



**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**  
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS  
Vicki Dunne MLA (Chair), Tara Cheyne MLA (Deputy Chair)  
Nicole Lawder MLA, Bec Cody MLA



Inquiry into the Appropriation Bill 2019-2020 (No 2)

**ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

*The Committee asks ministers to respond within 5 working days of receiving the QoNs, where Day One is the first working day after receipt.*

Mrs Vicki Dunne MLA: To ask the Minister for Health

In relation to: SPIRE

1. How much funding is Canberra Health Services providing to Major Projects to develop the SPIRE project?
2. What proportion of that budget will go towards SPIRE overheads such as executive salaries and offices?
3. Has the six million dollars that wasn't spent from the 2018-19 budget now been rolled over?
4. What will this money be used for?
5. Why didn't SPIRE have a project director before it was transferred to Major Projects?
6. Since the transfer of responsibility to Major Projects, what now is the target delivery date for SPIRE?

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

1. The full amount of the remaining capital appropriation for the SPIRE Project was transferred to Major Projects Canberra from the ACT Health Directorate. No funding for the Project is being provided to Major Projects Canberra by Canberra Health Services.
2. The capital budget for the SPIRE Project contains an allowance of approximately 4 per cent to cover the Major Projects Canberra costs associated with management of the project. This allowance is consistent with the model for the delivery of all capital initiatives provided for in the ACT Budget.
3. Yes. The rollover of undisbursed SPIRE Project appropriation from 2018-19 was finalised on 5 March 2020, with the remaining unspent capital appropriation transferred to Major Projects Canberra at that time.
4. These funds will be used for design and planning work in relation to the SPIRE Project and for the delivery of enabling works.

5. As previously advised in the response to a Question Taken on Notice from the Legislative Assembly on the 13 August 2019, it was always intended to establish a project team focused on the delivery of SPIRE once the business case was successful. This team had not yet been established when Major Projects Canberra was announced - meaning there were few people to transfer to a new agency focused solely on delivery of SPIRE.

ACT Health's infrastructure team and executives, including facility and service planners all worked on the SPIRE project. This team consisted of up to 12 people at any given time. These staff were also working on other projects simultaneously, including the centenary hospital project. A team of five health planners and clinical liaison officers transferred into the SPIRE project team under Major Projects Canberra from the ACT Health Directorate.

6. The SPIRE Project remains on track for construction of the new facility to be completed by mid-2024.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

Signature:



Date:

19/3/20

By the Minister for Health, Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA