The Australian Government’s 2013-14 Budget provides the ACT with a record $265 million for its health system. This means improved health and hospital facilities, more frontline services, and improved care for patients, when and where they need it.

**Record funding for hospitals**

Funding for hospitals means more doctors, nurses and beds for patients – and better care. It also supports improvements in elective surgery and emergency department waiting times to help patients get treatment sooner. In this Budget, ACT hospitals will receive $245 million – $110 million more than in 2007-08.

Since 2007, $26.2 million has been targeted to improve emergency departments and $35.2 million has been provided to reduce elective surgery waiting times. Patients are better able to get a hospital bed, with an additional 21 sub-acute beds to be delivered by the end of 2013-14.

**Australian Government funding to the Australian Capital Territory for public hospitals, 2007-08 to 2016-17**


Note: Australian Government funding for public hospital services includes Public Health funding allocations. Health and Hospitals Fund figures include payments to Australian Capital Territory for other health services.
A total of $60 million has been committed to the Eccles Institute of Neuroscience, part of the John Curtin School of Medical Research, and $5 million for a paediatric unit for Canberra Hospital.

**Improving frontline health care**

Primary care is the part of the health system which people in the ACT and surrounding region use the most. This Budget provides increased funding to support the ACT Medicare Local, part of the Government’s national network of primary health care organisations that are playing a central role in improving the primary health care system. The ACT Medicare Local plans, coordinates and delivers health services such as after-hours, mental health and immunisation support for the local community, making it easier for people to access the health care they need.

Since 2007-08, the Australian Government has spent $15.7 million to improve primary care infrastructure in the Territory. $15 million has been provided for a Canberra
GP Super Clinic now being built, with $700,000 allocated to upgrade facilities, improve training and expand allied health services within general practice settings.

In addition, since 2007, the Australian Government has provided $8.9 million for a range of primary health care support in the ACT, including better access to after-hours GP services.

**World Leading Cancer Care**

The Australian Government is building a world-class cancer care system to ensure that people get the best treatment available. In this Budget, a new national $226 million cancer care package, funded by the Australian Government over four years, will ensure people in the ACT get top quality cancer care and support across a range of cancers – including prostate, breast, lung, bowel and cervical cancers. Youth Cancer Networks are also being funded to support young people fighting cancer. Since 2007, the Australian Government has invested a record $34.7 million to provide better cancer facilities for people in the ACT and surrounding region. This includes $29.7 million for the ACT Capital Region Cancer Centre and patient accommodation, and $5 million for digital mammography equipment.

**More doctors**

More doctors are training to be GPs and specialists in the ACT. In 2012, 53 GPs were in training compared to 29 in 2007. More doctors means easier access for patients. There were seven specialist training positions in 2012.
Dental

The Government is providing $2.5 million to the ACT in 2013-14 to cut public dental waiting lists. This is part of the Australian Government’s $4.6 billion investment in sweeping dental health reforms across the nation.

As part of the reforms, our ‘Grow Up Smiling’ initiative will deliver dental services for kids and teenagers from 1 January 2014. This will mean that for future generations it will be as easy to see a dentist as it is now to see a doctor.