



19 May 2026

Statement on FY2026-27 ACT Budget funding for the ACT DPP

The ACT Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ACT DPP) has welcomed new funding in the 2026–27 ACT Budget to strengthen prosecution services and improve outcomes for Canberran victims of crime.

The \$18.9m investment over four years will allow the ACT DPP to continue to deliver high quality and robust prosecution services, while also exploring better ways of working – such as directing resources towards the early resolution of appropriate matters to reduce pressure across the whole justice system.

The Director of Public Prosecutions, Victoria Engel SC, said that, despite the challenging financial environment, the investment recognised the pivotal role of the ACT DPP in achieving justice on behalf of Canberrans navigating the criminal justice system and supported the ACT DPP to continue to deliver justice for the Canberra community.

She acknowledged the Attorney-General, Tara Cheyne MLA's critical support of the office and her advocacy for stable, ongoing funding to support the office to meet the expectations of the community who rely on the ACT DPP.

"There has been long term, sustained pressure on prosecution services – particularly in sexual offence and family violence matters – placing pressure on our team to deliver to a standard that we and the community rightly expect. The ACT Budget helps alleviate this pressure, turning recent temporary measures into permanent funding and providing additional support."

The Director also highlighted the impact the new funding would have on victims and witnesses through the continued growth both in numbers and ambit of the role of the ACT DPP's Witness Assistance Service, including for First Nations identified positions. Ms Engel said this represents the ACT DPP's continued evolution to meet the expectations of a contemporary justice system and commitment to providing sustained, trauma-informed engagement with victims, complainants and witnesses.

"The role of my office is not just to prosecute matters fairly and effectively, but to do so in a way that respects and supports victims, witnesses and complainants throughout the process," Ms Engel said.

"This investment will help us do both."

More information on the 2026–27 ACT Budget is available on the ACT Government website.

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