



# 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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### 2.5% UNEMPLOYMENT – RECORD LOW

The ACT's unemployment rate set a new Australian record in September 2007 as it fell to 2.5 per cent, trend terms, according to new figures released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics today.

The national unemployment rate remained steady at 4.2 per cent in September 2007.

During September 2007, there were 142,400 people employed full-time, with the number of unemployed falling by 300 people during the month.

"This is a welcome sign of the strength of the ACT economy," Chief Minister and Treasurer Jon Stanhope said. "Of course, such low unemployment levels are indicative of the skills shortage experienced not just in the ACT, but across Australia.

"The ACT Government is aware of this issue and the burden it places on ACT businesses and is looking to attract skilled workers from interstate and overseas through both the *Live in Canberra* program and the Skilled and Business Migration Program.

"The ACT Skills Commission is also diligently working on its report which will provide strategic advice to the Government on skills issues and strategies to meet the ACT's skills needs now and into the future."

The ACT's labour force participation rate remained the second highest in the country at 72.5 per cent, just below the Northern Territory at 73.5 per cent, and well above the national average of 65.0 per cent.

The trending decline in the ACT's female participation rate has been linked to the increase in the number of births in the ACT recently.

Statement Ends

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