

Follow me on social media!

The best way to keep up with my work in the community and in the Parliament is to follow me on social media. In addition to Facebook and Instagram, I also put all my speeches up on YouTube.

If I can be of any assistance to you with Federal Government issues such as Centrelink, NDIS or immigration, please get in contact by email at alicia.payne.mp@aph.gov.au

-  Facebook: @AliciaPayneforCanberra
-  Instagram: @aliciapayne_cbr
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Alicia Payne MP

LABOR MEMBER FOR CANBERRA

Canberra Community Update

Proud to represent the Canberra community

Gender Equality

The Albanese Labor Government is committed to gender equality.

Senator for the ACT and Minister for Women Katy Gallagher recently launched Working for Women: A National Strategy for Gender Equality.

From July 2025, we're changing the superannuation system to ensure that super is paid on Government funded Paid Parental Leave (PPL). This will ensure that people who choose to take time off to care for their babies will not be penalised in their retirement. We are also extending PPL to 26 weeks by 2026 and making it easier for parents to share their leave.

We have also announced \$49.1 million for higher Medicare rebates for gynaecological appointments for the 1 in 9 women who are experiencing complex conditions like endometriosis.

Under Labor our world gender equality ranking has increased to 26th. This is as a direct result of our Government's commitment to gender representation in politics, and society. The gender pay gap has also dropped to 12%, its lowest level in history.



With ACT Senator and Minister for Women Katy Gallagher at the Canberra Symphony Orchestra.



Announcing \$250 million for the AIS alongside the Prime Minister, Senator Katy Gallagher, Andrew Leigh MP and athletes.



Coffee Catchups

Thank you to everyone who has come along to my community coffee catch ups in the first half of the year around the electorate. I've greatly valued the discussions we've had.

Some of the future dates include:

Lyons	Lyneham	Hawker
11 June at 10am	17 June at 11.30am	20 June at 9.30am
Stand By Me	Tilley's	Rocksalt Cafe

I post all of my coffee catchup dates on my social media so make sure you follow to know when one is coming up near you.



Investing in our Schools

Since coming to Government, we have been investing in Canberra's schools to ensure every student has a quality education.

As part of the Capital Grants Program, St Joseph's Primary School recieved \$1 million for redevelopment of their administrative facilities.

Lyneham Primary School and University of Canberra High School both recieved \$250,000 and Malkara School recieved \$320,000 for playground and accessibility upgrades as part of the Schools Upgrade Fund Round 2.



Science experiments with Scouts from across Australia at the Governor General's Scout Camp.



International Women's Day at the Lodge with the Prime Minister and Audrey Mims from the Stop Campaign.



Announcing a further Commonwealth contribution of \$50 million for Stage 2B of the Light Rail.

A message from Alicia

The 2024 Budget has been handed down!

This year's Budget delivers cost of living relief and invests in Canberra.

Through our tax cuts, we're ensuring that Canberrans are earning more and keeping more of what they earn. From 1 July this year you will see this policy making a difference in your payslips.

Every Canberra household will also get \$300 of direct energy bill relief.

This is on top of other key policies that the Albanese Labor Government is enacting, including a fairer industrial relations system, expanded paid parental leave, and record investments in Medicare.

Canberra has a dual role. As the nation's capital, we are a city that belongs to all Australians, but we are also a community that has challenges and opportunities like any other.

I'm very proud that this is a Budget that recognises and invests in both aspects of our city.

I was proud to stand with the Prime Minister as he announced a \$250 million investment to revitalise and restore the Australian Institute of Sport. The Federal Government is also investing in Light Rail Stage 2B to Woden, the nation's first TAFE Centre of Excellence at CIT in Fyshwick,

the Canberra Symphony Orchestra and the Australian Public Service.

As chair of the Parliamentary Committee on the National Capital and External Territories I have been working hard on an inquiry into Federal Government investment in the capital.

Our report, handed down earlier this month, makes 21 recommendations to the Federal Government to build on and promote the wonderful things our city has to offer.

As always, I've loved talking with the community through my regular coffee catch-ups, street stalls and recently my Budget Briefing Town Hall with ACT Senator and Finance Minister Katy Gallagher.

If you're not already, sign up to my email newsletter to see more regular updates. Details are on the back page.

To view a larger PDF Version of this document please visit aliciapayne.com.au/communitynewsletter

Kind regards,

Alicia Payne MP
Member for Canberra

2024 Budget in Brief



A tax cut for every taxpayer in Canberra. 78,000 Canberrans will receive a tax cut, on average of \$2,024.



\$2 billion to increase Commonwealth Rent Assistance by 10 per cent.



All Canberra households will receive \$300 in energy bill relief.



\$361 million over four years to expand free mental health services including through a network of 61 walk-in Medicare Mental Health Centres.



Infrastructure upgrades for Canberra, including further federal investment in Light Rail Stage 2B and upgrades to William Hovell Drive.



5,000 Canberrans will receive superannuation on Government funded Paid Parental Leave.



Through the National Housing Accord 1.2 million new homes will be built to ensure all Australians have access to a safe and affordable home.



A \$250 million investment to restore the Australian Institute of Sport.



Investment of over \$13 billion in renewable energy.



Wiping \$3 billion of HECS-HELP debt nation-wide, which will impact 22,671 people in the Canberra electorate.



\$307 million of nature positive improvements, including Australia's first national Environmental Protection Agency.



Delivering an extra \$1.1 billion to support women's safety and the National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children 2022-2032.



