



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2023-2024

Mr Mark Parton MLA (Chair), Ms Jo Clay MLA (Deputy Chair),
Mr Michael Pettersson MLA

ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE DURING PUBLIC HEARINGS

Asked by **MS JO CLAY MLA** on 20 July 2023: **MINISTER STEPHEN-SMITH** took on notice the following questions:

Ref: Hansard Transcript 20 July 2023 [PAGE 30-31]

In relation to: Dental Services

- 1) How many people have accessed free dental services for 2020-21, 2021-22, 2022-23 and what is the services anticipating for 2023-24 preventative vs treatment. Who is eligible for preventative dental?
- 2) What is the total expected funding for the 2023-24 year?
- 3) What is the waitlist for the above years?

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

- 1) The information in Table 1 below represents those clients who have accessed free dental services for each financial year.

	Adults	Children
2020-2021	1,198	4,251
2021-2022	961	2,739
2022-2023*	700	1,475

** The figures for 2022-2023 represent data collected from 1 July 2022 – 11 November 2022. Since the implementation of the Digital Health Record (DHR), Oral Health Services (OHS) reporting is still progressing to enable external provision of information.*

The information in Table 2 provides an estimated number of clients who will access free dental services during 2023-24.

	Adults	Children
2023-2024	1,980	4,345

These numbers are based on the current OHS eligibility criteria to receive free dental services.

All clients using the service are eligible for preventative dental services. OHS provides free dental services inclusive of both preventative and restorative to those meeting the required eligibility criteria. The eligibility information is available on the Canberra Health Services here: <https://www.canberrahealthservices.act.gov.au/services-and-clinics/dental-services>.

2) OHS expected total expenditure budget (excluding depreciation) for the 2023-24 financial year is \$13.174m.

3) The information in Table 3 below represents the waitlist for restorative dental treatment.

2020-2021	12.8 months
2021-2022	11.2 months
2022-2023	12 months

Please note the table refers to adults only, there is no waitlist for children or emergency treatment.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2023-2024

Signature:



Date: 7/8/23

By the Minister for Health, Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA