

**2022**

**THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE  
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY**

**ACT HEALTH DIRECTORATE HALF YEARLY PERFORMANCE REPORT  
(31 DECEMBER 2021)**

**Presented by  
Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA  
Minister for Health  
February 2022**



# ACT Health Directorate

## Statement of Performance

### For the Period Ended 31 December 2021

#### Output Class 1: Public Health Services

#### Output 1.1 Improved Hospital Services

The Directorate seeks to improve hospital services in collaboration with its service partners by:

- planning and delivering an ACT wide health system service model;
- managing, developing, implementing and providing advice on health services planning processes across the system;
- developing strategic policy for the health system, including working with the Commonwealth on key health improvement initiatives;
- managing demand for and supply of health services across the Territory;
- improving the health and wellbeing of the ACT population by promoting healthy behaviours and lifestyles and through ongoing monitoring and evaluation of health programs and policy;
- preventing, and providing a timely response to, potential public health incidents;
- leading the development of strategies and policies towards funding sustainability;
- leading the health workforce and clinical training strategy including building strong partnerships with key academic institutions and training providers; and
- commissioning and managing contracts for the provision of health services, including partnerships with community sector organisations, peak bodies and advocacy groups.

	<b>Original Target 2021-22</b>	<b>Actual YTD Result 2021-22</b>	<b>YTD Target</b>	<b>YTD Variance %</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<b>Accountability Indicators</b>					
a. Percentage of all Emergency Department presentations treated within clinically appropriate timeframes	70%	51%	70%	-27	1
b. Percentage of Category 1 elective surgery patients admitted for surgery within clinically recommended timeframes	100%	98%	100%	-2	
c. Percentage of Category 2 elective surgery patients admitted for surgery within clinically recommended timeframe	80%	59%	80%	-27	2
d. Percentage of Category 3 elective surgery patients admitted for surgery within clinically recommended timeframes	93%	78%	93%	-16	2

*The above Statement of Performance should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.*

#### Explanation of Measures

- a. Percentage of patients who are treated within nationally recommended waiting times for each triage category (Category 1: immediate/within 2 minutes; Category 2: within 10 minutes; Category 3: within 30 minutes; Category 4: within 60 minutes; and Category 5: within 120 minutes).
- b. Admission within 30 days is desirable for Category 1 (urgent) elective surgery patients.
- c. Admission within 90 days is desirable for Category 2 (semi-urgent) elective surgery patients.
- d. Admission within 365 days is desirable for Category 3 (non-urgent) elective surgery patients.

**ACT Health Directorate**  
**Statement of Performance**  
**For the Period Ended 31 December 2021**

**Explanation of Material Variance (>5%)**

1. While Emergency Department timeliness performance in the first half of 2021-22 remains below target, Quarter 2 results improved from the previous quarter by four percentage points with a similar number of emergency department presentations, noting the additional staffing and service pressures from the recent COVID-19 outbreak in Quarter 2. COVID-19 safety measures also remain in place to safely manage patients and may impact timeliness. Efforts to improve timeliness performance are continuing at both hospitals.
2. A significant number of Category 2 and Category 3 patients have become overdue due to COVID-19 related disruptions to elective surgery. With a focus on treating in turn, this means a significant percentage of elective surgery cases are being prioritised for overdue patients, resulting in a drop in the timeliness percentage.

# ACT Health Directorate

## Statement of Performance

### For the Period Ended 31 December 2021

#### Output 1.2 Healthy Communities

The Directorate seeks to improve the health of the ACT population through evidence-based promotion of healthy lifestyles and interventions to address the range of risk and protective factors that determine the health of our community. This includes influencing the social and environmental conditions that impact on population and individual health, comprising improved food and drink environments in schools, workplaces, food outlets and sporting clubs, monitoring of recreational and drinking water quality, food safety, communicable diseases control and general environmental health.

	Original Target 2021-22	Actual YTD Result 2021-22	YTD Target	YTD Variance %	Notes
<b>Accountability Indicators</b>					
a. Samples analysed	12,500	5,259	6,250	-16	1
b. Total number of inspections and proactive site visits of food business	2,500	681	1,250	-73	2
c. Immunisation coverage for the primary immunisation schedule measured at 1 year of age, in accordance with the Australian Childhood Immunisation Register	95%	96	95%	1	
d. Immunisation rates for vaccines in the national schedule for the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population:					
i. 12 to 15 months	≥95%	95	≥95%	-	
ii. 24 to 27 months	≥95%	93	≥95%	-2	
iii. 60 to 63 months	≥95%	95	≥95%	-	
iv. All	≥95%	95	≥95%	-	
e. Number of businesses making a pledge as part of the Healthier Choices Canberra Initiative	60	32	30	7	3

*The above Statement of Performance should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.*

#### Explanation of Measures

- a. Number of samples analysed during the period by the ACT Government Analytical Laboratory (ACTGAL).
- b. Total number of inspections where compliance has been assessed according to the ACT *Food Act 2001* and the Food Standards Code, and proactive site visits of food businesses conducted by the Health Protection Service.
- c. Percentage of all 12-month-old children in the ACT who have been fully immunised in accordance with the Australian Childhood Immunisation Register.

**ACT Health Directorate**  
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**Output 1.2 Healthy Communities (Continued)**

- d. Percentage of ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children - 12 to 15 months, 24 to 27 months, 60 to 63 months and all children who have been fully immunised in accordance with the Australian Childhood Immunisation Register.
- e. This measure is the cumulative number of businesses who have signed-up to make a pledge as part of up to the Healthier Choices Canberra Initiative. Participation in this program is voluntary and businesses can select to sign-up to the initiative and leave in the same financial year.

**Explanation of Material Variance (>5%)**

- 1. Samples numbers received by ACTGAL are outside of the organisation's control. There has been a decline in samples brought in for analysis due to ACT Lockdown and COVID-19 restrictions. Restrictions and public health orders have resulted in food establishments being closed and thus a decline in samples provided for public health analysis. Similarly, other client services such as asbestos analysis has not been required during this time. Australian Federal Police (AFP) samples for both drug seizures and Road and Traffic Authority Toxicology analysis have also declined over this period.
- 2. The ACT Lockdown was from 13 August 2021 to 15 October 2021. During this time routine food safety inspections were not conducted. Proactive inspections focused on COVID-19 compliance and did not include food safety elements. Food Safety Inspectors assisted with the COVID-19 compliance response and as a result only Food Business Registration inspections and urgent food safety complaints were investigated.
- 3. While the number of businesses that pledged to the Healthier Choices Canberra initiative is 7 percent above the pro-rata, this number only reflects two more than the year to date target. Given the impact of COVID-19, this demonstrates that businesses are keen to work with the program partner manager to develop and make their pledge during this down period.

# ACT Health Directorate

## Statement of Performance

### For the Period Ended 31 December 2021

#### Output 1.3 Mentally Healthy Communities

The Directorate supports an integrated mental health system that allows people to access appropriate treatment, care or support in a timely manner. The Directorate collaborates with stakeholders on strategic policy and service system planning, to ensure funding is targeted to provide safe, high-quality programs and services that offer seamless transition through stepped care and interventions as needed. This comprehensive response includes:

- leadership through the Office for Mental Health and Wellbeing to a whole of government approach to sustainable, effective and coordinated sector innovation;
- promotion of mental health and social wellbeing for the community;
- raising awareness of mental health, suicide and mental illness across the community to reduce stigma and discrimination, while at the individual level, encouraging people to seek help when needed;
- prevention of suicide and attempted suicide;
- early intervention to increase resilience and reduce the impact of mental health issues;
- accessible and responsive primary, secondary and tertiary mental health services to meet the needs of people with mental health concerns, including severe mental illness; and
- evaluation and research to support ongoing development and improvement of the programs and services available.

	Original Target 2021-22	Actual YTD Result 2021-22	YTD Target	YTD Variance %	Notes
<b>Accountability Indicators</b>					
a. Percentage of mental health clients with outcome measures completed	65%	86%	65%	32%	1
b. Annual progress report on the implementation of the Office for Mental Health and Wellbeing Workplan 2019-2021 published	1	1	1	-	

*The above Statement of Performance should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.*

#### Explanation of Measures

- a. Proportion of eligible mental health registered clients receiving ongoing mental health care having clinical outcome measures completed. Service settings included are inpatient, community and residential care. All age groups included. Eligible clients are people receiving mental health services on an ongoing basis, have a case manager assigned and are in contact with mental health services in the reporting period.
- b. The annual progress report on the implementation of the office for Mental Health and Wellbeing Workplan is completed as a standalone component of Directorate's Annual Report.

#### Explanation of Material Variance (>5%)

1. Performance against this indicator is better than target due to a continued focus from clinical services on completing outcome measures for eligible consumers.

# ACT Health Directorate

## Statement of Performance

### For the Period Ended 31 December 2021

#### Output 1.4 Continuous Improvement of the ACT Public Health System

The Directorate provides strategic leadership and direction for the health system through development and administration of policies and legislation.

This includes:

- developing Territory-wide plans for health services, workforce and major capital investment;
- driving service improvement and innovation through a collaborative policy cycle;
- providing responsive policy advice to government reflecting the changing nature of the health sector;
- supporting delivery of high quality health services by building and maintaining intergovernmental partnerships; and
- conducting research programs that translate research evidence into improved healthcare.

	Original Target 2021-22	Actual YTD Result 2021-22	YTD Target	YTD Variance %	Notes
<b>Accountability Indicators</b>					
a. Biannual Report of progress in implementing the recommendations arising from the Independent Review into the Workplace Culture of ACT Public Health Services tabled in the Legislative Assembly	2	1	1	-	
b. ACT Public Health Services Quarterly Performance Report	4	3	2	25	1

*The above Statement of Performance should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.*

#### Explanation of Measures

- a. The Biannual Report of progress on implementing the recommendations arising from the Independent Review into the Workplace Culture of ACT Public Health Services tabled in the Legislative Assembly.
- b. The number of ACT Public Health Service Quarterly Performance Reports published.

#### Explanation of Material Variance (>5%)

1. The Third Quarter 2020-21 report was published on 9 July 2021. The Fourth Quarter 2020-21 and First Quarter 2021-22 reports were published on 22 December 2021.