

ACT VMO ASSOCIATION

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The Secretary
Standing Committee on Public Accounts

Submission Number	1
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31 March 2005

Dear Sir

The following is our **submission** to the enquiry into the Auditor-General's report No. 8 of 2004:
Waiting lists for elective surgery and medical treatment.

On page 8 of the Report, the Chief Executive of the ACT Department of Health, Dr Tony Sherbon, is reported as stating "The public health system in the ACT is in need of more doctors and nurses to overcome chronic shortages."

Comment: Appointment of more doctors to the ACT public hospitals would do nothing to reduce waiting lists unless with that there are more operating sessions and beds. The doctors currently available in the ACT could do more public hospital work if more operating sessions and beds were made available. Everything else is of secondary consideration.

The government has also announced that it will publish the waiting time in public hospitals for each surgeon in the ACT. The VMO Association has no objection to this but feels that it will also do nothing to reduce public hospital waiting lists for surgery. Unless the government is prepared to spend more money to make more operating sessions available then the waiting list for surgery will not reduce.

We have come to the conclusion that the ACT government is comfortable with the number on public hospital waiting lists and has no intention of spending more money to reduce public hospital waiting lists.

Yours sincerely,

P D Hughes, FRCS, FRACS
President
ACT VMO Association

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