

Response to question on notice

Questions on Notice Paper No 9

5 September 2025

Question No. 569

Mr Peter Cain MLA: To ask the Minister for Health

- 1) Will any revenue raised through the new Health Levy be used, directly or indirectly, to fund the costs, including just terms compensation, associated with the ACT Government's acquisition of Calvary Public Hospital.
- 2) Has the ACT Government made any provision in the Budget or forward estimates for the settlement costs related to the acquisition of Calvary Hospital.
- 3) What impact, if any, does the Government anticipate the Calvary acquisition will have on health service delivery, health budget allocations and future health levies or taxes in the ACT.

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

This matter is primarily the responsibility of the Treasurer. I am responding as, due to an administrative error, this matter was not redirected to the Treasurer within the permitted timeframe.

- 1) No. The ACT Government introduced the Health Levy to help fund increased demand in the public health system and a declining Commonwealth Contribution Rate to public hospitals in the ACT.
- 2) There has been a provision in the ACT Budget for just terms compensation for Calvary since 2023-24. The 2025-26 Budget included a central provision of \$89.565 million in 2026-27 for the purchase of non-financial assets. Further information can be found in the Hansard transcript for the Select Committee on the Proposed Amendment to the Appropriation Bill 2025-2026 of 8 September 2025.
- 3) Acquisition has improved continuity of care across the system. The single system has meant that patients can more easily receive the right care in the right place. Further information can be found in the Hansard transcript for the Select Committee on the Proposed Amendment to the Appropriation Bill 2025-2026 of 8 September 2025.

Similarly, the health budget can now be allocated across North Canberra Hospital and Canberra Hospital without the need to negotiate with a third-party provider or create long-term funding obligations. This means there is a single system able to respond to demand patterns, offering greater flexibility within the available funding.

Future changes to taxes or levies would be subject to consideration as part of future budget processes.

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Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R. Stephen-Smith'.

Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA
Minister for Health

Date: 29/9/25

This response required 1hr 15mins to complete, at an approximate cost of \$151.