

## **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 11 26 September 2025 Question No. 644

Peter Cain MLA: To ask the Minister for Health

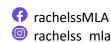
- 1. Why does the ACT Government continue to require a health levy despite a 16 percent increase in Commonwealth hospital funding for 2025-2026.
- 2. How will the Government allocate the additional Commonwealth health funding referred to in part (1) across the ACT health system.
- 3. What measures will be taken to ensure the funding referred to in part (1) improves patient outcomes, including waiting times.

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

- 1. Despite an increase in Commonwealth hospital funding, the Commonwealth Contribution Rate the proportion of hospital funding provided by the Commonwealth has declined in recent years, as a result of increased health services cost and demand. Please refer to page 192 of the 2025-26 Budget Review for further information. The rationale for the health levy is set out in the 2025-26 ACT Budget Outlook, including at pages 33, 36 and 86. There have been no changes to Commonwealth funding for ACT hospitals since the 2025-26 Budget.
- 2. The 15.6 per cent increase in Commonwealth hospital funding for 2025-26 is made up of two components:
  - a) a 6.5 per cent increase from an estimated 2024-25 funding of \$544 million; and
  - b) \$50 million one-off fixed funding in 2025-26 for hospital and health services.

These increases have been incorporated into the \$2.2 billion budget for the ACT Local Hospital Network in 2025-26 to deliver public hospital and health services to Canberrans and residents of the surrounding NSW region.

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3. Health system performance is routinely, and will continue to be, monitored and reported through our data dashboard at <u>ACT health service data dashboard</u>. Additionally, the ACT has implemented a Service Funding Agreement with Canberra Health Services that strengthens the Activity Based Management implementation and monitoring arrangements in line with other states and territories.

Date: 28 10 25

Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.

Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA Minister for Health

This response required 2hrs 0mins to complete, at an approximate cost of \$237.18.