



Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2023–2024

Answer to question on notice

Asked by: Ms Leanne Castley MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Health

Reference: Health Service Data Dashboard

Hearing: 20 February 2025

In relation to: Health Service Data Dashboard

Question received: 24 February 2025

Answer Due: 4 March 2025

The data dashboard is finally up and running and public. I have a number of questions regarding the data that is publicly available.

For both the performance figures for emergency departments and elective surgery waiting lists:

- Why do the data highlights section only have data up until October 2024?
- Why is this data not updated each fortnight, like you used to provide?
- Who decides the time frames that you compare current data to on the dashboard?
- Is this done to make sure that the improvements look the best?
- Why does the published data only go back to 2023-2024, given you have access to older data?

MINISTER FOR HEALTH: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

The Emergency Department and Elective Surgery data available in the Health Services Data Dashboard (HSDD) was released in February 2024 with a three-month lag on the data presented. This ensures the accuracy of the data and increases confidence that published data reflects the services provided in the time period. All health services data undergoes a period of reconciliation and remediation following the end of an episode of clinical care. Each month, new data will be added to the time series.

The HSDD replaces static, PDF-based quarterly and monthly reporting (the Quarterly Performance Report). Emergency Department and Elective Surgery activity is not and has never been published fortnightly by the ACT Health Directorate (ACTHD).

OFFICIAL

Canberra Health Services reports fortnightly on the number of patients on its Elective Surgery Waiting List who are ready for care, waiting and overdue for their surgery by Surgical Specialty and Urgency Category. This report is here: <https://www.canberrahealthservices.act.gov.au/about-us/Elective-Surgery-waitlist-data>.

Timeframes for comparison of the data are based on methodologies for analysis of health service data that are accepted and used by other jurisdictions and national health data agencies such as the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW).

Comparison of monthly data with the same time in the previous year allows viewers to track year-on-year change at a glance each month. This comparison allows for consideration of the impact of seasonal variation. The monthly time series between July 2023 and October 2024 is also available on the dashboard, allowing users to see variation across shorter time periods.

Previously published quarterly performance reports are available on the ACTHD's website and linked from the first paragraph on the HSDD home page for anyone seeking comparable data for earlier periods. Historical ACT Emergency Department and Elective Surgery data is also published and available on the AIHW website, as well as through other public reporting mechanisms, including the Report on Government Services and ACT Government annual reports.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Social Policy

Signature:



By the Minister for Health, Rachel Stephen-Smith

Date:

3 / 3 / 25