

Response to question on notice

Questions on Notice Paper No 8

27 June 2025

Question No. 485

Thomas Emerson MLA: To ask the Minister for Health

Will the Government fund a new FibroScan device for Hepatitis ACT, or otherwise increase the number of FibroScan devices available for public use across the ACT.

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

ACT residents currently have access to FibroScan services through the Gastroenterology and Hepatology Unit at Canberra Hospital or private practice via General Practitioner referral. This ensures patients requiring liver assessment can access this important diagnostic tool through existing public health infrastructure.

The ACT Government recognises the role of FibroScan devices in the early detection and monitoring of liver damage, which can be caused by untreated chronic hepatitis. Healthcare providers can accurately measure the extent of liver damage using FibroScan technology, which is a non-invasive diagnostic test similar to an ultrasound that measures liver stiffness and can effectively identify patients with advanced liver disease.

These systems typically cost between approximately \$80,000 to \$150,000 depending on the specific model and features required. Interpretation of FibroScan results should be done by a clinician with experience in managing chronic liver disease.

From 2024 to 2031, the ACT Government will provide \$7,429,812.46 (GST exclusive) in funding to Hepatitis ACT to provide a range of services with the objective of reducing and preventing the transmission and minimising the impacts of bloodborne viruses, particularly viral hepatitis. Activities include point-of-care testing, counselling, and clinical services; delivery of a needle and syringe program (NSP); hepatitis support and advocacy; health promotion; and community engagement.

The ACT Government will continue working collaboratively with Hepatitis ACT to understand the costs and benefits of additional services in supporting our joint goals of eliminating Hepatitis B and C by 2030 and improving liver health.

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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:

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This response required 2hrs 35mins to complete, at an approximate cost of \$260.68.