ACT Government

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.

On 1 July 2025, ACTHD and Community Services Directorate (CSD) were abolished and replaced by the Health and Community Services Directorate (HCSD). HCSD brings together a range of services previously provided by ACTHD and CSD. Section 101 of the FOI Act provides that an access application made to an abolished agency is taken to have been made to the agency that acquired the abolished agency's functions. Therefore, a decision has been made by HCSD (the Directorate).

I am an Information Officer appointed by the Director-General of the Directorate 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.

I have identified 121 documents holding the information within scope of section 23(1)(i).

This package contains Question Time Briefs (QTB) that have been released in previous Open Access Ministerial Brief packages. The QTBs in this release contain updated information.

Decisions

I have decided to grant full access to the information in the identified documents that can be decided under the FOI Act.

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.

Ombudsman review

My decision on open access information is a reviewable decision as identified in Schedule 3 of the FOI Act. You have the right to seek Ombudsman review of this outcome under section 73 of the Act within 20 working days from the day that my decision is published on the ACT Health website, or a longer period allowed by the Ombudsman.

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

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

Further assistance
Should you have any queries in relation to your request, please do not hesitate to contact the FOI Coordinator on (02) 5124 9831 or email HealthFOI@act.gov.au.

Shane Nielsen
A/g Executive Group Manager
Corporate & Governance
Health and Community Services Directorate

26 September 2025

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QUESTION TIME BRIEF

GBC20/361

Portfolio: Health

ISSUE: COVID-19: FACTS AND FIGURES

Talking points:

- As of 9.00am on 2 July 2020:
  - There are no active cases in the ACT.
  - There have been 31,089 negative tests in the ACT to date.
  - A total of 105 cases have recovered from COVID-19 and have been released from self-isolation.
  - Three (3) deaths have been recorded.
- There remains no evidence of community transmission in the ACT.
- Of the ACT's cases:
  - 84 were overseas acquired cases with a total of 29 related to cruise ships;
  - 6 were interstate acquired cases; and
  - 17 were close contacts of known cases; and
  - 1 was locally acquired with an unknown epi-link.
- ACT Health is continuing to take appropriate public health action to contact trace all new cases in line with national guidelines.

National

- As at 9:00pm on 1 July 2020, there have been 7,920 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Australia. There have been 87 new cases in the last 24 hours.
- Of the 7,920 confirmed cases in Australia, 104 have died from COVID-19. More than 2,505,000 tests have been conducted across Australia.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	02/07/2020	
Cleared by:	Chief Health Offier	Ext: 49442
Contact Officer name:	Vanessa Dal Molin	Ext: 49442
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Vanessa Dal Molin	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/238	

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

Location	Confirmed cases*
New South Wales	3,203
Northern Territory	29
Queensland	1,067
South Australia	443
Tasmania	228
Victoria	2,231
Western Australia	611

- * Note that under National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System reporting requirements, cases are reported based on their Australian jurisdiction of residence rather than where they were detected. For example, a case reported previously in the NT in a NSW resident is counted in the national figures as a NSW case.
- ** Includes Diamond Princess repatriation cases: Qld (3), SA (1), Vic (4), WA (2, including 1 death)

International

- As at 0200hrs 2 July 2020, across the world there have been 10,357,662 confirmed cases of COVID-19 and more than 508,000 deaths.

Background information

- COVID-19 causes a spectrum of illness, from mild to very severe, including fever and/or respiratory symptoms. The key symptoms are fever; cough; shortness of breath; and sore throat.
- Current estimates of the time it takes for symptoms to develop after being exposed to the virus that causes COVID-19 range from 2-14 days.

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QUESTION TIME BRIEF

GBC20/361

Portfolio: Health

ISSUE: COVID-19: PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY AND DIRECTIONS

Talking points:

- The Chief Health Officer advised me on 15 June 2020 that the ACT's public health emergency declaration due to COVID-19 must remain in force as there remains significant risk of COVID-19 infection and outbreak in the community.
- The decision to maintain the public health emergency is being reviewed regularly as the situation evolves, however this position is consistent with that of the Australian Government and other jurisdictions.
- While the emergency declaration remains in force, the Chief Health Officer will provide me with a report every 30 days on the status of the COVID-19 pandemic as it impacts the Territory and whether the emergency declaration is still justified.
- Since the emergency declaration has been in force, the Chief Health Officer has taken the necessary actions to contain the spread of the disease, including issuing specific Public Health Emergency Directions.
- These Directions are consistent with the measures agreed by National Cabinet to slow and reverse the growth of COVID-19 cases and to ensure that our health care system has the ability to cope with new cases, and surge when and if required.
- The Directions have included restrictions around the operation of non-essential businesses, undertakings and restrictions on gatherings, returned travellers and entrance requirements to aged care facilities.
- These restrictions are gradually easing in line with *Canberra's Recovery Plan: COVID-19 Easing of Restrictions Roadmap (release 2.0)*.

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Public Health Emergency Directions (currently in force)

Public Health (Emergency) Declaration Further Extension 2020 (No. 9)

- The public health emergency declaration remains in force until 7 July 2020 subject to ongoing review.

Public Health (Restricted activities – Gatherings, Business or Undertakings) Emergency Direction 2020 (No. 3)

- The restrictions imposed by the direction include:
    - gatherings in an outdoor space of more than 100 persons,
    - gatherings at non-residential premises of more than 100 persons unless that place is excluded from the operation of the gathering restrictions (such as medical facilities, shopping centres, public transport facilities, and workplaces not listed as non-essential businesses)
    - as per the Roadmap several categories of non-essential business or undertaking are to remain closed (casinos, food courts, brothels, nightclubs).
    - most non-essential businesses and undertakings will be required to have a COVID-19 Safety Plan and must ask for a first name and contact number and record those details if provided.
    - gatherings at many non-essential businesses and undertakings are restricted to 1 person per 4 square metres of floor space or no more than 100 persons (whichever is the smaller), but for hospitality venues (public, clubs, restaurants and cafes) the restriction is 1 customer per 4 square metres of floor space to which customers have access, or no more than 100 customers (again, whichever is the smaller).
    - galleries, museums, national institution, libraries and outdoor amusement parks will only be required to observe social distancing of 1 person per 4 square metres, except for tours which are to be limited to 20 persons (excluding staff). Organised functions or events at such locations are also restricted to 1 person per 4 square metres of floor space or no more than 100 persons (whichever is the smaller).

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Public Health (Non-Essential Business or Undertaking) Emergency Direction 2020 (No. 7)

- Restrictions prohibit the operation of a number of business types deemed non-essential for the purpose for the Direction.
- Non-essential businesses are permitted to continue operating on an online or virtual, delivery, takeaway, or pickup basis.

Public Health (Residential Aged Care Facilities) Emergency Direction 2020 (No. 3)

- Restrictions prevent visitors entering RACFs if they have been overseas within the last 14 days, been in contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19, or have a temperature >37.5C.
- An influenza vaccination is required for people entering a RACF unless the person's presence is for the purposes of emergency management or law enforcement, or if vaccination is not available to the person due to a documented medical contradindication or the person is a child under 6 months of age.

Public Health (Returned Travellers) Emergency Direction 2020 (No. 5)

- Restrictions on persons entering the ACT following a flight from outside Autralia commence from the point at which the person arrives in the ACT. Returned travellers must travel directly from that place to a designated premises to reside in until clearance from quarantine is given by an authorised medical officer.

Public Health (Self-Isolation) Emergency Direction 2020

- A person diagnosed with COVID-19 in the ACT must self-isolate until clearance is given by an authorised medical officer, or travel directly to a hospital for medical treatment.

Background

- A public health emergency was declared in the ACT at 1.11pm on 16 March 2020, in response to the global pandemic of COVID-19.
- I (Minister for Health) signed the instrument declaring the public health emergency under section 119 of the *Public Health Act 1997*.

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- The declaration followed the first National Cabinet meeting, where all jurisdictions agreed to activate their public health emergency legislation to support the response to novel coronavirus.
- This is the first time a public health emergency has been declared in the ACT. It is a decision that is consistent with the response of other jurisdictions to manage and contain COVID-19 in Australia.
- The *Public Health (Emergencies) Amendment Act 2020* includes an amendment which extended the allowable time of an extension of a public health emergency declaration relating to COVID 19 from two days to 90 days.

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QUESTION TIME BRIEF

GBC20/361

Portfolio: Health

ISSUE: COVID-19: ACT TESTING

Talking points:

- As at 9.00am on 2 July 2020, the ACT has 108 confirmed cases.
- There are currently 0 active cases in the ACT.
- There have been 31,089 negative test results in the ACT as at 2 July 2020, and a total of 31, 197 tests (positive and negative).
- More than 2,505,000 tests have been conducted across Australia.
- The ACT is continuing a program of enhanced testing for COVID-19. The testing criteria includes any person with symptoms that could be related to COVID-19.
- ACT residents are encouraged to get tested if they have any symptoms at all, such as fever, shortness of breath, sore throat or a cough. In addition to testing returned travellers we have routinely been looking for COVID-19 cases through testing in:
    - Healthcare and aged-care workers;
    - Hospital patients; and
    - People who live and work in high-risk settings such as boarding houses or corrections facilities.
- We remain confident that the risk of undetected COVID-19 cases in the ACT is very low; however, we are maintaining rigorous surveillance and monitoring of the situation and closely watching for any changes as restrictions are eased.

<u>Testing locations</u>

- Free and easily accessibly testing is available at multiple testing locations across the ACT, including:
    - Weston Creek Walk-in Centre;
    - Exhibition Park in Canberra (EPIC);
    - Canberra Hospital (Building 3);

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- Calvary Public Hospital Bruce; and
- Free testing is also available by appointment at:
  - ‘our GP, 1/5 Baratta Street, Crace;
  - Lakeview Medical Practice, 1/216 Cowlishaw Street, Greenway; and
  - Winnunga Nimmityjah, 63 Boolimba Crescent, Narrabundah, which provides free and culturally appropriate assessment and testing for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and existing clients.

- There has been a recent increase in demand for COVID-19 testing resulting in delays at the EPIC and Weston testing sites.
- The ACT Government is promoting the range of testing sites available to manage the increased demand.

Background

- In the ACT there is no evidence of community transmission of COVID-19.
- The Australian population is largely non-immune to the disease, and as such, we must remain vigilant to prevent a resurgence in cases.
- Critical to entering the next phase of responding to the epidemic in Australia is ensuring sufficient testing capacity to rapidly detect as many cases as possible and limit transmission through comprehensive contact tracing.

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QUESTION TIME BRIEF

GBC20/361

Portfolio: Health

ISSUE: COVID-19: Health NGO service delivery/stimulus

Talking points:

- On 6 May 2020, Minister Rattenbury and I announced health funding of approximately $6 million dollars to support NGO service delivery and mental health care.
- This announcement included approximately $1.7 million to support our health NGOs to continue to deliver the vital services they provide to the community.
- More than 40 NGOs will share $1.4 million in support to ensure they can continue to deliver their services and adjust their models of delivery, including:
    - $50,000 for Palliative Care ACT;
    - $100,000 for Sexual Health and Family Planning ACT;
    - $40,000 for Anglicare's youth program The Junction youth health centre; and
    - $35,000 for Companion House.
- As at 24 June 2020, of the 46 organisations to receive stimulus funding, all 46 organisations have been offered a Deed for review, with 42 of these having been executed for a total of $1,296,000.
- In addition to the 46 organisations to receive Community Support Stimulus Funding a Deed of Grant for Carers ACT ($200,000) to support individuals and families to access telehealth services has been executed.
- The package also includes an additional $200,000 allocation to respond to increase in demand in the alcohol and drug sector as a result of the COVID-19 public health emergency.
- The funding is part of the first economic survival package announced by the Chief Minister in March 2020 identifying funding to support the community sector and vulnerable Canberrans.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	24/06/2020	
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Contact Officer name:	Jacinta George	Ext: 49756
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Rebecca Dawson	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/361	

- The allocation of this funding for health NGOs involved engagement with organisations about where support was required to assist organisations who have experienced increased demand, additional costs to deliver services, the need to change models of service delivery, or who are experiencing other impacts of the COVID-19 situation and response.

Key information

- During April 2020, feedback was sought from non-government organisations (NGOs) about the impacts of COVID-19 on their services, centred broadly around three identified areas:
    - Support for organisations to continue service delivery through different modes (e.g. online);
    - Support to meet increasing demand, or usual demand with decreased resources (e.g. increase in demand or lack of revenue threatening sustainability); and
    - Support for impacts of staff working from home/other workforce adaptation to public health advice.

Background

- The Health Non-Government Organisation Leadership Group is meeting more regularly to consider matters related to supporting NGOs to provide services during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The Minister for Health, the Minister for Mental Health and ACT Health Directorate (ACTHD) have reassured NGOs of their commitment to supporting them through the challenges of COVID-19. All contracted payments will be made by ACTHD, regardless of service delivery level, to maintain funding stability.
- On 20 March 2020, the ACT Government announced a $7 million Community Support Stimulus Package (Stimulus Package) to meet increased service demand for emergency relief. An additional $2 million has also been allocated to support the not-for-profit sector to deliver further mental health and community support. This brings the Community Support Package to a total of $9 million.
- $2 million has been identified to support the specific needs of Health NGOs.
- ACTHD, Justice and Community Services and Community Services Directorates have worked together to develop policy and processes for the procurement, warehousing and distribution of PPE to NGOs. This work was endorsed by Coordinator-General's Group on 27 May 2020 and has been published on the ACT COVID-19 website.

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- The health sector stimulus package announced on 6 May 2020 included $1.4 million funding for a total of 46 NGOs, ranging from alcohol and drug services to palliative care. The organisations to share in the project or program funding include:
    - Canberra Alliance for Harm Minimisation and Advocacy receiving $25,000 to support staff to provide services remotely and respond to client isolation and changing patterns of drug use.
    - Palliative Care ACT receiving $50,000 to support training of volunteers in virtual technology to support clients in connecting with family, friends and healthcare support services.
    - Sexual Health and Family Planning ACT receiving $100,000 to support its activities in a time of reduced income from chargeable services and to incorporate telehealth.
- In addition, from the $2 million allocated from the stimulus package for Health projects:
    - $200,000 has been identified to provide flexible funding to support alcohol and other drug services to respond to demand pressures or to innovate in the way their essential services are delivered;
    - $200,000 has also been allocated to Carers ACT to work with the Health Care Consumers' Association, ACTHD, Canberra Health Services and relevant NGOs to support individuals and families to access telehealth services;
    - $100,000 will be contributed to the Health and Hygiene coordination project being led by Community Services Directorate; and
    - $100,000 will be allocated for additional grief and loss counselling support.

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QUESTION TIME BRIEF

GBC20/361

Portfolio: Health

ISSUE: COVID-19: ACT ROADMAP – EASING OF RESTRICTIONS

Talking points:

- *Canberra's Recovery Plan: COVID-19 Easing of Restrictions Roadmap (release 2.0)* outlines the ACT's stepwise approach to easing public health restrictions.
- Checkpoints in between each step of the Roadmap help to identify and respond to any change in circumstance that may have a negative impact on the ACT's COVIDSafe recovery.
- Stage 2.2 of the Roadmap came into effect on Friday, 19 June 2020. This has allowed for larger gatherings of up to 100 people (subject to specific conditions for the hospitality sector), and reopening of a wider range of businesses and facilities.
- We are also planning for Stage 3 and beyond, which includes the highest risk activities and events.
- As a community we need to keep up the good work to stop the spread. The best way we can continue to do this is by staying home if feeling unwell, getting tested if experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms, keeping our physical distance and making sure we maintain good hand and cough hygiene.

Changes to public health directions

- From 12 noon on Friday 19 June 2020, COVID-19 restrictions in the ACT were eased further in stage 2.2 of the Roadmap, including:
    - Gathering limits increased to 100 people, provided one person per 4 square metres is maintained.
    - Cafés, restaurants, bars and other licenced venues can seat up to 100 customers per enclosed space (indoor or outdoor), or one customer per 4 sqm, whichever is lesser. Licenced venues will be able to serve alcohol without a meal to seated patrons only.

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  - Gyms, health clubs and fitness centres may also have up to 100 people per indoor or outdoor space (including staff). Free weights and shared equipment can be used provided suitable controls to ensure cleaning of shared equipment after each use must be in place.
  - Contact sports able to commence full training from 19 June to start their transition back to competitions from 10 July.
  - Local theatres, cinemas and concert venues will also be able to reopen with 100 people per indoor or outdoor space (including staff).
  - Places of worship gatherings of up to 100 people for those facilities that can manage the one person per 4 square metre rule.
- We will be monitoring the cumulative risk in circumstances where people gather, and multiple social networks interact.
- Should these measures not result in any significant increase in cases or any other signs of concern across the Territory, we will move into Stage 3 of our recovery plan from 10 July.
- COVID Safety Plans, other return to business plans, and further control measures such as visitor logs for patrons, will continue to be critical to easing measures with the confidence we can rapidly respond in the event of a case or cluster of new cases.

Background

- Following the National Cabinet meeting of 1 May 2020, the Chief Minister announced that some measures in the ACT would begin easing in a gradual way, allowing our public health experts time to assess the impact of each decision.
- On 8 May 2020, National Cabinet endorsed the *3 Step Framework for a COVIDSafe Australia* (the Framework) to guide the easing of restrictions based on the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee's (AHPPC) public health advice.

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- The Framework is underpinned by four key actions:
    - Maintain 1.5m distancing and good hygiene;
    - Stay home if unwell;
    - Frequently clean and disinfect communal areas;
    - COVIDSafe plan for workplaces and premises.
- On 26 June 2020, National Cabinet was provided with the third update of the impact of easing restrictions.
- All jurisdictions are moving through the Framework at different times in line with their current public health situation and local conditions and informed by risk assessments and changing epidemiology.
- The ACT's easing of restrictions remains broadly consistent with New South Wales and Queensland.

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QUESTION TIME BRIEF

GBC20/361

Portfolio: Health

ISSUE: COVID-19: PUBLIC HEALTH RESTRICTIONS – ADVICE TO BUSINESS

Talking points:

- *Canberra's Recovery Plan: COVID-19 Easing of Restrictions Roadmap (Release 2.0)* outlines the ACT's stepwise approach to easing public health restrictions, in line with the *3 Step Framework for a COVIDSafe Australia*.
- The Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC) has been advising National Cabinet on necessary public health control measures to reduce the transmission of COVID-19. These measures have been introduced by all Australian jurisdictions including the ACT.
- The public health measures have unfortunately had significant impact on individuals and businesses across a range of industries.
- The ACT is in a strong position, and is therefore continuing to progress its plan for easing public health restrictions. Stage 3 restrictions are in the process of being considered, and an announcement about this will be made very soon.
- In maintaining some restrictions on businesses, we have considered the ways that people will come together at these venues, the amount of people moving in and out of a business and how often, as well as the multiple surfaces people touch within a business, and the possibility of close contact between people.
- There remains a cumulative risk when people gather and multiple social networks interact, so COVID Safety Plans, other return to business plans, and further control measures such as visitor logs for patrons, continue to be critical to easing measures with the confidence we can rapidly respond in the event of an outbreak or cluster of new cases.
- As restrictions are eased, advice has been published on the ACT Government COVID-19 website and direct help and support is available through the Access Canberra Business Liaison Line on 62050900.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	01/07/2020	
Cleared by:	Chief Health Officer	Ext: 49442
Contact Officer name:	Vanessa Dal Molin	Ext: 49442
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Vanessa Dal Molin	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/361	

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

Tutoring business advice

- All institutions and businesses are currently required to meet the 1 person per 4 square metres rule, regardless of whether they are providing services for adults or children. Schools are not required to meet this requirement, as they would be unable to do so while teaching classes. Similar exemptions apply for healthcare, emergency services and law enforcement.
- While schools are now returning to classroom learning, this is being carefully managed to ensure students, teachers and staff are safe and schools are fully prepared to have the appropriate measures in place, based on public health advice.
- Tutoring services, as well as extracurricular and non-essential school-type services, are still required to meet the social distancing requirements.

Miniature Railway advice

- As an outdoor amusement venue, the Canberra Miniature Railway is able to operate with distancing of 1 person per 4 square metres throughout the venue, up to a maximum of 100 people on the premises.
- Businesses must aim to keep groups at least 1.5 metres apart. For the miniature railway, we understand that this would be more difficult, and as such we have provided the following guidance:
    - Attempt to keep groups of family/ friends together, and limit placing strangers together in carriages;
    - Time spent riding the trains should be limited;
    - Hand hygiene should be encouraged for patrons and staff, and undertaken upon entry and exit to the train;
    - The business should not allow anyone who is experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 to be at the venue; and
    - The business should consider enhanced cleaning, paying attention to high touch surfaces.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	01/07/2020	
Cleared by:	Chief Health Officer	Ext: 49442
Contact Officer name:	Vanessa Dal Molin	Ext: 49442
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Vanessa Dal Molin	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/361	

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

Clubs advice

- Clubs may operate with distancing of 1 person per 4 square metres up to a maximum of 100 people for each indoor and outdoor space.
- Each Club must develop a COVID-19 Safety Plan to which it must adhere, and which it must produce when requested by an authorised person.
- Betting agencies (Tab and Keno) were allowed to open within licenced venues from Stage 2.2. Stand alone venues were also allowed to open during this stage.
- During stage 2.2, gaming rooms are to remain closed. However, these are to be considered for reopening from 10 July 2020, as part of Stage 3 easing of restrictions.
- Clubs and gaming venues are advised to implement enhanced cleaning and hygiene procedures, paying particular attention to high touch surfaces, the encouragement of good hand hygiene for patrons and staff including at entry and exit points, and not allowing anyone into the venue that is experiencing symptoms of COVID-19.

Background

- Public health evidence tells us that the movement and gathering of people who do not know each other are the greatest risk to outbreaks of an infectious disease like COVID-19. This means that the risk of disease spread increases as gathering sizes increase.
- Furthermore, there is the collective risk associated with the reopening of multiple businesses and facilities and recommencing social and sporting activities. The ACT Government is monitoring the cumulative effect of larger gatherings, multiple social networks crossing or coming together, and more interactions and co-mingling.
- The ACT continues to follow the advice of AHPPC and the *3 Step Framework*, and our easing of restrictions is aligned to most other jurisdictions.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	01/07/2020	
Cleared by:	Chief Health Officer	Ext: 49442
Contact Officer name:	Vanessa Dal Molin	Ext: 49442
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Vanessa Dal Molin	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/361	

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

GBC20/361

Portfolio: Health

ISSUE: INFLUENZA SEASON

Talking points:

- The Government encourages the community to talk to their healthcare provider about influenza immunisation.
- Vaccination is recommended for all members of the public aged six months or over.
- This year there has been an increase in demand for flu vaccines which is believed to be due to the concurrent COVID-19 pandemic.

National Immunisation Program

- The Australian Government's National Immunisation Program (NIP) provides free vaccine for vulnerable populations, including:
    - children aged 6 months to under 5 years;
    - people aged 65 and over;
    - all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people;
    - pregnant women; and
    - people 5 years to 64 years with certain medical conditions which puts them at increased risk from influenza.
- The Immunisation Section at the Health Protection Service has distributed 128,653 doses of influenza vaccine to immunisation providers to 21 June 2020.
    - 108,502 of these doses have been distributed to General Practices (GP).
    - At the same point in 2019, a total of 105,297 vaccines had been distributed with 92,381 to GPs.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	24/06/2020	
Cleared by:	Deputy Director-General	Ext: 49786
Contact Officer name:	Conrad Barr	Ext: 49262
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Conrad Barr	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/361	

- A total of 64,768 Fluad Quad vaccines have been distributed for the ACT over 65-year-old population to 21 June 2020, which is estimated at 53,000 people (Australian Bureau of Statistics 2019).
    - Fluad Quad is the recommended flu vaccine for people over 65 years of age, this equates to enough doses for 122 per cent of this population in the ACT.
    - There have been 52,437 Fluad Quad vaccines have been distributed to GPs since 31 March 2020.
- The Immunisation Section at the Public Health Protection and Regulation distribute to over 200 immunisation providers across the Territory and have increased their staffing to provide this service.

Annual Flu campaign

- I launched the flu campaign with the Chief Health Officer on Thursday 16 April 2020.
- Promotion of the flu vaccine commenced with print, radio and social media to correspond with the launch and will continue throughout the flu season.
- Distribution of NIP vaccine for influenza commenced on 31 March 2020 to GPs, some pharmacies and other immunisation providers.

Key Information

- While the NIP vaccine is free for those eligible, providers such as GPs and pharmacies may charge a consultation or administration fee at their own discretion.
- In addition to government funded NIP stock, GPs and pharmacies also have access to private stock ordered directly through pharmaceutical companies. While ACT Health Directorate does not have oversight of the number of vaccines provided in the ACT, both the peak bodies for pharmacies and the Capital Health Network (CHN) have reported high demand for this stock resulting in some supply issues in the private market.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	24/06/2020	
Cleared by:	Deputy Director-General	Ext: 49786
Contact Officer name:	Conrad Barr	Ext: 49262
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Conrad Barr	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/361	

Background

- Influenza can occur at any time of the year, however the peak time for influenza is during June to October in the ACT. Numbers of notifications in summer and early autumn have remained stable for 2019 and 2020. Notifications in the last 10 weeks have been less than 1 per week, with a total of 188 cases notified to CDC to 21 June 2020. This decrease may be attributable to social distancing and increased awareness of hand hygiene as well as vaccination.
- With the COVID-19 whole of government response currently, the annual winter planning will be incorporated into the pandemic response to ensure all facilities are planning for increased demand on services. This includes all acute health facilities, emergency services and non-government health sector partners such as aged care facilities.
- The total numbers of notified influenza cases may be affected by COVID-19, with potentially a decrease due to the social distancing and self-quarantine restrictions which are in place for COVID-19 or increased notifications due to increased respiratory testing of the population.
- Influenza is highly contagious, so individuals that are unwell should try to avoid spreading the infection to others. If you are unwell you can do this by seeking medical care and taking necessary precautions such as hand and cough hygiene and absenting yourself from public places such as school or work.
- Influenza is generally self-limiting, and symptoms will resolve on their own with rest. If concerned, individuals can seek medical advice from their GP, ACT Health Walk-in-Centres or healthdirect Australia on 1800 022 222.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	24/06/2020	
Cleared by:	Deputy Director-General	Ext: 49786
Contact Officer name:	Conrad Barr	Ext: 49262
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Conrad Barr	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/361	

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

GBC20/361

Portfolio: Health

ISSUE: MINISTER'S FACT SHEET

	Q2 YTD 2018-19	Q2 YTD 2019-20	change	Q1 2019-20	Q2 2019-20
Walk-in Centres					
Number of presentations to Walk-in Centres	28,637	35,188	22.9%	17,481	17,707
Emergency department					
Number of presentations by hospital					
Canberra Hospital	44,749	47,316	5.7%	23,954	23,362
Calvary Public Hospital Bruce	29,160	28,429	-2.5%	14,230	14,199
Total	**73,909**	**75,745**	**2.5%**	**38,184**	**37,561**
Number of presentations by triage category					
1—Resuscitation	379	524	38.3%	267	257
2—Emergency	7,708	9,158	18.8%	4,509	4,649
3—Urgent	32,116	34,458	7.3%	17,481	16,977
4—Semi-urgent	28,076	27,003	-3.8%	13,670	13,333
5—Non-urgent	5,630	4,602	-18.3%	2,257	2,345
Total	**73,909**	**75,745**	**2.5%**	**38,184**	**37,561**
Percentage of patients seen on time by triage category[1]					
1—Resuscitation	100.0%	99.8%	-0.2	99.6%	100%
2—Emergency	76.3%	73.2%	-3.1	72.8%	73.6%
3—Urgent	34.6%	26.2%	-8.4	25.8%	26.7%
4—Semi-urgent	49.0%	40.6%	-8.4	40.6%	40.6%
5—Non-urgent	84.9%	78.7%	-6.2	78.9%	78.6%
Total	**48.60%**	**40.8%**	**-7.8**	**40.4%**	**41.3%**
Proportion of presentations with a length of stay of 4 hours or less[2]					
Canberra Hospital	56.6%	51.5%	-5.1	51.8%	51.1%
Calvary Public Hospital Bruce	68.9%	61.3%	-7.6	61.0%	61.5%
Total	**61.5%**	**55.1%**	**-6.4**	**55.2%**	**55.0%**

1. The benchmarks for seen on time are as follows:
   - Triage category 1—100%
   - Triage category 2—80%
   - Triage category 3—75%
   - Triage categories 4, 5 and overall—70%
2. The performance benchmark for emergency department presentations with a length of stay of 4 hours or less is 90%.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	25/06/2020	
Cleared by:	Executive Group Manager	
Contact Officer name:	Peter O'Halloran	Ext: 49000
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Justine Spina	Ext: 49040
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/361	

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

	YTD 2018-19	YTD 2019-20	change	Q1 2019-20	Q2 2019-20
Elective surgery waiting lists					
Number of patients waiting longer than clinically recommended at end of period					
Total by Urgency category 1 – 3	507	783	54.4%	594	783
Proportion of removals for surgery that were within clinically recommended timeframes					
Urgency 1 (see within 30 days)	95.5%	97.2%	1.7	96.6%	97.9%
Urgency 2 (see within 90 days)	82.1%	71.8%	-10.3	70.8%	70.6%
Urgency 3 (see within 365 days)	79.2%	75.7%	-3.5	75.8%	75.6%
Separations from public hospitals					
Number of inpatient separations					
Same day	29,061	30,595	5.3%	15,311	15,282
Overnight	28,342	29,663	4.7%	15,115	14,548
Total	**57,403**	**60,258**	**5.0%**	**30,427**	**29,830**

Cleared as complete and accurate:	25/06/2020	
Cleared by:	Executive Group Manager	
Contact Officer name:	Peter O'Halloran	Ext: 49000
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Justine Spina	Ext: 49040
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/361	

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

GBC20/361
Portfolio: Health

ISSUE: BUDGET SUMMARY 2019-20 (MID YEAR) REVIEW

Talking points:

- Health expenses will grow to $1.968 billion in 2019-20 (excluding Territorial capital grants). This includes adjustments made through the second Appropriation Act.
- This represents an increase of $206 million (12 per cent) from the 2018-19 actual outcome.

<u>COVID-19 – Health funding</u>

- The ACT Government committed an additional $126 million, funded 50:50 between the ACT and Commonwealth governments, to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The funding will provide for: a COVID-19 surge centre; extra emergency department capacity; additional beds for ICU; fever clinics; and respiratory clinics; personal protective equipment; enhanced operational capacity for public health services including contact tracing and testing.

<u>Mid-year review (Canberra Health Services Demand)</u>

- As part of the mid-year budget update, the ACT Government provided Canberra Health Services (CHS) with a $60 million supplementary budget appropriation to help meet acute service demand this financial year.
- This investment in CHS will help maintain Emergency Department (ED) capacity, allow for the continuation of additional intensive care and general inpatient beds and maintain capacity for elective and emergency surgeries.
- This is part of our ongoing commitment to invest in public health services in the ACT to ensure Canberrans continue to access exceptional health care when and where they need it.
- Our emergency department presentations continue to grow and are becoming more complex.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	23/06/2020	
Cleared by:	Chief Finance Officer	Ext: 49428
Contact Officer name:	Jean-Paul Donda	Ext: 49641
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Kate Chambers	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/361	

  - Between 2017-18 and 2018-19, we saw an 8 per cent increase in category one patients, 10 per cent increase in category 2 and 4 per cent increase in category 3 – at the same time as we saw a 3 per cent fall in category 4 and 10 per cent fall in category 5.
  - On top of that, we're seeing more patients with co-morbidity – complex underlying health conditions that mean people take longer to treat. As well as more patients with a mental health presentation.
  - And last year we had the longest and busiest flu season since 2001 (in 2019 there were 6,259 presentations at the Canberra Hospital ED for influenza-like illness, up from 4,779 in 2018).
- All of this means more pressure on the emergency department and more demand for emergency surgery – an additional 2,569 presentations and 547 more emergency surgeries in the first half of this financial year compared to the same period in 2018-19.
- We had 16 additional beds open during a long winter and overall these demand pressures have equated to Canberra Hospital needing 136 more front-line staff, including doctors, nurses and allied health workers.
- We're not going to allow the increased demand for emergency treatment and emergency surgery compromise our commitment to improving elective surgery performance.
- In 2018-19, we delivered a record of more than 14,000 elective surgeries in the ACT and in the first half of 2019-20 we had delivered 7,317 elective surgeries.
- CHS CEO, Bernadette McDonald, and her team have been working diligently and methodically over several months to identify the cost pressures and to develop timely care strategies to keep patients flowing through the hospital and ensure it operates more efficiently.
- In 2019, Canberra Health Services commenced implementing changes to address patient flow and hospital capacity requirements. This work includes:
  - Multidisciplinary approach to initial assessment and treatment commencing, ensuring more patients commence care as soon as

possible. It includes earlier physician engagement in the care provided, as well as expanded nurse protocols (approved pathways).

- Working to streamline admission processes so that medical staff can work in parallel to admit to wards across the hospital in a timely manner.
- A sharper focus across all divisions on admission from the emergency department, and discharge, as well diagnostics and support services is being taken to support more timely patient flow.
- Exploring an expansion of rapid assessment models of care, including the Emergency Medical Unit.
- This work was put on hold during March and April due to the COVID-19 pandemic and it has now recommenced.

- We are committed to improving the performance of the public health system across the board – and that includes improving financial performance as well as wait times.
- To do that effectively, we need everyone pulling together and everyone feeling confident that if they have a good idea for how to do things better, that will be listened to.

<u>2019-20 Budget</u>

- The 2019-20 Budget allocates $27.8 million to health service delivery (including Health Protection Services and Calvary Public Hospital) and $9.2 million to health policy, research, administration and support services inclusive of $2.9 million for ACT Health Core IT Systems.
- New health service delivery over the forward estimates (four years) will be $194.7 million.
- New health policy, research, administration and support services over the forward estimates (four years) will be $44.1 million, which includes $19.9 million for ACT Health Core IT Systems.
- There are no significant new savings targets contained in this Budget, however, Canberra Health Services will be required to internally fund $1.213 million towards the Emergency Department Doctor increase initiative per annum.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	23/06/2020	
Cleared by:	Chief Finance Officer	Ext: 49428
Contact Officer name:	Jean-Paul Donda	Ext: 49641
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Kate Chambers	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/361	

Background info

- New initiatives contained in the 2019-20 Budget are listed at Attachment A.
- The 2019-20 Budget Papers (Health Statements) outlines the split between the new ACT Health Directorate and Canberra Health Services from the former Health Directorate.
- For the purposes of the 2018-19 estimated outcome, the former Health Directorate's original budget is indicated against Canberra Health Services. This reflects that technically the former Health Directorate's name was changed to Canberra Health Services and a new entity was created for the ACT Health Directorate.
- Controlled Recurrent Payments (Appropriation) is only received by the ACT Health Directorate and the Local Hospital Network going forward. The Local Hospital Network will purchase services from the ACT's public hospitals including Canberra Health Services.
- Canberra Health Services will receive Capital Injection directly from ACT Treasury to undertake capital works.

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Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Kate Chambers	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/361	

ACT Government

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

Attachment A

Treasury Ref		Mental Health	Recurrent					Capital				
			2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	Total	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	Total
			$000's	$000's	$000's	$000's	$000's	$000's	$000's	$000's	$000's	$000's
Canberra Health Services												
CHS E01	Expanding intensive care services at Canberra Hospital		7,149	7,041	7,235	7,341	**28,766**					**0**
CHS E02	Expanding public inpatient mental health care	MH	1,680	1,722	1,765	1,809	**6,976**					**0**
CHS E03	More beds at The Canberra Hospital		3,086	3,448	3,559	3,617	**13,710**					**0**
CHS E05	Expanding public Fracture Clinic services		556	1,139	1,167	1,197	**4,059**					**0**
CHS E06	Improving access to maternity services across Canberra		513	515	529	537	**2,094**					**0**
CHS E08	More specialised women's health care		114	214	220	223	**771**					**0**
CHS E12	Expanding public dermatology services		175	180	185	188	**728**					**0**
CHS E13	Strengthening care for chronic disease		240	462	474	481	**1,657**					**0**
CHS E15	7-day-a-week Mental Health Consultation Liaison service	MH	800	1,234	1,268	1,292	**4,594**					**0**
CHS E16	More mental health services at The Canberra Hospital	MH	0	488	999	1,078	**2,565**	1,764	756			**2,520**
CHS E25	Strengthening care for older Canberrans		470	482	494	506	**1,952**					**0**
CHS E26	More support for families travelling for healthcare		250	512	525	538	**1,825**					**0**
CHS E27	Expanding pharmacy services at Canberra Hospital		302	545	749	813	**2,409**	2,212	3,318			**5,530**
CHS E29	Expanding public ophthalmology services		250	0	0	0	**250**					**0**
CHS E30	Strengthening care for childhood and gestational diabetes		567	765	784	796	**2,912**					**0**
CHS E31	Expanding health services at the Alexander Maconochie Centre	MH	258	266	273	277	**1,074**					**0**
CHS E32	More opioid treatment services on Canberra's northside		0	750	770	790	**2,310**	611				**611**
CHS CW04	More public medical imaging services for Canberra Hospital		100	677	1,217	1,458	**3,452**		2,800	6,100	2,300	**11,200**
HEA E02	Delivering the Weston Creek Walk in Centre		1,946	2,705	2,887	2,933	**10,471**					**0**
HEA E26	Delivering better mental health care for people in crisis	MH	147	0	0	0	**147**					**0**
HEA E29	Alternative justice pathways for people with mental illness	MH	731	749	768	787	**3,035**					**0**
HEA E30	Expanding early intervention and diversion programs for people experiencing alcohol and drug dependence		949	644	660	677	**2,930**					**0**
CHS E33	More doctors in the Canberra Hospital Emergency Department to respond to increased demand		0	0	0	0	**0**					
Health System, Policy and Research												
HEA E06	Expanding palliative care for older Canberrans		408	363	373	519	**1,663**					**0**
HEA E07	Investing in medical and health research		1,000	1,000	1,000	0	**3,000**					**0**
HEA E08	Supporting better healthcare for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer Canberrans		87	0	0	0	**87**					**0**
HEA E09	Implementing the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse		321	377	285	289	**1,272**					**0**
HEA E11	Expanding public healthcare services for eating disorders	MH	179	442	683	913	**2,217**					**0**
HEA E13	Delivering better care for Canberrans with complex needs through general practice		500	1,000	1,000	0	**2,500**					**0**
HEA E14	Strengthening capacity for mental health carers	MH	226	231	0	0	**457**					**0**
HEA E15	Delivering the ACT Strategic Priorities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health 2019-2028		180	310	310	315	**1,115**					**0**
HEA E16a	Delivering the ACT Drug Strategy Action Plan		200	0	0	0	**200**					**0**
HEA E16b	Delivering the ACT Drug Strategy Action Plan		300	308	315	323	**1,246**					**0**

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Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Kate Chambers	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/361	

ACT Government

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

Attachment A (continued)

Treasury Ref		Mental Health	Recurrent					Capital				
			2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	Total	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	Total
			$000's	$000's	$000's	$000's	$000's	$000's	$000's	$000's	$000's	$000's
Canberra Health Services												
HEA E18	Protecting teens with meningococcal ACWY vaccinations		320	328	337	342	**1,327**					**0**
HEA E23	Implementing the Nurses and Midwives: Towards a Safer Culture – The First Step strategy		560	588	144	0	**1,292**					**0**
HEA E25	Co-design and Planning: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Alcohol and Drug Residential Rehabilitation Facility		300	0	0	0	**300**					**0**
HEA CW08	Implementing real time prescription monitoring		0	-30	-30	-30	**-90**	788	1,326			**2,114**
HEA E31	Implementing the Independent Review into the Workplace Culture within ACT Public Health Services		2,500	4,000	4,000	0	**10,500**					**0**
Corporate												
HEA CW01	Expanding the Centenary Hospital for Women and Children		0	3,990	14,990	20,510	**39,490**	3,000	30,000	10,550	0	**43,550**
HEA CW02	Delivering the SPIRE Centre at Canberra Hospital		0	200	400	500	**1,100**	53,700	42,300	126,900	159,000	**381,900**
HEA CW04	Expanding the Clare Holland House to strength palliative care		0	0	60	120	**180**	2,000	2,000	2,000	0	**6,000**
HEA CW05	Delivering the Inner North Walk in Centre		0	2,648	2,687	2,744	**8,079**	1,100	614	0	0	**1,714**
HEA CW09	ACT Health Core IT Systems to align with the Digital Health Strategy		2,860	4,625	7,975	4,487	**19,947**	3,920	24,574	25,504	16,380	**70,378**
Calvary												
HEA E01	More urology services at Calvary Public Hospital		432	962	991	1,021	**3,406**	2,500				**2,500**
HEA E03	More surgical theatres at Calvary Public Hospital		1,539	3,302	3,461	3,625	**11,927**	640	14			**654**
HEA E04	Expanding the emergency department at Calvary Public Hospital		3,021	6,143	6,352	6,475	**21,991**					**0**
Cross-agency												
CSD 03c	NDIS Full Scheme		1,179	1,208	1,239	1,270	**4,896**					**0**
CSD E15	Domestic & Family Violence Frontline training		216	296	296	301	**1,109**					**0**
JACS E39	Improving the safety of older drivers		300	0	0	0	**300**					**0**
JACS E01	A Safer Canberra - CHS resources for fixated threat mgt capability trial	MH	82	277	285	0	**644**					**0**

Cleared as complete and accurate: 23/06/2020
Cleared by: Chief Finance Officer Ext: 49428
Contact Officer name: Jean-Paul Donda Ext: 49641
Lead Directorate: Health
Cleared for release Yes
Information Officer name: Kate Chambers
TRIM Ref: GBC20/361

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

GBC20/361

Portfolio: Health

ISSUE: QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE REPORTING AND ACT HEALTH PUBLICATION OF DATA FOR CONSUMERS

Emergency presentations

- Overall presentations and performance across the ACT's two emergency departments (EDs) have remained relatively stable in Quarter 2, 2019-20 when compared to the previous Quarter.
- Obviously, Emergency Department performance was not where we would like it to be in the second half of last year, and we know Canberrans expect better.
- That's why we invested in a 50 per cent expansion in Calvary's Emergency Department treatment spaces – delivering 20 per cent more emergency department capacity across the Territory. I'm pleased to say that project is nearing completion and the treatment spaces and new waiting areas are now open.
- At Canberra Hospital, the increase in complexity of ED presentations over recent years has had a significant impact on performance.
- A range of measures commenced in late February to improve ED performance, including:
    - a new multidisciplinary approach to the initial assessment of patients, enabling care to commence as quickly as possible through both early clinician engagement and expanded nurse protocols;
    - streamlining admission processes into wards across the hospital and sharpen the focus across all divisions on admitting patients from the ED; and
    - improving the timeliness of diagnostics and support services.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	25/06/2020	
Cleared by:	Executive Group Manager	
Contact Officer name:	Peter O'Halloran	Ext: 49000
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Justine Spina	Ext: 49040
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/361	

- While the hospital has been required to focus on its response to COVID-19 over the last few months, many of these measures are still being pursued, and we continue to keep a close eye on ED performance.

Elective surgeries

- The number of elective surgeries performed decreased in this quarter when compared with the previous quarter.
- The percentage of surgeries performed within clinically recommended timeframes has increased for Urgency Category 1 when compared to Quarter 1, 2019-20. Timeliness performance declined slightly for Urgency Categories 2 and 3 when compared with the previous quarter.
- At the end of December 7,317 elective surgeries had been performed and we were on track to reach the 2019-20 target of 14,250 elective surgeries, having a performed a record 14,015 in 2018-19.

Walk-in-Centres

- Walk-in Centre (WIC) presentations have continued to increase in Quarter 2, 2019-20, with a 1.3 percent, or 226, increase in the number of presentations compared to the last quarter.
- Efficiency is improving with the median wait time across all WICs reducing by 15 per cent, or 3 minutes, compared to last quarter.
- It's great to see our Walk-in Centres treat even more patients in the last quarter of 2019 and still reduced average waiting times. Canberrans have embraced this model of care, and having a network of local centres staffed by highly skilled nurses and nurse practitioners has proved invaluable in our response to COVID-19.
- As at the end of December 2019, there have been 885 presentations to the new Weston Creek WIC which opened in mid-December.
- Walk-in centres continued to fully treat most patients presenting (more than 83 per cent) with less than 6 per cent redirected to an ED.
- The Government will open a fifth Walk-in-Centre for the Inner North in late 2020.

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Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Justine Spina	Ext: 49040
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/361	

Background Information:

- The most recent report for the October to December 2019 quarter was published on 24 April 2020. The report includes key metrics reported at the hospital level throughout the report.
- As part of the Government's ongoing commitment to improve data reporting, the ACT Health Directorate publishes regular Quarterly Performance Reports.
- This Quarterly Report continues to show sustained high demand for services in the ACT, and that our public health services continue to receive very positive feedback on the care they provide.
- Publication of the Quarterly Reports recommenced in November 2018 with the release of the report for the first quarter of 2018-19. It was developed in consultation with the Health Care Consumers' Association.
- The Quarterly Reports provide patients, consumers and the ACT community with a summary of activity and performance across a range of services including:
    - emergency departments;
    - elective surgery;
    - admitted patient care;
    - Walk-in Centres;
    - Patient experience in hospitals; and
    - hospital quality and safety information.
- The Quarterly Reports will be regularly reviewed to ensure we continue to improve access to information about our health system and help Canberrans be more in control of their own health care.

<u>ACT Publication of Data for Consumers</u>

- One of the priorities for the ACT Health Directorate is to identify and report relevant health information to improve access to data online and help Canberrans be more informed about their own health care.
- As identified through the System-Wide Data Review, ACT Health Directorate provides data for over 130 performance indicators that are publicly reported. This includes information in the Report on Government Services and in various reports from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.
- The ACT Health Directorate has provided access to all of these publicly reported metrics through its website, where users can access the most up-to-date information at any time.

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Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Justine Spina	Ext: 49040
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/361	

- To ensure that we continue to improve the availability and usefulness of information about our health system, the ACT Health Directorate continues to refresh the publication of data for consumers.
- The ACT Health Directorate is continuing to engage with a range of consumer groups, including the Health Care Consumers' Association, to better understand consumer requirements for information about the ACT's health services.

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Cleared for release	Yes	
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TRIM Ref:	GBC20/361	

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

GBC20/361

Portfolio: Health

ISSUE: INQUIRY INTO MATERNITY SERVICES IN THE ACT

Talking points:

- Maternity services continue to be a priority for the ACT Government.
- In the 2018-19 Budget the ACT Government committed $65.5 million over the next three years (2018-19 to 2020-21) to continue the expansion of the Centenary Hospital for Women and Children.
- The expansion will provide additional capacity and support for maternity and paediatric services, including:
    - improving high care services for paediatrics and neonatology;
    - new adolescent gynaecology and mental health services; and
    - increased prenatal and postnatal services.
- The expansion will enhance Centenary Hospital for Women and Children's role as Canberra's primary tertiary facility for neonatal, paediatric, gynaecological and maternity services.
- The Report on Inquiry into Maternity Services in the ACT was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on 4 June 2020. The standing committee has made 74 recommendations.
- The ACT Government is preparing a response to the Report which will be tabled in the Legislative Assembly in August 2020.

Key Information:

- On 18 September 2018 an inquiry into maternity services in the ACT (the Maternity Inquiry) was announced by the Chair of the Standing Committee on Health, Ageing and Community Care, Mr Michael Pettersson MLA.
- The former Minister for Health and Wellbeing provided a submission to the Maternity Inquiry on 20 December 2018. The submission was prepared by the ACT Health Directorate with input from Canberra Health Services and Calvary Public Hospital Bruce.
- Following the public hearings, increased media attention alerted more Canberrans to the Inquiry and consequently the Committee reopened submissions until 30 October 2019. A total of 77 submissions were published on the Inquiry webpage. The submissions are from individuals and organisations.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	29/6/2020	
Cleared by:	Executive Group Manager	x49392
Contact Officer name:	Michael Culhane	
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Maria Travers	51249922
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/361	

- The ACT Government Response to the Report is being led by the ACT Health Directorate with input from Canberra Health Services and other relevant Directorates as required. The ACT Government response along with the Cabinet Submission is scheduled for Cabinet on 10 August 2020 ahead of tabling in the Legislative Assembly prior to caretaker.

Background Information:

- In September 2018, Mr Michael Pettersson MLA said that "the Committee is aware that there is a range of maternity care models available in the ACT. The Committee also acknowledges that there is an increasing demand for continuous care across the maternity pathway and wants to ensure that all pathways are working well within ACT maternity services."
- The Committee resolved to inquire into and report on the operation of maternity services across the ACT and established a terms of reference:
    a) models of care for all maternity services offered at the Centenary Hospital for Women and Children (CHWC) and Calvary Public Hospital (CPH), including, but not limited to, the Birth Centre, the Canberra Midwifery Program, and the Home Birth Trial and whether there are any gaps in care;
    b) provision of private maternity services including centre and non-centre services;
    c) management of patient flow, including, but not limited to, wait lists, booking services, and capacity constraints;
    d) management of patient birthing preferences, including, but not limited to, professional advice offered to patients, and the practices associated with birthing emergencies;
    e) interaction between the CHWC and CPH with other service areas, including, but not limited to, emergency departments, and operating theatres;
    f) the efficiency and efficacy of maternity services;
    g) the impact on maternity services on regional participants;
    h) patient satisfaction with the services;
    i) the impact on staff including, but not limited to, rostering policies and practices, staff-to-patient ratios, optimum staffing levels, and skills mix;
    j) the impact of technological advances and innovations;
    k) relevant experiences and learnings from other jurisdictions; and
    l) any related matters.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	29/6/2020	
Cleared by:	Executive Group Manager	x49392
Contact Officer name:		Ext:
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Michael Culhane	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/361	

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

GBC20/361

Portfolio: Health

ISSUE: ELECTIVE SURGERY WAITING TIMES

Talking points:

- In keeping with the decisions of National Cabinet, the ACT suspended all *non-essential* elective surgery from 25 March 2020. This suspension applied to both public and private hospitals.
- The most urgent Category 1 surgeries, emergency surgeries and Category 2 cases assessed as essential continued in public and private facilities.
- On 15 May 2020, National Cabinet again took a decision on the resumption of elective surgery, leaving it to individual jurisdictions to stage the return of elective surgery activity while maintaining COVID-19 preparedness.
- The Government's original target of 14,250 surgeries was not achieved last financial year. Preliminary results indicate we will fall short of this target by around 1,500 surgeries.
- We are very pleased that our hospitals have been able to maintain the treatment timeliness target for the most urgent Category 1 surgeries which remains at close to 100 per cent. However, timeliness for patients in Categories 2 and 3 has deteriorated.
- There has consequently been an unavoidable increase in the number of public patients waiting longer than clinically recommended for their surgery, increasing to nearly 1,500 in June 2020.
- This situation is very regrettable but unavoidable and will be a common experience around Australia as a result of this pandemic.
- The Government is investing in extra elective surgeries over the next 12 months in an effort to make up the elective surgery backlog.
- The additional elective surgeries will be on top of the elective surgeries already planned for 2020-21.
- There are number of factors we need to consider as we ramp up our surgical activity and address the backlog caused by the COVID-19 pandemic:

Cleared as complete and accurate:	01/07/2020	
Cleared by:	Executive Group Manager	Ext: 49699
Contact Officer name:	Margaret Stewart	Ext: 0466 137 074
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Margaret Stewart	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/361	

  - We need to remain mindful of preserving our PPE supplies should we need them to respond to a local outbreak or cluster of COVID-19 in the ACT and surrounding region;
  - We also need to maintain capacity in the system in case we experience a surge in COVID-19 cases as restrictions continue to be eased; and
  - We need to work according to our service continuity plan for surgery at all phases of the pandemic response.
- This is a sizeable task. Canberra Health Services and the Health Directorate are working, in consultation with Calvary Public Hospital Bruce and the private hospitals, to:
  - identify and plan the clinical case mix of surgeries affected by the COVID-19 suspension;
  - develop a strategy for acquiring the additional surgical and anaesthetic workforce required;
  - identify and secure the additional surgical theatre capacity required;
  - establish the administrative and governance arrangements required to oversee and implement the catch up program; and
  - plan for the risks in delivering this scale of additional activity.
- I would strongly urge anyone who is waiting for elective surgery to contact their medical professional to seek advice about how to best manage their condition, particularly if they feel that their condition is deteriorating.
- Patients wanting to know their status on the surgery waitlist can visit the ACT Health surgery website for more information.
- The ACT's health system will continue to ensure any patient in need of urgent attention will receive treatment.

Background Information:

- In addition to the elective surgery catch up in response to the pandemic, the Government has invested more than $90 million in expanding the surgery program since the 2016-17 Budget, including:

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Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Margaret Stewart	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/361	

- commissioning of two new theatres at Calvary Public Hospital Bruce, – one was opened in July 2019 and the second will commence in 2020-21;
- expanded urology surgical services; and
- The Surgical Procedures, Interventional Radiology and Emergency (SPIRE) project, which will provide state-of-the-art operating theatres and critical care facilities to meet the acute health care needs of our region into the future.

- Additional figures below if required:

Indicator	**2019-20 Target**	**2018-19 Result**	**2019-20 Q1 Result**	**2019-20 Q2 Result**
Number of elective surgery procedures performed	14,250	14,015	3,840	3,477
Category 1 elective surgery patients admitted for surgery within clinically recommended timeframes	100%	96%	96.6%	98%
Category 2 elective surgery patients admitted for surgery within clinically recommended timeframes	80%	75%	70.8%	71%
Category 3 elective surgery patients admitted for surgery within clinically recommended timeframes	93%	78%	75.8%	76%

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Contact Officer name:	Margaret Stewart	Ext: 0466 137 074
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TRIM Ref:	GBC20/361	

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

GBC20/361

Portfolio: Health

ISSUE: INTENSIVE CARE BED CAPACITY

Talking points:

- In Canberra, as across Australia, hospitals are experiencing pressures from increased demand for critical care services, like those provided by our intensive care units (ICU).
- While the SPIRE Project at Canberra Hospital will expand ICU capacity, early planning work has identified that extra capacity in the ICU will be required ahead of SPIRE's completion.
- ACT Health engaged a lead designer to complete the ICU Expansion concept plans and Preliminary Sketch Plans.
- This project is set to deliver an additional eight ICU beds, medical equipment and infrastructure, meeting the immediate acute health care needs of Canberrans.
- The facility is due to be operational by the end of 2021.
- The Commonwealth Government's announcement to fund the $13.5 million expansion as part of the Community Health and Hospital Program is welcomed.
- Canberra Health Services received $28.7 million over four years in the 2019-20 ACT Budget, to fund ICU staffing for four beds.
- The Commonwealth have committed $52 million for ACT Health projects, of which $13.5 million is for the ICU expansion, designed to create an additional six to eight beds.

Key Information

- The Canberra Hospital has physical capacity for 31 Intensive Care Unit (ICU) beds.
- The Calvary Public Hospital has physical capacity for 10 ICU beds.
- In periods of high demand, Canberra Hospital and Calvary work closely together to manage ICU demand. This can include the transfer of patients where clinically safe to do so.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	29/06/2020	
Cleared by:	Executive Group Manager	
Contact Officer name:	Liz Lopa	Ext: 49805
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
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TRIM Ref:	GBC20/361	

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

Background Information

- Since the SPIRE project was funded in the 2017-18 ACT Budget, the first stages of the project have included early planning and feasibility work. As part of this process, a Steering Committee made up of health service providers and key stakeholders was set-up to establish an agreed baseline from which effective, territory-wide service and infrastructure planning is based.
- Following December's announcement of SPIRE's location on the north-eastern side of the Canberra Hospital campus, SPIRE is now entering its next phase of project development. This includes more advanced planning; the commencement of early design works; and more intensive engagement with the clinical workforce. SPIRE bed numbers, including those within the ICU, will be subject to much greater consideration as part of these processes before being finalised.
- The announcement to fund the expansion of the ICU at Canberra Hospital was published in the Canberra Times, 29 March 2019: https://www.canberratimes.com.au/politics/act/federal-government-promises-52-million-to-act-health-projects-20190328-p518mn.html

Cleared as complete and accurate:	29/06/2020	
Cleared by:	Executive Group Manager	
Contact Officer name:	Liz Lopa	Ext: 49805
Lead Directorate:	Health	
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TRIM Ref:	GBC20/361	

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

GBC20/361

Portfolio: Health

ISSUE: TERRITORY-WIDE HEALTH SERVICES PLAN

Talking points:

- ACT Health Directorate (ACTHD) is developing a Territory-Wide Health Service Plan (The Plan).
- The Plan will identify priorities for health service development and redesign across the ACT.
- The Plan will be based on a comprehensive assessment of health service needs across the care continuum on a geographic basis and for priority population groups. It will consider the range of public health services provided by Canberra Health Services, Calvary Public Hospital Bruce and other organisations in the community.
- Key considerations of the planning process will be:
    - Aligning services with need;
    - A focus on prevention;
    - Improving integration of services; and
    - Embracing technology.
- Between November 2019 and March 2020, approximately 80 consultation sessions were undertaken with stakeholders from Canberra Health Services, Calvary Public Hospital Bruce, non-government organisations funded by ACTHD and aged care providers in the ACT.
- While further consultation and engagement with consumers and carers, the community and health service providers is on hold due to COVID-19 response activities, discussions are being held, for example with Health Care Consumers' Association (HCCA), about how and when these engagement activities will be progressed.
- The Plan was due to be completed by mid-2020. A revised work program is now being established for The Plan in consultation with the HCCA that would see further engagement activities planned for July through to early August to support finalisation of The Plan in the second half of this year.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	30/06/2020	
Cleared by:	Executive Group Manager	Ext: 49699
Contact Officer name:	Sarah Galton	Ext: 49877
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Kylie Jonasson	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/361	

- A Canberra Health Services Clinical Services Plan is also being developed concurrently to inform development of a Master Plan for Canberra Hospital.
- Following the completion of The Plan, more detailed specialty or service plans will be developed where further detail is required to inform development or redesign of services. Work has already started on plans for child and adolescent and mental health services.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	30/06/2020	
Cleared by:	Executive Group Manager	Ext: 49699
Contact Officer name:	Sarah Galton	Ext: 49877
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Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Kylie Jonasson	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/361	

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

GBC20/361

Portfolio: Health

ISSUE: CANBERRA HOSPITAL MASTER PLAN

Talking points:

- The ACT Health Directorate has commenced work on a Canberra Hospital Master Plan, in close collaboration with Canberra Health Services (CHS).
- A draft Master Plan Framework has been completed and has been designed to align with the significant work underway on CHS strategic planning.
- The draft Master Plan Framework includes the themes and principles under which the Canberra Hospital Master Plan will proceed.
- The four themes developed as part of phase one include: Health and Wellbeing; Social Value; Future Readiness; and Environmental Gain.
- The draft Master Plan Framework complements the work already underway, which looks at expanding hospital services on the northside of Canberra
- A consultant was been engaged late in 2019 to undertake the Master Plan design
- Consultation and engagement on the Master Plan, with the community and clinicians has been impacted by COVID-19 and therefore the project has been delayed.
- The design consultants are working on developing Master Plan options based on previous engagement data, but the overall program will be extended to allow engagement and consultation with clinicians and the community.
- The Master Plan will help structure the future of infrastructure on the campus and will include a blueprint for how any future campus infrastructure investment decisions are considered.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	29/06/2020	
Cleared by:	Executive Group Manager	Ext: 49805
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Information Officer name:	Liz Lopa	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/361	

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

Key Information:

- Planning for a number of major infrastructure projects at the hospital campus is currently underway, including the SPIRE Project; expansion of the Centenary Hospital for Women and Children; a new Australian National University facility; additional demountable buildings; as well as other infrastructure upgrade programs.
- As a result of the planning for these projects, a need to look at the bigger picture for health infrastructure on the campus has been identified, including linkages between services on site.
- The Master Plan helps guide future capital investment and decision making for the renewal of the campus.

Background Information:

- ACT public health services are delivered in a range of facilities around the city, including our hospitals, community health centres and walk-in centres.
- The management of health assets and infrastructure is a key feature of health service delivery, and the ACT Health Directorate and Canberra Health Services have a proactive approach to managing and maintaining these essential assets, as well as building new facilities.
- Over a number of years, there has been extensive planning work commissioned by the Government to inform major investment decisions on the hospital campus.
- A number of audits and condition reports have also been commissioned to assess the building condition of critical assets and to inform the development of programs like the Upgrading and Maintaining ACT Health Assets program, and subsequently to inform asset management plans.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	29/06/2020	
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Contact Officer name:	Liz Lopa	Ext: 49805
Lead Directorate:	Health	
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Information Officer name:	Liz Lopa	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/361	

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

GBC20/361

Portfolio: Health

ISSUE: LONG TERM HEALTH PLANNING AND INVESTMENT

Talking points:

- The Government is investing significantly in infrastructure and services to meet the growing demand for health care in the ACT.
- Over the last decade, we have invested more than a billion dollars in health infrastructure, and we are continuing to invest.
- There is a significant program of service and infrastructure planning underway to ensure that future investment continues to be directed where it is most needed.
- Many of the infrastructure projects identified over the last decade as priorities to address demand, or decrease the rate of demand, for acute hospital services have been completed or are underway.
- These include the Centenary Hospital for Women and Children, University of Canberra Hospital, Dhulwa Mental Health Unit, the Adult Mental Health Unit at Canberra Hospital, additional operating theatres at Calvary Hospital, additional Emergency Department capacity at Canberra Hospital, new and expanded Community Health Centres, the Capital Region Cancer Centre and Walk-in Centres, in addition to more recent projects such as the Surgical Procedures, Interventional. Radiology and Emergency (**SPIRE**) Centre , the expansion of the Centenary Hospital for Women and Children and the Calvary Emergency Department.
- Demand on our hospital, ambulatory and community based health services continues to grow as a consequence of population growth and ageing, increased prevalence of chronic disease, and advances in clinical care.
- Our planning also focuses on sustainable investment: in programs aimed at prevention and early intervention, technologies to support contemporary service models and care closer to home, community-based supported mental health accommodation and on workforce initiatives.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	01/07/2020	
Cleared by:	Executive Group Manager	Ext: 49699
Contact Officer name:	Jacinta George	Ext: 49699
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Jacinta George	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/361	

- The Government continues to review the Budget allocation to the health system in the context of other funding needs.

Stanhope/Ahmed article (Jan 2020)

- The ACT Government has increased health funding to $1.828 billion in 2019-20, almost double the $990.4 million expended by ACT Health in 2009-10.
- The ACT continues to have more beds per 1,000 population than the national average (2.62 compared with 2.51 in 2017-18).
- The ACT Government has invested over the last decade to maintain the average beds per 1,000 population (2.6 in 2009-10 to 2.62 in 2017-18).
- The Government has achieved this by increasing our beds from 907 in 2009-10 to 1,146 in 2018-19.
- Over the decade, the ACT Government has significantly improved elective surgery performance for the two most urgent categories:
    - 96 per cent of category one seen on time in 2018-19 compared with 93 per cent in 2009-10;
    - 75 per cent of category two seen on time in 2018-19 compared with 44 per cent in 2009-10; and
    - An additional 4,185 surgeries performed in 2018-19 (14,015) compared with 2009-10 (9,830).
- Our emergency department presentations continue to grow and there are signs that cases are becoming more complex. This is the trend that is expected with an ageing population and increasing incidence of chronic disease in the community.
    - An increasing proportion of patients presenting to our Emergency Departments have been in the most urgent triage categories. Between 2017-18 and 2018-19, we saw an 8 per cent increase in category one patients, 10 per cent increase in category 2 and 4 per cent increase in category 3 – at the same time as we saw a 3 per cent fall in category 4 and 10 per cent fall in category 5.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	01/07/2020	
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Contact Officer name:	Jacinta George	Ext: 49699
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Jacinta George	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/361	

- We have seen this same trend of increasing proportions of higher urgency cases occur in the first half of 2019-20 (pre-COVID-19) compared to the first half of 2018-19.
- Last year we had the longest and busiest flu season since 2001 (in 2019 there were 6,259 presentations at Canberra Hospital Emergency Department for influenza-like illness, up from 4,779 in 2018).

Key Information

- In 2009-10 public hospitals in the ACT had on average access to 907 beds, with additional Hospital in the Home capacity. In 2017-18 (the most recent *AIHW Australian Hospital Statistics* publication from which these figures are taken) this had increased to 1,078 beds. In 2018-19, there were 1,146 hospital beds in the ACT.
- In addition, some public health services such as some elective surgery are undertaken in private facilities.
- Investments have been made since 2011 in foundational infrastructure such as additional skilled staff, new buildings and technologies.
- Investments in new technologies have underpinned expanded services and contemporary service models.
- We continue to review what is happening in the system, impacts of investments already made, for example at the University of Canberra Hospital and Walk-in Centres and to identify priorities for sustainable future investment and service re-design.
- A Territory-wide Health Service Plan (the Plan) is expected to be completed by the end of 2020. The plan will identify priorities for future investment and service redesign.
- Work has started on plans for future development requirements for child and adolescent and mental health clinical services.
- Demand forecasting is being reviewed as part of these planning processes.
- Indicative results of a review of hospital activity over the past five years show that as well as the expected growth in the numbers of people being admitted to hospitals and attending emergency departments, the patients we are treating have more complex needs.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	01/07/2020	
Cleared by:	Executive Group Manager	Ext: 49699
Contact Officer name:	Jacinta George	Ext: 49699
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Jacinta George	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/361	

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

GBC20/361

Portfolio: Health

ISSUE: TERRITORY-WIDE PUBLIC HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE

Talking points:

- The ACT Government is aware of the need to continue to upgrade public hospital and health facilities across the Territory and to provide new infrastructure to meet growing demand.
- Over the last decade, we have invested more than a billion dollars in health infrastructure, and we will continue to invest.
- To future-proof our healthcare system, we are looking at how we can better deliver health services so Canberrans receive high quality healthcare, when and where they need it, through Territory-wide health services and infrastructure planning.
- The ACT Health Directorate works closely with Canberra Health Services and Calvary Health Care ACT (Calvary) to explore opportunities to improve and expand health services and infrastructure to meet the needs of our growing city.
- That is why this Government is investing more than $186 million in infrastructure on the Canberra Hospital campus, in addition to more than $500 million in the SPIRE Project at Canberra Hospital and the expansion of the Centenary Hospital for Women and Children.
- These projects, along with the Canberra Hospital Master Plan and other major investments, will not only transform the physical infrastructure on the campus but also allow for new and expanded services to be delivered to the community, such as a new adolescent mental health unit for young people in our community.
- The Government is also delivering a new Walk-in Centre at Dickson, providing faster access to care for people with minor illnesses in Canberra's Inner North. This new facility will bring Canberra's network of Walk-in Centres to five, with well-established Centres located in Belconnen and Tuggeranong, Gungahlin and Weston Creek.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	29/06/2020	
Cleared by:	Executive Group Manager	Ext: 49864
Contact Officer name:	Liz Lopa	Ext: 49864
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Liz Lopa	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/361	

- Calvary is an important part of the Territory's health network and there is significant work underway to boost services at Calvary Public Hospital Bruce.
- The ACT Government committed more than $40 million for new services and infrastructure at Calvary's public hospital in the 2019-20 Budget. This included funding for the commissioning of two new theatres. One new theatre opened in July 2019, and the second theatre will open in 2020-21. This will enable the ACT Government to expand the ACT's elective surgery program.
- In the 2018-19 Budget, the Government provided $15 million for three Calvary projects including the emergency department (ED) expansion, relocation of the adult mental health unit as well as capital upgrades and equipment replacement.
- Construction of Calvary's ED expansion is nearing completion, and has delivered 22 additional treatment spaces, bringing the total to 61. Additional funding for more doctors, nurses, administration and other health professionals to support the physical expansion was also committed in the 2019-20 Budget.
- The upgrade of Calvary's Keaney building to deliver a standalone Adult Mental Health Unit, with co-located older persons and inpatient adult mental health services was completed in early 2020.
- The ACT Government is committed to improving public maternity services which has included investing $2.59 million into the refurbishment of the Calvary Maternity Unit, delivering cosmetic upgrades to birth suites and patient rooms as well as additional beds and single rooms on the maternity ward.
- With the SPIRE Project scope now confirmed, the ACT Health Directorate is working to finalise infrastructure planning for the northside. This work is underway, and recommendations will be made to Government regarding infrastructure options, including works required to manage existing aged infrastructure.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	29/06/2020	
Cleared by:	Executive Group Manager	Ext: 49864
Contact Officer name:	Liz Lopa	Ext: 49864
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Liz Lopa	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/361	

- These initiatives demonstrate and support the Government's commitment to a whole-of-Territory approach to health service delivery and infrastructure planning and our commitment to delivering quality health care to our community.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	29/06/2020	
Cleared by:	Executive Group Manager	Ext: 49864
Contact Officer name:	Liz Lopa	Ext: 49864
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Liz Lopa	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/361	

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

GBC20/361

Portfolio: Health

ISSUE: CALVARY BUILDING CONDITION REPORT

Talking points:

- High quality health facilities are of the utmost importance for the ACT Government.
- That is why this government is exploring options to build a new northside hospital.
- A consultant is currently conducting a building condition assessment of the Calvary Public Hospital Bruce, as the first stage of an options analysis for this new northside hospital.
- While undertaking the condition assessment, the consultant identified several fire safety issues at Calvary Public Hospital Bruce.
- Immediately upon receiving this advice, ACT Health contacted Calvary to discuss the issues.
- Calvary is currently in the process of discussing and clarifying the findings with the consultant.
- It is important to note that Calvary has assured ACT Health of the following:
    - That it already has mitigations in place to address these fire safety issues; and
    - That it already has a program of work in place to continue addressing the aged condition of the buildings, including fire safety.
- Once the consultant's report is finalised, ACT Health will discuss the findings with Calvary, and discuss what, if any, further short-, medium- and long-term actions are needed.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	29/06/2020	
Cleared by:	Executive Group Manager	
Contact Officer name:	Liz Lopa	Ext: 49805
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Liz Lopa	Ext: 49719
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/361	

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

Key Information

- The facilities at Calvary Public Hospital Bruce are ageing, and in common with similarly aged facilities around the country, building condition is a constant challenge. For example, facilities that are 40 or so years old (as Calvary is) will have been compliant with building and safety codes applicable at the time it was built. However, as these codes change and become more stringent over time, maintaining an aged building to modern standards is a challenge.
- Nevertheless, Calvary has assured ACT Health about its current fire safety measures and future plans to address building condition.

Background Information

- The intention of AECOM (the ACT Government's consultant) and ACT Health always was that the condition assessment would be reviewed for accuracy and context by Calvary prior to it being finalised by AECOM.
- Due to the impact of COVID-19, AECOM was unable to conduct the original scope of site inspections. Instead AECOM's assessment was based on a desktop review of material provided by Calvary, and a walk through by AECOM's engineers.
- Further, the inspection by AECOM was always intended to be somewhat limited, i.e. a general overview of the building condition – there was never any intention to do complete fire safety audit.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	29/06/2020	
Cleared by:	Executive Group Manager	
Contact Officer name:	Liz Lopa	Ext: 49805
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Liz Lopa	Ext: 49719
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/361	

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

GBC20/361

Portfolio: Health

ISSUE: HEALTH DIRECTORATE STAFF CLIMATE SURVEY 2019

Talking points:

- The ACT Health Directorate's Workplace Climate survey was conducted between 8 and 26 November 2019.
- Summary results were presented to the Directorate executive and staff on 12 February 2020.
- The high completion rate of 82 per cent indicates the survey results are statistically reliable.
- The results indicate the Directorate has a culture of 'consolidation', which means that 40-50 per cent of employees are engaged, and this is typical of a culture that is in transition.
- The results show strong agreement around several work culture indicators, including that the workplace is free from sexual harassment; that there is good workplace flexibility; and the value of Integrity is demonstrated by colleagues.
- The results also identify a number of aspects of the Directorate's culture which will be targeted as part of the post-debrief Action Planning. These include perceptions of favouritism, of behaviour not espousing the values; and of poor internal processes, systems and procedures.
- The Directorate executive group will continue to explore the results of the survey with staff, and this will be followed by structured Action Planning and quarterly reporting.
- In accordance with Recommendation 75 from the Select Committee on Estimates, I have provided the Assembly with a report on the outcome when we last met on 2 April 2020.

Key Information

- 82 per cent of Directorate staff completed the survey. The average completion rate for an organisation with staff between 200-2000 staff is 63 per cent.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	23/06/2020	
Cleared by:	Executive Group Manager	Ext: x49869
Contact Officer name:	Julie Nolan	Ext: x49835
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Julie Nolan	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/361	

- Information that has the potential to identify business units or individual staff and/or managers will not be made available.

Background Information

- Recommendation 2 from the Final Report of the Independent Review into the Workplace Culture within ACT Public Health Services (the Culture Review) contained an action item to conduct a staff survey in 2019.
- Results from the survey will inform the Directorate's response to the recommendations arising from Culture review.
- The last workplace climate survey of (the former) ACT Health was conducted in 2015.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	23/06/2020	
Cleared by:	Executive Group Manager	Ext: x49869
Contact Officer name:	Julie Nolan	Ext: x49835
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Julie Nolan	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/361	

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

GBC20/361

Portfolio: Health

ISSUE: CULTURE REVIEW

Talking points:

- The ACT Government invests significantly in the delivery of public health services to ensure safe, high quality healthcare for the ACT community and our surrounding regions. In addition to taking care of our community, we are also working hard to ensure that our staff are cared for and feel valued.
- On 16 May 2019 the Government agreed to implement the 20 recommendations of the *Final Report of the Independent Review into the Workplace Culture within ACT Public Health Services.*
- The mental health and wellbeing of our workforce are central to the changes that we will implement, ensuring our staff feel valued, safe and supported in the important work they do for our community.
- The effect of this will be a better public health system for staff and the Canberra community.
- Since May 2019, substantial work has occurred in reviewing and stabilising organisational and governance structures.
- The Culture Review Oversight Group and the Culture Review Implementation Steering Group have been established to ensure effective and efficient implementation across the ACT public health system.
- Through a comprehensive program plan, work is being progressed in an iterative manner to ensure that core objectives are met in a step-by-step process.

<u>Annual Review of Culture Review Implementation</u>

- The report *ACT Public Health Services Cultural Review Implementation: Inaugural Annual Review* was tabled in the ACT Legislative Assembly on 4 June 2020.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	25/06/2020	
Cleared by:	Executive Branch Manager	Ext: 49923
Contact Officer name:	Jodie Junk-Gibson	Ext: 49923
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Jodie Junk-Gibson	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/361	

- It is the first of three annual Reviews to be undertaken to meet Recommendation 19 of the Final Review to report on the extent of the implementation and progression of the 20 recommendations from the Review, and consequent impact on cultural changes within the health system.
- Mick Reid from Michael Reid and Associates, who led the Independent Review in 2018, undertook this first Review.
- The Review commenced in March 2020 and included one-on-one interviews with a cross-section of key internal and external stakeholders, including members of the Culture Review Oversight Group and Culture Review Implementation Steering Group.
- The Review identified that implementation of the 20 recommendations is tracking well, particularly areas that are in control of the individual arms of the health system.
- More work will occur over the next 12 months to progress the whole-of-system recommendations that the Review identified were not progressing at the same pace. Progression by the three organisations on vision, values, altered workplace policies and human resources functions was particularly evident and encouraging.
- Overall, the review confirmed we are heading in the right direction.
- It was acknowledged that cultural changes takes time and requires sustained effort over several years. And the ACT public health system is in an early phase of positive change.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	25/06/2020	
Cleared by:	Executive Branch Manager	Ext: 49923
Contact Officer name:	Jodie Junk-Gibson	Ext: 49923
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Jodie Junk-Gibson	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/361	

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

GBC20/361

Portfolio: Health

ISSUE: ACT AIR QUALITY

Talking points:

Community impact

- During poor air quality events the ACT Health Directorate (ACTHD) proactively issues public health information via Government websites, mainstream and social media.
- During the 2019-2020 bushfire smoke event our public health services observed increased smoke related presentations noting that these are not clinical indicators, rather patient reported. These presentations did not have a significant impact on overall Emergency Department presentations.
- Current available research, to estimate the health risks associated with short-term exposure to bushfire smoke over a period of days to weeks, has measured exposure based on 24-hour average levels of PM2.5.
- While exposure to high levels of PM2.5 for less than 24 hours may have health effects for some people, there is currently limited research available to estimate the health risks for longer exposures. The Commonwealth has announced funding for research into the medium term.

Community access to P2/N95 Respirator Masks

- The Commonwealth Government provided approximately 400,000 P2/N95 masks to the ACT in two instalments from the National Medical Stockpile between 5 and 7 January 2020.
- The ACT Government partnered with the Pharmacy Guild of Australia and the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia to distribute the masks to all ACT community pharmacies. These masks were then made available free of charge from pharmacies to sensitive groups who are most at risk of the health impacts of exposure to the smoke.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	22/06/2020	
Cleared by:	Conrad Barr	Ext:49262
Contact Officer name:	Conrad Barr	Ext:49262
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Conrad Barr	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/361	

- Masks were also provided to Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health and Community Service and to Cystic Fibrosis ACT. The Community Services Directorate provided masks to community members that were vulnerable to prolonged outdoor exposure, such as rough sleepers and the homeless through a separate cache of masks.
- People who didn't have existing chronic conditions and are in otherwise good health but would still prefer to wear a P2/N95 mask, could also purchase masks at pharmacies, most hardware stores and workwear stores.
- The overwhelming majority of P2/N95 respirator mask manufacturers do not make masks intended for use on children or infants, and using a mask is not an alternative for avoiding exposure to smoke outdoors.

<u>Canberra Health Services – service impact</u>

- In response to the smoke event Canberra Health Services (CHS) stood up their Health Emergency Operations Centre (HEOC) on several occasions during early January to manage the impact of the smoke on CHS buildings and staff and ensure preparations for the extreme bushfire conditions were in place.
- All outpatient and community services continued as planned. Patients who called with queries were provided with support to make a decision on whether to attend their clinic or reschedule.
- MRI machines were impacted by smoke and heat however mitigation strategies were put in place to manage demand during these times. This included working with private providers across the Territory.

<u>Canberra Health Services – staff management</u>

- Divisional representatives undertook rounds in each area of the hospital and other locations to speak with staff about what can be done to help minimise the impact of smoke for staff and patients.
- In response to the visits to each ward and clinical area (including community teams), the following actions were undertaken:
    - Packs containing eye drops, saline, lozenges, and masks were distributed to each ward and clinical area for staff to use to manage minor symptoms of smoke.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	22/06/2020	
Cleared by:	Conrad Barr	Ext:49262
Contact Officer name:	Conrad Barr	Ext:49262
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Conrad Barr	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/361	

  - All doors (including fire doors) and windows were kept closed where possible and access is restricted where safe to do so.
  - Large fans were placed at main entrances to disperse some of the smoke.
  - Air Filters within air conditioning systems were assessed and replaced as necessary.
  - All courtyards were closed.
- CHS conducted staff briefings twice per day from 2 – 11 January 2020 to provide key messages about hazardous smoke across the Territory, the upcoming weather forecast and the risk mitigation strategies were put in place. These briefings were also emailed to staff who were unable to attend and live streamed to other CHS locations.
- CHS encouraged staff to take more regular breaks with the support of their supervisor and if they are feeling unwell from the smoke, to take personal leave.

Key Information

- Earlier this year the ACT experienced an unprecedented and prolonged smoke event as a consequence of smoke from bushfires burning across South Eastern Australia, with the pollutant PM2.5 (or fine particulate matter) driving increases in the Air Quality Index (AQI) in Canberra.

<u>Air quality figures</u>

- ACT Health commenced reporting hourly PM2.5 figures on the public website on 8 January in response to public feedback and requests for information.
- The highest level of PM2.5 recorded by ACT Health was on 5 January 2020, which reached an hourly reading of 2,496µg/m3 (microgram per cubic metre) at the Florey monitoring station.
- Between 28 November 2019 and 28 January 2020 there were 47 days where at least one station recorded an Air Quality Index (AQI) above the national standard (100-Poor). On the days that exceeded the standard, 35 days also exceeded the Hazardous (200) threshold.

<u>P2/N95 Respirator Masks</u>

- 82 ACT community pharmacies were provided with masks and a distribution fact sheet titled ‘P2 / N95 masks - distribution of Commonwealth stock by community pharmacies’ to ensure consistency of issuing across the territory.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	22/06/2020	
Cleared by:	Conrad Barr	Ext:49262
Contact Officer name:	Conrad Barr	Ext:49262
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Conrad Barr	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/361	

- As of 20 January 2020, approximately 180,000 Commonwealth supplied masks have been distributed for community access, with approximately 220,000 held in reserve. ACT Health Directorate continues to monitor air quality and demand for masks form the vulnerable community.
- Sensitive groups included: pregnant women; people with chronic lung and heart conditions such as asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (chronic bronchitis or emphysema); cystic fibrosis; ischaemic heart disease; and chronic heart failure. People aged over 65 years (as they are more likely to have chronic lung and heart conditions).

Background information:

- ACTHD monitors air quality via three monitoring stations located at Civic, Florey and Monash:
    - An Air Quality Index (AQI) is a scale used to monitor air quality for a range of pollutants across the ACT, not just smoke, and is calculated in reference to national standards;
    - At other times, the AQI might be impacted by dust (PM10) or rarely, ozone.
    - Hourly information and 24-hour rolling averages are published on the public ACTHD website;
    - Health advice categories are also published on the website (based on the 24-hour rolling PM2.5 average).
- In collaboration with the Community Services Directorate, CHS sought accommodation options for admitted hospital patients from the south who could not return home due to the bushfires.
- CHS is also worked with Southern NSW to provide additional medical and nursing staffing support where possible.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	22/06/2020	
Cleared by:	Conrad Barr	Ext:49262
Contact Officer name:	Conrad Barr	Ext:49262
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Conrad Barr	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/361	

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

GBC20/361

Portfolio: Health

ISSUE: NGUNNAWAL BUSH HEALING FARM

Talking points:

- The Ngunnawal Bush Healing Farm provides a place of healing for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to feel safe and supported, while making ongoing and meaningful changes in their lives.
- The sixth program concluded on Thursday, 19 December 2019. A total of 12 clients participated in this program.
- The programs provide clients with the opportunity to participate in a range of cultural activities such as land management, mindfulness, music, yarning circles and a healing program.
- Program delivery has been impacted since December 2019 due to intermittent closure of the facility associated with the Orroral Valley bushfires, heavy rainfall and COVID-19.
- Staff of the Ngunnawal Bush Healing Farm are providing modified community liaison services under working from home arrangements. A draft Ngunnawal Bush Healing Farm COVID Management Plan is being considered by ACT Health Directorate. ACT Health Directorate is currently finalising the procurement process for a Panel of Providers to deliver services as part of the therapeutic programs at the Ngunnawal Bush Healing Farm. Planning for 2020 programs is underway, dates have not yet been finalised.
- The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Healing Foundation (Healing Foundation) has progressed the Healing Framework, with the facilitation of two knowledge circles with the United Ngunnawal Elders Council (UNEC), to identify the healing vision for the Ngunnawal Bush Healing Farm.
- The key themes of the Healing Framework have been drafted, and further knowledge circles are planned for early 2020 with the broader service sector.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	23/06/2020	
Cleared by:	Executive Group Manager	Ext: 49699
Contact Officer name:	Lefan Jard	Ext: N/A
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Jacinta George	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/361	

- The Ngunnawal Bush Healing Farm Advisory Board held their fourth and final meeting for 2019, on 19 December.
- The first meeting for 2020 is scheduled for 10 July 2020.
- An Expression of Interest process was conducted to expand the membership of the Ngunnawal Bush Healing Farm Advisory Board.
- The Expression of Interest seeks to harness external expertise and build the capacity of the Advisory Board and the Ngunnawal Bush Healing Farm business model.
- The Expression of Interest process closed on 3 April 2020.
- An Assessment Panel is being established, which will include representation from the Advisory Board and ACT Government Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander senior staff.
- Appointment of new Advisory Board members is expected to be announced shortly following the conclusion of the Assessment Panel process.
- The Advisory Board will continue to meet every four to six weeks in 2020.

Background Information

- Programs to date since the instigation are as below:
    - Pilot Program: November – December 2017;
    - Second Program: June – September 2018;
    - Third Program: September – December 2018;
    - Fourth Program: April – June 2019;
    - Fifth Program: August – October 2019; and
    - Sixth Program: November – December 2019.

Issues

<u>NBHF Review</u>

- ACT Health Directorate (ACTHD) contracted Mr Russell Taylor AM, Director of Burbangana Group to review the service operations at the Ngunnawal Bush Healing Farm (NBHF), including several elements, one of which is a review of Governance arrangements.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	23/06/2020	
Cleared by:	Executive Group Manager	Ext: 49699
Contact Officer name:	Lefan Jard	Ext: N/A
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Jacinta George	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/361	

- Burbangana Group facilitated a NBHF Governance Workshop on Monday, 15 April 2019 as part of the review of the NBHF commissioned by ACTHD. A total of 35 stakeholders attended and engaged in discussions, including UNEC, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body (ATSIEB), the Healing Foundation, other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community leaders and ACT Government staff.
- The first element of the review is now complete, with the report received by ACTHD on 29 July 2019. The Review includes 12 recommendations, with several recommendations progressed since October 2019 in collaboration with the NBHF Advisory Board.
- The remaining aspects of the review will be progressed urgently with the expanded Advisory Board.
- The second element of the review is the review of programs. This element of the review has been held over pending the completion of a cultural Healing Framework.
- The total amount paid was $91,679.14 (GST exclusive), $100,847.05 (GST inclusive), including facilitation of the NBHF governance workshop on 15 April 2019.
- As part of the review, consultation and interviews occurred with ATSIEB, UNEC, Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health and Community Service, Gugan Gulwan Youth Aboriginal Corporation, The Healing Foundation, and individual community members.
- Finalising other elements of the NBHF Review is dependent on the work being undertaken by the Healing Foundation to develop the NBHF Healing Framework. All stakeholders who attended the NBHF Governance Workshop held in April 2019 agreed on the importance of finalising the Healing Framework before fully actioning the NBHF Review recommendations.
- ACTHD will work with interested stakeholders including the NBHF Advisory Board to assess and develop a response to the report's recommendations.

<u>Development of a NBHF Healing Framework</u>

- ACTHD engaged the Healing Foundation to lead the co-design of a Healing Framework to support the work of the NBHF that would:
    - Identify healing priorities of Ngunnawal Elders and the broader ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community;
    - Balance therapeutic support with approaches that strengthen cultural identity and connection; and
    - Embed principles to guide the practice of NBHF and partner agencies in supporting healing for NBHF clients in line with the Living Web Framework.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	23/06/2020	
Cleared by:	Executive Group Manager	Ext: 49699
Contact Officer name:	Lefan Jard	Ext: N/A
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Jacinta George	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/361	

- The Healing Framework will strongly influence the cultural healing philosophy of the NBHF, shape NBHF policies and inform the nature and design of NBHF program curriculum and is being developed with close engagement with UNEC.
- The Healing Foundation has progressed the Healing Framework with the facilitation of three knowledge circles, held May, June and December 2019, with UNEC identifying the cultural healing vision for the NBHF.
- The proposed knowledge circles with UNEC to progress the final draft Healing Framework, have been delayed due to the impacts of the Bushfires and the COVID-19 Pandemic on the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community in the ACT and surrounding regions.
- ACTHD has commenced work with the Healing Foundation to re-initiate the project schedule following the change of Healing Foundation Lead Project Manager.
- Health Partnerships will advise UNEC of the next steps and identification of the critical pathway to deliver the Final Healing Framework by 31 July 2020.

<u>NBHF Recruitment</u>

- A recruitment process for permanent appointment of four staff was completed in March 2020. The positions were advertised as identified Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander positions.

<u>Closure of Facility due to Bushfires, Heavy Rainfall and during COVID-19</u>

- The Bushfire Operational Plan for NBHF requires the facility to be closed except for necessary staff, when a Total Fire Ban and Fire Danger of severe or above are in place, and/or if there is a fire within 10km of the perimeter.
- Recent heavy rainfall has affected access roads to the facility. From 4 March 2020 staff of the NBHF have been directed to work from ACTHD offices. Work is underway to restore safe access to the site.
- Staff of the NBHF were directed to work from ACTHD offices on days during December 2019 and January 2020, on which there were Total Fire Bans coupled with a Fire Danger of Very High or above.
- March heavy rainfall affected safe access to the facility from 4 to 15 March 2020. Staff of the NBHF were directed to work from ACTHD offices during this period.
- Staff of the NBHF were placed on working from home arrangements on 22 March 2020 in response to COVID-19. The facility remains closed except for necessary staff.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	23/06/2020	
Cleared by:	Executive Group Manager	Ext: 49699
Contact Officer name:	Lefan Jard	Ext: N/A
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Jacinta George	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/361	

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

GBC20/361

Portfolio: Health

ISSUE: HYDROTHERAPY POOL OPTIONS ANALYSIS AND MARKET SOUNDING

Talking points:

- The ACT Government is exploring options for the development of a new hydrotherapy pool in Canberra's south.
- An external consultant has been engaged to undertake this options analysis work. The options analysis considers both standalone and an expansion of existing facilities.
- The Government also undertook a market sounding process which called for proposals from parties interested in working with the Government to develop a public hydrotherapy pool located in Canberra's south.
- The marketing sounding process closed on 14 February 2020, and the responses are currently being considered.
- The Government will consider the options closely and I look forward to making an announcement for ensuring long-term access to hydrotherapy services for the community.
- The Government recognises the value of hydrotherapy as an ongoing therapeutic activity for many people with chronic illness to maintain their mobility, manage their pain and foster overall wellbeing.

Key Information

- The hydrotherapy pool at the Canberra Hospital closed on 29 February 2020. It did not meet the Australian Standards for Hydrotherapy Pools nor the current Australian Safety standards.
- The University of Canberra hospital, in Canberra's north, hosts a hydrotherapy pool facility which community groups such as Arthritis ACT can access.
- In late 2019, the ACT Government committed to exploring options to deliver a new hydrotherapy pool in Canberra's south to replace the hydrotherapy pool at the Canberra Hospital.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	23/06/2020	
Cleared by:	Executive Group Manager	Ext: 49805
Contact Officer name:	Liz Lopa	Ext: 49805
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Liz Lopa	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/361	

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

Background

- Due to COVID-19 and the redeployment of staff from the strategic infrastructure division to other areas of ACT Health, the options analysis and market sounding project has been delayed slightly.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	23/06/2020	
Cleared by:	Executive Group Manager	Ext: 49805
Contact Officer name:	Liz Lopa	Ext: 49805
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Liz Lopa	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/361	

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

GBC20/362

Portfolio: Mental Health

ISSUE: COVID-19 Office for Mental Health Wellbeing - Chief Psychiatrist

Talking points:

- As the pandemic has progressed, the immediate and longer-term effects on mental health across our community are becoming clearer. Addressing these impacts requires a broad ranging response.
- The impact of COVID-19 has led to an increase in the number of people seeking help from non-government organisations. ACT Government is committed to getting help to people to manage their mental health as early as possible
- In March 2020, the ACT Government provided funding to Lifeline to address the increased demand for telephone counselling. In May 2020 an expansion of support with a funding package of nearly $4.5 million was announced.
- This support package will strengthen our mental health sector to adapt and expand its services to provide more support for the mental health and wellbeing of the ACT community, immediately during the COVID-19 crisis and in the longer term.
- Some of the initiatives in the package include:
    - $1.44 million to respond to people experiencing acute mental health crisis in the community;
    - $500,000 for additional sub-acute accommodation for people exiting mental health inpatient units;
    - $341,843 for two new Canberra Safe Haven Cafes, which will a community based safe alternative to the emergency department and other treatment services;
    - $200,000 for Way Back Support Service to expand non-clinical support for people who have made a suicide attempt;

Cleared as complete and accurate:	23/06/2020	
Cleared by:	Elizabeth Moore	Ext: x49600
Contact Officer name:	Lee-Anne Rogers	
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Elizabeth Moore and Denise Riordan	Ext: 49600& x50687
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/362	

  - $250,000 for an Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander specific Mental Health program for suicide prevention; and
  - $100,000 for OzHelp to continue to support workplaces and to expand their service to people who have lost employment.

- In addition to the specific allocations in the package, $450,000 is provided for innovative initiatives in the NGO sector. Potential providers will be able to apply for grants to fund innovative new programs to support the mental health and wellbeing of Canberrans.
- This significant ACT Government response builds on the Australian Government's mental health initiatives and we are working to ensure that people in the ACT are also aware of, and taking up, the opportunities for telehealth and telepsychiatry as well as increased online supports for mental health.
- The Office for Mental Health and Wellbeing and the Chief Psychiatrist are continuing to work closely across the ACT Government and the community sector to ensure a coordinated and connected whole of community plan.
- The Aspen COVID-19 Surge Ward on Garran oval has been approved under the Mental Health Act. All wards in Canberra Hospital are approved under the Act. Approving the Surge Centre ensures equivalence of care. In the event that someone with COVID-19 who also experiences serious mental ill health and required treatment under the Act was admitted, the approval of the facility would ensure they continued to receive appropriate care.
- The Office meets regularly with peak mental health non-government organisations to identify the emerging and ongoing issues impacting consumers, carers and community service providers.
- An ACT Mental Health and Wellbeing Oversight Group has been established to ensure there is a coordinated whole of government communications plan for mental health and wellbeing. The Oversight Group is developing mental health and wellbeing messages for vulnerable groups and the broader community.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	23/06/2020	
Cleared by:	Elizabeth Moore	Ext: x49600
Contact Officer name:	Lee-Anne Rogers	
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Elizabeth Moore and Denise Riordan	Ext: 49600& x50687
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/362	

- Due to the impact of COVID-19, the roll out of Youth Aware of Mental Health (YAM) program was paused as the program model requires face-to-face implementation with students. YAM recommenced in Term 2, on Monday 15 June2020. Lifespan's Question Persuade Refer, or QPR, is a free online training program that teaches people to recognise and respond positively to someone exhibiting suicide warning signs and behaviours. QPR will continue to be promoted through social media and other channels during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The 'QPR for Business' initiative, funded by the ACT Government, encourages workplaces to enable staff to complete QPR Training.,
- Mindframe Plus training in safe and purposeful media reporting and communication about suicide, has been modified by EveryMind, and will be conducted for local media and communication stakeholders in coming months.

Key Information:

- The ACT Health Directorate has worked with the Chief Psychiatrist on contingency planning for the functions and operations of the Mental Health Act in the COVID-19 environment, including developing a hierarchy of the Chief Psychiatrist delegations to ensure immediate continuity in the event that the Chief Psychiatrist is unable to fulfill her functions.
- You attended a State and Territory Mental Health Ministers' Meeting on 24 April 2020, to discuss the ACT's response to the COVID-19 crisis. The meeting focused on the impact on service delivery and cross-border issues; State and Commonwealth policy responses to COVID-19; and communication strategies.
- National Mental Health Commission has led the development of a National Mental Health Pandemic Response Plan for National Cabinet consideration. The ACT Health Directorate has provided feedback on the development of this Plan.
- The ACT COVID-19 scenario planning for the whole of the mental health system is progressing with consideration of the impact of the suppression and elimination scenarios.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	23/06/2020	
Cleared by:	Elizabeth Moore	Ext: x49600
Contact Officer name:	Lee-Anne Rogers	
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Elizabeth Moore and Denise Riordan	Ext: 49600& x50687
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/362	

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

GBC20/362

Portfolio: Mental Health

ISSUE: Culture Review

Talking points:

- The ACT Government invests significantly in the delivery of public health services to ensure safe, high quality healthcare for the ACT community and our surrounding regions. While taking care of our community, we are also working hard to ensure that our staff are cared for and feel valued.
- On 16 May 2019 the Government agreed to implement the 20 recommendations of the *Final Report of the Independent Review into the Workplace Culture within ACT Public Health Services.*
- The mental health and wellbeing of our workforce are central to the changes that we will implement, ensuring our staff feel valued, safe and supported in the important work they do for our community.
- The effect of this will be a better public health system for staff and the Canberra community.
- Since May 2019, substantial work has occurred in reviewing and stabilising organisational and governance structures.
- The redefining of strategic visions and values has been completed and the focus is now on embedding values in all aspects of the work and behaviour in the ACT Health Directorate and Canberra Health Services. Calvary Public Hospital Bruce is engaging with staff to ensure its vision and values are understood and embedded. Learnings from the Review have helped to inform this work.
- The role of Employee Advocate has been established to support staff within the ACT Health Directorate and Canberra Health Services.
- There has been an investment in the development of a partnership with the Australian National University's Research School of Management that will provide expertise founded in an evidenced-based approach to supporting people working in complex organisations. The partnership has resulted in the development of the ACT Workplace Culture Framework which will be applied across the ACT public health system.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	26/06/2020	
Cleared by:	Executive Branch Manager	Ext: 49923
Contact Officer name:	Jodie Junk-Gibson	
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Jodie Junk-Gibson	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/362	

- The Clinical Leadership Forum's inaugural meeting was held in July 2019. Professor Imogen Mitchell is Chair and reports to the Minister for Health.
- A communications and engagement strategy has been developed identifying audiences and stakeholders, and how, when and where they will be informed about the implementation of the recommendations and progress from the Review.
- The first meeting of the Professional College Advisory Committee (previously known as the ACT Health Clinical Advisory Committee) was held on Tuesday 5 November 2019, with future meetings being held bi-monthly to ensure opportunity for information provision on matters to the Culture Review Oversight Group.
- ACT Health Directorate currently funds non-government organisations (NGOs) to deliver a range of health, advocacy and sector development services. The annual investment in these services is in the order of $67 million in 2019-20. We recognise that NGOs play an essential role in our health system. It is integral that we engage effectively with them in policy development and health service planning through co-design and consultation.
- Cultural Review Oversight Group meetings have been held on a quarterly basis, and following the September 2019 meeting, frequency has increased to bi-monthly.
- The Culture Review Implementation Branch has been established and implementation plans developed. The Branch is working in partnership across the ACT public health system with Canberra Health Services, ACT Health Directorate and Calvary Public Hospital (Bruce).

Further talking points:

- Together with the Minister for Health, I have been extremely clear around my expectation for a positive culture in the delivery of public health care in the ACT.
- The Government has zero tolerance for bullying and harassment.
- Since March 2018, there has been significant work undertaken within our public health system to improve culture and governance, and to build an environment of genuine engagement.

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Contact Officer name:	Jodie Junk-Gibson	
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Jodie Junk-Gibson	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/362	

- I have seen significant improvements in workplace culture since this time.
- The ACT Government invests significantly in the delivery of public health services to ensure safe, high quality healthcare for the ACT community and our surrounding regions. In addition to taking care of our community, we are also working hard to ensure that our staff are looked after.

Annual Review of Culture Review Implementation

- The report *ACT Public Health Services Cultural Review Implementation: Inaugural Annual Review* was tabled in the ACT Legislative Assembly on 4 June 2020.
- It is the first of three annual Reviews to be undertaken to meet Recommendation 19 of the Final Review to report on the extent of the implementation and progression of the 20 recommendations from the Review, and consequent impact on cultural changes within the health system.
- Mick Reid from Michael Reid and Associates, who led the Independent Review in 2018, undertook this first Review.
- The Review commenced in March 2020 and included one-on-one interviews with a cross-section of key internal and external stakeholders, including members of the Culture Review Oversight Group and Culture Review Implementation Steering Group.
- The Review identified that implementation of the 20 recommendations is tracking well, particularly areas that are in control of the individual arms of the health system.
- More work will occur over the next 12 months to progress the whole-of-system recommendations that the Review identified were not progressing at the same pace. Progression by the three organisations on vision, values, altered workplace policies and human resources functions was particularly evident and encouraging.
- Overall, the review confirmed we are heading in the right direction.
- It was acknowledged that cultural changes takes time and requires sustained effort over several years. And the ACT public health system is in an early phase of positive change.

ACT-NSW Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for Regional Collaboration

Cleared as complete and accurate:	26/06/2020	
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Contact Officer name:	Jodie Junk-Gibson	
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Jodie Junk-Gibson	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/362	

- The ACT Health Directorate has been working with the NSW health system to progress a Memorandum of Understanding for Regional Collaboration, which is expected to be signed by the ACT Chief Minister and the New South Wales Premier in mid-2020, and is expected to include:
    - a new cross-border partnership agreement;
    - options to better integrate the ACT Government and NSW Government across multiple domains that impact health, with a focus on improved patient outcomes and flows; and
    - it will strengthen the governance arrangements between ACT Health and NSW Health.
- On the 16 September 2019, the ACT and NSW Cross-Border Senior Officials Working Group (SOWG) was established to progress actions under the MoU and to advance the strategic partnership between the ACT Health Directorate and the NSW Ministry of Health with regard to cross-border collaboration. This forum is being used by senior ACT Health officials to advance initiatives that respond to the recommendations of the Review.

Key Information:

- The implementation of the recommendations arising from the Review have financial implications for the Territory. In the 2019-20 budget, ACT Health Directorate was allocated $4m per financial year, for three years, offset by a $1.5m roll over from 2018-19, for the implementation of all twenty recommendations.

<u>Establishment of the Employee Advocate role</u>

- The role has been established to support staff within the ACT Health Directorate and Canberra Health Services.
- The purpose of the role is to assist staff who are experiencing workplace conflict, bullying and harassment or interpersonal issues within the workplace.
- The Employee Advocate provides support and advice about options available.

<u>ACT Workplace Culture Framework</u>

- This will enable the deliberate investment in a systematic methodology for facilitating, managing and sustaining cultural change.
- The model is being researched, developed and evaluated in the ACT, based on domestic and international research and expertise.

<u>Clinical Leadership Forum</u>

- The Forum's inaugural meeting was held on 24 July 2019.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	26/06/2020	
Cleared by:	Executive Branch Manager	Ext: 49923
Contact Officer name:	Jodie Junk-Gibson	
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Jodie Junk-Gibson	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/362	

- This is a high-level forum, held monthly, that reports to the Minister for Health as Chair.
- The Forum provides independent advice to contribute to the continuous improvement of the ACT's health system.
- The Forum includes a range of areas from across Canberra Health Services, Calvary Public Hospital (Bruce) and the broader ACT health services sector.
- The Forum provides an important mechanism for clinical leaders to advise on health services planning and infrastructure, clinical culture and training and education.

System-wide Communications and Engagement Strategy

- The goal is to for the workforce across the ACT public health system to feel safe, supported, valued and engaged, focussing on engagement that is frequent, and guiding the workforce through meaningful change to improve the culture.

Professional Colleges Advisory Committee (previously known as ACT Health Clinical Advisory Committee)

- In response to feedback from several professional Colleges and Associations that they were keen to play a formal role in culture review implementation, the Minister for Health established a Clinical Advisory Committee.
- The purpose of the Clinical Advisory Committee is to provide members with an opportunity to consider workforce culture and other systemic and institutional issues from the perspective of the Colleges.

Non-Government Organisation engagement

- Recommendation 6 in the Final Report outlines the requirements for NGO re-engagement.
- In response to the recommendation, the ACT Health Directorate has established an NGO Leadership Group with membership including representation from Canberra Health Services, ACT Health Directorate Divisions and NGO peak organisations.
- The inaugural meeting was held on Wednesday 23 October 2019, with meetings being held monthly until March 2020. Following this the Group is meeting bi-monthly to allow enough time for completion of work flowing from the meeting prior to the next one. Members and working groups will be convened out of session as required.
- The establishment of the NGO Leadership Group provides opportunities for improved partnerships between NGOs and other organisations that make up the health system.

Cultural Review Oversight Group

- The purpose of the Oversight Group being to oversee the implementation of the recommendations of the Final Report.
- The former Minister for Health and Wellbeing chaired the inaugural Culture Review Oversight Group meeting on 28 March 2019.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	26/06/2020	
Cleared by:	Executive Branch Manager	Ext: 49923
Contact Officer name:	Jodie Junk-Gibson	
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Jodie Junk-Gibson	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/362	

- The Oversight Group provides the highest level of governance over the implementation of the recommendations arising from the Review.

Background:

Independent Culture Review

- On 10 September 2018, the former Minister for Health and Wellbeing, Ms Meegan Fitzharris announced the Independent Review into the Workplace Culture within ACT Public Health Services in response to significant negative reporting about poor workplace culture across the three arms of the ACT public health service over an extended time period. The Minister appointed an independent panel to undertake the review.
- The Review overwhelmingly highlighted:
    - Inappropriate behaviours and bullying and harassment in the workplace;
    - Inefficient procedures and processes including complaints handling;
    - Inadequate training in dealing with inappropriate workplace practices;
    - Poor leadership and management at many levels throughout the ACT public health system;
    - Inefficient and inappropriate Human Resource practices, including recruitment; and
    - Considerable disengagement by clinicians from the management of ACT public hospitals and health services.

- The Final Report was released to staff and the public on 7 March 2019. The Final Report was tabled on 19 March 2019 in the ACT Legislative Assembly. The former Minister for Health and Wellbeing tabled the Government Response to the Report on 16 May 2019. In the response, the Government agreed to all 20 recommendations of the Report. This marked the formal commencement of the implementation process to take place over the next three years.
- The Culture Review Implementation Branch was established in April 2019 within the ACT Health Directorate to take responsibility for leading the planning and implementation of the recommendations arising from the Review. The Branch works closely with the Culture Review Oversight Group and the Culture Review Implementation Steering Group, established to ensure effective and efficient implementation.
- The ACT Government invests significantly in the delivery of public health services to ensure safe, high quality healthcare for the ACT community and our surrounding regions. In addition to taking care of our community, we are also working hard to ensure that our staff are cared for and feel valued.

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Cleared by:	Executive Branch Manager	Ext: 49923
Contact Officer name:	Jodie Junk-Gibson	
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Jodie Junk-Gibson	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/362	

- New Executive leadership teams have been established across our three health services with a strong commitment to developing a positive workplace culture. Signs of a shift in positivity are already being demonstrated, and it was pleasing to read in the Final Report that there is cautious optimism by many within the service around the new leadership.
- The former Minister and I also signed a public commitment document with the leaders of the Health Directorate, Canberra Health Services and Calvary Public Hospital (Bruce) on Thursday 16 May 2019.
- To further support this commitment, organisation representatives on the Culture Review Oversight Group signed a stakeholder commitment to support and drive a positive workplace culture across the ACT public health system. The commitment was signed on 4 September 2019.
- These public commitments, together with the government response reaffirms our commitment to cultural change and the implementation of the recommendations of the Review.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	26/06/2020	
Cleared by:	Executive Branch Manager	Ext: 49923
Contact Officer name:	Jodie Junk-Gibson	
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Jodie Junk-Gibson	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/362	

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

GBC20/362

Portfolio: Mental Health

ISSUE: FUTURE PLANNING FOR HEALTH SERVICES ACROSS THE ACT

Talking points:

- ACT Health Directorate is developing a Territory-wide Health Service Plan. The Territory-wide Health Service Plan will identify priorities for health service development and redesign across the ACT. It will be based on a comprehensive assessment of health service needs across the care continuum on a geographic basis and for priority population groups. It will consider the range of public health services provided by Canberra Health Services, Calvary Public Hospital Bruce and other organisations in the community.

  Key considerations of the planning process will be:

  - Aligning services with need;
  - A focus on prevention;
  - Improving integration of services; and
  - Embracing technology.

- Between November 2019 and March 2020, approximately 80 consultation sessions were undertaken with stakeholders from Canberra Health Services, Calvary Public Hospital Bruce, Non-Government Organisations funded by the ACT Health Directorate and aged care providers in the ACT. While further consultation and engagement with consumers and carers, the community and health services is currently on hold in the context of COVID-19 response activities, discussions are being held, for example with Health Care Consumers' Association, about how and when these engagement activities will be progressed.

- The Territory-wide Health Service Plan was due to be completed by mid-2020. A revised work program is now being established for the Plan in consultation with the Health Care Consumers' Association that would see further engagement activities planned for June through to early August to support finalisation of the Plan in the second half of the year.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	24/06/2020	
Cleared by:	Executive Group Manager	Ext: 49699
Contact Officer name:	Sarah Galton	Ext: 49877
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Jacinta George	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/362	

- A Mental Health Clinical Services Plan is also currently under development and will establish the medium to long term directions for public mental health services in the ACT. Emerging priorities that have been identified in the early stages of development of this Plan are being used to inform decision making in response to current service demand issues.
- The Mental Health Clinical Services Plan will identify how priorities for mental health service development in the Territory-wide Health Service Plan and the Regional Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Plan, currently being finalised with the Capital Health Network, will be implemented.
- The Mental Health Clinical Services Plan was expected to be completed by mid-2020 but is also expected to be delayed in context of the COVID-19 response.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	24/06/2020	
Cleared by:	Executive Group Manager	Ext: 49699
Contact Officer name:	Sarah Galton	Ext: 49877
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Jacinta George	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/362	

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

GBC20/362

Portfolio: Mental Health

ISSUE: OFFICE FOR MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Talking points:

- The Office for Mental and Health and Wellbeing Work Plan sets out the ongoing commitment to enhance the mental health and wellbeing of our region, by partnering with government, non-government and the community to support the people in the ACT and surrounds experiencing mental health concerns.
- The Work Plan introduces the territory-wide vision for mental health and wellbeing:
    - A kind, connected and informed community working together to promote and protect the mental health and wellbeing of all.
- The Work Plan contributes to this vision through actions under three key themes for change:
    - Mentally healthy communities and workplaces;
    - Individuals, families and carers; and
    - System capacity and workforce.
- Activities being delivered under the plan this year include a Community Engagement Commitment, an Evaluation Framework for the Office, an Outcomes Framework for the mental health system, implementation of the Lifespan suicide prevention strategy, the Youth Aware of Mental Health program (YAM) and a review of Children and Young People's Mental Health and Wellbeing (the Review).
- The report on the Review was released on 20 March 2020 and is available on the Office for Mental Health and Wellbeing web page on the ACT Health Directorate website. The report makes recommendations and identifies projects currently being planned to address the concerns raised through the consultations.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	22/06/2020	
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Contact Officer name:	Natalie Johnson	Ext: x49860
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Elizabeth Moore	Ext: 49600
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/362	

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

- The initial phases of the development of an online youth navigation portal for the ACT are being progressed. Planning has also commenced on addressing the needs of children with moderate to severe mental health concerns.
- The Youth Aware of Mental Health (YAM) program commenced in two schools and has been well received. Due to the impact of COVID-19, the roll out of YAM was paused as the program model requires face-to-face implementation. YAM recommenced in Term 2 on Monday 15 June 2020. YAM is part of the Black Dog Institute's LifeSpan Framework being rolled out in the ACT and targets 14 to 16-year-olds.
- In addition to the work plan activities, the Office has taken a leadership role in identifying and addressing the significant impact of both the natural disasters and the current pandemic on the mental health of our community.

Key Information:

- The Coordinator-General reports directly to the Minister for Mental Health and the Office has a mandate to work across all Government agencies. The Office retains a level of independence from the day-to-day running of ACT Health and has authority to conduct reviews and produce reports as the Coordinator-General deems necessary or at the request of the Minister for Mental Health.
- Within the 100 days from the commencement of the Coordinator-General, the Office for Mental Health and Wellbeing has undertaken a process of co-design in conjunction with the peak non-government organisations to create a territory-wide vision for mental health and wellbeing and to inform the development of the Office Work Plan.
- The Workplan was launched on 30 April 2019 and is available on the Office website.
- The Mental Health and Wellbeing Inter-Directorate Committee (previously called the Agency Stewardship Group) has held regular meetings to oversee the development of the Work Plan and will continue to meet on a regular basis to provide a whole of government response to enhance mental health and wellbeing in the ACT.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	22/06/2020	
Cleared by:	Elizabeth Moore	Ext: x49600
Contact Officer name:	Natalie Johnson	Ext: x49860
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Cleared for release	Yes	
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TRIM Ref:	GBC20/362	

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

GBC20/362

Portfolio: Mental Health

ISSUE: IMPACT OF THE NATIONAL DISABILITY INSURANCE SCHEME (NDIS) IN THE ACT MENTAL HEALTH COMMUNITY

Talking points:

National Disability Insurance Scheme

- The ACT was a trial site for transition to the NDIS, implementing the full scheme between 2014 and 2016. There are currently 894 participants who access the scheme based on psychosocial disability.
- The Office for Disability, in collaboration with the ACT Health Directorate, has been leading the national work to improve the NDIS response to people with lived experience of mental illness and psychosocial disability.
- Work is progressing on projects endorsed by the Disability Reform Council in December 2019 although there may be some delays as a result of the COVID-19 crisis. These projects address the issues identified for people with psychosocial disability including:
    - Access and Eligibility;
    - Linkages and Referral;
    - Assertive Outreach;
    - Responding to the Episodic Nature of Psychosocial Disability;
    - Psychosocial Disability Recovery Approach;
    - Information Sharing and Data Reporting; and
    - National Approach to Concurrent Supports.
- The National Disability Insurance Agency is also working with the ACT Government and local services on the rollout of their Psychosocial Disability Stream and Complex Support Needs Pathway. In considering this work, priority has been given to improving:
    - hospital discharges;
    - support coordination; and

Cleared as complete and accurate:	24/06/2020	
Cleared by:	Deputy Director-General	Ext: 49180
Contact Officer name:	Meg Brighton	Ext: 49180
Lead Directorate:	Health	
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Information Officer name:	Michael Culhane	Ext: 49392
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/362	

- planning.

- The Office for Disability has established a Community of Practice for mental health support coordinators in partnership with the mental health community agency peak the Mental Health Community Coalition ACT.
- COVID-19 has had a significant impact on the delivery of disability support across the country. The NDIA has responded through facilitating plan adjustments and exploring ways for support providers to manage and communicate regarding changing restrictions.
- Measures are also being implemented locally, through the ACT's Office for Disability.

National Psychosocial Support Measure (NPSM) and Continuity of Support (CoS)

- The ACT Government has a bilateral agreement with the Commonwealth for the National Psychosocial Support Measure (NPSM). Under this agreement, $2 million of ACT Government funding and $1.3 million of Commonwealth funding is allocated to provide psychosocial support services to assist people with mental illness who are not eligible for a funded support package through the NDIS in the ACT. The funding is spread over four years to the end of the 2020 - 2021 financial year.
- Continuity of Support (CoS) funding is also available from the Commonwealth as part of the 2018-19 Federal Budget to provide supports for people who previously received support under Commonwealth funded programs such as Partners in Recovery and who have not been found eligible for supports under the NDIS.
- Funds for both measures are being administered through the Capital Health Network, in partnership with the ACTHD, Canberra Health Services and other community stakeholders. The NPSM provided funds for two programs, offered by Flourish Australia and Woden Community Service. Funding for Continuity of Support was awarded to Woden Community Service (WCS).
- NGOs have been proactive in adjusting their modes of service delivery to meet social distancing requirements due to the COVID-19 crisis.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	24/06/2020	
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TRIM Ref:	GBC20/362	

- The Commonwealth has commissioned the NOUS Group to do an evaluation of the NPSM and CoS implementation. Representatives from the CHN, Canberra Health Services and ACTHD met with NOUS on 27 May 2020 and an interim report is due at the end of July 2020.

Key information

NDIS

- Timeframes have been agreed with the DRC in relation to project outcomes from the Mental Health Working Group (MHWG) for the NDIS and mental health interface. Some of these timeframes may be affected by the reprioritisation required.
- Representatives from the ACT Government (Office for Disability and/or ACTHD) sit on all Project Teams.
- Concerns have been raised that the NDIA response to COVID-19 has been too slow and does not go far enough with a lack of concrete actions and messaging. Also, that the response is uncoordinated with state and territory measures.
- The NDIA announced the results of their Annual Price review on 4 June 2020. There are 14 recommendations including:
    - the introduction of psychosocial recovery coaches;
    - improving clarity on the price settings for Supported Independent Living (SIL)
    - new features to provide opportunities for participants to access alternative living arrangements as part of Individualised Living Options (ILO);
    - driving innovative opportunities for participants in employment; and
    - introducing Programs of Supports to improve choice and control for participants and to provide more certainty for providers when delivering supports.

NPSM and Continuity of Support

- Programs funded under the NPSM include the New Path program, operated by WCS, and the Bloom Healthy Living, operated by Flourish.
- New Path is an early intervention mental health recovery program that supports people whose ability to manage daily activities and live independently in the community has been affected by mental health issues.
- WCS will receive $989,786 for the New Path program for the contracted period of February 2019 to June 2021.

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TRIM Ref:	GBC20/362	

- Flourish will receive $1,069,965 for the Bloom Healthy Living program for the contracted period of March 2019 to June 2021.
- Both providers of the NPSM have been actively supporting people since April 2019. As at November 2019 there were approximately 30 participants in each program, with a steady flow of referrals.
- Referrals have come from a variety of sources including GP's, ACT Disability Aged Carer Advocacy Service (ADACAS), clinical mental health services (both inpatient and community) as well as from Housing services and self-referrals. Work continues to promote NPSM services across the ACT community.
- WCS have led the establishment of a Stakeholder Reference Group, incorporating both NPSM services in the ACT. This Reference Group will help to promote NPSM services and most importantly will work towards integrating the NPSM within the broader mental health sector. The Stakeholder Reference Group has been put on hold during the current COVID-19 crisis.
- WCS has established the Continuity of Support Program with $188,000 of Commonwealth Government funding. Continuity of Support is only available to people who were accessing services as at 30 June 2019 under Partners in Recovery (PIR), Day to Day Living program (D2DL) or Personal Helpers and Mentors (PHaMs) and who are found to be ineligible for the NDIS.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	24/06/2020	
Cleared by:	Deputy Director-General	Ext: 49180
Contact Officer name:	Meg Brighton	Ext: 49180
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Michael Culhane	Ext: 49392
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/362	

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

GBC20/362
Portfolio: Mental Health

ISSUE: MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR DEAF AND DEAF/BLIND CANBERRANS

Talking points:

- The ACT Health Directorate (ACTHD) is consulting with Deaf Canberrans and organisational stakeholders, including the Deaf Society, to consider the availability and experience of mental health services for Deaf and deafblind Canberrans.
- The ACTHD met with members of the ACT Deaf community on Thursday, 19 December 2019 as an opportunity for Deaf Canberrans to share their experience and knowledge of mental health services and mental illness.
- Communication was facilitated through two interpreters. This meeting was positive, and all parties expressed commitment to working together to co-design options for improved access to mental health services for the Deaf community.
- ACTHD is working with Deaf Canberrans, the Deaf Society and other stakeholders to identify service strengths and gaps in mental health services for the Deaf community.
- ACTHD is engaging with other States and Territories to inform development of policy and service responses.
- This work has been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Consultation options are restricted and there are impacts on the availability of and capacity of ACT based Interpreters. CHS, which is a vital stakeholder in this process, is also experiencing increased demand and reduced capacity due to COVID-19 related activities. It is proposed that this work will progress in the near future.

Key Information

- ACTHD recognises that Deaf and deafblind Canberrans require culturally sensitive and competent mental health services. The ACT Government is committed to working with stakeholders and the Deaf community in the ACT to ensure mental health services are accessible for Deaf and deafblind Canberrans.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	24/6/2020		
Cleared by:	Deputy Director-General		Ext: 49180
Lead Directorate:	Health		
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TRIM Ref:	GBC20/362		

- Discussions with organisations and the Deaf community are ongoing. Engagement has been significantly delayed by COVID-19 and its impacts on consultative activities.
- ACTHD is developing a paper regarding potential service improvements and initiatives that will meet the needs communicated to ACTHD by members of the Deaf community.
- Due to large scale community impacts of bushfires and COVID-19, further consultation with the Deaf community on this work has been delayed.
- This paper, when completed, will be co-designed with the Deaf community and will incorporate information from all consultations to date and provide options on various enhancements to mental health services for Deaf and deafblind Canberrans.
- ACTHD is investigating options to provide additional supports to Deaf Canberrans during the COVID-19 pandemic in recognition of both the delay in this work and the increased impacts of mental ill-health for people who are Deaf or deafblind.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	24/6/2020		
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Lead Directorate:	Health		
Cleared for release	Yes		
Information Officer name:	Michael Culhane		Ext: 49392
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/362		

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

GBC 20/362

Portfolio: Mental Health

ISSUE: Mental health assessments - Section 309 of the *Crimes Act 1900*

Talking points:

- The challenges and demands currently being experienced in the acute mental health system are well known. In response, strategic planning is underway to address these issues through a variety of projects and pathways.
- One such strategy involves an investigation into what alternative approaches to section 309 assessments may be possible.
- Section 309 of the *Crimes Act 1900* provides a legislative mechanism for the Magistrates Court to order the transfer and mental health assessment of people involved in the criminal justice system.
- The Canberra Hospital is declared as an approved Mental Health Facility under the *Mental Health Act 2015* and is the only facility that receives patients for section 309 assessments. All section 309 assessments are carried out at the emergency department of the Canberra Hospital.
- ACT Health Directorate, as the health system steward, will work in collaboration with Canberra Health Services, the Chief Psychiatrist and the Department of Justice and Community Safety to investigate alternative approaches to facilitate necessary assessments to section 309 that may reduce demand on the emergency department and acute mental health services at the Canberra Hospital.
- This work is significant and requires cross directorate, legal and wider community consultation.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	24/06/2020	
Cleared by:	Deputy Director-General	Ext: 49786
Contact Officer name:	Meg Brighton	Ext: 49180
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release		
Information Officer name:	Michael Culhane	Ext: 49392
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/362	

Key Information

- The *Administrative Arrangements 2019 (No 3)* allocate the *Crimes Act 1900* to Justice and Community Safety under the Attorney General.
- An alternative approach under consideration is allowing for section 309 (s309) assessments to be carried out in a designated area by a mental health clinician within the court building rather than requiring the person to be transported to the emergency department. This would mean less disruption to the person and allow for a more streamlined service for the court.
- The onsite examination amendment may reduce demand by ensuring only people with mental or physical health that require acute hospital services for care or treatment are transported to the Emergency Department.
- During 2018-19, 137 people were referred to the Canberra Hospital Emergency Department under a s309 order for removal to an approved facility. Of these, 83 people were admitted.
- Legislative and policy changes required for any amendments are significant and will require:
    - cooperation from JACS (including Corrections, the courts and the Criminal Law Section);
    - consultation with other directorates (such as ACT Policing); and
    - costing of the financial implications of the proposed changes.
- Other options to consider are:
    - Offering people the opportunity to have an assessment as a voluntary patient. This is in keeping with the principles and objects of the *Mental Health Act 2015* for the least restrictive approach to mental health care.
    - Areas other than the Emergency Department could carry out s309 assessments where they are required, for example another health facility.
- ACT Health Directorate will continue to lead the work on this and other initiatives in consultation with Canberra Health Services, the Justice and Community Safety Directorate and the Chief Psychiatrist.
- ACT Health Directorate is working with Canberra Health Services to gather data to understand of the operation of section 309. The data collected for analysis includes the length of stay in the Emergency Department for a person on a s309 order. The availability of this data has been delayed due to the impact the COVID-19 response is having at Canberra Health Services.

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TRIM Ref:	GBC20/362	

- Analysis of the this data will provide an opportunity to identify periods of high demand for mental health services in the Emergency Department as well as providing a clear indication of general wait times for assessment under section 309.

Background Information

- Diversion from the justice system of those people who have a mental illness or disorder is an important aspect of contemporary justice systems.
- If a person appears before the courts and there is a concern that they may have a mental illness or mental disorder then the person can be assessed and the courts advised accordingly.
- In the ACT, the Forensic Mental Health Team has a Court Liaison service. Clinicians in the Court Liaison service provide mental health assessments and advise the courts about mental health issues. This may include requesting that an assessment under s309 of the *Crimes Act* is carried out.
- Alternatively, the magistrate can request a s309 assessment.
- Where the Court Liaison service is involved, approximately 80% of those referred for an assessment require admission. This number falls significantly if they are not involved.
- Following the assessment, if they do not require admission the Australian Federal Police are required to transport them to custody. This can at times involve long waits which has an impact on the client themselves as well as on the clinical service areas.

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TRIM Ref:	GBC20/362	

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

GBC20/362

Portfolio: Mental Health

ISSUE: SUICIDE PREVENTION PROGRAMS

Talking points:

Lifespan Suicide Prevention Framework

- The ACT Government committed $1.545 million in the 2018-19 Budget to establish a pilot version of the Black Dog Institute's LifeSpan Integrated Suicide Prevention Framework in the ACT over three years to 2021.
- LifeSpan is an evidence based approach to integrated suicide prevention. LifeSpan combines nine strategies that have strong evidence for suicide prevention into one community led approach incorporating health, education, frontline services, business and the community.
- An ACT Lifespan Action Plan has been developed by the ACT Health Directorate (ACTHD), Capital Health Network (CHN) and the Black Dog Institute (BDI) to guide implementation.
- A LifeSpan Steering Committee, composed of key local agencies and stakeholders, guides this work.
- Five ACT LifeSpan Working Groups, focusing on Health Services, Schools, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander suicide prevention, Improving Public Safety and Community Awareness are also underway with membership from key stakeholders.
- The ACT Government is working closely with Black Dog Institute to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on Lifespan initiatives.
- Several key Lifespan initiatives have been modified in light of the current situation.
- An ongoing initiative under Lifespan is the Question Persuade Refer or QPR, online gatekeeper training program which has been widely promoted by ACTHD and CHN through social media and other channels. QPR is a suicide prevention intervention that teaches lay and professional gatekeepers to recognise and respond positively to someone exhibiting suicide warning signs and behaviours. As QPR is a free online training

Cleared as complete and accurate:	22/06/2020	
Cleared by:	Elizabeth Moore	Ext: x49600
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Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Elizabeth Moore	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/362	

program which supports suicide prevention in the ACT, it will continue to be promoted during the COVID-19 pandemic.

- A 'QPR for Business' initiative, encouraging workplaces to enable staff to complete QPR Training, is also now underway in partnership with Healthier Work and BDI. Funding is being provided by the ACT Government for this training through BDI. This will continue to be promoted during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Mindframe Plus training in safe and purposeful media reporting and communication about suicide, provided by Everymind, is a feasible approach to continue online in modified format in light of COVID-19, and will be conducted for local media and communication stakeholders in coming months.
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Suicide Prevention is a key priority for ACT Lifespan. An identified Project Officer is employed to support this work, and a number of key activities planned for 2020 have been modified or postponed due to COVID-19.
    - Training by Wesley LifeForce, which was originally intended for 10 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workers to participate in a culturally appropriate Indigenous Suicide Prevention Training Program in March 2020, has been postponed.
    - An Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Forum has also been postponed. This Forum was to include Winnunga Nimmitjyah Aboriginal Health and Community Service, Gugan Gulwan Youth Aboriginal Corporation and the ACT HD Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Partnerships Team.
    - In partnership with ACT Health, BDI is now conducting a needs assessment for the provision of a culturally appropriate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander suicide prevention, aftercare and postvention service for the ACT. This model has been recommended by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Working Group as an appropriate suicide prevention strategy for the ACT.

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Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Elizabeth Moore	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/362	

- In 2019, the ACT Government was advised that the Commonwealth Government will provide approximately $6 million in the outgoing years for the Youth Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Project which includes:
    - an Online Youth Navigation Portal to provide personalised online and phone based mental health services for young people, their friends and family and other health professionals; and
    - the Youth Aware of Mental Health (YAM) Program to be delivered in schools across the ACT in 2020 and 2021 to educate and engage young people in discussions about mental health and promote peer support. YAM is a key Lifespan strategy.
- The YAM program commenced in ACT high schools in February 2020. This program involves a series of five sessions delivered to Year 9 students in schools where they learn problem solving skills; gain knowledge about mental health; build resilience; promote early intervention; and help seeking behaviours.
- A Suicide Prevention Officer role, funded by ACT Health Directorate and located in ACTED, supports YAM.
- Due to the impact of COVID-19, the roll out of YAM was paused as the program model requires face-to-face implementation with students. YAM recommenced in Term 2 on Monday 15th June, 2020.

<u>Way Back Support Service</u>

- The Way Back Support Service (Way Back), developed by Beyond Blue, is a non-clinical suicide prevention service developed to provide follow-up support to people for up to three months, after they have attempted suicide.
- Way Back began as a pilot program in the ACT in October 2016 and has been delivered by the Woden Community Service since then.
- The ACTHD has a bilateral agreement with the Commonwealth Government to fund the Way Back in the ACT committing the Commonwealth and ACT Governments to each providing $300,000 per annum. The contract will be managed by the CHN.

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Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Elizabeth Moore	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/362	

- In the context of COVID-19, the Way Back Support Service has moved to working via an online platform, phone and SMS systems.

Key Information:

- According to the latest ABS data, there were 3,046 deaths by suicide across Australia in 2018.
- In 2018, 47 suicide deaths were recorded in the ACT, compared to 58 deaths recorded in 2017
- The five-year, age-standardised rate of suicide deaths per 100,000 people in the ACT has moved from 10.5 suicide deaths per 100,000 in the 2013-17 period to 10.7 in the 2014-18 period. Similar increases were also seen across all States and Territories and in the national average.

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Contact Officer name:	Ros Garrity	Ext: x49600
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Elizabeth Moore	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/362	

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

GBC20/362

Portfolio: Mental Health

ISSUE: ACT REGIONAL MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION PLAN

Talking points:

- The ACT Regional Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Plan (the ACT Plan) is currently being developed.
- The first section of the ACT Plan, Part A – the Framework, has been finalised and copies of the ACT Mental Health and Suicide Plan at a Glance were distributed from the second half of October 2019, as part of Mental Health Month.
- Endorsement of Part B – the Implementation Plan and Part C – the Monitoring and Performance Plan are currently being finalised by partner organisations.
- Due to the additional demands on primary health networks and other stakeholder organisations created by the COVID-19 emergency the Commonwealth has extended the due date to 31 December 2020. However, the full, three part ACT Plan is on track for completion close to 30 June 2020, which is the date originally set by the Commonwealth Government in the Fifth National Mental Health and Suicide prevention Plan.
- The priorities for the ACT Plan were informed by, and align with, the Office for Mental Health and Wellbeing's vision and priorities, that were identified in codesign workshops with the ACT community in February 2019.
- These priorities focus on better outcomes through service integration, early intervention, whole of person care and suicide prevention.

