



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 ON NOTICE

MS LEANNE CASTLEY MLA: To ask the Minister for Health

Reference: Health, Budget Paper C, Page 51, Pathology

Hearing Date: 20/07/2023

In relation to: Pathology equipment

- 1) Can the Minister provide a list of all ACT Government owned pathology clinical equipment including:
 - a. The name of the equipment used by the pathology laboratory.
 - b. If the machine has an “end of life” date as medical imaging machines do.
 - i. If the machine does have this date, what is it for each of the machines referenced in 1 and 1)a.
 - ii. If not, does CHS or ACT Health have policy or guidelines around when a machine should be replaced? If so, provide details for each machine referred to in 1 and 1)a.
 - c. Do machines have a maximum extended life span if upgrades are made on the machine?
 - i. If so, provide details for each machine referred to in 1 and 1)a.
 - ii. If not, does CHS or ACT Health have policy or guidelines around when a machine that has received upgrades should be replaced? If so, provide details for each machine referred to in 1) and 1)a.
 - d. Can the Minister for each machine referred to in 1 and 1)a. provide details on how long each machine has been in service in the ACT and if it is second hand how long it has been in use in total.
- 2) Have there been any issues with pathology equipment returning more invalid or worse results over time?
 - a. If so, which machines have there been issues with and what are the issues?
- 3) Have (a) clinicians (b) medical colleges (c*) patient or clinical stakeholder groups (e) patients (f) others raised issues about ageing pathology equipment providing invalid, inconclusive or poor (a) samples (b) results. Provide details for any issues raised.

- 4) What equipment will be replaced under the Improving Canberra's health infrastructure - Upgrading ACT Pathology's laboratory budget initiative?

For previous expenditure for pathology (for example ACT Pathology Laboratory Information System Replacement in 2022-23 budget) provide a detailed explanation on any equipment, staff or upgrades purchased.

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

1)

- a. Please see Attachment A – Pathology Equipment List – 2023
- b. Note pathology machines do not have an end-of-life date as medical imaging machines do.
 - i. N/A.
 - ii. No. Pathology equipment life varies depending on many factors including, on-going vendor support, availability of newer technology to market. Contract terms take these factors into account and will vary depending on the specific type of equipment.

Pathology equipment may be used as for as long as quality requirements are met. Quality compliance is assessed by an external organisation, NATA – National Australian Testing Authorities. NATA audits ACT Pathology annually against the following standards:

- a. International Standard ISO 15189 Medical Laboratories – Particular requirements.

Notably 5.3.1 – Equipment; *'The laboratory shall replace equipment as needed to ensure the quality of examination results'*.

- b. Australian Standards: National Pathology Accreditation Advisory Council Standards (NPAAC).

Notably:

NPAAC Requirements For Medical Pathology Services; S7B.5 *'Equipment must be "fit for purpose" and must be maintained to ensure functionality'*.

- c. NATA standards – based on interpretation of (1) and (2)

Notably:

General Accreditation Criteria ISO15189 Stand Application Document 6.5 Equipment Calibration and metrological traceability.

General Accreditation Criteria - Equipment assurance, inhouse calibration and equipment verification *'Equipment shall be shown upon installation and during routine use to be capable of achieving the performance required and shall comply with the necessary specifications to support the tests and examinations concerned.'*

ACT Pathology was audited by NATA in March 2023. 27 Auditors assessed all laboratory areas, with full accreditation being granted to all disciplines. This demonstrates compliance of ACT Pathology equipment against the above standards.

- c. No. Ongoing servicing and maintenance of many pathology analysers involves replacement of parts to ensure performance is optimal.
 - i. N/A.
 - ii. No – as per 1b.
 - d. Please see Attachment A – Pathology Equipment List – 2023. Please note Pathology does not have any second-hand clinical equipment.
- 2) No – all pathology equipment must comply with NATA requirements and are only used if these requirements are met – there are regular quality checks for all pathology equipment.
- a. N/A.
- 3) As of 31 July 2023, there are no known issues that have been raised by clinicians, medical colleges, patient or clinical stakeholder groups, patients or others about ageing pathology equipment providing invalid, inconclusive or poor samples, or results.
- 4) Under the 'Improving Canberra's Health Infrastructure' budget initiative infrastructure works will be undertaken to renovate the Anatomical Pathology Laboratory to allow for expansion of laboratory space. Replacement of equipment is not part of this budget initiative.
- 5) Please see Attachment B – Purchased Pathology Assets – FY 22-23.

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

Signature:



Date:

3/8/23

By the Minister for Health, Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA

Pathology Equipment List with Year Commissioned – July 2023

	Count of Asset Type
ANALYSER (A)	85
2012	14
2013	2
2014	6
2015	6
2016	6
2017	12
2018	11
2019	5
2020	9
2021	9
2022	4
2023	1
AUTOCLAVE (AC)	2
2014	1
2020	1
BALANCE (B)	13
2012	8
2015	2
2021	2
2022	1
CENTRIFUGE (C)	71
2012	30
2013	3
2014	2
2015	2
2016	3
2017	10
2018	1
2019	4
2020	3
2021	8
2022	5
EQUIPMENT TEMP. DISPLAY (D)	12
2012	2
2014	1
2015	2
2017	1
2018	3
2020	1
2021	2
EYE WASH STATION (EW)	15
2012	12

2013	1
2023	2
Freezer (F)	39
2015	10
2016	14
2017	2
2018	3
2019	2
2021	1
2022	5
2023	2
FUME CABINET (FC)	9
2012	7
2014	1
2017	1
GENERAL EQUIPMENT (E)	48
2012	9
2013	4
2014	2
2015	2
2016	4
2017	1
2018	6
2019	2
2020	3
2021	6
2022	7
2023	2
Incubator (IN)	22
2015	14
2016	1
2017	2
2021	2
2022	2
2023	1
Liquid Nitrogen Tank (LN)	4
2016	2
2017	1
2023	1
MASS (S)	10
2012	5
2014	1
2016	1
2021	2
2022	1
MICROSCOPE (MS)	106

2010	1
2011	1
2012	75
2013	10
2014	2
2015	3
2016	2
2017	1
2018	1
2020	3
2021	2
2022	1
2023	4
MICROTOME (MT)	12
2012	5
2014	2
2017	3
2020	2
Oven (OV)	5
2015	4
2016	1
PH METER (PH)	6
2012	5
2017	1
PIPETTE (P)	165
2012	59
2013	5
2014	5
2015	9
2016	10
2017	5
2018	4
2019	12
2020	22
2021	21
2022	8
2023	5
POCT (PC)	3
2017	1
2020	2
Refrigerator (R)	52
2015	14
2016	15
2017	4
2018	1
2019	4

2020	3
2021	5
2022	3
2023	3
SAFETY CABINET (SC)	22
2012	14
2015	1
2019	1
2020	5
2021	1
SAFETY SHOWER (SS)	13
2012	12
2020	1
THERMOMETER (T)\DATA LOGGER	15
2012	1
2015	2
2020	10
2022	1
2023	1
THERMOMETER (T)\DIGITAL	29
2012	9
2013	4
2014	10
2015	5
2020	1
THERMOMETER (T)\Labguard Probe	154
2012	2
2014	1
2015	36
2016	78
2017	3
2018	13
2019	3
2020	4
2021	4
2022	5
2023	5
THERMOMETER (T)\LIQUID IN	7
2012	6
2018	1
THERMOMETER (T)\LIQUID IN GLASS	1
2012	1
THERMOMETER (T)\Mobiguard	14
2016	1
2017	9
2018	3

2022	1
THERMOMETER (T)\Probe (non	12
2017	10
2019	2
THERMOMETER (T)\REFERENCE	3
2009	1
2015	1
2020	1
THERMOMETER (T)\Tomkey	1
2019	1
TIMER (M)	96
2012	11
2013	3
2014	3
2015	9
2016	4
2017	7
2018	6
2019	3
2020	12
2021	16
2022	16
2023	6
Tissue Processor (TP)	5
2016	5
Uninterrupted Power Supplies (UPS)	39
2022	36
2023	3
Waterbath (WB)	11
2015	1
2016	5
2018	1
2020	2
2021	2
Grand Total	1101

Asset Type	Count of Asset Type	Description
ANALYSER (A)	4	Replacement Analysers for haematology and molecular pathology departments
BALANCE (B)	1	Replacement of general laboratory equipment
Freezer (F)	3	Replacement freezers for haematology, microbiology and anatomical pathology departments
GENERAL EQUIPMENT	2	Replacement of imaging system for anatomical pathology and ultrasound equipment for microbiology
Incubator (IN)	2	Replacement of general laboratory equipment
MICROSCOPE (MS)	5	Replacement of microscopes for pathologists in anatomical pathology and laboratory staff in immunopathology
PIPETTE (P)	6	Replacement of general laboratory equipment
Refrigerator (R)	2	Replacement refrigerators for haematology department
THERMOMETER (T)\Labguard Probe	9	Replacement of general laboratory equipment
Grand Total	35	