



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2023-2024

Mr Mark Parton MLA (Chair), Ms Jo Clay MLA (Deputy Chair),
Mr Michael Pettersson MLA

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Ms Leanne Castley MLA: To ask the Minister for Health

Ref: Health, funding for primary care

Hearing Date: 19/07/2023

In relation to: Funding for primary care in ACT

Can the Minister provide details on:

- (1) The amount of funding since 2019-20 to 2023-24 that has been spent on Primary Health care in the ACT?
 - a. If this breakdown could include the:
 - i. Title of the funding in each budget.
 - ii. The original estimated project cost and revised project cost each year.
 - iii. The amount appropriated and spent each year.
 - iv. The estimated project completion date and the date that the project was complete, for each year.
 - b. How much has directly contributed to General Practices in the ACT since 2019-20 to present? Could the Minister answer the questions asked in 1) a) i through to iv?

Ms Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows: –

Primary care is the responsibility of the Australian Government. Nevertheless, due to the challenges accessing primary care in the ACT, the ACT Government has funded a range of primary care initiatives. The table below also includes funding for Walk-in Centres, which have been established as an Emergency Department diversion measure but treat “primary care like” conditions.

Since 2019-20 over \$15 million has been provided for primary care projects. An overview of primary care funding is in Table 1. Detailed information can be found in the relevant Budget Papers and Annual reports. All figures are GST and indexation exclusive.

Table 1: Summary of primary care funding

i. Title and funding in each budget (\$'000)	<i>Delivering Better Care (DBC) for Canberrans with Complex Needs (2019-20 Budget)</i>	<i>DBC for Canberrans with Complex Needs (2022-23 Budget)</i>	<i>People experiencing homelessness and isolation</i>	<i>After hours primary care</i>	<i>Primary Care pilot</i>	<i>Walk-in Centres *Note: includes Capital and Expense appropriation</i>
2019-20	500	-	29	1,325	-	10,116
2020-21	1,000	-	30	1,350	-	7,419
2021-22	1,000	-	31	1,382	-	12,752
2022-23	-	561	72	1,443	-	8,349
2023-24	-	874	16	1,519	3,874	8,964

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(ii) Total funding	2,500	1,435	177	7,019	3,874	47,600
(ii) Expenditure	2,500	561	177 Note 3	5,948 Note 4	Nil	Note 7
(iv) Completion date	Note 1	Note 2	ongoing	ongoing	Note 5	Ongoing
(b) Direct GP support	2,440	Total budget	177	Total budget	Note 6	Nil

Notes

1. All activities completed except organisations funded through the [DBC 2022 Grant round](#) which is expected for completion by 30 June 2024.
2. Budget measure over four years; figures displayed are for years one and two only.
3. Due to pandemic not all funds were expensed by the contracted service provider for service delivery; unspent funds were rolled over to the out-years when services resumed.
4. Demand driven arrangement whereby the supplier invoices for actual services provided.
5. The Commonwealth Government has committed \$7.74 million over two years for the ACT to support the delivery of a primary care pilot in the ACT. The project is due to commence in September 2023.
6. This is a demand driven project; approximately half of the budget will be provided to GPs. The remainder will fund specialist and allied health services.
7. While Capital expenditure is tracked and reported through Annual Reports, Expense Funding is not reported by CHS at an initiative level.

The following investments are included in the above table relating to Walk-in Centres:

Initiative Title	Capital / Expense	Budget Paper Reference
Delivering the Weston Creek Walk in Centre	Capital	2019-20 Budget: Budget Statement C, P49
Delivering the Weston Creek Walk in Centre	Capital	2019-20 Budget: Budget Statement C, P52
Delivering the Inner North Walk in Centre	Capital	2019-20 Budget: Budget Statement C, P52
More nurse-led walk-in centres	Capital	2019-20 Budget: Budget Statement C, P51
Delivering the Weston Creek Walk in Centre	Expense	2019-20 Budget: Outlook, P115
Delivering the Inner North Walk in Centre	Expense	2019-20 Budget: Outlook, P153
Imaging services at the Weston Creek Walk in Centre	Expense	2020-21 Budget: Outlook, P91
Walk-in health centre - Coombs pilot	Expense	2020-21 Budget: Outlook, P92
Walk-in health centres - Planning and feasibility	Expense	2020-21 Budget: Outlook, P92
More Nurse Practitioners at Walk-in Centres	Expense	2022-23 Budget: Outlook, P163

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2023-2024

Signature:



Date:

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By the Minister for Health, Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA