



STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, AGEING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES  
CHRIS STEEL MLA (CHAIR), ELIZABETH KICKERT MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), VICKI DUNNE MLA,  
CAROLINE LE COUTEUR MLA, MICHAEL PETERSSON MLA

**Inquiry into referred 2016–17 Annual and Financial Reports**

**ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

Asked by Mr Steel:

In relation to: Surgical Intervention

1. How many times were non-consensual 'normalising' surgical interventions performed by the ACT public health care system on intersex children over the past year?
2. Is ACT Health aware of concerns raised about these practices by the WHO, UNICEF – as well as the recent Darlington Statement – which calls for the criminalisation of deferrable intersex medical interventions on children?
3. What guidelines around these types of medical interventions are in place, or in development; in the ACT?

Ms Fitzharris: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

1. There have been no non-consensual 'normalising' surgical interventions performed by the ACT public health care system on intersex children over the past year.
2. Yes.
3. ACT Health does not have a specific policy to guide the medical approach to the treatment of infants with intersex variations. In these situations, ACT Health clinicians are guided by clinical need and judgement within their clinical fields of expertise. For example, the Royal Australasian College of Physicians' position statement for sexual and reproductive health care for young people outlines that medical interventions for cosmetic or psychosocial reasons should not take place until the person concerned can provide free and fully informed consent.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Health, Ageing and Community Services

Signature:

Date: 12/12/2017

By the Minister for Health and Wellbeing, Meegan Fitzharris MLA