



Inquiry into endometriosis and other pelvic pain conditions

Answer to question taken on notice

Asked by: Ms Chiaka Barry MLA

Addressed to: RANZCOG

In relation to: Training position numbers

Hearing: 14 May 2026

Uncorrected Proof Transcript p 57

Transcript provided: 25 May 2026

Answer Due: 1 June 2026

Dr Mende took on notice the following question(s):

MS BARRY: You mentioned that training positions need to be funded by state governments. Do you know how many training positions we are funding in the ACT?

Dr Mende: I would need to double-check. Can I take that on notice?

MS BARRY: That is fine.

Dr Mende: I can get back to you on exactly how many training positions we have, and I can tell you what levels those training positions are.

RANZCOG: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

RANZCOG can confirm the following information regarding obstetrics and gynaecology (O&G) registrar positions within Canberra Health Services (CHS):

- In 2023, the CHS O&G Department had 14 registrars, comprising of 13 accredited registrars and one unaccredited registrar. The unaccredited registrar subsequently departed, leaving 13 registrars, of whom two were seconded to North Canberra Hospital and one to Wagga Wagga, resulting in ten registrars based at Canberra Hospital.
- In 2026, the CHS O&G Department has 30 registrars, comprising of:
 - Seven accredited senior registrars
 - Seven unaccredited registrars functioning in senior registrar roles
 - 13 RANZCOG Integrated Training Program (ITP) accredited registrars
 - Three unaccredited registrars functioning in junior registrar roles

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Of these 30, three are seconded to North Canberra Hospital and two are undertaking rural secondments.

RANZCOG notes that, while there has been a substantial increase in registrar numbers from 2023 to 2026, the availability of training positions is not determined solely by the College's training capacity.

The availability of trainee employment is directly dependent on funded registrar positions. Without funded positions, trainees cannot be employed. The number of registrar positions that can be supported is also contingent on the capacity of health services to provide a sufficient clinical workload, training opportunities and supervision. Where these elements are inadequate, it is not possible to ensure the development of a competent and well-trained workforce. Expanding gynaecology operating lists would increase training exposure opportunities and support additional training positions. Key barriers to increasing registrar numbers include a combination of limited operating opportunities to acquire the skills required for advanced laparoscopic surgery, a shortage of appropriately trained surgeons available and willing to provide supervision, and restricted access to dedicated operating theatre lists.

These challenges reflect both workforce and system constraints. In particular, insufficient surgical exposure due to limited access to gynaecology operating lists, together with the lack of funded training and consultant positions in advanced endoscopic surgery, significantly restricts the ability to expand registrar numbers and develop subspecialty expertise within the ACT.


RANZCOG therefore emphasises that workforce expansion requires a coordinated, system-level approach, including:

- Continued investment in funded training and staff specialist positions
- Expansion of gynaecology theatre lists and procedural capacity to support both service delivery and training
- Improved support for trainee supervisors, including recognition of the time and expertise required for high-quality training
- Ensuring sufficient clinical load and case complexity to maintain robust and comprehensive training experiences

ACT Health must invest in attracting high-quality surgeons to Canberra to support workforce development and training. The presence of experienced surgeons is essential to attract senior registrars to train locally.

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Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Social Policy

Signature: 

Date: 11/06/2026

By authorising officer Dr Nisha Khot, President