



STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS
Mr Ed Cocks MLA (Chair), Mr Michael Pettersson MLA (Deputy Chair),
Mr Andrew Braddock MLA

**Inquiry into Appropriation Bill 2023-2024 (No 2) and
Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2023-2024 (No 2)
ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE
29 February 2024**

Asked by Mr Andrew BRADDOCK MLA on 29 February 2024: Mr Andrew BARR MLA took on notice the following question(s):

[Ref: Hansard Uncorrected Proof Transcript 29 February 2024 pp 21–22]

In relation to:

MR BRADDOCK: A question regarding the Digital Health Strategy on page 71. There seems to be a couple of top-ups that need to have been required for that so I wanted an update on that project and why those additional investments were required.

Mr Barr: Sure, I will take that on notice and get the information from Health for you.

MR BRADDOCK: Thank you. I would also just be interested if there is any scope or schedule group that has happened as a result of those.

Mr Barr: Sure, take that on notice for you.

Minister for Health: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

The additional investments support the ACT Health Directorate to deliver the Digital Health Strategy 2019-2029 including the Digital Health Record (DHR) and related digital systems.

The DHR was successfully implemented in November 2022 and positions the ACT for effective modern health care. The DHR is integral to our public health system and forms part of almost every clinical workflow and engagement our community has with the public health system.

The additional investments relate to hosting and licencing costs to support a growing healthcare system and responding to a changing cyber security environment, as well as providing timely support to users of digital health services and ensuring robust data and reporting arrangements and asset refresh.

During the DHR development and implementation phase, three clinical areas were added to the scope of the program. These were pathology, radiology and dental services.

The DHR implementation experienced one scheduled delay of eight weeks, due to the unavoidable diversion of directorate resources to respond to the COVID-19 lockdown in August 2021.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

Signature:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'R. Stephen-Smith', written in a cursive style.

Date:

11/3/24

By the Minister for Health, Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA