



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2022-2023

Mr James Milligan MLA (Chair), Mr Andrew Braddock MLA (Deputy Chair),
Dr Marisa Paterson MLA

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

MS LEANNE CASTLEY MLA: To ask the Minister for Health

Ref: Health – ACT Health

In relation to: Quarterly Performance Report

- (1) Why was the January to March Quarterly Performance Report significantly delayed?
- (2) Will there be similar delays to the other quarterly reports?
- (3) On page 31 of the latest report the data shows a 25% increase in patients who were removed from the elective surgery waiting list for reasons other than surgery, there is a footnote attached to this point, but no explanation provided, why has there been such a large increase?
- (4) Why was there no footnote included to explain this increase?
- (5) Again, on page 32 there is a footnote with no explanation and the number is higher again at 33.6% at TCH, why has 1/3 of TCH's patients been removed for reasons other than surgery?
- (6) How many patients were referred to the ACT from other states and territories during the January to March period? Could you provide the numbers over the same period since 2018 as well?
 - a. How many patients from other states and territories were removed from the ACT elective surgery wait list for reasons other than surgery during this period since 2018?
- (7) How many patients referred or cancelled their surgery because they went to other states and territories to receive treatment during January to March? Could you provide a breakdown of transfers and cancellations for the same period since 2018?

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

- 1) Delays were experienced in the production of the January to March 2022 Quarterly Performance report (QPR) due to the impact of COVID-19 across the health system, including additional time needed for data collection and for consultation and clearances.
- 2) The ACT Health Directorate (ACTHD) aims to release data through the quarterly performance report regularly. Unforeseen impacts, such as the most recent Omicron waves, can impact the ability to deliver the report in a timely manner. ACTHD, Calvary Public Hospital Bruce (CPHB) and Canberra Health Services (CHS) are considering methods improve timeliness of publication.

- 3) Variability has increased due to disruptions to normal operations during the COVID-19 pandemic, with larger variations in elective surgery removals recorded throughout this period. Operational changes were also made at CPHB during this period, in line with increasing elective surgery throughput. A significant number of surgeons took up this opportunity and had many of their patients transferred from CHS to CPHB elective surgery waitlist in Quarter 3 2021-22. This is in line with current surgical planning.
- 4) An error in producing the report meant the standard footnote included in previous quarterly performance reports was not included. The report will be updated to include a revised footnote.
- 5) The report does not state that a third of Canberra Hospital elective surgery patients are being removed for reasons other than surgery. The report states that there was a 33.6 per cent increase in the number of patients removed for reasons other than surgery from quarter 2 (295 removals) to quarter 3 (394 removals). That number is distinct from the 1,761 elective surgery procedures undertaken during that quarter. Refer to responses to question 3 and 4 for context on the increase to elective surgery removals.
- 6) Data on referrals from other states and territories for elective surgery is not available at a sufficiently granular level to provide a response to this question and has therefore not been included.

The total number of patients from states and territories other than the ACT and removed from the ACT elective surgery wait list for reasons other than surgery during this period in Quarter 3 since 2018 is included below:

Table: Non-ACT patients removed from the ACT elective surgery wait list for reasons other than surgery during this period since 2018

Financial Year - Quarter	Total Patients
2018-19 – Quarter 3	192
2019-20 – Quarter 3	175
2020-21 – Quarter 3	234
2021-22 – Quarter 3	240

*Please note this metric includes patients moved from one hospital waitlist to another and does not mean they will not receive the surgery.

- 7) Data on referrals/cancellations due to treatment provided by other state/territory services is not currently available within ACT Health.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2022-2023

Signature:



Date: 31/8/22

By the Minister for Health, Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA