



**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

490/07

26 October 2007

### **LIVE IN CANBERRA SPREADS THE WORD IN IRELAND & UK**

Chief Minister Jon Stanhope said the *Live in Canberra* and Skilled and Business Migration Program team, currently in the United Kingdom attending expos and meeting with migration agents, has met with dozens of skilled workers who have shown genuine interest in living and working in the ACT.

“The team was very pleased with the response to Canberra at an expo in Ireland last week where a lot of tradespeople, engineers and ICT workers are very interested in migrating to Australia. The shortage of construction workers in the middle of our construction boom, continued business growth and strong economy was of great interest in Ireland and many are now seriously considering Canberra as a place to live and work,” Mr Stanhope said.

Over 1,000 *Live in Canberra* brochures and CDs were distributed at the Ireland expo as well as tourism marketing material for the large number of Irish people coming to Australia on a working holiday visa.

“The *Live in Canberra* team has spent the last three days meeting with London-based migration agents who facilitate most migration to Australia. These agents were largely unaware of the opportunities that Canberra has to offer their clients and consequently will now encourage their clients with the right skills to consider Canberra’s work and lifestyle advantages.”

Migration agents were so impressed with the Canberra message, that Simon Kinsmore *Live in Canberra* Manager was invited to present at an invitation-only expo organised by one agency in Manchester where over 200 people were in attendance. The response to Canberra was very positive and this invitation has now been extended to present at another expo this weekend in Sheffield.

Migration agents are very important in getting the Canberra message to people motivated to migrate to Australia. Migration agents assess candidates’ suitability for migration and then offer advice on the best place in Australia for them and their families to settle.

The team has also met with people the ACT Government has sponsored to migrate to Canberra to reinforce the career and lifestyle advantages of the city and provide assistance as they plan their new lives in the nation’s capital.

“It is vital that the *Live in Canberra* message continues to reach international audiences. The ACT is competing for these skilled workers with other states and territories with much larger budgets and, in some cases, officers based in London constantly liaising with migration agents,” said Mr Stanhope.

The *Live in Canberra* team will be attending the Opportunities Expo in Manchester this weekend as well as meeting more migration agents and people sponsored to live and work in Canberra.

**Editors note: *Live in Canberra* manager, Simon Kinsmore will be in the United Kingdom and is available until 7am Canberra time Monday 29 October on 0417 208 345.**

Statement Ends

**Media Contact: Penelope Layland 6205 9777 0438 289 714 penelope.layland@act.gov.au**

**ACT Government**

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