



AUSTRALIAN
CAPITAL TERRITORY
Chief Minister
Rosemary Follett

MEDIA RELEASE

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CHIEF MINISTER PROUD OF HER FIRST HUNDRED DAYS

The Chief Minister, Rosemary Follett, said today that she was pleased with the achievements of her Government during its first one hundred days in office.

"The highlight of the Government's work to date was the release of the historic A.C.T. Budget Initial Statement with its strong emphasis on social justice, economic development and a sound financial basis for the future", Ms Follett said. "The unique consultative budget process also emphasises our overall approach to consultative and accountable Government. The people of the A.C.T. now have a responsive Government prepared and able to meet the needs of our community."

Ms Follett said that the Government's achievements were particularly pleasing in view of the substantial workload involved in simply establishing the first A.C.T. Government. "I am happy with the way the Government is working as a team and the support we are getting from staff of the A.C.T. Government Service," she said.

Ms Follett was speaking as she released a list of major decisions and achievements by the Government during its first one hundred days in office.

18 August 1989

Contact: Wendy Wicks 758552 (w)
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ACT GOVERNMENT ACHIEVEMENTS AND DECISIONS 11 MAY 1989 - 18 AUGUST 1989

ACCOUNTABLE ADMINISTRATION AND CONSULTATIVE BUDGET

- . Established Australia's most comprehensive system for Declarations of Pecuniary Interests by Ministers and Members of the ACT Legislative Assembly
- . Attended the Premiers' Conference and Loan Council for the first time and ensured access to Commonwealth funding of \$22.7 million which the ACT would not otherwise have received.
- . Presented the 1989-90 A.C.T. Budget Initial Statement and established a Budget Consultative Committee. The first of three scheduled meetings was held on 10 August 1989. The A.C.T. Government is the only Government in Australia to release a budget statement for public comment. This is an integral part of the Government's commitment to open and participative government.
- . Instituted a general policy of 50 percent representation of women on all ACT boards and committees.
- . Reaffirmed a fundamental commitment to women through the allocation provided in the Budget Statement. A separate Women's Budget Statement will be part of the 1989/90 Budget Papers and will provide a foundation for the progressive development of performance indicators to enable public program managers to properly assess the impact of their programs on women and girls in the community.
- . Established a Social Policy Division within the Chief Minister's Department to coordinate implementation of the Government's social justice objectives.
- . Instituted Community Consultative Meetings. First meeting held on 21 June 1989 at the Northside Community Centre in Ainslie.

SOCIAL JUSTICE, HEALTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

- . Introduced a comprehensive Occupational Health and Safety Bill to provide a legislative base for workplace health and safety. The ACT is the only remaining part of the western world without such legislation.

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- . Established a Housing Policy Review to identify measures to improve the range of housing assistance available to residents of Canberra.
- . Secured increased funding from the Commonwealth under the new Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP) Agreement to last until the end of 1993-94.
- . Announced the progressive replacement of public housing for residents of Melba Flats over a four-year period. A Melba Flats Liaison Office established to assist in the relocation of tenants. *
- . Announced the establishment of a Register of Encumbered Vehicles to ensure that ACT residents need no longer have vehicles repossessed due to outstanding debts owed by previous owners. *
- . Announced the establishment of a 24 Hour Mental Health Crisis Service. *
- . Opened Woden office of the ACT Housing Trust as part of a move to make ACT Government more accessible to the people of the ACT.
- . Announced indexation of funds available to the Community Development Fund in recognition of the important work done by community groups. *
- . Allocated funding for the provision of fifty new aged persons' units in 1989-90. *
- . Announced \$100,000 funding for the Conflict Resolution Service which aims to mediate in community conflicts and reduce the need to resort to the police and court systems. *
- . Announced the re-establishment with ACT Government assistance of a Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission Office in Canberra to provide access to anti-discrimination protection. *
- . Announced the establishment of a Youth Outreach Workers scheme to provide personalised information, support and job planning services for long term unemployed teenagers. *
- . Announced measures to tighten stamp duty and payroll tax legislation to prevent tax avoidance. *

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ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE

- . Initiated the trial of 100 percent recycled paper in the ACT Government Service and a review of the ACT's recycling practices.
- . Introduced the Pesticides Act 1989 to provide for the safe use of pesticides and protection of people, animals and the environment.
- . Stopped the A.C.T. Government's purchase of supplies of sand and gravel from the Murrumbidgee corridor as part of the Government's ongoing commitment to the environment.
- . Established a Heritage Task Force to identify places, in addition to those places nominated by the public, of heritage significance in the ACT and recommend to the Heritage Committee their inclusion on an ACT Heritage Register.
- . Initiated a review into the use of Australian and imported rainforest timber in the ACT Government construction industry.
- . Released the Central Canberra Heritage Study.
- . Commenced work on integrated planning, environment and heritage legislation to be announced in October.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

- . Reconstituted the Canberra Development Board to broaden its membership and provide greater opportunity for community consultation.
- . Established an ACT Tourism Industry Advisory Committee to ensure coordinated and effective responses to the challenges of the ACT's tourism potential.
- . Announced a review of Employers Needs in Engineering Education in the ACT.
- . Announced a major employment study of all business activity in Civic Centre.
- . Allocated \$400,000 for a new TAFE tourism and hospitality facility to open in February 1990. *

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- . Established an ACT Very Fast Train (VFT) Advisory Committee to hear public submissions, conduct research and advise the Government on the implications of the VFT for the ACT.

URBAN SERVICES

- . Announced the upgrading of ACTION services with the purchase of 49 new buses to replace older buses and expand services in new suburbs. *
- . Announced the introduction of compulsory motor cycle rider training and a school driver education program. *
- . Decided to provide emergency telephones on the Tuggeranong Parkway. *

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

- . Abolished Preschool Fees from end of Term 1 1989 (23 March).
- . Agreed to fund the construction of a Nurse Education Building at the CCAE at an estimated cost to the ACT of \$4.4 million to enhance the quality of ACT nursing education and secure additional Commonwealth funding for the ACT health sector. *
- . Established a broad based committee to advise the Minister for Industry, Employment and Education on the administration of the ACT Government school system.
- . Enacted legislation to establish a Vocational Training Authority to strengthen training efforts in ACT industry and provide advice on industry vocational needs.
- . Announced the construction of a new primary and preschool in Theodore. *

* Actions or decisions marked with an asterisk were included in the Government's 1989-90 Budget Initial Statement and are dependent on passage of the ACT Budget.