



Jon Stanhope MLA

CHIEF MINISTER

TREASURER MINISTER FOR BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
MINISTER FOR INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, WATER AND CLIMATE CHANGE
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MORE GOOD NEWS ON CANBERRA'S POPULATION GROWTH

Australian Bureau of Statistics figures showing positive interstate and international migration to Canberra are further evidence of the success of ACT Government programs in attracting more people to live and work in Canberra, Chief Minister Jon Stanhope said.

According to the ABS, international migration to the ACT increased from 450 in 2003-04 to 800 in 2006-07 while interstate migration has moved from a net loss of 1,600 in 2003-04 to a net gain of 1,900 in 2006-07

"The ACT Government recognises that addressing the skills shortage and encouraging steady and sustainable population growth are essential to the economic growth and prosperity of the Territory," Mr Stanhope said. "That's why we established the Skills Commission and developed programs such as *Live in Canberra* and the Skilled and Business Migration Program.

"National and international interest in relocating to Canberra continues to grow with the *Live in Canberra* program receiving 60 requests each week for information packs – up from 20 requests each week just twelve months ago.

"The *Live in Canberra* and Skilled and Business Migration teams recently returned from a successful trip to South Africa, where they conducted seminars in conjunction with the Brumbies' Super 14 tour in Cape Town, Pretoria and Durban and met with business people interested in relocating their companies or investing in Canberra.

"*Live in Canberra* is also encouraging high-calibre ICT professionals to move to Canberra by participating in the Commonwealth Government's recruitment drive for Information and Communications Technology workers at the CeBIT G-Tech Forum and Exhibition being held in Sydney.

Mr Stanhope said the *Live in Canberra* program database has increased by 218 adults and 32 children since January and the number of welcome events has been boosted to two per month.

"I welcome the latest Australian Bureau of Statistics figures as further evidence of the success of ACT Government programs in addressing the skills shortage and encouraging steady and sustainable population growth in the ACT," Mr Stanhope said.

Statement Ends

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