



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 Utilisation

Hearing: 18 November 2025

Uncorrected Proof Transcript p 27

Transcript provided: 27 November 2025

Answer Due: 4 December 2025

MS CASTLEY: Thank you. Minister, in August last year the Helideck was opened at the new Critical Services Building with the helipads to accommodate two helicopters, a landing site and a parking site. What was the expected utilisation of the two pads when the helideck was designed? And how does this compare with the actual utilisation?

Ms Stephen-Smith: My recollection, when we discussed the design, was that the parking site was intended to be only if required, it is not intended to be in use on a regular basis. But I might hand over to Ms Geraghty, if she has an answer for you.

Ms Geraghty: Sorry, minister, I cannot remember. But I am happy to take the question on notice.

Ms Stephen-Smith: Yes, we will take the detail on notice then.

MS CASTLEY: Sure. Ms Geraghty: And I will check with CHS about the actual figures.

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

There is a single Helicopter Landing Site (HLS) and an adjacent parking position located on Level 9 at the northern end of Building 5 at Canberra Hospital.

In 2019 Capital Region Retrieval Services undertook a data analysis to understand the current helicopter operations and the projected growth out to 2030.

The data indicated an average of 2.2 helicopter movements per day (take-off and landing) in 2015 and 3.5 helicopter movements per day in 2019. Utilising projection methodologies, it was projected to increase to 5.8 movements per day in 2030.

The helipad was designed and built with aviation consultants AviPro and input from all key stakeholders including Toll Helicopters and NSW Ambulance Service (NSWAS). The investment in the Canberra Hospital Expansion provided for a helipad with HLS and parking bay, as well as lift towers with the capacity to move heavy aircraft parts onto the pad in the event of a breakdown.

OFFICIAL

Canberra Health Services (CHS) does not hold the current utilisation data for the helipad as this is held by Toll Helicopters and Neonatal Emergency Transport Services (NETS) ACT.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Social Policy

Signature:



Date:

11/12/25

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