

A **fresh** opportunity for Canberra

A Canberra Liberals Government will:

Supporting Women in the ACT



KEY MEASURES:

- ✓ Establish specialised domestic and family violence fast response units
- ✓ Criminalise coercive control to combat domestic violence against women
- ✓ Establish a dedicated endometriosis and pelvic pain clinic at the Canberra Hospital
- ✓ Boost funding to support women returning to work
- ✓ Allocate funds from the Safer Families Levy to frontline domestic and family violence services
- ✓ Improve women's safety by funding initiatives to help women feel secure
- ✓ Provide \$875,000 commitment for Fearless Women

Establish Specialised Family Violence Fast Response Units

The Canberra Liberals will reform frontline responses to incidents of domestic and family violence by establishing two new specialised domestic and family violence fast response units.

Based on the successful PACER (Police, Ambulance and Clinician Early Response) mental health program, these units will incorporate personnel from healthcare and domestic and family violence prevention services to be the first responders to address

domestic and family violence incidents and complaints.

The Australian Federal Police Association reports that in Canberra there are on average 11 family violence incidents per day and that 44% of assaults reported are domestic and family violence related.

We will fund an initial two Domestic and Family Violence Fast Response units which will take on the field responsibility of ACT Policing's Family Violence Unit to proactively investigate and target family violence offending in the ACT.



FreshOpportunity.org

Authorised by Adam Wojtonis for the Canberra Liberals

Canberra
Liberals

Supporting Women in the ACT



Criminalise Coercive Control

The Canberra Liberals will introduce legislation to create a standalone criminal offence for coercive control, bringing the ACT in line with other states.

Criminalising coercive control will reform how the legal system handles domestic violence by moving away from an incident-based approach and towards an approach that prosecutes ongoing abusive behaviours.

In addition the Canberra Liberals will provide funding of \$2 million over four years for a comprehensive education campaign focusing on unacceptable coercive behaviours and how to identify them; that coercive control is incompatible with respectful relationships and highlights that coercive control can impact anyone in an intimate or domestic relationship.

The community is calling for a serious and proactive approach to combatting domestic and family violence, and that is exactly what the Canberra Liberals will do.

The Labor-Greens Government's own Domestic and Family Violence Risk Assessment and Management Framework from 2022 warned that 99% of intimate partner domestic violence homicides involved coercive control.

Despite other jurisdictions criminalising it or taking action to criminalise it, the Labor-Greens Government has failed to address this scourge of abusive behaviour in our community.

In 2020, the Labor-Greens government said it was undertaking a consultation on the criminalisation of coercive control. Four years later, the Labor-Greens Government is still sitting on its hands and maintaining a "watching brief".

This criminal offence will draw a line in the sand. It will also ensure that the ACT's legislation is consistent with other jurisdictions, particularly NSW, with which we share a border.

The Canberra Liberals will not accept the status quo where domestic violence rates are increasing, where more women are tragically losing their lives, and where families are being torn apart by coercive control.

The Canberra Liberals will not stop fighting until we have a criminal justice system that protects victim survivors with the capacity to intervene before tragedy occurs, before families are torn apart, and before more women are murdered by abusers who have gone unpunished.



Supporting Women in the ACT



Establish a Canberra Endometriosis and Pelvic Pain Clinic

A Canberra Liberals Government will establish a Canberra Endometriosis and Pelvic pain clinic at the Canberra Hospital.

Endometriosis is a common, painful, incurable and debilitating condition which affects at least 1 in 9 women in Australia, while up to 1 in 4 women live with persistent pelvic pain.

In the Canberra region, thousands of women live with endometriosis, adenomyosis, polycystic ovarian syndrome and/or infertility.

However, Canberra's facilities for treating endometriosis and pelvic pain are fragmented and inadequate. The Canberra Endometriosis Centre has an office in the Gynaecology unit at the Centenary Hospital for Women and Children. It has one nurse and one physiotherapist and access to several gynaecologists who aren't necessarily specialists in endometriosis.

Currently, endometriosis patients wait 3 years for a consultation, go to emergency departments and travel to Sydney in order to get a diagnosis. This is unacceptable.

Endometriosis is a complex, dynamic and evolving condition that requires multidisciplinary care. This requires specialised staff, including medical, nursing and allied health professionals, located under one roof to reduce diagnostic delays and expedite referral

pathways.

The Canberra Liberals will provide \$6 million in funding to establish a specialised, multidisciplinary endometriosis and pelvic care clinic at Canberra Hospital.

This clinic will provide:

- pelvic physiotherapy, specialist pain care, endometriosis nursing, psychology, trauma and mental health support.
- specialised diagnosis and treatment
- better access to diagnostic equipment

Women's Safety

The Canberra Liberals will fund initiatives to help women feel secure and protected from harassment, assault, and other forms of violence.

Measures could include dedicated helplines, better lighting, emergency call boxes and increased police patrols in high-risk areas to make public spaces safer for women.

A Canberra Liberals Government will put in place a whole-of-government initiative to support women across the ACT.

This will include additional funding to boost the current funding for women's initiatives across Government.



FreshOpportunity.org

Authorised by Adam Wojtonis for the Canberra Liberals

Canberra
Liberals

Supporting Women in the ACT



Helping Women Back to Work

A Canberra Liberals Government will take a whole of government approach to assist women returning to work.

This initiative will include work placement, training, and administrative and mental health support. Currently, a grant scheme provides funding for individuals at around \$1,000 per person; the Canberra Liberals will boost this funding to expand support for women.

Allocate all revenue from the Safer Families Levy to Frontline Services

The Canberra Liberals will allocate all revenue received from the Safer Families Levy towards frontline domestic and family violence services, unlike Labor and the Greens who simply put the levy into general revenue.

Women in Trades

The Canberra Liberals will reinstate the Women in Trades program, which was abolished by the Labor Greens government. We will work with industry to reinstate the program and encourage more women to enter the trade sector.

A review of the previous program will be conducted, and its shortcomings will be addressed in a re-invigorated package that makes studying and working in trades more attractive to women.

Funding for Fearless Women

The Canberra Liberals will provide annual funding to Fearless Women, a not-for-profit that has been delivering programs that provide support for young women who are failing to thrive.

We will commit \$875,000 in funding for Fearless Women to allow them to expand their capacity to support Canberra's young women.

Fearless Women visits schools throughout the ACT to talk to girls and young women about the importance of well-being, self-empowerment, and self-value and also offers a mentor program that focuses on personal, social and self-management skills.



FreshOpportunity.org

Authorised by Adam Wojtonis for the Canberra Liberals

Canberra
Liberals