



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2023-2024

Mr Mark Parton MLA (Chair), Ms Jo Clay MLA (Deputy Chair),
Mr Michael Pettersson MLA

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

MS LEANNE CASTLEY MLA: To ask the Minister for Health

Ref: Budget Paper C, Page 57

Hearing Date: 19/07/2023

In relation to: Calvary Hospital

- 1) Would you be able to outline the dates and time of all correspondence between Calvary and ACT Health and CHS regarding redundancy payments and the takeover of Calvary?
 - a. Would you be able to outline the topic of the correspondence mentioned in 1?
 - b. Could you release all the correspondence between Calvary and ACT health/CHS regarding redundancy payments following the Calvary takeover?
- 2) What was the date and time redundancy payment plans were made available to Calvary staff?
- 3) How many complaints did (a) Calvary (b) CHS (c*) ACT Health receive about the redundancy payment following the takeover of Calvary?
- 4) How many questions did (a) Calvary (b) CHS (c*) ACT Health receive from Calvary staff about the redundancy payment following the takeover of Calvary?
- 5) How much correspondence did (a) Calvary (b) CHS (c*) ACT Health receive from Calvary staff about the redundancy payment following the takeover of Calvary?
 - a. If it does not fall into the category of questions or correspondence, could you provide a description of the nature of the correspondence?
- 6) What work was complete before the takeover was announced around the redundancy payments by CHS and ACT Health?
 - a. Is it possible to get an FTE or hours worked figure for the time spent on organising redundancy payments?

MINISTER STEPHEN-SMITH MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows: –

- 1) There has been a high volume of correspondence between Calvary Health Care (Calvary) and ACT Health Directorate (ACTHD) and Canberra Health Services (CHS) regarding the *Health Infrastructure Enabling Act 2023* which includes acquisition of Calvary Public Hospital Bruce (CPHB) and the transfer of operations to CHS, including in regard to redundancies.

- a. Correspondence has occurred on multiple topics associated with the implementation of the *Health Infrastructure Enabling Act 2023*.
 - b. As noted above, there has been a high volume of correspondence. It would not be appropriate to disclose specific details and release of this correspondence without Calvary's explicit consent. Some correspondence would be considered legal- or commercial-in-confidence. Correspondence regarding redundancy payments may also include personal information that is inappropriate for release. Release of this information would require detailed consideration.
- 2) As has been publicly stated many times, redundancy was a matter for Calvary Health Care to discuss with its employees. The ACT Government did not provide redundancy payment plans to CPHB staff. From the ACT Government's perspective, the transition was intended to retain the whole eligible workforce. Employees were invited to transition to CHS and keep working at the hospital.
 - 3) Whilst it is not possible to comment on complaints made to Calvary, CHS and ACTHD has not received any formal complaints about redundancy payments following the acquisition of CPHB. The Transition Team continues to work through any issues or questions raised by individuals. There have been a small number of queries raised by or on behalf of people who did not progress a discussion about redundancy with Calvary Health Care prior to acquisition day and each has been considered by the Transition Team.
 - 4) Whilst it is not possible to comment on questions received by Calvary, CHS and ACTHD advise that the Territory's Transition Team called more than 200 CPHB staff members on behalf of Calvary prior to the acquisition. These staff members had contacted Calvary expressing an interest in redundancy in response to a Calvary survey and directly to a Calvary specific email address. There were approximately 40 calls following acquisition, many of which were following up on previous calls.
 - 5) As above, the Transition Team called CPHB staff who had advised Calvary they were interested in redundancies. These calls were undertaken by the Transition Team to support Calvary and the individuals involved. In addition to phone calls made, emails from CPHB staff involved were received and responded to by the Transition Team.
 - 6) Circumstances for potential redundancy were considered as part of drafting the *Health Infrastructure Enabling Act 2023* and the associated Regulation 2023.
 - a. It would not be possible to identify time spent by CHS or ACTHD team members on responding to individual questions and broader discussions with Calvary Health Care about redundancy payments.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2023-2024

Signature:



Date:

16/8/23

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