



# 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 TAKEN ON NOTICE DURING PUBLIC HEARINGS

Asked by: **Ms Leanne Castley MLA**

Addressed to: Minister for Health

Reference: Uncorrected Hansard Transcript [Pages 59 – 60]

In relation to: Infrastructure project delays

Hearing Date: 25 July 2024

**MS CASTLEY:** Yes, I would like to talk about infrastructure program cuts and delays. In regards to the ACT health and CHS infrastructure programs, can someone tell me how many projects have had the physical completion dates pushed out compared to what was reported in the 2023-2024 budget?

**Ms Stephen-Smith:** I think we will take on notice to provide a complete record about that. I would certainly say as a starting point Watson is probably—the whole Watson precinct is not going to progress at the speed that we thought it was going to at the 23-24 budget, that has largely been around development application approval processes, and some further work that needed to be done on bushfire abatement that required some redesign of the Winnunga Alcohol and Other Drug facility, and the two other facilities on that site.

So that is definitely delayed compared to where we thought we were going to be at this—you know, we thought we would be well underway in construction now, and we are not. The Southside Hydrotherapy pool is probably also somewhat delayed from where we thought we would be this time last year, and again it is finalising development application, approval, finalising the tender process for constructor, but I might hand over to Ms Lopa, who has probably got a fuller list now.

**Ms Lopa:** Thank you, Minister. So the Minister is absolutely right on the Watson precinct, so that is delayed because of some bushfire referrals in the DA, so we have had to do some redesigns there, but we are hoping to get that DA next month, and to move on with that project.

Similar with hydrotherapy, it was a bit delayed for a couple of reasons: one, we went out and did a bit more community consultation on the design, and that led to some design changes, so we were hearing things like people did not want to have to go past the whole pool to go into hydrotherapy if you had a disability and those sorts of things, and change rooms and those sorts of things, so we changed some of the design.

But that has been handed over to the head contractor, so that is now under construction, and we think we will be done mid next year. So usually once we get through the procurement and into

head contractor, things move really quickly because then they are in there constructing. So they are definitely two that we know are running a bit later, but I will take on notice the rest of the ones.

From time to time, we do experience delays in either getting out to procurement, or after procurement when we are doing evaluation, and we constantly seek to make sure our profiling is good, and we are not trying to, you know, roll over too much etcetera, and that is, you know, an ongoing learning, and an ongoing process that we go through for each infrastructure project.

**MS CASTLEY:** Thank you, I would appreciate that on notice, because a quick look—I think there is around 15 that I am able to tell, I need to—

**Ms Stephen-Smith:** I am not sure if you know about the eating disorder, whether that is scheduled...(indistinct)... [12.09.29]

**Ms Lopa:** Yeah, so the Eating Disorder Treatment Centre is one that has reached construction completion now, so it is being handed over to CHS next week to do their commissioning, and we will be open soon, so that is one we have reached construction completion on which is great. The health centres are the other ones, so we got funding in this budget, we are planning on being in head contractor for the Conder centre later this year, we are just in tender evaluation for that now. So things are moving along.

Sometimes when we ae reprofiling and when we are rolling over, it does not necessarily mean there has been a delay to the project. It can be just that we got our profiling wrong and when we are paying the bills it does not quite add up. But I will take on notice all the dates, questions that you have asked.

**Ms Stephen-Smith:** I think, just for completeness if we can include the CHS led projects as well, like the research centre, so the cancer research centre, there was a remediation that needed to occur in the pharmacy work, pharmacy area that has resulted in a bit of a delay in that project as well in terms of its completion.

**MINISTER RACHEL STEPHEN-SMITH: The answer to the Member’s question is as follows:**

The following table provides details of all health infrastructure projects that have reported revised completion dates between the 2023-24 and 2024-25 Budget papers.

Infrastructure project	Announced completion date	Forecast/ revised completion date	Reason
A new carpark at Canberra Hospital – feasibility and design work for a new multi-storey carpark	June 2024	June 2025	The Canberra Hospital Master Plan (Phase 1) included \$3 million for the ‘A new carpark at Canberra Hospital’ project. An initial feasibility study for a new Canberra Hospital carpark was completed in 2022. However, further work was required to understand the available options as part of ongoing Territory-wide hospital planning. Remaining funding under this project was reprofiled into the 2024-25 financial year with an expected completion date of June 2025 to allow further analysis for parking options.

