



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2024-2025

Ms Nicole Lawder MLA (Chair), Ms Suzanne Orr MLA (Deputy Chair),
Miss Laura Nuttall MLA

**ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE
DURING PUBLIC HEARINGS**

Asked by: Ms Leanne Castley MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Health

Reference: Uncorrected Hansard Transcript pages 26 and 27

In relation to: DHR Funding

Hearing Date: 25 July 2024

QTON lodgement date: 26 July 2024

Answer Due Date: 31 July 2024

MS CASTLEY: Sure. I have just a couple of follow-ups on DHR, and that will finish the session. If someone is able to tell me the total spend to date for DHR.

Ms Stephen-Smith: I think we will probably have to take that question on notice.

MS CASTLEY: Yes, and what the original budget was, if we could tell—and identify if there has been a bit of a blowout, additional spending that we were not expecting. expecting. I am also keen—

Ms Stephen-Smith: I think just in terms of that, and we will come back with the information, but again I would just say with a project like this there is always going to be ongoing funding that is not necessarily funded on day 1.

MS CASTLEY: I understand. No, I understand that, but just wondering what that looks like.

Ms Stephen-Smith: Yes.

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

1. The Digital Health Record (DHR) Project was allocated \$151.810 million in the 2019-20 Budget. This included \$12.76 million in recurrent expenditure beyond 2023-24.

This Project was formally completed in March 2023. There were two further appropriations explicitly related to this project up to the end of 2022-23:

- a. The ACT Pathology Laboratory Information System Replacement was funded in the 2018-19 Budget at a cost of \$22.620 million including capital (2018-19 Budget Outlook – Page 157 refers). This project was subsequently combined with the DHR Project and completed at go-live of the DHR Project.
- b. The 2022-23 Budget included \$26.070 million capital and \$10.918 million in expense for 2022-23 to support DHR-related system upgrades and ICT-related uplift as well as staff training at Calvary Public Hospital Bruce (2022-23 Budget Outlook – page 170 refers). While this funding was allocated for 2022-23, the capital upgrades were completed during the 2023-24 financial year. In addition, Canberra Health Services absorbed a range of training and implementation costs in 2022-23 in the lead-up to and following go-live.

The 2022-23 Budget also included just over \$4.5 million per annum (indexed) in ongoing expense funding associated with the DHR. In addition, the 2023-24 Budget Review included \$16.074 million in capital and \$47.981 million in expenses in 2023-24 related to continuing delivery of the Digital Health Strategy.

Overall, as at 30 June 2024, the total budget for DHR, including capital, totalled \$305 million. Subject to the finalisation of the ACTHD's 2023-24 financial statements, overall expenditure on the DHR as of 30 June 2024, including the project and business as usual program, was approximately \$323 million.

The 2024-25 Budget reflects the ongoing costs of implementing the Digital Health Strategy, including the DHR, with an additional appropriation of \$53.109 million in 2024-25 (expenses of \$49.988 million and capital of \$3.121 million). The 2024-25 Budget also includes provision for future funding, which is expected to be further considered following finalisation of the Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate assessment funded in the 2023-24 Budget Review.

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

Signature:



Date: 15/8/2025

By the Minister for Health, Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA