

Response to question on notice

Questions on Notice Paper No 9

5 September 2025

Question No. 581

MS CASTLEY MLA: To ask the Minister for Health

- 1) When is the newly implemented management/administration restructure of the ACT public health system to be evaluated.
- 2) What investment is being made to extend home care medical services in the ACT.
- 3) What is the health budget allocation per taxpayer and how does this benchmark compare against other jurisdictions.

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

- 1) The Health and Community Services Directorate (HCSD) was established on 1 July 2025. The new directorate brings together the former ACT Health Directorate and Community Services Directorate. This machinery of government change does not include any restructure of the ACT public health system or change any of the services provided to the Canberra community. It is anticipated that HCSD will undertake internal evaluation of implementation of machinery of government changes at the end of the first year of operation of the directorate.
- 2) Canberra Health Services provides the following services:
 - Rehabilitation At Home (RaH) is an Allied Health service that can provide up to six weeks of home-based rehabilitation for people who have had a recent deterioration in function and their needs are best met in the home environment. It is staffed by an Occupational Therapist, Physiotherapists and Allied Health Assistants. Additional supports are provided from the Brindabella Day and Ambulatory Rehabilitation Services (BDARS) allied health team to allow for provision of short-term Social Work input. There is \$701,630 allocated to the service in 2025-26. This funds two physiotherapists, an occupational therapist, allied health assistants, and resourcing to support this team. In the 2024-25 financial year RaH supported 172 clients in their homes to meet their rehabilitation needs.
 - The division of Rehabilitation, Aged and Community Services (RACS) also provides a number of community-based services which provide some in reach into client's homes. This includes Community Care Nursing, Community Care Allied Health, Transitional Therapy and Care Program

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(TTCP), Brindabella Day and Ambulatory Rehabilitation Service (BDARS) and Rapid Assessment of the Deteriorating Aged at Risk (RADAR). As the provision of these services extends beyond someone's home, a specific investment breakdown for the in-home portion for these services is not currently available.

- In 2025-26, Hospital in the Home (HITH) at Canberra Hospital increased its staffing from 28 to 36 full-time equivalent (FTE) Registered Nurses. With additional nursing support, HITH can conduct more home visits with improved safety for both patients and staff, facilitate increased specialist doctor visits, and extend Intravenous Access Team (IVAT) coverage to weekends. These improvements will enable complex patients to return home sooner, improving patient outcomes and helping to free up hospital beds.

The Child and Adolescent Hospital in the Home (CA-HITH) service commenced in February 2024, offering an alternative to hospital admission for children with acute and chronic health needs. The service enables children to receive treatment and care in their own homes. CA-HITH is fully funded, and was extended by \$240,000, totalling \$1.064 million allocated in 2025-26 to support eight 'virtual' beds.

- 3) CMTEDD does not track the "health expenditure per taxpayer" as a metric. The Australian Institute of Health and Wellbeing provides "Average total health expenditure per person for each state and territory, constant prices" which is available at: <https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/health-welfare-expenditure/health-expenditure-australia-2022-23/contents/overview/health-spending-in-each-state-and-territory>.

It is important to note that this includes Commonwealth funding. Significantly, to interpret this for ACT, the AIHW cautions: "The ACT per person figures need to be treated cautiously, since a large volume of ACT spending are for NSW residents; The ACT population is therefore not an appropriate denominator".

Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.



Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA
Health

Date: 13 | 10 | 25

This response required 1 hr 35 mins to complete, at an approximate cost of \$155.23.