

# A **fresh** opportunity for Canberra

A Canberra Liberals Government will:

## Deliver Better Primary Care



The ACT's primary care system is getting a major boost through policy changes that increase access to GPs with expanded practice capabilities.

Canberra Liberals plan to reduce hospital emergency department overload and improve community health by expanding GP availability, strengthening after-hours care, and broadening pharmacists' scope to provide essential medications.

- ✓ Deliver 200,000 GP visits each year
- ✓ Reduce emergency department wait times
- ✓ Expand after-hours care
- ✓ Exempt GPs from Payroll Tax

### GPs in Walk-in Centres

The Canberra Liberals will incorporate GPs to new health centres in South Tuggeranong, West Belconnen, North Gungahlin, and the Inner South as well as provide incentives for practices to stay open after hours.

This will provide Canberrans choice for non-urgent conditions and illnesses in order to improve access to GPs and reduce the burden on our hospitals' Emergency Departments.

This could provide more than 1,000 GP visits a week or an additional 200,000 appointments each year for Canberrans in their communities.

### Medical imaging services for new Walk-in Centres

The Canberra Liberals will provide medical imaging services at West Belconnen and South Tuggeranong through the new GP integrated health centres to accommodate a growing population in the ACT.

More public imaging machines means that Canberrans have more places outside of hospital to access these services and receive the care they need.

### GP Payroll Tax

The Canberra Liberals will legislate to make GPs exempt from the new interpretation of payroll tax that applies to contractor/tenant GPs.

This will level the playing field for ACT practices to compete with other jurisdictions and draw in more GPs and health professionals.

### Increase funding for the Academic unit of General Practice

The Canberra Liberals will increase funding for the Academic Unit of General Practice within the ANU Medical School.

This funding will go towards research, partnerships and driving clinical placements in General Practice for the ACT's student doctors.



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## Attracting new GPs to Canberra

The Canberra Liberals' will pay up to \$100,000 of new GPs' HECS debt for a 5-year commitment to practicing in the Territory for up to 30 GPs.

This is a practical measure to attract GPs to the ACT and help address Canberra's GP workforce shortage.

## Training for GPs to diagnose and prescribe for ADHD

The Canberra Liberals will provide legislative reforms and training for GPs to diagnose attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and prescribe medication.

This will reduce the wait time for children who are on lengthy wait lists with specialists for a diagnosis through outpatient clinics.

It is also expected that by enabling GPs to diagnose straightforward cases, paediatricians, psychiatrists and neurologists will be able to take on new patients.

This means Canberrans can receive comprehensive care for various conditions within their community, reducing the need for emergency department visits.

By enhancing primary care, the ACT becomes more attractive to healthcare professionals, easing pressure on emergency services and ultimately providing better care for residents.



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