

Ministerial Brief

To:	Minister for Health	Tracking No.: 25/0440506
Date:	01/12/2025	
From:	Gillian Geraghty, Director- General	
Subject:	Northside Hospital Project – Early Works and Birth Centre update	
Critical Date:	Due in the normal course of business	
Critical Reason:	NA	

Recommendations

That you:

1. **Note** the information contained in this brief.

Noted / Please Discuss

Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA  3./1./26

Minister's Feedback

Thank you for the fairly detailed discussion of issues including the birth centre options in December. Please provide further advice on the current status of the engineering building and how this will be replaced (as required), as I am not really clear from this brief. Thank you

[illegible]

Birth Centre

6. In March 2023 the ACT Government passed a motion in the Legislative Assembly to consider a Birth Centre as part of the Northside Hospital Project. The ACT Health Directorate (ACTHD) engaged stakeholders to deliver a feasibility study investigating different Birth Centre options in October 2024. The key recommendations of the study were:

- Freestanding Birth Centre separated from the main hospital was not supported.
- Stand-alongside Birth Centre within the main hospital was supported.
- Stand-alone Birth Centre connected to the main hospital was supported.

7. The North Canberra Hospital (NCH) currently has eight birthing suites. The endorsed Clinical Services Plan (CSP) requires six birthing suites by 2031, and eight in total by 2041. The total number of suites to be provided in the Birth Centre will be tested with CHS to ensure an appropriate split that can be supported by an efficient staffing model and based on the forecast demand.

8. The project team have developed two design responses:

- A stand alongside service within the ground floor of the new main building.
- A stand alone service utilising the current ICU building at NCH once vacated following relocation of ICU into the new main building.

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- A series of horizontal black bars of varying lengths, representing redacted text. The bars are stacked vertically, with some having small gaps or offsets from the left margin. The lengths vary significantly, with some bars spanning most of the width of the page and others being much shorter. The bars are solid black and have sharp edges.

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 [REDACTED]
 [REDACTED]
 [REDACTED]

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
29. Following ongoing internal engagement sessions, a briefing will be held with key stakeholders to provide them with the planning to date, implications and options. Following this initial session, co-design sessions will be planned for early 2026.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

32. The media has extensively reported the outcome of the feasibility study for a stand-alone Birth Centre as part of the Northside Hospital Project.
33. iCBR has communicated with the stakeholders who were involved in the feasibility study that consultation will occur later in the planning stage.

Signatory Name: Gillian Geraghty

Phone: MS Teams

Attachments

Attachment	Title
Attachment A	Birth Centre design options and Early Works update