



**Jon Stanhope** MLA  
CHIEF MINISTER

TREASURER MINISTER FOR BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
MINISTER FOR INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS MINISTER FOR THE ARTS  
MEMBER FOR GINNINDERRA

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### LIVING IN OUR NEIGHBOURHOODS A POSITIVE EXPERIENCE

Chief Minister Jon Stanhope has welcomed the release of a new report which reveals that living in Canberra's neighbourhoods is a positive experience for most people, and that Canberrans are overwhelmingly supportive of the city's cultural and ethnic diversity.

*Neighbourhood and Belonging: Living in the Communities of Canberra* presents the findings of qualitative research on the views of a broad cross-section of Canberrans on neighbourhood interaction, community activities and social inclusion.

The study, commissioned by the Community Inclusion Board, highlights many positive aspects of living in Canberra. It involved qualitative research involving groups and in-depth personal interviews.

"The report reveals that residents are generally very satisfied with the lifestyle our city offers," Mr Stanhope said. "In particular, they appreciate the clean environment, open spaces and the range of activities available to all those who want to participate.

"I am also pleased that almost all respondents considered Canberra's cultural and ethnic diversity to be great strengths, as well as a source of pride."

Mr Stanhope said the report identified events that fostered a sense of community and belonging. These included Floriade, the Celebrate Canberra Festival and the Multicultural Festival.

"The study also found a high level of satisfaction with local neighbourhood and community facilities, with this satisfaction being strongest among families with young children, as well as older Canberrans," Mr Stanhope said.

The study also revealed areas in which an even stronger sense of community and belonging could be developed. It suggested there be more activities targeted at young people, greater promotion of the range of services and events on offer and continued development of 'destination centres' such as Civic and Kingston Foreshore.

"This study confirms that Canberra is a great place to live, and that the Government's initiatives are having a positive influence on the well-being of Canberrans," Mr Stanhope said. "The findings will help inform and further improve the way in which community activities are developed, organised and delivered by the Government.

The report is available online at [www.cmd.act.gov.au/communityinclusion](http://www.cmd.act.gov.au/communityinclusion).

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