



## Submission to the ACT Government Budget Consultation 2021-22

This submission is made on behalf of the following community organisations and service providers that operate within or have an interest in community services within the Gungahlin district:

- Northside Community Service
- Barnardos Australia
- Canberra Police Community Youth Club (PCYC)
- Gungahlin Community Council

### Summary

The demand for community services within the Gungahlin district is extremely high. This is driven by the size of the population, the rate of population growth, the young demographic, and the diversity of the community.

The ACT government has committed to build a new community centre in Gungahlin ([Parliamentary Agreement for the 10<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly](#)).

### We ask that:

- 1. The process of the consultation and planning for the Gungahlin community centre be funded as a priority in the 2021-22 financial year to address the substantial gap between the availability of facilities to enable service providers to supply community services, and the demand for these services, and**
- 2. Short-term funding for programs to support young people and their families is made available in the 2021-22 financial year including:**
  - early intervention groups programs for the Gungahlin district,
  - district-based case management services and
  - increases to youth outreach services.

## Submission

This submission is supported by the following organisations striving to meet the demand for community services within the district of Gungahlin.

### Supporting Organisations

#### *Northside Community Service*

We are a community-based, not for profit organisation established in 1976 through the efforts of concerned people wanting to provide and develop support and services for residents of North Canberra. At Northside, our team routinely makes brave decisions about service delivery, client involvement and sector engagement. We challenge long held beliefs about the capacity of clients to control their service journey and in doing so have high expectations of our clients knowing what is best for themselves.

[Northside Community Service Exceptional People | Courageous Practice](#)

#### *Barnardos Australia*

Barnardos believes all children and young people deserve caring families in which they **can** grow safely and fulfil their potential. We work together with children, young people and families to break the cycle of disadvantage, creating safe, nurturing and stable homes, connected to family and community.

[Welcome to Barnardos Australia - We believe in children](#)

#### *Canberra PCYC*

Canberra PCYC is committed to seeing lives changed. Whatever journey people may have been on, it is our mission to empower people to create pathways to a better future for themselves. Our values are: engage, respect, belong. Our values encompass the foundations for bringing about lasting change for individuals and for community. We engage people in a range of services including case management services, early-intervention groups programs, and intensive diversion programs led by our professional and passionate staff. Canberra PCYC adopts an inclusive practice, and we create a place of belonging and safety for people both at PCYC, and as we link people into broader community support networks.

[Canberra PCYC Home](#)

#### *Gungahlin Community Council (GCC)*

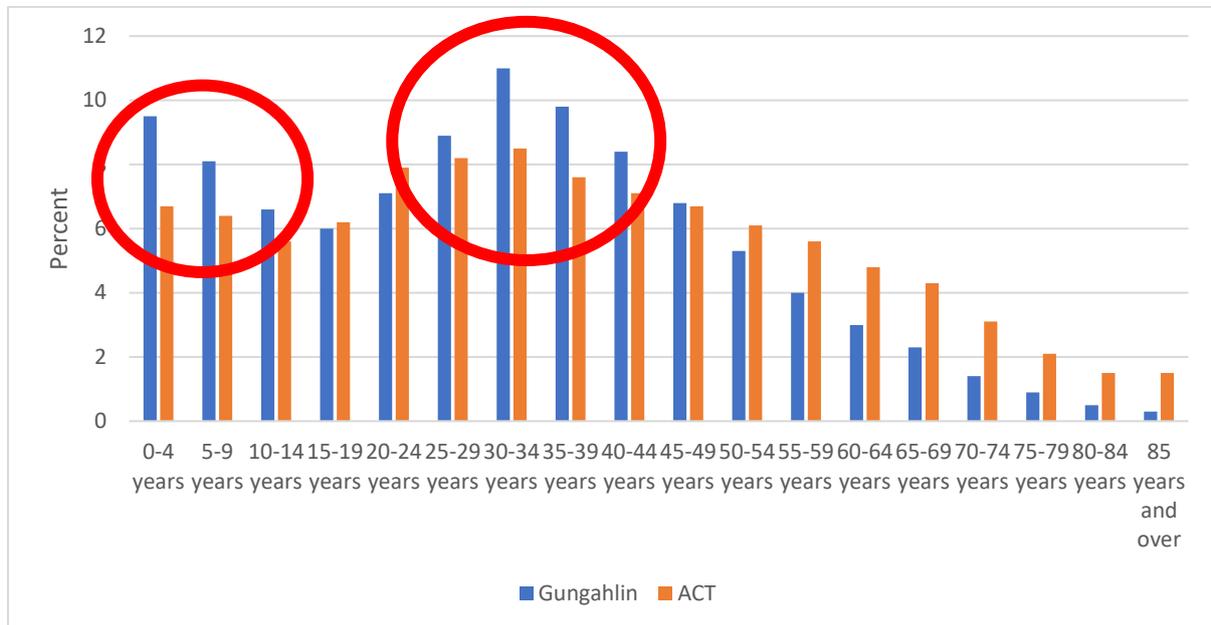
The Gungahlin Community Council (GCC) is a voluntary, not for profit, community-based association operating in the Gungahlin district of Canberra, in the Australian Capital Territory. Our objective is to preserve and improve the social, cultural, economic and environmental well-being of Gungahlin and the Gungahlin community. The GCC receives funding from the ACT Government.

[Welcome - Gungahlin Community Council \(gcc.asn.au\)](#)

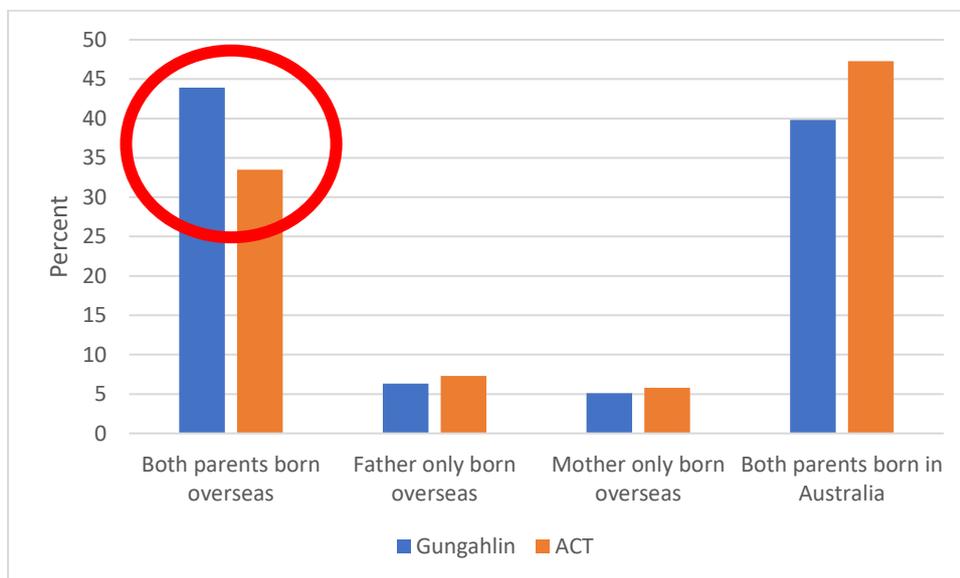
## Demographics

The [ABS QuickStatS for Gungahlin Statistical Area 3 \(SA3 80104\) 2016](#) highlights the unique demographics of the Gungahlin community relative to the rest of the ABC.

