



# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

## FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

### SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE COVID-19 2021 PANDEMIC RESPONSE

Ms Elizabeth Lee MLA (Chair), Ms Jo Clay MLA (Deputy Chair), Ms Suzanne Orr MLA

#### ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE 11 October 2021

**Asked by The Chair, Ms Lee on 11 October 2021: The Chief Minister, Mr Barr took on notice the following question:**

[Ref: Hansard Transcript 11 October 2021 [PAGE 12]]

In relation to:

According to figures from as late as last week, East Canberra (suburbs of Pialligo, Symonston, Oaks Estate, Majura) is at first dose 52 per cent and second dose 36.3 per cent. That is significantly lower than the Territory, and even National, average for vaccination rates. What do you have to say about those rates and how much of that is a concern to you?

**Andrew Barr MLA:** The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

Typically, the Commonwealth and ACT Governments use population estimates provided by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Estimated Residential Population (ERP) when reporting vaccination coverage. Suburbs are not an ABS construct and therefore do not constitute geographic boundaries when calculating population projections.

Based on population estimates for Canberra East Statistical Area Level 3 (SA3), ACT Treasury estimates that 1,614 residents reside in this region. ABS mapping showing that this region straddles the ACT (Symonston, Oaks Estate, Majura, Pialligo, Hume and Kowen) and NSW (parts of Queanbeyan and Jerrabomberra, including HMAS Harman). The ACT therefore shares vaccination responsibility with NSW Southern Health and the Commonwealth (for HMAS Harman residents).

According to 2016 Census data, Symonston and Oaks Estate are the most populous ACT suburbs in the Canberra East (SA3) region, accounting for more than 73 percent of the ACT population living in this area. Noting the limitations of 2016 Census data, Australian Immunisation Register (AIR) vaccination data indicates that, as of 15 October 2021:

- 90 percent of people living in Oaks Estate have now received their first vaccination dose and 62 percent are fully vaccinated, and
- 67 percent of people living in Symonston have now received their first vaccination dose and 45 percent are fully vaccinated.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on the COVID-19 2021 Pandemic Response

Signature: 

Date: 19.10.21

Chief Minister, Andrew Barr MLA