

Asthma Australia

2019-20 Australian Capital Territory Government Pre-Budget Submission



About Asthma Australia

Asthma Australia supports the one in nine Australians with asthma to breathe better. Our vision is a community free from Asthma.

For over 50 years Asthma Australia and the Asthma Foundations have been leaders in asthma health care, education, research and advocacy.

Asthma Australia delivers evidence-based preventative health strategies through our information provision, telephone helpline and asthma referral and coaching service.

The organisation also provides education and training to promote best practice asthma care and first aid training to schools, childcare centres, workplaces and sporting and recreational settings to ensure asthma emergencies are addressed swiftly and appropriately.

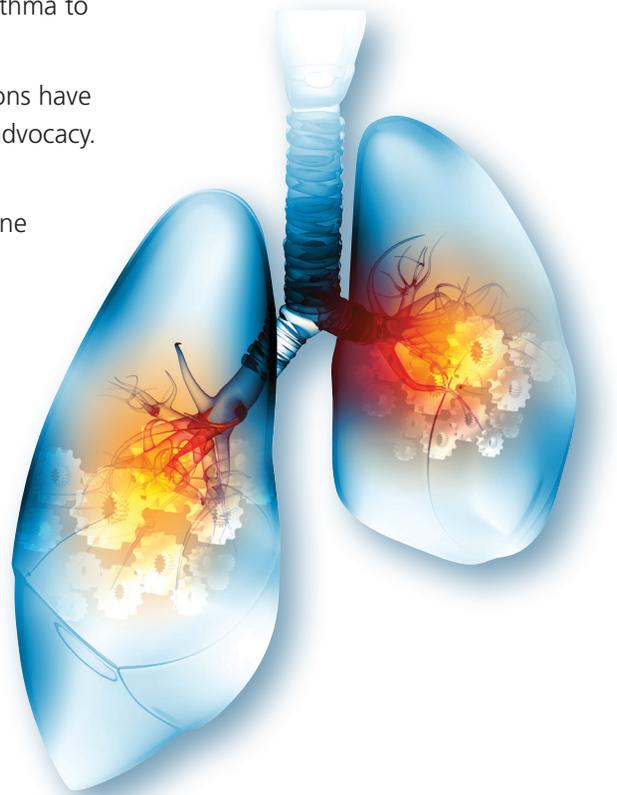
Asthma Australia supports research that contributes to national and international understandings of asthma and how best to manage the disease.

The organisation engages in advocacy on the issues that are important to people with asthma, to ensure policies are in place to support people with asthma achieve optimal health.

Through this work, we reach more than 500,000 Australians each year.

To find out more about our work, visit www.asthmaaustralia.org.au

For more information about this Pre-Budget Submission, please contact Asthma Australia Chief Executive Officer, Michele Goldman at mgoldman@asthma.org.au or 02 9018 0555.



Summary

All residents of the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) should have access to information and support that keeps them healthy and well. Asthma is a chronic respiratory condition affecting 43,500 people, or one in nine Canberrans.¹ Asthma is one of the top 20 most common reasons for Emergency Department (ED) presentations in the ACT; resulting in 1,108 ED presentations in 2016-17.² Asthma is responsible for 107.4 hospitalisations per 100,000 people in the ACT, equating to 384 admissions in 2014-15³ and caused five deaths in 2016.⁴

Asthma can be a debilitating chronic health condition but doesn't need to be if managed well. Asthma Australia is the leading organisation providing support to people with asthma through nation-wide multi-faceted community programs and world leading research.

Asthma Australia works directly with people with the asthma, their carers, educators, health professionals and service providers to ultimately help the person with asthma to maintain optimal health and well-being. Our programs include the 1800ASTHMA Helpline and COACH Program, comprehensive online information, community education, school-based education, primary and secondary models of care, integrated systems approaches, self-management smartphone apps and the National Asthma Research Program. Together these programs reach more than 500,000 children, young people and adults across the country.