Infrastructure project	Announced completion date	Forecast/ revised completion date	Reason
CHHP AOD expansion & modernisation	June 2024	June 2025	<p>Under the 2020 Community Health and Hospitals Program (CHHP) Project Agreement with the Commonwealth Government, \$4.3 million was allocated towards community-based 'Alcohol and Other [Drug] Residential Rehabilitation and Modernisation to increase treatment to expand capacity of residential alcohol and other drug (AOD) rehabilitation services in the ACT.'</p> <p>Funding has been allocated to projects at Arcadia House (Directions Health Services), Toora Women Inc. and Karralika Programs, with more than half expended to date.</p> <p>Works at Karralika Fadden and Karralika Isabella Plains are complete, costing \$2.24 million.</p> <p>A \$2 million payment from the Commonwealth has been delayed until 2024-25 to align with timeframes for the upcoming projects and agreed with the Commonwealth. This payment is not at risk, with clear, ongoing communication with the relevant stakeholders as projects progress.</p> <p>Upgrades are planned for Toora's AOD residential service site (owned by ACT Housing). ACT Housing is undertaking rectification works before proceeding with the CHHP funded upgrades. These works are currently in progress. ACTHD expects the CHHP funded works to be complete by 30 June 2025 and the Commonwealth have agreed to this timeline.</p> <p>Arcadia House will need to be relocated ahead of construction of the new northside hospital. ACTHD is working with consultants to determine what is needed from a design perspective for a replacement facility for Arcadia House services.</p>
CHHP eating disorders	June 2024	August 2024	<p>Construction of the centre is complete with a Certificate of Occupancy and Use received. The ACT Health Directorate is in the process of handing over the site to Canberra Health Services to commence operations. The rollover of \$1.777 million from 2022-23 was required due to a prolonged development application process and minor construction delays.</p>
Detailed design / enabling works at NCH	June 2025	TBD	<p>The Northside Hospital Project was designated to MPC in December 2023. ACT Health continues to support the delivery of the detailed design as well as scoping and defining a program of enabling works. MPC has been undertaking a Very Early Contractor Involvement process, with Expressions of Interest closing in late June 2024. Shortlisted tenderers will soon be invited to engage in a Request for Tender.</p>

<b>Infrastructure project</b>	<b>Announced completion date</b>	<b>Forecast/ revised completion date</b>	<b>Reason</b>
Establishing a second Safe Haven	March 2025	August 2025	The second Safe Haven is being established in Canberra Hospital and has been dependent on construction works for the Canberra Hospital Critical Services Building. The extensive amount of construction work on the Canberra Hospital campus has resulted in delays to the Safe Haven establishment.
Implementation of the Canberra Hospital Master Plan (CHMP)	June 2025	August 2025	Delays in engaging a Head Contractor to demolish Buildings 6 and 23 led to demolition completion being delayed to August 2024. The next stage of minor planning and design of CHMP Phase 2 is expected to be complete in August 2025.
Improvements at the NBHF	June 2024	June 2025	Delays in finalising design consultation with the community have moved project completion into the 2024-25 financial year.
NBHF residential service delivery	March 2024	September 2024	Personal duress system to be delayed pending ongoing discussions with NBHF personnel.
Southside hydrotherapy pool	August 2024	July 2025	The project's development application process took longer than anticipated due to complexities with the project. This has impacted on construction commencement and project scheduling. The head contractor is engaged and onsite with the project on track for completion mid-2025.
Redeveloping and expanding the services of the Watson Health Precinct	June 2025	January 2026	The joint development application for the Watson Health Hub is currently under assessment, however approval has taken longer than anticipated due to complex bushfire mitigation response measures. Development application approval is expected imminently. A head contractor has been engaged for the Ted Noffs and Catholic Care new facilities. Winnunga Nimmityjah is commencing their head contractor procurement process.
Improving Canberra's health infrastructure - Delivering a new palliative care ward at the Canberra Hospital	February 2026	May 2026	Extended due to change to proposed location and additional scope to include external patient courtyard.
Better Health Services – Upgrading and maintaining ACT Health assets	June 2024	July 2025	Extended due to additional scope to include critical building fire indicator panel upgrade.
Better healthcare for a growing community - ACT Health critical assets upgrades	June 2025	December 2025	Extended due to additional scope to include critical mechanical services switchboard upgrade.
Expanding pharmacy services at The Canberra Hospital	December 2023	July 2024	Practical completion achieved. Rectification of defects currently underway.

Infrastructure project	Announced completion date	Forecast/ revised completion date	Reason
Improving Canberra's health infrastructure - Cancer Research Centre	September 2024	February 2025	Extended due to necessary construction sequencing works, with the Cancer Research Centre works not able to commence until the completion of the Pharmacy enabling works.
Improving Canberra's health infrastructure – Upgrading ACT Pathology's laboratory	January 2025	May 2025	Extended due to additional staging identified following engagement of head contractor, to permit operations to continue 24/7 during the works.

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

Signature:



Date:

7/8/24

By the Minister for Health, Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA