

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2024-2045

Ms Nichole Lawder MLA (Chair) Ms Suzane Orr MLA (Deputy Chair) Miss
Laura Nuttall MLA (Member)

Appropriation Bill 2024-2025 and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative
Assembly) Bill 2024-2025

Question on Notice (Committee)

Asked by: Ms Leanne Castley MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Health

Reference: Health – Health Oral

Date: 25/07/2024

In relation to: Canberra Health Services and Oral Health Services

Question Lodgement Date: 25/07/2024

Date Answer Due: 02/08/2024

Question

Oral Health Services' Residential Aged Care Facility mobile dental clinic recommenced in May 2023. I see from an FOI response that OHS has had trouble recruiting for the recommencement of these services.

- 1) Have the school and Targeted Assistance Program mobile dental clinics also recommenced?
- 2) How many of the ACT's government schools does the schools van visit in a year and how is it determined which schools it will visit?
- 3) What is the staffing profile of each mobile service?

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

- 1) CHS Dental is continuing to explore options to recommence the school mobile dental clinic (MDC). This includes initial conversations with the Education Directorate to develop a proposed plan and schedule, CHS Dental active recruitment strategies, training dental assistants via the operational Residential Aged Care Facility MDC and consideration of health and safety measures (water testing and maintenance schedule).

There is no current waitlist for child and youth dental appointments at any of the community health centre dental clinics. All children aged under 14 years of age are eligible for dental services through CHS Dental (co-payments may apply). Prioritised appointments are available for children experiencing dental pain. Parents can utilise the federally funded Child Dental Benefits Scheme (CDBS) if they are eligible through Medicare. This scheme is means tested and allows for the provision of child dental services at a benefit cap of \$1,095 over two consecutive calendar years.

While the Targeted Assistance Program (TAP) MDC has not formally recommenced, CHS Dental continue to work closely with the Justice and Community Safety Directorate to discuss options for the MDC to revisit Bimberi Youth Justice Centre in 2025. This follows the MDC visiting Bimberi Youth Justice Centre earlier in 2024.

TAP clients are considered CHS Dental priority clients. There are emergency appointments at most CHS community health centres each day to ensure TAP clients are seen as soon as possible. These clients receive one free course of dental treatment, including a prioritised issue of dentures (if required).

- 2) The number of ACT schools that can potentially be serviced by the mobile dental clinic each calendar year varies due to factors such as the school cohort, the number of returned parent/carer consent forms, school availability (based on each school's yearly calendar of activities/commitments and hours of operation) and individual treatment required.

In 2019, the mobile dental clinic visited six schools. The initial model of care for the school mobile dental clinic prioritised schools based on the national Index of Community Socio-Educational Advantage (ICSEA) Scale and advice from the ACT Education Directorate.

- 3) The required clinical staffing profile for each mobile dental clinic service includes:

- Residential Aged Care Facility (RACF) MDC – one Dentist and one Dental Assistant.
- School MDC – one Dental/Oral Health Therapist and one Dental Assistant.
- TAP MDC – one Dentist or Dental/Oral Health Therapist and one Dental Assistant.

Additionally, a driver (Medium Rigid licence) is required to relocate the mobile dental clinics, and an inter-agency coordinator is required to assist with logistics, safety and maintenance of the mobile dental clinics.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2024-2025

Signature:



Date:

218/24

By Ms Rachel Stephen-Smith Minister for Health