



Jon Stanhope MLA

CHIEF MINISTER

MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT MINISTER FOR TERRITORY AND MUNICIPAL SERVICES
MINISTER FOR BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MINISTER FOR LAND AND PROPERTY SERVICES
MINISTER FOR ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER AFFAIRS
MINISTER FOR THE ARTS AND HERITAGE
MEMBER FOR GINNINDERRA

MEDIA RELEASE

190/10

17 May 2010

FIRST TIME VISIT TO MELBOURNE FOR *LIVE IN CANBERRA*

The ACT Government's *Live in Canberra* program will promote Canberra's employment, lifestyle and education advantages to skilled workers in Melbourne for the first time from 21 to 22 May.

Chief Minister Jon Stanhope said following successful expos in Sydney and Brisbane, *Live in Canberra* was confident of a good response from skilled workers and their families at the National Careers and Employment Expo at Melbourne's Exhibition Centre.

"This expo will be a good test of the Melbourne labour market and we anticipate strong interest from both long term Victorians looking for a change of lifestyle and relatively new migrants who have not found Melbourne to suit their lifestyle or employment needs," Mr Stanhope said.

"There can be no doubt that skill shortages still persist across a range of areas in Canberra and our unemployment rate remains at almost historic lows, the second lowest of any state or territory.

"At recent expos attended in Sydney and Brisbane, the *Live in Canberra* team met scores of skilled workers complaining of traffic jams, overcrowding and difficulty in finding employment. We expect to hear more of the same in Melbourne and we hope to capitalise on Canberra's lifestyle benefits. Our city has less traffic and congestion and good access to nature, yet with all the advantages of city living.

"We also expect Canberra to appeal to young families, with Canberra recognised as one of the best cities to raise a family in Australia. We are offering a first-rate education system and a great range of sport and recreation facilities for kids."

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

The *Live in Canberra* team will also be on the look-out for any GPs who are considering a fresh start, armed with information from the ACT Division of General Practice.

"The ACT Government will continue to spread the word that Canberra is a great option for workers and their families who possess the right skills and qualifications to meet our skill shortages." Mr Stanhope said.

Editors' note: Mr Justin Keevers will be in Melbourne from 21 to 22 May 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

ACT Government

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