

## Response to question on notice

### Questions on Notice Paper No 16

3 March 2026

### Question No. 921

**Shane Rattenbury** MLA: To ask the Treasurer

1. How does the Treasury incentivise action across government to ensure that funding for preventative health measures are targeted towards reducing long term liability for poor population health and how are the success of preventative health initiatives measured, given that the Government acknowledges many aspects of preventative health care such as access to nature, climate cooled homes, healthy food, active travel, good accommodation for people who are homeless or renting or in Housing ACT, however people's access and uptake of these is poor, with only 3 percent of Canberra children eating the recommended amount of fruit and vegetables each day and that \$1.4 billion is spent on our hospital, but all of the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD) received \$141 million and all of the Community Services Directorate (CSD) received \$308 million.
2. Were there any 2024-2025 business cases that were rejected in EPSDD, in CSD, in active travel or in Housing ACT maintenance; if so, list these business cases.
3. Can the Minister provide details of the amount of funding requested in part (2) that was not provided.
4. What wellbeing assessment methodology is employed to take full account of the long-term benefit, including in monetary terms, of early health interventions, recognising that the ACT has a Wellbeing Framework, but previous answers to Assembly committees have indicated this framework is generally employed subjectively.

**CHRIS STEEL MLA** - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

1. To enable people to live healthy and active lives, the Health and Community Services Directorate (HCSD) leads the Territory's health system – ensuring evidence-based and strategic policy advice drives system-wide strategies. This includes driving innovation and collaboration to improve system performance through health promotion and preventative health measured.

HCSD Strategic Objective 11 – *a healthy community through collaborative leadership* – includes a range of indicators through which community health outcomes are measures:

- Indicator 11.a measures the percentage of ACT adults who self-report their health status as very good or excellent;
- Indicator 11.b measures the percentage of ACT adults who self-report their mental health status as very good or excellent; and

- Indicator 11.c measures the percentage of children and adults who meet guidelines for daily serves of fruit and vegetables.

Treasury supports Government consideration of new policy proposals through the annual budget process. Treasury also supports agencies, such as HCSD, through the budget process by providing detailed business case development advice. A business case is an opportunity to identify the need for government intervention, community impact, cost effectiveness, governance arrangements, and risk.

A Wellbeing Impact Assessment (WIA) is also required for all business cases. WIAs assist in prioritising Government expenditure decisions, and helps to ensure proposals are in alignment with the [Wellbeing Framework](#), and the Government’s wellbeing priorities.

**2&3.** These matters are Cabinet-in-Confidence information.

**4.** Wellbeing Impact Assessments (WIAs) are required to be submitted with Budget business cases and Cabinet Submissions. WIAs support decision-makers to better understand how proposals will impact wellbeing in the ACT. WIAs include:

- a section on the impacts a proposal will have on future generations, including whether they will incur a cost or predominantly benefit from something put in place today, and
- a newly introduced section on the upstream and/or downstream impacts, that seeks information on whether a proposal primarily responds to an immediate need or is addressing the root causes of an issue and therefore shapes future trajectories.

Through these sections in the WIA, decision-makers are provided with information to understand the long-term impacts of proposals, including those related to early health interventions. The ACT Wellbeing Framework provides an overarching structure for considering wellbeing outcomes across multiple domains, including health and its application has generally been adaptive to specific context rather than through a uniform or monetised approach. Work is ongoing to identify best-practice methodologies that can systematically capture both short- and long-term impacts of early interventions (including scope for comparative assessments). In addition, the Wellbeing Team is monitoring developments in other jurisdictions and international practice, where wellbeing-based budgeting and evaluation frameworks are increasingly being adopted.

**Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.**

**Chris Steel MLA**  
Treasurer

**Date:** 31/3/26

This response required 3hrs 25mins to complete, at an approximate cost of \$466.52.