

**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. 277**

**MS CHIAKA BARRY MLA:** To ask the Minister for Health

- 1) Given that the Monash University Polycystic Ovarian Syndrome (PCOS) guideline provides that models of care should prioritise equitable access to evidence-based primary care with pathways for escalation to integrated specialist and multidisciplinary services as required, can the Minister advise what multidisciplinary services are provided by ACT Health to support the diagnosis and treatment of PCOS.
- 2) What is the average wait time for referral to an ACT Health multidisciplinary service, by month, for the last two years.
- 3) Given that women can approach the Well Women's Assessment and Specialised Medical Service to see a doctor for short-term care for issues including pelvic pain, what services can Well Women's Assessment and Specialised Medical Service provide to diagnose and treat PCOS.
- 4) What multidisciplinary services would the Well Women's Assessment and Specialised Medical Service refer a woman to with potential PCOS symptoms.
- 5) What is the average wait time for referral to the Well Women's Assessment and Specialised Medical Service, by month, for the last two years.



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

- 1) Canberra Health Services (CHS) provides a range of specialist and multidisciplinary services through Gynaecology Outpatient Clinics and the Women's Health Service (WHS). These services can help diagnose, manage and treat a wide range of gynaecological problems, including Polycystic Ovarian Syndrome (PCOS).

The Women's Health Service (WHS) provides free specialist medical services including diagnosis and treatment of PCOS. Women who access the WHS may be referred to nutrition, counselling and physiotherapy services.

- 2) There is no dedicated wait list specifically for patients with PCOS. Women with a referral for PCOS are managed through the Gynaecology Outpatient Department. The average wait in days for the Gynaecology Outpatient Department is as follows:

Gynaecology Outpatient Department Average Wait												
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
2023					102	184	256	255	269	238	278	265
2024	138	158	173	262	318	257	338	376	300	288	194	200
2025	178	153	176	162								

*Note: Data is provided for 1 May 2023 to 30 April 2025*

- 3) Women who attend or contact the WHS may access a free nurse-led Well Women's Assessment without referral. All WHS patients are triaged based on clinical need. If it is noted that they suffer from PCOS or have another concern that the service is funded to support, the nurse may refer internally to the Physiotherapy Team and or the Women's Counselling Service.
- 4) Please see response to Q3.
- 5) The average wait time to access a Women's Health Service (WHS) appointment is approximately five weeks. This waitlist includes individuals with a range of health concerns, not just PCOS. CHS is unable to provide a breakdown of data for two years as it is only available as a point in time.

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



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

Date: 9/6/25

This response required 6 hours and 10 minutes to complete, at an approximate cost of \$645.95.