

**2024**

**THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE  
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY**

**TENTH ASSEMBLY**

**Standing Committee on Public Accounts - Report 19 - Inquiry into Auditor-General  
recommendations for Reports 5/2017, 7/2019 and 6/2020 - Government Response**

**Presented by  
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February 2024**



**ACT Government Response to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts Inquiry into responses to Auditor-General recommendations for reports 5/2017, 7/2019 and 6/2020**

Recommendation	Response	Current Status
<p>Recommendation 1 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government provide a report on its use of sustainable materials in road or path construction to the Assembly before the end of the financial year.</p>	<p><b>Existing Government Policy</b> TCCS reports on the amount of recycled content embedded in road works and paths through the TCCS Annual Report under Ecologically Sustainable Development.</p>	<p>TCCS is providing ongoing annual reporting.</p>
<p>Recommendation 2 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government continue to collect and analyse data on instances and reasons for non-take up of first home visits and health and development checks, and report on these to the Assembly before the end of the financial year.</p>	<p><b>Agreed</b></p> <p><i>Home Visits</i> MACH has collected 12 months of data on the <i>instances</i> and reasons of non-take up of first home visits</p> <p><i>Health and Development Checks</i> Instances and reasons for non-take up of child health and development checks are not routinely collected by MACH. Clients exercise choice when accessing the MACH service, a GP, paediatricians or private services.</p>	<p><i>Home Visits</i> Maternal and Child Health (MACH) at Canberra Health Services (CHS) prioritises the initial home visit for all families in the ACT.</p> <p>a) Communication and coordination with maternity services and private midwives are embedded in MACH workflows.</p> <p>b) The data collection found that 3 per cent of referrals did not access first home visits. Non-take-up of first home visit reasons could include being non-eligible and not wishing to pay for the service, preferring to see their GP, and being unable to contact.</p> <p>c) If a client declines a home visit or the environment poses a safety risk for the nurse to visit, women will be offered a clinic appointment.</p> <p>d) DHR currently does not have the capability to capture ‘non-take-up reasons’ and this would need to be explored with the DHR team to determine if it is possible to collect this data.</p> <p><i>Health and Development Checks</i> MACH remains unable to provide insights into the factors leading to the non-attendance of health and development</p>

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		checks because of the multiple provider options which consumers may elect to use.
<p>Recommendation 3</p> <p>The Committee recommends that the ACT Government liaise with the Australian Digital Health Agency to consider ways to improve privately practising midwives' access to Digital Health Records.</p>	<p><b>Noted</b></p> <p>The Australian Digital Health Agency is working on a national project to develop a Digital Pregnancy Health Record as part of the National Children's Digital Health Collaborative. Once established this will enable privately practising midwives' access to nationally available records.</p>	<p>Prior to COVID-19, there were workshops with pregnant women in Queensland to design the Digital Pregnancy Health Record. ACTHD will work with the Australian Department of Health and Ageing and the Australian Digital Health Agency to understand the status and progress of this work.</p>
<p>Recommendation 4</p> <p>The Committee recommends that the ACT Government report to the Assembly on the pilot program of running MACH clinics alongside immunisation clinics before the end of the financial year.</p>	<p><b>Agreed</b></p> <p>The pilot program of running MACH clinics alongside early childhood immunisation clinics occurred from 9 June to 28 July 2023.</p>	<p>The 'Ask MACH' pilot was established to evaluate the feasibility of co-locating MACH and immunisation clinics. The pilot ran at two clinic locations over an eight week period in 2023. The final evaluation report has been completed and submitted to the CHS Quality and Safety team. The pilot program was accessed by a small number of clients, and did not demonstrate an efficient utilisation of staff clinical time. There were additional challenges obtaining clinical space in the community. Considering these constraints, the pilot program was ceased and alternative solutions are being implemented to meet the needs of ACT consumers.</p> <p>Starting in early 2024, MACH will run the Early Parenting Support (EPS) phone line within the community setting. The EPS registered nurse/midwife will be located within a community centre and be available to provide opportunistic appointments for families whilst also manning the EPS line. When space allows, these appointments will co-locate with immunisation clinics, ensuring that MACH support is available for families</p>

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		attending immunisation appointments as needed. This initiative aims to enhance access to same-day appointments and provides the opportunity for timely health care support for all families in the ACT.
<p>Recommendation 5 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government publish the Model of Care for the MACH nurses and midwives by the end of calendar year 2023.</p>	<p><b>Agreed</b> The draft MACH Model of Care was finalised for consultation and sent to Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation (ANMF) in November 2023.</p>	<p>Consultation occurred in November 2023. The Model of care was amended following staff and ANMF feedback. The Model of Care was finalised and published on the Canberra Health Services HealthHub for staff to access in early January 2024.</p>