



# Jon Stanhope MLA

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# MEDIA RELEASE

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## QUEENSLANDERS TO BE LURED TO *LIVE IN CANBERRA*

Skilled Queensland workers will be targeted at a career expo in Brisbane this weekend to help redress the ACT's skills shortage, Chief Minister Jon Stanhope said today.

Mr Stanhope said the ACT Government's *Live in Canberra* program administrators would travel to the *Reinvent Your Career Expo* with plans to convince skilled workers and their families to make the move south to the nation's capital.

He said the expo, at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre on 27-28 March, was a good opportunity to promote Canberra's employment, lifestyle and education advantages to a targeted audience of skilled workers.

"Skill shortages still persist across a range of industries in Canberra and unemployment remains at almost historic lows," Mr Stanhope said.

"Residents in large Australian cities are becoming fed up with the traffic jams, overcrowding and increasing rates of crime and we want to let them know that Canberra is a great alternative with a range of employment opportunities and a lifestyle second to none.

"Our city is ideally located just two hours drive to the ski-fields and the beautiful beaches of the New South Wales south coast. We're offering Queenslanders a city of four seasons, relatively low crime, no toll roads, less traffic and excellent schools and other community facilities," Mr Stanhope said.

Representatives from program supporter ActewAGL will join the *Live in Canberra* team at the expo to promote employment opportunities across their organisation within the ACT.

The Australian National University, University of Canberra and Canberra Institute of Technology have supplied the *Live in Canberra* team with material to promote opportunities to study in Canberra.

Mr Stanhope said it was important to participate in these expos which target people looking for a fresh start in a new job and a new city.

"We're aware of a number of families who have made the move to Canberra from Queensland.

"Other States and Territories are actively seeking skilled workers, so it's important we drive the *Live in Canberra* message at an expo like this which attracts tens of thousands of patrons."

*Editors' note: Mr Justin Keevers will be in Brisbane and is available for comment on 0438 055 787.*

Statement Ends

Media Contact: Jess Wurf

6205 0504

0411 772 700

[jess.wurf@act.gov.au](mailto:jess.wurf@act.gov.au)

ACT Government

Phone (02) 6205 0104    Fax (02) 6205 0433