

2009

**THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY**

**GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO THE
STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND DISABILITY
(6TH ASSEMBLY)
REPORT NO 5**

REPORT ON ANNUAL AND FINANCIAL REPORTS 2006-2007

**Presented by
Mr Jon Stanhope MLA
Chief Minister**

Government Response

Standing Committee on Health and Disability Report No 5 – Report on Annual and Financial Reports 2006-2007 (6th Assembly)

Introduction

The Annual Reports of All ACT Government agencies are referred to the Standing Committees of the ACT Legislative Assembly for examination and report.

The 6th Assembly Standing Committee on Health and Disability reviewed annual reports for:

- the Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services; and
- ACT Health.

The Committee made five recommendations.

Response to Committee Recommendations

Recommendation 1

2.9 The Committee recommends that comprehensive information about the nature of complaints and the complainants, without compromising confidentiality, be included in future Housing ACT annual reports.

Government Response

Agreed. More detailed information regarding complaints received will be included in future Housing ACT annual reports.

Recommendation 2

2.30 The Committee recommends that information relating to the diagnosed condition of clients accessing services through Therapy ACT be collected and published in future annual reports.

Government Response

Agreed. Therapy ACT has changed its data collection procedures to capture the diagnosis of clients accessing services. A full year's data is not available for 2007-08 but will be included from 2008-09 onwards.

Recommendation 3

3.4 The Committee recommends that future ACT Health annual reports include an explanation of the figures cited, particularly when the figures are referred to on more than one occasion in the annual report and are inconsistent.

Government Response

Agreed. ACT Health has adopted the targets established by the Australian College of Emergency Medicine for all reporting of emergency department waiting time performance data. This will enable easy comparison with national figures and ensure consistency across all reports produced by ACT Health in relation to emergency department performance.

Recommendation 4

3.6 The Committee recommends that future ACT Health annual reports include information about energy saving initiatives including future targets and strategies.

Government Response

Agreed-in-principle. The 2006-07 Annual Report identified a range of initiatives that ACT Health took during the year to improve energy efficiency, several of which are ongoing into future years.

ACT Health continues to experience long-term growth in service provision, which places pressure on consumption of resources including energy. Ongoing implementation of efficiency measures will be important in containing any increase in consumption.

For most ACT Health facilities, patient treatment and ongoing care requires maintenance of stable environmental conditions. As such, prevailing summer and winter temperatures have a significant influence on energy consumption levels, particularly for air conditioning.

The high utilisation levels of ACT Health facilities mandates that many major environmental efficiency improvements can only be addressed through the long term capital development and facilities upgrade planning process, so as to minimise impact on the provision of health services to the public. A component of ACT Health's capital planning process includes consideration of contemporary environmental efficiency measures, including those required by the Building Code of Australia and Government policy.

Implementation of Health's Capital Asset Development Plan during the period 2008-09 to 2010-11 will include upgrading of facilities and incorporation of environmental efficiency initiatives.

ACT Health is reporting on 'electricity consumption per patient bed day'. This indicator will be further developed to provide year-on-year comparison specific to the Canberra Hospital. Such performance measures are an appropriate means of monitoring the long term effectiveness of the diverse range of environmental efficiency initiatives implemented in ACT Health's major facilities particularly when there is continuing growth in service provision.

For the 2008-09 Annual Reporting period, ACT Health will:

- Further develop reporting data parameters to include all ACT Health owned buildings; and
- Report on its three yearly rolling program of building condition audits which identify potential options in achieving efficient energy and water use.

Recommendation 5

3.13 The Committee recommends that future ACT Health annual reports provide further information about the progress of the collaboration between Mental Health ACT and Housing ACT.

Government Response

Agreed. ACT Health will provide information about the progress of the collaboration between Mental Health ACT and Housing ACT in future annual reports.