

Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA

Minister for Health

Minister for Families and Community Services

Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs

Member for Kurrajong

RESPONSE TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**Questions on Notice Paper No 33****1 September 2023****Question No. 1334****MS LEANNE CASTLEY MLA:** To ask the Minister for Health:

- 1) Can the Minister provide a breakdown for (a) Canberra Hospital and (b) North Canberra Hospital, on how many full-time staff, by classification, have separated each month for the past 24 months in the cardiology department.
- 2) How many staff have been recruited, for example, employed on a full-time basis with Canberra Health Services (CHS) as opposed to locum etc.
- 3) How many sonographers have left the cardiology unit for each month for the last two months.
- 4) How many sonographers does CHS currently have employed at North Canberra Hospital.
- 5) How many exit interviews have been conducted for staff who have separated from the cardiology department at both (a) Canberra Hospital and (b) North Canberra Hospital, for each month for the past 12 months.
- 6) Can the Minister provide an update on waitlists associated with the cardiology units at (a) Canberra Hospital and (b) North Canberra Hospital.
- 7) Can the Minister give an indication whether wait lists have increased in the past three months for each wait list.
- 8) Are cardiologists at both hospitals able to provide a pacemaker to patients.
- 9) Have there been any issues in the past three months where the cardiology units at both hospitals have not been able to operate on a patient who needs a pacemaker.



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

- 1) The data below from Canberra Health Services (CHS) does not include Visiting Medical Officers or locum positions.

a.

Canberra Hospital													
Month/Year/Classification	ASO2	ASO3	ASO4	Specialist	HPO1	HPO2	HPO4	MI4	Registrar	RN1	RN2	RN3	RN3.1
Sep-21								1					
Oct-21				0.6						0.42			
Dec-21		1											
Jan-22											1		
Feb-22									1				
Mar-22					1			1					
Apr-22	1				1								
May-22		0.6								0.84			
Jun-22					1					0.42			
Jul-22				1									
Aug-22	1			0.74						0.21			
Sep-22				0.3		1				1		1	
Dec-22										0.84			
Jan-23	1			0.5									
Feb-23	1					1			2	1	1.63		
Mar-23								1					1
Apr-23			2	0.3						0.84			
May-23		1								1			
Jun-23				0.7									
Jul-23		1	1							0.78			
Aug-23				0.4			0.62						
Total FTE	4	3.6	3	4.54	3	2	0.62	3	3	7.35	2.63	1	1

b.

North Canberra Hospital													
Month/Year/Classification	ASO2	ASO3	ASO4	Specialist	HPO1	HPO2	HPO4	MI4	Registrar	RN1	RN2	RN3	RN3.1
Sep-21													
Oct-21													
Dec-21													
Jan-22													
Feb-22													
Mar-22													
Apr-22													
May-22													
Jun-22													
Jul-22													
Aug-22													
Sep-22													
Dec-22													
Jan-23													
Feb-23													
Mar-23													
Apr-23													
May-23													
Jun-23													
Jul-23				0.4				1.8					
Aug-23													
Total FTE				0.4				1.8					

- 2) The data below from CHS does not include Visiting Medical Officers or locum positions. It is important to note this does not account for any upcoming recruitment initiatives or onboarding processes.

Canberra Hospital 1 September 2021 to 31 August 2023 (24 months)			
Classification/Employment Type	Casual	Permanent	Temporary
ASO2			1
ASO3			2
Specialist	2	3	2
HPO1			3
HPO2		1	
MI4		2	
Registrar			3
RN1		4	5
Total Commencements	2	10	16

North Canberra Hospital 1 July 2021 – 30 September 2023			
Classification/Employment Type	Casual	Permanent	Temporary
ASO2			
ASO3			
Specialist			
HPO1			
HPO2			
MI4		2	
Registrar			
RN1			
Total Commencements		2	

- 3) Over July and August 2023, one sonographer left the Canberra Hospital and no sonographers left the North Canberra Hospital (NCH) cardiology unit. However, 3 sonographers decided not to transition to Canberra Health Services.
- 4) As at 24 October 2023, there are 10 sonographers (8 general and 2 cardiac) who provide imaging services at the North Canberra Hospital.
- 5) All CHS staff are invited to complete a formal exit survey. At the end of the survey, staff are asked if they wish to complete a face-to-face interview. Work is underway at North Canberra Hospital to establish formal exit interviews in line with the current CHS process.
- a. None.
- b. None.

6)

Cardiac Waitlist (as of 10 November 2023)	Active referrals
Cardiac procedures in CCU appointment requests – Elective	625
Cardiac consult appointment requests	3779

CT coronary angiogram appointment requests - Protocolled Inpatient / Outpatient	79
Echo/ Dobutamine Stress echo appointment requests - Outpatient	1908
Exercise Stress Test appointment requests - Outpatient	55
Holter appointment requests - Outpatient	24
Trans oesophageal Echocardiography /Cardioversion in theatre appointment requests – Elective and Inpatient	Elective – 2 Direct Current Cardioversion (DCCV) - 8
Chest Pain Clinic Consults	6

- 7) The Canberra Hospital Cardiology department are currently undertaking an audit of the waitlist to maintain accuracy and integrity and in turn reduce waiting times. It is anticipated that following this audit, the waiting list will see a decrease in those patients waiting to be seen and will reflect the demand on services to allow for future capacity planning.
- 8) NCH does not have the facilities to provide pacemakers to patients. NCH patients requiring a pacemaker are referred to the Canberra Hospital for this procedure.
- 9) There is always coverage to provide emergency pacemakers 24 hours, 7 days a week. However, patients are triaged dependent on their clinical urgency and may be scheduled a later date.

Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.



Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA
Minister for Health

Date:.....25/1/24.....

This response required 6hrs 55mins to complete, at an approximate cost of \$829.53.