

Response to question on notice

Questions on Notice Paper No 14

5 December 2025

Question No. 781

MR SHANE RATTENBURY MLA: To ask the Treasurer

In relation to the 2024-25 *Financial Year Consolidated Annual Financial Statement*, (a) of the \$3.33 billion spent on General Government sector (page 28), what proportion of wages and salaries is paid by (i) the Health Directorate and (ii) Canberra Health Services, (b) what proportion of the cost of consultant fees, contractor payments and professional services totalling \$488 million in the General Government Sector (page 31) is the cost of consultant fees for (i) the Health Directorate and (ii) Canberra Health Services, (c) are Visiting Medical Officers (VMOs) and other short term clinicians captured by “consultant fees, contractor payments and professional services” or by “wages and salaries” or by both categories and (d) what would have been the cost of their salaries if the individuals referred to in part (b) were employed by the Health Directorate and Canberra Health Services as salaried employees rather than consultants or VMOs.

CHRIS STEEL MLA - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

- (a) (i) The ACT Health Directorate accounted for 3.5 per cent of General Government Sector wages and salaries.
(ii) Canberra Health Services accounted for 39.1 per cent of General Government Sector wages and salaries.
- (b) (i) The ACT Health Directorate accounted for 2 per cent of General Government Sector consultant fees, contractor payments and professional services.
(ii) Canberra Health Services accounted for 46 per cent of General Government Sector consultant fees, contractor payments and professional services.
- (c) Visiting medical officers and agency staffing are captured by consultant fees, contractor payments and professional services.
- (d) I am advised that due to the highly individualised contract arrangements for VMOs, it would take an unreasonable diversion of resources to draw a direct equivalency between the total number of VMOs and what they might have cost the Territory if employed as staff specialists. This would require a review of every individual contract and the hours worked to undertake the duties delivered. Further, some VMO arrangements are paid by the volume of procedures undertaken rather than by time, while Staff Specialist contract remuneration is time based in nature.

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Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.



Chris Steel MLA
Treasurer

Date: 13 / 1 / 26

This response required 2hrs 10mins to complete, at an approximate cost of \$283.80.