



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2022-2023

Mr James Milligan MLA (Chair), Mr Andrew Braddock MLA (Deputy Chair),
Dr Marisa Paterson MLA

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

MR JEREMY HANSON MLA: To ask the Minister for Health:

Ref: Health – ACT Health

In relation to: Drug and Alcohol Funding

- 1) In relation to the statement by the Minister by the ACT Government on the on 9 June 2022, that states *“the ACT Government invests more than \$22 million each year in Specialist alcohol, tobacco and other drug treatment and support services in the Territory.”*

Can the Minister provide:

- a) The total amount of existing funding for drug and alcohol services in the ACT, and
- b) a breakdown of the allocation of the \$22 million referred to in the above statement.

- 2) In relation to the statement from the government on 29 July 2022, that states *“Building on the significant investments made over the past three years, the 2022-23 Budget includes more than \$13 million in additional support.”*

Can the Minister provide:

- a) The total amount of the additional funding for drug and alcohol services in the ACT contained in the 2022-2023 Budget;
- b) a breakdown of the allocation of the additional funding referred to in the statement above, including the outyears, and
- c) the cross over, if any, between existing services and funding allocations referred to in question (1) and the additional funding referred to in question

MINISTER STEPHEN-SMITH MLA: The answer to the Member’s question is as follows: –

- 1) The ACT Government provides more than \$22 million in funding annually to alcohol and drug (AOD) specialist treatment and harm reduction services. In the financial year 2021-22:
 - a) ACT Health Directorate provided funding of \$12,322,598.34 to contracted non-government organisations to provide a suite of core specialist AOD treatment services.
 - b) The breakdown of funding is provided in the table below.

Organisation	2021-22 Funding	Core services provided
Directions Health Services	\$3,977,803.07	Counselling and case management, operation of needle and syringe program services, harm reduction services, residential withdrawal and rehabilitation programs.
Karralika Programs Inc	\$2,965,164.53	Residential rehabilitation services, support and case management and transitional support services.
CatholicCare	\$749,965.79	Sobering up shelter and counselling services.
Ted Noffs Foundation	\$1,647,154.67	Alcohol and other services for under-18s, including residential withdrawal and rehabilitation, harm reduction and support and case management.
Salvation Army	\$767,488.21	Residential rehabilitation services.
Toora Women	\$1,279,470.63.11	Services specifically for women including counselling, support and case management and day rehabilitation.
Canberra Alliance for Harm Minimisation and Advocacy (CAHMA)	\$678,462.78	Peer support programs, overdose prevention and naloxone programs.
Total	12,322,598.34	

The Canberra Health Services’ (CHS) budget for alcohol and other drug services in 2022-23 is \$14.4 million to provide medical services, withdrawal, opioid treatment, diversion services, consultation-liaison nurses, counselling and treatment and drug and alcohol court services.

The combined total funding for AOD services provided by CHS and contracted non-government service providers in 2021-22 can therefore be revised upwards from more than \$22 million to more than \$26 million. This reflects increased investment in treatment, including additional funding to provide services to the ACT drug and alcohol court.

The figure for core funding of specialist services does not include drug and alcohol treatment and support services provided by non-specialist services, for example in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Services or primary care services.

- 2) In relation to additional investments in the 2022-23 Budget:
- a) Additional funding of \$13.192 million was provided to the alcohol and other drug programs.
 - b) The split across different AOD projects is as follows:
 - i. \$6.463 million over four years for alcohol and other drug treatment services. This is recurrent funding improving access to residential rehabilitation, increasing family and carer support services and developing methamphetamine treatment services with experienced clinicians. These services will be designed collaboratively with the AOD treatment sector during the AOD services commissioning process.

	2022-23 \$000's	2023-24 \$000's	2024-25 \$000's	2025-26 \$000's	Total
Expense	466	1,724	2,115	2,158	6,463

- ii. \$2.058 million to assist the Ngunnawal Bush Healing Farm to transition to residential programs. This is funding over four years, with \$952,000 allocated to 2022-23.
 - iii. \$1.673 million over two years for improved functionality for Canberra Script, the real time prescription monitoring system.
 - iv. \$3 million for work on the Watson site over two years, including design of the dedicated First Nations residential rehabilitation facility and the redevelopment of Ted Noffs comprehensive alcohol and other drug treatment service for young people. \$2.47 million will be provided in 2022-23 and the remainder in 2023-24.
- c) The additional funding is new, not already accounted for in the previously reported annual AOD sector figures. There is no crossover between the 2021-22 spending and the 2022-23 Budget.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2022-2023

Signature:



Date: 15/9/22

By the Minister for Health, Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA