



# 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 Nicole Lawder MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Health

Reference: Uncorrected Hansard Transcript [Pages 41 – 42]

In relation to: Asset purchases

Hearing Date: 25 July 2024

QTON lodgement date: 26 July 2024

Answer Due Date: 31 July 2024

**THE CHAIR:** That was your substantive question. I will have a question. Again, it is about health spending. In the budget outlook, the financial expenditure statements in chapter 4, table 4.2.7 show health-related asset purchases. From 24-25 up till 27-28, purchases are falling from \$305 million to \$249 million, \$56 million over four years. Can you explain why that is a bit of a fall in asset purchases?

**Ms Stephen-Smith:** I am very sorry, Ms Lawder, but can you give us the page reference again?

**THE CHAIR:** 287 of the outlook.

**Ms Stephen-Smith:** The outlook. You are asking about—

**THE CHAIR:** Asset purchases. Table 4.2.7. It is possibly from an online version, which may be slightly different—

**Ms Stephen-Smith:** No, I am with it now. Yes.

**Mr Peffer:** Thank you, Chair. I think we will have to take the specifics of that on notice, but I suspect what you are seeing there in terms of the jump from one year to the next and then back down would reflect the acquisition, so essentially the transfer of assets that occurred on 3 July related to acquisition of a range of hospital buildings at the Bruce campus.

**Ms Stephen-Smith:** There may also be some assets associated with the opening of the critical services building that were purchased that year, but we will take on notice what the answer is.

**THE CHAIR:** You could take that on notice and provide a breakdown of those purchases over the forward estimate years as well—what assets were purchased then and the ones over the forward estimate year.

**MS RACHEL STEPHEN-SMITH:** The answer to the Member’s question is as follows:

**Table 4.2.7: General Government Sector purchases of non-financial assets by function (\$'000)**

	2023-24 Budget	2023-24 Estimated Outcome	2024-25 Budget	2025-26 Estimate	2026-27 Estimate	2027-28 Estimate
General public services	116,603	65,488	70,943	84,592	54,623	49,740
Public order and safety	47,159	28,433	44,596	52,175	50,403	29,091
Economic affairs	2,009	2,725	3,270	2,591	3,028	2,476
Environmental protection	32,317	20,599	26,201	23,122	40,911	51,945
Housing and community amenities	26,423	478	4,007	32,127	189,785	55,816
Health	324,528	361,475	305,254	289,635	236,430	248,555
Recreation, culture and religion	25,335	8,798	8,667	75,534	167,713	245,136
Education	189,873	184,887	218,063	235,920	250,473	198,136
Social protection	1,247	5,065	6,284	13,663	41,659	70,016
Transport	254,760	373,694	382,059	330,050	303,807	226,091
<b>Purchases of non-financial assets</b>	<b>1,020,254</b>	<b>1,051,642</b>	<b>1,069,344</b>	<b>1,139,409</b>	<b>1,338,832</b>	<b>1,177,002</b>

**Note:** Numbers may not add due to rounding.

### Methodology

- The categorisation of purchases by function are consistent with the Classification of the Functions of Government Australia methodology. This classification uses a specific methodology which can differ from thematic or structural presentation elsewhere in the budget papers.
- The total purchases by function are reflective of the consolidated General Government Sector (GGS) Payments for non-financial assets in the Statement of Cash Flows.
- The allocation of purchases against functions is based on a proportionate model of agency purchases and also includes the allocation of central provisions.

### Explain why that’s a fall in asset purchases

- There are a number of time-limited initiatives which have funding in 2024-25 and not in the forward estimates. This includes the Canberra Hospital Expansion, Implementation of the Canberra Hospital Master Plan, the Garran Surge Centre Deconstruction and Oval Remediation, and Enabling Works for the new Northside Hospital.

### Provide a breakdown of those purchases, over the forward estimate years as well

- This is not possible due to the inclusion of provisions which may be commercially sensitive.

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

Signature: 

Date: 21/8/24

By the Minister for Health, Rachel Stephen-Smith