



Inquiry into Appropriation Bill 2026–2027 and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2026–2027

Answer to question on notice

Asked by: Jo Clay MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Health

Redirected to: Minister for Health Infrastructure

Reference: Health - New Birth Centre

Hearing: 29 July 2026

In relation to: Health - New Birth Centre

Question received: 31 July 2026

Answer Due: 13 August 2026

- 1) Regarding the number of birth centre rooms planned for the new North side Birth Centre- is there any update on the number of birth centre beds planned?
- 2) How many assessment rooms are planned in the birth centre?
- 3) Will this be changed if there are also more beds?
- 4) Will there be a separate room for education?
- 5) Will there be a separate room for meetings?
- 6) Will there be other spaces like staff offices/workstations? How many of each?
- 7) Will any of the other non-birthing rooms (assessment/ education /meeting rooms/ bathrooms/ cleaning spaces) also be increased if the number of birth centre bedrooms are increased?

Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

- 1) The current design for the Birth Centre includes 2 birthing rooms. This has been informed by the Clinical Services Plan and associated demand modelling, which projects capacity requirements through to 2041.

At this stage, the proposed two room model is intended to support projected demand for low risk, midwifery led Birth Centre care within the broader maternity system, while maintaining alignment with service planning, workforce considerations and the staged delivery approach of the Northside Hospital Project.

Importantly, the staged approach also seeks to preserve flexibility for future maternity service expansion over time, including consideration of future standalone Birth Centre opportunities as population growth, models of care and service demand continue to evolve beyond current projections.

- 2) The current scope of the project includes 2 Consult rooms to be used for assessment.
- 3) If the number of Birth Centre birthing rooms is increased, the associated clinical support spaces would need to be reviewed and considered in accordance with the requirements of the Australasian Health Facility Guidelines for Maternity Units and demand modelling.
- 4) There are currently two meeting rooms and a lounge area included in the scope for the Birth Centre. These rooms have not been specifically designated as either meeting or education rooms; rather they have been allocated as flexible spaces within the overall design. The rooms can be used to support a range of functions, including meetings and education activities, depending on operational requirements. In addition to the spaces briefed for the Birth Centre there are multiple meeting and consult rooms planned for the project that will also be available on a bookable basis.
- 5) See response to question 4.
- 6) Ten workstations and one office is included in the Birth Centre.
- 7) See response to question 3.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2026–2027

Signature:



Date:

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By the Minister for Health Infrastructure, Rachel Stephen-Smith