Key Information:

- Further public consultations were carried out across November 2019 to inform the development of the remaining sections of the ACT Plan: Part B - the Implementation Plan and Part C - the Monitoring and Performance Plan.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	24/06/2020		
Cleared by:	Deputy Director-General		Ext: 49180
Contact Officer name:	Meg Brighton		Ext: 49180
Lead Directorate:	Health		
Cleared for release	Yes		
Information Officer name:	Michael Culhane		Ext: 49392
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/362		

- The Fifth National Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Plan prioritises effective regional planning and integration of mental health services. Development of the ACT Plan is a key commitment under this priority.
- From August to October 2018, a consultation forum and online consultation survey for the ACT Plan brought together diverse stakeholder input to identify priorities and strategies that form the basis of the ACT Plan.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	24/06/2020		
Cleared by:	Deputy Director-General		Ext: 49180
Contact Officer name:	Meg Brighton		Ext: 49180
Lead Directorate:	Health		
Cleared for release	Yes		
Information Officer name:	Michael Culhane		Ext: 49392
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/362		

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

GBC20/362

Portfolio: Mental Health

ISSUE: HEALTH DIRECTORATE STAFF CLIMATE SURVEY 2019

Talking points:

- The ACT Health Directorate's Workplace Climate survey was conducted between 8 and 26 November 2019.
- Summary results were presented to the Directorate executive and staff on 12 February 2020.
- The Culture Review Oversight Group received a briefing from the survey provider, Best Practice Australia, on 25 February 2020. This briefing outlined the survey design, purpose and metholodology.
- The high completion rate of 82 per cent indicates the survey results are statistically reliable.
- The results indicate the Directorate has a culture of 'consolidation', which means that 40-50 per cent of employees are engaged, and this is typical of a culture that is in transition.
- The results show strong agreement around several work culture indicators, including that the workplace is free from sexual harassment; that there is good workplace flexibility; and the value of Integrity is demonstrated by colleagues.
- The results also identify a number of aspects of the Directorate's culture which will be targeted as part of the post-debrief Action Planning. These include perceptions of favouritism, of behaviour not espousing the values; and of poor internal processes, systems and procedures.
- The Directorate executive group will continue to explore the results of the survey with staff, and this will be followed by structured Action Planning and quarterly reporting.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	23/06/2020	
Cleared by:	Executive Group Manager	Ext: x49869
Contact Officer name:	Julie Nolan	Ext: x49835
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Julie Nolan	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/362	

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

Key Information:

- 82 per cent of Directorate staff completed the survey. The average completion rate for an organisation with staff between 200-2000 staff is 63 per cent.
- Information that has the potential to identify business units or individual staff and/or managers will not be made available.

Background Information:

- Recommendation 2 from the Final Report of the Independent Review into the Workplace Culture within ACT Public Health Services (the Culture Review) contained an action item to conduct a staff survey in 2019.
- Results from the survey will inform the Directorate's response to the recommendations arising from Culture review.
- The last workplace climate survey of (the former) ACT Health was conducted in 2015.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	23/06/2020	
Cleared by:	Executive Group Manager	Ext: x49869
Contact Officer name:	Julie Nolan	Ext: x49835
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Julie Nolan	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/362	

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

GBC20/362

Portfolio: Mental Health

ISSUE: MENTAL HEALTH BUDGET INITIATIVES

Talking points:

- There are nine new mental health and justice health initiatives contained in the 2019-20 ACT Budget. They are:
    - AMHU additional beds (over four years - $6,976,000);
    - Expand Mental Health Consultation Liaison Service (over four years – $4,594,000);
    - Electroconvulsive Therapy (over four years - $2,565,000);
    - Expansion of the Justice Health Services at AMC (over four years - $1,074,000);
    - Police, Ambulance and Clinician Early Response Tri-Service Model (over four years - $147,000);
    - Diverting people with mental illness (over four years - $3,035,000);
    - Expansion of ACT Eating Disorder Service (over four years - $2,217,000);
    - Capacity Building for Mental Health Carers (over four years - $457,000); and
    - A Safer Canberra - Canberra Health Services resources for fixated threat management capability trial (over four years - $644,000).
- The new electroconvulsive therapy initiative also includes capital funding of $1.764 million in 2019-20 and $0.756 million in 2020-21.
- The initiatives will employ an additional 26.9 FTE in 2019-20, growing to 33.8 FTE by 2021-22.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	23/06/2020	
Cleared by:	Executive Branch Manager	Ext: 49869
Contact Officer name:	Kate Chambers	Ext: 49428
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Jean-Paul Donda	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/362	

Initiative Descriptions (with Budget Paper Descriptions):

- Expanding Public Inpatient Mental Health Care: The Government will boost administration, allied health, and nursing staff levels in the Adult Mental Health Unit. This will allow a more comprehensive psychosocial approach to support inpatients, as well as support workforce development and improved clinical care standards CHS E15 – 7 Day-a-week Mental Health Consultation Liaison service.
- 7 Day-a-week Mental Health Consultation Liaison service: The Government will expand the Mental Health Consultation Liaison service to operate at Canberra Hospital seven days a week, increasing the level of support available for people with mental illness.
- More Mental Health Services at Canberra Hospital: The Government will establish an Electroconvulsive Therapy service to operate within the Adult Mental Health Unit at the Canberra Hospital. This will provide access for mental health patients who previously have been unable to receive this treatment.
- Delivering better mental health care for people in crisis: The Government will undertake planning and design work for a Police, Ambulance and Clinician Early Response model to better manage acute mental health related incidents in the community.
- Alternative justice pathways for people with mental illness: The Government will expand Mental Health, Justice Health and Alcohol and Drug Services to address the over-representation of people with mental health concerns who are in contact with the criminal justice system.
- Expanding public healthcare services for eating disorders: The Government will establish an Eating Disorders Specialist Clinical Hub and a non-government operated, community-based intervention support service to expand the capacity and range of eating disorder services available in the ACT.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	23/06/2020	
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Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
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TRIM Ref:	GBC20/362	

- Strengthening capacity for mental health carers: The Government will recruit two Carer Engagement Clinicians to pilot a range of support and psychosocial education activities to build capacity for the families and carers of people with mental health conditions.
- A Safer Canberra/Strengthening Public Safety and Security: The Government will provide several high priority requirements to strengthen the safety of the ACT as part of a National effort to address the risks associated with people who have a fixated threat, and to better protected crowded places from terrorism. The initiative is a two year trial.

Background Information

- Financial breakdown of the nine mental health and justice health new initiatives contained in the 2019-20 ACT Budget is provided in the table below:

Name	Recurrent				
	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	Total
	$000's	$000's	$000's	$000's	$000's
AMHU additional beds	1,680	1,722	1,765	1,809	**6,976**
Expand Mental Health Consultation Liaison service	800	1,234	1,268	1,292	**4,594**
Electroconvulsive Therapy (ECT)	0	488	999	1,078	**2,565**
Expansion of Justice Health Services at the AMC	258	266	273	277	**1,074**
Police, Ambulance and Clinician Early Response (PACER) Tri-service Model	147	0	0	0	**147**
Diverting people with a mental illness	731	749	768	787	**3,035**
Expansion of ACT Eating Disorder Services	179	442	683	913	**2,217**
Capacity Building for Mental Health Carers	226	231	0	0	**457**
A Safer Canberra - CHS resources for fixated threat mgt capability trial	82	277	285	0	**644**
	4,103	**5,409**	**6,041**	**6,156**	**21,709**

Cleared as complete and accurate:	23/06/2020	
Cleared by:	Executive Branch Manager	Ext: 49869
Contact Officer name:	Kate Chambers	Ext: 49428
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Jean-Paul Donda	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/362	

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

GBC20/362

Portfolio: Mental Health

ISSUE: 2019/2020 Half Yearly Performance Report ACTHD/LHN Mental Health Specific

Talking points:

There were no major variances within the Statements of Performance which was tabled in the Assembly on 13 February which related to Mental Health:

ACT Health Directorate

Output 1.3: Mentally Healthy Communities:

1.3.a - Percentage of mental health clients with outcome measures completed – was 6 percent higher than target due a sustained effort to complete outcome measures for eligible consumers.

1.3.b - Annual progress report on the implementation of the Office for Mental Health and Wellbeing Workplan 2019-2021 published – is on target to be met.

ACT Local Hospital Network

Output 1.1: ACT Local Hospital Network:

1.1.d – Acute Admitted Mental Health Services – was 3 percent below target.

Background Information:

- Directors-General (DG) and Chief Executive Officers (CEO) are responsible for delivering outcomes for the provision of services. Each DG / CEO is responsible to their Minister for the delivery of outcomes and for the provision of outputs as specified in each agency's budget papers. Performance indicators provide a succinct and transparent means by which ACT Government entities can present their performance and in so doing be held accountable.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	23/06/2020	
Cleared by:	Chief Finance Officer	Ext:49428
Contact Officer name:	Jean-Paul Donda	Ext:49643
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Kate Chambers	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/362	

- Section 30(E) of the Financial Management Act 1996 requires Ministers to prepare a half-yearly performance report for each directorate for which the Minister is responsible and report to the Legislative Assembly within 45 days of the end of the December period, this report must include:
    a. A progress report on delivery of outputs; and
    b. An explanation of any significant variations from performance criteria.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	23/06/2020	
Cleared by:	Chief Finance Officer	Ext:49428
Contact Officer name:	Jean-Paul Donda	Ext:49643
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Kate Chambers	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/362	

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

GBC20/361

Portfolio: Health

ISSUE: COVID-19: KEY FACTS AND FIGURES

Talking points:

- As of 9.00am on 30 July2020:
  - There is one active case in the ACT.
  - There have been 50,255 negative tests in the ACT to date.
  - A total of 109 cases have recovered from COVID-19 and have been released from self-isolation.
  - Three (3) deaths have been recorded.
- There remains no evidence of community transmission in the ACT.
- Of the ACT's cases:
  - 84 were overseas acquired cases with a total of 29 related to cruise ships;
  - 8 were interstate acquired cases; and
  - 20 were close contacts of known cases; and
  - 1 was locally acquired with an unknown epi-link.
- ACT Health is continuing to take appropriate public health action to contact trace all new cases in line with national guidelines.

National

- As at 9:00pm on 29 July 2020, there have been 15, 582 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Australia. There have been 318 new cases in the last 24 hours.
- Of the 15, 582 confirmed cases in Australia, 176 have died from COVID-19. More than 4,098,249 tests have been conducted across Australia.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	23/07/2020	
Cleared by:	Chief Health Offier	Ext: 49442
Contact Officer name:	Vanessa Dal Molin	Ext: 49442
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Vanessa Dal Molin	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/388	

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

Location	Confirmed cases*
New South Wales	3,718
Northern Territory	31
Queensland	1,078
South Australia	448
Tasmania	229
Victoria	9,304
Western Australia	661

- * Note that under National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System reporting requirements, cases are reported based on their Australian jurisdiction of residence rather than where they were detected. For example, a case reported previously in the NT in a NSW resident is counted in the national figures as a NSW case.
- ** Includes Diamond Princess repatriation cases: Qld (3), SA (1), Vic (4), WA (2, including 1 death)

International

- As at 0100hrs 30 July 2020, across the world there have been 16,558,289 confirmed cases of COVID-19 and more than 656,000 deaths.

Background information

- COVID-19 causes a spectrum of illness, from mild to very severe, including fever and/or respiratory symptoms. The key symptoms are fever; cough; shortness of breath; and sore throat.
- Current estimates of the time it takes for symptoms to develop after being exposed to the virus that causes COVID-19 range from 2-14 days.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	23/07/2020	
Cleared by:	Chief Health Offier	Ext: 49442
Contact Officer name:	Vanessa Dal Molin	Ext: 49442
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Vanessa Dal Molin	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/388	

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

GBC20/388

Portfolio: Health

ISSUE: COVID-19: PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY AND DIRECTIONS

Talking points:

- The Chief Health Officer advised me on 26 June 2020 that the ACT's COVID-19 public health emergency declaration should be extended for a further 45 days until 21 August 2020.
- This extension is necessary to maintain public health control measures to safeguard against a resurgence of COVID-19 cases.
- Since the emergency declaration has been in force, the Chief Health Officer has taken the necessary actions to contain the spread of the disease, including issuing specific Public Health Emergency Directions.
- The Directions have included restrictions around the operation of non-essential businesses and undertakings, gatherings, returned international and interstate travellers and entrance requirements to aged care facilities.
- Recently issued Directions have introduced restrictions on travel from Victoria and a requirement to self-isolate for persons returning from certain affected locations in NSW.

<u>Public Health Emergency Directions</u>

- Public Health (Emergency) Declaration Further Extension 2020 (No. 10)
    - The public health emergency declaration remains in force until 21 August 2020 subject to ongoing review.
- Public Health (COVID-19 Interstate Hotspots) Emergency Direction 2020 (No. 5)
    - Requirement for a person arriving into the ACT from a COVID-19 hotspot to undertake a period of 14 days quarantine.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	20/07/2020	
Cleared by:	Chief Health Officer	Ext: 49442
Contact Officer name:	Vanessa Dal Molin	Ext: 49442
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Vanessa Dal Molin	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/388	

- Public Health (COVID-19 Interstate Travellers) Emergency Direction 2020
    - Requirement for a person entering the ACT that has been in Victoria within the last 14 days to quarantine for 14 days at an approved location.
- Public Health (Restricted activities – Gatherings, Business or Undertakings) Emergency Direction 2020 (No. 5)
    - gatherings in an outdoor space of more than 100 persons;
    - gatherings at non-residential premises of more than 100 persons unless that place is excluded from the operation of the gathering restrictions (such as medical facilities, shopping centres, public transport facilities, and workplaces not listed as non-essential businesses);
    - most non-essential businesses and undertakings will be required to have a COVID-19 Safety Plan and must ask for a first name and contact number and record those details if provided;
    - gatherings at many non-essential businesses and undertakings are restricted to 1 person per 4 square metres of floor space or no more than 100 persons (whichever is the smaller), but for hospitality venues (public, clubs, restaurants and cafes) the restriction is 1 customer per 4 square metres of floor space to which customers have access, or no more than 100 customers (again, whichever is the smaller);
    - galleries, museums, national institution, libraries and outdoor amusement parks are only required to observe social distancing of 1 person per 4 square metres, except for tours which are limited to 20 persons (excluding staff). Organised functions or events at such locations are also restricted to 1 person per 4 square metres of floor space or no more than 100 persons (whichever is the smaller);
    - as per the Roadmap several categories of non-essential business or undertaking are to remain closed (casinos, food courts, brothels and nightclubs).

- Public Health (Residential Aged Care Facilities) Emergency Direction 2020 (No. 3)
    - Restrictions prevent visitors entering Residential Aged Care Facilities if they have been overseas within the last 14 days, been in contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19, or have a temperature >37.5C.
    - An influenza vaccination is required for people entering a Residential Aged Care Facilities unless the person's presence is for the purposes of emergency management or law enforcement, or if vaccination is not available to the person due to a documented medical contradindication or the person is a child under 6 months of age.
- Public Health (Returned Travellers) Emergency Direction 2020 (No. 6)
    - Restrictions on persons entering the ACT following a flight from outside Australia commence from the point at which the person arrives in the ACT. Returned travellers must travel directly from that place to a designated premises to reside in until clearance from quarantine is given by an authorised medical officer.
- Public Health (Self-Isolation) Emergency Direction 2020 (No. 2)
    - A person diagnosed with COVID-19 in the ACT must self-isolate until clearance is given by an authorised medical officer, or travel directly to a hospital for medical treatment.

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

GBC20/388

Portfolio: Health

ISSUE: COVID-19: ACT TESTING

Talking points:

- As at 9:00am on 30 July 2020, the ACT has 113 confirmed case.
- There is currently one active case in the ACT.
- There have been 50,255 negative test results in the ACT as at 30 July 2020, and a total of 50,368 tests (positive and negative).
- More than 4,098,000 tests have been conducted across Australia.
- The ACT is consistently producing strong testing figures.
- With the events occurring in Victoria and the onset of the Influenza season, we will continue to see an upward trend in demand for community testing of COVID-19.
- We know this increase in testing has led to lengthy wait times and we thank everyone for their patience.
- In response to a surge in demand for testing, the ACT Government has opened three additional free testing clinics:
    - COVID-19 Surge Centre located on Garran Oval - operates as a walk-in COVID-19 testing clinic open 9:30am to 5:00pm seven days a week with no appointment required;
    - West Belconnen Child and Family Centre - operates as a walk-in testing clinic open 9:30am to 5:00pm with no appointment required; and
    - Kambah drive through clinic - In response to sustained high demand for COVID-19 testing, the ACT Government is opening a drive-through COVID-19 testing clinic in Kambah, in the northern carpark of Jenke Circuit. We anticipate it will be operational by Thursday 30 July 2020.
- These additional clinics will help to meet the increase in demand and give Canberrans more options for testing, closer to their homes.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	30/07/2020	
Cleared by:	Chief Health Officer	Ext: 49442
Contact Officer name:	Vanessa Dal Molin	Ext: 49442
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Vanessa Dal Molin	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/388	

- Free and easily accessible testing is also available at the following locations across the ACT:
    - Weston Creek Walk-in Centre;
    - Exhibition Park in Canberra (EPIC);
    - Canberra Hospital (Building 3);
    - Calvary Public Hospital Bruce; and
    - at the following clinics by appointment:
        - 'our GP', 1/5 Baratta Street, Crace;
        - Lakeview Medical Practice, 1/216 Cowlishaw Street, Greenway; and
        - Winnunga Nimmityjah, 63 Boolimba Crescent, Narrabundah, which provides free and culturally appropriate assessment and testing for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and existing clients.
- ACT Health advice remains that there is only a need to test people who have symptoms, with a couple of specific exceptions:
    - Anyone who attended one of the specific NSW venues on the specified dates, as per the Public Health Direction; and
    - Anyone who has been directed by ACT Health to be tested as part of routine exit testing for quarantine.

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

GBC20/388

Portfolio: Health

ISSUE: COVID-19: Health NGO service delivery/stimulus

Talking points:

- On 6 May 2020, Minister Rattenbury and I announced health funding of approximately $6 million dollars to support NGO service delivery and mental health care.
- This announcement included approximately $1.7 million to support our health NGOs to continue to deliver the vital services they provide to the community.
- More than 40 NGOs have shared $1.4 million in support to ensure they can continue to deliver their services and adjust their models of delivery, including:
    - $50,000 for Palliative Care ACT;
    - $100,000 for Sexual Health and Family Planning ACT;
    - $40,000 for Anglicare's youth program The Junction youth health centre; and
    - $35,000 for Companion House.
- As at 15 July 2020, of the 46 organisations to receive stimulus funding, all 46 organisations have been offered a Deed for review, with 45 of these having been executed for a total of $1,382,000.
- In addition to the 46 organisations to receive Community Support Stimulus Funding a Deed of Grant for Carers ACT ($200,000) to support individuals and families to access telehealth services has been executed.
- The package also includes an additional $200,000 allocation to respond to increase in demand in the alcohol and drug sector as a result of the COVID-19 public health emergency.
- The funding is part of the first economic survival package announced by the Chief Minister in March 2020 identifying funding to support the community sector and vulnerable Canberrans.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	17/07/2020	
Cleared by:	Executive Group Manager	Ext: 49699
Contact Officer name:	Jacinta George	Ext: 49699
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Rebecca Dawson	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/388	

Background

- On 20 March 2020, the ACT Government announced a $7 million Community Support Stimulus Package (Stimulus Package) to meet increased service demand for emergency relief. An additional $2 million has also been allocated to support the not-for-profit sector to deliver further mental health and community support. This brings the Community Support Package to a total of $9 million.
- $2 million has been identified to support the specific needs of Health NGOs.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	17/07/2020	
Cleared by:	Executive Group Manager	Ext: 49699
Contact Officer name:	Jacinta George	Ext: 49699
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Rebecca Dawson	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/388	

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

GBC20/388

Portfolio: Health

ISSUE: COVID-19: ACT ROADMAP – EASING OF RESTRICTIONS

Talking points:

- *Canberra's Recovery Plan: COVID-19 Easing of Restrictions Roadmap as at 16 July 2020* outlines the ACT's approach to easing public health restrictions.
- Checkpoints in between each step of the Roadmap help to identify and respond to any change in circumstance that may have a negative impact on the ACT's COVIDSafe recovery.
- The planned move to Stage 3 of Canberra's Recovery Plan was paused on 3 July 2020 following confirmation of a confirmed COVID-19 case in the Territory.
- With the uncertainty and risk of new cases, the Chief Health Officer (CHO) advised the Government that further easing of restrictions should be placed on hold for two weeks to be reassessed.
- We are monitoring the situation in Victoria and NSW and evaluating how this may impact the ACT.
- We also continue to monitor the cumulative risk in circumstances where people gather, and multiple social networks interact.
- COVID Safety Plans, other return to business plans, and further control measures such as visitor logs for patrons, are critical to easing measures with the confidence we can rapidly respond in the event of a case or cluster of new cases.
- The next checkpoint is due on Thursday 23 July at which time it is likely the CHO will recommend extending the 'pause' for another fortnight.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	20/07/2020	
Cleared by:	Chief Health Officer	Ext: 49442
Contact Officer name:	Vanessa Dal Molin	Ext: 49442
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Vanessa Dal Molin	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/388	

Recent changes to public health directions

- From 17 July 2020, limited changes to COVID-19 restrictions were introduced in the ACT:
    - Full-contact sporting competition allowed to recommence, including dance and martial arts (with Return to Play in a COVID Safe Environment plan or a COVID Safety Plan);
    - Competition and squad swimming allowed recommence and no limit on swimmers per lane; and
    - All hospitality venues and licensed premises must prominently display the maximum number of patrons allowed in their venue.

Background

- The ACT's Recovery Plan is consistent with the *3 Step Framework for a COVIDSafe Australia* based on the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee's public health advice to guide the easing of restrictions.
- Stage 2.2 of Canberra's Recovery Plan came into effect on Friday, 19 June 2020 allowing gatherings of up to 100 people (subject to specific conditions for the hospitality sector), and reopening of a wider range of businesses and facilities.
- We are planning for Stage 3 and beyond, which includes the highest risk activities and events.
- The Framework is underpinned by four key actions:
    - Maintain 1.5m distancing and good hygiene;
    - Stay home if unwell;
    - Frequently clean and disinfect communal areas;
    - COVIDSafe plan for workplaces and premises.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	20/07/2020	
Cleared by:	Chief Health Officer	Ext: 49442
Contact Officer name:	Vanessa Dal Molin	Ext: 49442
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Vanessa Dal Molin	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/388	

GBC20/388

Portfolio: Health

ISSUE: COVID-19: PUBLIC HEALTH RESTRICTIONS – ADVICE TO BUSINESS

Talking points:

- *Canberra's Recovery Plan: COVID-19 Easing of Restrictions Roadmap* as at 16 July 2020 outlines the ACT's approach to easing public health restrictions.
- The Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC) has been advising National Cabinet on necessary public health control measures to reduce the transmission of COVID-19. These measures have been introduced by all Australian jurisdictions including the ACT.
- The public health measures have unfortunately had significant impact on individuals and businesses across a range of industries.
- The ACT has paused the implementation of Stage 3 restrictions while we assess the unfolding situation in NSW and Victoria.
- In maintaining some restrictions on businesses, we have considered the ways that people will come together at these venues, the amount of people moving in and out of a business and how often, as well as the multiple surfaces people touch within a business, and the possibility of close contact between people.
- There remains a cumulative risk when people gather and multiple social networks interact, so COVID Safety Plans, other return to business plans, and further control measures such as visitor logs for patrons, continue to be critical to easing measures with the confidence we can rapidly respond in the event of an outbreak or cluster of new cases.
- As restrictions are eased, advice has been published on the ACT Government COVID-19 website and direct help and support is available through the Access Canberra Business Liaison Line on 62050900.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	21/07/2020	
Cleared by:	Chief Health Officer	Ext: 49442
Contact Officer name:	Vanessa Dal Molin	Ext: 49442
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Vanessa Dal Molin	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/388	

Tutoring business advice

- All institutions and businesses are currently required to meet the 1 person per 4 square metres rule, regardless of whether they are providing services for adults or children. Schools are not required to meet this requirement, as they would be unable to do so while teaching classes. Similar exemptions apply for healthcare, emergency services and law enforcement.
- While schools are now returning to classroom learning, this is being carefully managed to ensure students, teachers and staff are safe and schools are fully prepared to have the appropriate measures in place, based on public health advice.
- Tutoring services, as well as extracurricular and non-essential school-type services, are still required to meet the social distancing requirements.

Miniature Railway advice

- As an outdoor amusement venue, the Canberra Miniature Railway is able to operate with distancing of 1 person per 4 square metres throughout the venue, up to a maximum of 100 people on the premises.
- Businesses must aim to keep groups at least 1.5 metres apart. For the miniature railway, we understand that this would be more difficult, and as such we have provided the following guidance:
    - Attempt to keep groups of family/ friends together, and limit placing strangers together in carriages;
    - Time spent riding the trains should be limited;
    - Hand hygiene should be encouraged for patrons and staff, and undertaken upon entry and exit to the train;
    - The business should not allow anyone who is experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 to be at the venue; and
    - The business should consider enhanced cleaning, paying attention to high touch surfaces.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	21/07/2020	
Cleared by:	Chief Health Officer	Ext: 49442
Contact Officer name:	Vanessa Dal Molin	Ext: 49442
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Vanessa Dal Molin	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/388	

Clubs advice

- Clubs may operate with distancing of 1 person per 4 square metres up to a maximum of 100 people for each indoor and outdoor space.
- Each Club must develop a COVID-19 Safety Plan to which it must adhere, and which it must produce when requested by an authorised person.
- Betting agencies (Tab and Keno) were allowed to open within licenced venues from Stage 2.2. Stand alone venues were also allowed to open during this stage.
- During stage 2.2, gaming rooms are to remain closed. However, these are to be considered for reopening as part of Stage 3 easing of restrictions.
- Clubs and gaming venues are advised to implement enhanced cleaning and hygiene procedures, paying particular attention to high touch surfaces, the encouragement of good hand hygiene for patrons and staff including at entry and exit points, and not allowing anyone into the venue that is experiencing symptoms of COVID-19.

Gyms advice

- Gyms have been allowed to operate with a maximum of 100 people (including staff or trainers) per indoor or outdoor space, or one person per four square metres, whichever is lesser.
- As there are still risks associated with COVID-19 transmission, the ACT requires facilities to be staffed at all times to ensure controls are in place that minimise the risk of COVID-19 transmission. There are no requirements relating to the number of staff required to be at each facility.
- There is also no restriction on times that gyms can operate.
- The ACT Government has consulted with the industry to inform the details for further easing of restrictions for stage three of Canberra's Recovery Plan.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	21/07/2020	
Cleared by:	Chief Health Officer	Ext: 49442
Contact Officer name:	Vanessa Dal Molin	Ext: 49442
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Vanessa Dal Molin	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/388	

Background

- Public health evidence tells us that the movement and gathering of people who do not know each other are the greatest risk to outbreaks of an infectious disease like COVID-19. This means that the risk of disease spread increases as gathering sizes increase.
- Furthermore, there is the collective risk associated with the reopening of multiple businesses and facilities and recommencing social and sporting activities. The ACT Government is monitoring the cumulative effect of larger gatherings, multiple social networks crossing or coming together, and more interactions and co-mingling.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	21/07/2020	
Cleared by:	Chief Health Officer	Ext: 49442
Contact Officer name:	Vanessa Dal Molin	Ext: 49442
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Vanessa Dal Molin	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/388	

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

GBC20/388

Portfolio: Health

ISSUE: COVID-19: VIC/NSW SITUATION/BORDER CLOSURE EFFECTS ON ACT

Talking points:

- Recent COVID-19 outbreaks in Victoria and NSW are a reminder that the pandemic is not over and that we will continue to see cases and periodic outbreaks.
- The ACT has introduced new Public Health Directions to restrict the movement of people between states to reduce the risk of transmission and importation of the virus to the ACT.
- Border restrictions currently prohibit travel from Victoria to the ACT unless an exemption is granted by the ACT Government.
- ACT residents returning from Victoria may do so but must quarantine for 14 days.
- ACT residents have been advised not to travel to Victoria and certain areas of south west Sydney at this time other than in exceptional circumstances.
- Persons in the ACT who have been at certain places in NSW at certain times must quarantine for 14 days.
- There are more than 600 persons currently quarantining in the ACT.
- The majority are ACT residents that have returned home from Victoria.
- ACT Policing is leading the ACT Government's compliance and monitoring work.
- Quarantine compliance overall has been good, with one fine issued to a Victorian person for failing to self-isolate and quarantine as required by the Public Health Direction.
- More than 1,800 exemption requests have been received by the ACT Government.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	30/07/2020	
Cleared by:	Chief Health Officer	Ext: 49442
Contact Officer name:	Vanessa Dal Molin	Ext: 49442
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Vanessa Dal Molin	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/388	

- Exemptions for non-ACT residents are only granted in exceptional circumstances, such as:
    - Visiting a critically ill or palliative care immediate family member;
    - Attending a funeral of an immediate family member;
    - Receive urgent medical care;
    - Essential services work (assessed case by case); or
    - Leaving Victoria in air transit from another jurisdiction and did not leave the airport.
    - The ACT has received a large number of exemption requests and is assessing each application closely.

Background

- On 3 July 2020, the ACT introduced measures regarding travellers returning from Victorian 'hotspots' requiring 14 day quarantine.
- On 7 July 2020, the ACT closed the border to Victoria effective from 12:01am, 8 July 2020, to complement a similar decision made by the NSW Government on 6 July 2020.
- On 7 July 2020, the Victorian Premier announced that all of metropolitan Melbourne and the Shire of Mitchell would be subject to 'stay at home' restrictions for a period of six weeks.
- The Public Health (COVID-19 Interstate Travellers) Emergency Direction 2020 prohibits travel from Victoria to the ACT unless an exemption is granted by the ACT Government.
- Under the Direction, freight, transport and trucking companies do not need to apply for an exemption to enter the ACT.
- Advice on recent travel to parts of NSW has been updated to reflect the advice of NSW Health.
- The Public Health (COVID-19 Interstate Hotspots) Emergency Direction 2020 (No 5) issued on 20 July 2020 requires anyone who has been in certain affected locations within NSW Health on certain dates, to self-quarantine for 14 days from the date they were there, even if they do not have any symptoms. Due to the stated dates the only hotspot still applying is the Soldiers Club Batemans Bay.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	30/07/2020	
Cleared by:	Chief Health Officer	Ext: 49442
Contact Officer name:	Vanessa Dal Molin	Ext: 49442
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Vanessa Dal Molin	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/388	

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

GBC20/388

Portfolio: Health

ISSUE: COVID-19 AGED CARE PLANNING

Talking points:

- The ACT Government is working closely with the residential aged care sector to plan, prepare and respond to a COVID-19 outbreak.
- The ACT's *COVID-19 Residential Aged Care Sector Plan* (the Plan) outlines how the ACT Government and other stakeholders are supporting and building the capability of the residential aged care sector during the pandemic to prepare for and respond to a COVID-19 outbreak.
- In the event of a COVID-19 outbreak, the ACT Government in collaboration with the Commonwealth Department of Health, will facilitate:
    - rapid access to personal protective equipment (PPE);
    - access to surge workforce including clinical surge support; and
    - rapid in-facility testing of all residents and staff.
- In a RACF COVID-19 outbreak, the role of ACT Health is to lead the public health response and support the facility to execute their role.
- ACT Health would work closely with the facility to respond to and control the outbreak to bring it to an end as quickly and safely as possible, in line with national public health guidelines.
- ACT Health is providing ongoing educational activities to the residential aged care sector. A webinar on COVID-19 outbreak management, including infection control principles and communication planning, was held on Wednesday 29 July with approximately 40 online participants.
- ACT Health is working with ACT Disability, Aged and Carer Advocacy Service to understand the support for communication to residents and families that can be provided during an outbreak.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	30/07/2020	
Cleared by:	Chief Health Officer	Ext: 49442
Contact Officer name:	Vanessa Dal Molin	Ext: 49442
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Vanessa Dal Molin	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/388	

Background

- Residents of residential aged care facilities (RACFs) are more vulnerable to serious complications of COVID-19 if they become infected due to their older age and likely comorbidities.
- Group living arrangements and increased needs for assistance with personal care mean that infection can spread easily and quickly in RACFs.
- In general, lessons learnt from COVID-19 RACF outbreaks in other jurisdictions include:
    - Responding rapidly and comprehensively from a public health perspective;
    - Infection prevention and control capacity and competency, including appropriate use of PPE by staff;
    - Supporting resident social and emotional wellbeing during isolation;
    - Clear, timely and co-ordinated communication to residents, families and staff; and
    - Clear governance, an understanding of responsibilities and efficient decision-making.

<u>Residential Aged Care Sector Plan</u>

- The purpose of the Plan is to outline the roles and responsibilities of key stakeholders in achieving the agreed objectives and goals to prepare and respond to the COVID-19 epidemic in the residential aged care sector.
- The Plan was developed by a cross-sector working group which was convened in April 2020. The working group is led by the Public Health Emergency Control Centre and includes representation from ACT RACFs and other key stakeholders, including Calvary Public Hospital, Canberra Health Services and Capital Health Network.
- The working group meets regularly and has worked collaboratively to develop the Plan, which remains a living document.
- The Plan addresses:
    - Preparedness – to prevent the introduction of COVID-19 into a RACF;
    - Response – to minimise the impact of a COVID-19 outbreak in a residential aged care facility; and
    - Stand down of a response and evaluation.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	30/07/2020	
Cleared by:	Chief Health Officer	Ext: 49442
Contact Officer name:	Vanessa Dal Molin	Ext: 49442
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Vanessa Dal Molin	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/388	

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

GBC20/388

Portfolio: Health

ISSUE: DIGITAL HEALTH RECORD

Talking points:

- ACT Health has signed a 10-year contract with Epic, a world-leading provider of digital medical record systems to provide the Digital Health Record technology. Epic is world renowned for their person-centred approach to the design and development of their technology and has many years of experience as a world-leading software company.
- In Australia, Epic's system has been successfully implemented at the Royal Children's Hospital in Melbourne and will in the coming fortnight be expanded to the Royal Melbourne Hospital, the Royal Women's Hospital and the Peter McCallum Cancer Centre. It is also used at many tertiary referral hospitals across the world.
- The ACT Digital Health Record is a key priority in achieving the vision outlined in the ACT Digital Health Strategy. It will enable clinicians to have a single view of a patient, to have access to all relevant treatment protocols and forms, in context for each case. In addition, a patient portal will provide a digital way for each of us to access our healthcare services and information.
- 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 Canberra public health services, including our four public hospitals, Walk-in Centres, Community Health Centres and justice health.
- The information that will be stored in the Digital Health Record is already being collected – in many ways, and in many different places. The ACT's Digital Health Record is being purpose built to securely manage information in one place, ensuring that patient information stored in the Digital Health Record is safe and protected.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	28/07/2020	
Cleared by:	Chief Information Officer	Ext: 49000
Contact Officer name:	Peter O'Halloran	Ext: 49000
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Peter O'Halloran	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/388	

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, with a cost of $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 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, GP's, private hospitals or hospitals in other jurisdictions.
- A privacy impact assessment will be undertaken in relation to 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 in the Digital Health Record.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	28/07/2020	
Cleared by:	Chief Information Officer	Ext: 49000
Contact Officer name:	Peter O'Halloran	Ext: 49000
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Peter O'Halloran	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/388	

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

GBC20/388

Portfolio: Health

ISSUE: Framework for the ACT Public Health System

Talking points:

- On 27 July 2020, the ACT's *Accessible, Accountable, Sustainable: A Framework for the ACT Public Health System 2020-2030* (the Framework) was published.
- This Framework provides a common vision for the strategic, policy and planning activities that will shape the direction of ACT health services over the next decade.
- The Framework centres around three strategic goals for a high performing, safe health system delivering person centred service and safe and effective care:
    - Access – the right service at the right place at the right time by the right team;
    - Accountability – robust and transparent decision making;
    - Sustainability – strategic investment to support health services.
- It was developed in consultation with an advisory group that included representatives from consumer, carer, peak and advocacy groups, primary health and clinical services.
- The Framework also identifies the priority population groups and key strategic partnerships we will focus on in delivering on the key strategies identified under each goal.
- Substantial work has been progressed on a number of these strategies. *Healthy Canberra: ACT Preventive Health Plan 2020-2025*, the *Digital Health Strategy 2019-2029* and the *Regional Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Plan 2019-2024* have been released and work is progressing on the Territory-wide Health Service Plan and Infrastructure Planning.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	30/07/2020	
Cleared by:	Executive Group Manager	Ext: 49699
Contact Officer name:	Sarah Galton	Ext: 49877
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Jacinta George	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/388	

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

GBC20/388

Portfolio: Health

ISSUE: INFLUENZA SEASON

Talking points:

- The Government encourages the community to talk to their healthcare provider about influenza immunisation.
- Vaccination is recommended for all members of the public aged six months or over.
- This year there has been an increase in demand for flu vaccines which is believed to be due to the concurrent COVID-19 pandemic.

National Immunisation Program

- The Australian Government's National Immunisation Program (NIP) provides free vaccine for vulnerable populations.
- The Immunisation Section at the Health Protection Service has distributed 130, 458 doses of influenza vaccine to immunisation providers to 26 July 2020.
    - 109, 582 of these doses have been distributed to General Practices (GP).
    - At the same point in 2019, a total of 105,297 vaccines had been distributed with 92,381 to GPs.
- A total of 64,868 Fluad Quad vaccines have been distributed for the ACT 65-year and older population to 21 June 2020, which is estimated at 53,000 people (Australian Bureau of Statistics 2019).
    - Fluad Quad is the recommended flu vaccine for people from 65 years of age, this equates to enough doses for 122 per cent of this population in the ACT.
    - There have been 52,537 Fluad Quad vaccines distributed to GPs since 31 March 2020.
- The Immunisation Section at the Health Protection Service distribute to over 200 immunisation providers across the Territory and have increased their staffing to provide this service.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	28/07/2020	
Cleared by:	Executive Branch Manager	Ext: 49262
Contact Officer name:	Conrad Barr	Ext: 49262
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Conrad Barr	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/388	

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

Annual Flu campaign

- I launched the flu campaign with the Chief Health Officer on Thursday 16 April 2020.
- Promotion of the flu vaccine commenced with print, radio and social media to correspond with the launch and will continue throughout the flu season.
- Distribution of NIP vaccine for influenza commenced on 31 March 2020 to GPs, some pharmacies and other immunisation providers.

Key Information

- Influenza can occur at any time of the year, however the peak time for influenza in the ACT is usually during June to October.
- Only four notifications have been received in the last 12 weeks, with a total of 189 cases notified to CDC to 12 July 2020. This decrease may be attributable to social distancing and good hygiene, as well as to vaccination. Since late March, most tests for COVID-19 have not included testing for influenza. As influenza tesing is lower than previous years, we are less likely to detect every case.
- The Australian Government's National Immunisation Program (NIP) provides free vaccine for vulnerable populations, including:
    - children aged 6 months to under 5 years;
    - people aged 65 and over;
    - all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people;
    - pregnant women; and
    - people 5 years to 64 years with certain medical conditions which puts them at increased risk from influenza.
- While the NIP vaccine is free for those eligible, providers such as GPs and pharmacies may charge a consultation or administration fee at their own discretion.
- In addition to NIP stock, GPs and pharmacies have access to private stock ordered directly through pharmaceutical companies. While ACT Health Directorate does not have oversight of the number of vaccines provided in the ACT, both the peak bodies for pharmacies and the Capital Health Network (CHN) have reported high demand for this stock resulting in some supply issues in the private market.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	28/07/2020	
Cleared by:	Executive Branch Manager	Ext: 49262
Contact Officer name:	Conrad Barr	Ext: 49262
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Conrad Barr	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/388	

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

GBC20/388

Portfolio: Health

ISSUE: MINISTER'S FACT SHEET

	Q3 YTD 2018-19	Q3 YTD 2019-20	change	Q1 2019-20	Q2 2019-20	Q3 2019-20
Walk-in Centres						
Number of presentations to Walk-in Centres	44,316	58,605	32.2%	17,481	17,707	23,418
Emergency department						
Number of presentations by hospital						
Canberra Hospital	67,270	69,187	2.8%	23,954	23,362	21,871
Calvary Public Hospital Bruce	43,807	42,361	-3.3%	14,230	14,199	13,932
Total	**111,077**	**111,548**	**0.4%**	**38,184**	**37,561**	**35,803**
Number of presentations by triage category						
1—Resuscitation	586	794	35.5%	267	257	270
2—Emergency	11,988	13,360	11.4%	4,509	4,649	4,202
3—Urgent	48,171	50,211	4.2%	17,481	16,977	15,753
4—Semi-urgent	42,075	40,246	-4.3%	13,670	13,333	13,243
5—Non-urgent	8,257	6,937	-16.0%	2,257	2,345	2,335
Total	**111,077**	**111,548**	**0.4%**	**38,184**	**37,561**	**35,803**
Percentage of patients seen on time by triage category[1]						
1—Resuscitation	100.0%	100.0%	0	99.6%	100%	100%
2—Emergency	74.6%	74.2%	-0.4	72.8%	73.6%	76.4%
3—Urgent	33.0%	27.6%	-5.4	25.8%	26.7%	30.6%
4—Semi-urgent	48.1%	43.0%	-5.1	40.6%	40.6%	48.0%
5—Non-urgent	84.0%	79.9%	-4.1	78.9%	78.6%	82.2%
Total	**43.2%**	**39.2%**	**-4.0**	**40.4%**	**41.3%**	**42.3%**
Proportion of presentations with a length of stay of 4 hours or less[2]						
Canberra Hospital	56.1%	52.0%	-4.1	51.8%	51.1%	53.3%
Calvary Public Hospital Bruce	66.5%	62.0%	-4.5	61.0%	61.5%	63.4%
Total	**60.2%**	**55.8%**	**-4.4%**	**55.2%**	**55.0%**	**57.2%**

1. The benchmarks for seen on time are as follows:
   - Triage category 1—100%
   - Triage category 2—80%
   - Triage category 3—75%
   - Triage categories 4, 5 and overall—70%

2. The performance benchmark for emergency department presentations with a length of stay of 4 hours or less is 90%.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	28/07/2020	
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Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Justine Spina	Ext: 49040
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/388	

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

	YTD 2018-19	YTD 2019-20	change	Q1 2019-20	Q2 2019-20	Q3 2019-20
Elective surgery waiting lists						
Number of patients waiting longer than clinically recommended at end of period						
Total by Urgency category 1 – 3	1,619	2,266	50.0%	594	783	889
Proportion of removals for surgery that were within clinically recommended timeframes						
Urgency 1 (see within 30 days)	95.9%	97.1%	1.2	96.6%	97.9%	97.0%
Urgency 2 (see within 90 days)	82.1%	71.8%	-10.3	70.8%	70.6%	61.9%
Urgency 3 (see within 365 days)	79.3%	75.8%	-3.5	75.8%	75.6%	76.0%
Separations from public hospitals						
Number of inpatient separations						
Same day	43,563	45,243	3.9%	15,311	15,282	14,654
Overnight	42,279	43,329	2.5%	15,115	14,548	13,654
Total	**85,842**	**88,562**	**3.2%**	**30,427**	**29,830**	**28,308**

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QUESTION TIME BRIEF

GBC20/388
Portfolio: Health

ISSUE: BUDGET SUMMARY 2019-20 (MID YEAR) REVIEW

Talking points:

- Health expenses will grow to $1.968 billion in 2019-20 (excluding Territorial capital grants). This includes adjustments made through the second Appropriation Act.
- This represents an increase of $206 million (12 per cent) from the 2018-19 actual outcome.

<u>COVID-19 – Health funding</u>

- The ACT Government committed an additional $126 million, funded 50:50 between the ACT and Commonwealth governments, to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The funding will provide for: a COVID-19 surge centre; extra emergency department capacity; additional beds for ICU; fever clinics; and respiratory clinics; personal protective equipment; enhanced operational capacity for public health services including contact tracing and testing.

<u>Mid-year review (Canberra Health Services Demand)</u>

- As part of the mid-year budget update, the ACT Government provided Canberra Health Services (CHS) with a $60 million supplementary budget appropriation to help meet acute service demand this financial year.
- This investment in CHS will help maintain Emergency Department (ED) capacity, allow for the continuation of additional intensive care and general inpatient beds and maintain capacity for elective and emergency surgeries.
- This is part of our ongoing commitment to invest in public health services in the ACT to ensure Canberrans continue to access exceptional health care when and where they need it.
- Our emergency department presentations continue to grow and are becoming more complex.

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TRIM Ref:	GBC20/388	

  - Between 2017-18 and 2018-19, we saw an 8 per cent increase in category one patients, 10 per cent increase in category 2 and 4 per cent increase in category 3 – at the same time as we saw a 3 per cent fall in category 4 and 10 per cent fall in category 5.
  - On top of that, we're seeing more patients with co-morbidity – complex underlying health conditions that mean people take longer to treat. As well as more patients with a mental health presentation.
  - And last year we had the longest and busiest flu season since 2001 (in 2019 there were 6,259 presentations at the Canberra Hospital ED for influenza-like illness, up from 4,779 in 2018).
- All of this means more pressure on the emergency department and more demand for emergency surgery – an additional 2,569 presentations and 547 more emergency surgeries in the first half of this financial year compared to the same period in 2018-19.
- We had 16 additional beds open during a long winter and overall these demand pressures have equated to Canberra Hospital needing 136 more front-line staff, including doctors, nurses and allied health workers.
- We're not going to allow the increased demand for emergency treatment and emergency surgery compromise our commitment to improving elective surgery performance.
- In 2018-19, we delivered a record of more than 14,000 elective surgeries in the ACT and in the first half of 2019-20 we had delivered 7,317 elective surgeries.
- CHS CEO, Bernadette McDonald, and her team have been working diligently and methodically over several months to identify the cost pressures and to develop timely care strategies to keep patients flowing through the hospital and ensure it operates more efficiently.

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- In 2019, Canberra Health Services commenced implementing changes to address patient flow and hospital capacity requirements. This work includes:
    - Multidisciplinary approach to initial assessment and treatment commencing, ensuring more patients commence care as soon as possible. It includes earlier physician engagement in the care provided, as well as expanded nurse protocols (approved pathways).
    - Working to streamline admission processes so that medical staff can work in parallel to admit to wards across the hospital in a timely manner.
    - A sharper focus across all divisions on admission from the emergency department, and discharge, as well diagnostics and support services is being taken to support more timely patient flow.
    - Exploring an expansion of rapid assessment models of care, including the Emergency Medical Unit.
    - This work was put on hold during March and April due to the COVID-19 pandemic and it has now recommenced.
- We are committed to improving the performance of the public health system across the board – and that includes improving financial performance as well as wait times.
- To do that effectively, we need everyone pulling together and everyone feeling confident that if they have a good idea for how to do things better, that will be listened to.

<u>2019-20 Budget</u>

- The 2019-20 Budget allocates $27.8 million to health service delivery (including Health Protection Services and Calvary Public Hospital) and $9.2 million to health policy, research, administration and support services inclusive of $2.9 million for ACT Health Core IT Systems.
- New health service delivery over the forward estimates (four years) will be $194.7 million.

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- New health policy, research, administration and support services over the forward estimates (four years) will be $44.1 million, which includes $19.9 million for ACT Health Core IT Systems.
- There are no significant new savings targets contained in this Budget, however, Canberra Health Services will be required to internally fund $1.213 million towards the Emergency Department Doctor increase initiative per annum.

Key Information:

- New initiatives contained in the 2019-20 Budget are listed at Attachment A.

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ACT Government

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

Attachment A

Treasury Ref		Mental Health	Recurrent					Capital				
			2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	Total	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	Total
			$000's	$000's	$000's	$000's	$000's	$000's	$000's	$000's	$000's	$000's
Canberra Health Services												
CHS E01	Expanding intensive care services at Canberra Hospital		7,149	7,041	7,235	7,341	**28,766**					**0**
CHS E02	Expanding public inpatient mental health care	MH	1,680	1,722	1,765	1,809	**6,976**					**0**
CHS E03	More beds at The Canberra Hospital		3,086	3,448	3,559	3,617	**13,710**					**0**
CHS E05	Expanding public Fracture Clinic services		556	1,139	1,167	1,197	**4,059**					**0**
CHS E06	Improving access to maternity services across Canberra		513	515	529	537	**2,094**					**0**
CHS E08	More specialised women's health care		114	214	220	223	**771**					**0**
CHS E12	Expanding public dermatology services		175	180	185	188	**728**					**0**
CHS E13	Strengthening care for chronic disease		240	462	474	481	**1,657**					**0**
CHS E15	7-day-a-week Mental Health Consultation Liaison service	MH	800	1,234	1,268	1,292	**4,594**					**0**
CHS E16	More mental health services at The Canberra Hospital	MH	0	488	999	1,078	**2,565**	1,764	756			**2,520**
CHS E25	Strengthening care for older Canberrans		470	482	494	506	**1,952**					**0**
CHS E26	More support for families travelling for healthcare		250	512	525	538	**1,825**					**0**
CHS E27	Expanding pharmacy services at Canberra Hospital		302	545	749	813	**2,409**	2,212	3,318			**5,530**
CHS E29	Expanding public ophthalmology services		250	0	0	0	**250**					**0**
CHS E30	Strengthening care for childhood and gestational diabetes		567	765	784	796	**2,912**					**0**
CHS E31	Expanding health services at the Alexander Maconochie Centre	MH	258	266	273	277	**1,074**					**0**
CHS E32	More opioid treatment services on Canberra's northside		0	750	770	790	**2,310**	611				**611**
CHS CW04	More public medical imaging services for Canberra Hospital		100	677	1,217	1,458	**3,452**		2,800	6,100	2,300	**11,200**
HEA E02	Delivering the Weston Creek Walk in Centre		1,946	2,705	2,887	2,933	**10,471**					**0**
HEA E26	Delivering better mental health care for people in crisis	MH	147	0	0	0	**147**					**0**
HEA E29	Alternative justice pathways for people with mental illness	MH	731	749	768	787	**3,035**					**0**
HEA E30	Expanding early intervention and diversion programs for people experiencing alcohol and drug dependence		949	644	660	677	**2,930**					**0**
CHS E33	More doctors in the Canberra Hospital Emergency Department to respond to increased demand		0	0	0	0	**0**					
Health System, Policy and Research												
HEA E06	Expanding palliative care for older Canberrans		408	363	373	519	**1,663**					**0**
HEA E07	Investing in medical and health research		1,000	1,000	1,000	0	**3,000**					**0**
HEA E08	Supporting better healthcare for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer Canberrans		87	0	0	0	**87**					**0**
HEA E09	Implementing the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse		321	377	285	289	**1,272**					**0**
HEA E11	Expanding public healthcare services for eating disorders	MH	179	442	683	913	**2,217**					**0**
HEA E13	Delivering better care for Canberrans with complex needs through general practice		500	1,000	1,000	0	**2,500**					**0**
HEA E14	Strengthening capacity for mental health carers	MH	226	231	0	0	**457**					**0**
HEA E15	Delivering the ACT Strategic Priorities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health 2019-2028		180	310	310	315	**1,115**					**0**
HEA E16a	Delivering the ACT Drug Strategy Action Plan		200	0	0	0	**200**					**0**
HEA E16b	Delivering the ACT Drug Strategy Action Plan		300	308	315	323	**1,246**					**0**

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ACT Government

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

Attachment A (continued)

Treasury Ref		Mental Health	Recurrent					Capital				
			2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	Total	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	Total
			$000's	$000's	$000's	$000's	$000's	$000's	$000's	$000's	$000's	$000's
Canberra Health Services												
HEA E18	Protecting teens with meningococcal ACWY vaccinations		320	328	337	342	**1,327**					**0**
HEA E23	Implementing the Nurses and Midwives: Towards a Safer Culture – The First Step strategy		560	588	144	0	**1,292**					**0**
HEA E25	Co-design and Planning: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Alcohol and Drug Residential Rehabilitation Facility		300	0	0	0	**300**					**0**
HEA CW08	Implementing real time prescription monitoring		0	-30	-30	-30	**-90**	788	1,326			**2,114**
HEA E31	Implementing the Independent Review into the Workplace Culture within ACT Public Health Services		2,500	4,000	4,000	0	**10,500**					**0**
Corporate												
HEA CW01	Expanding the Centenary Hospital for Women and Children		0	3,990	14,990	20,510	**39,490**	3,000	30,000	10,550	0	**43,550**
HEA CW02	Delivering the SPIRE Centre at Canberra Hospital		0	200	400	500	**1,100**	53,700	42,300	126,900	159,000	**381,900**
HEA CW04	Expanding the Clare Holland House to strength palliative care		0	0	60	120	**180**	2,000	2,000	2,000	0	**6,000**
HEA CW05	Delivering the Inner North Walk in Centre		0	2,648	2,687	2,744	**8,079**	1,100	614	0	0	**1,714**
HEA CW09	ACT Health Core IT Systems to align with the Digital Health Strategy		2,860	4,625	7,975	4,487	**19,947**	3,920	24,574	25,504	16,380	**70,378**
Calvary												
HEA E01	More urology services at Calvary Public Hospital		432	962	991	1,021	**3,406**	2,500				**2,500**
HEA E03	More surgical theatres at Calvary Public Hospital		1,539	3,302	3,461	3,625	**11,927**	640	14			**654**
HEA E04	Expanding the emergency department at Calvary Public Hospital		3,021	6,143	6,352	6,475	**21,991**					**0**
Cross-agency												
CSD 03c	NDIS Full Scheme		1,179	1,208	1,239	1,270	**4,896**					**0**
CSD E15	Domestic & Family Violence Frontline training		216	296	296	301	**1,109**					**0**
JACS E39	Improving the safety of older drivers		300	0	0	0	**300**					**0**
JACS E01	A Safer Canberra - CHS resources for fixated threat mgt capability trial	MH	82	277	285	0	**644**					**0**

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QUESTION TIME BRIEF

GBC20/388

Portfolio: Health

ISSUE: QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE REPORTING AND ACT HEALTH PUBLICATION OF DATA FOR CONSUMERS

Patient experience

- The quarterly performance report continues to show that the vast majority of people treated in our public hospitals experience a high quality of care. Almost 94 per cent of patients provided positive feedback on their experience within Canberra Health Services and more than 95 per cent reported a positive experience at Calvary Public Hospital Bruce.
- This is a fantastic result, particularly considering the extraordinary events experienced by our community over January to March 2020. Despite working through the busy bushfire season, an unprecedented smoke event and the early stages of a global pandemic, our health care staff remained focused on providing professional, compassionate and patient centred care.

Emergency presentations

- It is also pleasing to see improvements in Emergency Department waiting times and the proportion of patients treated on time across all triage categories.
- Emergency Department presentations dropped slightly from quarter two, which was expected due to the impact of COVID-19. However, the growth in particularly complex presentations over time has continued, with category one presentations increasing by more than a 30 per cent compared with the same quarter in 2019.(270 compared to 207).
- A year-to-date comparison shows a 35 per cent increase in year-to-date Category 1 presentations and an increase in Category 2 presentations of more than 11 per cent.

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- There is still work to do on ED waiting times and we are not where we would like to be, but this report shows that the work underway in both hospitals is starting to have an impact.
- A range of measures commenced in late February to improve ED performance, including:
    - a new multidisciplinary approach to the initial assessment of patients, enabling care to commence as quickly as possible through both early clinician engagement and expanded nurse protocols;
    - streamlining admission processes into wards across the hospital and sharpen the focus across all divisions on admitting patients from the ED; and
    - improving the timeliness of diagnostics and support services.
- While the hospital has been required to focus on its response to COVID-19 over the last few months, many of these measures are still being pursued, and we continue to keep a close eye on ED performance.
- Calvary's Emergency Department expansion works have been completed in stages, with eight new short stay beds delivered in late 2019, and 14 treatment spaces delivered in early 2020. Minor works are still underway, and the overall project is expected to be completed early in the second half of 2020.

<u>Elective surgeries</u>

- The ACT was on track to deliver a record 14,250 elective surgeries for the year prior to COVID-19 restrictions. By the end of March, the ACT public system had performed 10,422 procedures compared with 10,289 at the same time the year before.
- Unfortunately, the impact of COVID-19 has resulted in a reduction in elective surgeries since 25 March and an increase in overdue patients, which is why the ACT Government has committed to deliver at least 16,000 elective surgeries in 2020-21 to address the impacts of COVID-19.
- The percentage of surgeries performed within clinically recommended timeframes has decreased for Urgency Category 1 and 2 when compared

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to Quarter 2, 2019-20. Timeliness performance was largely unchanged for Urgency Category 3 when compared with the previous quarter.

Walk-in Centres

- Our Nurse-led Walk-in Centres continue to be very popular with Canberrans, with a substantial increase in presentations for the quarter. This reflects the opening of Weston Creek Walk-in Centre in December 2019 and the important role it has played in responding to COVID-19.
- Walk-in Centres continue to see a high level of demand, with a 32.3 per cent increase in the number of presentations compared to Quarter 2, 2019-20. This is partly the impact of dedicated COVID-19 drive through testing centres.
- Walk-in centres continued to fully treat most patients presenting (around 82 per cent) with less than 6 per cent redirected to an ED.
- The Government will open a fifth Walk-in-Centre for the Inner North in late 2020.

Background Information:

- The most recent report for the January to March 2020 quarter was published on 17 July 2020. The report includes key metrics reported at the hospital level throughout the report.

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QUESTION TIME BRIEF

GBC20/388

Portfolio: Health

ISSUE: INQUIRY INTO MATERNITY SERVICES IN THE ACT

Talking points:

- In the 2018-19 Budget the ACT Government committed $65.5 million over three years (2018-19 to 2020-21) to continue the expansion of the Centenary Hospital for Women and Children.
- The expansion will provide additional capacity and support for maternity and paediatric services, including:
    - improving high care services for paediatrics and neonatology;
    - new adolescent gynaecology and mental health services; and
    - increased prenatal and postnatal services.
- The expansion will enhance Centenary Hospital for Women and Children's role as Canberra's primary tertiary facility for neonatal, paediatric, gynaecological and maternity services.
- The Report on Inquiry into Maternity Services in the ACT was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on 4 June 2020. The standing committee has made 74 recommendations.
- The ACT Government is preparing a response to the Report which will be tabled in the Legislative Assembly in August 2020.

Key Information:

- The ACT Government response along with the Cabinet Submission is scheduled for Cabinet on 10 August 2020 ahead of tabling in the Legislative Assembly prior to caretaker.

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QUESTION TIME BRIEF

GBC20/388

Portfolio: Health

ISSUE: ELECTIVE SURGERY WAITING TIMES

See QTB 14 for information on elective surgery catch up in Operation Reboot

Talking points:

- In keeping with the decisions of National Cabinet, the ACT suspended all *non-essential* elective surgery from 25 March 2020. This suspension applied to both public and private hospitals.
- On 15 May 2020, National Cabinet again took a decision on the resumption of elective surgery and elective surgery activity returned to normal levels from early June 2020.
- The ACT was on track to deliver a record 14,250 elective surgeries for the year prior to COVID-19 restrictions. By the end of March, the ACT public system had performed 10,422 procedures compared with 10,289 at the same time the year before.
- Unfortunately, the impact of COVID-19 has resulted in a reduction in elective surgeries since 25 March and an increase in overdue patients, which is why the ACT Government has committed to deliver at least 16,000 elective surgeries in 2020-21 to address the impacts of COVID-19.
- We are very pleased that our hospitals have nevertheless been able to maintain the treatment timeliness for the most urgent Category 1 surgeries, with 97 to 98 per cent of these patients receiving their surgery within the clinically recommended 30-day timeframe.
- Unavoidably, timeliness for patients in Category 2 deteriorated in the third quarter of 2019-20.
- It has mainly been Category 3 patients who have had their surgeries deferred due to COVID-19. The timeliness performance for these patients in quarter 3 was maintained. However, this is because the time that patients have waited for their surgery is recorded at the time that they receive their surgery. Quarter four 2019-20 data is not yet available, but we expect we will start to

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see the impact of the COVID-19 disruption for these patients in the coming statistics as more Category 3 patients undergo surgery.

- Because of the high priority that this Government places on health services for our community, we are also continuing with investments previously committed to improve elective surgery access and timeliness.
- These include:
    - the commissioning of two new theatres at Calvary Public Hospital Bruce – both of which are now open;
    - expanded urology services and staffing, to meet the growing demand for urology surgery in the ACT; and
    - the SPIRE project, which will provide state-of-the-art operating theatres and critical care facilities to meet the acute health care needs of our region into the future.
- Working with our hospitals, both public and private, and with the surrounding NSW Local Health Districts, this Government continues to develop and implement strategies to improve timeliness of care. These include active management of the public elective surgery waitlist with the public and private service providers and working with clinicians to increase the focus on treating patients 'in turn' wherever clinically possible.
- Elective Surgery Information Hotline - (02) 5124 9889.

Background Information:

- Additional figures below if required:

Indicator	2019-20 Target	2018-19 Result	2019-20 Q2 Result	2019-20 Q3 Result
Number of elective surgery procedures performed	14,250	14,015	3,477	3,087
Category 1 elective surgery patients admitted for surgery within clinically recommended timeframes	100%	96%	98%	97.0%
Category 2 elective surgery patients admitted for surgery within clinically recommended timeframes	80%	75%	71%	61.9%
Category 3 elective surgery patients admitted for surgery within clinically recommended timeframes	93%	78%	76%	76.0%

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TRIM Ref:	GBC20/388	

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

GBC20/388

Portfolio: Health

ISSUE: INTENSIVE CARE BED CAPACITY

Talking points:

- In Canberra, as across Australia, hospitals are experiencing pressures from increased demand for critical care services, like those provided by our intensive care units (ICU).
- While the SPIRE Project at Canberra Hospital will expand ICU capacity, early planning work has identified that extra capacity in the ICU will be required ahead of SPIRE's completion.
- ACT Health engaged a lead designer to complete the ICU Expansion concept plans and Preliminary Sketch Plans.
- This project is set to deliver an additional eight ICU beds, medical equipment and infrastructure, meeting the immediate acute health care needs of Canberrans.
- The facility is due to be operational by the end of 2021.
- The Commonwealth Government's announcement to fund the $13.5 million expansion as part of the Community Health and Hospital Program is welcomed.
- Canberra Health Services received $28.7 million over four years in the 2019-20 ACT Budget, to fund ICU staffing for four beds.
- The Commonwealth have committed $52 million for ACT Health projects, of which $13.5 million is for the ICU expansion, designed to create an additional six to eight beds.

Key Information

- The Canberra Hospital has physical capacity for 31 Intensive Care Unit (ICU) beds.
- The Calvary Public Hospital has physical capacity for 10 ICU beds.
- In periods of high demand, Canberra Hospital and Calvary work closely together to manage ICU demand. This can include the transfer of patients where clinically safe to do so.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	29/06/2020	
Cleared by:	Executive Group Manager	
Contact Officer name:	Liz Lopa	Ext: 49805
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Liz Lopa	Ext: 49719
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/388	

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

GBC20/388

Portfolio: Health

ISSUE: TERRITORY-WIDE HEALTH SERVICES PLAN

Talking points:

- ACT Health Directorate is developing a Territory-Wide Health Service Plan (The Plan).
- The Plan will identify priorities for health service development and redesign across the ACT.
- The Plan will be based on a comprehensive assessment of health service needs across the care continuum on a geographic basis and for priority population groups. It will consider the range of public health services provided by Canberra Health Services, Calvary Public Hospital Bruce and other organisations in the community.

  Key considerations of the planning process will be:

  - Aligning services with need;
  - A focus on prevention;
  - Improving integration of services; and
  - Embracing technology.
- Between November 2019 and March 2020, approximately 80 consultation sessions were undertaken with stakeholders from Canberra Health Services, Calvary Public Hospital Bruce, non-government organisations (NGO) funded by ACT Health Directorate and aged care providers in the ACT.
- Whilst further consultation and engagement with consumers and carers, the community and health service providers during the March-June 2020 period was put on hold due to COVID-19 response activities, a revised work program has now been developed for further engagement activities in late 2020. Planning for further engagement activities will be progressed in consultation with the Health Care Consumers' Association and the NGO Leadership Group.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	28/07/2020	
Cleared by:	Executive Group Manager	Ext: 49699
Contact Officer name:	Sarah Galton	Ext: 49877
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Jacinta George	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/388	

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

- The Plan was due to be completed by mid-2020. The Steering Committee has considered a revised work program to support finalisation of The Plan in the second half of the calendar year.
- A Canberra Health Services Clinical Services Plan is also being developed concurrently to inform development of a Master Plan for Canberra Hospital.
- Following the completion of The Plan, more detailed specialty or service plans will be developed where further detail is required to inform development or redesign of services. Work has already started on plans for child and adolescent and mental health services.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	28/07/2020	
Cleared by:	Executive Group Manager	Ext: 49699
Contact Officer name:	Sarah Galton	Ext: 49877
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Jacinta George	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/388	

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

GBC20/388

Portfolio: Health

ISSUE: CANBERRA HOSPITAL MASTER PLAN

Talking points:

- The ACT Health Directorate has commenced work on a Canberra Hospital Master Plan, in close collaboration with Canberra Health Services (CHS).
- A draft Master Plan Framework has been completed and has been designed to align with the significant work underway on CHS strategic planning.
- The draft Master Plan Framework includes the themes and principles under which the Canberra Hospital Master Plan will proceed.
- The four themes developed as part of phase one include: Health and Wellbeing; Social Value; Future Readiness; and Environmental Gain.
- The draft Master Plan Framework complements the work already underway, which looks at expanding hospital services on the northside of Canberra.
- A consultant was been engaged late in 2019 to undertake the Master Plan design.
- Consultation and engagement on the Master Plan, with the community and clinicians has been impacted by COVID-19 and therefore the project has been delayed.
- The design consultants are working on developing Master Plan options based on previous engagement data, clinical demand information, asset information and best practice reviews. The overall program will be extended to allow engagement and consultation with clinicians and the community.
- The Master Plan will provide a blueprint for how any future campus infrastructure investment decisions are considered.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	24/07/2020	
Cleared by:	Executive Group Manager	Ext: 49805
Contact Officer name:	Liz Lopa	Ext: 49805
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Liz Lopa	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/388	

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

GBC20/388

Portfolio: Health

ISSUE: LONG TERM HEALTH PLANNING AND INVESTMENT

Talking points:

- The Government is investing significantly in infrastructure and services to meet the growing demand for health care in the ACT.
- Over the last decade, we have invested more than a billion dollars in health infrastructure, and we are continuing to invest.
- There is a significant program of service and infrastructure planning underway to ensure that future investment continues to be directed where it is most needed.
- Many of the infrastructure projects identified over the last decade as priorities to address demand, or decrease the rate of demand, for acute hospital services have been completed or are underway.
- These include the Centenary Hospital for Women and Children, University of Canberra Hospital, Dhulwa Mental Health Unit, the Adult Mental Health Unit at Canberra Hospital, additional operating theatres at Calvary Hospital, additional Emergency Department capacity at Canberra Hospital, new and expanded Community Health Centres, the Capital Region Cancer Centre and Walk-in Centres, in addition to more recent projects such as the Surgical Procedures, Interventional. Radiology and Emergency (SPIRE) Centre , the expansion of the Centenary Hospital for Women and Children and the Calvary Emergency Department.
- Demand on our hospital, ambulatory and community based health services continues to grow as a consequence of population growth and ageing, increased prevalence of chronic disease, and advances in clinical care.
- Our planning also focuses on sustainable investment: in programs aimed at prevention and early intervention, technologies to support contemporary service models and care closer to home, community-based supported mental health accommodation and on workforce initiatives.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	09/07/2020	
Cleared by:	Executive Group Manager	Ext: 49699
Contact Officer name:	Jacinta George	Ext: 49699
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Jacinta George	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/388	

- The Government continues to review the Budget allocation to the health system in the context of other funding needs.

Stanhope/Ahmed article (Jan 2020)

- The ACT Government has increased health funding to $1.828 billion in 2019-20, almost double the $990.4 million expended by ACT Health in 2009-10.
- The ACT continues to have more beds per 1,000 population than the national average (2.62 compared with 2.51 in 2017-18).
- The ACT Government has invested over the last decade to maintain the average beds per 1,000 population (2.6 in 2009-10 to 2.62 in 2017-18).
- The Government has achieved this by increasing our beds from 907 in 2009-10 to 1,146 in 2018-19.
- Over the decade, the ACT Government has significantly improved elective surgery performance for the two most urgent categories:
    - 96 per cent of category one seen on time in 2018-19 compared with 93 per cent in 2009-10;
    - 75 per cent of category two seen on time in 2018-19 compared with 44 per cent in 2009-10; and
    - An additional 4,185 surgeries performed in 2018-19 (14,015) compared with 2009-10 (9,830).
- Our emergency department presentations continue to grow and there are signs that cases are becoming more complex. This is the trend that is expected with an ageing population and increasing incidence of chronic disease in the community.
    - An increasing proportion of patients presenting to our emergency departments have been in the most urgent triage categories. Between 2017-18 and 2018-19, we saw an 8 per cent increase in category 1 patients, 10 per cent increase in category 2 and 4 per cent increase in category 3 – at the same time as we saw a 3 per cent fall in category 4 and 10 per cent fall in category 5.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	09/07/2020	
Cleared by:	Executive Group Manager	Ext: 49699
Contact Officer name:	Jacinta George	Ext: 49699
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Jacinta George	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/388	

- We have seen this same trend of increasing proportions of higher urgency cases occur in the first half of 2019-20 (pre-COVID-19) compared to the first half of 2018-19.
- Last year we had the longest and busiest flu season since 2001 (in 2019 there were 6,259 presentations at Canberra Hospital Emergency Department for influenza-like illness, up from 4,779 in 2018).

Key Information

- In 2009-10 public hospitals in the ACT had on average access to 907 beds, with additional Hospital in the Home capacity. In 2017-18 (the most recent *AIHW Australian Hospital Statistics* publication from which these figures are taken) this had increased to 1,078 beds. In 2018-19, there were 1,146 hospital beds in the ACT.
- In addition, some public health services such as some elective surgery are undertaken in private facilities.
- Investments have been made since 2011 in foundational infrastructure such as additional skilled staff, new buildings and technologies.
- Investments in new technologies have underpinned expanded services and contemporary service models.
- We continue to review what is happening in the system, impacts of investments already made, for example at the University of Canberra Hospital and Walk-in Centres and to identify priorities for sustainable future investment and service re-design.
- A Territory-wide Health Service Plan (the plan) is expected to be completed by the end of 2020. The plan will identify priorities for future investment and service redesign.
- Work has started on plans for future development requirements for child and adolescent and mental health clinical services.
- Demand forecasting is being reviewed as part of these planning processes.
- Indicative results of a review of hospital activity over the past five years show that as well as the expected growth in the numbers of people being admitted to hospitals and attending emergency departments, the patients we are treating have more complex needs.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	09/07/2020	
Cleared by:	Executive Group Manager	Ext: 49699
Contact Officer name:	Jacinta George	Ext: 49699
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Jacinta George	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/388	

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

GBC20/388

Portfolio: Health

ISSUE: TERRITORY-WIDE PUBLIC HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE

Talking points:

- The ACT Government is aware of the need to continue to upgrade public hospital and health facilities across the Territory and to provide new infrastructure to meet growing demand.
- Over the last decade, we have invested more than a billion dollars in health infrastructure, and we will continue to invest.
- To future-proof our healthcare system, we are looking at how we can better deliver health services so Canberrans receive high quality healthcare, when and where they need it, through Territory-wide health services and infrastructure planning.
- The ACT Health Directorate works closely with Canberra Health Services and Calvary Health Care ACT (Calvary) to explore opportunities to improve and expand health services and infrastructure to meet the needs of our growing city.
- That is why this Government is investing more than $186 million in infrastructure on the Canberra Hospital campus, in addition to more than $500 million in the SPIRE Project at Canberra Hospital and the expansion of the Centenary Hospital for Women and Children.
- These projects, along with the Canberra Hospital Master Plan and other major investments, will not only transform the physical infrastructure on the campus but also allow for new and expanded services to be delivered to the community, such as a new adolescent mental health unit for young people in our community.
- The Government is also delivering a new Walk-in Centre at Dickson, providing faster access to care for people with minor illnesses in Canberra's Inner North. This new facility will bring Canberra's network of Walk-in Centres to five, with well-established Centres located in Belconnen and Tuggeranong, Gungahlin and Weston Creek.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	29/07/2020	
Cleared by:	Executive Group Manager	Ext: 49864
Contact Officer name:	Liz Lopa	Ext: 49864
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Liz Lopa	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/388	

- Calvary is an important part of the Territory's health network and there is significant work underway to boost services at Calvary Public Hospital Bruce.
- The ACT Government committed more than $40 million for new services and infrastructure at Calvary's public hospital in the 2019-20 Budget. This included funding for the commissioning of two new theatres, which are now both open.. This will enable the ACT Government to expand the ACT's elective surgery program.
- In the 2018-19 Budget, the Government provided $15 million for three Calvary projects including the emergency department (ED) expansion, relocation of the adult mental health unit as well as capital upgrades and equipment replacement.
- Construction of Calvary's ED expansion is nearing completion, with only minor works remaining. The project has delivered 22 additional treatment spaces, bringing the total to 61. Additional funding for more doctors, nurses, administration and other health professionals to support the physical expansion was also committed in the 2019-20 Budget.
- The upgrade of Calvary's Keaney building to deliver a standalone Adult Mental Health Unit, with co-located older persons and inpatient adult mental health services was completed in early 2020.
- The ACT Government is committed to improving public maternity services which has included investing $2.59 million into the refurbishment of the Calvary Maternity Unit, delivering cosmetic upgrades to birth suites and patient rooms as well as additional beds and single rooms on the maternity ward.
- With the SPIRE Project scope now confirmed, the ACT Health Directorate is working to finalise infrastructure planning for the northside. This work is underway, and recommendations will be made to Government regarding infrastructure options, including works required to manage existing aged infrastructure.
- These initiatives demonstrate and support the Government's commitment to a whole-of-Territory approach to health service delivery and infrastructure planning and our commitment to delivering quality health care to our community.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	29/07/2020	
Cleared by:	Executive Group Manager	Ext: 49864
Contact Officer name:	Liz Lopa	Ext: 49864
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Liz Lopa	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/388	

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

GBC20/388

Portfolio: Health

ISSUE: CALVARY BUILDING CONDITION REPORT

Talking points:

- High quality health facilities are of the utmost importance for the ACT Government.
- That is why this government is exploring options to build a new northside hospital.
- A consultant is currently conducting a building condition assessment of the Calvary Public Hospital Bruce, as the first stage of an options analysis for this new northside hospital.
- While undertaking the condition assessment, the consultant identified several fire safety issues at Calvary Public Hospital Bruce.
- Immediately upon receiving this advice, ACT Health contacted Calvary to discuss the issues.
- Calvary is currently in the process of discussing and clarifying the findings with the consultant.
- It is important to note that Calvary has assured ACT Health of the following:
    - That it already has mitigations in place to address these fire safety issues; and
    - That it already has a program of work in place to continue addressing the aged condition of the buildings, including fire safety.
- Once the consultant's report is finalised, ACT Health will discuss the findings with Calvary, and discuss what, if any, further short-, medium- and long-term actions are needed.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	13/07/2020	
Cleared by:	Executive Group Manager	
Contact Officer name:	Liz Lopa	Ext: 49805
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Liz Lopa	Ext: 49719
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/388	

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

Key Information

- The facilities at Calvary Public Hospital Bruce are ageing, and in common with similarly aged facilities around the country, building condition is a constant challenge. For example, facilities that are 40 or so years old (as Calvary is) will have been compliant with building and safety codes applicable at the time it was built. However, as these codes change and become more stringent over time, maintaining an aged building to modern standards is a challenge.
- Nevertheless, Calvary has assured ACT Health about its current fire safety measures and future plans to address building condition.

Background Information

- The intention of AECOM (the ACT Government's consultant) and ACT Health always was that the condition assessment would be reviewed for accuracy and context by Calvary prior to it being finalised by AECOM.
- Due to the impact of COVID-19, AECOM was unable to conduct the original scope of site inspections. Instead AECOM's assessment was based on a desktop review of material provided by Calvary, and a walk through by AECOM's engineers.
- Further, the inspection by AECOM was always intended to be somewhat limited, i.e. a general overview of the building condition – there was never any intention to do complete fire safety audit.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	13/07/2020	
Cleared by:	Executive Group Manager	
Contact Officer name:	Liz Lopa	Ext: 49805
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Liz Lopa	Ext: 49719
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/388	

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

GBC20/388

Portfolio: Health

ISSUE: HEALTH DIRECTORATE STAFF CLIMATE SURVEY 2019

Talking points:

- The ACT Health Directorate's Workplace Climate survey was conducted between 8 and 26 November 2019.
- Summary results were presented to the Directorate executive and staff on 12 February 2020.
- The high completion rate of 82 per cent indicates the survey results are statistically reliable.
- The results indicate the Directorate has a culture of 'consolidation', which means that 40-50 per cent of employees are engaged, and this is typical of a culture that is in transition.
- The results show strong agreement around several work culture indicators, including that the workplace is free from sexual harassment; that there is good workplace flexibility; and the value of Integrity is demonstrated by colleagues.
- The results also identify a number of aspects of the Directorate's culture which will be targeted as part of the post-debrief Action Planning. These include perceptions of favouritism, of behaviour not espousing the values; and of poor internal processes, systems and procedures.
- The Directorate executive group will continue to explore the results of the survey with staff, and this will be followed by structured Action Planning and quarterly reporting.
- In accordance with Recommendation 75 from the Select Committee on Estimates, I provided the Assembly with a report on 2 April 2020.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	14/07/2020	
Cleared by:	Executive Group Manager	Ext: x49869
Contact Officer name:	Julie Nolan	Ext: x49835
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Julie Nolan	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/388	

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

Key Information

- 82 per cent of Directorate staff completed the survey. The average completion rate for an organisation with staff between 200-2000 staff is 63 per cent.
- Information that has the potential to identify business units or individual staff and/or managers will not be made available.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	14/07/2020	
Cleared by:	Executive Group Manager	Ext: x49869
Contact Officer name:	Julie Nolan	Ext: x49835
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Julie Nolan	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/388	

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

GBC20/388

Portfolio: Health

ISSUE: CULTURE REVIEW

Talking points:

- The ACT Government invests significantly in the delivery of public health services to ensure safe, high quality healthcare for the ACT community and our surrounding regions. In addition to taking care of our community, we are also working hard to ensure that our staff are cared for and feel valued.
- On 16 May 2019 the Government agreed to implement the 20 recommendations of the *Final Report of the Independent Review into the Workplace Culture within ACT Public Health Services.*
- The mental health and wellbeing of our workforce are central to the changes that we will implement, ensuring our staff feel valued, safe and supported in the important work they do for our community.
- The effect of this will be a better public health system for staff and the Canberra community.
- Since May 2019, substantial work has occurred in reviewing and stabilising organisational and governance structures.
- The Culture Review Oversight Group and the Culture Review Implementation Steering Group have been established to ensure effective and efficient implementation across the ACT public health system.
- Through a comprehensive program plan, work is being progressed in an iterative manner to ensure that core objectives are met in a step-by-step process.

<u>Annual Review of Culture Review Implementation</u>

- The report *ACT Public Health Services Cultural Review Implementation: Inaugural Annual Review* was tabled in the ACT Legislative Assembly on 4 June 2020.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	08/07/2020	
Cleared by:	Executive Branch Manager	Ext: 49923
Contact Officer name:	Jodie Junk-Gibson	Ext: 49923
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Jodie Junk-Gibson	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/388	

- It is the first of three annual Reviews to be undertaken to meet Recommendation 19 of the Final Review to report on the extent of the implementation and progression of the 20 recommendations from the Review, and consequent impact on cultural changes within the health system.
- Mick Reid from Michael Reid and Associates, who led the Independent Review in 2018, undertook this first Review.
- The Review commenced in March 2020 and included one-on-one interviews with a cross-section of key internal and external stakeholders, including members of the Culture Review Oversight Group and Culture Review Implementation Steering Group.
- The Review identified that implementation of the 20 recommendations is tracking well, particularly areas that are in control of the individual arms of the health system.
- More work will occur over the next 12 months to progress the whole-of-system recommendations that the Review identified were not progressing at the same pace. Progression by the three organisations on vision, values, altered workplace policies and human resources functions was particularly evident and encouraging.
- Overall, the review confirmed we are heading in the right direction.
- The Oversight Group will be convening a workshop in August 2020 with the key aims of reviewing the Group's Terms of Reference and discussing and agreeing on the roles and responsibilities of the Group. This workshop will be the first of two in response to the key finding of the Annual Review: "The Oversight Group should convene a strategic workshop to consider the issues raised in the Review".
- It was acknowledged that cultural changes takes time and requires sustained effort over several years. And the ACT public health system is in an early phase of positive change.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	08/07/2020	
Cleared by:	Executive Branch Manager	Ext: 49923
Contact Officer name:	Jodie Junk-Gibson	Ext: 49923
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Jodie Junk-Gibson	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/388	

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

GBC20/388

Portfolio: Health

ISSUE: ACT AIR QUALITY

Talking points:

Royal commission

- ACT Health Directorate (ACTHD) has contributed to submissions to the Royal commission into national natural disaster arrangements in regards to air quality in the ACT
- The Government supports the development of a standardised national air quality reporting and categorisation framework. This will improve communication to the public, ensuring high quality public health and air quality information is developed and provided to all Australians.

Community Impact

- During poor air quality events the ACTHD proactively issues public health information via Government websites, mainstream and social media.
- During the 2019-2020 bushfire smoke event our public health services observed increased smoke related presentations noting that these are not clinical indicators, rather patient reported. These presentations did not have a significant impact on overall Emergency Department presentations.

<u>Community access to P2/N95 Respirator Masks</u>

- The Commonwealth Government provided approximately 400,000 P2/N95 masks to the ACT in two instalments from the National Medical Stockpile between 5 and 7 January 2020.
- The ACT Government partnered with the Pharmacy Guild of Australia and the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia to distribute the masks to all ACT community pharmacies. These masks were then made available free of charge from pharmacies to sensitive groups who are most at risk of the health impacts of exposure to the smoke.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	08/07/2020	
Cleared by:	Conrad Barr	Ext:49262
Contact Officer name:	Conrad Barr	Ext:49262
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Conrad Barr	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/388	

Canberra Health Services – service impact

- In response to the smoke event Canberra Health Services (CHS) stood up their Health Emergency Operations Centre (HEOC) on several occasions during early January to manage the impact of the smoke on CHS buildings and staff and ensure preparations for the extreme bushfire conditions were in place.
- All outpatient and community services continued as planned. Patients who called with queries were provided with support to make a decision on whether to attend their clinic or reschedule.
- MRI machines were impacted by smoke and heat however mitigation strategies were put in place to manage demand during these times. This included working with private providers across the Territory.

Canberra Health Services – staff management

- Divisional representatives undertook rounds in each area of the hospital and other locations to speak with staff about what can be done to help minimise the impact of smoke for staff and patients.
- The following outcomes arose from these discussions:
  - Packs containing eye drops, saline, lozenges, and masks were distributed to each ward and clinical area for staff to use to manage minor symptoms of smoke.
  - All doors (including fire doors) and windows were kept closed where possible and access is restricted where safe to do so. All courtyards were also kept closed.
  - Large fans were placed at main entrances to disperse some of the smoke.
  - Air conditioning filters were assessed and replaced as necessary.
- CHS encouraged staff to take more regular breaks with the support of their supervisor and if they are feeling unwell from the smoke, to take personal leave.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	08/07/2020	
Cleared by:	Conrad Barr	Ext:49262
Contact Officer name:	Conrad Barr	Ext:49262
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Conrad Barr	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/388	

Key Information

Air quality figures

- The highest level of PM2.5 recorded by ACT Health was on 5 January 2020, which reached an hourly reading of 2,496µg/m3 (microgram per cubic metre) at the Florey monitoring station.
- Between 28 November 2019 and 28 January 2020 there were 47 days where at least one station recorded an Air Quality Index (AQI) above the national standard (100-Poor). On the days that exceeded the standard, 35 days also exceeded the Hazardous (200) threshold.

P2/N95 Respirator Masks

- 82 ACT community pharmacies were provided with masks and a distribution fact sheet titled 'P2 / N95 masks - distribution of Commonwealth stock by community pharmacies' to ensure consistency of issuing across the territory.

Air quality monitoring

- ACTHD monitors air quality via three monitoring stations located at Civic, Florey and Monash:
    - An Air Quality Index (AQI) is a scale used to monitor air quality for a range of pollutants across the ACT, not just smoke, and is calculated in reference to national standards;
    - At other times, the AQI might be impacted by dust (PM10) or rarely, ozone.
    - Hourly information and 24-hour rolling averages are published on the public ACTHD website;
    - Health advice categories are also published on the website (based on the 24-hour rolling PM2.5 average).

Cleared as complete and accurate:	08/07/2020	
Cleared by:	Conrad Barr	Ext:49262
Contact Officer name:	Conrad Barr	Ext:49262
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Conrad Barr	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/388	

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

GBC20/388

Portfolio: Health

ISSUE: NGUNNAWAL BUSH HEALING FARM

Talking points:

- The Ngunnawal Bush Healing Farm (NBHF) provides a place of healing for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to feel safe and supported, while making ongoing and meaningful changes in their lives.
- The programs provide clients with the opportunity to participate in a range of cultural activities such as land management, mindfulness, music, yarning circles and a healing program.
- Despite COVID and the bushfires, work has continued at the farm:
    - staff are supporting past clients;
    - a panel of providers has been procured to deliver therapeutic services;
    - planning for 2020 programs is underway, with program delivery expected to commence in August 2020. Virtual program delivery options are being explored as well as face to face delivery; and
    - 18 referrals have been received to date and will be assessed by the NBHF Cultural Assessment Panel in late July.
- On 10 July 2020, the NBHF Advisory Board has also held its first meeting in 2020.
    - The key item discussed was the review of governance arrangements;
    - The second Advisory Board meeting is scheduled for 14 August 2020. Where it is anticipated the final Healing Framework report is to be discussed; and
    - the Advisory Board will continue to meet every 4-6 weeks in 2020.
- An EOI process is being conducted to harness external expertise and build the capacity of the Advisory Board.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	16/07/2020	
Cleared by:	Executive Group Manager	Ext: 49699
Contact Officer name:	Gotovac, Nicola (Health) Nicola Gotovac	Ext: 49505
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Jon Ord	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/388	

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

Key Issues

NBHF Review

- ACT Health Directorate (ACTHD) contracted Mr Russell Taylor AM, Director of Burbangana Group to review the service operations at the Ngunnawal Bush Healing Farm (NBHF), including several elements, one of which is a review of Governance arrangements.
- The review of governance arrangements is completed. The final report was received on 29 July 2019. It includes 12 recommendations, some of which have progressed in collaboration with the Advisory Board. The Advisory Board has been provided with a copy of the Final review of NBHF Governance Arrangements Report.
- The second element of the review is the review of programs. This element of the review has been paused pending the completion of a cultural Healing Framework.

Development of a NBHF Healing Framework

- The draft Healing Framework product is due for completion on 31 July 2020. The Healing Foundation was engaged to co-design a Healing Framework to:
    - identify healing priorities of Ngunnawal Elders and the broader ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community;
    - balance therapeutic support with strengthening cultural identity and connection;
    - embed principles to guide the practice of NBHF and partner agencies in supporting healing for clients in line with the Living Web Framework.
- The Healing Framework will shape NBHF policies and inform the nature and design of NBHF program curriculum and is being developed with close engagement with UNEC.

