

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 5****11 APRIL 2025****Question No. 264****MS BARRY MLA:** To ask the Minister for Health

1. Given that Canberra Health Services (CHS) has a target of two percent of assessable spend being directed to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander enterprises, and the 2023-2024 annual report (page 176) states that the amount actually directed to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander enterprises was only 0.21%, why did CHS not reach its goal of two percent assessable spend with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Enterprises.
2. What will the Minister do to meet that goal in 2024-2025.

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

1. In 2023-24, one major registered Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander enterprise to CHS, Chemworks, sold the business to Reward Hospitality leaving it ineligible as a registered Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander enterprise. In addition, a registered contractor, Rork Projects, which supplied construction services to CHS, was placed into administration and was no longer able to supply services. These issues had a significant impact on CHS ability to meet the 2023-24 target of 2 per cent. The majority of CHS addressable spend relates to medical equipment, service of medical equipment and clinical consumables. There are limited registered Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander suppliers in these categories.
2. In early 2024, CHS undertook a public tender process for a panel of suppliers for food and beverage products. This tender resulted in a Supply Nation registered supplier being awarded a contract for meat products. Year to date 2024-25, there has been more than \$500,000 of meat products purchased from this supplier. Annual spend is expected to be approximately \$900,000 with this supplier.



The Panel is open to other Directorates (e.g. JACS and CIT) providing this supplier with further opportunity to supply meat products across ACT Government.

CHS is currently negotiating a contract with a local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander supplier that has only recently entered the market supplying cleaning and kitchen products, similar to Chemworks. There is potential for an annual spend of up to \$1 million with this supplier.

Later this financial year, CHS will be looking to provide several Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employment agencies with the opportunity to enter into contracts to provide agency resources, recruitment and immigration services for multiple categories of resource requirements.

CHS continues to engage with several Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander suppliers including Projex Building Group, Physiotherapy Innovations and Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health and Community Services. CHS staff regularly attend the Supply Nation Trade Fair seeking new opportunities to engage with registered suppliers.

I also refer Ms Barry to my response to QON 70 from the Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2023-2024 which is located here:

https://www.parliament.act.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0010/2829196/SP-QON-070-Answer-CHS-Aboriginal-affairs-Health-EMERSON.pdf

Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.



Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA
Minister for Health

Date:21/5/25.....

This response required 25 mins to complete, at an approximate cost of \$40.92.