Adding 24,100 home care packages for older Australians to receive care in the comfort of their own homes.



Subsidising longer Medicare appointments for complex gynaecological conditions like PCOS and endometriosis.



A 12-month extension of the \$20,000 Instant Asset Write Off for small businesses.



\$4 billion to deliver cheaper medicines to Australians by freezing the PBS Co-Payment and adding more medicines to the PBS.

Changes to income tax are coming!

From 1 July, all Canberra taxpayers will be keeping more of what they earn.

The Albanese Government is bringing cost of living relief through a tax package which benefits every Australian taxpayer.

For example, someone earning \$75,000 will receive a tax cut of \$1,554.

Our tax changes deliver increased benefit to lower and middle income earners. 79% of Canberra taxpayers will receive a greater tax cut than they would have under the former Government's package.

We know Canberrans are doing it tough as a result of global inflation and interest rate rises.

That's why we're reforming the tax system so you can keep more of what you earn.



With your ACT Federal Labor Team at our post-Budget press conference

A Capital for All Australians

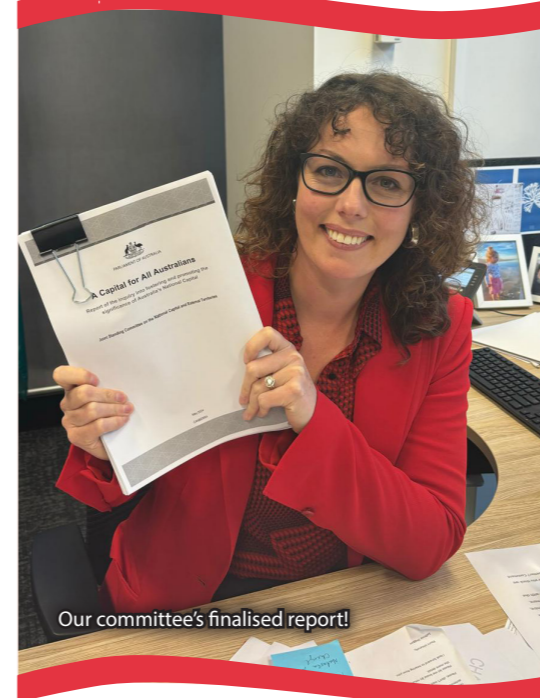
Over the last year, the Parliamentary Committee on the National Capital and External Territories, which I chair, has heard from the Canberra community through an inquiry on how the Federal Government can foster and promote the national capital.

As the national capital, Canberra belongs to all Australians. Unfortunately, our city doesn't always get the respect it deserves.

I want Canberra to be on every tourist's 'must-visit' list, whether they're domestic or international, and all Australians to take pride in our city.

My Committee has made 21 recommendations including that the Commonwealth contribute to a new convention centre, upgraded stadium infrastructure and more rail services to and from Canberra. We've also recommended the re-establishment of a hop on hop off bus visiting our attractions and support for the national institutions to better collaborate and share their collections around the country.

I'm proud that already the Government has committed \$250 million to upgrading the AIS, and a further \$50 million for Stage 2B of Light Rail in this year's Budget.



Our committee's finalised report!

Climate and the Environment

Our Government is working hard to protect our nation's natural environment.

We recently announced the establishment of Australia's first national independent Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as part of our Nature Positive Plan. The EPA will deliver strong environmental protections and greater transparency on decisions impacting our environment.

We are also investing heavily in renewable energy. The Albanese Government's \$1 billion investment in the Solar SunShot program will ensure Australia captures more of the global solar manufacturing supply chain, and builds on the \$40 billion already invested to make Australia a renewable energy superpower.

The Government is also delivering locally. We've committed \$3.6 million to help get solar on to Apartment Buildings and have now signed the contracts on three new community batteries for the ACT, the first of which will be built in Dickson. These policies are helping to expand access to renewables for Canberrans who have not been previously able to reap its benefits.

Labor's new vehicle emissions standards have also passed the Parliament. These changes ensure that you will have more options available when purchasing electric vehicles, and better fuel efficiency on new petrol cars coming into Australia.

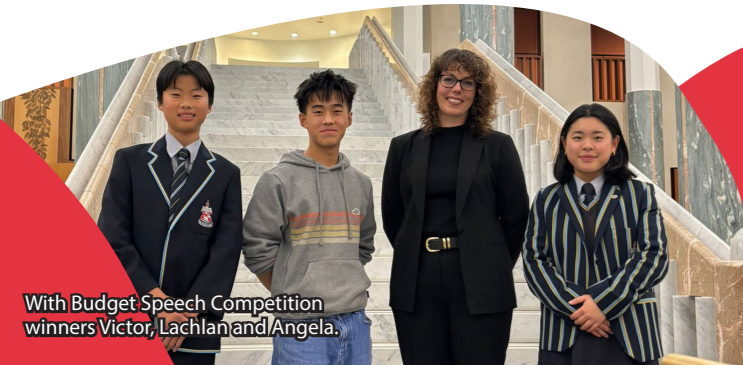


Delivering on our 2022 promise to bring community batteries to Canberra!

Budget Speech Competition

A big thank you to all the students from across the Canberra Electorate who entered my 2024 Budget Speech competition.

Congratulations to Victor Ni from Canberra Grammar School who won, as well as Angela Xie from Canberra Grammar School and Lachlan Li from Telopea Park High School who were runners-up. It was great to meet them when they came to Parliament to see Treasurer Jim Chalmers hand down this year's Budget.



With Budget Speech Competition winners Victor, Lachlan and Angela.