



Inquiry into annual and financial reports 2024–2025

Answer to question on notice

Asked by: Mr Shane Rattenbury MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Health

Reference: Health - Canberra Health Services

Hearing: 11 November 2025

In relation to: Women's health and endometriosis

Question received: 19 November 2025

Answer Due: 26 November 2025

- 1) What is the current wait time (from referral to first appointment with a specialist) for the endometriosis service offered by Canberra Hospital?
- 2) What percentage of people get a referral and then are not seen within the year (potentially requiring an additional referral)?
- 3) Why are people not informed that they no longer have a referral?

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

- 1) Endometriosis care is a sub-speciality of gynaecology. The data in this response refers to all services provided through the Gynaecology Outpatient Department at Canberra Hospital. As at 26 November 2025, the wait time from referral to first appointment with a specialist is recorded below:

Triage Category	Median Weeks Waiting
Category 1	3
Category 2	34
Category 3	28

- 2) For 2024-25, the percentage of patients who were seen for their first specialist appointment, outside of 12 months is 37 per cent. This covers all categories of patients who were removed from the waiting list as having been seen or treated. The Gynaecology Outpatient Department at Canberra Hospital offers a multidisciplinary service that includes nurses, allied health clinicians and gynaecologists. While awaiting a first specialist appointment, patients may receive care from allied health clinicians or a nurse, who can help with symptom management and self-care strategies.

OFFICIAL

It is also important to note that referrals to a specialist service are not activated until the patient attends their First Specialist Assessment (FSA). Even where the referring clinician has assigned a 12-month expiry to the referral, the referral period commences at the date of the appointment, not the date the referral was written.

- 3) This is not the practise of Canberra Health Services. Patients are notified by the specialist service if they need a continuing or updated referral. If the Member is aware of circumstances where this has not been the case, I would encourage the individual(s) to contact Canberra Health Services at HealthFeedback@act.gov.au or the Member may wish to provide further information to my office on their behalf.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Social Policy

Signature:



By the Minister for Health, Rachel Stephen-Smith

Date:

3/12/25