



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2024-2025

Ms Nicole Lawder MLA (Chair), Ms Suzanne Orr MLA (Deputy Chair),
Miss Laura Nuttall MLA

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Asked By: Mr Ed Cocks MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Mental Health

Reference: Budget Paper C, ACT Health Directorate Infrastructure Program – Work In Progress, page 21

Hearing Date: 23/07/2024

In relation to: ACT Health Directorate and Safe Haven

QON lodgement Date: 23/07/2024

Answer Due date: 31/07/2024

The additional Safe Haven was estimated to be completed in March 2025. But this years Budget - in Budget Statement C page 21 - ACT Health Directorate Infrastructure Program – Work In Progress, shows the completion date has been delayed by 5 months to August 2025. The Minister has separately indicated her intention for Safe Havens to be established in each of the town centres.

- 1) What modelling or analysis been undertaken regarding the viability, demand, or potential for a Safe Haven in Tuggeranong
- 2) What modelling or analysis been undertaken regarding the viability, demand, or potential for a Safe Haven in Gungahlin
- 3) What modelling or analysis been undertaken regarding the viability, demand, or potential for a Safe Haven in Molonglo valley
- 4) What would it cost to establish Safe Havens at each of the above locations?
- 5) Have any estimates been undertaken of the operational costs for Safe Havens at each of the above locations?
- 6) What are estimated operational costs for Safe Havens at each of the above locations?
- 7) Given the current mental health workforce shortage, which is particularly acute for qualified peer workers, how will additional centres be staffed?
- 8) Were any formal contingency plans developed regarding potential delayed delivery of the second safe haven?
- 9) Was the Minister aware that the second Safe Haven could not be delivered on time?
- 10) When will the second Safe Haven become fully operational?

Minister Emma Davidson: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

- 1) It is not current ACT Government policy to establish additional Safe Havens beyond the two for which the ACT Government has provided budget and commitment to deliver on. As such, no analysis has been undertaken for the viability, demand, potential, staffing or costings of any additional services.

A small amount of exploratory work was taken to examine opportunities to establish a Safe Haven in Tuggeranong, given the lower availability of drop-in mental health services available in Tuggeranong. However, this work did not include modelling or viability analysis and has not been continued.
- 2) Refer to the response for Question 1.
- 3) Refer to the response for Question 1.
- 4) Refer to the response for Question 1.
- 5) Refer to the response for Question 1.
- 6) Refer to the response for Question 1.
- 7) Refer to the response for Question 1.
- 8) The work to establish the Safe Haven in the hospital has the standard project planning and risk management resources for any construction or establishment project of this size on the hospital campus.
- 9) ACT Health has provided no formal briefings on the timing of the second Safe Haven.
- 10) According to current project scheduling, pending any changes or delays to broader construction work at the Canberra Hospital, the second Safe Haven will be operational from August 2025.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2024-2025

Signature: *Emma Davidson*

Date: 5 August 2024

By the Minister for Mental Health, Emma Davidson MLA