The ACT Government's long commitment to supporting people with asthma by working with Asthma Australia, starting from 2010 and since, should be commended. Currently, the ACT Government's two Funding Agreements with Asthma Australia for asthma education and support services are both due to expire at the end of 2018-19. Should this support for people with asthma by the ACT Government lapse, over 2,400 people with asthma across the ACT risk losing access to asthma information, education and support to improve their asthma self-management, increasing their vulnerability and the risk of asthma flare ups and hospitalisations.

The ACT Government's upcoming 2019-20 Budget is an opportunity to help all Canberrans to breathe better and work towards a community free from asthma. This can occur by developing a new consolidated, three-year funding agreement to enable the implementation of Asthma Australia's proposal for the *ACT Better Pathways for Asthma Care Initiative*.

The goal of Asthma Australia's *ACT Better Pathways for Asthma Care Initiative* is for 'All Canberrans to have access to services, education and supports that enable them to be healthy and free from the avoidable burden of asthma'.

The *ACT Pathways for Better Asthma Care Initiative* is an integrated and systemic approach to asthma support in the ACT, combining systems interventions with individualised care and complementing these programs with population health approaches. The ACT Better Pathways for Asthma Care Initiative is predicated on strong attention to governance and accountability, and a dedicated monitoring and evaluation framework.

1. Australian Bureau of Statistics 2016; *National Health Survey: First Results 2014-15*. ABS Cat no. 4364.0.55.001. Canberra: ABS. <http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/4364.0.55.001>
2. Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2017, *Emergency Department Care: 2016-17*, <https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/hospitals/ahs-2016-17-emergency-department-care/data>
3. Public Health Information Development Unit (PHIDU) 2018, *Asthma Atlas of Australia*. Accessed online: http://www.atlasesaustralia.com.au/asthma_aust/atlas.htm
4. Australia Bureau of Statistics 2018. *Causes of Death, Australia, 2017*. Canberra: ABS. Accessed online: <http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/3303.0>

Summary of Recommendations

Recommendation 1

That the ACT Government supports over 900 Canberrans with asthma who experience disadvantage to develop better asthma self-management through funding Asthma Australia's flagship 1800 ASTHMA Helpline (1800 ASTHMA)/COACH program, an asthma primary health care program, and targeted outreach to other at-risk communities. Early results of the patients we supported show that more than half (56%) obtained clinically significant improvement in Asthma Control by three points or more from initial to first follow up call.

Cost: \$570,000 over 2019-20, 2020-21 and 2020-22

Recommendation 2

That the ACT Government provide at least 1,030 people the opportunity to receive ongoing asthma self-management support when they leave hospital and reduce their risk of re-admission by funding the Emergency Department Discharge Project (Project); an optimised and evidence-based model of care that improves asthma outcomes through a systematic approach. This Project currently runs as a pilot at Calvary Hospital until the end of December 2018.

This funding support will enable the Calvary Hospital Referral Program that was developed through ACT Government funding, to be improved and expanded to Canberra Hospital. Based on the Project outcomes to date at least 56% of these discharged patients who receive support will obtain clinically significant improvement in asthma control. It is expected that further refinements will see increased take-up and improvement in asthma self-management for these discharged patients.

Cost: \$240,000 over 2019-20, 2020-21 and 2020-22

Recommendation 3

That the ACT Government supports five medical practices to increase capacity to provide best practice education, information and support for an estimated 500 asthma patients at the point of care through funding the Giving Asthma Support to Patients (GASP) program. GASP will reduce the risk of flare-ups, need for oral steroids and presentations to the hospital ED for an anticipated 500 people with asthma; over a third (35%) will improve their asthma control generally. This innovative, nurse-delivered primary health program enhances asthma care in general practice by utilising decision support technology that enables an integrated team approach.

Cost: \$150,000 over 2019-20, 2020-21 and 2020-22

Recommendation 4

That the ACT Government contributes to the resilience and resourcefulness of all Canberrans' including the 43,500 people with asthma through funding asthma health promotion campaigns during high risk weather/seasons. This campaigning has the potential to reach 100,000 Canberrans.

Cost: \$75,000 over 2019-20, 2020-21 and 2020-22

Recommendation 5

That the ACT Government provides funding for Asthma Australia to guarantee robust governance, accountability, monitoring and evaluation for the *ACT Pathways for Better Asthma Care Initiative*. This will ensure the Initiative continues to align with key ACT Government, and national plans and strategies, including the National Asthma Strategy. An Advisory Body will also undertake asthma systems mapping to ensure that the Initiative becomes a world class Asthma Management Program for the ACT.

Cost: \$90,000 over 2019-20, 2020-21 and 2020-22

Total cost: \$1.125 million over 3 years.

The *ACT Pathways for Better Asthma Care Initiative's* investment is anticipated to provide support to all Canberrans with asthma, their families and community, reducing their risk of asthma flare-ups and hospitalisations, and improving their asthma control and quality of life.

By strengthening the pathways for better asthma care, Canberrans with asthma will have greater wellbeing and enhanced participation in the community.

Asthma affects too many people in the ACT

Asthma Australia believes that all Canberrans should have access to services, education and supports that enable them to be healthy and free from the avoidable burden of asthma. In the ACT:

- 43,500 people have asthma, representing one in nine people. Prevalence in the ACT is higher than national prevalence rates and ranks third highest amongst the states and territories.⁵
- Asthma is one of the top 20 most common reasons for ED presentations in the ACT (and all other states/territories). In 2016-17 there were 1,108 ED presentations for asthma.⁶
- Asthma is responsible for 107.4 hospitalisations per 100,000 people, equating to approximately 384 admissions in 2014-15⁷ and caused five deaths in 2017.⁸

The Productivity Commission's Report on Government Services 2018 states that:

*'[W]ritten asthma action plans enable people with asthma to recognise and respond quickly and appropriately to deteriorating asthma symptoms, thereby preventing or reducing the severity of acute asthma episodes.'*⁹

In 2014-15, less than a third of Canberrans with asthma (32.8%) had written Asthma Action Plans. Although it is commendable that three quarters of children with asthma aged 0-14 years reported having written Asthma Action Plans (73.3%),⁹ more still needs to be done to support the current generation of Canberrans to better manage their asthma.

Asthma has a significant, but preventable burden on the ACT health system

This avoidable burden places significant stress on people with asthma and on already overburdened hospitals. ED presentations and hospitalisations from asthma come at a significant cost to the ACT Government. Each ED presentation for asthma costs \$443 on average, an uncomplicated hospital admission costs approximately \$2,591 (approximately 1.5 hospital days) and a complicated admission costs \$5,393 (approximately three hospital days).¹⁰

Most ED presentations¹¹ and many hospitalisations are avoidable.¹²

5. Australian Bureau of Statistics 2016; National Health Survey: First Results 2014-15. ABS Cat no. 4364.0.55.001. Canberra: ABS. <http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/4364.0.55.001>
6. Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2017, Emergency Department Care: 2016-17, <https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/hospitals/ahs-2016-17-emergency-department-care/data>
7. Public Health Information Development Unit (PHIDU) 2018, Asthma Atlas of Australia. Accessed online: http://www.atlasesaustralia.com.au/asthma_aust/atlas.htm
8. Australia Bureau of Statistics 2018. Causes of Death, Australia, 2017. Canberra: ABS. Accessed online: <http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/3303.0>
9. Australian Government Productivity Commission (AGPC) 2018, Report on Government Services. Accessed online: <https://www.pc.gov.au/research/ongoing/report-on-government-services/2018/health/primary-and-community-health>
10. Independent Hospital Pricing Authority, 2013-14. National Hospital Cost Data Collection, Australian Public Hospitals Cost Report, Round 18. Accessed online: <https://www.ihpa.gov.au/sites/gf/files/net4186/f/publications/nhcdc-round18.pdf>
11. Goeman. D.P, Thien. F.C.K, Douglass. J.A, Aroni. R.A, Abramson.M.J, Sawyer.S.M and Stewart. K, 2004. Back for more: a qualitative study of emergency department reattendance for asthma. Accessed online: <https://www.mja.com.au/journal/2004/180/3/back-more-qualitative-study-emergency-department-reattendance-asthma>
12. Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2017. Web update: Potentially preventable hospitalisations in 2015-16. Accessed online: <https://www.myhealthycommunities.gov.au/our-reports/potentially-preventable-hospitalisations-update/july-2017>

Asthma Australia supports the ACT Health system by focusing on ongoing management of chronic illness

Asthma was one of the most frequent chronic conditions presented to General Practitioners in Australia in the decade spanning 2006-07 to 2015-16.¹³ People with asthma receive episodic treatment which is not tailored to chronic disease management or aimed at empowering people with asthma to self-manage their condition. The current care environment does not address their information and education needs, including:

- Use of asthma devices;
- Comprehension of the written Asthma Action Plan; and
- Recognition and response to escalating symptoms;

all of which are recommended as minimum standards by the national guidelines for asthma care, the Australian Asthma Handbook.

General practices and hospitals face great difficulty in building this minimum level of best practice care into their current business models – written Asthma Action Plan ownership is low, spirometry use is low, device technique is poorly understood, and asthma health follow-up consultations are low.^{14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19}

People with asthma can manage their condition with the right supports in place

Asthma can be a debilitating chronic health condition, but people with asthma can lead full and productive lives if the condition is managed well. Asthma Australia is the leading consumer-focused organisation providing support to people managing asthma through nation-wide, multi-faceted community programs and investment in world leading research.

13. Britt H, Miller GC, Bayram C, Henderson J, Valenti L, Harrison C, et al. 2016. A decade of Australian general practice activity 2006–07 to 2015–16. General practice series no. 41. Sydney: Sydney University Press. <https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/chronic-respiratory-conditions/asthma/contents/treatment-management>
14. Barton C, Proudfoot J, Amoroso C et al. Management of asthma in Australian general practice: care is still not in line with clinical practice. *Primary Care Respiratory Journal* (2009); 18(2): 100-105;
15. Basheti.I.A, Armour.C.L, Bosnic-Anticevich. S.Z, Reddel.H.K, 2008, Evaluation of a novel educational strategy, including inhaler-based reminder labels, to improve asthma inhaler technique. Accessed online: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/18314294>;
16. Poulos LM, Ampon RD, Reddel HK, Hime N & Marks GB, 2016. The use of lung function testing for the diagnosis and management of chronic airways disease.
17. Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. Accessed online: <https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/chronicrespiratory-conditions/use-of-lung-function-testing-for-diagnosis/contents/table-of-contents>;
18. Australian Government Productivity Commission (AGPC) 2018, Report on Government Services. Accessed online: <https://www.pc.gov.au/research/ongoing/report-on-government-services/2018/health/primary-and-community-health>;
19. Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2011. Asthma in Australia. Accessed online: <https://www.aihw.gov.au/getmedia/8d7e130c-876f-41e3-b581-6ba62399fb24/11774.pdf.aspx?inline=true>

Asthma Australia's programs are developed specifically to address the stepped public health approach:

— **WELL POPULATIONS:**

Asthma Australia delivers comprehensive online information, community education, school-based education, several self-management apps and the National Asthma Research Program. Asthma Australia conducts health promotion and education campaigns that promote optimised self-management in response to seasonal patterns of increased asthma flare-up risks. Asthma Australia's 1800 ASTHMA Helpline provides free, evidence-based asthma support.

— **AT RISK POPULATIONS:**

Education and mobilisation campaigns based on updated evidence and data are developed in conjunction with consumers and delivered to address specific needs of vulnerable populations. Asthma Australia's GASP program and place-based approaches are equipped to respond to needs of identified vulnerable populations.

— **MANAGEMENT OF RESPIRATORY ILLNESS:**

The GASP program systematically enables best-practice asthma management activities in primary health care. Asthma Australia's 1800 ASTHMA Helpline and COACH program work to complement asthma management at the primary health level through identification of treatment gaps as well as provision of information and education to maximise self-management and minimise personal risk factors.

— **MANAGEMENT OF ASTHMA FLARE-UPS:**

1800 ASTHMA Helpline and COACH programs reduce the risk of asthma flare-ups by identifying gaps in treatment and working with consumers on factors that contribute to their asthma wellness. The GASP program includes proficiency in acute asthma management and post-acute support. ED programs enable systematic and best practice discharge planning to the community after an asthma flare-up event.

Asthma Australia has developed these programs to complement primary and secondary health care services to keep patients well and prevent them returning to hospital. These programs strengthen the health system's connections between primary and secondary care while strengthening people's ability to self-manage their asthma.

Asthma Australia has a long history of supporting Canberrans with asthma

For over 50 years, Asthma Australia (formerly Asthma Foundation ACT) has worked to help Canberrans breathe better.

The ACT Government's current support takes the form of two Funding Agreements with Asthma Australia; both of which expire on 30 June 2019.

Asthma Australia have delivered the following improvements to Canberrans with asthma:

Agreement 1 (1 Oct 2016 – 30 June 2019):

Educate and support for people living with asthma and their carers and communities

- Over 550 people with asthma received information, education and support via Asthma Australia's 1800 ASTHMA/COACH services aimed towards empowering consumers to improve their asthma self-management. Out of these, almost 50 people were from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) backgrounds, and 10 identified as being Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders.
- Asthma Australia has also supported CALD people with asthma in the ACT via distribution of translated resources targeting children and adults from a variety of backgrounds including newly arrived refugees. Recipients were also provided the opportunity to connect with 1800 ASTHMA.
- Asthma education and training events were provided to almost 90 nurses, pharmacies and dentists; strengthening their ability to provide best practice assessment and support for people with asthma in partnership with Capital Health Network and Coordinaire PHNs, National Home Doctor Service, Health Schools Network, Terry White Chemmarts and the Australian Dental Association.
- Primary and community health referral pathways were improved in partnership with the Asthma Nurse Educator Service (ANES), Paediatric Asthma Nurse Service and Department of Sleep and Respiratory Medicine (DSRM), enabling the connection of people with asthma to Asthma Australia's self-management products and services.
- Throughout the course of this Agreement, Asthma Australia's community and public health promotion campaigns provided resources and built the resilience of people with asthma through social media channels; shown through 421 tweets, almost 70,000 twitter impressions, almost 3,000 profile visits, over 100 mentions and almost 200 followers.²⁰

Agreement 2 (1 April 2017 – 30 June 2019):

Transition asthma care from the hospital to the community

- Under Agreement 2, Asthma Australia worked with Calvary Hospital ED to develop and embed a process that offered asthma self-management education and support to 600 people with asthma upon discharge; reducing their risk of re-presenting.
- Support was provided via the 1800 ASTHMA Helpline and COACH programs for whom to date:
 - From the first to second COACH consultation, Asthma Control improved by an average of five points (clinical significance is achieved at three points).
 - 56% of patients experienced improvement in asthma control by three points or more from initial to first follow up call.

Asthma Australia is a value-add partner

Asthma Australia to date have enabled Canberrans' access to integrated, innovative and evidence-based resources to support their progress towards good asthma health through:

- Development of the *KISS MY ASTHMA Asthma App* in partnership with the University of Sydney. The app, co-designed with and for young people with asthma, helps track symptoms, access individuals' asthma action plan, and set goals to achieve change.
- Promoting the *AirRater* smartphone app to help consumers identify weather and air quality risk and take action to avoid and manage this risk. There are currently 2000 users of AirRater.
- Contributing funding to the AusPollen group to develop and expand usage of their AusPollen App into Canberra; which has great potential to enable people with asthma to reduce their exposure to this particularly hazardous trigger.

20. Please note this information does not include the social media presence generated following Asthma Australia's national merger in October 2017.

Together we can lead the world in asthma management and prevention

The ACT Pathways for Better Asthma Care Initiative

The goal of the *ACT Pathways for Better Asthma Care Initiative (Initiative)* is for 'All Canberrans to have access to services, education and supports that enable them to be healthy and free from the avoidable burden of asthma'.

The *Initiative* is an integrated approach to asthma support in the ACT combining systems interventions with individualised care where appropriate, and complementing these programs with population health approaches. The *Initiative* is predicated on strong attention to governance and accountability and a dedicated monitoring and evaluation framework. Providing better connected care will result in people with asthma, their families and community being better supported, leading to fewer ED presentations and hospitalisations and improved quality of life.

Current Asthma Australia research, infrastructure investment, and the Consumer Engagement Strategy will be drawn upon to ensure that best practice approaches to consumer engagement and education are adopted.

The Initiative envisages an approach for asthma prevention and management in the ACT that builds upon the following asthma management and support services and backend functions:

- 1800 ASTHMA Helpline/COACH: direct telehealth support to people with asthma and their carers;
- ED Asthma Discharge program: systematic discharge procedure and resources;
- GASP program: innovative model of primary health asthma care;
- Health promotion: ongoing education and resilience building campaigns;
- Monitoring and evaluation framework enabling continuous quality improvement
- Governance

This comprehensive approach will incorporate and draw upon the lessons of Asthma Australia's work and evidence-based international models; including the *Finland Asthma Programme 1994-2004*²⁰ which applied a whole-of-community approach that resulted in demonstrable improvements including:

- Reductions in hospitalisations by 54% between 1993 and 2003;
- Death rate decreased by more than 55%; and
- Real decrease in costs associated with asthma by 36%.

An investment of \$1.125m over three years is being sought the *ACT Pathways for Better Asthma Care Initiative*.

This Initiative can be implemented by amalgamating the two agreements into one, starting from 2019-20.

The detail of this proposal is provided below.

Recommendation 1	Amount / Year	\$190,000
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Over the next three years, over 900 Canberrans with asthma will be supported to develop better asthma self-management through our 1800 ASTHMA Helpline; COACH; an asthma primary health care program; and targeted outreach to hospitals and other at-risk communities. Early results show that more than half (56%) of patients experienced improvement in Asthma Control by three points or more from initial to first follow up call.

Estimated Minimum Reach/outcome/year

More than 300 people with asthma will be supported to develop better asthma self-management practices. Of those who receive more than one session, more than half (56%) will achieve clinically significant improvement in Asthma Control

Recommendation 2

Amount / Year

\$80,000

Over the next three years, at least 1,030 people with asthma who present to Canberra and Calvary Hospitals EDs because of an asthma emergency will have the opportunity to reduce their risk of re-admission due to refined referral links that provide discharged patients with ongoing personalised education and coaching support by Asthma Australia. Under the ED Asthma Discharge program to date, this Recommendation will see at least 49% of discharged patients consider this opportunity for support; of whom at least 33% will participate. At least 56% of these participating discharged patients will obtain clinically significant improvement in asthma control. It is expected that further refinements will see increased takeup and improvement in asthma self-management for these discharged patients.

Asthma Australia will draw upon the results and learnings realised from the work done to date; including a similar program implemented and evaluated effectively in Queensland 2015-2016.

Estimated Minimum Reach/outcome/year

More than 340 people with asthma discharged from the ED will have the opportunity to reduce their risk of re-admission.

At least 56% of these participating will obtain clinically significant improvement in asthma control.

Recommendation 3

Amount / Year

\$50,000

Over the next three years, five medical practices' capacity to provide education, information and support for asthma patients will be enhanced through the introduction of GASP. This will reduce the risk of flare-ups, need for oral steroids and presentations to hospital ED asthma for an anticipated 500 people with asthma. Over a third (35%) of patients improve their asthma control through GASP. GASP is a nurse-delivered asthma management model where the patient receives best-practice asthma assessment and management support enabled by web-based decision support tool which is aligned with the *Australian Asthma Handbook*.

The GASP program originated in New Zealand and has consistently demonstrated improvements in asthma control resulting in large reductions in flare-ups, asthma-related ED presentations and asthma-related hospitalisations, as well as less (unnecessary) oral steroid use and less (inappropriate) reliance on reliever medicines. Asthma Australia customised the GASP program to align with the Australian environment and it is ready to be expanded into ACT general practices.

Estimated Minimum Reach/outcome/year

5 medical practices (over three years)

At least 150 patients per year will have reduced risk of flareups, need for oral steroids and to go to ED.

35% of patients improve asthma control

Recommendation 4

Amount / Year

\$25,000

Over the next three years, 100,000 Canberrans and the 43,500 people with asthma will have better awareness of asthma, risk factors and how to better manage the condition and support each other during high risk weather/seasons as a result of Asthma Australia's targeted asthma health promotion campaigns.

Examples of campaigns and projects that have addressed these priority periods are:

- Back to school;
- Autumn/winter cold and flu season;
- Spring pollen season; and
- Hazard reduction burning, flooding, bushfire and thunderstorm prone periods

Estimated Minimum Reach/outcome/year

Over 100,000 Canberrans and the 43,500 people with asthma will have better awareness of asthma, risk factors and how to better manage the condition and support each other.

Recommendation 5	Amount / Year	\$30,000
<p>Robust governance, monitoring and evaluation of the <i>ACT Pathways for Better Asthma Care Initiative</i> will occur by developing baseline data and establishing an Advisory Body. The Advisory Body will monitor the progress of the Initiative and ensure it continues to align with key ACT Government and national plans and strategies, including the National Asthma Strategy. It will undertake asthma systems mapping to ensure that the <i>Initiative</i> becomes a world class Asthma Management Program for the ACT.</p>		
Total		\$375,000

Alignment with existing plans and strategies

Asthma Australia’s activities and its proposal align with and contribute to the realisation of ACT Government’s broad policy goals as outlined in:

- “Your health – our priority” *Ready for the Future*;
- *ACT Chronic Conditions Strategy – Improving Care and Support 2013-2018*; and
- *ACT Multicultural Framework 2015-2020*.

The *ACT Chronic Conditions Strategy* outlines key priority actions aimed to improve care and support people living with a chronic disease, including:

- Optimising enhanced services through integration;
- Improving access;
- Better support those in the community;
- Improve person-centred care;
- Enhance early detection and secondary prevention; and
- Enhance governance and system enablers.

The *ACT Multicultural Framework 2015 - 2020* is based on three themes which focus on the importance of supporting the ACT’s multicultural communities to ensure everyone has the ability to reach their full potential. This includes Canberrans embracing the benefits of the ACT’s culturally diverse community. The main theme this proposal supports is “Accessible and Responsive Services”, which requires “targeted initiatives for those doing it tough in our community to ensure that they are able to fully participate in the life of our city.”

Asthma Australia is committed to carrying out these action areas and addressing asthma as outlined by the ACT Government’s broad policy goals outlined above. The system reform and self-management projects within the *Initiative* will incorporate these actions.

Asthma Australia’s work also aligns with the Australian Government’s plans and directions for asthma and chronic disease management: the National Asthma Strategy, the National Strategic Framework for Chronic Conditions, and the Implementation Plan for the *National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Plan 2013-2023*.

An opportunity to role model an integrated and comprehensive asthma management system

Since 2010, Asthma Australia has consistently fulfilled its service agreement obligations with the ACT Government in delivering quality information, education and support to lessen the burden of asthma for Canberrans and to improve their quality of life. Working in partnership with community groups, health professionals and hospitals, Asthma Australia has progressed in alleviating the difficulties faced by the business and operating models of general practices and hospitals to meet the minimum level of best practice care for people with asthma as outlined by the Asthma Management Handbook, the national asthma guidelines.

Asthma Australia's proposal for the *ACT Pathways for Better Asthma Care Initiative* will strengthen the links between the primary and secondary care levels of the ACT health system, while also empowering consumers with education and support to self-manage their asthma when they're outside of the health system; delivering care and support in the community instead.

This proposal provides an opportunity for the ACT Government in its 2019-20 Budget to not only administratively consolidate its funding arrangements for asthma services, but to support the development and implementation of a world class asthma management system in the ACT.

Asthma Australia looks forward to working with the ACT Government to take on this opportunity to help more Canberrans with asthma receive the support they need and achieve greater overall wellness that will enable them to live more full, happier lives.