



Inquiry into annual and financial reports 2024–2025

Answer to question on notice

Asked by: Laura Nuttall MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Disability, Carers and Community Services

Reference: Health and Community Services

Hearing: 13 November 2025

In relation to: Respite Care and Negotiations with Carers ACT

Question received: 14 November 2025

Answer Due: 2 December 2025

1. What progress has been made on discussions with Carers ACT for a new Respite Care Centre?
2. Have there been any discussions with any private investors or care providers to consider opening other new respite care centres?
3. Do you consider the current respite care arrangements are adequate?
4. What plans do you have to address growing demand for respite care as our population ages?

Ms Suzanne Orr MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

1. As the Minister for Disability, Carers and Community Services I meet regularly with the CEO of Carers ACT to discuss a range of carer issues, including future work to deliver government commitments for carers. The ACT Government is considering how best to progress work to explore options for a purpose-built respite centre. This includes scoping work, which will consider the feasibility of different options and explore respite services or support provided in the ACT and other jurisdictions.
2. Yes
3. Respite care allows carers to take a planned break from the caring role. It provides safe replacement care so carers can find time to manage their own wellbeing and health needs or participate in study or work. HCSD acknowledges that supporting carers with suitable respite options is an important issue as it helps to support carers in their vital caring role.
4. The ACT Government will continue to work with the Australian Government in relation to national aged care reforms and future needs of older Canberrans and carers. Aged care

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respite is a Commonwealth responsibility; national aged care reforms are seeing significant new investment in the ACT, which will result in more residential aged care beds in the ACT. The ACT Government continues to work with the Australian Government to maximise its investment in delivering purpose-built respite care in the ACT, in either an existing or new facility.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Social Policy

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'S' followed by a smaller, more complex mark that appears to be 'Orr'.

Signature:

Date: 30/11/25

By the Minister for Disability, Carers and Community Services, Suzanne Orr MLA