calvary Public Hospital Bruce in a modern environment.
- We have supported these investments by implementing outreach and response teams to reduce admissions and length of stay in hospital, including:
  - establishing the Home Assessment and Acute Response Team in 2018;
  - implementing the Police, Ambulance and Clinical Early Response (PACER) program in 2019 and expanding the program in July 2020; and
  - introducing the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service's (CAHMS) Assertive Mobile Outreach Services, Hospital Liaisons Team, and Consultation and Liaison Service at the Canberra Hospital.

## What we will continue to do

- A re-elected ACT Labor Government will continue to invest in community support services and ‘step-up step-down’ programs to ensure our integrated system is able to provide continuum of care to those who need it most, including the most vulnerable in our community.
- We will continue supporting our workforce, carers and family members to enable people to fully contribute to our community.
- We will leverage these pathways by investing in our community organisations to better support Canberrans in early intervention and beyond, including:
  - parenting education and support for mental health during the perinatal period;
  - prevention and early intervention for our young people by partnering with community groups to expand existing programs;
  - improved mental health outreach and intervention to support those most vulnerable in our community and those experiencing, or at risk of experiencing, homelessness; and
  - new programs to support social connectedness among older Canberrans.
- We will bolster our continued investment in our hospital capacity through:
  - the development of an additional 12-bed low-dependency ward at Canberra Hospital, to be completed by June 2021; and
  - the development of an additional six to eight high dependency beds in the Adult Mental Health Unit by converting current LDUs and delivering the Adolescent Mental Health Unit in 2022.
- We will expand existing adolescent mental health services and deliver innovative new supports for children and young people, including:
  - a strategy to address concern among children, young people and parents about the impact of social media on anxiety and resilience;
  - delivering Orygen Digital’s ground-breaking youth mental health digital platform (MOST) to empower 5,000 young people who access Headspace and Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) in the management of their mental health and wellbeing;
  - a multidisciplinary service to support young people who have mental health needs co-occurring with trauma, disability or drug and alcohol use; and
  - an intensive trauma service for adolescents built on the Melaleuca Place model to support the recovery of 13 to 17-year-olds who have experienced trauma, including abuse or neglect.
- Continue to work with the Federal Government to work towards the establishment of a Veterans Telehealth Mental Health and Research Hub to better serve the mental health needs of the Veterans population in the ACT and Australia, and to increase the level and quality of research into issues affecting the Veterans population, including mental health issues.



## 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.

### What we have achieved this term

During the pandemic the Federal Liberal Government abandoned the multicultural community at a time when it needed help the most, leaving those on temporary visas ineligible for JobKeeper and JobSeeker and without any income to live on.

The ACT Labor Government stepped in to provide support for our multicultural communities with emergency relief, providing food and paying rent and utility bills to support temporary visa holders and international students to survive through the pandemic.

We also created the 'Jobs for Canberrans' fund, to provide more than 500 government jobs for workers on temporary visas who were ineligible for the JobSeeker and JobKeeper programs.

In 2017, we established an ACT Multicultural Advisory Council.

Over the last four years we have also worked to implement the *ACT Multicultural Framework 2015-2020*. In doing so:

- We launched the online ACT Diversity Register for Canberrans from a diverse background, including people from the multicultural community, who are interested in serving on ACT boards and committees, enabling individuals to register themselves for an opportunity to be considered for a role.
- We expanded the ACT Multicultural Honorary Ambassador Program.
- We partnered with the ACT Multicultural Advisory Council to host six community roundtables during September and October 2018, followed by the 2018 ACT Multicultural Summit in November 2018.
- We ensured that Canberra joined the Welcoming Cities Network – a growing global network of cities that have formally declared themselves as welcoming of migrant and multicultural communities and begun to benchmark our progress against the Welcoming Cities Standard.
- We've expanded the ACT Services Access Card to provide asylum seekers with utility rebates in addition to access to a range of ACT Government services including concession rates for public transport, access to the ACT Taxi Subsidy Scheme, education and library services, legal assistance from the Public Trustee and Guardian, and public health services.

