



Inquiry into annual and financial reports 2024–2025

Answer to question taken on notice

Asked by: Ms Leanne Castley MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Health

In relation to: Canberra Hospital Helipad Design- Rotor Wash

Hearing: 18 November 2025

Uncorrected Proof Transcript p 28

Transcript provided: 27 November 2025

Answer Due: 4 December

MS CASTLEY: Okay. And is it true that the parking pad has been built too close to a building wall, which creates a rotor wash, and it renders it unsafe? Have you heard that?

Ms Geraghty: I have not heard that. But happy to take the question on notice.

Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

The Helicopter Landing Site (HLS) is located on Level 9 at the northern end of Building 5 at Canberra Hospital.

This location was selected to ensure safe take-off and landing operations, while minimising flight paths over nearby residential areas.

The proximity of the HLS to the building edge is consistent with established design practices for hospital heliports. Similar arrangements exist at other major hospitals in New South Wales, including Hornsby Hospital, St George Hospital, and the Royal North Shore Hospital.

To ensure compliance and safety, the contractor (Multiplex) engaged a specialist aviation consultant (AviPro) to validate the location and design against Australian and international standards, including:

- ICAO Annex 14, Vol II, Heliports;
- US FAA Advisory Circular AC 150/5390-2C, Heliport Design, (covers both operational and design criteria, particularly for hospital-based HLSs in Chapter 4, Hospital Heliports);
- Australian Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) Civil Aviation Advisory Publication (CAAP) 92-2 (2) Guidelines for the Establishment and Operation of Onshore Helicopter Landing

Sites. (covers essentially operational specifications only and is produced around European commercial helicopter airport-based operations);

- National Airports Safeguarding Framework Guideline H – Protecting Strategically Important Helicopter Landing Sites; and
- NSW Ministry of Health (MoH) Guidelines for Hospital Helicopter Landing Sites in NSW, reissued on 1 July 2020.

During HLS commissioning, Multiplex, AviPro, and Infrastructure Canberra deployed specialised equipment to measure noise levels and rotor wash impact.

Testing was conducted across multiple locations, including outdoor areas, indoor spaces, and the building façade. The results indicated minimal rotor wash impact, confirming that the proximity of the HLS to the building edge did not present safety or operational concerns.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Social Policy

Signature:



By the Minister for Health, Ms Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA

Date:

31/2/25