Closure of facility due to Bushfires, Heavy Rainfall and COVID-19

- The facility remains closed except for necessary staff. From December 2019, the NBHF has not been able to host programs due to:
    - Closure in accordance with its Bushfire Operational Plan (December – January);
    - Heavy rainfall affecting access roads to the facility from 4 - 15 March 2020; and
    - COVID-19 from 22 March 2020.

Programs

- The sixth program concluded on Thursday, 19 December 2019. A total of 12 clients participated in this program.
- A total of six programs have been delivered from November 2017 to December 2019.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	16/07/2020	
Cleared by:	Executive Group Manager	Ext: 49699
Contact Officer name:	Gotovac, Nicola (Health) Nicola Gotovac	Ext: 49505
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Jon Ord	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/388	

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

GBC20/388

Portfolio: Health

ISSUE: HYDROTHERAPY POOL OPTIONS ANALYSIS AND MARKET SOUNDING

Talking points:

- The ACT Government is exploring options for the development of a new hydrotherapy pool in Canberra's south.
- An external consultant has been engaged to undertake this options analysis work. The options analysis considers both standalone and an expansion of existing facilities.
- The Government also undertook a market sounding process which called for proposals from parties interested in working with the Government to develop a public hydrotherapy pool located in Canberra's south.
- The marketing sounding process closed on 14 February 2020, and the responses are currently being considered, including working with respondents to better under proposals and how they may be considered as part of the broader options for the delivery of hydrotherapy services in Canberra's south.
- The Government recognises the value of hydrotherapy as an ongoing therapeutic activity for many people with chronic illness to maintain their mobility, manage their pain and foster overall wellbeing.
- The Government will consider the options closely and I look forward to making an announcement about the outcomes of this process.

Key Information

- The hydrotherapy pool at the Canberra Hospital closed on 29 February 2020. It did not meet the Australian Standards for Hydrotherapy Pools nor the current Australian Safety standards.
- The University of Canberra hospital, in Canberra's north, hosts a hydrotherapy pool facility which community groups such as Arthritis ACT can access.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	29/07/2020	
Cleared by:	Executive Group Manager	Ext: 49805
Contact Officer name:	Liz Lopa	Ext: 49805
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Liz Lopa	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/361	

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

- In late 2019, the ACT Government committed to exploring options to deliver a new hydrotherapy pool in Canberra's south to replace the hydrotherapy pool at the Canberra Hospital.

Background

- Due to COVID-19 and the redeployment of staff from the strategic infrastructure division to other areas of ACT Health, the options analysis and market sounding project has been delayed slightly.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	29/07/2020	
Cleared by:	Executive Group Manager	Ext: 49805
Contact Officer name:	Liz Lopa	Ext: 49805
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Liz Lopa	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/361	

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

GBC20/389

Portfolio: Mental Health

ISSUE: COVID-19 Office for Mental Health Wellbeing and Office of the Chief Psychiatrist

Talking points:

- As the pandemic has progressed, the immediate effects on mental health across our community are becoming clearer. The longer term impacts are being monitored.
- The impact of COVID-19 has led to an increase in the number of people seeking mental health support and is expected to increase.
- In March 2020, the ACT Government provided funding to Lifeline for increased telephone counselling and in May 2020 announced a mental health support package of nearly $4.5 million.
- This support package will strengthen our mental health sector to adapt and expand services during the COVID-19 crisis and into the longer term.
- Some of the initiatives in the package include:
    - $1.44 million to respond to people experiencing acute mental health crisis in the community;
    - $500,000 for additional sub-acute accommodation for people exiting mental health inpatient units;
    - $341,843 for two new Canberra Safe Haven Cafes, which will a community based safe alternative to the emergency department and other treatment services;
    - $200,000 for Way Back Support Service to expand non-clinical support for people who have made a suicide attempt;
    - $250,000 for an Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander specific Mental Health program for suicide prevention; and
    - $100,000 for OzHelp to continue to support workplaces and to expand their service to people who have lost employment.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	28/07/2020	
Cleared by:	Elizabeth Moore	Ext: x49600
Contact Officer name:	Lee-Anne Rogers	
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Elizabeth Moore and Denise Riordan	Ext: 49600& x50687
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/389	

- In addition to the specific allocations in the package, $450,000 was provided for innovative initiatives in the NGO sector. The first round of applications for these grants closed on 17 July 2020 with the outcomes to be announced in August.
- The Aspen COVID-19 Surge Ward on Garran oval has been approved under the Mental Health Act. In the event that someone with COVID-19 who also experiences serious mental ill health and required treatment under the Act was admitted, the approval of the facility would ensure they continued to receive appropriate care.
- In addition, an ACT Mental Health and Wellbeing Oversight Group has been established to support coordinated whole of government communications planning for mental health and wellbeing.
- Mental health initiatives are an important part of the ACT Government's Community Recovery Plan which is a multi-staged plan to support our community throughout the recovery.
- The Office for Mental Health and Wellbeing and the Chief Psychiatrist are continuing to work closely across the ACT Government and the community sector to ensure coordinated and connected whole of community planning.
- The Office meets regularly with peak mental health non-government organisations to identify the emerging and ongoing issues impacting consumers, carers and community service providers.

Key Information:

- The ACT Health Directorate has worked with the Chief Psychiatrist on contingency planning for the functions and operations of the Mental Health Act in the COVID-19 environment, including developing a hierarchy of the Chief Psychiatrist delegations to ensure immediate continuity in the event that the Chief Psychiatrist is unable to fulfill her functions.
- A Deputy Chief Medical Officer for Mental Health has been appointed. The Chief Psychiatrists from all jurisdictions will have regular meetings with her, to provide advice and feedback to assist her in her role.
- The ACT COVID-19 scenario planning for the whole of the mental health system is progressing with consideration of the impact of the second wave and gradual easing scenarios.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	28/07/2020	
Cleared by:	Elizabeth Moore	Ext: x49600
Contact Officer name:	Lee-Anne Rogers	
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Elizabeth Moore and Denise Riordan	Ext: 49600& x50687
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/389	

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

GBC20/389

Portfolio: Mental Health

ISSUE: AIHW's Mental Health Services in Australia Report

Talking points:

Seclusion Events:

- As noted by Mrs Kikkert in Question Time on 23 July 2020, the ACT reported a rate of 10.9 seclusion events per 1,000 bed days which was higher than the national average. This figure is reported by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) in the Key Performance Indicators report of the Mental Health Services in Australia data collection.
- However, as reported by the AIHW this information is not without its caveats as high numbers of seclusion events for a few individuals can have a disproportional effect on the rate of seclusion reported.
- The AIHW note in their Restrictive Practices Report 2018-19 that the increased rates of seclusion for the ACT in 2017-18 and 2018-19 are due to a small number of clients having an above average number of seclusion events.
- Seclusion is used as a last resort when all standard methods for keeping the person and/or others safe have failed, or in emergency circumstances to ensure the immediate safety of people.

Outcomes Measures

- In Question Time on 23 July 2020, Mr Parton asked about readmission rates within 28 days of separation and the improvement outcomes for people exiting inpatient episodes of care. These are multifaceted figures, from the Key Performance Indicators report, that do not necessarily account for the full range of services and quality in the ACT Mental Health System.
- Firstly, the separations figures do not make a distinction between planned or unplanned readmissions. Secondly, the outcomes figures do not compare the relative severity of the admissions into acute care. These issues can make it difficulted to effectively make comparisons to other jurisdictions.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	10/07/2020	
Cleared by:	Deputy Director-General	Ext: 49180
Contact Officer name:	Meg Brighton	Ext: 49180
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Michael Culhane	Ext: 49392
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/389	

- These also do not reflect the strong connections between community mental health care and the acute system in the ACT.
- In the AIHW Key Performance Indicators Report, the ACT had the highest rate of community care up to seven days before admission to an inpatient ward, and a higher than national average rate of community care follow-up within seven days post-discharge. The ACT also provides the highest average number of community treatment days per three-month community care period.
- These are all examples of the wrap-around mental health support that is available to people in the ACT.
- Furthermore, the ACT Government expects these figures to improve as we are continuing to support both community and acute services.
- This includes our recent commitments through the ACT Government's Mental Health Support Package, announced in May. This support included:
    - $2.55 million of additional funds to community mental health organisations to support their existing services to meet increased demand from Canberrans;
    - $720,000 to expand the operating capacities of the Access Mental Health and the Home Assessment Acute Response Teams;
    - $720,000 to expand the operation of the Police, Ambulance, Clinician Emergency Response (PACER) program to 7 days a week; and
    - $500,000 to work in partnership with the Mental Health Foundation, to establish a temporary accommodation program for people exiting acute inpatient units who do not have safe and stable accommodation to exit into.
- Each of these supports will help to improve the mental health outcomes of people with mental health needs in the ACT, across a variety of system settings. This is particularly important in response to the mental health and wellbeing impacts of COVID-19 in the ACT and across Australia.

Background:

Cleared as complete and accurate:	10/07/2020	
Cleared by:	Deputy Director-General	Ext: 49180
Contact Officer name:	Meg Brighton	Ext: 49180
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Michael Culhane	Ext: 49392
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/389	

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

- Mental Health Services in Australia is an annual series of data reports collated by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) that presents a picture of the national and jurisdictional responses for a range of mental health services in response to the needs of Australians. The Mental Health Services in Australia reports are updated progressively in a series of tranches throughout each year as the data becomes available.
- In Question Time on 23 July 2020 Mrs Elizabeth Kikkert MLA and Mr Mark Parton MLA, asked several questions relating to mental health data using the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare's (AIHW) Mental Health Services in Australia data sets.
- These questions related to seclusion rates and the readmission rates to, and improvement outcomes from, acute inpatient mental health services. The data for these questions comes from the Key Performance Indicators and Restrictive Practices Reports for 2018-19, which were released on 30 January 2020.
- The most recent release of the Mental Health Services in Australia was the Tranche 3 release on 21 July 2020, which included the reports:
    - Psychiatric Disability Support Services, 2018-19;
    - Specialist Homelessness Services, 2018-19; and
    - Mental Health Workforce, 2018.
- In the 2019-20 ACT Budget, the ACT Government has continued its investment into the expansion and development of mental health services in the ACT. This includes:
    - Committing over $20 million to expand the Calvary Public Hospital Emergency Department;
    - Nearly $7 million to boost the public inpatient mental health staffing in the Canberra Hospital;
    - $4.5 million to expand the Mental Health Consultation Liaison service at the Canberra Hospital to operate seven days a week;
    - Over $2.2 million to expand the public healthcare services for eating disorders; and
    - $2.8 million to establish an electroconvulsive therapy service within the Adult Mental Health Unit at Canberra Hospital. This will provide better access on Canberra's Southside to necessary therapy for patients experiencing mental health concerns like severe depression and psychosis.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	10/07/2020	
Cleared by:	Deputy Director-General	Ext: 49180
Contact Officer name:	Meg Brighton	Ext: 49180
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Michael Culhane	Ext: 49392
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/389	

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

GBC20/389

Portfolio: Mental Health

ISSUE: Culture Review

Talking points:

- The ACT Government invests significantly in the delivery of public health services to ensure safe, high quality healthcare for the ACT community and our surrounding regions. While taking care of our community, we are also working hard to ensure that our staff are cared for and feel valued.
- On 16 May 2019 the Government agreed to implement the 20 recommendations of the *Final Report of the Independent Review into the Workplace Culture within ACT Public Health Services.*
- The mental health and wellbeing of our workforce are central to the changes that we will implement, ensuring our staff feel valued, safe and supported in the important work they do for our community.
- The effect of this will be a better public health system for staff and the Canberra community.
- Since May 2019, substantial work has occurred in reviewing and stabilising organisational and governance structures.
- The redefining of strategic visions and values has been completed and the focus is now on embedding values in all aspects of the work and behaviour in the ACT Health Directorate and Canberra Health Services. Calvary Public Hospital Bruce is engaging with staff to ensure its vision and values are understood and embedded. Learnings from the Review have helped to inform this work.
- The Culture Review Oversight Group and the Culture Review Implementation Steering Group have been established to ensure effective and efficient implementation across the ACT public health system.
- Through a comprehensive program plan, work is being progressed in an iterative manner to ensure that core objectives are met in a step-by-step process.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	08/07/2020	
Cleared by:	Executive Branch Manager	Ext: 49923
Contact Officer name:	Jodie Junk-Gibson	
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Jodie Junk-Gibson	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/389	

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

Annual Review of Culture Review Implementation

- The report *ACT Public Health Services Cultural Review Implementation: Inaugural Annual Review* was tabled in the ACT Legislative Assembly on 4 June 2020.
- It is the first of three annual Reviews to be undertaken to meet Recommendation 19 of the Final Review to report on the extent of the implementation and progression of the 20 recommendations from the Review, and consequent impact on cultural changes within the health system.
- Mick Reid from Michael Reid and Associates, who led the Independent Review in 2018, undertook this first Review.
- The Review commenced in March 2020 and included one-on-one interviews with a cross-section of key internal and external stakeholders, including members of the Culture Review Oversight Group and Culture Review Implementation Steering Group.
- The Review identified that implementation of the 20 recommendations is tracking well, particularly areas that are in control of the individual arms of the health system.
- More work will occur over the next 12 months to progress the whole-of-system recommendations that the Review identified were not progressing at the same pace. Progression by the three organisations on vision, values, altered workplace policies and human resources functions was particularly evident and encouraging.
- Overall, the review confirmed we are heading in the right direction.
- The Oversight Group will be convening a workshop in August 2020 with the key aims of reviewing the Group's Terms of Reference and discussing and agreeing on the roles and responsibilities of the Group. This workshop will be the first of two in response to the key finding of the Annual Review: "The Oversight Group should convene a strategic workshop to consider the issues raised in the Review".
- It was acknowledged that cultural changes takes time and requires sustained effort over several years. And the ACT public health system is in an early phase of positive change.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	08/07/2020	
Cleared by:	Executive Branch Manager	Ext: 49923
Contact Officer name:	Jodie Junk-Gibson	
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Jodie Junk-Gibson	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/389	

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

GBC20/389

Portfolio: Mental Health

ISSUE: FUTURE PLANNING FOR HEALTH SERVICES ACROSS THE ACT

Talking points:

- ACT Health Directorate is developing a Territory-wide Health Service Plan. The Territory-wide Health Service Plan will identify priorities for health service development and redesign across the ACT. It will be based on a comprehensive assessment of health service needs across the care continuum on a geographic basis and for priority population groups. It will consider the range of public health services provided by Canberra Health Services, Calvary Public Hospital Bruce and other organisations in the community.

  Key considerations of the planning process will be:

  - Aligning services with need;
  - A focus on prevention;
  - Improving integration of services; and
  - Embracing technology.
- Between November 2019 and March 2020, approximately 80 consultation sessions were undertaken with stakeholders from Canberra Health Services, Calvary Public Hospital Bruce, Non-Government Organisations funded by the ACT Health Directorate and aged care providers in the ACT.
- Further consultation and engagement with consumers and carers, the community and health services is currently on hold in the context of COVID-19 response activities.
- The Territory-Wide Health Service Plan Steering Committee has considered a revised consultation plan and, discussions have been held, for example with Health Care Consumers' Association, about how and when these engagement activities will be progressed.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	10/07/2020	
Cleared by:	Executive Group Manager	Ext: 49699
Contact Officer name:	Nicole Jones de Rooy	Ext: 49661
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Jacinta George	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/389	

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

- The Territory-wide Health Service Plan was due to be completed by mid-2020. The Steering Committee has considered a revised work program that will see further engagement activities planned from July through to November to support finalisation of the Plan in the second half of the year.
- A Mental Health Services Plan is also currently under development and will establish the medium to long term directions for public mental health services in the ACT. Emerging priorities that have been identified in the early stages of development of this Plan are being used to inform decision making in response to current service demand issues.
- The Mental Health Services Plan will identify how priorities for mental health service development in the Territory-wide Health Service Plan and the Regional Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Plan, currently being finalised with the Capital Health Network, will be implemented.
- The Mental Health Services Plan was expected to be completed by mid-2020 but is now expected to be completed in the second half of the year.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	10/07/2020	
Cleared by:	Executive Group Manager	Ext: 49699
Contact Officer name:	Nicole Jones de Rooy	Ext: 49661
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Jacinta George	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/389	

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

GBC20/389

Portfolio: Mental Health

ISSUE: OFFICE FOR MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Talking points:

- The Office for Mental and Health and Wellbeing Work Plan sets out the ongoing commitment to enhance the mental health and wellbeing of our region, by partnering with government, non-government and the community to support the people in the ACT and surrounds experiencing mental health concerns.
- The Work Plan introduces the territory-wide vision for mental health and wellbeing:
    - A kind, connected and informed community working together to promote and protect the mental health and wellbeing of all.
- Activities being delivered under the plan this year include an Outcomes Framework for the mental health system, implementation of the Lifespan suicide prevention strategy, the Youth Aware of Mental Health program (YAM) and a Mid term Review of the Office.
- The Office is in the initial phases of the development of an online youth navigation portal for the ACT, and has commenced addressing the needs of children with moderate to severe mental health concerns.
- The Youth Aware of Mental Health (YAM) program commenced in two schools and has been well received. Due to the impact of COVID-19, the roll out of YAM was paused. YAM recommenced in Term 2 on Monday 15 June 2020.
- In addition to the work plan activities, the Office has taken a leadership role in identifying and addressing the significant impact of both the natural disasters and the current pandemic on the mental health of our community.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	28/07/2020	
Cleared by:	Elizabeth Moore	Ext: x49600
Contact Officer name:	Natalie Johnson	Ext: x49860
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Elizabeth Moore	Ext: 49600
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/389	

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

Key Information:

- The Office retains a level of independence from the day-to-day running of ACT Health and has authority to conduct reviews and produce reports as the Coordinator-General deems necessary or at the request of the Minister for Mental Health.
- Within the 100 days from the commencement of the Coordinator-General, the Office for Mental Health and Wellbeing developed the Office Work Plan in conjunction with the peak non-government organisations
- The Workplan was launched on 30 April 2019 and is available on the Office website.
- The Mental Health and Wellbeing Inter-Directorate Committee (previously called the Agency Stewardship Group) has held regular meetings to oversee the development of the Work Plan and will continues to meet on a regular basis.
- The Office has completed the Community Engagement Commitment, an Evaluation Framework for the Office, the Review of Children and Young People in the ACT.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	28/07/2020	
Cleared by:	Elizabeth Moore	Ext: x49600
Contact Officer name:	Natalie Johnson	Ext: x49860
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Elizabeth Moore	Ext: 49600
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/389	

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

GBC20/389

Portfolio: Mental Health

ISSUE: IMPACT OF THE NATIONAL DISABILITY INSURANCE SCHEME (NDIS) IN THE ACT MENTAL HEALTH COMMUNITY

Talking points:

National Disability Insurance Scheme

- The Office for Disability, and the Health Directorate, have been leading the national work to improve the NDIS response to people with lived experience of mental illness and psychosocial disability.
- Work is progressing on projects endorsed by the Disability Reform Council in December 2019 including:
    - Access and Eligibility;
    - Linkages and Referral;
    - Assertive Outreach;
    - Responding to the Episodic Nature of Psychosocial Disability;
    - Psychosocial Disability Recovery Approach;
    - Information Sharing and Data Reporting; and
    - National Approach to Concurrent Supports.
- The NDIS is also working with the ACT Government and local services on the rollout of their Psychosocial Disability Stream and Complex Support Needs Pathway Priority has been given to improving:
    - hospital discharges;
    - support coordination; and
    - planning.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	16/07/2020	
Cleared by:	Deputy Director-General	Ext: 49180
Contact Officer name:	Meg Brighton	Ext: 49180
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Michael Culhane	Ext: 49392
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/389	

NDIS & COVID-19

- COVID-19 has had a significant impact on the delivery of disability support. The NDIA has responded through plan adjustments and exploring ways for support providers to manage and communicate regarding changing restrictions.
- Measures are also being implemented locally, through the ACT's Office for Disability.

National Psychosocial Support Measure (NPSM) and Continuity of Support (CoS)

- The ACT Government has a bilateral agreement with the Commonwealth for the National Psychosocial Support Measure (NPSM). Under this agreement, $2 million of ACT Government funding and $1.3 million of Commonwealth funding is allocated to provide psychosocial support services to assist people with mental illness who are not eligible for a funded support package through the NDIS in the ACT. The funding is spread over four years to the end of the 2020 - 2021 financial year.
- Continuity of Support (CoS) funding is also available from the Commonwealth as part of the 2018-19 Federal Budget to provide supports for people who previously received support under Commonwealth funded programs.
- Funds for both measures are being administered through the Capital Health Network, in partnership with the ACTHD, Canberra Health Services and other community stakeholders. The NPSM provided funds for two programs, offered by Flourish Australia and Woden Community Service. Funding for Continuity of Support was awarded to Woden Community Service (WCS).
- The Commonwealth has commissioned the NOUS Group to do an evaluation of the NPSM and CoS implementation. An interim report is due at the end of July 2020.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	16/07/2020	
Cleared by:	Deputy Director-General	Ext: 49180
Contact Officer name:	Meg Brighton	Ext: 49180
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Michael Culhane	Ext: 49392
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/389	

Key information

NDIS

- The ACT was a trial site for transition to the NDIS, implementing the full scheme between 2014 and 2016. There are currently 894 participants who access the scheme based on psychosocial disability.
- The NDIA announced the results of their Annual Price review on 4 June 2020. There are 14 recommendations including:
    - the introduction of psychosocial recovery coaches;
    - improving clarity on the price settings for Supported Independent Living (SIL)
    - new features to provide opportunities for participants to access alternative living arrangements as part of Individualised Living Options (ILO);
    - driving innovative opportunities for participants in employment; and
    - introducing Programs of Supports to improve choice and control for participants and to provide more certainty for providers when delivering supports.

NPSM and Continuity of Support

- Programs funded under the NPSM include the New Path program, operated by WCS, and the Bloom Healthy Living, operated by Flourish.
- WCS will receive $989,786 for the New Path program for the contracted period of February 2019 to June 2021. New Path is an early intervention mental health recovery program that supports people whose ability to manage daily activities and live independently in the community has been affected by mental health issues.
- Flourish will receive $1,069,965 for the Bloom Healthy Living program for the contracted period of March 2019 to June 2021.
- Both providers of the NPSM have been actively supporting people since April 2019. As at November 2019 there were approximately 30 participants in each program, with a steady flow of referrals.
- WCS has established the Continuity of Support Program with $188,000 of Commonwealth Government funding. Continuity of Support is only available to people who were accessing services as at 30 June 2019 under Partners in Recovery (PIR), Day to Day Living program (D2DL) or Personal Helpers and Mentors (PHaMs) and who are found to be ineligible for the NDIS.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	16/07/2020	
Cleared by:	Deputy Director-General	Ext: 49180
Contact Officer name:	Meg Brighton	Ext: 49180
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Michael Culhane	Ext: 49392
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/389	

Background Information

- The sixth program concluded on Thursday, 19 December 2019. A total of 12 clients participated in this program.
- A total of six programs have been delivered from November 2017 to December 2019.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	16/07/2020	
Cleared by:	Deputy Director-General	Ext: 49180
Contact Officer name:	Meg Brighton	Ext: 49180
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Michael Culhane	Ext: 49392
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/389	

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

GBC 20/389

Portfolio: Mental Health

ISSUE: Mental health assessments - Section 309 of the *Crimes Act 1900*

Talking points:

- The challenges and demands currently being experienced in the acute mental health system are well known.
- One strategy to address these challenges involves an investigation into alternative approaches to section 309 assessments.
- Section 309 of the *Crimes Act 1900* allows the Magistrates Court to order the transfer and mental health assessment of people involved in the criminal justice system.
- Section 309 assessments can currently only be carried out at the Canberra Hospital and this occurs at the emergency department.
- ACT Health Directorate, as the health system steward, is working in collaboration with Canberra Health Services, the Chief Psychiatrist and the Department of Justice and Community Safety to investigate alternative approaches that may reduce demand on the Emergency Department and acute mental health services at the Canberra Hospital.
- This work is significant and requires cross directorate, legal and wider community consultation.

Key Information

- The *Administrative Arrangements 2019 (No 3)* allocate the *Crimes Act 1900* to Justice and Community Safety under the Attorney General.
- An alternative approach under consideration is allowing for section 309 (s309) assessments to be carried out in a designated area by a mental health clinician within the court building This would mean less disruption to the person and allow for a more streamlined service for the court.
- The onsite examination amendment may reduce demand by ensuring only people with mental or physical health that require acute hospital services for care or treatment are transported to the Emergency Department.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	08/07/2020	
Cleared by:	Deputy Director-General	Ext: 49786
Contact Officer name:	Meg Brighton	Ext: 49180
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Michael Culhane	Ext: 49392
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/389	

- During 2018-19, 137 people were referred to the Canberra Hospital Emergency Department under a s309 order. Of these, 83 people were admitted.
- Other options to consider are:
    - Offering people the opportunity to have an assessment as a voluntary patient. This is in keeping with the principles and objects of the *Mental Health Act 2015* for the least restrictive approach to mental health care.
    - Areas other than the Emergency Department could carry out s309 assessments where they are required, for example another health facility.
- ACT Health Directorate is working with Canberra Health Services to gather data on the operation of section 309. The availability of this data has been delayed due to the impact the COVID-19 response is having at Canberra Health Services.
- Analysis of this data may identify periods of high demand for mental health services in the Emergency Department as well as providing a clear indication of general wait times for assessment under section 309.

Background Information

- In the ACT, the Forensic Mental Health Team has a Court Liaison service. Clinicians in the Court Liaison service provide mental health assessments and advise the courts about mental health issues. This may include requesting that an assessment under s309 of the *Crimes Act* is carried out.
- Alternatively, the magistrate can request a s309 assessment.
- Where the Court Liaison service is involved, approximately 80% of those referred require admission. This number falls significantly if they are not involved.
- Following the assessment, if they do not require admission the Australian Federal Police are required to transport them to custody. This can at times involve long waits which has an impact on the client themselves as well as on the clinical service areas.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	08/07/2020	
Cleared by:	Deputy Director-General	Ext: 49786
Contact Officer name:	Meg Brighton	Ext: 49180
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Michael Culhane	Ext: 49392
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/389	

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

GBC20/389

Portfolio: Mental Health

ISSUE: SUICIDE PREVENTION PROGRAMS

Talking points:

Lifespan Suicide Prevention Framework

- The ACT Government committed $1.545 million in the 2018-19 Budget to establish a pilot version of the Black Dog Institute's LifeSpan Integrated Suicide Prevention Framework over three years to 2021.
- LifeSpan is an evidence informed approach to integrated suicide prevention.
- A LifeSpan Steering Committee, composed of key local agencies and stakeholders, guides this work.
- Five ACT LifeSpan Working Groups, focusing on Health Services, Schools, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander suicide prevention, Improving Public Safety and Community Awareness are also underway with membership from key stakeholders.
- Several key Lifespan initiatives have been modified in light of the pandemic.
- Question Persuade Refer (QPR) a free online suicide prevention training program has been actively promoted on social media platforms during the pandemic. There has been considerable increase in uptake of QPR training in the community over May and June.
- A 'QPR for Business' initiative, encouraging workplaces to enable staff to complete QPR Training, is being promoted in partnership with Healthier Work and Black Dog Institite.
- Mindframe Plus training in safe and purposeful media reporting and communication about suicide, provided by Everymind, will be conducted for local media and communication stakeholders in September.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	28/07/2020	
Cleared by:	Elizabeth Moore	Ext: x49600
Contact Officer name:	Ros Garrity	Ext: x49600
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Elizabeth Moore	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/389	

- A Lifespan Suicide Prevention Officer is supporting the implementation of suicide prevention training for clinical and frontline staff, and best practice guidelines for Emergency Departments in the ACT. This work is led by a Health Working Group consisting of key clinical and frontline partners.
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Suicide Prevention is a major priority for ACT Lifespan. An identified Project Officer is employed to support this work.
- A needs assessment for the provision of a culturally appropriate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander suicide prevention, aftercare and postvention service for the ACT has been completed, and will be used to inform the provision of key community suicide prevention strategies, including those implemented in response to the pandemic.
- Due to the pandemic, suicide prevention training for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health professionals, and an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Forum have been postponed as they require face to face delivery.

<u>Youth Aware of Mental Health (YAM)</u>

- In 2019, the Commonwealth Government allocated funding for the Youth Aware of Mental Health (YAM) Program to be delivered to year 9 students in high schools across the ACT in 2020 and 2021, as a key component of ACT Lifespan.
- YAM is an evidenced-based program developed to promote mental health and address suicidal behaviour in young people. and commenced in ACT high schools in February 2020.
- Due to the impact of COVID-19, the roll out of YAM was paused as the program model requires face-to-face implementation with students. YAM recommenced in Term 2 on Monday 15 June 2020.

<u>Way Back Support Service</u>

- The Way Back Support Service (Way Back), developed by Beyond Blue, is a non-clinical suicide prevention service that provides follow-up support to people for up to three months, after they have attempted suicide.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	28/07/2020	
Cleared by:	Elizabeth Moore	Ext: x49600
Contact Officer name:	Ros Garrity	Ext: x49600
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Elizabeth Moore	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/389	

- In the ACT, Way Back is jointly funded by the ACT and Australian Governments and is delivered by the Woden Community Service.
- In the context of COVID-19, the Way Back Support Service has moved to working via an online platform, phone and SMS systems.

Key Information:

- According to the latest ABS data, there were 3,046 deaths by suicide across Australia in 2018.
- In 2018, 47 suicide deaths were recorded in the ACT, compared to 58 deaths recorded in 2017
- The five-year, age-standardised rate of suicide deaths per 100,000 people in the ACT has moved from 10.5 suicide deaths per 100,000 in the 2013-17 period to 10.7 in the 2014-18 period. Similar increases were also seen across all States and Territories and in the national average.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	28/07/2020	
Cleared by:	Elizabeth Moore	Ext: x49600
Contact Officer name:	Ros Garrity	Ext: x49600
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Elizabeth Moore	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/389	

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

GBC20/389

Portfolio: Mental Health

ISSUE: ACT REGIONAL MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION PLAN

Talking points:

- The ACT Regional Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Plan (the ACT Plan) is currently being developed.
- The first section of the ACT Plan, Part A – the Framework, has been finalised and copies of the ACT Mental Health and Suicide Plan at a Glance were distributed from the second half of October 2019, as part of Mental Health Month.
- Endorsement of Part B – the Implementation Plan and Part C – the Monitoring and Performance Plan are currently being finalised.
- Due to the additional demands on primary health networks and other stakeholder organisations created by the COVID-19 emergency the Commonwealth has extended the due date to 31 December 2020. However, the full, three part ACT Plan is on track for completion much sooner.
- The priorities for the ACT Plan were informed by, and align with, the Office for Mental Health and Wellbeing's vision and priorities, that were identified in codesign workshops with the ACT community in February 2019 and focus on better outcomes through service integration, early intervention, whole of person care and suicide prevention.

Key Information:

- The Fifth National Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Plan prioritises effective regional planning and integration of mental health services. Development of the ACT Plan is a key commitment under this priority.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	16/07/2020		
Cleared by:	Deputy Director-General		Ext: 49180
Contact Officer name:	Meg Brighton		Ext: 49180
Lead Directorate:	Health		
Cleared for release	Yes		
Information Officer name:	Michael Culhane		Ext: 49392
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/389		

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

GBC20/389

Portfolio: Mental Health

ISSUE: HEALTH DIRECTORATE STAFF CLIMATE SURVEY 2019

Talking points:

- The ACT Health Directorate's Workplace Climate survey was conducted between 8 and 26 November 2019.
- Summary results were presented to the Directorate executive and staff on 12 February 2020.
- The Culture Review Oversight Group received a briefing from the survey provider, Best Practice Australia, on 25 February 2020. This briefing outlined the survey design, purpose and metholodology.
- The high completion rate of 82 per cent indicates the survey results are statistically reliable.
- The results indicate the Directorate has a culture of 'consolidation', which means that 40-50 per cent of employees are engaged, and this is typical of a culture that is in transition.
- The results show strong agreement around several work culture indicators, including that the workplace is free from sexual harassment; that there is good workplace flexibility; and the value of Integrity is demonstrated by colleagues.
- The results also identify a number of aspects of the Directorate's culture which will be targeted as part of the post-debrief Action Planning. These include perceptions of favouritism, of behaviour not espousing the values; and of poor internal processes, systems and procedures.
- The Directorate executive group will continue to explore the results of the survey with staff, and this will be followed by structured Action Planning and quarterly reporting.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	09/07/2020	
Cleared by:	Executive Group Manager	Ext: x49869
Contact Officer name:	Julie Nolan	Ext: x49835
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Julie Nolan	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/389	

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

Key Information:

- 82 per cent of Directorate staff completed the survey. The average completion rate for an organisation with staff between 200-2000 staff is 63 per cent.
- Information that has the potential to identify business units or individual staff and/or managers will not be made available.

Background Information:

- Recommendation 2 from the Final Report of the Independent Review into the Workplace Culture within ACT Public Health Services (the Culture Review) contained an action item to conduct a staff survey in 2019.
- Results from the survey will inform the Directorate's response to the recommendations arising from Culture review.
- The last workplace climate survey of (the former) ACT Health was conducted in 2015.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	09/07/2020	
Cleared by:	Executive Group Manager	Ext: x49869
Contact Officer name:	Julie Nolan	Ext: x49835
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Julie Nolan	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/389	

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

GBC20/389

Portfolio: Mental Health

ISSUE: MENTAL HEALTH BUDGET INITIATIVES

Talking points:

- There are nine new mental health and justice health initiatives contained in the 2019-20 ACT Budget. They are:
    - AMHU additional beds (over four years - $6,976,000);
    - Expand Mental Health Consultation Liaison Service (over four years – $4,594,000);
    - Electroconvulsive Therapy (over four years - $2,565,000);
    - Expansion of the Justice Health Services at AMC (over four years - $1,074,000);
    - Police, Ambulance and Clinician Early Response Tri-Service Model (over four years - $147,000);
    - Diverting people with mental illness (over four years - $3,035,000);
    - Expansion of ACT Eating Disorder Service (over four years - $2,217,000);
    - Capacity Building for Mental Health Carers (over four years - $457,000); and
    - A Safer Canberra - Canberra Health Services resources for fixated threat management capability trial (over four years - $644,000).
- The new electroconvulsive therapy initiative also includes capital funding of $1.764 million in 2019-20 and $0.756 million in 2020-21.
- The initiatives will employ an additional 26.9 FTE in 2019-20, growing to 33.8 FTE by 2021-22.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	29/07/2020	
Cleared by:	Executive Branch Manager	Ext: 49869
Contact Officer name:	Kate Chambers	Ext: 49428
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Jean-Paul Donda	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/389	

Initiative Descriptions (with Budget Paper Descriptions):

- Expanding Public Inpatient Mental Health Care: The Government will boost administration, allied health, and nursing staff levels in the Adult Mental Health Unit. This will allow a more comprehensive psychosocial approach to support inpatients, as well as support workforce development and improved clinical care standards CHS E15 – 7 Day-a-week Mental Health Consultation Liaison service.
- 7 Day-a-week Mental Health Consultation Liaison service: The Government will expand the Mental Health Consultation Liaison service to operate at Canberra Hospital seven days a week, increasing the level of support available for people with mental illness.
- More Mental Health Services at Canberra Hospital: The Government will establish an Electroconvulsive Therapy service to operate within the Adult Mental Health Unit at the Canberra Hospital. This will provide access for mental health patients who previously have been unable to receive this treatment.
- Delivering better mental health care for people in crisis: The Government will undertake planning and design work for a Police, Ambulance and Clinician Early Response model to better manage acute mental health related incidents in the community.
- Alternative justice pathways for people with mental illness: The Government will expand Mental Health, Justice Health and Alcohol and Drug Services to address the over-representation of people with mental health concerns who are in contact with the criminal justice system.
- Expanding public healthcare services for eating disorders: The Government will establish an Eating Disorders Specialist Clinical Hub and a non-government operated, community-based intervention support service to expand the capacity and range of eating disorder services available in the ACT.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	29/07/2020	
Cleared by:	Executive Branch Manager	Ext: 49869
Contact Officer name:	Kate Chambers	Ext: 49428
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Jean-Paul Donda	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/389	

- Strengthening capacity for mental health carers: The Government will recruit two Carer Engagement Clinicians to pilot a range of support and psychosocial education activities to build capacity for the families and carers of people with mental health conditions.
- A Safer Canberra/Strengthening Public Safety and Security: The Government will provide several high priority requirements to strengthen the safety of the ACT as part of a National effort to address the risks associated with people who have a fixated threat, and to better protected crowded places from terrorism. The initiative is a two year trial.

Background Information

- Financial breakdown of the nine mental health and justice health new initiatives contained in the 2019-20 ACT Budget is provided in the table below:

Name	Recurrent				
	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	Total
	$000's	$000's	$000's	$000's	$000's
AMHU additional beds	1,680	1,722	1,765	1,809	**6,976**
Expand Mental Health Consultation Liaison service	800	1,234	1,268	1,292	**4,594**
Electroconvulsive Therapy (ECT)	0	488	999	1,078	**2,565**
Expansion of Justice Health Services at the AMC	258	266	273	277	**1,074**
Police, Ambulance and Clinician Early Response (PACER) Tri-service Model	147	0	0	0	**147**
Diverting people with a mental illness	731	749	768	787	**3,035**
Expansion of ACT Eating Disorder Services	179	442	683	913	**2,217**
Capacity Building for Mental Health Carers	226	231	0	0	**457**
A Safer Canberra - CHS resources for fixated threat mgt capability trial	82	277	285	0	**644**
	4,103	**5,409**	**6,041**	**6,156**	**21,709**

Cleared as complete and accurate:	29/07/2020	
Cleared by:	Executive Branch Manager	Ext: 49869
Contact Officer name:	Kate Chambers	Ext: 49428
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Jean-Paul Donda	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/389	

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

GBC20/389

Portfolio: Mental Health

ISSUE: 2019/2020 Half Yearly Performance Report ACTHD/LHN Mental Health Specific

Talking points:

There were no major variances within the Statements of Performance which was tabled in the Assembly on 13 February which related to Mental Health:

ACT Health Directorate

Output 1.3: Mentally Healthy Communities:

1.3.a - Percentage of mental health clients with outcome measures completed – was 6 percent higher than target due a sustained effort to complete outcome measures for eligible consumers.

1.3.b - Annual progress report on the implementation of the Office for Mental Health and Wellbeing Workplan 2019-2021 published – is on target to be met.

ACT Local Hospital Network

Output 1.1: ACT Local Hospital Network:

1.1.d – Acute Admitted Mental Health Services – was 3 percent below target.

Background Information:

- Directors-General (DG) and Chief Executive Officers (CEO) are responsible for delivering outcomes for the provision of services. Each DG / CEO is responsible to their Minister for the delivery of outcomes and for the provision of outputs as specified in each agency's budget papers. Performance indicators provide a succinct and transparent means by which ACT Government entities can present their performance and in so doing be held accountable.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	29/07/2020	
Cleared by:	Chief Finance Officer	Ext:49428
Contact Officer name:	Jean-Paul Donda	Ext:49643
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Kate Chambers	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/389	

- Section 30(E) of the Financial Management Act 1996 requires Ministers to prepare a half-yearly performance report for each directorate for which the Minister is responsible and report to the Legislative Assembly within 45 days of the end of the December period, this report must include:
    a. A progress report on delivery of outputs; and
    b. An explanation of any significant variations from performance criteria.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	29/07/2020	
Cleared by:	Chief Finance Officer	Ext:49428
Contact Officer name:	Jean-Paul Donda	Ext:49643
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Kate Chambers	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/389	

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

GBC20/456

Portfolio: Health

ISSUE: COVID-19: KEY FACTS AND FIGURES

Talking points:

- As of 9.00am on 27 August 2020:
  - There are no active cases in the ACT.
  - There have been 73,185 negative tests in the ACT to date.
  - A total of 110 cases have recovered from COVID-19 and have been released from self-isolation.
  - Three (3) deaths have been recorded.
- There remains no evidence of community transmission in the ACT.
- Of the ACT's cases:
  - 84 were overseas acquired cases with a total of 29 related to cruise ships;
  - 8 were interstate acquired cases; and
  - 20 were close contacts of known cases; and
  - 1 was locally acquired with an unknown epi-link.
- ACT Health is continuing to take appropriate public health action to contact trace all new cases in line with national guidelines.

National

- As at 9:00pm on 26 August 2020, there have been 25,205 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Australia. There have been 156 new cases in the last 24 hours.
- Of the 25,205 confirmed cases in Australia, 549 have died from COVID-19. More than 5,886,000 tests have been conducted across Australia.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	27/08/2020	
Cleared by:	Vanessa Dal Molin	Ext: 49442
Contact Officer name:	Vanessa Dal Molin	Ext: 49442
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Vanessa Dal Molin	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/456	

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

Location	Confirmed cases*
New South Wales	3,997
Northern Territory	33
Queensland	1,108
South Australia	463
Tasmania	230
Victoria	18,608
Western Australia	653

- * Note that under National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System reporting requirements, cases are reported based on their Australian jurisdiction of residence rather than where they were detected. For example, a case reported previously in the NT in a NSW resident is counted in the national figures as a NSW case.
- ** Includes Diamond Princess repatriation cases: Qld (3), SA (1), Vic (4), WA (2, including 1 death)

International

- As at 11.30pm 26 August 2020, across the world there have been 23,752,965confirmed cases of COVID-19 and more than 815,000deaths.

Background information

- COVID-19 causes a spectrum of illness, from mild to very severe, including fever and/or respiratory symptoms. The key symptoms are fever; cough; shortness of breath; and sore throat.
- Current estimates of the time it takes for symptoms to develop after being exposed to the virus that causes COVID-19 range from 2-14 days.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	27/08/2020	
Cleared by:	Vanessa Dal Molin	Ext: 49442
Contact Officer name:	Vanessa Dal Molin	Ext: 49442
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Vanessa Dal Molin	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/456	

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

GBC20/456

Portfolio: Health

ISSUE: COVID-19: PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY AND DIRECTIONS

Talking points:

- The Chief Health Officer advised me on 26 June 2020 that the ACT's public health emergency declaration due to COVID-19 should be extended for a further 45 days until 21 August 2020.
- That extension was necessary to maintain public health control measures to safeguard against a resurgence of COVID-19 cases.
- While the emergency declaration remains in force, the Chief Health Officer will provide me with a report every 30 days on the status of the COVID-19 pandemic as it impacts the Territory and whether the emergency declaration is still justified.
- Since the emergency declaration has been in force, the Chief Health Officer has taken the necessary actions to contain the spread of the disease, including issuing specific Public Health Emergency Directions.
- The Directions have included restrictions around the operation of non-essential businesses and undertakings, gatherings, returned international travellers, and entrance requirements to aged care facilities.
- Recently issued Directions have introduced restrictions on travel from Victoria (Interstate Travellers) and a requirement to self-isolate for persons returning from certain affected locations in NSW (Interstate Hotspots).

<u>Public Health Emergency Directions</u>

Public Health (Emergency) Declaration Further Extension 2020 (No. 10)

- The public health emergency declaration remains in force until 21 August 2020 subject to ongoing review.

Public Health (COVID-19 Interstate Hotspots) Emergency Direction 2020 (No. 5)

Cleared as complete and accurate:	11/08/2020	
Cleared by:	Chief Health Offier	Ext: 49442
Contact Officer name:	Vanessa Dal Molin	Ext: 49442
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Vanessa Dal Molin	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/456	

- Requirement for a person arriving into the ACT from a COVID-19 hotspot to undertake a period of 14 days quarantine.

Public Health (COVID-19 Interstate Travellers) Emergency Direction 2020

- Requires a person that is an ACT resident who has been in Victoria within the last 14 days to quarantine for 14 days at their usual place of residence or another premises suitable for quarantine; and
- Prohibits entry into the ACT by non-ACT residents that have been in Victoria within the last 14 days unless the entry is for an excluded reason (e.g. freight, transiting through by air) or the person is granted an exemption form the application of the Direction.

Public Health (Restricted activities – Gatherings, Business or Undertakings) Emergency Direction 2020 (No. 6)

- Unless specifically excluded, all gatherings at all venues and outdoor spaces may have 100 persons or 1 person per 4 square metres - whichever is the lesser - in each usable space (excluding staff). Venues may no longer temporarily divide spaces. This extends to:
    - gatherings in an outdoor space;
    - gatherings at non-residential premises, unless that place is excluded from the operation of the gathering restrictions (such as medical facilities, shopping centres, public transport facilities, and workplaces not listed as non-essential businesses);
    - community sporting events (but participants are excluded from the person count);
- casinos, gaming and gambling venues may open subject to the restrictions on gathering size;
- steam based services may open, including saunas and steam rooms;
- strip clubs, brothels and escort agencies are permitted to open subject to the restrictions on gathering size;
- most non-essential businesses and undertakings are required to have a COVID-19 Safety Plan and must ask for a first name and contact number and record those details if provided;

- food courts are permitted to open with a COVID Safety Plan in place and must collect the first name and phone number of diners.
- gyms are allowed to open 24 hours per day with a maximum of 25 people permitted at the facility when unstaffed.

Public Health (Residential Aged Care Facilities) Emergency Direction 2020 (No. 3)

- Restrictions prevent visitors entering RACFs if they have been overseas within the last 14 days, been in contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19, or have a temperature >37.5C.
- An influenza vaccination is required for people entering a RACF unless the person's presence is for the purposes of emergency management or law enforcement, or if vaccination is not available to the person due to a documented medical contradindication or the person is a child under 6 months of age.

Public Health (Returned Travellers) Emergency Direction 2020 (No. 6)

- Restrictions on persons entering the ACT following a flight from outside Autralia commence from the point at which the person arrives in the ACT. Returned travellers must travel directly from that place to a designated premises to reside in until clearance from quarantine is given by an authorised medical officer.

Public Health (Self-Isolation) Emergency Direction 2020 (No. 2)

- A person diagnosed with COVID-19 and close contacts on confirmed cases must self-isolate until clearance is given by an authorised medical officer, or travel directly to a hospital for medical treatment.

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

GBC20/456

Portfolio: Health

ISSUE: COVID-19: ACT TESTING

Talking points:

- As at 9:00am on 27 August 2020, the ACT has 113 confirmed cases.
- There are currently no active cases in the ACT.
- There have been 73,185 negative test results in the ACT as at 27 August 2020.
- More than 5,886,000 tests have been conducted across Australia.
- The ACT is consistently producing strong testing figures.
- With the events occurring in Victoria and the onset of the Influenza season, we will continue to see an upward trend in demand for community testing of COVID-19.
- We know this increase in testing has led to lengthy wait times and we thank everyone for their patience.
- In response to a surge in demand for testing, the ACT Government has recently opened three additional free testing clinics:
    - COVID-19 Surge Centre located on Garran Oval - a walk-in COVID-19 testing clinic open 9:30am to 5:00pm seven days a week with no appointment required;
    - West Belconnen Child and Family Centre - a walk-in testing clinic open 9:30am to 5:00pm with no appointment required; and
    - Kambah drive through clinic - located in the northern carpark of Jenke Circuit, open from 9:30am to 5:00 pm, seven days a week. No appointment is needed.
- These additional clinics will help to meet the increase in demand and give Canberrans more options for testing, closer to their homes.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	27/08/2020	
Cleared by:	EBM	Ext: 49442
Contact Officer name:	Vanessa Dal Molin	Ext: 49442
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Vanessa Dal Molin	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/456	

- Free and easily accessible testing is also available at the following locations across the ACT:
    - Weston Creek Walk-in Centre;
    - Exhibition Park in Canberra (EPIC);
    - Canberra Hospital (Building 3);
    - Calvary Public Hospital Bruce; and
    - at the following clinics by appointment:
        - 'our GP', 1/5 Baratta Street, Crace;
        - Lakeview Medical Practice, 1/216 Cowlishaw Street, Greenway; and
        - Winnunga Nimmityjah, 63 Boolimba Crescent, Narrabundah, which provides free and culturally appropriate assessment and testing for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and existing clients.
- ACT Health advice remains that there is only a need to test people who have symptoms, with a couple of specific exceptions:
    - Anyone who attended one of the specific NSW venues on the specified dates, as per the Public Health Direction; and
    - Anyone who has been directed by ACT Health to be tested as part of routine exit testing for quarantine.

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

GBC20/456

Portfolio: Health

ISSUE: COVID-19: Health NGO service delivery/stimulus

Talking points:

- On 6 May 2020, Minister Rattenbury and I announced health funding of approximately $6 million dollars to support NGO service delivery and mental health care.
- This announcement included approximately $2.0 million to support our health NGOs to continue to deliver the vital services they provide to the community.
- More than 40 NGOs have shared $1.4 million in support to ensure they can continue to deliver their services and adjust their models of delivery, including:
    - $50,000 for Palliative Care ACT;
    - $100,000 for Sexual Health and Family Planning ACT;
    - $40,000 for Anglicare's youth program The Junction youth health centre; and
    - $35,000 for Companion House.
- Deeds totalling $1.4 million for all 46 organisations to receive stimulus funding were executed by 21 July 2020.
- In addition to the 46 organisations to receive Community Support Stimulus Funding, a Deed of Grant for $200,000 has been executed for Carers ACT to support individuals and families to access telehealth services.
- The package also includes an additional $200,000 allocation to Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Association (ATODA) to respond to increase in demand in the alcohol and drug sector as a result of the COVID-19 public health emergency.
- A further $100,000 has been allocated for health and hygiene measures, and $100,000 to provide grief and loss counselling and support.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	05/08/2020	
Cleared by:	Executive Group Manager	Ext: 49699
Contact Officer name:	Jacinta George	Ext: 49699
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Erica Nixon	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/456	

- The funding is part of the first economic survival package announced by the Chief Minister in March 2020 identifying funding to support the community sector and vulnerable Canberrans.

Background

- On 20 March 2020, the ACT Government announced a $7 million Community Support Stimulus Package (Stimulus Package) to meet increased service demand for emergency relief. An additional $2 million has also been allocated to support the not-for-profit sector to deliver further mental health and community support. This brings the Community Support Package to a total of $9 million.
- $2 million has been identified to support the specific needs of Health NGOs.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	05/08/2020	
Cleared by:	Executive Group Manager	Ext: 49699
Contact Officer name:	Jacinta George	Ext: 49699
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Erica Nixon	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/456	

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

GBC20/456

Portfolio: Health

ISSUE: COVID-19: ACT ROADMAP – EASING OF RESTRICTIONS

Talking points:

- *Canberra's Recovery Plan: COVID-19 Easing of Restrictions Roadmap* (as at 6 August 2020) outlines the ACT's approach to easing public health restrictions.
- The ACT is in a good position for which has allowed a small number of businesses and activities to recommence under strict COVID guidelines.
- Step 3.1 of Canberra's Recovery Plan commenced from 9:00am on 10 August 2020. This has included minor and cautious changes to restrictions for some sectors in the ACT.
- The 1 person per 4 square metres of usable space applies unless specificall specified, to a maximum of 100 people in each indoor space and each outdoor space (excluding staff on premises).
- Casinos, gaming and gambling venues may open subject to the restrictions on gathering size.
- Steam based services may open, including saunas and steam rooms.
- Strip clubs, brothels and escort agencies are permitted to open subject to the restrictions on gathering size.
- Food courts are permitted to open with a COVID Safety Plan in place and must collect the first name and phone number of diners.
- Gyms are allowed to open 24 hours per day with a maximum of 25 people permitted at the facility when unstaffed.
- Most non-essential businesses and undertakings are required to have a COVID-19 Safety Plan and must ask for a first name and contact number and record those details if provided.
- Very high risk activities such as mass gatherings and large events are not permitted at this stage, but will be considered as part our Recovery Plan.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	11/08/2020	
Cleared by:	Chief Health Officer	Ext: 49442
Contact Officer name:	Vanessa Dal Molin	Ext: 49442
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Vanessa Dal Molin	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/456	

Background

- The ACT's Recovery Plan is consistent with the *3 Step Framework for a COVIDSafe Australia* based on the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee's public health advice to guide the easing of restrictions.
- The Framework is underpinned by four key actions:
    - Maintain 1.5m distancing and practise good hygiene;
    - Stay home if unwell;
    - Frequently clean and disinfect communal areas;
    - COVIDSafe plan for workplaces and premises.
- We are planning for Stage 3.2 and beyond, which includes the highest risk activities and events.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	11/08/2020	
Cleared by:	Chief Health Officer	Ext: 49442
Contact Officer name:	Vanessa Dal Molin	Ext: 49442
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Vanessa Dal Molin	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/456	

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

GBC20/456

Portfolio: Health

ISSUE: COVID-19: PUBLIC HEALTH RESTRICTIONS – ADVICE TO BUSINESS

Talking points:

- *Canberra's Recovery Plan: COVID-19 Easing of Restrictions Roadmap* as at 8 August 2020 outlines the ACT's approach to easing public health restrictions.
- The Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC) has been advising National Cabinet on necessary public health control measures to reduce the transmission of COVID-19. These measures have been introduced by all Australian jurisdictions including the ACT.
- The public health measures have unfortunately had significant impact on individuals and businesses across a range of industries.
- As of 10 August, the ACT has moved to Stage 3.1 easing of restrictions which includes minor and cautious changes to COVID-19 restrictions for some sectors in the ACT.
- There is a cumulative risk when people gather and multiple social networks interact, so COVID Safety Plans, other return to business plans, and further control measures such as visitor logs for patrons, continue to be critical to enable rapid respond in the event of an outbreak or cluster of new cases.
- As restrictions are eased, advice has been published on the ACT Government COVID-19 website and direct help and support is available through the Access Canberra Business Liaison Line on 6205 0900.

<u>Adult venues</u>

- From 9am on Monday 10 August 2020, strip clubs, brothels and escort agencies can reopen and the current arrangements of one person per 4 square metres of usable space applies, up to a maximum of 100 patrons in each indoor space and each outdoor space (excluding staff).

Cleared as complete and accurate:	11/08/2020	
Cleared by:	Chief Health Officer	Ext: 49442
Contact Officer name:	Vanessa Dal Molin	Ext: 49442
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Vanessa Dal Molin	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/456	

- Industry guidance has been provided to businesses to help premises develop their COVID Safe Plan.

Clubs advice

- Clubs may operate with distancing of 1 person per 4 square metres up to a maximum of 100 people for each indoor and outdoor space.
- Each Club must develop a COVID-19 Safety Plan to which it must adhere, and which it must produce when requested by an authorised person.
- Casinos, gambling and gaming rooms are allowed to open in Stage 3.1.
- Clubs and gaming venues are advised to implement enhanced cleaning and hygiene procedures, paying particular attention to high touch surfaces, the encouragement of good hand hygiene for patrons and staff including at entry and exit points, and not allowing anyone into the venue that is experiencing symptoms of COVID-19.

Gyms advice

- Gyms are allowed to operate with a maximum of 100 people (including staff or trainers) per indoor or outdoor space, or one person per four square metres, whichever is lesser.
- There is also no restriction on times that gyms can operate.
- A maximum of 25 people are permitted when a gym is unstaffed.

Tutoring business advice

- All institutions and businesses are currently required to meet the 1 person per 4 square metres rule, regardless of whether they are providing services for adults or children. Schools are not required to meet this requirement, as they would be unable to do so while teaching classes. Similar exemptions apply for healthcare, emergency services and law enforcement.
- While schools have now returned to classroom learning, this is being carefully managed to ensure students, teachers and staff are safe and schools are fully prepared to have the appropriate measures in place, based on public health advice.

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- Tutoring services, as well as extracurricular and non-essential school-type services, are still required to meet the social distancing requirements.

Background

- Public health evidence tells us that the movement and gathering of people who do not know each other are the greatest risk to outbreaks of an infectious disease like COVID-19. This means that the risk of disease spread increases as gathering sizes increase.
- Furthermore, there is the collective risk associated with the reopening of multiple businesses and facilities and recommencing social and sporting activities. The ACT Government is monitoring the cumulative effect of larger gatherings, multiple social networks crossing or coming together, and more interactions and co-mingling.

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QUESTION TIME BRIEF

GBC20/456

Portfolio: Health

ISSUE: COVID-19: BORDER CLOSURE EFFECTS ON ACT

Talking points:

- The ACT's Public Health Directions restrict the movement of people to reduce the risk of importation and transmission of the virus.
- The ACT Government also issues travel advice to residents in relation to COVID-19 affected areas – at this time ACT residents are advised not to travel to Victoria, greater Sydney, Newcastle and other specific locations in NSW identified by NSW Health.
- Effective from 12:01am on 7 August, the NSW Government has restricted NSW residents returning from Victoria by road, and all returning people may only arrive via Sydney airport and are required to spend 14 days in hotel quarantine.
- The decision of the NSW Government to close the land border with Victoria impacted a number of ACT residents approved to return to the ACT by private vehicle as NSW transit permits were cancelled without notice.
- ACT residents were able to cross the Victorian border to return home between Thursday 13 August and Monday 17 August in a joint ACT Health and ACT Policing operation.
- Over the five-day window, 120 grateful residents returned to the ACT and all have gone into quarantine.
- The window has now closed to ACT road users for the foreseeable future.
- The ACT worked very hard, at all levels, to get a positive result.
- Since the implementation of the ACT/Victoria border restrictions on 3 July, ACT Health has met all passengers arriving at Canberra Airport from Melbourne.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	27/08/2020	
Cleared by:	EBM	Ext: 49442
Contact Officer name:	Vanessa Dal Molin	Ext: 49442
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Vanessa Dal Molin	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/456	

- ACT Health collects all passenger details for those who have travelled from Melbourne and ensures that they have the appropriate permit or exemption to enter or transit to ACT, NSW or QLD.
- ACT Health provides transit passenger information to travellers from both NSW and QLD for any passenger transiting through Canberra airport from Melbourne.
- ACT Health has liaised with both QLD and NSW Health emergency control centres to ensure information is being provided to the appropriate area.
- Effective from 8 August 2020, Queensland closed its borders to NSW and the ACT except by way of exemption.
- As of 27 August, there are 375 persons quarantining in the ACT, the majority of whom are ACT residents returning from Victoria.
- ACT Policing is leading the ACT Government's compliance and monitoring work. There have no significant issues with quarantine compliance to date.
- As at 27 August, more than 3200 exemption requests have been received by the ACT Government.

<u>Australian Parliament</u>

- The Australian Parliament is currently sitting and concludes on 3 September 2020.
- The Chief Health Officer and team liaised with the Australian Acting Chief Medical Officer and the Office of Prime Minister and Cabinet to arranging the processes with returning MPs, Senators and their limited staff.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	27/08/2020	
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Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Vanessa Dal Molin	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/456	

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

GBC20/456

Portfolio: Health

ISSUE: COVID-19 AGED CARE PLANNING

Talking points:

- The ACT Government is working with the residential aged care sector to plan, prepare and respond to a COVID-19 outbreak.
- Residents of residential aged care facilities (RACFs) are more vulnerable to serious complications of COVID-19 if they become infected due to their older age and likely comorbidities.
- The ACT's *COVID-19 Residential Aged Care Sector Plan* (the Plan) outlines how the ACT Government and other stakeholders are supporting and building the capability of the residential aged care sector during the pandemic to prepare for and respond to a COVID-19 outbreak.
- In a RACF COVID-19 outbreak, the role of the ACT Health Directorate is to lead the public health response and support the facility to execute their role. ACT Health Directorate would work closely with the facility to respond to and control the outbreak to bring it to an end as quickly and safely as possible, in line with national public health guidelines.
- In the event of a COVID-19 outbreak, the ACT Government in collaboration with the Commonwealth Department of Health, will facilitate rapid access to personal protective equipment (PPE), access to surge workforce including clinical surge support if required, and rapid in-facility testing of all residents and staff.
- Lessons learnt from RACF outbreaks in other jurisdictions include:
    - Responding rapidly and comprehensively from a public health perspective;
    - Infection prevention and control capacity and competency, including appropriate use of PPE by staff;
    - Supporting resident social and emotional wellbeing and connectedness with family and loved ones during isolation;

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  - Clear, timely and co-ordinated communication to residents, families and staff;
  - Clear governance, an understanding of responsibilities and efficient decision-making;
  - The need for additional workforce in the context of staff being required to quarantine; and
  - The need for additional clinical support to manage the clinical care needs of residents.

- The ACT is working collaboratively with the Commonwealth in support of actions to increase responsiveness and preparedness and establish a coordinated response mechanism.
- Education has already been provided to aged care facility staff in the ACT on infection control and PPE use, including online e-learning resources and face-to-face PPE and specimen collection training.
- ACT Health is working with ACT Disability, Aged and Carer Advocacy Service to understand the support for communication to residents and families that can be provided during an outbreak.

Background

- The purpose of the Plan is to outline the roles and responsibilities of key stakeholders in achieving the agreed objectives and goals to prepare and respond to the COVID-19 epidemic in the residential aged care sector.
- The Plan was developed by a cross-sector working group which was convened in April 2020. The working group is led by the Public Health Emergency Control Centre and includes representation from ACT RACFs and other key stakeholders, including Calvary Public Hospital, Canberra Health Services and Capital Health Network.
- The working group meets regularly and has worked collaboratively to develop the Plan, which remains a living document.
- The Plan addresses:
  - Preparedness – to prevent the introduction of COVID-19 into a RACF;
  - Response – to minimise the impact of a COVID-19 outbreak in a residential aged care facility; and
  - Stand down of a response and evaluation.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	11/08/2020	
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QUESTION TIME BRIEF

GBC20/456

Portfolio: Health

ISSUE: Operations of SV Café & Bakery

Talking points:

- The Health Protection Service (HPS) received a notification of public concern on Wednesday 5 August via an ACT Government Feedback form on a café, trading as SV Café & Bakery, operating from a residential premises on Nevertire St Lawson.
- The customer concern was primarily that "…*there is no commercial zoning in Lawson for such business activities and I don't know whether the business has a food licence to operate from these premises*".
- HPS identified that no food business registration existed for the premises. It is an offence in the ACT to operate a food business without a valid registration unless exempt.
- HPS contacted the proprietor on Wednesday 5 August 2020 and explained food business registration requirements. HPS requested that a food business registration application be submitted within two business days and that the business cease trading until a food business registration is granted.
- The HPS also informed the proprietor that further approvals maybe be required to run a commercial business of this nature from residential premises and would be best placed to contact Access Canberra for further information.
- The HPS received a food registration application from the proprietor of SV Coffee and Bakery at the close of business Wednesday 5 August. HPS subsequently contacted the proprietor on Thursday 6 August requesting further information as the submitted application was incomplete.
- A Public Health Officer has now been assigned to assess the application and an onsite inspection is attempted to be organised for tomorrow Friday 14 August 2020.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	12/08/2020	
Cleared by:	Conrad Barr	Ext:49262
Contact Officer name:	Conrad Barr	Ext:49262
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Conrad Barr	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/456	

Key Information

Timeline

- Wednesday 5 August
    - HPS receives complaint about food business operating from residential premises.
    - HPS confirms the business is not a currently registered food business and must cease trading.
    - Relevant information is provided to the proprietor.
- Thursday 6 August
    - Proprietor applies.
    - Further contact and is provided and information sought by HPS.
- Monday 10 August
    - Proprietor provides additional information in support of application.
- Tuesday 11 August
    - HPS confirms that information has been received.
    - HPS allocates a Public Health Officer to assess application and work with applicant.
- Wednesday 12 August
    - Proprietor is contacted by the PHO and further information is sought to enable assessment of the application.
- Thursday 13 August
    - Following initial assessment of application, the PHO contacts the proprietor to organise an inspection for Friday 14 August 2020.

Background Information

- The HPS is responsible for food safety regulation in the ACT. This includes managing the registration of food businesses, providing food safety information to food businesses, managing enforcement activities, and responding to foodborne illness outbreaks.
- The HPS undertakes food business regulation in line with national food standards, such as the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code and the Food Act 2001. Food business inspections are undertaken by professional Public Health Officers who are trained subject matter experts.
- A risk classification system is used to help determine which risk category a business falls under. There are three risk categories; low, medium and high.
- Risk determinations are based on the proposed food preparation activities declared by a business.

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Information Officer name:	Conrad Barr	
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- High-risk foods are foods that are more likely to be contaminated with and support the growth of microbiological pathogens.
- Medium-risk foods – are foods that may contain microbiological pathogens but will not usually support the growth of these pathogens; or are unlikely to contain microbiological pathogens due to the food type or processing but may support the growth of such pathogens.
- Low-risk foods – are foods that are unlikely to contain microbiological pathogens and will not support the growth of such pathogens. Examples of low-risk foods include grains and cereals, sugar-based confectionary, bread and carbonated beverages. Only shelf stable low-risk food can be prepared for sale in a home business unless there is a separate approved commercial kitchen.

- A food business is only granted registration once a business is deemed to have met all requirements of the Food Standards Code and the *Food Act 2001.*
- The HPS works closely with prospective food businesses and has developed a number resources to help them comply with food safety laws and standards, and to better understand food safety practices.

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

GBC20/456

Portfolio: Health

ISSUE: 2020-21 Health Funding

Talking points:

- The 2020-21 ACT Budget has been delayed until after the October ACT Election, meaning the Budget is not likely to be finalised until February 2021.
- Until the 2020-21 Budget is passed, the Health portfolio, like other ACT Government agencies, will work toward a draft 2020-21 Budget based on the ACT Government's Budget Management System (GBMS).
- The GBMS 2020-21 draft budget is essentially the forward estimate contained in the 2019-20, plus any additional decisions taken by Government, such as COVID-19 funding, critical and urgent announced decisions and the continuation of ceasing initiatives.
- In addition, technical adjustments such as Commonwealth funding (Community Health and Hospital NPA) and approved roll overs are incorporated into GBMS.
- Based on the above, the draft funding available for the Health portfolio is $1.963 billion. This is broken down as follows:
    - Canberra Health Services * $1.327b
    - Health Directorate $0.305b
    - Calvary Public Hospital $0.241b
    - Balance of LHN funding (i.e. COVID-19, Cross Border) $0.089b

* Excludes ICT Resources Received Free of Charge by the Health Directorate of $71m.

COVID-19 Funding:

- The 2020-21 funding includes COVID-19 ACT funding of $29.950 million and assumes matching Commonwealth funding of the same amount, bringing the total allocation to $59.900 million.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	25/08/2020	
Cleared by:	Executive Group Manager	Ext: 49869
Contact Officer name:	Jean-Paul Donda	Ext: 49641
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Jean-Paul Donda	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/456	

- Commonwealth funding will be subject to the continuation of the *National Partnership for COVID-19 Response* Agreement for the period in which the ACT claims expenditure.
- The funding comprises of hospital and testing costs of $31.0 million, an elective surgery reboot program $22.1 million; public health emergency management response $4 million and Information, Communication & Technology (ICT) costs $2.8 million.

Supply Instrument:

- While funding is currently limited to Appropriation provided through the *supply* instrument, the funding providing through this instrument (at 100 percent of 2019-20 funding) is not expected to be exceeded by the time a 2020-21 Budget is passed through the Assembly.

Notes:

- The above figures do not include the unallocated balance of the 2020-21 Health Central Provision of $26.187m.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	25/08/2020	
Cleared by:	Executive Group Manager	Ext: 49869
Contact Officer name:	Jean-Paul Donda	Ext: 49641
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Jean-Paul Donda	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/456	

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

GBC20/456

Portfolio: Health

ISSUE: ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUG POLICY

Talking points:

- The ACT Government is committed to investing in evidence-based responses to minimise harms from alcohol, tobacco and other drugs.
- In the 2019-20 Budget, the Government announced $10 million in new funding over four years to advance actions of the *ACT Drug Strategy Action Plan 2018-2021*.
- This funding is in addition to more than $20 million invested every year in specialist alcohol, tobacco and other drug treatment and support services in the Territory.

Drug and Alcohol Court

- The Drug and Alcohol Court was established late in 2019 and when COVID-19 hit the Court was unable to take new referrals for a period of approximately 3 months. The Court re-commenced referrals in June 2020.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Residential Rehabilitation

- The ACT Government provided $300,000 to inform the development of a culturally appropriate residential rehabilitation service, supporting drug and alcohol treatment for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.
- Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health and Community Services has been engaged to develop a model of care for a dedicated Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Residential Rehabilitation Facility.
- The model of care is to be finalised in 2020-21, with design, further consultation and construction of a facility to follow.

Feasibility Study - Medically Supervised Injecting Facility

- The ACT Government has committed $207,680 to scoping a medically supervised drug consumption facility (supervised injecting facility) in the ACT.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	7/8/2020	
Cleared by:	Executive Group Manager	
Contact Officer name:	Alan Philp	Ext: 51854
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Alan Philp	Ext: 51854
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/456	

- The Burnet Institute, in partnership with the Canberra Alliance for Harm Minimisation and Advocacy is undertaking the needs and feasibility study of establishing a medically supervised injecting facility in the ACT.
- The feasibility study is expected to be provided in the coming month.

Pill Testing

- A second pill testing trial was held in the ACT in April 2019 and an independent evaluation by Australian National University published in December 2019.
- Consideration of further pill testing opportunities is ongoing. The ACT Government has developed a festivals pill testing policy and will continue to provide a supportive policy environment for the use of pill testing as a harm minimisation activity at festivals and events. The policy will soon be published on the ACT Health Directorate website and be applied in collaboration with Access Canberra.

Further Expansion of Community Based Services

- Canberra Health Services is currently establishing a new public opioid treatment clinic at Belconnen in north Canberra.
- The new clinic is due to open in October 2020. It will deliver more timely access to treatment for Canberrans living in the north Canberra region, and better support patients to complete the program.
- The service will offer access to doctors who can prescribe opioid treatment medications, and to on-site opioid treatment dosing.

Cannabis legalisation

- In response to a Private Members Bill, the ACT became the first Australian jurisdiction to remove criminal penalties for adult personal possession offences as the Drugs of Dependence (Personal Cannabis Use) Amendment Act 2019 came into effect on 31 January 2020.
- ACT wastewater testing results do not indicate an increase in cannabis use across the Territory in February 2020, after the legislation came into effect.

Key Issues:

Cleared as complete and accurate:	7/8/2020	
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Contact Officer name:	Alan Philp	Ext: 51854
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
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- The first progress report on the Action Plan will be published shortly. It highlights a range of achievements and ongoing priorities to reduce drug use, and the harms associated with existing drug use.
- $10 million of new AOD funding from the 2019-20 Budget:
    - $3.014 million over four years to increase the availability of opioid replacement treatment in the north of Canberra;
    - $2.93 million over four years to expand early interventions and diversion to treatment for people with alcohol and drug dependence in contact, or at risk of contact, with the criminal justice system;
    - $1.246 million over four years to increase access to the life-saving opioid overdose reversal drug, naloxone;
    - $1.075 million over four years to expand drug treatment services in the Alexander Maconochie Centre;
    - $2.114 million over two years for the ACT to adopt the national real-time prescription monitoring system by June 2021;
    - $300,000 for co-design work to develop an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander residential rehabilitation service; and
    - $200,000 for scoping an ACT supervised injecting facility as part of a broader analysis of future needs.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	7/8/2020	
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Contact Officer name:	Alan Philp	Ext: 51854
Lead Directorate:	Health	
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QUESTION TIME BRIEF

GBC20/456

Portfolio: Health

ISSUE: MEDICINAL CANNABIS

Talking points:

- The ACT Medicinal Cannabis Scheme has been in operation since November 2016.
- Prescribers need to seek approval from the ACT Chief Health Officer and the Commonwealth Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) concurrently under the scheme.
- The ACT Government adopts the TGA streamlined pathway for medicinal cannabis to reduce red tape for prescribers when applying for approval which assists to improve access for ACT patients.
- The Government will continue to work closely with the Commonwealth and state and territories on medicinal cannabis matters. This includes outcomes of a Senate Inquiry in 2020 which explored barriers to accessing medicinal cannabis in Australia.

<u>Medicinal vs decriminalised cannabis</u>

- The term medicinal cannabis refers to cannabis that is intended for therapeutic use and is regulated as a prescription pharmaceutical formulation that must meet high standards of manufacturing quality. This ensures that medicinal cannabis is of an acceptable standard with known ingredients and their concentrations and is safe for people to take.
- This differs from raw botanical cannabis that is consumed or smoked for recreational or perceived medical purposes.
- Medicinal cannabis may only be prescribed in the ACT where its use has been approved under Commonwealth and ACT laws.
- The *Drugs of Dependence (Personal Cannabis Use) Amendment Act 2019* refers to access to cultivation of botanical cannabis for personal use.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	17/08/2020	
Cleared by:	Executive Branch Manager	Ext:49262
Contact Officer name:	Conrad Barr	Ext:49262
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Conrad Barr	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/456	

Key Information:

- Uptake of the scheme has been relatively low.
- The ACT Government responded to an Australian Senate Inquiry into *Current barriers to patient access to medicinal cannabis in Australia* in January 2020. The Senate Inquiry report was released in March 2020.
- Of the 20 recommendations from the Inquiry, there were none that require specific actions of ACT Government. Three require actions by the Council Of Australian Governments (COAG) or COAG Health Council.
- Approximately 235 applications to prescribe medicinal cannabis products have been received by ACTHD since 21 November 2016 (current to 8 August 2020). Most have been approved and none have been refused.

Background Information:

- The ACT has adopted the TGA single online application form for medicinal cannabis applications on 25 February 2019.
- On 3 February 2020 you agreed to fully adopt the TGA pathway, by deferring responsibility for clinical review of medicinal cannabis applications to the TGA.
- ACTHD is finalising arrangements to enable full adoption of the TGA pathway. An update to the Controlled Medicines Prescribing Standards is being finalised for consideration by the Chief Health Officer to enable the change. The TGA is preparing updates to its online ACT form to reflect the new arrangements.
- The Medicinal Cannabis Medical Advisory Panel appointments expired in May 2020 and will not be renewed due to the ACT's planned full adoption of the TGA pathway.
- A second expert committee, the Medicinal Cannabis Advisory Group (MCAG) was established to provide advice to Government on the broader non-clinical, economic, legal and social issues related to the introduction of a medicinal cannabis scheme in the ACT.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	17/08/2020	
Cleared by:	Executive Branch Manager	Ext:49262
Contact Officer name:	Conrad Barr	Ext:49262
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Conrad Barr	
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QUESTION TIME BRIEF

GBC20/456

Portfolio: Health

ISSUE: CHRONIC DISEASE MANAGEMENT POLICY AND PROGRAMS

Talking points:

- The ACT Government is committed to improving health outcomes for people living with complex or chronic health conditions through a range of prevention, community health and hospital services.
- The Government is also investing to support people to live well and to reduce the burden of chronic conditions on the community and the health care system.

Preventive health

- A key government commitment is the implementation of the *Healthy Canberra: ACT Preventive Health Plan 2020-2025*, which will see a range of preventive health actions taken across the breadth of the ACT Government.
- Up to $1.9 million is available to manage chronic disease in the community and social inclusion through the current round of Healthy Canberra Grants.
- Over $10.3 million has been invested for preventive health measures over the last three years by the ACT Government.

Health Promotion

- In the last three years, the government has invested approximately $2.8 million in prevention related initiatives across a range of settings including early childhood, schools, business, community and healthcare services. These include Kids at Play Active Play, Fresh Tastes, It's Your Move, and Healthier Choices Canberra.

Chronic disease management

- Canberra Health Services' Chronic Disease Management (CDM) is a multidisciplinary team with a focus on improving the management of patients with chronic disease, through effective and coordinated teamwork.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	07/08/2020	
Cleared by:	Deputy Director-General	Ext: x49180
Contact Officer name:	Michael Culhane	Ext: 49392
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Michael Culhane	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/456	

- The CDM includes the Chronic Disease Management Unit (CDMU), Obesity Management Service (OMS) and Chronic Care Program (CCP).

Health systems planning

- The ACT Health Directorate is developing a Territory-Wide Health Service Plan to identify priorities for health service development and redesign across the ACT - a priority population group are people with chronic conditions.
- A Chronic Conditions Working Group was formed in October 2019 with representatives from the ACT Health Directorate and Canberra Health Services to drive effective, coordinated and strategic chronic conditions and integrated care services across the ACT health system.

Better Care for Canberrans with complex needs

- The ACT Government has committed $2.5 million over three years to improve health outcomes for people with complex or chronic health conditions and decrease avoidable pressures on acute health services.
- $1.35 million has recently been announced for local community organisations: Directions Health Services, The Junction Youth Health Services and Companion House to make it easier for people living with chronic and/or complex illnesses to access the care they need.
- Approximately $1.098 million remains for further projects of this initiative in 2020-21 and 2021-22. The Health Directorate will consult with key stakeholders regarding additional options to develop integrated health pathways for people living with chronic and/or complex illnesses.

Key Information:

Grants

- The ACT Health Promotion Grants Program (ACTHPGP) has invested approximately $5.6 million (2017/18 – 2019/20) funding for community-based activities that create supportive environments to improve the health of Canberrans, with a focus on preventing chronic disease.

Support for primary care

- Over $12 million in incentives has been provided from 2009 to support the GP workforce of the ACT, including infrastructure funding through a competitive grants process, an intern placement program, scholarships, and services to assist GPs to attend housebound and aged care patients.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	07/08/2020	
Cleared by:	Deputy Director-General	Ext: x49180
Contact Officer name:	Michael Culhane	Ext: 49392
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Michael Culhane	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/456	

- Ongoing funding of over $4.2 million per annum is provided to support:
    - Two primary health care services—Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health Service and Companion House—that target vulnerable and hard-to-reach populations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, and refugees). The GP services at these organisations are free of cost to the consumer.
    - A weekly primary health care service at the Early Morning Centre in the city, and nurses to provide opportunistic primary health care at the Needle and Syringe Program (NSP) in the city, and at Ainslie Village.
    - The Canberra Afterhours Locum Medical Service (CALMS) to support the provision of GP services through the whole of the after-hours period at three agreed clinic settings, as well as at home and in residential aged care facilities, as clinically appropriate.
- A $12 million capital grant in 2018–19 to build a new Community Health facility to replace the existing Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health Service Community Medical centre.
- $1.05 million over three years in 2017–18 for the Bulk Billing General Practices Grant Fund to encourage the expansion or establishment of general practices with a demonstrated commitment to bulk billing in the Tuggeranong and Molonglo areas. Three general practices received funding, with a small amount of remaining funding being used to support opioid replacement treatment in the community.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	07/08/2020	
Cleared by:	Deputy Director-General	Ext: x49180
Contact Officer name:	Michael Culhane	Ext: 49392
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Michael Culhane	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/456	

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

GBC20/456

Portfolio: Health

ISSUE: PREVENTIVE HEALTH INVESTMENTS

Talking points:

- $10.3 million has been invested for preventive health measures over the last three years by the ACT Government.
- A key government commitment is the implementation of the *Health Canberra: ACT Preventive Health Plan 2020-2025* which will see a range of preventive health actions implemented across Government.

Health Promotion

- In the last three years, the Health Directorate has invested approximately $2.8 million in preventive Health Promotion initiatives. These initiatives have been delivered across a range of settings including early childhood, schools, business, community and healthcare services.
- These programs include Kids at Play Active Play, Fresh Tastes, It's Your Move and Healthier Choices Canberra.

Grants

- The ACT Health Promotion Grants Program provides funding for community-based activities that create supportive environments to improve the health of Canberrans, with a focus on preventing chronic disease. This funding supports the objectives of the *Healthy Canberra: ACT Preventive Health Plan 2020 – 2025*.
- The ACT Health Promotion Grants Program has invested approximately $7.55m in funding over the last four years (2018/19 – 2020/21) within the community.
- The 2020-21 – 2022-23 Healthy Canberra Grants is currently open for applications until 4 September 2020. There is up to $1.9 million available for programs that improve the quality of life of those living with a chronic illness and/or building greater social connectedness within our community.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	19/8/20	
Cleared by:	Executive Group Manager	
Contact Officer name:	Alan Philp	51854
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Alan Philp	Ext:51854
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/456	

The Year 7 Health Check

- The Year 7 Health Check (Y7HC) is a government priority from 2017, delivered in collaboration with Education Directorate and the Office of Mental Health and Wellbeing. The pilot survey was completed in 2019.
- The Y7HC 2020 survey will be completed by all public schools as part of the Education Directorate's annual School Satisfaction and Climate survey. Private schools have also been invited to participate.

Expansion of Drug and Alcohol Services

- The 2019/2020 ACT Budget included $800,000 to support the implementation of the Drug Strategy Action Plan 2018-2021.
- Across the ACT Government, the 2019-20 ACT Budget provided over $10 million in new funding over the next four years to advance actions of the ACT Drug Strategy Action Plan 2018-2021. Other initiatives include:
    - $3.014 million over four years to increase the availability of opioid replacement treatment in the north of Canberra;
    - $2.93 million over four years to expand early interventions and diversion to treatment for people with alcohol and drug dependence in contact, or at risk of contact, with the criminal justice system; and
    - $1.075 million over four years to expand drug treatment services in the Alexander Maconochie Centre; and $2.114 million over two years for the ACT to adopt the national real-time prescription monitoring system by June 2021.

Background

Grants

Total investment for grants over the last four financial years is approximately $7.55 million:
2020/21: ($1,952,628)
2019/20: ($1,908,975)
2018/19: ($2,324,193)
2017/18: ($1,371,391)

Year 7 Health Check

The financial allocation for the program is $323,000 (2017-18), $750,000 (2018-19), $820,000 (2019-20) and $789,000 (2020-21). The program intends to work towards closing the gaps in student wellbeing data through an annual health risk factors survey and guide population-based interventions that address identified health and wellbeing needs in adolescents in the ACT.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	19/8/20	
Cleared by:	Executive Group Manager	
Contact Officer name:	Alan Philp	51854
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Alan Philp	Ext:51854
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/456	

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

GBC20/456

Portfolio: Health

ISSUE: Framework for the ACT Public Health System

Talking points:

- On 27 July 2020, the ACT's *Accessible, Accountable, Sustainable: A Framework for the ACT Public Health System 2020-2030* (the Framework) was published.
- This Framework provides a common vision for the strategic, policy and planning activities that will shape the direction of ACT health services over the next decade.
- The Framework centres around three strategic goals for a high performing, safe health system delivering person centred service and safe and effective care:
    - Access – the right service at the right place at the right time by the right team;
    - Accountability – robust and transparent decision making;
    - Sustainability – strategic investment to support health services.
- It was developed in consultation with an advisory group that included representatives from consumer, carer, peak and advocacy groups, primary health and clinical services.
- The Framework also identifies the priority population groups and key strategic partnerships we will focus on in delivering on the key strategies identified under each goal.
- Substantial work has been progressed on a number of these strategies. *Healthy Canberra: ACT Preventive Health Plan 2020-2025*, the *Digital Health Strategy 2019-2029* and the *Regional Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Plan 2019-2024* have been released and work is progressing on the Territory-wide Health Service Plan and Infrastructure Planning.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	07/08/2020	
Cleared by:	Executive Group Manager	Ext: 49699
Contact Officer name:	Sarah Galton	Ext: 49877
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Jacinta George	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/456	

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

GBC20/456

Portfolio: Health

ISSUE: DIGITAL HEALTH RECORD

Talking points:

- ACT Health has signed a 10-year $114 million contract with Epic, a world-leading provider of digital medical record systems to deliver 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 ACT Digital Health Strategy. It will enable clinicians to have a single view of a patient, 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 Canberra public health services, including our four public hospitals, Walk-in Centres, Community Health Centres and justice health.
- The ACT's Digital Health Record is being purpose built to securely manage information in one place, ensuring that patient information stored in the Digital Health Record is safe and protected.

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, with a cost of $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 public health services, non-government organisations and consumer representatives provided feedback and advice during the Tender evaluation process.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	25/08/2020	
Cleared by:	Chief Information Officer	Ext: 49000
Contact Officer name:	Peter O'Halloran	Ext: 49000
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release		
Information Officer name:	Peter O'Halloran	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/456	

- 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.
- A privacy impact assessment will be undertaken in relation to 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 in the Digital Health Record.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	25/08/2020	
Cleared by:	Chief Information Officer	Ext: 49000
Contact Officer name:	Peter O'Halloran	Ext: 49000
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release		
Information Officer name:	Peter O'Halloran	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/456	

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

GBC20/456

Portfolio: Health

ISSUE: INFLUENZA SEASON

Talking points:

- The Government encourages the community to talk to their healthcare provider about influenza immunisation.
- Vaccination is recommended for all members of the public aged six months or over.
- This year there has been an increase in demand for flu vaccines, which is believed to be due to the concurrent COVID-19 pandemic.
    - Influenza activity remains at a very low level in the ACT.
    - 193 influenza notifications have been received so far this year.
    - No influenza-related deaths have been reported.

<u>National Immunisation Program</u>

- The Australian Government's National Immunisation Program (NIP) provides free vaccine for vulnerable populations.
- As at 23 August 2020, the Immunisation Section at the Health Protection Service has distributed 131,059 doses of influenza vaccine to immunisation providers 16 August .
    - 110,043of these doses have been distributed to General Practices (GP).
    - At the same point in 2019, a total of 105,297 vaccines had been distributed with 92,381 to GPs.
- A total of 64,938 Fluad Quad vaccines have been distributed for the ACT 65-year and older population to 23 August 2020, which is estimated at 53,000 people (Australian Bureau of Statistics 2019).
    - Fluad Quad is the recommended flu vaccine for people from 65 years of age, this equates to enough doses for 122 per cent of this population in the ACT

Cleared as complete and accurate:	25/08/2020	
Cleared by:	Executive Branch Manager	Ext: 49262
Contact Officer name:	Conrad Barr	Ext: 49262
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Conrad Barr	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/456	

  - There have been 52, 607 Fluad Quad vaccines distributed to GPs since 31 March 2020

- The Immunisation Section at the Health Protection Service distribute to over 200 immunisation providers across the Territory and have increased their staffing to provide this service.

Annual Flu campaign

- I launched the flu campaign with the Chief Health Officer on Thursday 16 April 2020.
- Promotion of the flu vaccine commenced with print, radio and social media to correspond with the launch and will continue throughout the flu season.
- Distribution of NIP vaccine for influenza commenced on 31 March 2020 to GPs, some pharmacies and other immunisation providers.

