

**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. 42**

**MS JO CLAY MLA:** To ask the Minister for Health

For the longest period for which the Minister has the data, how many women and birthing people, per year, who wish to access a publicly funded home birth are unable to do so.

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

The ACT Government does not currently record the number of women or pregnant people who requested a publicly funded home birth model and were not able to access it.

The Home Birth Service has capacity for 150 home births per year, or approximately 12 per month. Between 1 January 2024 and 31 December 2024, there were 20 publicly funded home births completed across the ACT. Data is not held on the number of birthing people who plan to have a home birth but are subsequently unable to do so.

The ACT Government is working to implement actions from the Maternity in Focus – The Public Maternity System Plan 2022-2032. A key action in the Maternity in Focus: First Action Plan 2022-2025 is to increase access and improve equity to publicly funded home birth options. As the Member would be aware, eligibility for the publicly funded home birth program was expanded to include women and pregnant people on the northside of Canberra in the last term of Government.

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



**Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA**

**Minister for Health**

**Date: 21/2/25**

This response required 4hrs 0mins to complete, at an approximate cost of \$459.52.