



Inquiry into the Fiscal Sustainability of the ACT

Answer to question on notice

Asked by: Ms Jo Clay MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Health

Reference: HCSD

Hearing: 5 March 2026

In relation to: Cost of acute health care system

Question received: 11 March 2026

Answer Due: 23 March 2026

1. Has ACT Government costed the following items in terms of how much they cost our acute health care system per annum and if can you provide the costs?
 - a. Homelessness
 - b. Poor or late access to public housing
 - c. Loneliness
 - d. Lack of access to healthy food
 - e. Lack of access to reliable food
 - f. Lack of access to preventative health care
2. If you have not costed these, can you explain that the cost of these is completely unknown OR provide a link and reference to any external information you rely on in the absence of ACT Government costings?

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

1. The ACT Government has not costed these items.
2. The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) reported that across Australia [the total health system spending attributable to 20 potentially avoidable risk factors was \\$38.0 billion in 2023–24](#). More information on the cost of potentially preventable hospitalisations in Australia is available on the [AIHW website](#).

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on the Fiscal Sustainability of the ACT.

Signature:



Date:

24/3/26

By the Minister for Health, Ms Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA