



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2024-2045

Ms Nichole Lawder MLA (Chair) Ms Suzane Orr MLA (Deputy Chair) Miss
Laura Nuttall MLA (Member)

Appropriation Bill 2024-2025 and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative
Assembly) Bill 2024-2025

Question on Notice (Committee)

Asked by: Ms Leanne Castley MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Health

Reference: GP Liaison Officers

Date: 25/07/2024

In relation to: Canberra Health Services GP Liaison Officers

Question Lodgement Date: 25/07/2024

Date Answer Due: 02/08/2024

Question

- 1) What does it do?
- 2) How long has it been in operation?
 - a. Is it staffed by GPs?
 - b. If so: how many?
- 3) Has the government considered the use of General Practice Liaison Officers, as used in the Queensland public hospital system, to identify and address service gaps at the interface primary and hospital care – thereby improving patient outcomes?
- 4) They have been particularly successful focussing on the integration of transfer of care from general practice to specialist outpatients and return transfer of care to primary care.
- 5) Do you think that would help?

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

- 1) Canberra Health Services' GP Liaison Unit (GPLU) enhances communication and partnerships between the hospital and general practitioners to facilitate seamless health service delivery and a safe clinical handover of patients back to their primary health care provider.

The GPLU acts as a point of contact with the hospitals for GPs, practice staff and other primary health providers for anything related to their patients, hospital services, referral processes and general advice.

The GPLU is available to:

- provide clinical support over the phone for GPs;
- represent GPs on various hospital committees;

- provide input into eHealth related activities;
- organise and facilitate the quarterly GP Liaison Network Meeting;
- organise and facilitate GP education events;
- inform the GP community about CHS services via the GP Liaison newsletter;
- maintain the GP database in the hospital patient administration system; and
- liaise with relevant stakeholders across the acute care system and primary care.

2) The Canberra Hospital GP Liaison Unit has been operational since 2002.

a) Yes.

b) There is a part-time staff specialist GP Liaison Officer at Canberra Hospital and a part-time staff specialist GP Liaison Officer at North Canberra Hospital.

3) Canberra Health Services currently use GP Liaison Officers.

4) See above.

5) See above.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2024-2025

Signature:



Date:

21/8/24

By Ms Rachel Stephen-Smith Minister for Health