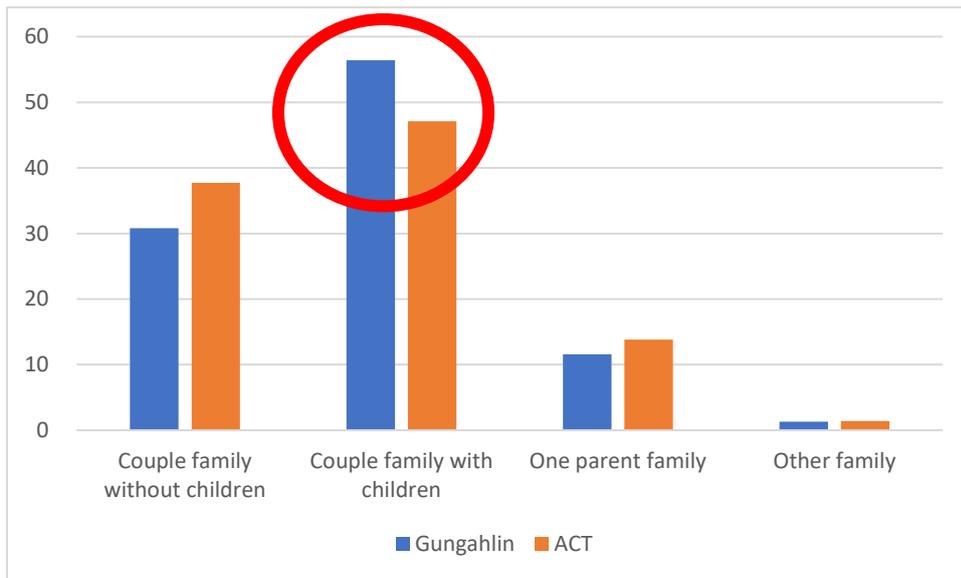
The Gungahlin community is substantially **younger** than the rest of the ACT.



The Gungahlin community is much more **diverse** than the rest of the ACT. The most common countries of birth outside Australia for parents in Gungahlin were India, China, England and Vietnam at percentage rates roughly double the ACT.



There are substantially more **families** in Gungahlin than in the rest of the ACT.



## Relevance to Government Budget Priorities

### **What are your top three priorities for the COVID-19 economic recovery?**

To ensure that community services are available to residents of Gungahlin that have been impacted by COVID-19.

### **Which ACT Government services do you believe are most important for vulnerable Canberrans?**

Within the district of Gungahlin the community services demand is acute in the following areas:

- Safe and supporting places
- Case Management services
- Youth outreach services
- Advice and support
- Collaboration of services
- Youth programs and facilities
- Support for residents that are new to Canberra

### **What are your policy suggestions to respond to climate change, reduce households cost of living and create jobs?**

To provide services that facilitate the transition of households that are struggling with the cost of living towards self-sufficiency and more stable employment.

Increasing vulnerable people's and lower-socioeconomic family's capacity to self-manage, to enter the workforce, and to contribute to their community is the most fundamental way to create pathways for a more informed and more resilient community.

### **What more can the ACT Government do to improve community well-being in Canberra?**

Provide facilities to support the delivery of community services consistent with the needs of residents.

Fund more services that meet the immediate and unique needs of the Gungahlin and northern region community.

### **How can the ACT Government deliver current services more efficiently to better meet the needs of Canberrans?**

Provide at a minimum a large-scale facility to accommodate the services providers and community groups within the Gungahlin district.

Provide joint funding for community services to provide immediate services to the Gungahlin community to eliminate duplication, siloing, and cost associated with regional travel.

More broadly, to put in place a strategy for delivering community services at the district, group and local levels across Gungahlin.

**Which infrastructure projects do you believe are of greatest importance to Canberrans over the Budget forward estimates?**

The [Parliamentary Agreement for the 10<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly](#) commits the Labor-Greens coalition to:

- *Build new community centres at ... Gungahlin ... (15.1)*
- *Construct a large new multicultural events venue at EPIC for cultural performances and available for hire for large private functions, such as weddings (15.2)*

Building a large-scale facility to accommodate the services providers and community groups within the Gungahlin district is critical for the residents of Gungahlin. This election commitment within the ACT Government's program is strongly supported, and the highest collective priority for the organisations that have signed this submission.

More broadly, a strategy needs to be put in place to delivering community services at the district, group and local levels across Gungahlin, including the large multicultural events venue at EPIC.