



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND COMMUNITY WELLBEING

Mr Johnathan Davis MLA (Chair), Mr James Milligan MLA (Deputy Chair), Mr Michael Pettersson MLA

Inquiry into ACT Budget 2021–22 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

QoN No – 18 - HCW

JOHNATHAN DAVIS MLA: To ask the Minister for Health

Ref: Canberra Health Services, Budget paper C, page number 41, Output 1.4: Subacute and Community Services

In relation to:

1. How is the commissioning process unfolding? What does this process offer the community as a whole and what is being done to ensure that non-government stakeholders understand and trust this process?

MINISTER STEPHEN-SMITH: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

1. On 5 August 2021, the ACT Health Directorate (ACTHD) and Community Services Directorate (CSD) released the joint *Commissioning Roadmap for non-government organisation (NGO) services in the community 2021-2023* (Roadmap). The release of the Roadmap was accompanied by *The ACT Approach to Commissioning* (Approach), which was developed in consultation with NGO sector partners.

The Roadmap includes a detailed timeline for commissioning and engagement activities from now until 2023 and provides guidance on what to expect from each stage of the commissioning cycle. The Roadmap sets out the proposed commissioning pathways for each subsector, to inform the next stage of engagement. Feedback is being sought on the services that have been prioritised for commissioning early in the first year, and the proposed commissioning pathways for those services, as well as on the roadmap more broadly.

The Approach articulates a shared understanding of commissioning and captures shared principles to embed trust, accountability and transparency in the commissioning process. The Approach reflects significant consultation with NGOs over the last two years, as well as feedback collated and provided by the ACT Council of Social Service.

Guided by these documents, ACTHD is continuing engagement with NGOs on commissioning health services in the community. These engagements were delayed in August 2021 due to the Public Health Emergency lockdown, but resumed in September 2021. ACTHD remains on track to deliver against the timeframes outlined in the Roadmap.

In moving to commissioning, ACTHD is working collaboratively with stakeholders, including NGO sector partners, communities and service users to identify the services people need and how best to provide them. Through the commissioning process, ACTHD is aiming to:

- a) shape health services delivered in the community to better respond to community need, both existing and emerging;
- b) improve integration across the service system to support seamless and holistic care and transitions between services;
- c) reduce the pressure on our hospitals and other tertiary health services;
- d) improve equity in health and life outcomes for priority population groups; and
- e) improve sector sustainability through closer partnerships and better understanding the needs of our service delivery partners.

ACTHD and CSD are jointly communicating with partners regarding the commissioning process to ensure NGOs remain informed about upcoming opportunities for engagement and progress to date. Communication channels include a joint web page for commissioning information and news (www.communityservices.act.gov.au/commissioning) and a newsletter 'Commissioning Conversations' that is released every six weeks to NGO sector partners. This website also hosts the Roadmap and Approach.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Health and Community Wellbeing

Signature: 

Date: 7/11/21

By the Minister for Health, Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA