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MINISTER FOR BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MINISTER FOR LAND AND PROPERTY SERVICES
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MEDIA RELEASE

Embargoed until 1am Friday 28th January 2011

28 January 2011

CANBERRA STILL THE HEALTHIEST PLACE TO LIVE

The Report on Government Services (ROGS) 2011 shows that the ACT continues to be a healthy place to live, with Canberrans expected to live longer than the rest of the country, acting Health Minister Jon Stanhope said today.

“Across a range of measures, the ROGS data shows that Canberrans are the healthiest in the country,” Mr Stanhope said,

“Nowhere is this more evident than in our average life expectancy at birth which is higher than that of any other jurisdiction, at 80.1 years for men and 84 years for women.

“This compares to the national averages of 79.2 years for men and 83.7 years for women.”

“We also share the status of having the lowest mortality rate in the country at 5.8 per 1,000 population in 2008, compared with a national average of 6.”

Mr Stanhope said among the other findings of the Productivity Commission report were that the ACT Government’s anti-smoking initiatives were working.

The ACT had the lowest level of daily adult smokers at 15.7% against the national average of 19.1%. With smoking a leading cause of preventable illness the continued reduction in smoking rates was pleasing, Mr Stanhope said.

ACT public hospitals reported the lowest level of intervention rates for first-time mothers. The findings showed that just 25.5% of mothers giving birth in ACT public hospitals were induced, below the national average of 31.3%.

“The report did noted that the ACT’s proportion of low birth weight babies born of Indigenous mothers, 18.9% was higher than the national rate of 12.4% in 2006,” Mr Stanhope said.

“However, this figure was calculated using a very low statistical base of 20 births and around half of these were born to non-ACT residents due to the Canberra Hospital’s role as the region’s tertiary hospital.”

Statement Ends

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