

12 October 2008

## **ACT Labor commits \$6 million to support children, young people and families**

ACT Labor today released their \$6 million commitment to improving services for Canberra's children and young people with a focus on childcare, enhancing access to information for parents and carers and increasing support for disadvantaged young people.

ACT Chief Minister Jon Stanhope and Deputy Chief Minister and Minister for Children and Young People Katy Gallagher said that ACT Labor had made significant investments to support children and young people reaching their full potential.

"We are proud of the in-roads we have made to support our youngest citizens, whether it be through our expansion of Koori preschool, the establishment of our flagship child and family centres, the building of Bimberi, our reforms to the child protection system, the establishment of a commissioner for children and young people or investing in our children's health and wellbeing," Chief Minister Jon Stanhope said.

"If re-elected next week, we will continue on this work and we will ensure that the voices of children and young people are listened and responded to," Mr Stanhope said.

Deputy Chief Minister, Katy Gallagher MLA said the package announced today focuses on several key priority areas.

"The funding we allocate today ensures that we are able to keep pace with the demand for childcare centres in areas of high demand, and that we make it easier for parents to access information and educational material to support them to care for their children," Ms Gallagher said.

"We also want to expand our online resources for children, young people and parents including creating a real-time childcare vacancy register, and we want to increase our resources to young Canberrans in need of support." Ms Gallagher said.

Today's announcement includes the following new initiatives:

- \$4 million capital to construct two new child care centres in the north and south of Canberra;
- \$400,000 to create a 'Virtual' Child and Family Centre Online;
- \$620,000 over four years for the Online Childcare Vacancy System;
- \$800,000 over four years for community outreach for young rough sleepers
- \$100,000 seed funding for the Kids Under Cover Model;
- Young Drivers Advisory Panel
- Provide an annual budget of \$20,000 to the Youth Advisory Council

## Media release

“Two new childcare centres will be built by ACT Labor, one on the north side and one on the south side at a cost of \$4 million dollars.” Ms Gallagher said.

“We know that there continues to be a growing demand for childcare and we will continue our work in this area, which builds on a number of already established and expanded government owned facilities across Canberra.

“ACT Labor has the experience, we have the vision and we have the capacity to deliver it.” Ms Gallagher said.

Statement Ends

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