



Inquiry into annual and financial reports 2024–2025

Answer to question on notice

Asked by: Mr Shane Rattenbury MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Mental Health

Reference: Health - Canberra Health Services

Hearing: 11 November 2025

In relation to: Mental Health program funding

Question received: 19 November 2025

Answer Due: 26 November 2025

The Mental Health Foundation has been providing accommodation for patients who have been discharged from the hospital's mental health unit and need accommodation. Their funding was reduced in September 2024, which meant they could no longer offer as many places and patients would have had to stay in the hospital's mental health unit longer before somewhere could be found for them to go.

1. How much was funding for the Mental Health Foundation reduced by in 2024? What was the reason for this decision?
2. What is the average cost per day for a mental health inpatient at Canberra Hospital?
3. For patients ending having to stay in hospital from the point when they no longer had to be in the mental health unit to the time when accommodation could be found for them:
 - a) how many patients were in that position from 1 October 2024 to 30 September 2025 compared with 1 October 2023 to 30 September 2024?
 - b) how many bed nights did the answer to part (a) amount to for 1 October 2024 to 30 September 2025?

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

1. In 2024, funding for the Mental Health Foundation's Discharge Accommodation Program (DAP) was reduced from \$600,000 in 2023-24 to \$440,000 in 2024-25.

As the Member may recall, under the former Minister for Mental Health this funding was redirected to establish a more contemporary, evidence-based model that better supports

people to live independently. The 2024-25 Budget allocated \$1.992 million over four years to implement approximately ten wrap-around support packages through community sector organisations, modelled on the Housing Accommodation Support Initiative (HASI) in NSW.

This funding includes \$478,000 over two years to support the transition from the DAP to this new HASI-aligned approach.

2. Based on the latest available data, the average cost per day for a mental health inpatient at Canberra Hospital was \$3,081 in 2023-24.
3. For patients having to stay in hospital from the point when they no longer had to be in the mental health unit to the time when accommodation could be found for them:
 - a) 21 patients were in that position from the period of 1 October 2024 to 30 September 2025, compared to zero patients for the period of 1 October 2023 to 30 September 2024.
 - b) 278 bed nights

Note this is manually collected data and is subject to a verification/validation process.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Social Policy

Signature:



Date:

30 / 11 / 25

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