

Response to question on notice

Questions on Notice Paper No 14

5 December 2025

Question No. 780

Shane Rattenbury MLA: To ask the Minister for Health

1. What is the number of full-time equivalent GPs in bulk-billing clinics in the ACT as of 30 June 2025 and how has this number changed each year over the last five years?
2. What is the Government's estimate of future demand for bulk-billing GPs in the ACT over the next five years, and what modelling has been done to support this estimate?
3. What initiatives is the Government implementing (or planning to implement) to supplement Commonwealth Government activity to support the sustainability of bulk-billing GP practices, including (a) how much funding is allocated to each initiative and (b) what reporting mechanisms will be used to evaluate their effectiveness?

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

1. Data about the number of full-time equivalent (FTE) general practitioners (GPs) working exclusively in bulk-billing clinics is not available at either the ACT or national level.

As at 30 June 2025, there were 422.5 GP FTE in the ACT, representing a 1.1 per cent increase over the past five years, according to data published by the Australian Government (Department of Health, Disability and Ageing, [General Practice Workforce providing Primary Care services in Australia](#), 29 August 2025).

The Australian Government recently announced that, as a result of its bulk billing initiatives, there are now 11 fully bulk billing practices in the ACT. In addition, a new GP-led Medicare Urgent Care Clinic will open shortly in Phillip. In late October, Federal Labor representatives stated that more than 44,700 additional bulk billed visits have been delivered in the ACT since the bulk billing incentive was tripled for children and concession card holders.

act.gov.au

2. The Australian Government publishes GP workforce modelling through the Health Workforce Data Tool. This modelling does not separately estimate demand for bulk-billing GPs, however, it projects overall GP service demand and supply across jurisdictions (Department of Health, Disability and Ageing, [*Supply and Demand Study: General Practitioners in Australia*](#), August 2024).

Current modelling indicates that unmet demand for GP services will continue to outstrip supply nationally and in the ACT over the next decade. This modelling suggests that to meet demand for GP services in the ACT in 2025 would require 541.9 GP FTE and that demand is projected to grow by approximately 15-20 per cent over the next five years; driven by population growth, ageing, and chronic disease prevalence (Department of Health, Disability and Ageing, [*GP Supply and Demand Study Results*](#), August 2024).

3. In the 2025-26 Budget, the ACT Government committed more than \$7 million across a range of measures designed to supplement Australian Government activity to improve sustainability of GP practices and improve accessibility and affordability of primary care. These include:
 - a) \$1.5 million over two years for a grant program to improve access to bulk billing GPs for children under 16;
 - b) \$4.020 million over four years for a professional development and wellbeing fund for GPs, including \$440,000 to the NGO support organisation Drs4Drs; and
 - c) \$1.22 million over four years to fund additional Junior Medical Officer (JMO) positions in Canberra Health Services, allowing JMOs to rotate into general practices in the ACT without impacting availability of JMOs for hospital rotations.

Reporting mechanisms within the grant programs will be used to capture data that will inform evaluation of these initiatives.

Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.



Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA
Minister for Health

Date:

19/12/25

This response required 2hrs 45mins to complete, at an approximate cost of \$267.85.