



Standing Committee on Health and Community Wellbeing

Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2022-2023 **ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

Asked by **Ms Leanne Castley** on 16 November 2023: Ms Cross took on notice the following question(s):

Reference: Hansard uncorrected proof transcript 16 November 2023 [PAGES 51-52]

In relation to: Radiation incidents referenced in the ACT Health Directorate Report

MS CASTLEY: Thank you. I have some just really brief questions about the Radiation Council Report in the annual report. There were four incidents: repeat exposure due to equipment failure, and incorrect procedure for two patients. I am just wondering: the equipment failure—what was that about? Is it because the machines are ageing? Can you tell me about those incidents? It is page 449.

Ms Cross: Ms Castley, this is in the ACT Health Directorate Report, so I think the Radiation Council covers a whole range of facilities and organisations, not just CHS. My recollection is they were all minor in nature, but I am not even sure they were at CHS.

MS CASTLEY: Can you confirm?

Ms Cross: We can get some further information for you.

Ms Stephen-Smith: We can get that on notice. Yes.

Minister Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

Under the *Radiation Protection Act 2006*, the person responsible for a radiation source must maintain a radiation management plan for safely dealing with a radiation source which includes incident reporting requirements.

The reporting and registering of radiation incidents occurs under the National Directory for Radiation Protection (NDRP) as adopted by Commonwealth, state and territory radiation regulators and includes a National Incident Reporting Framework.

The NDRP supports best practice in radiation safety management and encourages radiation incident reporting of all incidents (including minor incidents) to support a safety and reporting culture within an organisation aiming to prevent more serious incidents occurring.

The Radiation Advisory Committee Annual Report includes reference to six (6) reported incidents. Only one reported incident related to equipment failure.

A single (1) reported incident related to a radiology computed tomography (CT) incident type involving a repeat exposure due to equipment failure at Canberra Health Services. The failure related to peripheral equipment (intravenous cannulation (IVC) equipment) rather than the CT equipment itself. Although the equipment failure required the procedure to be repeated, the incident was deemed by the Council to be insignificant.

As at 20 November 2023, there are 722 registered radiation sources in the ACT used for medical or dental purposes.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Health and Community Wellbeing

Signature:



Date:

26/11/23

By the Minister for Health, Ms Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA