

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 1

6 DECEMBER 2024

Question No. 100

MR SHANE RATTENBURY MLA: To ask the Minister for Health

- 1) How many people are currently on the elective surgery waiting list.
- 2) What is the (a) mean and median wait time, (b) shortest current wait time and (c) longest current wait time, as at 30 November 2024.
- 3) How many elective surgeries were (a) delivered, (b) delayed and (c) cancelled, in the period of 1 January to 5 November 2024.

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

- 1) As at 30 November 2024, there were 7,497 patients on the ACT Elective Surgery Waiting List who were ready for surgery.^{1,2}
- 2) For patients on the waiting list who are ready for surgery (with a listing status of *Ready for surgery* and a valid *Clinical Urgency Category*) at 30 November 2024:
 - a) The mean waiting time (average number of days patients had been waiting for surgery) was 191 days and the median waiting time (time that 50 per cent of patients had been waiting for surgery) was 130 days.^{1,2,3}
 - b) The minimum waiting time was zero days as at the date of analysis of the waitlist entries.^{1,2,3}
 - c) The longest waiting time was 1,905 days.^{1,2,3} The 90th percentile (the maximum amount of time 90 per cent of patients had been waiting for their surgery) was 452 days.^{1,2,3}



3) Between 1 January 2024 and 5 November 2024:

- a) The number of elective surgeries delivered was 13,536.¹ There were 2,412 patients removed from the waiting list for reasons other than surgery.¹
- b) The ACT Health Directorate (ACTHD) and Canberra Health Services (CHS) do not hold data on the number of elective surgeries that were delayed at the point of care.
- c) ACTHD and CHS do not hold data on the number of elective surgeries that were cancelled.

Notes:

- 1. *The data draws from the ACT Elective Surgery Waiting Times data collection, which has been extracted from the ACT Data Holdings under the methodology specified in the National Minimum Data Set (NMDS) outlined in METEOR. Data reflects clinical information recorded at the time the NMDSs used for this extract was created. All metrics are extracted from the NMDS interim tables and represent preliminary outputs that may mature with subsequent validation and data updates.*
- 2. *Wait list entries are included in the count of patients remaining on the waiting list if the listing status is 'Ready for surgery' and they have a valid Clinical Urgency Category.*
- 3. *Wait list entries are included in metrics if there is a valid Clinical Urgency Category associated with the record.*

Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.



Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA
Minister for Health

Date:**21/2/25**.....

This response required 9hrs 50mins to complete, at an approximate cost of \$852.85.