



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2022-2023

Mr James Milligan MLA (Chair), Mr Andrew Braddock MLA (Deputy Chair),
Dr Marisa Paterson MLA

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

MS LEANNE CASTLEY MLA: To ask the Minister for Health

Ref: Health – ACT Health

In relation to: Flu vaccinations

According to AIHW data the ACT had the second highest rate of vaccine preventable hospitalisations with 329 cases identified for the 2020-21 period for influenza and pneumonia.

- 1) What is the average cost of an influenza patient who presents at hospital?
- 2) How many separations were there for the 2021-22 period that were noted as being preventable if the patient had the flu vaccination?
- 3) Were there any deaths in the ACT from influenza? If so, how many? How many did not have the flu vaccination?
- 4) What was the additional cost to the ACT ratepayer for the 329 vaccine potentially preventable hospitalisations for pneumonia and vaccine preventable influenza in the 2020-21 and 2021-22 period?

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

- 1) Please refer to the response to Question on Notice 862 (Q3 and 4).
- 2) Preventable hospital admissions, as defined under the AIHW publication of 2020-21 data, is not currently available for the 2021-22 financial year and therefore cannot be provided at this time. Specific private hospital data, which was included in the 2020-21 hospitalisation numbers in the AIHW publication, has not yet been provided to ACT Health Directorate for the entire 2021-22 financial year.
- 3) For the period 2020-21 there were no influenza associated deaths in the ACT.
- 4) From the 329 vaccine potentially preventable hospitalisations, 54 patients were admitted in ACT's public hospitals and 272 patients were admitted in ACT's private hospitals. While it may not be appropriate to describe this as "additional cost", the average cost per separation for the 54 admitted patients in public hospitals 2020-21 was \$18,876.78.

ACTHD does not have access to private hospital expenditure and unable to provide average cost details for the 272 patients.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2022-2023

Signature:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'RSS', written in a cursive style.

Date: 4/9/22

By the Minister for Health, Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA