

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 1****6 DECEMBER 2024****Question No. 77****MS CLAY MLA:** To ask the Minister for Health

- 1) What percentage of ACT pregnant women and birthing people are able to access a midwifery led continuity of care model.
- 2) What percentage of ACT pregnant women and birthing people were able to access a midwifery led continuity of care model, in the past 12 months.
- 3) Are there plans to target vulnerable demographic groups to encourage them towards midwife led continuity of care models, as midwife-led continuity of care is expanded.

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

- 1) In the 2023-24 financial year, 23.4 per cent of pregnant women and birthing people who gave birth across Canberra Health Services accessed the continuity of midwifery care model. The Centenary Hospital for Women and Children provided care through the continuity of midwifery care model to 24.8 per cent of pregnant women and birthing people who gave birth. The North Canberra Hospital provided care through the continuity of midwifery care model to 21.0 per cent of pregnant women and birthing people who gave birth.
- 2) Please refer to the response to question 1 for the 2023-24 financial year data, which is the most current information able to be provided.
- 3) The *Maternity in Focus: System Plan 2022-2032* (the Plan) seeks to ensure the ACT maternity system is safe, inclusive, and appropriate for women and birthing people with vulnerabilities and complex life experiences. Having a known care provider in a continuity of care model supports women and pregnant people to build trust within the public health system, providing connection to support and advocate for individual needs.



The *Maternity in Focus: First Action Plan 2022-2025* (First Action Plan) has a goal to expand midwifery-led and midwifery-coordinated continuity of care models to improve access, increase equity and improve outcomes, and it includes the following action:

- a) Expand continuity of care, with appropriate postnatal transition, to improve access for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples, individuals experiencing vulnerability or disadvantage, and those with complex medical issues or a disability.

The ACT Government has committed to 50 per cent of women and pregnant people having access to this model of care by 2028.

Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.



Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA
Minister for Health

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

This response required 3hrs 15mins to complete, at an approximate cost of \$398.97.