



Jon Stanhope MLA

CHIEF MINISTER

TREASURER MINISTER FOR BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

MINISTER FOR INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, WATER AND CLIMATE CHANGE

MINISTER FOR THE ARTS

MEMBER FOR GINNINDERRA

MEDIA RELEASE

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CANBERRANS EARN \$183.90 MORE THAN AUSTRALIAN AVERAGE

Canberrans earned \$183.90 more a week than the average Australian, according to new average weekly ordinary time earnings figures released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics today.

Chief Minister and Treasurer Jon Stanhope welcomed the new figures which showed that the average weekly ordinary time earning in the ACT was \$1287.50, in trend terms for the August quarter 2007, well above the national average, and \$101.70 more than the average wage in WA – the jurisdiction with the second highest average wage.

Mr Stanhope said that average weekly ordinary time earnings in the ACT grew by \$49.10 or 5.4 per cent, year-on-year, in the year to August 2007.

“The continuing strength of the ACT economy is indisputable with record high levels of spending on retail trade at \$4.5 billion over the year to September 2007 and unemployment at a record low of 2.5 per cent,” Mr Stanhope said.

“Shadow Treasurer Richard Mulcahy’s assertions that ACT residents need tax cuts is unsubstantiated as we are only the fourth highest taxing jurisdiction in Australia, despite our wages being 16.7 per cent above the national average.

“The ACT Government is committed to improving services for Canberrans with a suite of announcements this week, including \$75 million to improve the ACT’s transport system, \$17 million to help the community adapt to climate change, \$10.8 million for an Indigenous rehabilitation centre, \$1.9 million for a Ophthalmology centre, \$14.6 million for pastoral care in public high schools and \$4 million for a sexual assault reform program.

“These announcements came on top of the record investment in the ACT’s education and health systems and currently funded through the 2007-08 Budget.

“It is these investments together with the strength of the buoyant ACT economy that continue to help the ACT Government take the Territory even further forward into the future.’

Statement Ends

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