

Brendan Smyth MLA

Member for Brindabella

Deputy Leader of the Opposition

Shadow Treasurer; Shadow Minister for Business and Economic Development;
Police; Mental Health; Tourism; Sport and Recreation; Government Accountability

Media Release

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CANBERRA LIBERALS ANNOUNCE **SPORT POLICY**

Shadow Minister for Sport and Recreation, Brendan Smyth, has announced the Canberra Liberals' Sport and Recreation Policy for the 2008 Election.

"Encouraging every Canberran to be physically active is the goal of this policy" Mr Smyth said.

"Increased rates of participation have the capacity to improve outcomes in health, education, community safety and tourism. Encouraging every Canberran to be physically active will help us to build a better community" Mr Smyth said.

"The Canberra Liberals will provide \$1.5 million over the four years to provide direct support to low-income families to help with the costs of junior sport.

"The Canberra Liberals will provide \$2.8 million over the four years in increased funding for the Community Grants program to help local sporting clubs, with a view to returning funding to 2004 levels, and will increase this funding by the consumer price index in the following years.

"We will commit to funding \$24 million in capital upgrades over the four years. We will commit to investing in sport and recreation infrastructure in every year, not just in election years. We will also provide additional drought-proofing funding of \$5 million over the four years.

"The Canberra Liberals will invest in a feasibility study to create a new building to house ACTIVE Canberra, ACTSPORT and the ACTSPORT Hall of Fame. We will also fund a master-plan for the Bruce-Lyneham sports precinct: these will cost \$700,000.

"The Chief Minister cut the heart out of Sport and Recreation;

- he cut community grants funding in half,
- he cut jobs,
- he stopped funding capital works,
- he shuffled Sport and Recreation through three departments in seven years, and
- he spent seven years ignoring the impact of drought, only coming up with a plan at ten minutes to midnight.

"Sport and Recreation deserves better. Sport and Recreation is an important industry in Canberra, and we intend to recognise it as such.

"Sport and Active Recreation will be a key focus of a Canberra Liberals' Government" Mr Smyth said.

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Canberraliberals

Key actions in the policy include:

- To help with the costs of participating in organised sport, the Canberra Liberals will provide \$1.5 million over the four years in direct support to low income families for children (up to 16 years of age) participating in club sport or recreation.
- The Canberra Liberals will invest in a new building to house ACTive Canberra, ACTSPORT and the ACTSPORT Hall of Fame through funding a feasibility study to assess the business case.
- The Canberra Liberals will provide \$2.8 million over four years in increased funding for the Community Grants program, with a view to returning to 2004 levels, and will increase this funding by the consumer price index in following years.
- The Canberra Liberals will provide an annual round of funding for capital works, totalling \$24 million over the four years and drought-proofing funding of \$5 million over the four years.
- The Canberra Liberals will create ACTive Canberra, a statutory authority for sport and recreation, overseen by a board and with a direct line of reporting to the Minister.
- The Canberra Liberals will undertake a full analysis of sport and recreation in the ACT to gain a sound understanding of the economic impact of the sport and recreation industry in the ACT.
- The Canberra Liberals will also undertake a full audit and needs analysis of sporting facilities in Canberra.
- The Canberra Liberals will provide grants to fund coaching and umpiring courses, first-aid and sports medicine courses and other training to assist club administrators and volunteers.
- The Canberra Liberals will provide for Community Sport and Recreation Field Officers across Canberra. These field officers will be based in our community working closely with local sporting and active recreation clubs, physical activity providers, community groups and schools throughout their region to:
 - increase community participation in sport, active recreation and physical activity programs; and
 - improve the quality of sport, active recreation and physical activity opportunities available in their region.
- The Canberra Liberals also will provide \$900,000 over the four years to restore support for up to 250 athletes under the ACT Academy of Sport program.
- The Canberra Liberals will deliver a capital works funding model that will provide for capital works in every budget, not just in election years.