



Inquiry into annual and financial reports 2024–2025

Answer to question on notice

Asked by: Mr Shane Rattenbury MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Mental Health

Reference: Health - Canberra Health Services

Hearing: 11 November 2025

In relation to: Mental health services – helping patients

Question received: 19 November 2025

Answer Due: 26 November 2025

1) If someone has both alcohol *and* drug abuse problems, where should they go to get help?

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

The ACT Government currently provides approximately \$38 million in funding annually for alcohol, tobacco and other drug (ATOD) treatment, support and harm reduction services and initiatives. This includes funding for both non-government and government organisations.

The Government provides shorter-term funding for other non-government ATOD and supporting services including fixed-site drug checking, the ACT Quitline, funding to support primary care providers with a high number of opioid maintenance treatment clients, and peak body funding for the ACT Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Association (ATODA). The funding for ATODA includes funding for the [ATOD Program Directory](#), which provides advice to individuals, families and professionals on the services available that would best support them.

Canberra Health Services' Alcohol and Drug Service (ADS) delivers a comprehensive range of programs designed to support individuals experiencing alcohol and other drug-related concerns. These programs include counselling, opioid maintenance treatment, court-diversion services, hospital-based detoxification services and consultation liaison support, and various other harm reduction initiatives, all aimed at improving health outcomes and reducing harm within the community.

The ADS Intake team serves as the initial point of contact for individuals seeking information or treatment for alcohol and/or other drug use concerns in the ACT. Intake staff may undertake a comprehensive assessment to determine the most appropriate service within ADS for the

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individual's needs. Where suitable, referrals are facilitated internally, or information and advice may be provided regarding alternative external service providers in the community.

Consumers can access ADS services by contacting the intake phone line on (02) 5124 1580 during standard business hours. Referrals can also be initiated through a general practitioner, community service providers, or via self-referral.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Social Policy

Signature:



Date:

27 / 11 / 25

By the Minister for Health, Rachel Stephen-Smith