



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL SERVICES

Steve Doszpot MLA (Chair), Amanda Bresnan MLA (Deputy Chair), Mary Porter AM MLA

Questions Taken on Notice Annual and Financial Reports 2009–2010 ACT HEALTH

HCSS QTON 10/1	Number of permanent nurses employed by ACT Health
HCSS QTON 10/2	Information about the discussion between DHCS and ACT Health regarding the lead agency role in relation to people with Autism
HCSS QTON 10/3	Further information about the money allocated to GPs that has not yet been spent.
HCSS QTON 10/4	Number of radio therapists
HCSS QTON 10/5	List of mental health committees that consumer and carers are represented on.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL SERVICES
2009-2010 Annual Report Inquiry



ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

MS BRESNAN: You mentioned the nurses, because I know there have been some concerns expressed about the manner in which nurses had to be replaced if there was holiday or sick leave and that it was becoming a bit more difficult to get sign off for temps to come in. Have the ANF, as an example, have they expressed any concerns about some of the efficiencies that have been applied?

Dr Brown: They (the ANF) have not raised any concerns about the substantial number of permanent nurses that we have appointed. It is over 100. I can get you the exact figure, but it is over 100 additional permanent nurses that we have appointed that are replacing agency and casual nurses. The ANF is very supportive of that.

Ms Gallagher : The answer to the Member's question is as follows

1. Total nursing and midwifery staffing for ACT Health in June 2010 was 2021.92 FTE, an increase of 102.55 or 5.34% FTE since June 2009.
2. Employment Status
 - 83.64% of Total FTE employed on a permanent basis
 - 58.25% of Total FTE employed on a full time basis
 - 10.17% of Total FTE employed on a temporary basis
 - 2.44% of Total FTE employed on a casual basis
3. Utilisation of overtime decreased to 32.20 FTE in June 2010 from 34.11 FTE in June 2009.
4. Utilisation of agency staff decreased to 43.65 FTE in June 2010 from 97.93 in June 2009.
5. There were 245 permanent appointments in the 12 months to June 2010 compared to 213 permanent separations in the same period.

Approved for circulation

Signature: *K. Gallagher*
By the Minister for Health, Ms Katy Gallagher MLA

Date: 24.11.10

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL SERVICES
2009-2010 Annual Report Inquiry



ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

THE CHAIR: Okay. I guess my questions that I've just directed to the minister, what sort of discussions are there in place between disability and yourselves, and should there be more of a dialogue on determining just who is responsible for this area (autism)? This is something I would like a little bit more of an answer on.

Ms Gallagher : The answer to the Member's question is as follows

Therapy ACT Autism Unit, part of the Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services (DHCS), is the lead agency responsible for autism services in the ACT.

Further discussions about which agency should have responsibility for Autism in the ACT are not required.

Other ACT Government Departments, including the Department of Education and Training and ACT Health, also provide services to people with autism, in coordination with Therapy ACT.

People with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) frequently have other health issues as well. ACT Health services at the *Child Health Targeted Support Services Unit* and at *Mental Health ACT* provide services to people with Autism Spectrum Disorder as required. The *Child Health Targeted Support Services Unit* provides primary health assessment and management to children with a range of developmental disorders.

Therapy ACT has a cooperative working relationship with ACT Health services, working at the individual client level and at the systemic practice level so that where changes or improvements are required to daily practices around, for example, referrals, these improvements can be introduced quickly and effectively to the benefit of all stakeholders.

Approved for circulation

Signature: 

By the Minister for Health, Katy Gallagher MLA

Date:
24.11.10

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL SERVICES

2009-2010 Annual Report Inquiry

ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

Mr Doszpot: Thank you, Mr Hargreaves, thank you, Dr Brown. Minister, in the 2009-10 budget, you allocated \$12 million to achieve the workforce initiatives.

By now, about \$4 million was due to have been allocated. How much has been actually provided in the way of support to GPs to date?

Ms Gallagher : The answer to the Member's question is as follows

The assumption made is incorrect. Funding for the ACT Government's GP Workforce Program has not been allocated evenly over the four years of the program. The amounts allocated for each financial year are:

- \$1.5 million (2009-10)
- \$2.5 million (2010-11)
- \$3.5 million (2011-12)
- \$4.5 million (2012-13)

To date, expenditure for the GP Workforce Program is \$1,191,014.

A further \$380,000 has been committed from the fund for GP Development Fund grants awarded in the most recent round, the ACT Health and ANU Medical Bonded GP Scholarships round and the GP Aged Day Service.

Due to the payment structure of the five initiatives, there will be ongoing expenditure which will increase throughout the duration of the GP Workforce Program.

Approved for circulation

Signature: *K. Gallagher*

Date: 24.11.10

By the Minister for Health, Katy Gallagher, MLA

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL SERVICES
2009-2010 Annual Report Inquiry



ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

MR HARGREAVES: How many radiotherapists have you got?

Ms Gallagher : The answer to the Member's question is as follows

As at 9 November 2010, the Radiation Oncology Department at the Canberra Hospital has a headcount of 42 radiation therapists.

Approved for circulation

Signature: *K. Gallagher*

Date: 24.11.10

By the Minister for Health, Katy Gallagher MLA

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL SERVICES

2009-2010 Annual Report Inquiry

ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE



Mr Doszpot: I have a supplementary as well, but a couple of pages back. Page 106, it is to do with mental health. Strategic indicator on page 106 refers to maintaining consumer and carer participation on relevant mental health committees. How many committees are consumers and carers actually represented on?

Ms Gallagher : The answer to the Member's question is as follows

Consumer and carer representatives sit on 11 committees managed by the Mental Health ACT Service. They are:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Reference Group
- Clinical Practice Quality Improvement Committee
- Clinical Review Committee
- Policy Committee
- Professional Development and Training Committee
- Collaborative Engagement Forum
- Publications Committee
- Risk Management Committee
- Seclusion and Restraint Working Group
- Seclusion Review Meeting
- Strategic Executive Committee

Consumers and Carers are also represented on a further 7 Policy Committees managed by the ACT Health Mental Health Policy Unit. They are:

- Ministerial Advisory Council on Mental Health
- Strategic Oversight Group
- Executive Strategic Oversight Group
- Promotion, Prevention and Early Intervention Working Group
- Suicide Prevention Implementation Working Group
- Review Advisory Committee
- Housing and Accommodation Support Initiative Group

Approved for circulation

Signature: *K. Gallagher*
By the Minister for Health, Katy Gallagher MLA

Date: 24.11.10