- We've continued to support the Work Experience and Support Program (WESP), providing our migrant community with professional skills and training through a 12-week placement in the ACT Public Service.
- We provided \$450,000 in funding to translate key ACT Government material into more than a dozen languages and made COVID-19 related health services free for temporary visa holders.

## What we will continue to do

- A re-elected ACT Labor Government will consult with the multicultural community on a new piece of legislation, the *Multicultural Recognition Act*, to establish the multicultural charter, legislate for the existing Multicultural Advisory Council, and establish reporting obligations for the Multicultural Framework.
- We will consult on and establish a multicultural charter for ACT Government agencies, businesses and non-government organisations to adopt to promote multiculturalism and inclusion.
- We will work towards attaining the 'advanced' level in the Welcoming Cities standard.
- We will continue our advocacy for a national anti-racism strategy, and an effective campaign to address racism.
- We will work with multicultural groups to ensure appropriate spaces are available for community and other important cultural, social, and religious events.

## Planning and urban renewal

### What we stand for

ACT Labor's approach to planning is to create a city that is sustainable and equitable. We support Canberra's special status as the national capital and its history as a city in a landscape.

We believe in managing growth and change across the city, while protecting our natural bushland surrounds, reducing congestion and limiting urban sprawl.

### What we have achieved this term

- We created the National Capital Design Review Panel to improve the quality of building and landscape design of significant developments.
- We have ruled out urban development in Kowen Forest and sensitive natural areas west of the Murrumbidgee River in Tuggeranong. The Canberra Liberals have committed to bulldozing Kowen Forest and the Murrumbidgee natural areas for residential development.
- We protected more than 20 hectares of natural grasslands in Franklin.
- We increased the size of the Molonglo River Reserve by about 95 hectares.
- We made the sale of land to community organisations fairer and more transparent.
- The ACT Labor Government released the *ACT Planning Strategy 2018*.
- We began reforming unit titles legislation to make developers more accountable to purchasers of off-the-plan apartments and townhouses, and to allow online participation in owners corporation meetings and decisions.

### What we will continue to do

A re-elected ACT Labor Government will:

- Continue to restrict approvals for taller buildings (10 storeys and higher) to currently designated town centres and key transport corridors only. We will focus on new development in our existing town and group centres and along transport corridors to promote sustainability and reduce urban sprawl.
- Continue the ACT Planning Review – a significant review of the ACT planning system to make it easier for industries and the community to use, and to better link strategic planning with individual development assessment.
- Revise the arbitrary and restrictive supermarket floor size cap, which has hindered tenancy in suburban shopping centres, such as Giralang and Coombs. This will cut red tape and allow greater commercial flexibility and attractiveness for appropriately sized supermarkets in convenient locations.
- Renew the Woden Town Centre, making it a more attractive and fun place to live, with a range of living options available.
- Increase the proportion of green space and landscaping in new residential developments.

- Protect Canberra’s landscape by reducing greenfield expansion into our surrounding bushland, and never building residential developments in the sensitive natural areas west of the Murrumbidgee in Tuggeranong or at Kowen Forest. The Canberra Liberals have committed to releasing land and building new estates west of the Murrumbidgee, and bulldozing Kowen Forest for urban development.
- Continue to increase the amount of planting areas on private blocks to help the ACT reach 30 per cent urban canopy coverage.

## Prevention of domestic and family violence

### What we stand for

ACT Labor understands gender discrimination is the driver of domestic and family violence and gender equality forms the backdrop of prevention measures.

The majority of people who use violence in family and intimate relationships are men. Stopping violence against women and their children requires commitment from everyone – including governments, ministers, sectors and members of our community.

ACT Labor is committed to addressing this complex problem with a long-term plan of action.

### What we have achieved this term

The Safer Families package began with a \$21 million investment in the 2016-17 Budget. At the same time, the \$30 Safer Families Levy was introduced as part of a community-wide contribution to tackle family and domestic violence and provide an ongoing revenue base to fund long-term system reform and service improvements.

This investment has built an important foundation to strengthen the capacity of frontline services, improve coordination across the government and test promising new approaches.

The additional Safer Families commitment in the 2019-20 Budget was \$24 million over four years. This investment funded a range of new or extended initiatives:

- ACT Labor has increased funding for frontline domestic and family violence services, including the Domestic Violence Crisis Service and Canberra Rape Crisis Centre.
- We have trained 21,000 ACT Government workers to respond to family violence.
- We introduced family-centred responses for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families impacted by family violence, as recommended in the reports: *We Don't Shoot our Wounded* and *Change our Future – Share what you know*.
- Reduced the risks of deaths from family violence through investing \$831,000 to fund the establishment of the *ACT Domestic and Family Violence Death Review*.
- Extended the Room4Change program, a therapeutic residential men's behaviour change program focused on preventing domestic and family violence that includes group work, one-on-one case management and accommodation for participants.

### What we will continue to do

- A re-elected ACT Labor Government will continue to deliver the Family Safety Hub which will focus on improving people's experiences when seeking help and safety.
- We will continue the 'try, test, learn' approach to testing preventative measures for family and domestic violence.
- We will continue to trial culturally sensitive approaches to preventing family violence and engage the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community to co-design prevention and behaviour change approaches.

- We will continue our work on perpetrator interventions, or men’s behaviour change programs.
- We will continue to build capability across the public service to recognise and respond effectively to domestic and family violence, while focusing on lifting the capabilities of frontline staff.
- We will design, implement and support a new integrated domestic and family violence response in the ACT. The trial will provide centralised and integrated case management and case coordination, test and adapt existing building blocks, and identify other components required to build a system-wide integrated response to domestic and family violence. The work will be modelled off other successful programs including the Orange Door model in Victoria.
- We will continue work to enhance responses to perpetrators. Through the 2019 Perpetrator Project, the ACT Government reviewed local, national and international research on interventions for men who use violence against women and children. The government also held a forum and practitioner’s workshop to discuss men’s behaviour change programs. The Perpetrator Project is a contribution to the research, discussion and debate needed to improve the effectiveness of existing interventions for perpetrators of domestic and family violence.

## 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

- We lowered the age of eligibility for an ACT Seniors Card to 60 from 1 July 2020 (for those people not working more than 20 hours a week).
- We have doubled the amount of grant funding for seniors' participation activities.
- We have undertaken age-friendly suburban upgrades including path and pedestrian access improvements in Ainslie, Weston, Kaleen, Monash, Page, Hughes, Narrabundah, Isabella Plains, Stirling, Campbell, Aranda and Holt.
- We have extended the Pensioner Duty Concession Scheme to support pensioners in reducing stamp duty if they choose to move homes.
- We have increased funding to COTA ACT for Seniors Week events and administration of the ACT Seniors Card.
- We released the *Age-Friendly City Plan* – demonstrating that we have a plan to continue making our city accessible for Canberra's seniors.
- We introduced and passed legislation to create criminal offences for elder abuse.

### What we will continue to do

- A re-elected ACT Labor Government will digitise the ACT Seniors Card, making the application process more accessible.
- We will continue delivering actions in the *Age-Friendly City Plan*.
- We will ensure all ACT Government shopfronts and libraries are dementia friendly.
- We will develop and implement a specific strategy for the mental health of older Canberrans.

## Social inclusion

### What we stand for

Canberra is, and should always be, the most inclusive city in Australia.

We are committed to supporting all Canberrans to be able to participate and feel welcomed within our community. That is why we provide facilities, funding, and a wide range of support for individuals and groups to get together, to support each other, and to enjoy all the opportunities our city has to offer.

### What we achieved this term

- Invested significantly in making Canberra the nation's most inclusive city, and one of the most inclusive cities in the world.
- We have started significant reform in the justice system to give people living with disability greater support and access to their rights.
- We have put a focus on recognising and supporting the many carers across our community.
- We have funded food pantries, community transport and community group grants.
- We have funded critical services across our city that support our community to be safe and connected.
- We have provided several community facilities at concessional rates so that our Canberrans have the places and spaces to come together.
- We have funded accessibility upgrades to our government buildings so that more people can easily access them.
- Launched the ACT Wellbeing Framework, which will help the government and community measure our quality of life in the ACT.

### What we will continue to do

- A re-elected ACT Labor Government will listen, understand and respond to the needs of our community, particularly as the impacts of the COVID-19 health emergency continue to unfold.
- We will support and fund community services so that those services can support us.
- We will work collaboratively with trade unions to ensure workers' rights are upheld and strengthened across the ACT.
- We will continue to create an inclusive culture in our community where all people feel connected and their contribution is valued.



## Sport and recreation

### What we stand for

Participation in sport and recreation provides a foundation to health and wellbeing and supports strong communities.

The ACT has the highest sport participation rate in Australia, with 93 per cent of adults and 77 per cent of children involved. These strong results reflect our efforts to make physical activity accessible and inclusive for all Canberrans.

Equally, the ACT is well represented at the peak of men's and women's elite sport, with championship teams across a range of codes including rugby, basketball and football.

### What we have achieved this term

Since 2016, the ACT Labor Government has delivered on its commitments to support our city to participate in sport and recreation:

- We are constructing the \$24 million 'home of football', in partnership with Capital Football, in Throsby.
- We provided more than \$2.5 million in support for women's participation in sport through female-friendly facilities upgrades and grants, and funding for the Canberra Capitals WNBL and Canberra United W-League teams.
- We have achieved 40 per cent women representation among a majority of annual and triennial-funded sport organisations.
- We constructed a \$36 million leisure centre in Stromlo, including swimming and splash pools, a gym and related amenities, which opened in August 2020.
- We have progressed new and upgraded local sporting facilities across the Territory including:
  - the design of Stromlo District Playing Fields;
  - match play lighting at Calwell District Playing Fields;
  - an upgraded facility for the Tuggeranong Rowing Club; and
  - the revitalisation of the Higgins Oval.
- We upgraded the Circuit Mark Webber at the Canberra Kart Racing Club.
- We made a \$5 million contribution to the Raiders Centre of Excellence in Braddon.
- We continued distributing annual sport and recreation grants totalling more than \$2 million annually.

## What we will continue to do

- A re-elected ACT Labor Government will keep working with peak sporting bodies and recreation groups to provide grant funding and invest in modern facilities so that everyone can get involved in their game or activity and live a healthy and active lifestyle.
- We will continue to support the construction of an Olympic class, twin-sheet ice sports facility in Tuggeranong. The ACT Labor Government announced the proponent to build the facility in September 2020.
- We will continue upgrading public playing fields.
- We will undertake female-friendly facility upgrades at existing public ovals and construct new female-friendly pavilions.
- We will roll out a program of improvements including the upgrade of lights, improved turf, improved pavilions, installation of water refill stations, new seating and car park upgrades at playing fields across Canberra.

## Tax Reform

### What we stand for

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

The ACT's previous tax system, like other jurisdictions, 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 in this time of global economic uncertainty. Properly funded, high quality services are only possible through stable tax revenue.

### What we have achieved this term

Since 2012, the ACT Labor Government has been undertaking a significant tax reform program.

Inefficient and inequitable transaction taxes, such as stamp duty and insurance duty are being phased out and replaced by more equitable and efficient revenue levied through general rates.

These changes have been revenue neutral – that means the Government has not collected more tax than it would have if we'd left the system the way it was. But in changing the tax mix, analysis shows we have increased economic growth, gross state product, household consumption, and investment every year.

The general rates system is now more progressive with lower income and wealth households paying a lower proportion of total general rates revenue.

Through our tax reform policy:

- We have fully abolished stamp duty for eligible first home buyers, making it easier for young people and those on low incomes to own their own home.
- The ACT is the first and only state or territory to abolish insurance duty, removing a duty as high as 10 per cent from insurance products.
- We have reduced a significant barrier to home ownership: the purchaser of a \$500,000 property today pays \$9,100 or 44 per cent less in stamp duty than prior to tax reform, and the purchaser of a \$750,000 property today pays \$12,675 or 36 per cent less in stamp duty than prior to tax reform.
- We have removed commercial land tax.

