



Inquiry into Appropriation Bill 2026–2027 and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2026–2027

Answer to question taken on notice

Asked by: CHIKA BARRY MLA

Addressed to: MR PAUL DARCY

In relation to: Category 3 Emergency Department

Hearing: 29 July 2026

Uncorrected Proof Transcript pp 77-78, 92

Transcript provided: **3 August 2026**

Answer Due: **10 August 2026**

Choose an item. took on notice the following question(s):

1. Reason for Category 3 emergency department seen by time performance.

MINISTER PATERSON: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

1. Australasian Triage Scale (ATS) Category 3 performance remains an area of focus for the ACT Government. This is particularly significant as Category 3 presentations represent the largest cohort of patients presenting to the Emergency Department (ED), and even small variations in triage allocation can have a substantial impact on reported performance.

A contributing factor is the complexity of differentiating between ATS categories, particularly at the interface between Categories 2, 3 and 4. Improvement efforts will focus on strengthening ATS education, calibration and peer review processes for triage staff, particularly around differentiation between Categories 3 and 4. Regular auditing, targeted feedback, case-based learning and benchmarking against peer emergency departments will support greater consistency in triage allocation while maintaining a strong focus on patient safety.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2026-2027

Signature: 

By the Minister for Health, Dr Marisa Paterson

Date: **10/8/26**