

## Response to question on notice

### Questions on Notice Paper No 8

27 June 2025

### Question No. 512

#### Shane Rattenbury MLA: To ask the Minister for Health

1. When can we expect an update on the ACT Government's planning and next steps in increasing Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) diagnosis and support through General Practitioners (GPs).
2. Will the ACT Government wait for the NSW program to come into effect before introducing changes to allow GPs to diagnose and prescribe medication for ADHD.
3. Is it, at this stage for the ACT, shaping to be a trial or permanent change.
4. What measures are being undertaken now to ensure GPs are qualified/have specialised training in ADHD to ensure a quicker implementation of this model.
5. Have there been any discussions with the NSW Government for at least one GP in the capital region to be able to diagnose and prescribe medication for ADHD.
6. Is the ACT Government considering expanding the scope of practice to include autism given the high rates of ADHD and autism co-occurrence.

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

1. GP assessment and treatment of ADHD is an ACT Government priority. As flagged in recent media, work is underway to design a pilot for the ACT, which will be consulted on. It is anticipated that consultation on the pilot model will commence in the next couple of months, building on targeted stakeholder engagement that is already underway.
2. No. As flagged in recent media, work is underway to design a pilot for the ACT. While the Health and Community Services Directorate (HCSD) is cognisant of the benefits to both health practitioners and consumers in aligning with the NSW approach, the approach taken in the ACT must also consider the unique requirements for our jurisdiction.
3. HCSD anticipates the ACT's reforms will commence as a trial, which will be evaluated. The outcome of that evaluation, experience in other jurisdictions and work underway on nationally consistent approaches will all inform permanent reforms.

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4. As part of the development of the pilot model, HCSD is scoping appropriate training packages and will, once confirmed, inform stakeholders of the training requirements to enable interested GPs to undertake the training.
5. GPs in the ACT have expressed a strong desire to expand their scope of practice to diagnose and initiate treatment for patients with ADHD. Based on feedback to date, HCSD anticipates that a significant number of GPs will wish to provide this service in the ACT.
6. Currently, HCSD is focused on how best to support GPs to diagnose and initiate treatments for ADHD in the ACT. This is a significant project and will require both the upskilling of GPs and regulatory oversight to support the safe and effective implementation of this new scope of practice for GPs. There are numerous conditions that have a high co-occurrence with ADHD and it would be premature to incorporate these conditions simply because of a high co-occurrence with ADHD. Other jurisdictions are also limiting this element of expanded scope to ADHD at this time.

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



**Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA**  
**Minister for Health**

**Date:**

**30/7/25**

This response required 1hr 40mins to complete, at an approximate cost of \$192.62.