- We have increased the stamp duty free threshold for commercial properties to \$1.5 million, meaning around 80 per cent of commercial property transactions now pay zero stamp duty.
- Increased the payroll tax threshold from \$1.5 million to \$2 million, which is the highest in the country and means less than 10 per cent of businesses in the Territory are liable to pay any payroll tax.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, we have used the tax system to stimulate the economy, support homeowners, and provide significant help for people to purchase their new home or apartment, by:

- Providing financial relief to homeowners by setting average residential general rates at zero for the 2020-21 financial year, including a \$150 rates rebate for every household in the first quarter.
- Providing owner occupiers experiencing hardship because of the COVID-19 pandemic the opportunity to access a 12-month rates deferral, interest free.
- Until 30 June 2021, significantly reducing the stamp duty for eventual owner-occupiers on the purchase of:
  - New land single residential blocks, to **zero**
  - Off-the-plan apartment and townhouse purchases up to \$500,000, to **zero**; and
  - Off-the-plan apartment and townhouse purchases between \$500,000 and \$750,000, **by \$11,400**
- Extending the Pensioner Duty Concession Scheme for one year to provide a full or partial stamp duty concession to pensioners purchasing a property valued below the median property value.

## What we will continue to do

A re-elected ACT Labor Government will continue tax reform by cutting stamp duty in every ACT Budget, focussing on supporting prospective owner-occupiers to buy a home.

- Because the heavy lifting of tax reform has been completed, we have set the annual rates increase in the next five-year phase of the tax reform program at an average 3.75 per cent a year.
- We will actively consider the need for a rebate in 2021-22, as we provided in 2020-21, if the economic conditions require an adjustment.
- We will provide advice and information to other jurisdictions, such as NSW and Victoria, who are acting to make similar reforms to stabilise their tax base to maintain essential services.

## Tourism

### What we stand for

ACT Labor is committed to rebuilding our tourism industry and visitor economy which has been decimated by COVID-19.

We have a proven track record of delivering, having connected Canberra with the world through international flights, and significantly increased our visitor economy.

### What we have achieved this term

- Prior to the impacts of COVID-19 ACT Labor had grown the ACT's overnight visitor expenditure to \$2.56 billion, exceeding our target of \$2.5 billion by the end of 2020.
- The tourism industry employed more than 18,000 people and made up around 8.2 per cent of total employment.
- We attracted new aviation connections including daily international services to Singapore and Doha as well as new domestic routes including our first low cost carrier Tiger Airways.
- We have attracted branded hotels with hundreds of millions of loyalty members worldwide.
- Invested tens of millions of dollars in upgrades to our key tourism infrastructure including the Canberra Theatre, Stromlo Forest Park, the National Convention Centre, Manuka Oval, the National Arboretum and GIO Stadium.
- Attracted numerous world class men's and women's sporting events including our first international Test Cricket match, ICC Women's T20 world cup and AFL content.

### What we will continue to do

- We will deliver a new, long-term, *Tourism 2030 Strategy* in consultation with industry to grow our visitor economy to \$3.5 billion by the end of the decade.
- We will embark on the biggest destination marketing campaign in our city's history – with additional resources from the ACT Government, Visit Canberra will run a four year \$17m campaign.
- We will establish a flight fund of up to \$3 million to work with Canberra Airport, Tourism Australia, and other domestic and international destinations to support marketing of new direct routes to bring more visitors to Canberra when it is safe to do so.
- We will establish the ACT COVID-Safe Tourism Demand Program, providing matched funding for the development of COVID-safe tourism products and infrastructure to help the industry restart and rebuild.

- We will launch the Choose CBR digital discount program with \$2.5 million to incentivise spending with eligible businesses that need it most in industries like tourism, hospitality, and retail.
- We will extend the Tourism Cooperative Marketing fund into 2021-2022.
- We will boost our ability to attract COVID-safe events by committing \$6 million over 4 years to the Major Events Fund.
- We will continue to support the Canberra Convention Bureau and expand the Major Events Fund to help attract high economic impact business events to the Territory.
- We will build on our support for education tourism through the National Capital Tourism Education Program.
- A re-elected ACT Labor Government will invest \$21 million to build a new 10,000m<sup>2</sup> indoor venue at EPIC. This new facility would accommodate (in non-pandemic times) around 1,500 people for standing events, and provide a seated option for up to 1000 guests.
- We will look for opportunities to attract appropriate new tourism investment into other ACT Government owned venues like the National Arboretum and Stromlo Forest Park.

## 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

- We launched the ACT Public Service Veterans Employment Strategy, including Veterans Employment Executive Champions and a Veterans Mentoring Program. The program won a Prime Minister's Veterans Employment Award.
- We trialled a private sector Veterans Connect Event, to link current and former serving ADF members with private sector jobs in Canberra.
- We increased the recognition of veterans in ACT Government events, including Veterans Day at Floriade and the Veterans Community Day.
- We created a dedicated veteran grant round for social participation.

### What we will continue to do

- A re-elected ACT Labor Government will roll out the Veterans Connect Event three times a year, in line with ADF Transition Seminars.
- We will continue working on a feasibility study to consider setting up a national veterans' digital health and research hub in Canberra, to increase support to veterans, particularly mental health support to those most at risk.
- We will continue developing a holistic veterans employment program that covers both the private and public sectors.
- Develop a Whole of ACT Government Veterans Strategy.

## Vocational education and training

### What we stand for

We are committed to providing a quality vocational education and training system that is focussed on teaching students the skills they need to get and keep a secure and well-paid job, in a rapidly changing economy.

Only an ACT Labor Government will ensure the Canberra Institute of Technology remains in public hands and has the resources to provide quality training in emerging and traditional skills. We will ensure students have the appropriate support to undertake and complete their studies.

We will keep making improvements across the system and support lifelong learning through the higher and vocational education sectors.

### What we have achieved this term

- We have commenced the design process to build a world-leading education campus for CIT in the Woden Town Centre. This campus will provide the future skills and training opportunities required to meet the growing demands of local industries and the ACT community.
- Increased funding for VET, just as the Federal Liberal Government has effectively cut funding over time. ACT Labor has implemented programs like Skilled Capital that provide subsidised training in areas of skills need and provided assistance to students who have found it difficult to access training.
- We also established the Future Skills for Future Jobs grants program to provide funding for innovative projects that increase Australian apprenticeships; the Mature Workers Grants program to support new services designed to address barriers experienced by mature workers seeking to upskill or re-skill; and the Women in Trades grants program to fund activities that support women embarking on trade apprenticeships.
- ACT Labor funded an additional 2000 training places in the Skilled Capital program to support Canberrans to re-skill during the pandemic.

### What we will continue to do

- A re-elected ACT Labor Government will keep CIT in public hands, with at least 75 per cent of total VET funding to be provided to CIT as the primary provider of Canberra's vocational education and training.
- We will ensure Canberra's training system is ready to deliver the skills of the future and is contributing effectively to the broader Canberra economy through a four-year VET investment strategy.



- We will boost funding for subsidised training to maintain and enhance training levels in the COVID-19 recovery. We will continue to build industry partnerships and reach out to businesses to ensure training remains current. We will also ensure that Australian apprentices and trainees have the right support to complete their training.
- We will improve access to training opportunities for the Canberra community, and continue to provide grant programs to support training in specific fields.
- ACT Labor will work with industry to increase the number of apprentices working on government projects, especially our larger projects. This policy will help ensure that our construction workforce has the pipeline of skills they need from both young workers and those looking to reskill.
- ACT Labor will deliver the \$8.37 million in co-funding to expand the SPARK Ginninderry training and employment initiative and deliver approximately 1,300 training places through CIT to ensure Canberrans get access to a large range of training options. Skilled Capital will also be expanded across a range of qualifications and skill sets to deliver around 3500 extra training places in total.

## Women

### What we stand for

ACT Labor is working to build a community where gender equality is a reality.

We are committed to collaborating with individuals and organisations across sectors and society to break down gender barriers. This is especially important in recognising that gender-based discrimination happens in the context of other forms of discrimination such as ethnicity, sexuality, disability, age and economic exclusion.

### What we have achieved this term

The ACT is doing comparatively well in areas such as parliamentary representation, the gender pay gap and representation of women on boards and committees, but gender inequality persists.

We established the *ACT Women's Plan 2016-26* based on broad consultation and engagement with Canberra women. This plan sets out our ongoing commitment to work in partnership with non-government organisations, businesses, and the ACT community towards positive change for all women. We achieved 99 per cent of actions from the *First Action Plan* under the *ACT Women's Plan* and look forward to enacting the *Second Action Plan*.

