

Response to question on notice

Questions on Notice Paper No 14

5 December 2025

Question No. 745

Chiaka Barry MLA: To ask the Minister for Health

1. Can the Minister advise the current status of negotiations with Carers ACT in relation to the Labor commitment made during the 2024 election to the allocation of land to build expanded respite and carer support facilities to further increase the current respite bed capacity in the ACT.
2. Can the Minister confirm when the decision was made to invest in the respite care centre just opened in Crace by Carers ACT, including when it was approved by Cabinet.
3. Can the Minister provide an update on when and how the \$10 million commitment by Federal Labor will be spent.
4. Can the Minister provide an update on the response from the Federal Minister for Health to their letter asking him to consider Commonwealth co-funding to support the Burrangiri extension, as well as to expedite delivery of the election commitment to ensure dedicated residential respite beds will be available as soon as possible.
5. Can the Minister confirm whether the Federal Government funding and ACT commitments will result in a net increase in the number of respite care beds available in the short, medium and long term.
6. Can the Minister provide details of the projections for the need for respite care beds in the ACT over the short, medium and long term.
7. Can the Minister confirm whether the short, medium and long term demand referred to in part (6) will be met by current ACT and Federal Government commitments.

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

1. The ACT Government is exploring options for a purpose-built carers respite centre in conjunction with Carers ACT, including identifying options for a potential site.
2. The Carers ACT Crace Respite Cottage is not funded by the ACT Government. Carers ACT has advised that it receives Commonwealth aged care funding for this service through the Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP).
3. The ACT Government is working with the Commonwealth to progress the \$10 million commitment by the Australian Government to increase the availability of aged care respite in the ACT. Informal consultation with the aged care sector and carers has been undertaken but no decisions have yet been taken on how the funds will be allocated.
4. The Federal Minister for Health provided a response in June 2025 and advised that the election commitment will be delivered in line with Commonwealth Grants Rules and Principles. The ACT Government continues to work closely with the Commonwealth to progress this election commitment and to advocate for broader work to increase the availability of respite care in the ACT.
5. The ACT Government is working with the Commonwealth to ensure continuity of respite care services following the planned closure of Burrangiri in June 2027. Planning is focused on maintaining levels of respite bed capacity in the short term, with opportunities for an increase being explored as part of longer-term strategies.
6. The Commonwealth, as part of its responsibility for aged care, has advised it is undertaking a project to assess current and projected demand for aged care, including respite.
7. This will need to be considered once the outcomes of the Commonwealth's demand project are known, noting that aged care respite is a Commonwealth responsibility.

Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.



Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA
Minister for Health

Date: 19/12/25

This response required 2hrs 0mins to complete, at an approximate cost of \$227.50.