



**Not the Best of Times,
Nor the Worst of Times:**

Analysis of the ACT Government 2007/08 Budget

June 2007



2007/08 ACT Budget

Not the Best of Times, Nor the Worst of Times: *The ACT Budget 2007/08*

The 2007/08 Budget contains a number of improvements for young people and no cuts to services, making this budget a huge improvement on last year's horror budget.

Youth Coalition of the ACT, the peak body for youth affairs is pleased that services for young people will not face similar cuts to the previous budget with cuts to both SAAP and education. This budget, by contrast, has a number of initiatives for young people that will improve their current access to services and education in the ACT but leaves some areas of investment wanting.

We congratulate the ACT Government on:

- New funding for 'vulnerable children' to coordinate services and provide support to parents
- Extra funding for disability services
- Increased mental health funding, expanded youth health services
- Funding for women with accompanying children to access alcohol and drug services
- Increased funding for libraries and public transport
- Capital investment for public housing
- Public sector indigenous trainee positions
- Fulfilling their commitment to a secondary college in Gungahlin, and
- Implementing some of the recommendations in the affordable housing strategy.

The budget, however, has not addressed many issues that are critical for young people and youth services in the ACT. In particular, there was no response to the essential need for workforce development funding in the community sector. The workforce development issues in the community sector need to be addressed in order to sustain and enhance services delivered to young people in Canberra. In particular, the disparity in wages between community sector and Government workers, which differs by up to \$20,000 for similar positions, is a critical concern and needs immediate action by the ACT Government.

Those working with young people need increased training and professional development opportunities through accredited tertiary training options and a youth sector trainee program. While it is positive that the ACT Government has introduced

a trainee program for Indigenous trainees and invested in government recruitment and retention, the community sector sorely needs similar investment.

We welcome a resourced and elected Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander body. This body is critical for the ACT Government to work with community members to identify issues and solutions to improve the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the ACT.

The ACT, however, has yet to implement many of the recommendations of The Bringing Them Home Report. In particular, the ACT Government has not set a timeframe to achieve equality between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and other Canberrans. Nor has it made the necessary targets and commitment of resources to achieve this goal. Following the recommendations in the 2005 Social Justice Report that all Australian governments commit to achieving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health equality within a generation (25 years).

Other areas that were not addressed included: an adolescent in-patient facility; queer specific services; refugee and multicultural services; civics and citizenship programs; and, industrial relations education for young people.

We look forward to working with the ACT Government and other community stakeholders in implementing the initiatives from this budget that relate to young people and youth services.

For more information contact the Youth Coalition on 62473540 or info@youthcoalition.net

Meredith Hunter
Director



MEDIA RELEASE

5 June 2007

A House to Let: *More houses will help meet demand*

The Youth Coalition of the ACT, the peak body for youth affairs welcomes the additional capital investment for public housing in the ACT. Public housing continues to face high demand that is outstripping the current supply of available housing.

We are hopeful that the \$4.3 million – which is additional to the \$30 million over three years - for public housing will make a contribution to continue to reduce waiting time for public housing and improve the match between the housing requirements of tenants and the available dwellings. While waiting times have been reduced for those most in need and those with complex needs, public housing is still not provided in a timely manner for those on the standard waiting list.

Those paying unacceptably high rents and experiencing poverty as a result of housing stress are still facing long wait times to access public housing.

Luke Bo'sher, Policy officer at the Youth Coalition, said "the ACT has a strong and proud tradition of a quality public housing system. We strongly support the moves to ensure that housing stock continues to increase and we are encouraged by the extra funding announced by the ACT. It is a national shame that the Federal Government does not share the same commitment to public housing and has reduced real spending by 32% over the past 10 years.

"Young people face additional barriers to accessing the private rental market above and beyond financial barriers. Young people face systemic discrimination in getting rental properties in a high demand environment, as is the case currently in the ACT. The Youth Coalition will be advocating for a more flexible approach to be taken when assessing young people's eligibility for public housing in order to address their inability to access the private rental market in the same way as many others in the community.

For further comment, please contact Luke Bo'sher on 0402-765-339



MEDIA RELEASE

5 June 2007

The Long Voyage *Mental Health Funding: On the Right Track*

The Youth Coalition of the ACT, the peak body for youth affairs welcomes the continued increase in funding for mental health service provision in the ACT. While we are pleased this budget has additional capital expenditure and service expenditure, young people are largely left off the agenda in important areas such as the youth specific in-patient facility.

