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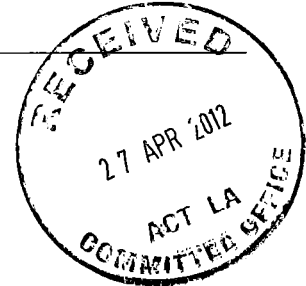
Katy Gallagher MLA

CHIEF MINISTER

MINISTER FOR HEALTH

MINISTER FOR TERRITORY AND MUNICIPAL SERVICES

MEMBER FOR MOLONGLO



Ms Caroline Le Couteur
Chairperson
Standing Committee on Public Accounts
GPO Box 1020
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Ms Le Couteur *Caroline*

I refer to the recent Standing Committee on Public Accounts hearing regarding Inquiry into Auditor-General's report No 1 of 2011: Waiting lists for elective surgery and medical treatment.

During this hearing, I committed to provide the Committee with further information on the matters listed below:

1. Confirm that the Action Plan was scheduled for tabling in March 2012;
2. Provide the percentage of patients from the ACT who have elective surgery in NSW;
3. Table the current cost weight price for elective surgeries and the details of the providers that we have tenders with for providing elective surgery through the private sector; and
4. Provide detailed information regarding Gastroenterology Unit Outpatient Clinic.

In relation to the above, I provide the following information.

1. Confirm the Action Plan was scheduled for tabling in March 2012

I confirm that this was tabled in March 2012.

2. Provide the percentage of patients from the ACT who have elective surgery in NSW

Approximately 3.7% of all ACT residents who had an elective surgery procedure in 2010-11 had their procedure in a NSW hospital.

3. Table the current cost weight price for elective surgeries and the details of the providers that we have tenders with for providing elective surgery through the private sector

The current cost weight price for elective surgery is \$5,100.

ACT LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

The Health Directorate currently holds contractual arrangements for tendering elective surgery work with the following five providers:

- Capital Day Surgical Centre;
- Calvary John James Hospital;
- National Capital Private Hospital;
- Queanbeyan Hospital; and
- Aspen Medical.

4. Provide detailed information regarding Gastroenterology & Hepatology Unit Outpatient Clinics.

The Division of Medicine Gastroenterology & Hepatology Unit (GEHU) Outpatient Consultation Clinics comprise of Gastroenterology clinics that are conducted by seven specialists supported by Registrar Clinics and Hepatology Consultation Outpatient Clinics conducted by four Specialists supported by a Registrar Clinic.

As at 8 March 2012, there was a total of 251 Gastroenterology and Hepatology outpatient referrals awaiting Clinician Triaging.

As at 8 March 2012, the first available Gastroenterology new appointment was 29 March 2012 with the first available follow up appointment also 29 March 2012.

Total patients seen between periods for Gastroenterology is:

- July 2010 to February 2011 = 2051; and
- July 2011 to February 2012 = 2168.

Overall there has been a 5.7% increase in the number of patient consultations in the outpatient setting in 2011-12 compared with the same period of 2010-11.

I trust this information is of assistance to the Committee. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further questions.

Yours sincerely


Katy Gallagher MLA
Minister for Health

25 April 2012