



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 MR PARTON on 21 July 2023: MINISTER DAVIDSON (Justice Health and Mental Health) took on notice the following question(s):

Ref: *Uncorrected Hansard Transcript* 21 July 2023 [Pages 101-102]

In relation to:

What is the current total spend per year from 2021-22 to this year on the eating disorders residential treatment centre?

THE CHAIR: The previous federal government committed 13.5 million over three years in support funding for the establishment of a new residential treatment centre for eating disorders in Canberra. The first funding instalment for this was provided to the ACT in the 21-22 financial year. In last year's estimates we asked why so much money, 8.15 million, had been rolled over from the financial years 21-22 and 22-23 into 23-24. At that stage estimated completion was due for December this year. In the current budget statements on table 17, page 17, changes to appropriation, controlled recurrent payments, the figures are 1.749 million budgeted for 23-24, and 5.171 million estimated for 24-25 with a new building completion date for June 2024 being advertised on the ACT Health website.

The previous federal government committed 13.5 million to the establishment of this new residential treatment centre for eating disorders in the ACT, but since then, looking at each set of budget papers, funding appears to be being pushed forward. So, the question is this, and this potentially is on notice, what is the current total spend per year from 21-22 to this financial year for establishing the eating disorders residential treatment centre? I am looking for a breakdown, not supremely confident that I can get it here in this room, but maybe I can.

Ms Davidson: You are looking for a breakdown of what we have spent in past years and a bit of a recap of the timeline for when money is going to be expended on that project, which we have actually covered in quite a lot of detail in previous hearings and in Question Time, but I can pass that to Catherine Rule who can then pass that on to the right person to answer in detail about what has already been spent and the reasons why. Some of that is going to be related to when we received money from Commonwealth government, which was not necessarily on the timeline we had initially expected. Sometimes there are a few delays in Commonwealth passing on the funding to ACT, and then going through the process to do the design work, but I will pass to Catherine.

Ms Rule: Thanks, minister. Catherine Rule, Director-General, ACT Health Directorate for the period of five weeks while Rebecca Cross is on leave. I will pass to my colleagues Ms Garrett and Ms Lopa to give you some more insight into that expenditure.

Ms Lopa: Thank you. Liz Lopa, Acting Deputy Director-General, Infrastructure and Engagement. I will take on notice the year by year breakdown but I can tell you at the beginning of the project the focus was really on creating or getting information from the community and consulting on a model of care for the centre. So we have not had a residential eating disorder centre before in Canberra, and they are not very common around the country. I believe there is one in Queensland which is run by the Butterfly Foundation.

We had a reference group that we relied on and worked with to develop a model of care for the centre, and that model of care then leads into being able to do the infrastructure planning. So that model of care and that reference group helped us work up how many beds it was going to be, what the configuration needed to look like, you know, double rooms, single rooms, bathrooms, all those sorts of things. We then started doing the infrastructure planning. The DA has now been approved. The site has now been approved by government and we have entered into a contract with a construction firm, and so that infrastructure project is under way and you are right, Mr Parton, we are expecting it to be open mid-next year.

MINISTER DAVIDSON: The answer to the Member's question is as follows: –

The below table provides information on expenditure for the 2021-22 and 2022-23 financial years. As the 2023-24 financial year has only just commenced, information is not yet available on expenditure for this financial year.

Expenditure - ACT Residential Treatment Centre for Eating Disorders	2021-22 \$	2022-23 \$	Total \$
Commonwealth Government	119,057	698,333	817,390
ACT Government	53,000 ¹	2,507,978 ²	2,560,978
Total Expenditure	172,057	3,206,311	3,378,368

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

Signature: 

Date: 14 August 2023

By the Minister for Justice Health and Mental Health, Ms Emma Davidson MLA

¹ This funding was for project resourcing in the ACT Health Directorate that supported the broader Expanding Public Health Services for Eating Disorders Project

² This funding was appropriated to the ACT Health Directorate for purchase of the land from the Suburban Land Agency