ACT Government
Digital Canberra

DECISION ON OPEN ACCESS INFORMATION – MINISTERIAL BRIEFINGS

In accordance with section 24 of the *Freedom of Information Act 2016* (FOI Act), an agency or Minister must make open access information of the agency or Minister publicly available unless the information is contrary to the public interest information.

Section 23 of the FOI Act

Section 23(1)(i) states open access information includes any of the following ministerial briefs prepared by the agency that are 5 or more years old:

(i) incoming ministerial briefs;
(ii) parliamentary estimates briefs;
(iii) annual reports briefs;
(iv) question time briefs.

Authority

I am an Information Officer appointed by the Director-General of Digital Canberra (DCBR) under section 18 of the FOI Act to ensure that the agency meets its obligation to publish open access information under Part 4 of the Act.

Searches and material considered

Two documents have been identified holding the information within scope of section 23(1)(i) of the FOI Act. This package contains Question Time Briefs (QTB).

In reaching my access decision, I have taken the following into account:

- The FOI Act;
- The contents of the documents that fall within the open access information scheme; and
- The views of relevant subject matter experts.

Decision on access

My decision is to grant full access to the information in the identified documents.

Review rights

ACT Ombudsman
My decision is a reviewable decision as identified in Schedule 3 of the FOI Act. You have the right to seek ACT Ombudsman review of this decision under section 74 of the FOI Act within 20 working days from the day that my decision is published on the ACT Governments Open Access website, or a longer period allowed by the ACT Ombudsman.

If you wish to request a review of my decision you may write to the ACT Ombudsman at:

The ACT Ombudsman
GPO Box 442
CANBERRA ACT 2601
Via email: ACTFOI@ombudsman.gov.au

Alternatively, you may wish to visit the website https://www.ombudsman.act.gov.au/accountability-and-oversight/freedom-of-information/foi-complaints-and-reviews.

ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal (ACAT) review

Under section 84 of the Act, if a decision is made under section 82(1) on an ACT Ombudsman review, you may apply to the ACAT for review of the ACT Ombudsman decision.

If you wish to request a review of the Ombudsman decision you may write to the ACAT at:

ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal
Allara House
15 Constitution Avenue
GPO Box 370
Canberra City ACT 2601
Telephone: (02) 6207 1740

Further information may be obtained from the ACAT at: http://www.acat.act.gov.au/.

Further assistance

Should you have any queries or would like further information, please do not hesitate to contact the Senior FOI Officer on (02) 6205 8410 or via email at digitalcanberrafoi@act.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

[redacted]

Peita Bonato
Executive Branch Manager
Ministerial & Government Services
Digital Canberra

31 August 2026

ACT Government
Digital Canberra

Open Access Information Scheme – Quarter 2 2021

Ref no.	Page number	Title	Status	Reason for Exemption
QUESTION TIME BRIEF – APRIL 2021 SITTING				
1	1 - 3	Digital Health Record	Full release	Not applicable
QUESTION TIME BRIEF – MAY 2021 SITTING				
2	4 - 6	Digital Health Record	Full release	Not applicable

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

TRIM Ref: GBC21/187

Portfolio: Health

DIGITAL HEALTH RECORD

Talking points

- The ACT Health Directorate signed a 10-year $114 million contract in July 2020 with Epic, a world-leading provider of digital medical record systems to deliver the ACT's Digital Health Record, which will be operational in 2022-23.
- The ACT Digital Health Record is a key priority in achieving the vision outlined in the *2019-29 ACT Digital Health Strategy.* It will enable clinicians to have a single view of a patient and to have access to all relevant treatment protocols and forms, in context for each case.
- Clinical and administrative staff as well as consumers will be closely involved in the implementation of the Digital Health Record.
- The ACT Digital Health Record will be implemented in all ACT public health services, including across our public hospitals, Walk-in Centres, Community Health Centres, and justice health.
- The ACT's Digital Health Record will be purpose built to securely manage information in one place to ensure that patient information is safe and protected.
- The Digital Health Record team consists of approximately 140 staff and commenced on 27 January 2021.
- At the end of phase one of six, the program has achieved the following key milestones:
    - Overview of Implementation held with key project leadership;
    - Project team recruited;
    - More than 300 subject matter experts have been identified to provide key clinical guidance to the team, ensuring that the program remains clinically led;
    - Governance structure agreed;

Cleared as complete and accurate:	8 April 2021	
Cleared by:	Chief Information Officer	Ext: 49000
Contact Officer name:	Peter O'Halloran	Ext: 49000
Lead Directorate:	Health	
TRIM Ref:	GBC21/187	

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  - Team member training commenced;
  - Legacy data workbook leads identified, and data collected; and
  - Application scope finalised with agreement to include Pathology, Dental and Medical Imaging.

- ACT Health have implemented Epic's vaccine administration capability to support health care teams in making COVID-19 vaccines accessible to the community in a timely manner.
- The Epic vaccine capability went live on 18 February 2021 and is being used to schedule bookings, record vaccine administration and support reporting to ensure the health system is able to monitor the progress of the rollout of the COVID-19 vaccine across the Territory. The commencement of the vaccine administration capability is 18 months earlier than planned.
- Direction setting sessions have commenced with subject matter experts from the health services. The team are now collating feedback from these initial sessions and will continue to work with subject matter experts through the working groups that form part of the formal structure for the program.

Background

- The 2018-19 budget committed $151 million, comprised of $106 million capital and $45 million recurrent funding to the Digital Health Record over eight years.
- Configuration of the Digital Health Record will begin in early 2021 and will be operational in 2022-23.
- The contract with Epic is for 10 years, totalling to $114,802,796 (GST exclusive).
- The Tender Evaluation Team comprised of clinicians, consumer representatives and ICT experts. This team, along with more than 100 subject matter experts from the ACT public health services, non-government organisations and consumer representatives provided feedback and advice during the tender evaluation process.
- The Digital Health Record complements the national My Health Record. The Digital Health Record is a more detailed record than the My Health Record, which only holds a summary of key health information.
- The Digital Health Record will contain the detail of a person's care, including which bed they are in, which theatre they are booked into, detailed observations and the time their treatments and medications are required and administered.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	8 April 2021	
Cleared by:	Chief Information Officer	Ext: 49000
Contact Officer name:	Peter O'Halloran	Ext: 49000
Lead Directorate:	Health	
TRIM Ref:	GBC21/187	

- The My Health Record contains a snapshot summary of this care which is particularly useful when a person is treated at a health service outside of the ACT public health system such as physios, GPs, private hospitals, or hospitals in other jurisdictions.
- Maddocks, an external legal firm have been engaged by the ACT Government Solicitor's Office to undertake a Privacy Impact Assessment for the Digital Health Record. This will support the team in addressing any risks associated with the management of the personal health information and sensitive information that will be stored.
- A Deed was executed with NTT Australia Pty Ltd in December 2020 for the hosting of the Digital Health Record and its related systems.
- The contract with NTT Australia Pty Ltd is for 5 years and will operate under a work order arrangement.
- Procurement is currently underway for three systems that are required to support the effective implementation of the Digital Health Record as outlined below:
    - A blood bank solution as Epic does not provide blood bank functionality within its pathology module due to the tight regulatory framework around the provision of blood and blood products.
    - Pathology analyser integration middleware to streamline the integration of pathology analysers into the Digital Health Record.
    - Device integration middleware to facilitate the integration of medical devices to the Digital Health Record. This will increase efficiency and reduce errors that can occur when transcribing information from devices onto paper or other systems.

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

TRIM Ref: GBC21/229

Portfolio: Health

DIGITAL HEALTH RECORD

Talking points

- The ACT Health Directorate signed a 10-year $114 million contract in July 2020 with Epic, a world-leading provider of digital medical record systems to deliver the ACT's Digital Health Record, which will be operational in 2022-23.
- The ACT Digital Health Record is a key priority in achieving the vision outlined in the *2019-29 ACT Digital Health Strategy.* It will enable clinicians to have a single view of a patient and to have access to all relevant treatment protocols and forms, in context for each case.
- Clinical and administrative staff as well as consumers will be closely involved in the implementation of the Digital Health Record.
- The ACT Digital Health Record will be implemented in all ACT public health services, including across our public hospitals, Walk-in Centres, Community Health Centres, and justice health.
- The ACT's Digital Health Record will be purpose built to securely manage information in one place to ensure that patient information is safe and protected.
- The Digital Health Record team consists of approximately 140 staff and commenced on 27 January 2021.
- At the end of phase one of six, the program has achieved the following key milestones:
    - Overview of Implementation held with key project leadership;
    - Project team recruited;
    - More than 300 subject matter experts have been identified to provide key clinical guidance to the team, ensuring that the program remains clinically led;
    - Governance structure agreed;

Cleared as complete and accurate:	28 April 2021	
Cleared by:	Chief Information Officer	Ext: 49000
Contact Officer name:	Peter O'Halloran	Ext: 49000
Lead Directorate:	Health	
TRIM Ref:	GBC21/229	

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- Team member training commenced;
- Legacy data workbook leads identified, and data collected; and
- Application scope finalised with agreement to include Pathology, Dental and Medical Imaging.

ACT Digital Health Record – Vaccination Capability

- The vaccination capability within the ACT's new Digital Health Record has been fast-tracked to support the roll out of the ACT's COVID-19 Vaccination Program.
- Canberrans are now be able to make their own vaccination bookings for ACT Government vaccination hubs and access their vaccine related activity through a secure web portal, MyDHR.
- This system will guide nurses through pre-vaccine check lists, record vaccination details, report to the Australian Immunisation Register and provide a digital confirmation to health consumers about their vaccination status.
- The initial access to the Digital Health Record system will only include COVID-19 vaccination activity, with the remaining functionality coming online when the Digital Health Record is fully implemented in late 2022.

- Direction setting sessions have commenced with subject matter experts from the health services. The team are now collating feedback from these initial sessions and will continue to work with subject matter experts through the working groups that form part of the formal structure for the program.

Background

- The 2018-19 budget committed $151 million, comprised of $106 million capital and $45 million recurrent funding to the Digital Health Record over eight years.
- Configuration of the Digital Health Record will begin in early 2021 and will be operational in 2022-23.
- The contract with Epic is for 10 years, totalling to $114,802,796 (GST exclusive).
- The Tender Evaluation Team comprised of clinicians, consumer representatives and ICT experts. This team, along with more than 100 subject matter experts from the ACT

public health services, non-government organisations and consumer representatives provided feedback and advice during the tender evaluation process.

- The Digital Health Record complements the national My Health Record. The Digital Health Record is a more detailed record than the My Health Record, which only holds a summary of key health information.
- The Digital Health Record will contain the detail of a person's care, including which bed they are in, which theatre they are booked into, detailed observations and the time their treatments and medications are required and administered.
- The My Health Record contains a snapshot summary of this care which is particularly useful when a person is treated at a health service outside of the ACT public health system such as physios, GPs, private hospitals, or hospitals in other jurisdictions.
- Maddocks, an external legal firm have been engaged by the ACT Government Solicitor's Office to undertake a Privacy Impact Assessment for the Digital Health Record. This will support the team in addressing any risks associated with the management of the personal health information and sensitive information that will be stored.
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