Under the *First Action Plan*, the ACT Labor Government delivered on a range of initiatives:

- We introduced the Women in Trades Grants Program.
- We increased the number of women recruited and in leadership roles in the Emergency Services Agency.
- We ensured a majority of ACT peak sporting bodies achieved a minimum of 40 per cent female board representation.
- We made childbirth classes more accessible and delivered them in languages other than English.
- We began training ACT public servants on how to identify and respond to family violence.
- We continued reducing the level of homelessness among women.
- We improved consideration of gender impact when developing government policies, programs and services.

## What we will continue to do

- ACT Labor has committed to a 10 per cent target for the proportion of women employed in the construction industry in the ACT.
- We will work on increasing female student participation in construction vocational education and training, for example, through learning opportunities in schools. Similarly, we will look at opportunities to ensure that women have access to secure, well-paid career pathways from school into traditionally male-dominated science, technology, engineering and mathematics occupations.
- We will continue the ACT Women's Return to Work Program which assists women to achieve increased financial independence by helping them prepare for, obtain and maintain employment.
- We will continue fighting to better recognise greatness in diversity and the need to both culturally and systemically address gender inequality.
- Women continue to perform most caring and unpaid domestic work – a structural inequality that ACT Labor is committed to breaking down. We will advance cultural and educational change to shift understandings of unequal gender roles in the community. We will also deliver a new approach to gender equity in schools to drive cultural change among the next generation of Canberrans.
- We will provide systemic supports for women to break through the barriers that prevent them from participating equally in the workforce and broader community.
- We will improve preschool accessibility by phasing in before and after-school care for preschool children and looking for opportunities to co-locate early childhood education and care with public schools. We will also advocate for improved pay and conditions in female-dominated occupations such as early childhood education.

## Workers' rights and workplace safety

### What we stand for

ACT Labor stands for fair employment conditions and safe, secure work for all Canberrans.

We are committed to using the ACT Government's power as a purchaser and investor to ensure worker safety and fair pay and conditions on government projects.

ACT Labor is committed to supporting all working Canberrans through strong work health and safety laws and employment conditions.

### What we have achieved this term

- We introduced the Secure Local Jobs Code, which requires all bidders for ACT Government work to ensure fair pay and conditions for their workers.
- We created a new independent Office of the Work Health and Safety Commissioner to provide even stronger and more transparent enforcement of ACT work health and safety laws.
- We provided funding for 12 new full-time equivalent (FTE) staff to support the new Work Health and Safety Commissioner.
- We introduced a Labour Hire Licensing Scheme to protect workers in labour hire arrangements, by ensuring licensed companies are transparent and meet their workplace obligations.
- We funded an advice line for young workers to ensure they can access employment information and support.

### What we will continue to do

- A re-elected ACT Labor Government will work collaboratively with trade unions to ensure workers' rights are upheld and strengthened across the ACT.
- We will support the Work Health and Safety Commissioner to keep Canberrans safe, with resources and new and improved safety legislation.
- We will support fair working conditions for all Canberrans by enhancing the ACT's Portable Long Service Leave Scheme and improving workers' compensation.
- We will introduce transmission of business clauses in ACT Government contracts, in negotiation with unions, to ensure that jobs outside the public sector are as secure as possible.
- We will establish a public register of infringement notice offences, so workers and the Canberra community are aware of employers who have breached their work health and safety obligations.
- We will support better mental health and wellbeing for workers by developing a stronger regulatory response to psychosocial workplace hazards.
- We will ensure our work health and safety regulations respond to the impacts and hazards of climate change.
- We will introduce stronger workplace regulations to protect tradespeople who are exposed to silica dust.

- We will strengthen protections for working people by establishing industrial manslaughter as an offence under our work health and safety legislation.
- We will ensure the ACT's legislation and work safety enforcement capabilities can identify and respond to modern day slavery.
- We will support fair working conditions for Canberrans and ensure workers receive fair entitlements by reviewing the Portable Long Service Leave Scheme.