



Inquiry into the Fiscal Sustainability of the ACT

Answer to question taken on notice

Asked by: Mr Ed Cocks MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Health

In relation to: Health and Cost of NSW patients in the ACT system

Hearing: 5 March 2026

Uncorrected Proof Transcript pp 29-30

Transcript provided: 12 March 2026

Answer Due: 19 March 2026

MR COCKS: Jumping back to the cross-border costs question. You gave some indicative percentages for a couple of types of services. Do you have a percentage of the total health spend that is for New South Wales patients?

Ms Zagari: Total health spend or total percentage of patients?

MR COCKS: No. Total health—the spend because that is the question that goes to the—

Ms Stephen-Smith: Total. We could probably get a notice—yes, I think, I mean the closest we would probably be able to—the best indication would be the number of NWAU's, so National Weighted Activity Units that is attributed to New South Wales patients, and that will give you the most accurate reflection of activity—

MR COCKS: So that will give us a dollar value, will it?

Ms Stephen-Smith: —the proportion of activity that they take up.

Ms Zagari: That is right, as a percentage of.

THE CHAIR: On notice?

Ms Zagari: We will take that on notice.

MR COCKS: Thank you very much. Do you have any data around—I am sure it is a much smaller proportion—the number of patients that go from ACT to be treated in New South Wales?

Ms Zagari: We will also take that on notice, and yes, we can provide those numbers.

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

In 2024-25, New South Wales (NSW) residents were responsible for 46,138 NWAUs which was 21.3 per cent of the Australian Capital Territory's (ACT) total National Weighted Activity Units (NWAU) of 216,579.

According to the National Health Funding Body, in 2024-25, ACT residents who were treated in NSW hospitals were responsible for 9,536 NWAUs, which was 0.3 per cent of total NSW NWAUs (3,092,580).

The services provided are outlined below. It is important to note that it is possible for one patient to have multiple services, for example a patient who presents at emergency and is then admitted.

- 6,727 emergency presentations
- 4,408 acute admitted
- 78 mental health admitted
- 15,766 non-admitted
- 65 sub or non-acute.

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

Signature:



By the Minister for Health, Ms Rachel Stephen-Smith

Date:

30/3/26