The previous budget announced a number of new initiatives including a Step Up/Step Down facility for adolescents and this budget builds on that by establishing an adult facility. We hope this positive step will ensure that young people aged 18 and above will have access to this service, thereby reducing admittance to hospital and easing the transition back into the community.

Meredith Hunter, Director of the Youth Coalition, said “this continued commitment to mental health is strongly welcomed and is beginning to fill the enormous void of mental health service provision across the country. As we begin to recognise the importance and necessity of mental health services – both clinical and community based – it is important that we also continue to increase funding.

“We strongly support the Government’s 12% target for mental health expenditure and will be closely monitoring coming budgets to ensure that this is achieved. The impact on the economy, on communities and on individuals from mental illness is enormous and, as a community, it is important that we have an adequate response.

As such, we will be continuing to advocate for the provision of holistic mental health services for young people in the ACT – including an adolescent in-patient facility.

For further comment, please contact Meredith Hunter on 0400-088-904



MEDIA RELEASE

5 June 2007

The Poor Relation's Story Community Sector Workforce Overlooked Again

The Youth Coalition of the ACT, the peak body for youth affairs, is concerned that youth and community sector workforce capacity and skills issues again went unaddressed in this year's ACT Government Budget.

While simultaneously increasing the pressure on the community sector to deliver more and more services, there is no funding to address the challenges the community sector is facing.

Poor wages, high turn over of staff and little money for training and professional development will continue to affect the sector's ability to recruit and retain staff. These issues have been comprehensively documented in the Community Sector Taskforce Report that was commissioned by the ACT Government to examine the workforce issues facing the community sector. The recommendations of this report are yet to be seriously discussed, much less be implemented.

Meredith Hunter, Director of the Youth Coalition, said "we are facing serious issues with recruitment and retention with up to 30% turn over rates and significantly lower pay rates than government. While both the private and government sectors are receiving funding for workforce development, the community sector is being left even further behind. We have waited long enough for some action to address the poor wages and the disparity with government, this action is now overdue."

"The community sector plays a vital part in supporting members of Canberra community who face disadvantage and marginalisation. In order to continue to provide this assistance, a number of measures must be taken to support the sector's workforce. The ACT Government must act to continue to support the community sector by addressing the wage disparity and workforce development issues.

For further comment, please contact Meredith Hunter on 0400-088-904

CHIEF MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT

Initiative, page	Description in budget	First year funding (2007/08)	Total funding to 2011	Comments and / or Concerns
ACT Skills Commission (p.73)	This initiative will support strategic research and related activities that focus on appropriate responses to skills shortage issues. The Skills Commission will provide high-level, strategic advice to address skill shortages, including through training and education, with an aim to meeting the ACT's workforce needs now and into the future.	328,000	492,000	<p>Spring of hope: We welcome this initiative.</p> <p>Winter of discontent: We look forward to hearing how the youth and community sectors may be able to be involved in this initiative.</p>
Housing Affordability – Implementation (p.75)	This provides for staffing, administrative and consultancy costs to implement the Affordable Housing Action Plan 2007. The Action Plan, which incorporates the recommendations of the Report of the Affordable Housing Steering Group (March 2007), includes initiatives on home ownership, land supply, new housing and land products, private rental, community and not-for-profit housing, public housing, supported accommodation and aged accommodation.	375,000	750,000	<p>Spring of hope: We are pleased that resources have been allocated to implement the <i>Report of the Affordable Housing Steering Group</i> as part of the broad strategy of addressing housing affordability in the ACT.</p>

ACT PLANNING AND LAND AUTHORITY

Initiative, page	Description in budget	First year funding (2007/08)	Total funding to 2011	Comments and / or Concerns
Housing Affordability Implementation (p.76)	<p>This provides for implementation of aspects of the Government's Affordable Housing Action Plan 2007. The Action Plan, which incorporates the recommendations of the Report of the Affordable Housing Steering Group (March 2007), includes initiatives on home ownership, land supply, new housing and land products, private rental, community and not-for-profit housing, public housing, supported accommodation and aged accommodation.</p>	<p>300,000</p>	<p>1,200,000</p>	<p>Spring of hope:</p> <p>We welcome that resources have been allocated to implement the <i>Report of the Affordable Housing Steering Group</i> as part of the broad strategy of addressing housing affordability in the ACT.</p> <p>Winter of discontent:</p> <p>We recognise that young people will not feel the effects of this for several years. This initiative does not address issues of demand within the inner Canberra region. We also encourage ACTPLA to include young people as a key target group within their housing affordability strategies given the ACT has the highest proportion of young people of all the States and Territories.</p>

ACT HEALTH

Initiative, page	Description in budget	First year funding (2007/08)	Total funding to 2011	Comments and / or Concerns
Mental Health Service Enhancement (p.81)	<p>This initiative will provide for: enhanced staffing of the Older Persons Mental Health Inpatient Unit, recruitment of Emergency Department (ED) Mental Health nurses; a 24 Hour “Step up/Step down” and Outreach program as an alternative to hospitalisation; care coordination improvement programs; and additional staff and training to ensure mental health continues to be staffed and skilled appropriately across the changing mental health delivery system.</p>	<p>3,000,000</p>	<p>15,550,000</p>	<p>Spring of hope:</p> <p>We welcome a “Step up/Step down” facility for adults, which we hope will include and have specific support for 18 – 25 year olds and build on and compliment the “Step up/Step down” program for under 18s.</p> <p>We strongly support the sector development resources that have been allocated through community based mental health services.</p> <p>Winter of discontent:</p> <p>We would like further clarification as to the type of support that will be made available for children of parents accessing the “Step up/Step down” program.</p>
Expanded Youth Health Service (p.81)	<p>This initiative will provide for the expansion of the Junction Youth Health Service located in Civic, to allow for the provision of youth health services in the Belconnen/Gungahlin and Tuggeranong areas.</p> <p>The funding will allow the Junction to employ two Youth Health Nurse Coordinators and two Youth Health Workers. Their roles will focus on identifying at risk young people and</p>	<p>260,000</p>	<p>1,899,000</p>	<p>Spring of hope:</p> <p>We welcome additional funding for youth health services in the ACT and look forward to being part of a consultative process to determine the innovative way in which these funds may be delivered.</p> <p>Winter of discontent:</p> <p>We would like further information about how the Youth Health Framework will be progressed beyond a draft. We would also like further information</p>

	improving the health and well-being of all young people in the target areas.			about how young people's diverse health and specific help seeking needs will be taken into account through this initiative. It is important to take into account that health and accessibility issues will differ according to region. In this respect, it is also important to consider what services may already exist in these regions.
Women and Children Detox Program (p.82)	<p>This initiative will provide a residential detoxification and withdrawal program for women and women with children. The program will operate from Directions ACT's existing premises at Arcadia House with funding provided for the additional costs associated with childcare and the clinical risk assessment of children on the program.</p> <p>Staff will also undertake outreach activities to promote the uptake of treatments programs for alcohol and other drugs and also better co-ordinate the services women can access before, during and after detoxification.</p>	50,000	209,000	<p>Spring of hope:</p> <p>We welcome this initiative, particularly as it takes into account the needs of children of parents affected by alcohol and other drug issues. It also provides an opportunity for the family to stay together while accessing support and is a proactive early intervention initiative. It recognises that families in the past have not always accessed detoxification programs as they have not been able to accommodate parents with accompanying children.</p> <p>Winter of discontent:</p> <p>We are seriously concerned that the positive aspects of this initiative may be compromised as we need to clarify if Arcadia House will provide the described services for more than one month a year.</p> <p>We know that detoxification services need to be responsive and available to drug users when they are ready to access treatment. Delays in accessing treatment must be addressed in order to better support families affected by problematic drug use.</p> <p>We hope that the service will be expanded to fathers wishing to access detoxification with accompanying children.</p>

<p>Targeted Support of At Risk Children and Families (p.82)</p>	<p>This initiative will establish an integrated approach to clients of Mental Health ACT and Opiate Replacement Therapy. New services include intensive support and assertive case management for women and their families from the time of pregnancy through until the youngest child is two years of age. The team responsible for implementing this program will assist with improving the safety, health and wellbeing outcomes of identified at-risk children and families.</p>	<p>500,000</p>	<p>2,078,000</p>	<p>Spring of hope:</p> <p>We welcome this initiative. This is important as it provides an opportunity for early intervention, to take into account the holistic needs of the woman and her family, and provides ante-natal support during pregnancy and for up to two years after birth.</p> <p>Winter of discontent:</p> <p>We would like further information about how young mothers will be provided with targeted support. Ideally support would be provided until the child is five years so that positive outcomes can be sustained.</p>
<p>Dental Health Program – Restorative List Reduction (p.82)</p>	<p>The initiative will provide additional capacity to the Dental Health Program, enabling an additional 415 clients from the restorative waiting list to access dental care. This will be achieved by either recruiting an extra dental team for the Program and/or referring patients to private providers under the Program’s Restorative Referral Scheme.</p> <p>This strategy will result in a reduction of the mean average waiting time for clients in 2007-08 and it will assist in keeping the mean average waiting period within the acceptable 12 month time frame in subsequent years.</p>	<p>400,000 + (60,000 Capital Expenses)</p>	<p>1,759,000</p>	<p>Spring of hope:</p> <p>This initiative is welcomed as access to dental services, including waiting lists, have needed additional resources for many years.</p> <p>Winter of discontent:</p> <p>We are concerned that young people have not been considered a target group for this initiative. Particularly given that young people experiencing disadvantage tend to have poor dental health and poor access to dental services.</p> <p>Dental health is critical aspect of a young person’s health and wellbeing. Cost, appropriateness of services and access issues determine young people’s usage. The provision of preventative dental services for young people will minimise future costs to the health system and empower young people to actively participate in their own health.</p>

DEPARTMENT OF DISABILITY, HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

Initiative, page	Description in budget	First year funding (2007/08)	Total funding to 2011	Comments and / or Concerns
<p>Increased Disability Services (p.66)</p>	<p>This initiative will increase service capacity to meet current priority demand for a range of accommodation and other services for young people and adults with high level intellectual and physical disabilities.</p>	<p>3,000,000</p>	<p>15,754,000</p>	<p>Spring of hope:</p> <p>We welcome this substantial investment in disability services. Housing and accommodation are critical issues across the system, particularly for young people with a disability.</p> <p>Winter of discontent:</p> <p>We recognise that this is a substantial investment of funding however we would like further clarification as to how many young people will actually benefit from this initiative.</p> <p>We would like further information as to the roll out, and what will be made specifically available for young people.</p> <p>We hope that this initiative will seek to address the high turn over of staff within the disability sector and the lack of youth workers with expertise in disability.</p> <p>We are concerned that young people with mild to moderate disabilities are often “nobody’s client” and slip through gaps in the service system.</p>

<p>New Youth Detention Centre – Commissioning (p.66)</p>	<p>This initiative provides for the commissioning of the New Youth Detention Centre, including security testing and critical incidence training for staff.</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>710,000</p>	<p>Spring of hope:</p> <p>We welcome training for staff that will work at the New Youth Detention Centre. This initiative recognises some of the recommendations from the Human Rights Audit of the Quamby Youth Detention Centre.</p> <p>Winter of discontent:</p> <p>We would like further details as to how this specific training initiative fits within a broader training and workforce development program for workers at the New Youth Detention Centre and seeks to address further recommendations from the Human Rights Audit of Quamby Youth Detention Centre.</p>
<p>ACT Indigenous Elected Body (p.66)</p>	<p>This provides resources for the establishment and operation of an elected Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander body. Its role is to provide advice and guidance to the Government on the needs and priorities of the local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.</p>	<p>100,000</p>	<p>700,000</p>	<p>Spring of hope:</p> <p>We welcome a resourced and elected Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Body. This body is critical for the ACT Government to work with community members to identify issues and solutions to improve the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the ACT.</p> <p>Winter of discontent:</p> <p>It is important that a range of mechanisms are developed and resourced so that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the ACT can meaningfully participate in decision-making processes that affect their lives.</p> <p>We would like further details about how this Body will compliment other consultative and decision-</p>

				<p>making mechanisms.</p> <p>The ACT has yet to implement many of the recommendations of <i>The Bringing Them Home Report</i>. The ACT Government has not set a timeframe to achieve equality between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and other Canberrans. Nor has it made the necessary targets and commitment of resources to achieve this goal. Following the recommendations in the <i>2005 Social Justice Report</i> that all Australian governments commit to achieving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health equality within a generation (25 years).</p>
<p>Return to Work for Indigenous, Culturally and Linguistically Diverse, and Low Income Women (p.67)</p>	<p>This initiative establishes a grants program to support the return of women to work. It will specifically focus on young, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, culturally and linguistically diverse, and low-income women.</p>	125,000	883,000	<p>Spring of hope:</p> <p>We welcome this recurrent grants program to support young people among others to return to the workplace.</p> <p>Winter of discontent:</p> <p>We look forward to receiving further details about as how this initiative will be rolled out and how young women experiencing a range of disadvantage may be able to access the program.</p> <p>It is important for the ACT Government to recognise that young fathers also need access to resources to participate in work, education and other opportunities in the community.</p> <p>Young parents are often early school-leavers, socially isolated and experiencing poverty.</p>

				Existing services need to be inclusive of young parents. It is important for the Department of Education and Training to ensure that schools have adequate sexual health and relationship programs delivered on a regular basis.
Indigenous Trainee Program (p.67)	This will provide training and employment opportunities for 15 young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders. It is envisaged that the participants will attain workplace experience, formal administrative training and extensive mentoring during the course of the Program and will be placed in permanent and full time positions after they have completed the Program.	20,000	40,000	<p>Spring of hope:</p> <p>We welcome this initiative, particularly since the trainees will be placed in permanent and full time positions upon completion – as this has been a significant challenge for some in traineeship programs.</p> <p>Winter of discontent:</p> <p>We would look forward to receiving further information about how this program will be innovatively sustained given the seemingly small resources that have been allocated. It is important that the positions are part of a broader initiative to implement reconciliation and equity strategies within the workplace.</p>

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Initiative, page	Description in budget	First year funding (2007/08)	Total funding to 2011	Comments and / or Concerns
VET Growth to Meet Skills Shortages (p.71)	The Government will provide \$1.5 million per annum to maintain existing levels of funding for Australian Apprenticeships in order to address skill shortages and to support the strong growth in the number of apprentices in the ACT.	1,500,000	6,229,000	<p>Spring of hope:</p> <p>We welcome this initiative as it shows an ongoing commitment by the ACT Government to provide apprenticeship opportunities for young people.</p> <p>Winter of discontent:</p> <p>Although numbers of apprenticeships offered will be maintained, this initiative does not address other important issues relating to young people undertaking apprenticeships. Apprentice wages are a key concern, as they are currently less than Youth Allowance, Newstart and are also below the poverty line. This is an area that needs significant attention.</p>
Secondary Bursary Scheme (p.71)	The Secondary Bursary Scheme will support disadvantaged families by providing \$500 per annum for students from eligible families who are in years 7-10. The bursary will be paid to parents who hold current Health Care Cards or Pensioner Concession Cards. This initiative is an expansion of eligibility of the current program and will be funded from the existing allocation.	200,000	856,000	<p>Spring of hope:</p> <p>We support assistance to financially disadvantaged families in order that all students have equity of access to all activities and programs provided by schools and are pleased that more students will be eligible for this program.</p>

<p>Disability Access Non-Government Schools (p.71)</p>	<p>This proposal will provide \$1 million over two years in grants to improve access for students with disabilities at non-government schools. It will assist students accessing and participating in educational programs at non-government schools. The initiative will be funded through savings in the Interest Subsidy Scheme.</p>	<p>700,000</p>	<p>1,000,000</p>	<p>Spring of hope:</p> <p>We welcome the additional resources allocated to young people with disabilities to access education in non-government schools.</p> <p>Winter of discontent:</p> <p>We would like further clarification as to how young people with a disability accessing alternative education programs may be able to access this grants program.</p> <p><i>Disability Standards for Education 2005</i> clarifies the obligations of education and training service providers, and the rights of people with disability, under the <i>Disability Discrimination Act 1992</i> (the DDA). It is important that these standards drive initiatives in the ACT as students with a disability have the same rights as other students. All students, including students with disability, should be treated with dignity and enjoy the benefits of education and training in a supportive environment that values and encourages participation by all students. We hope that this initiative is extended to young people with mild to moderate disabilities are often “nobody’s client” and slip through gaps in the service and education system.</p>
<p>New Gungahlin College (p.109)</p>	<p>The Government is to construct a Senior Secondary College (Years 11-12) incorporating CIT learning facilities at Gungahlin to commence operation in 2010. The college will provide a comprehensive program of secondary college courses. It will also cater for students who wish to combine CIT accredited</p>	<p>5,000,000</p>	<p>60,500,000 + (1,863,000 Depreciation) + (4,263,000 Expenses)</p>	<p>Spring of hope:</p> <p>We are pleased to see that funding has been committed to constructing a senior secondary college in Gungahlin. We encourage the ACT Government to further invest in improving amenities for young people in Gungahlin.</p>

	<p>courses or training with their secondary college activities. The college will include a range of facilities that will be accessible to the broader community including library, theatre and sporting facilities.</p>			
<p>New Tuggeranong P-10 School (p.109)</p>	<p>As announced by the Government in December 2006, a new preschool to Year 10 school is to be constructed on the Kambah High School site. The school will be opened for the 2011 school year, with a total project cost of \$54 million including \$4 million to be utilised from Schools Infrastructure Refurbishment.</p> <p>The new school will provide students with a continuous progression of learning opportunities from preschool to Year 10 and enhanced pastoral care. Students will benefit from greater access to specialist teaching spaces such as technology areas, science facilities and creative arts areas and enhanced opportunities from middle year programs.</p>	0	50,000,000 + (540,000 Depreciation)	<p>Spring of hope:</p> <p>We are pleased to see that funding has been committed to constructing a new P-10 School in Tuggeranong. We encourage the ACT Government to further invest in services for young people in the Tuggeranong Valley.</p>

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

Initiative, page	Description in budget	First year funding (2007/08)	Total funding to 2011	Comments and / or Concerns
Housing Affordability - Advocacy Services (p.70)	This provides expanded tenant information and advocacy services to increase support for rental tenants. This initiative is part of the ACT Government's <i>Affordable Housing Action Plan 2007</i> .	80,000	320,000	<p>Spring of hope:</p> <p>We fully support the allocation of funding to the community sector to provide further tenant information and advocacy services. We recognise that many young private rental tenants will benefit from this initiative.</p> <p>We welcome the resources have been allocated to implement the <i>Report of the Affordable Housing Steering Group</i> as part of the broad strategy of addressing housing affordability in the ACT.</p>
Feasibility Study into Expansion of CCTV network (p.108)	This initiative supplements funding provided in the 2006-07 Budget and provides for a feasibility study to further expand implementation of the Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) capability in the ACT, including the enhancement and expansion of the Civic Safety Camera System to incorporate new developments in Civic, the extension of the CCTV network for crime prevention to suburban centres, and the identification of appropriate	245,000	350,000	<p>Spring of hope:</p> <p>We support crime prevention and public safety initiatives that take into account the views, and unique experiences, of young people.</p> <p>Winter of discontent:</p> <p>Young people are frequent users of public space. Public concern about young people, crime and violence tends to focus on stereotypes of young people as perpetrators of both violence and crime. However, the evidence indicates that young people are more likely to be victims of crime rather than perpetrators. Much of this violence goes unreported, and is difficult, if not impossible, to quantify.</p> <p>We hope that the recommendations from the <i>Public Space has an Image Problem: Study into Safety and Young People in</i></p>

	infrastructure, including locations to operate and monitor the CCTV camera data.			<i>Civic</i> (Youth Coalition 2005) are considered as part of the feasibility study.
Human Rights Commission Database (p.108)	This initiative provides for a case management database that will enable the Human Rights Commission to perform its responsibilities relating to human rights, discrimination, health services, services for older people, disability, community services and children and young people through common IT infrastructure.	250,000 + (65,000 Expenses)	250,000 + (270,000 Expenses) + (150 Depreciation)	<p>Spring of hope:</p> <p>We support the additional funding allocated to the Human Rights Commission, particularly following the reduction in funding in last year's budget.</p> <p>Winter of discontent:</p> <p>The Human Rights Commission (HRC) plays a crucial role in monitoring and ensuring children and young people's rights are respected. In order to fulfil their role the HRC must be better resourced, particularly if they are to meet their objectives of community education, consultation, proactive systemic change and advocacy.</p>

DEPARTMENT OF TERRITORY AND MUNICIPAL SERVICES

Initiative, page	Description in budget	First year funding (2007/08)	Total funding to 2011	Comments and / or Concerns
<p>Sustainable ACT Public Library Services (p63)</p>	<p>The additional resources provide for more sustainable ACT Public Library Services and will allow current library opening hours to be maintained.</p>	<p>233, 000</p>	<p>2,424,000</p>	<p>Spring of hope: We support additional resource investment into the public libraries, as they are important public services and spaces for young people in the ACT.</p> <p>Winter of discontent: We are concerned that these funds only top up the ACT Public Library service as a consequence of last year's budget cuts. Additionally the closure of the Griffith Library included the loss of a dedicated youth space.</p> <p>Libraries require specially trained and dedicated staff that are committed to providing an extensive range of high quality services and programs for young people. These initiatives must aim to meet the information and recreation needs of young people through a continuous process of collection development and liaising with young people, parents and schools to identify and provide resources and activities that foster a positive approach to literacy and lifelong learning.</p> <p>The service should aim to provide a safe and inviting environment where young people feel a sense of ownership of their Library.</p>
<p>ACTION - Services Supplementation (p.64)</p>	<p>This initiative will expand on revisions made to the ACTION bus network in 2006-07 to improve services and security at interchanges.</p>	<p>1, 250, 000</p>	<p>1, 250, 000</p>	<p>Spring of hope: We are encouraged by extra funding to ACTION in light of the significant cuts it received in last years budget given the major inadequacies highlighted in the recent Youth Coalition consultation with young people.</p>

				<p>Many young people rely on public transport as their sole form of transport. As such, we recommend that ACTION consider the needs of young people when implementing the supplementation funding.</p> <p>We are also pleased that steps are being taken to address the issue of security at bus interchanges.</p> <p>Winter of discontent:</p> <p>While security is being addressed we would like to see a long overdue commitment to upgrade bus interchanges in particular Woden and Belconnen and major improvements in frequency of bus services.</p>
ACTION- Expansion of CCTV on Buses	This initiative will provide for the continuation of security improvements through the installation of additional Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) on ACTION Buses	445,000	445,000	<p>Spring of hope:</p> <p>We are encouraged by ACT Government's commitment to improving security on buses, given that young people indicate that security on buses particularly at night is a major concern for them.</p>
Lakeside Leisure Centre Refurbishment	This project provides for a package of urgent refurbishment works at the Lakeside Leisure Centre, including retiling of the 50-metre pool, ventilation, air-conditioning and heating improvements, roof and ceiling rectification as well as extensive painting.	2,500,000	4,000,000	<p>Spring of hope:</p> <p>We welcome the upgrading of important community amenities such as public pools as they provide an important recreation option for young people.</p>

Canberra Olympic Pool – Future Options Study	This feasibility study will explore the longer-term options for the Canberra Olympic Pool within the city precinct including possible construction of a new facility on an alternative site offering features of a modern indoor aquatic centre to meet the needs of the growing number of inner city residents and to maintain patronage.	200,000		<p>Spring of hope:</p> <p>It is positive to see that the ACT Government is investing in ongoing community facilities and amenity.</p> <p>Winter of discontent:</p> <p>It is essential that a public pool remains in the Civic area as this is a key public facility, particularly for young people. We would be concerned at any suggestion that the pool in Civic would be closed and not replaced.</p>
Harrison - District Playing Fields	This project is for the construction of a complex of sports grounds, with associated pavilion, parking areas, landscaping, fencing and associated structures to meet the growing needs of the Gungahlin sporting community.	3,750,000	3,750,000	<p>Spring of hope:</p> <p>Sports facilities are vital for young people to engage in sport and recreation. We strongly welcome the construction the sportsground at Harrison giving young people in Gungahlin more community infrastructure.</p> <p>Winter of discontent:</p> <p>While a new playing field is welcome we urge the ACT Government to invest in further community infrastructure in Gungahlin such as a swimming pool. Gungahlin has one of the fastest growing youth populations in the ACT and recreational and sporting facilities are lagging behind demand for these facilities.</p>