



**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**  
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2014-2015  
Brendan Smyth MLA (Chair), Mary Porter MLA (Deputy-Chair),  
Giulia Jones MLA, Yvette Berry MLA



**ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE  
DURING PUBLIC HEARINGS**

Asked by Mrs Jones on 20 June 2014: Dr Brown took on notice the following question:

Ref HD-No 9: Hansard Transcript 20 June 2014, page 82

In relation to programs in the community that improve mobility and target falls prevention

MRS JONES: Would you be able to provide us with that data of the fractured hip data?

Dr Brown: I can again read it to you. From 2005 6 it was 5.5 per 1000 over the age of 75 and then subsequent years 5.4, 5.7, 5.5. It was seven in 2009 10 5.3, 6.6 and 5.5 in 12 13 and we do actually have some programs in the community that we run that are around improving mobility for elderly people or older people, and aimed at reducing the risk of falls.

MRS JONES: Can you maybe on notice give us the details of what those programs are?

Dr Brown: Sure.

**Katy Gallagher MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:--**

The Falls and Falls Injury Prevention Service is a component of the Rehabilitation, Aged and Community Care Division in the Health Directorate. The service works with individuals and community organisations to raise awareness of how to prevent falls in older adults who have been identified as at risk of falls.

The service provides clinic assessment and follow up home visits to people at risk of falling in the community through a multidisciplinary approach which includes input from physiotherapy, occupational therapy and nursing.

Identified strategies used by the Falls Injury Prevention Service include:

- Providing individual advice and information during clinic assessments.
- Community based multidisciplinary assessment clinics.
- Allied Health home visit assessments and follow-up.
- Prevention and early intervention strategies for at risk individuals.
- Providing and developing local community education activities and resources.
- Education programmes for health care staff and aged care service providers.

Eligibility criteria for attending the Falls and Falls Injury Prevention service are:

1. ACT residents
2. Medically stable
3. Consent to a Falls' assessment
4. Older adults who are at high to moderate risk of falling or have a history of falls. 'Older adults' are those aged 65 years or over, or 55 years and over for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders people.

Previous clients of the Falls Injury Prevention Service who have had a clinic assessment within the previous 12 months may be re-referred if there has been a significant increase in their falls injury risks identified by the referrer.

Clients requiring a Falls Clinic assessment with the Falls multidisciplinary team (Nurse or Occupational Therapy and Physiotherapy) who have a previously diagnosed condition and are under the age of 65 may be referred. These referrals will be assessed individually by the service team in consultation with the line manager and the referring clinician to ensure clinic assessment is appropriate.

People are followed up at 6 weeks and 6 months after attending an assessment clinic.

A range of programmes that target mobility and balance are also provided in our specific clinics within the RACC Community Rehabilitation Team. These clinics include a Parkinson's Disease Clinic and a therapy group for people with neurological conditions. Similarly to above, these clinics provide targeted interventions specifically to help mobility and balance and hence falls prevention.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2014-2015

Signature:



Date:

30.6.14

By the Minister for Health, Katy Gallagher MLA