



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2022-2023

Mr James Milligan MLA (Chair), Mr Andrew Braddock MLA (Deputy Chair),
Dr Marisa Paterson MLA

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

MS LEANNE CASTLEY MLA: To ask the Minister for Health

Ref: Health, ACT Health

In relation to: Paediatric specialists

For Question On Notice 675 (30th of June, 2021) you provided information that there were 110 specialists within the division of Women, Youth and Children division. This covered VMO's, specialists and senior specialists.

- 1) What is the current amount of paediatric specialists?
 - a) From the number above how many are on leave or suspended?
 - b) How many have been on Long Service Leave for longer than 30 days?
 - c) How many of the number in question (1) are VMO' and what are their average weekly hours?
 - d) Are there any specialists that are due to retire or are leaving CHS? If so, how many and what is their speciality?
 - e) Provide a list of each service within the Women, Youth and Children division and how many specialists of the specialists from question (1) work within each service. Provide a breakdown within the service whether the specialist is a VMO, specialist or senior specialist, on leave for more than 30 days/due to retire/suspended.

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

- 1) As of 20 July 2022, Canberra Health Services (CHS) had a headcount of 20 Paediatric Specialists. Please note this number does not include any Visiting Medical Officers (VMO) who may have undertaken work and/or sessions during this period. In addition, CHS has nine VMO contracted Paediatric Specialists. A number of CHS specialists also provide paediatric care but are not paid as part of paediatric services.
 - a) Of the 20 Paediatric Specialists noted above, two are on planned leave (one is on Maternity Leave, and one is on Annual Leave). There is no unplanned leave recorded as of 20 July 2022 for any Paediatric Specialist at CHS. CHS do not report on VMO leave.
 - b) Within the financial year 2021-22, one Paediatric Specialist (Surgery) undertook a period of leave greater than 30 days to proceed on Long Service Leave.

- c) CHS has nine VMO Paediatric Specialists. VMO's negotiate individual contracts for service provision.
- d) No.
- e) The below table lists each speciality area that a Paediatric Specialist works within, including VMOs. These are dedicated paediatric speciality areas within Centenary Hospital for Women and Children, excluding Cardiology and Neurology which are outreach services provided by Sydney Children's Hospital Network.

Specialty Area	VMO	Staff Specialist	Snr Staff Specialist	Leave
Cardiology	3			
Neurology	3			
Gastroenterology		1		
General Paediatrics		4	1	
Endocrinology		1	2	
Respiratory	1			
Community Paediatrics		4		
Child At Risk Unit		4		
Surgery	2	3		2

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2022-2023

Signature:



Date:

14/9/22

By the Minister for Health, Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA