



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2023-2024

Mr Mark Parton MLA (Chair), Ms Jo Clay MLA (Deputy Chair),
Mr Michael Pettersson MLA

ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE DURING PUBLIC HEARINGS

Asked by **MS LEANNE CASTLEY MLA** on 20 July 2023: **MINISTER STEPHEN-SMITH** took on notice the following question(s):

[Ref: Hansard Transcript Thursday 20 July 2023 [PAGE 4 - 7]]

In relation to: Medical Imaging Equipment

- 1) How many medical imaging machines are past their maximum ended lifespan?
- 2) How many years have they been in use in Canberra Hospital?
- 3) Are any of the machines second hand?
- 4) What is each machines Maximum Extended Lifespan?
- 5) Is the new MRI machine announced recently in addition to the MRI machine announced in 2019?
- 6) Has Canberra Hospital lost revenue from not receiving or partially receiving Medicare funds due to these 14 medical imaging machines being past their end of life.
- 7) Are you able to confirm that we are not losing money because we have so many machines at end of life.
- 8) Three radiation related staff incidents, were they due to medical imaging machines?
- 9) Did any of the 14 machines past end of life; have a break down after passing end of life, how many years were they past end of life and how long it took CHS to repair?

MINISTER STEPHEN-SMITH: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

- 1) As of 21 July 2023, there are two medical imaging machines at Canberra Hospital that have exceeded their 'effective life age' and no longer qualify for the 'maximum extended life age' as defined by the Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS).
- 2) One of these has been in use for 15 years and one has been in use for 19 years.
- 3) No.
- 4) 'Maximum extended life age' refers to a software or hardware upgrade to diagnostic imaging equipment that has reached its 'effective life age' in accordance with the MBS.

The table below outlines the 'maximum extended life age' for the medical imaging machines referred to in Question on Notice No. 1242.

Canberra Hospital and Weston Creek Imaging Service

Machine Type	MBS Maximum Extended Life Age (years)	Comments
Angiography Unit	15	
Bone Mineral Density Unit	-	Not included in the Capital Sensitivity Rules under the MBS
Computed Tomography (CT)	15	
General X-Ray	20	
General X-Ray Mobile	20	
Fluoroscopy Unit	20	
Image Intensifier	20	
Orthopantomogram (Dental X-Ray)	20	
Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)	20	
Interoperative MRI	-	Not included in the Capital Sensitivity Rules under the MBS
Mammography Unit	15	
Positron Emission Tomography + CT	-	Capital Sensitivity Rules do not apply to PET items
Single Photon Emission Computed Tomography + CT	15	
Gamma Camera	15	
Ultrasound	15	
Ultrasound Mobile	15	

- 5) No. The upgrade of the Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) to a 3T MRI scanner has been part of a project of work to expand medical imaging services at Canberra Hospital.
- 6) Since 12 November 2022, the combined loss in Medicare revenue for the two medical imaging machines that no longer qualify for the 'maximum extended life age' under the MBS is \$110,038.95.
- 7) See response to question 6.
- 8) I am advised two of the incidents were miscoded in error and only one incident relates to exposure to radiation. This incident does not involve exposure to medical imaging machines.
- 9) Please note that a medical imaging machine reaches its recommended end of life (EOL) following 10 years of operation as defined by the manufacturer. This is a variation to the definition of 'effective life age' under the MBS for the purposes of Medicare payable benefits.

The below table outlines medical imaging machines that are past EOL as recommended by the manufacturer.

Canberra Health Services has comprehensive contracts in place to minimise equipment downtime with scheduled preventative maintenance and efficient response to unplanned downtime where possible.

Machine Type	Machine Number	Years Past End of Life (EOL)	Number of Repair Events since EOL	Total Time Taken to Repair
Angiography Unit	1	4 years 8 months	2	9.25 hours
General X-Ray	1	2 years 4 months	3	10.00 hours
General X-Ray	2	4 years 3 months	9	32.13 hours
General X-Ray	3	2 years 3 months	3	10.98 hours
General X-Ray	4	4 years 3 months	8	45.25 hours
General X-Ray	5	2 years 4 months	6	28.18 hours
Image Intensifier	1	6 years 5 months	1	3.50 hours
Image Intensifier	2	6 years 5 months	10	24.75 hours
Orthopantomogram (Dental X-Ray)	1	4 years 7 months	0	0.00 hours
Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)	1	6 years 1 months	35	52.00 hours
Interoperative MRI	1	9 years	6	23.75 hours
Positron Emission Tomography (PET) CT	1	1 year 8 months	7	89.50 hours
Single Photon Emission Computed Tomography (SPECT) CT	1	4 years 9 months	2	17.25 hours
Gamma Camera	1	8 years 8 month	5	6.00 hours

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2023-2024

Signature:



Date:

7/8/23

By the Minister for Health, Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA