

ACT Government Media Release  
ACT Minister for Ageing Joy Burch  
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### **Burch outlines ageing priorities and initiatives for ACT**

ACT Minister for Ageing Joy Burch today outlined the ACT Government's priorities and initiatives to address the ageing at the Aged and Community Services Association Regional Forum at University House.

Ms Burch said the ACT has one of the fastest ageing populations in Australia and this brings with it challenges - challenges for Government, for the community and for seniors.

Ms Burch told delegates that the ACT Government, working in close partnership with the ACT Ministerial Advisory Council on Ageing, community organisations and a diverse range of individuals, will deliver a broad range of initiatives to address ageing issues.

"Last year we launched the ACT Strategic Plan for Positive Ageing, 2010-2014: 'Towards an Age-Friendly City'," Ms Burch said.

"The plan is essentially a blueprint for positive ageing policies and initiatives for Canberra's seniors over the next five years. Our goal is to have a city where older people are respected, valued and encouraged to actively participate in all that life and our community has to offer."

Ms Burch said that during consultations with the ACT community last year, there was a clear message from the aged community that they needed more information on matters that affect them, and this information needs to be delivered in a more timely, effective and accurate manner.

The ACT Office for Ageing has now developed a new website: 'Seniors Information Online', which provides access to information about healthy living, retirement planning, support services and products, entitlements and community groups and clubs.

"Our aim is that 'Seniors Information Online' will become a 'must visit' website for ACT seniors - providing quality information that is useful and relevant to them, and updated on a regular basis."

Ms Burch also said that she was very proud of the recent announcement that Canberra has joined over 50 other cities, including New York, Manchester and Brussels, as one of the founding members of the newly formed 'Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities'.

"The inclusion of Canberra within the global network reinforces the ACT Government's commitment to taking active steps to create a better environment for our older citizens."

As a member of the 'Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities' Canberra will be at the forefront of policy development and information sharing - providing immense opportunities to create urban environments that will assist older people to remain

healthy and active and to make a positive and rewarding contribution to their communities.

"The ACT Government is working with our community partners to provide opportunities that will ensure that older people are encouraged to participate in activities that will nourish the mind, body and soul."