LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

COMMITTEE SUPPORT

QToN No. 19

Standing Committee on Health and Community Wellbeing

Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2020-2021
ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE
[2 March 2022]

Asked by **MR DAVIS** on [2 March 2022]: [Mr Dave Peffer] took on notice the following question(s):

[Ref: Hansard Proof Transcript [2 March 2022 [PAGE 5-6]]

In relation to:

THE CHAIR: Right. I have got a couple of quick follow up questions for you, Mr Peffer. But hopefully a bit of a lightening round, just for those playing at home.

How many nurses are currently employed by ACT Health? Not positions. How many are currently employed?

Mr Peffer: You are looking for a head count?

THE CHAIR: Yes, please.

Mr Peffer: We might have to take that on notice. We would be able to provide that—

THE CHAIR: Okay. And—

Ms Stephen-Smith: Could I just clarify, Mr Davis, are you talking about just Canberra Health Services across the ACT public hospital system or including the health directorate as well, where there are a lot of nurses employed in various different roles, including supporting the digital health record, not providing frontline services? So, are you talking about frontline nursing positions in our hospitals and health services?

THE CHAIR: I appreciate that, minister, yes. That clarification is important. Yes, frontline—those who are providing healthcare on a daily basis? Rather than—I am also interested then in the difference between the positions versus the head count? I mean it is only anecdotal, but of course we have heard of some instances of nurses leaving over the past 12 months. It is good to hear from you, Mr Peffer, that there are some coming out of retirement keen to fill those positions. But I would like a little bit more information to clarify are those coming back to fill positions as least replacing those who are leaving?

Ms Stephen-Smith: Sorry, Mr Peffer just has a response to the question on notice earlier around nursing numbers. Sorry, I forgot.

Mr Peffer: Chair, so the question around frontline nursing numbers across the territory that was previously asked, so the number is 4,321.

THE CHAIR: Perfect. That is the current head count?

Mr Peffer: That is right.

THE CHAIR: Do we have the number of positions?

Mr Peffer: Sorry, that is FTE, full-time equivalent, yes.

THE CHAIR: Okay, and did we have the number of positions to go with that?

Mr Peffer: I do not have the number of positions, but we can come back to that.

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

Canberra Health Services

Available (funded) positions FTE	Filled positions - FTE	Filled positions - headcount
2,975 - as at January 2022	3,244 - as at January 2022	3,821 - as at January 2022

Calvary Public Hospital Bruce (CPHB)

Available (funded) positions FTE	Filled positions - FTE	Filled positions - headcount
727 - as at January 2022	705 - as at January 2022	993 – as at January 2022

Queen Elizabeth II Family Centre (QEII)

Available (funded) positions FTE	Filled positions - FTE	Filled positions - headcount
22.1 – as at March 2022	14.18 – as at March 2022	18 – as at March 2022

** QEII has recruited 3.46 FTE but they have not been on-boarded as yet. QEII have 0.84 FTE on maternity leave due to return within the next quarter.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Health and Community Wellbeing

Signature:

Date: 11/4/22

By the Minister for Health, Rachel Stephen-Smith