

**Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA**

Minister for Health

Minister for Mental Health

Minister for Finance

Minister for the Public Service

Member for Kurrajong

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**RESPONSE TO QUESTION ON NOTICE****Questions on Notice Paper No 1****6 DECEMBER 2024****Question No. 97****MR RATTENBURY MLA:** To ask the Minister for Mental Health

What is the wait time to access a psychiatrist through the public mental health system, as at 30 November 2024?

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

As at 30 November 2024, there were 13 people on the outpatients waiting list awaiting an appointment with a psychiatrist.

- The median time these patients have been waiting on the outpatients waiting list to access a psychiatrist is 100 days.
- The mean wait time for people on the outpatients waiting list to access a psychiatrist is 139 days.
- The 90<sup>th</sup> percentile waiting time for people on the outpatients waiting list to access a psychiatrist is 248 days.

These statistics are based on the subset of all patients who are waiting to see a psychiatrist through Canberra Health Services.

At present, the ACT Health Directorate and Canberra Health Services do not have the means to identify patients waiting for services in multidisciplinary clinics that include psychiatrists as part of the treating team, which is how most patients access this type of care.



Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.



Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA  
Minister for Mental Health

Date: .....3/1/25.....

This response required 8hrs 0mins to complete, at an approximate cost of \$857.