



# 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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### RECORD EMPLOYMENT IN ACT

In February 2008 there were 190,100 people employed in the ACT – a new ACT record, according to new figures released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics yesterday.

The continued growth in ACT employment levels is reflective of the strength of the ACT, particularly the strong labour demand conditions in the ACT labour market, Chief Minister and Treasurer Jon Stanhope said.

“In February 2008 there were an additional 500 people employed in the ACT, with 400 of these employed full-time,” Mr Stanhope said. “This, along with the ANZ job ads released earlier this week, showing that jobs ads in the ACT grew by 10.7 per cent year on year to February 2008, highlights the strong demand for workers in the ACT.

“The continued strength of the ACT labour market has driven the unemployment rate in the Territory to record lows – currently steady at a record low of 2.4 per cent – well below the national rate of 4.1 per cent and well below the next lowest jurisdiction – Western Australia, which has an unemployment rate of 3.1 per cent.

“The continued strength of the ACT labour market highlights the confidence employers have in the ACT economy and the opportunities it creates for workers in Canberra.

“The ACT Government is aware of the constraints on the tight ACT labour market growth experiencing a lack of skilled workers, which is why the ACT Skills Commission was appointed to help alleviate the problem. The ACT Skills Commission is finalising its Report to Government on how we can work together with business and the community to help tackle this important issue and it will be released in the near future.

“The record low unemployment level, along with the second highest participation rate in the country, of 72.3 per cent, and demand for labour, should also allay any fears about the possible impact of the Federal Budget measures on the ACT economy.

“The ACT Government is also coordinating a campaign with the Commonwealth, trade unions, employer and business organisations and employment agencies to ensure that Commonwealth public servants who are affected by measures in the Federal Budget receive support for a smooth transition into new jobs and new careers elsewhere in the national capital.

The ACT Government’s *Live in Canberra* program is also well under way and currently in the UK and Amsterdam to attract more skilled workers to Canberra.

Statement Ends

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ACT Government

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