



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

Answer to question on notice

Asked by: MS REBECCA VASSAROTTI MLA

Addressed to: MINISTER PATERSON

Reference: Health

Hearing: 29 July 2026

In relation to: Birth at home program

Question received: 3 August 2026

Answer Due: 13 August 2026

- 1) Can you please provide an update on what the Government is doing to promote the Birthing at Home program?
- 2) Will the Minister be reviewing the guidelines for program eligibility?

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

- 1) ACT Government continues to support access to a range of maternity care options, including the Birthing at Home Program, through Canberra Health Services (CHS) maternity service planning and models of care.

As part of ongoing improvements to maternity services, ACT Government has implemented changes to the maternity intake and allocation process to support equitable access to care, safe workload management, and the sustainability of maternity services across the ACT.

For women and pregnant people accessing CHS public maternity services, a new Pregnancy Care Questionnaire (PCQ) has been introduced through MyDHR. The PCQ consists of nine questions and is completed by pregnant people as part of the self-referral process. It provides an opportunity to share additional personal information about what matters most to them, helping to inform triage, assessment, and booking decisions. As part of the questionnaire, pregnant people are provided with information about the available maternity models of care (including home birth) and invited to indicate their preferences.

- 2) The eligibility guidelines for the Birthing at Home Program at Canberra Hospital have recently been reviewed and are considered comprehensive, appropriate and sufficient to support the safe delivery of the program.

ACT Government will continue to monitor the effectiveness of the program and its eligibility criteria as part of its ongoing service evaluation and quality improvement processes.

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

Signature:



Date: 14/8/26

By the Minister for Health, Dr Marisa Paterson MLA