

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. 310****MR RATTENBURY MLA:** To ask the Minister for Health

1. Given that this week it was announced that the Tuggeranong Interchange Co-op, one of the only general practitioner clinics in Canberra that still provides 100 percent bulk-billing was closing, and that this clinic provides essential preventative care to LGBTQI+, women, and low socio-economic members of the Tuggeranong community, can the Minister advise what the Government is planning to do about the closure of Tuggeranong Interchange Co-op.
2. Given Canberra already has the lowest rates of bulk billing in the country, how does the Minister anticipate the loss of this clinic, which has 4,900 clients, will further impact bulk-billing rates.
3. Can the Minister provide a list of clinics in Canberra that provide 100 percent bulk-billing services.

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

1. The Interchange Health Cooperative (Interchange) Administrators (RSM Australia) have reached an agreement for clinical services to temporarily resume under a licence agreement with a third party. Communication dated 15 April 2025 on the Interchange website from the Administrators to patients notes the agreement will see Interchange trading and clinical operations resume shortly at a date to be communicated to patients by the new operators. Existing patients will receive direct information about the reopening date and how to re-book any required appointments online.

Further to this, the Federal Labor Party has made an election commitment to provide \$3.8 million to support Interchange to remain open and remain 100 per cent bulk billing.



2. Primary care is a responsibility of the Australian Government, including the setting of Medicare rebates. The ACT Government continues to advocate to the Australian Government for improved funding for primary care and improved access to general practitioner bulk billing and training incentives for the ACT. The incoming Australian Government has made a number of national and ACT-specific primary care commitments that the ACT Government expects will boost the availability of bulk-billing for Canberrans.
3. General practices are private entities that determine their own billing arrangements. The ACT Government has consistently acknowledged the challenge in accessing bulk-billed primary care in the ACT and supports a number of providers to provide primary care for disadvantaged and vulnerable Canberrans.

Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.



Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA
Minister for Health

Date: 13 / 5 / 25

This response required 2hrs 35mins to complete, at an approximate cost of \$286.32.