



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2011-2012

Brendan Smyth MLA (Chair), Meredith Hunter MLA (Deputy Chair)

Jeremy Hanson CSC MLA, John Hargreaves MLA, Caroline Le Couteur MLA

COMMUNITY AND INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVE GROUPS SURVEY

1. Name of organisation Heart Foundation ACT
2. Name of contact person & telephone and email contact details Tony Stubbs -
3. Please list, in order of priority, your three main areas of concern regarding the ACT 2011-2012 Budget?
 1. The ACT Government has funded a pilot for a Multidisciplinary care chronic heart failure (CHF) service for the ACT which is a great first step and we would like this to lead to future budgets include recurrent funding for a permanent service.
 2. We also hope that future budgets will support the successful Warning Signs of Heart Attack social marketing campaign undertaken by the Heart Foundation but who are not able to fund it after 2011 in the ACT.
 - 3.

Comment

4. Did you provide a budget submission to the Government?
 Yes (go to question five) No (go to question six)
5. Do you think that the Budget has addressed the issues raised in your submission?
 Yes No Comment **see below**
6. What are your views on the Budget in relation to your priority areas listed in question three?
Comment The Heart Foundation ACT is exceptionally pleased that the 'Better outcomes for people with high cardiovascular disease risk in ACT General Practice' project was funded and this will go a long way to managing the 60,000 people in the ACT living with heart disease through general practice. We are also very pleased that the ACT Government is supporting a pilot to establish a multidisciplinary care chronic heart failure service for the ACT and would hope that future budgets will include recurrent funding for the service. Chronic Heart Failure (CHF) costs our community lives, health and money. Every year an estimated 30,000 Australians receive a diagnosis of CHF. The cost has been estimated at more than \$1 billion per year. CHF patients have high rates of hospitalisation and readmission for acute

exacerbations, however, up to two-thirds of CHF related hospital admissions could be avoided by improved adherence to therapy, adequate access to medical and social support for patients and carers, and appropriate response to acute exacerbations or signs of deterioration. Access to multidisciplinary CHF care can significantly reduce the risk of hospitalisation, improve quality of life, reduce health care costs and prolong survival. We applaud the pilot of a CHF service as it has the opportunity to address an under resourcing of Chronic Heart Failure (CHF) services in the past which has meant that the management of CHF in the ACT was not best practice for many patients and often failed to meet the needs of this complex patient group.

We would also hope that funding will be allocated in future budgets to support the "Warning Signs of Heart Attack" Campaign – the aim of which is to increase awareness and knowledge of the variable warning signs of heart attack and the importance of responding quickly by calling Triple Zero (000) which is essential. Understanding the warning signs of a heart attack and the importance of getting help quickly is a critical factor in saving lives and ensuring patients have better health outcomes. Patients who are treated within an hour of the onset of symptoms double their chance of survival whereas those patients who survive, but whose treatment was delayed, often suffer heart muscle damage. This heart muscle damage puts them at high risk of further cardiac events and puts enormous, yet preventable, burden on the health system. We are asking that the ACT Government to invest in future budgets in this social marketing campaign to build on the significant work already undertaken by the Heart Foundation who will not be able to fund the campaign past 2011.

7. Are there any particular issues you would like to bring to the Committee's attention?

Yes No

8. Please provide a brief outline of the issue/s, in order of priority. **as above**

[Please append your organisation's budget analysis if available]

9. Does your organisation want to attend a hearing on 13May 2011?

Yes
 No

If you have indicated yes, the Committee Office will contact you by COB Tuesday 10 May to confirm details. (Please note however, that the Committee may not be able to hear from all groups).

Please return by 12.00 noon, Monday 9 May 2011

Thank you
