

Response to question on notice

Questions on Notice Paper No 15

6 February 2025

Question No. 821

Jo Clay MLA: To ask the Minister for Health

1. What was the caesarean section rate for all births at (a) Canberra Hospital and (b) North Canberra Hospital for each month from January 2023 to December 2025?
2. What was the caesarean section rate of each of the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) models of care recorded at the onset of labour at Canberra Hospital for each month from January 2023 to December 2025, including
 - a. Private Obstetrician,
 - b. Private Midwifery Care,
 - c. NSW GP-Obstetrician Shared Care,
 - d. Winnunga Nimmityjah,
 - e. GP Shared Care,
 - f. Private Midwife Antenatal Care,
 - g. Private Obstetrician Antenatal Care,
 - h. Public Hospital Maternity Care,
 - i. StepAhead,
 - j. BUMP Clinic,
 - k. Endocrine or Diabetes Clinic,
 - l. Pregnancy Enhancement Program,
 - m. Multiples Clinic,
 - n. Overseas Antenatal Care,
 - o. Maternal Fetal Medicine,
 - p. Continuity of Care - Low Risk,

- q. Continuity of Care - All Risk,
 - r. Publicly Funded Homebirth and
 - s. NSW Remote Maternity Care?
3. What was the caesarean section rate of each of the AIHW models of care recorded at the onset of labour at North Canberra Hospital (was Calvary Public Hospital) for each month from January 2023 to December 2025, including
- a. Private in public,
 - b. Shared Care with GP,
 - c. Standard Public Hospital Care,
 - d. Rostered Midwifery team and
 - e. Continuity of Midwifery Care Service?

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

1. The below table outlines the percentage of births which are Caesarean sections for the Canberra Hospital (TCH) and North Canberra Hospital (NCH) by month.

CS Rate	Month of birth											
	Year of Birth	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
2023												
NCH	31.9	38.8	30.2	36.3	38.8	33.6	42.2	32.1	35.9	37.0	39.7	32.8
TCH	39.7	36.5	41.2	40.5	43.5	41.5	37.3	40.0	44.3	42.5	45.2	42.7
2024												
NCH	39.7	43.9	38.7	38.4	42.5	41.6	45.4	36.6	35.3	37.5	37.7	37.7
TCH	44.6	41.7	41.2	48.4	47.9	41.8	48.0	48.0	43.3	38.5	41.8	46.3
2025												
NCH	42.9	42.1	38.3	39.3	48.7	38.4	27.6	36.1	36.6	37.4	33.0	35.8
TCH	42.0	43.0	44.3	43.6	45.6	46.6	50.5	49.0	40.0	50.0	50.0	42.7

Source: ACT Maternal Perinatal Data Collection

Exclusions: Cases missing birth method or location of birth.

Note: A caesarean section rate is the percentage of women who had a caesarean section out of the total number of births in the respective category.

Please note:

- Rates calculated can fluctuate when based on small numbers as a slight difference in numbers can cause a large difference in rates. NCH has approximately half the number of mothers and birthing people giving birth as TCH.
- Data for 2024 and 2025 are preliminary and have not undergone validation at this point.

2. and 3.

Since the introduction of the Digital Health Record (DHR), the focus for the ACT Maternal Perinatal Data Collection has been on data items for the National Minimum Data Set (NMDS), which is a national reporting obligation.

The *models of care* data element are not part of this NMDS. Significant further work is required to enable extraction and validation; and address data quality issues, before reporting of this data will be available.

Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.



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

Date:

15 / 3 / 26

This response required 18hrs 45mins to complete, at an approximate cost of \$1403.68.