

**Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA**

Minister for Health

Minister for Mental Health

Minister for Finance

Minister for the Public Service

Member for Kurrajong

---

**RESPONSE TO QUESTION ON NOTICE****Questions on Notice Paper No 5****11 APRIL 2025****Question No. 300****MS BARRY MLA:** To ask the Minister for Health

1. What are the number of clients served in one year by Burrangiri, and what is the average number of days they are there.
2. What is the current wait time to secure a respite placement.
3. What alternate facility will be provided to replace Burrangiri after its closure.
4. What plans does the Government have to increase the number of respite care places available in Canberra, given increased demand and decreased supply.

**RACHEL STEPHEN-SMITH MLA** - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

1. From July 2023 to June 2024 there were 314 admissions for night respite at Burrangiri with an average stay of 15 days. In the same period, 24 individuals attended the day respite program.
2. Burrangiri prioritises clients' needs upon referral into the service, and places are offered accordingly. The facility operates at full capacity and a waitlist is offered; however, most clients choose not to be placed on the waitlist. These clients are often offered a place within two to three days of a cancellation.
3. Alternative facilities to Burrangiri were explored; however no suitable facility was identified. Alternative models of service delivery were also explored, including the ACT Government purchasing residential aged care respite from new or existing providers. However, this was not considered an effective use of ACT Government resources, given the Commonwealth Government's responsibility for the aged care system.



4. Burrangiri is not the only overnight respite service available to older people in the ACT. Carers ACT provides respite care through its *Cottage Respite program*. BaptistCare and Uniting Care Australia are also funded to deliver centre-based day care services.

There are also several other providers funded for flexible respite care which can be provided at a person's home. These programs are all funded under the *Commonwealth Home Support Programme*.

Respite care can also be accessed for short periods of time through several residential aged care facilities for either planned or unplanned respite care. In the ACT there are 29 residential aged care facilities that can receive Commonwealth funding for these places, with at least three new facilities due to open in 2025-26.

The Commonwealth's new \$4.3 billion 'Support at Home' program will come into effect on 1 July 2025, providing for an increase in aged care services, including respite.

**Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.**



**Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA**  
**Minister for Health**

**Date:** 13 | 5 | 25

This response required 5hrs 25mins to complete, at an approximate cost of \$523.81.