Key Information

- Influenza can occur at any time of the year, however the peak time for influenza in the ACT is usually during June to October.
- Only two notifications have been received in the past 2 weeks,, with a total of 193 cases notified to CDC to 23 August 2020. This decrease may be attributable to social distancing and good hygiene, as well as to vaccination. Since late March, most tests for COVID-19 have not included testing for influenza. As influenza testing is lower than previous years, we are less likely to detect every case.
- Among the influenza and/or pneumonia deaths recorded to 18 August 2020, none had been notified to ACT Health with laboratory-confirmed influenza in the 30 days before their death ('influenza-associated deaths').
- The Australian Government's National Immunisation Program (NIP) provides free vaccine for vulnerable populations, including:
  - children aged 6 months to under 5 years;
  - people aged 65 and over;
  - all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people;
  - pregnant women; and
  - people 5 years to 64 years with certain medical conditions which puts them at increased risk from influenza.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	25/08/2020	
Cleared by:	Executive Branch Manager	Ext: 49262
Contact Officer name:	Conrad Barr	Ext: 49262
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Conrad Barr	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/456	

- While the NIP vaccine is free for those eligible, providers such as GPs and pharmacies may charge a consultation or administration fee at their own discretion.
- Revaccination with the Influenza vaccine is not generally recommended. People with specific risk factors should consult their GP regarding their need for revaccination.
- In addition to NIP stock, GPs and pharmacies have access to private stock ordered directly through pharmaceutical companies. While ACT Health Directorate does not have oversight of the number of vaccines provided in the ACT, both the peak bodies for pharmacies and the Capital Health Network (CHN) have reported high demand for this stock resulting in some supply issues in the private market.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	25/08/2020	
Cleared by:	Executive Branch Manager	Ext: 49262
Contact Officer name:	Conrad Barr	Ext: 49262
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Conrad Barr	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/456	

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

GBC20/456

Portfolio: Health

ISSUE: MINISTER'S FACT SHEET

	Q3 YTD 2018-19	Q3 YTD 2019-20	change	Q1 2019-20	Q2 2019-20	Q3 2019-20
Walk-in Centres						
Number of presentations to Walk-in Centres	44,316	58,606	32.2%	17,481	17,707	23,418
Emergency department						
Number of presentations by hospital						
Canberra Hospital	67,270	69,187	2.8%	23,954	23,362	21,871
Calvary Public Hospital Bruce	43,807	42,361	-3.3%	14,230	14,199	13,932
Total	**111,077**	**111,548**	**0.4%**	**38,184**	**37,561**	**35,803**
Number of presentations by triage category						
1—Resuscitation	586	794	35.5%	267	257	270
2—Emergency	11,988	13,360	11.4%	4,509	4,649	4,202
3—Urgent	48,171	50,211	4.2%	17,481	16,977	15,753
4—Semi-urgent	42,075	40,246	-4.3%	13,670	13,333	13,243
5—Non-urgent	8,257	6,937	-16.0%	2,257	2,345	2,335
Total	**111,077**	**111,548**	**0.4%**	**38,184**	**37,561**	**35,803**
Percentage of patients seen on time by triage category[1]						
1—Resuscitation	100.0%	100.0%	0	99.6%	100%	100%
2—Emergency	74.6%	74.2%	-0.4	72.8%	73.6%	76.4%
3—Urgent	33.0%	27.6%	-5.4	25.8%	26.7%	30.6%
4—Semi-urgent	48.1%	43.0%	-5.1	40.6%	40.6%	48.0%
5—Non-urgent	84.0%	79.9%	-4.1	78.9%	78.6%	82.2%
Total	**43.2%**	**39.2%**	**-4.0**	**40.4%**	**41.3%**	**42.3%**
Proportion of presentations with a length of stay of 4 hours or less[2]						
Canberra Hospital	56.1%	52.0%	-4.1	51.8%	51.1%	53.3%
Calvary Public Hospital Bruce	66.5%	62.0%	-4.5	61.0%	61.5%	63.4%
Total	**60.2%**	**55.8%**	**-4.4%**	**55.2%**	**55.0%**	**57.2%**

1. The benchmarks for seen on time are as follows:
   - Triage category 1—100%
   - Triage category 2—80%
   - Triage category 3—75%
   - Triage categories 4, 5 and overall—70%

2. The performance benchmark for emergency department presentations with a length of stay of 4 hours or less is 90%.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	25/8/2020	
Cleared by:	Executive Group Manager	
Contact Officer name:	Peter O'Halloran	Ext: 49000
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Justine Spina	Ext: 49040
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/456	

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

	YTD 2018-19	YTD 2019-20	change	Q1 2019-20	Q2 2019-20	Q3 2019-20
Elective surgery waiting lists						
Number of patients waiting longer than clinically recommended at end of period						
Total by Urgency category 1 – 3	1,619	2,266	50.0%	594	783	889
Proportion of removals for surgery that were within clinically recommended timeframes						
Urgency 1 (see within 30 days)	95.9%	97.1%	1.2	96.6%	97.9%	97.0%
Urgency 2 (see within 90 days)	82.1%	71.8%	-10.3	70.8%	70.6%	61.9%
Urgency 3 (see within 365 days)	79.3%	75.8%	-3.5	75.8%	75.6%	76.0%
Separations from public hospitals						
Number of inpatient separations						
Same day	43,563	45,243	3.9%	15,311	15,282	14,654
Overnight	42,279	43,329	2.5%	15,115	14,548	13,654
Total	**85,842**	**88,562**	**3.2%**	**30,427**	**29,830**	**28,308**

Cleared as complete and accurate:	25/8/2020	
Cleared by:	Executive Group Manager	
Contact Officer name:	Peter O'Halloran	Ext: 49000
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Justine Spina	Ext: 49040
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/456	

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

GBC20/456
Portfolio: Health

ISSUE: BUDGET SUMMARY 2019-20 (MID YEAR) REVIEW

Talking points:

- Health expenses will grow to $1.968 billion in 2019-20 (excluding Territorial capital grants). This includes adjustments made through the second Appropriation Act.
- This represents an increase of $206 million (12 per cent) from the 2018-19 actual outcome.

<u>COVID-19 – Health funding</u>

- The ACT Government committed an additional $126 million, funded 50:50 between the ACT and Commonwealth governments, to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The funding will provide for: a COVID-19 surge centre; extra emergency department capacity; additional beds for ICU; fever clinics; and respiratory clinics; personal protective equipment; enhanced operational capacity for public health services including contact tracing and testing.

<u>Mid-year review (Canberra Health Services Demand)</u>

- As part of the mid-year budget update, the ACT Government provided Canberra Health Services (CHS) with a $60 million supplementary budget appropriation to help meet acute service demand this financial year.
- This investment in CHS will help maintain Emergency Department (ED) capacity, allow for the continuation of additional intensive care and general inpatient beds and maintain capacity for elective and emergency surgeries.
- This is part of our ongoing commitment to invest in public health services in the ACT to ensure Canberrans continue to access exceptional health care when and where they need it.
- Our emergency department presentations continue to grow and are becoming more complex.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	25/08/2020	
Cleared by:	Chief Finance Officer	Ext: 49428
Contact Officer name:	Jean-Paul Donda	Ext: 49641
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Kate Chambers	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/456	

  - Between 2017-18 and 2018-19, we saw an 8 per cent increase in category one patients, 10 per cent increase in category 2 and 4 per cent increase in category 3 – at the same time as we saw a 3 per cent fall in category 4 and 10 per cent fall in category 5.
  - On top of that, we're seeing more patients with co-morbidity – complex underlying health conditions that mean people take longer to treat. As well as more patients with a mental health presentation.
  - And last year we had the longest and busiest flu season since 2001 (in 2019 there were 6,259 presentations at the Canberra Hospital ED for influenza-like illness, up from 4,779 in 2018).
- All of this means more pressure on the emergency department and more demand for emergency surgery – an additional 2,569 presentations and 547 more emergency surgeries in the first half of this financial year compared to the same period in 2018-19.
- We had 16 additional beds open during a long winter and overall these demand pressures have equated to Canberra Hospital needing 136 more front-line staff, including doctors, nurses and allied health workers.
- We're not going to allow the increased demand for emergency treatment and emergency surgery compromise our commitment to improving elective surgery performance.
- In 2018-19, we delivered a record of more than 14,000 elective surgeries in the ACT and in the first half of 2019-20 we had delivered 7,317 elective surgeries.
- CHS CEO, Bernadette McDonald, and her team have been working diligently and methodically over several months to identify the cost pressures and to develop timely care strategies to keep patients flowing through the hospital and ensure it operates more efficiently.

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Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Kate Chambers	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/456	

- In 2019, Canberra Health Services commenced implementing changes to address patient flow and hospital capacity requirements. This work includes:
    - Multidisciplinary approach to initial assessment and treatment commencing, ensuring more patients commence care as soon as possible. It includes earlier physician engagement in the care provided, as well as expanded nurse protocols (approved pathways).
    - Working to streamline admission processes so that medical staff can work in parallel to admit to wards across the hospital in a timely manner.
    - A sharper focus across all divisions on admission from the emergency department, and discharge, as well diagnostics and support services is being taken to support more timely patient flow.
    - Exploring an expansion of rapid assessment models of care, including the Emergency Medical Unit.
    - This work was put on hold during March and April due to the COVID-19 pandemic and it has now recommenced.
- We are committed to improving the performance of the public health system across the board – and that includes improving financial performance as well as wait times.
- To do that effectively, we need everyone pulling together and everyone feeling confident that if they have a good idea for how to do things better, that will be listened to.

<u>2019-20 Budget</u>

- The 2019-20 Budget allocates $27.8 million to health service delivery (including Health Protection Services and Calvary Public Hospital) and $9.2 million to health policy, research, administration and support services inclusive of $2.9 million for ACT Health Core IT Systems.
- New health service delivery over the forward estimates (four years) will be $194.7 million.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	25/08/2020	
Cleared by:	Chief Finance Officer	Ext: 49428
Contact Officer name:	Jean-Paul Donda	Ext: 49641
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Kate Chambers	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/456	

- New health policy, research, administration and support services over the forward estimates (four years) will be $44.1 million, which includes $19.9 million for ACT Health Core IT Systems.
- There are no significant new savings targets contained in this Budget, however, Canberra Health Services will be required to internally fund $1.213 million towards the Emergency Department Doctor increase initiative per annum.

Key Information:

- New initiatives contained in the 2019-20 Budget are listed at Attachment A.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	25/08/2020	
Cleared by:	Chief Finance Officer	Ext: 49428
Contact Officer name:	Jean-Paul Donda	Ext: 49641
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Kate Chambers	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/456	

ACT Government

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

Attachment A

Treasury Ref		Mental Health	Recurrent					Capital				
			2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	Total	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	Total
			$000's	$000's	$000's	$000's	$000's	$000's	$000's	$000's	$000's	$000's
Canberra Health Services												
CHS E01	Expanding intensive care services at Canberra Hospital		7,149	7,041	7,235	7,341	**28,766**					**0**
CHS E02	Expanding public inpatient mental health care	MH	1,680	1,722	1,765	1,809	**6,976**					**0**
CHS E03	More beds at The Canberra Hospital		3,086	3,448	3,559	3,617	**13,710**					**0**
CHS E05	Expanding public Fracture Clinic services		556	1,139	1,167	1,197	**4,059**					**0**
CHS E06	Improving access to maternity services across Canberra		513	515	529	537	**2,094**					**0**
CHS E08	More specialised women's health care		114	214	220	223	**771**					**0**
CHS E12	Expanding public dermatology services		175	180	185	188	**728**					**0**
CHS E13	Strengthening care for chronic disease		240	462	474	481	**1,657**					**0**
CHS E15	7-day-a-week Mental Health Consultation Liaison service	MH	800	1,234	1,268	1,292	**4,594**					**0**
CHS E16	More mental health services at The Canberra Hospital	MH	0	488	999	1,078	**2,565**	1,764	756			**2,520**
CHS E25	Strengthening care for older Canberrans		470	482	494	506	**1,952**					**0**
CHS E26	More support for families travelling for healthcare		250	512	525	538	**1,825**					**0**
CHS E27	Expanding pharmacy services at Canberra Hospital		302	545	749	813	**2,409**	2,212	3,318			**5,530**
CHS E29	Expanding public ophthalmology services		250	0	0	0	**250**					**0**
CHS E30	Strengthening care for childhood and gestational diabetes		567	765	784	796	**2,912**					**0**
CHS E31	Expanding health services at the Alexander Maconochie Centre	MH	258	266	273	277	**1,074**					**0**
CHS E32	More opioid treatment services on Canberra's northside		0	750	770	790	**2,310**	611				**611**
CHS CW04	More public medical imaging services for Canberra Hospital		100	677	1,217	1,458	**3,452**		2,800	6,100	2,300	**11,200**
HEA E02	Delivering the Weston Creek Walk in Centre		1,946	2,705	2,887	2,933	**10,471**					**0**
HEA E26	Delivering better mental health care for people in crisis	MH	147	0	0	0	**147**					**0**
HEA E29	Alternative justice pathways for people with mental illness	MH	731	749	768	787	**3,035**					**0**
HEA E30	Expanding early intervention and diversion programs for people experiencing alcohol and drug dependence		949	644	660	677	**2,930**					**0**
CHS E33	More doctors in the Canberra Hospital Emergency Department to respond to increased demand		0	0	0	0	**0**					
Health System, Policy and Research												
HEA E06	Expanding palliative care for older Canberrans		408	363	373	519	**1,663**					**0**
HEA E07	Investing in medical and health research		1,000	1,000	1,000	0	**3,000**					**0**
HEA E08	Supporting better healthcare for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer Canberrans		87	0	0	0	**87**					**0**
HEA E09	Implementing the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse		321	377	285	289	**1,272**					**0**
HEA E11	Expanding public healthcare services for eating disorders	MH	179	442	683	913	**2,217**					**0**
HEA E13	Delivering better care for Canberrans with complex needs through general practice		500	1,000	1,000	0	**2,500**					**0**
HEA E14	Strengthening capacity for mental health carers	MH	226	231	0	0	**457**					**0**
HEA E15	Delivering the ACT Strategic Priorities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health 2019-2028		180	310	310	315	**1,115**					**0**
HEA E16a	Delivering the ACT Drug Strategy Action Plan		200	0	0	0	**200**					**0**
HEA E16b	Delivering the ACT Drug Strategy Action Plan		300	308	315	323	**1,246**					**0**

Cleared as complete and accurate:	25/08/2020	
Cleared by:	Chief Finance Officer	Ext: 49428
Contact Officer name:	Jean-Paul Donda	Ext: 49641
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Kate Chambers	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/456	

ACT Government

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

Attachment A (continued)

Treasury Ref		Mental Health	Recurrent					Capital				
			2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	Total	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	Total
			$000's	$000's	$000's	$000's	$000's	$000's	$000's	$000's	$000's	$000's
Canberra Health Services												
HEA E18	Protecting teens with meningococcal ACWY vaccinations		320	328	337	342	**1,327**					**0**
HEA E23	Implementing the Nurses and Midwives: Towards a Safer Culture – The First Step strategy		560	588	144	0	**1,292**					**0**
HEA E25	Co-design and Planning: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Alcohol and Drug Residential Rehabilitation Facility		300	0	0	0	**300**					**0**
HEA CW08	Implementing real time prescription monitoring		0	-30	-30	-30	**-90**	788	1,326			**2,114**
HEA E31	Implementing the Independent Review into the Workplace Culture within ACT Public Health Services		2,500	4,000	4,000	0	**10,500**					**0**
Corporate												
HEA CW01	Expanding the Centenary Hospital for Women and Children		0	3,990	14,990	20,510	**39,490**	3,000	30,000	10,550	0	**43,550**
HEA CW02	Delivering the SPIRE Centre at Canberra Hospital		0	200	400	500	**1,100**	53,700	42,300	126,900	159,000	**381,900**
HEA CW04	Expanding the Clare Holland House to strength palliative care		0	0	60	120	**180**	2,000	2,000	2,000	0	**6,000**
HEA CW05	Delivering the Inner North Walk in Centre		0	2,648	2,687	2,744	**8,079**	1,100	614	0	0	**1,714**
HEA CW09	ACT Health Core IT Systems to align with the Digital Health Strategy		2,860	4,625	7,975	4,487	**19,947**	3,920	24,574	25,504	16,380	**70,378**
Calvary												
HEA E01	More urology services at Calvary Public Hospital		432	962	991	1,021	**3,406**	2,500				**2,500**
HEA E03	More surgical theatres at Calvary Public Hospital		1,539	3,302	3,461	3,625	**11,927**	640	14			**654**
HEA E04	Expanding the emergency department at Calvary Public Hospital		3,021	6,143	6,352	6,475	**21,991**					**0**
Cross-agency												
CSD 03c	NDIS Full Scheme		1,179	1,208	1,239	1,270	**4,896**					**0**
CSD E15	Domestic & Family Violence Frontline training		216	296	296	301	**1,109**					**0**
JACS E39	Improving the safety of older drivers		300	0	0	0	**300**					**0**
JACS E01	A Safer Canberra - CHS resources for fixated threat mgt capability trial	MH	82	277	285	0	**644**					**0**

Cleared as complete and accurate: 25/08/2020
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Contact Officer name: Jean-Paul Donda Ext: 49641
Lead Directorate: Health
Cleared for release Yes
Information Officer name: Kate Chambers
TRIM Ref: GBC20/456

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

GBC20/456

Portfolio: Health

ISSUE: QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE REPORTING AND ACT HEALTH PUBLICATION OF DATA FOR CONSUMERS

Patient experience

- The quarterly performance report continues to show that the vast majority of people treated in our public hospitals experience a high quality of care.
- Almost 94 per cent of patients provided positive feedback on their experience within Canberra Health Services and more than 95 per cent reported a positive experience at Calvary Public Hospital Bruce.
- This is a fantastic result, particularly considering the extraordinary events experienced by our community over January to March 2020. Despite working through the busy bushfire season, an unprecedented smoke event and the early stages of a global pandemic, our health care staff remained focused on providing professional, compassionate and patient centred care.

Emergency presentations

- It is also pleasing to see improvements in Emergency Department waiting times and the proportion of patients treated on time across all triage categories.
- Emergency Department presentations dropped slightly from quarter two, which was expected due to the impact of COVID-19. However, the growth in particularly complex presentations over time has continued, with category one presentations increasing by more than a 30 per cent compared with the same quarter in 2019 (270 compared to 207).
- A year-to-date comparison shows a 35 per cent increase in Category 1 presentations and an increase in Category 2 presentations of more than 11 per cent.There is still work to do on ED waiting times and we are not

Cleared as complete and accurate:	25/08/2020	
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Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Justine Spina	Ext: 49040
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/456	

where we would like to be, but this report shows that the work underway in both hospitals is starting to have an impact

- A range of measures commenced in late February to improve ED performance, including:
    - a new multidisciplinary approach to the initial assessment of patients, enabling care to commence as quickly as possible through both early clinician engagement and expanded nurse protocols;
    - streamlining admission processes into wards across the hospital and sharpen the focus across all divisions on admitting patients from the ED; and
    - improving the timeliness of diagnostics and support services.
- While the hospital has been required to focus on its response to COVID-19 over the last few months, many of these measures are still being pursued, and we continue to keep a close eye on ED performance.
- Calvary's Emergency Department expansion works have been completed in stages, with eight new short stay beds delivered in late 2019, and 14 treatment spaces delivered in early 2020. Minor works are still underway, and the overall project is expected to be completed early in the second half of 2020.

<u>Elective surgeries</u>

- The ACT was on track to deliver a record 14,250 elective surgeries for the year prior to COVID-19 restrictions. By the end of March, the ACT public system had performed 10,422 procedures compared with 10,289 at the same time the year before.
- Unfortunately, the impact of COVID-19 has resulted in a reduction in elective surgeries since 25 March and an increase in overdue patients, which is why the ACT Government has committed to deliver at least 16,000 elective surgeries in 2020-21 to address the impacts of COVID-19.
- The percentage of surgeries performed within clinically recommended timeframes has decreased for Urgency Category 1 and 2 when compared

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to Quarter 2, 2019-20. Timeliness performance was largely unchanged for Urgency Category 3 when compared with the previous quarter.

Walk-in Centres

- Our Nurse-led Walk-in Centres continue to be very popular with Canberrans, with a substantial increase in presentations for the quarter. This reflects the opening of Weston Creek Walk-in Centre in December 2019 and the important role it has played in responding to COVID-19.
- Walk-in Centres continue to see a high level of demand, with a 32.3 per cent increase in the number of presentations compared to Quarter 2, 2019-20. This is partly the impact of dedicated COVID-19 drive through testing centres.
- Walk-in centres continued to fully treat most patients presenting (around 82 per cent) with less than 6 per cent redirected to an ED.
- The Government will open a fifth Walk-in-Centre for the Inner North soon.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	25/08/2020	
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QUESTION TIME BRIEF

GBC20/456

Portfolio: Health

ISSUE: INQUIRY INTO MATERNITY SERVICES IN THE ACT

Talking points:

- The Government Response demonstrates that we are listening and are committed to strengthening the public maternity system in the ACT, ensuring that the system is person- and baby-centred, supported by a strong and collaborative workforce.
- The Government acknowledges that there is further work to be done across the public maternity system and the Government is committed to making changes and improving our maternity services to meet the needs of families in the ACT and surrounding region into the future.
- The Government recognises the emphasis on greater health and mental health support, including provision of information and education to ensure an integrated and collaborative approach to maternity care across different healthcare and service providers.
- In particular, the Government acknowledges that more mental health supports are needed for parents and partners, as well as increased supports for those experiencing perinatal loss.
- We will work in partnership with consumers, stakeholders and health professionals to address the themes and recommendations outlined in the Report to create an inclusive, informed and responsive public maternity system for the ACT. This includes improving the inclusivity of our health services.
- The Government Response will build on the investments and reforms already underway to improve our maternity services, including through the home birth trial and the $50 million expansion of the Centenary Hospital for Women and Children.
- The expansion will provide additional capacity and support for maternity and paediatric services, including improving high care services for paediatrics; new adolescent gynaecology and mental health services; and increased prenatal and postnatal services.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	18/08/2020	
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Contact Officer name:	Maria Travers	
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Rebecca Williams	x49755
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/456	

Background

- The Report on Inquiry into Maternity Services in the ACT was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on 4 June 2020. The standing committee made 74 recommendations.
- The Government response agrees or agrees-in-principle to 65 recommendations and notes 9.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	18/08/2020	
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TRIM Ref:	GBC20/456	

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

GBC20/456

Portfolio: Health

ISSUE: ELECTIVE SURGERY WAITING TIMES

See QTB 19 for information on elective surgery catch up

Talking points:

- In keeping with the decisions of National Cabinet, the ACT suspended all *non-essential* elective surgery from 25 March 2020. This suspension applied to both public and private hospitals.
- On 15 May 2020, National Cabinet again took a decision on the resumption of elective surgery and elective surgery activity returned to normal levels from early June 2020.
- The ACT was on track to deliver a record 14,250 elective surgeries for the year prior to COVID-19 restrictions.
- Unfortunately, the impact of COVID-19 has resulted in a reduction in elective surgeries since 25 March and an increase in overdue patients, which is why the ACT Government has committed to deliver at least 16,000 elective surgeries in 2020-21 to address the impacts of COVID-19.
- We are very pleased that our hospitals have nevertheless been able to maintain the treatment timeliness for the most urgent Category 1 surgeries, with 97 to 98 per cent of these patients receiving their surgery within the clinically recommended 30-day timeframe.
- Unavoidably, timeliness for patients in Category 2 deteriorated in the third quarter of 2019-20.
- It has mainly been Category 3 patients who have had their surgeries deferred due to COVID-19. We won't see this in the data until the next reporting period, after these patients have started again to be admitted for surgery. This is because the time that a patient waited for their surgery is recorded at the time they receive their surgery.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	25/08/2020	
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Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Margaret Stewart	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/456	

- Because of the high priority that this Government places on health services for our community, we are also continuing with investments previously committed to improve elective surgery access and timeliness.
- These include:
    - the two new theatres opened at Calvary Public Hospital Bruce;
    - expanded urology services and staffing, to meet the growing demand for urology surgery in the ACT; and
    - the Canberra Hospital Expansion, which will provide state-of-the-art operating theatres and critical care facilities to meet the acute health care needs of our region into the future.
- Working with, both our public and the private hospitals, and with the surrounding NSW Local Health Districts, this Government continues to develop and implement strategies to improve timeliness of care. These include active management of the public elective surgery waitlist with the public and private service providers and working with clinicians to increase the focus on treating patients 'in turn' wherever clinically possible.
- Elective Surgery Information Hotline - (02) 5124 9889.

Background Information:

- The total number of elective surgeries delivered for public patients in the ACT last financial year was 12,870.
- Additional figures below if required:

Indicator	**2019-20 Target**	**2018-19 Result**	**2019-20 Q1 Result**	**2019-20 Q2 Result**	**2019-20 Q3 Result**
Number of elective surgery procedures performed	14,250	14,015	3,840	3,477	3,087
Category 1 elective surgery patients admitted for surgery within clinically recommended timeframes	100%	96%	97%	98%	97%
Category 2 elective surgery patients admitted for surgery within clinically recommended timeframes	80%	75%	71%	71%	62%
Category 3 elective surgery patients admitted for surgery within clinically recommended timeframes	93%	78%	76%	76%	76%

Cleared as complete and accurate:	25/08/2020	
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QUESTION TIME BRIEF

GBC20/456

Portfolio: Health

ISSUE: INTENSIVE CARE BED CAPACITY

Talking points:

- In Canberra, as across Australia, hospitals are experiencing pressures from increased demand for critical care services, like those provided by our intensive care units (ICU).
- While the SPIRE Project at Canberra Hospital will expand ICU capacity, early planning work has identified that extra capacity in the ICU will be required ahead of SPIRE's completion.
- ACT Health engaged a lead designer to complete the ICU Expansion concept plans and Preliminary Sketch Plans.
- This project is set to deliver an additional eight ICU beds, medical equipment and infrastructure, meeting the immediate acute health care needs of Canberrans.
- Canberra Health Services received $28.7 million over four years in the 2019-20 ACT Budget, to fund ICU staffing for four beds.
- The Commonwealth have committed $52 million for ACT Health projects, of which $13.5 million is for the ICU expansion, designed to create an additional six to eight beds.

Key Information

- The Canberra Hospital has physical capacity for 31 Intensive Care Unit (ICU) beds.
- The Calvary Public Hospital has physical capacity for 10 ICU beds.
- In periods of high demand, Canberra Hospital and Calvary work closely together to manage ICU demand. This can include the transfer of patients where clinically safe to do so.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	07/08/2020	
Cleared by:	Executive Group Manager	
Contact Officer name:	Liz Lopa	Ext: 49805
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Liz Lopa	Ext: 49719
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/456	

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

GBC20/456

Portfolio: Health

ISSUE: TERRITORY-WIDE HEALTH SERVICES PLAN

Talking points:

- ACT Health Directorate is developing a Territory-Wide Health Service Plan (the Plan).
- The Plan will identify priorities for health service development and redesign across the ACT.
- The Plan will be based on a comprehensive assessment of health service needs across the care continuum on a geographic basis and for priority population groups. It will consider the range of public health services provided by Canberra Health Services, Calvary Public Hospital Bruce and other organisations in the community.
- Key considerations of the planning process will be:
    - Aligning services with need;
    - A focus on prevention;
    - Improving integration of services; and
    - Embracing technology.
- Between November 2019 and March 2020, approximately 80 consultation sessions were undertaken with stakeholders from Canberra Health Services, Calvary Public Hospital Bruce, non-government organisations (NGO) funded by ACT Health Directorate and aged care providers in the ACT.
- Further consultation and engagement with consumers, carers, community and health service providers during the March-June 2020 period was put on hold due to COVID-19 response activities. A revised work program has now been developed for further engagement activities in late 2020.
- Planning for further engagement activities will be progressed in consultation with the Health Care Consumers' Association and the NGO Leadership Group.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	07/08/2020	
Cleared by:	Executive Group Manager	Ext: 49699
Contact Officer name:	Sarah Galton	Ext: 49877
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Jacinta George	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/456	

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

- The Plan was due to be completed by mid-2020. The Steering Committee has considered a revised work program to support finalisation of The Plan in the second half of the calendar year.
- A Canberra Health Services Clinical Services Plan is also being developed concurrently to inform development of a Master Plan for Canberra Hospital.
- Following the completion of The Plan, more detailed specialty or service plans will be developed where further detail is required to inform development or redesign of services. Work has already started on plans for child and adolescent and mental health services.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	07/08/2020	
Cleared by:	Executive Group Manager	Ext: 49699
Contact Officer name:	Sarah Galton	Ext: 49877
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Jacinta George	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/456	

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

GBC20/456

Portfolio: Health

ISSUE: CANBERRA HOSPITAL MASTER PLAN

Talking points:

- The ACT Health Directorate has commenced work on a Canberra Hospital Master Plan, in close collaboration with Canberra Health Services (CHS).
- A draft Master Plan Framework has been completed and has been designed to align with the significant work underway on CHS strategic planning.
- The draft Master Plan Framework includes the themes and principles under which the Canberra Hospital Master Plan will proceed.
- The four themes developed as part of phase one include: Health and Wellbeing; Social Value; Future Readiness; and Environmental Gain.
- The draft Master Plan Framework complements the work already underway, which looks at expanding hospital services on the northside of Canberra.
- A consultant was been engaged late in 2019 to undertake the Master Plan design.
- Consultation and engagement on the Master Plan, with the community and clinicians has been impacted by COVID-19 and therefore the project has been delayed.
- The design consultants are working on developing Master Plan options based on previous engagement data, clinical demand information, asset information and best practice reviews. The overall program will be extended to allow engagement and consultation with clinicians and the community.
- The Master Plan will provide a blueprint for how any future campus infrastructure investment decisions are considered.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	24/07/2020	
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Information Officer name:	Liz Lopa	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/456	

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

GBC20/456

Portfolio: Health

ISSUE: LONG TERM HEALTH PLANNING AND INVESTMENT

Talking points:

- The Government is investing significantly in infrastructure and services to meet the growing demand for health care in the ACT.
- Over the last decade, we have invested more than a billion dollars in health infrastructure, and we are continuing to invest.
- There is a significant program of service and infrastructure planning underway to ensure that future investment continues to be directed where it is most needed.
- Many of the infrastructure projects identified over the last decade as priorities to address demand, or decrease the rate of demand, for acute hospital services have been completed or are underway.
- These include the Centenary Hospital for Women and Children, University of Canberra Hospital, Dhulwa Mental Health Unit, the Adult Mental Health Unit at Canberra Hospital, additional operating theatres at Calvary Hospital, additional Emergency Department capacity at Canberra Hospital, new and expanded Community Health Centres, the Capital Region Cancer Centre and Walk-in Centres, in addition to more recent projects such as the Canberra Hospital Expansion, the expansion of the Centenary Hospital for Women and Children and the Calvary Emergency Department.
- Demand on our hospital, ambulatory and community based health services continues to grow as a consequence of population growth and ageing, increased prevalence of chronic disease, and advances in clinical care.
- Our planning also focuses on sustainable investment: in programs aimed at prevention and early intervention, technologies to support contemporary service models and care closer to home, community-based supported mental health accommodation and on workforce initiatives.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	26/08/2020	
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Information Officer name:	Jacinta George	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/456	

- The Government continues to review the Budget allocation to the health system in the context of other funding needs.

Stanhope/Ahmed article (Jan 2020)

- The ACT Government has increased health funding to $1.828 billion in 2019-20, almost double the $990.4 million expended by ACT Health in 2009-10.
- The ACT continues to have more beds per 1,000 population than the national average (2.64 compared with 2.53 in 2018-19).
- The ACT Government has invested over the last decade to maintain the average beds per 1,000 population (2.6 in 2009-10 to 2.64 in 2018-19).
- The Government has achieved this by increasing our beds from 907 in 2009-10 to 1,110 in 2018-19.
- Over the decade, the ACT Government has significantly improved elective surgery performance for the two most urgent categories, with investment of more than $90 million since 2016-17:
    - 96 per cent of category one seen on time in 2018-19 compared with 93 per cent in 2009-10;
    - 75 per cent of category two seen on time in 2018-19 compared with 44 per cent in 2009-10; and
    - An additional 4,185 surgeries performed in 2018-19 (14,015) compared with 2009-10 (9,830).
- The 2018-19 Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) report (Table 2.4) on elective surgery shows that:
    - the average yearly growth in the number of elective surgery admissions between 2014-15 and 2018-19 was 4.2 per cent compared to the national growth of 2.1 per cent;
    - the number of elective surgery admissions in the ACT increased by 5.1 per cent from 2017-18 to 2018-19 compared to the national growth of 1.2 per cent;
    - There has been significant growth above population growth (described as in 'real terms') of elective surgeries conducted in the

ACT, in excess of the national trend: an average of 2.2 per cent per year in real terms compared to the national average of 0.5 per cent

- Emergency department presentations in the most urgent triage categories continue to grow and there are signs that cases are becoming more complex. This is the trend that is expected with an ageing population and increasing incidence of chronic disease in the community.
    - An increasing proportion of patients presenting to our emergency departments have been in the most urgent triage categories. Between 2017-18 and 2018-19, we saw an 8 per cent increase in category 1 patients, 10 per cent increase in category 2 patients.
    - We have seen this same trend of increasing proportions of higher urgency cases occur in the first half of 2019-20 (pre-COVID-19) compared to the first half of 2018-19. The COVID-19 pandemic has contributed to an overall decline in emergency department presentations in 2019-20 by 5.5 per cent compared to 2018-19.

Key Information

- In 2009-10 public hospitals in the ACT had on average access to 907 beds, with additional Hospital in the Home capacity. The AIHW *Hospital Resources 2018-19: Australian hospital statistics* report (data tables released 9 July 2020) shows the average available beds in the ACT increased to 1,078 in 2017-18 and 1,110 in 2018-19.
- In addition, some public health services such as some elective surgery are undertaken in private facilities.
- Investments have been made since 2011 in foundational infrastructure such as additional skilled staff, new buildings and technologies.
- Investments in new technologies have underpinned expanded services and contemporary service models.
- We continue to review what is happening in the system, impacts of investments already made, for example at the University of Canberra Hospital and Walk-in Centres and to identify priorities for sustainable future investment and service re-design.
- A Territory-wide Health Service Plan (the plan) is expected to be completed by the end of 2020. The plan will identify priorities for future investment and service redesign.
- Work has started on plans for future development requirements for child and adolescent and mental health clinical services.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	26/08/2020	
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Information Officer name:	Jacinta George	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/456	

- Demand forecasting is being reviewed as part of these planning processes.
- Indicative results of a review of hospital activity over the past five years show that as well as the expected growth in the numbers of people being admitted to hospitals and attending emergency departments, the patients we are treating have more complex needs.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	26/08/2020	
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Information Officer name:	Jacinta George	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/456	

Table 2.4: Admissions from waiting lists for elective surgery, state and territories, 2014–15 to 2018–19

						Change (%)[a]	
	2014–15	2015–16[b]	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19	Average since 2014–15	Since 2017–18
New South Wales							
Number of admissions	217,727	217,817	222,893	226,499	229,851	1.4	1.5
Admissions per 1,000 population[c]	28.8	28.4	28.6	28.6	28.6	–0.2	–0.1
Victoria[d]							
Number of admissions	173,307	178,932	196,086	200,380	198,517	3.5	–0.9
Admissions per 1,000 population[c]	29.1	29.4	31.4	31.4	30.4	1.1	–3.0
Queensland							
Number of admissions	126,275	141,250	143,447	140,935	142,358	3.0	1.0
Admissions per 1,000 population[c]	26.6	29.4	29.4	28.4	28.2	1.4	–0.8
Western Australia							
Number of admissions	82,742	87,125	86,747	85,804	88,673	1.7	3.3
Admissions per 1,000 population[c]	32.7	34.2	33.8	33.2	34	1.0	2.4
South Australia							
Number of admissions	62,429	59,738	58,655	56,477	58,835	–1.5	4.2
Admissions per 1,000 population[c]	36.9	35	34.2	32.7	33.8	–2.2	3.3
Tasmania							
Number of admissions	15,598	18,973	19,187	17,564	17,858	3.4	1.7
Admissions per 1,000 population[c]	30.3	36.8	36.9	33.5	33.6	2.6	0.4
Australian Capital Territory							
Number of admissions	11,881	n.a.	12826	13,340	14,017	4.2	5.1
Admissions per 1,000 population[c]	30.3	n.a.	31.5	32	33.1	2.2	3.2
Northern Territory							
Number of admissions	7,634	8,019	8,250	7,779	8,027	1.3	3.2
Admissions per 1,000 population[c]	31.4	32.9	33.5	31.5	32.6	0.9	3.6
Total							
Number of admissions	**697,593**	**711,854**	**748,091**	**748,778**	**758,136**	**2.1**	**1.2**
Admissions per 1,000 population[c]	**29.5**	**29.7**	**30.7**	**30.2**	**30.1**	**0.5**	**–0.4**

(a) Interpretation of changes over time should take into account changes in coverage as noted in Appendix A.

(b) Excludes data for the Australian Capital Territory, which were not available at the time of publication.

(c) Crude rate based on the estimated resident population as at 30 June at beginning of the reference period.

Note: See appendixes A and B for notes on data limitations and methods.

Contents

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

GBC20/456

Portfolio: Health

ISSUE: TERRITORY-WIDE PUBLIC HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE

Talking points:

- The ACT Government is aware of the need to continue to upgrade public hospital and health facilities across the Territory and to provide new infrastructure to meet growing demand.
- Over the last decade, we have invested more than a billion dollars in health infrastructure, and we will continue to invest.
- To future-proof our healthcare system, we are looking at how we can better deliver health services so Canberrans receive high quality healthcare, when and where they need it, through Territory-wide health services and infrastructure planning.
- The ACT Health Directorate works closely with Canberra Health Services and Calvary Health Care ACT (Calvary) to explore opportunities to improve and expand health services and infrastructure to meet the needs of our growing city.
- That is why this Government is investing more than $186 million in infrastructure on the Canberra Hospital campus, in addition to more than $500 million in the Canberra Hospital Expansion at Canberra Hospital and the expansion of the Centenary Hospital for Women and Children.
- These projects, along with the Canberra Hospital Master Plan and other major investments, will not only transform the physical infrastructure on the campus but also allow for new and expanded services to be delivered to the community, such as a new adolescent mental health unit for young people in our community.
- The Government is also delivering a new Walk-in Centre at Dickson, providing faster access to care for people with minor illnesses in Canberra's Inner North. This new facility will bring Canberra's network of Walk-in Centres to five, with well-established Centres located in Belconnen and Tuggeranong, Gungahlin and Weston Creek.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	07/08/2020	
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Information Officer name:	Liz Lopa	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/456	

- Calvary is an important part of the Territory's health network and there is significant work underway to boost services at Calvary Public Hospital Bruce.
- The ACT Government committed more than $40 million for new services and infrastructure at Calvary's public hospital in the 2019-20 Budget. This included funding for the commissioning of two new theatres, which are now both open. This will enable the ACT Government to expand the ACT's elective surgery program.
- In the 2018-19 Budget, the Government provided $15 million for three Calvary projects including the emergency department (ED) expansion, relocation of the adult mental health unit as well as capital upgrades and equipment replacement.
- Construction of Calvary's ED expansion is nearing completion, with only minor works remaining. The project has delivered 22 additional treatment spaces, bringing the total to 61. Additional funding for more doctors, nurses, administration and other health professionals to support the physical expansion was also committed in the 2019-20 Budget.
- The upgrade of Calvary's Keaney building to deliver a standalone Adult Mental Health Unit, with co-located older persons and inpatient adult mental health services was completed in early 2020.
- The ACT Government is committed to improving public maternity services which has included investing $2.59 million into the refurbishment of the Calvary Maternity Unit, delivering cosmetic upgrades to birth suites and patient rooms as well as additional beds and single rooms on the maternity ward.
- With the Canberra Hospital Expansion scope now confirmed, the ACT Health Directorate is working to finalise infrastructure planning for the northside. This work is underway, and recommendations will be made to Government regarding infrastructure options, including works required to manage existing aged infrastructure.
- These initiatives demonstrate and support the Government's commitment to a whole-of-Territory approach to health service delivery and infrastructure planning and our commitment to delivering quality health care to our community.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	07/08/2020	
Cleared by:	Executive Group Manager	Ext: 49864
Contact Officer name:	Liz Lopa	Ext: 49864
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Liz Lopa	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/456	

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

GBC20/456

Portfolio: Health

ISSUE: CALVARY BUILDING CONDITION REPORT

Talking points:

- High quality health facilities are of the utmost importance for the ACT Government.
- That is why this government is exploring options to build a new northside hospital.
- A consultant is currently conducting a building condition assessment of the Calvary Public Hospital Bruce to inform the development of a Strategic Asset Management Plan (SAMP) and as part of the first stage of an options analysis for this new northside hospital.
- The original buildings at Calvary Public Hospital were built in 1979 and have required, like all older buildings, investments in repairs, maintenance and periodic upgrades over the years to keep step with standards and to maintain functionality, as well as, most importantly, patient and staff safety.
- Since 2016-17, the Government has invested $45,735,000 in infrastructure works at Calvary Public Hospital.
- The consultant's draft report has identified some assets at Calvary Public Hospital Bruce which need short-term investment – which the Government is currently considering.
- The investments include upgrades to some elements of the fire safety systems. Within the regular funding allocation provided by the ACT Government to Calvary, Calvary has a program of work in place to continue addressing the aged condition of the buildings, including fire safety.
- Once the consultant's report is finalised, ACT Health will discuss the findings with Calvary, and discuss what, if any, further short-, medium- and long-term actions are needed. These will be considered by the Government in the 2020-21 and subsequent Budgets as appropriate.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	12/08/2020	
Cleared by:	Executive Group Manager	
Contact Officer name:	Liz Lopa	Ext: 49805
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Liz Lopa	Ext: 49719
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/456	

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

Key Information

- AECOM judged the condition of CPHB facilities against current building and safety standards. However, the facilities at Calvary Public Hospital Bruce are ageing, and in common with similarly aged facilities around the country, building condition is a constant challenge. For example, facilities that are 40 or so years old (as Calvary is) will have been compliant with building and safety codes applicable at the time it was built, and will have a mixed compliance with current standards. Further, the standards do not apply retrospectively – a facility only need meet the standards applying at the time it was built. As codes change and become more stringent over time, maintaining an aged building to modern standards is a challenge. Nevertheless, a facility that met the appropriate standards when it was built several decades ago can still be a safe facility and can still gain all the relevant accreditations.
- Calvary has assured ACT Health about its current fire safety measures and future plans to address building condition.
- Calvary recently achieved renewal of the National Safety and Quality Health Service (NSQHS) Standards accreditation.

Background Information

- The consultant report remains in draft at the time of writing.
- Due to the impact of COVID-19, AECOM was unable to conduct the original scope of site inspections. Instead AECOM's assessment was based on a desktop review of material provided by Calvary, and a walk through by AECOM's engineers.
- The ACT Government's consultant report is currently being reviewed by Calvary for accuracy and any additional information not available to the consultant in their limited inspections prior to it being finalised by the consultant.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	12/08/2020	
Cleared by:	Executive Group Manager	
Contact Officer name:	Liz Lopa	Ext: 49805
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Liz Lopa	Ext: 49719
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/456	

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

GBC20/456

Portfolio: Health

ISSUE: HEALTH DIRECTORATE STAFF CLIMATE SURVEY 2019

Talking points:

- The ACT Health Directorate's Workplace Climate survey was conducted between 8 and 26 November 2019.
- Summary results were presented to the Directorate executive and staff on 12 February 2020.
- The high completion rate of 82 per cent indicates the survey results are statistically reliable.
- The results indicate the Directorate has a culture of 'consolidation', which means that 40-50 per cent of employees are engaged, and this is typical of a culture that is in transition.
- The results show strong agreement around several work culture indicators, including that the workplace is free from sexual harassment; that there is good workplace flexibility; and the value of Integrity is demonstrated by colleagues.
- The results also identify a number of aspects of the Directorate's culture which will be targeted as part of the post-debrief Action Planning. These include perceptions of favouritism, of behaviour not espousing the values; and of poor internal processes, systems and procedures.
- The Directorate executive group will continue to explore the results of the survey with staff, and integrate action plans into divisional business plans.
- In accordance with Recommendation 75 from the Select Committee on Estimates, I provided the Assembly with a report on 2 April 2020.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	19/08/2020	
Cleared by:	Executive Group Manager	Ext: x49869
Contact Officer name:	Julie Nolan	Ext: x49835
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Julie Nolan	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/456	

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

Key Information

- 82 per cent of Directorate staff completed the survey. The average completion rate for an organisation with staff between 200-2000 staff is 63 per cent.
- Information that has the potential to identify business units or individual staff and/or managers will not be made available.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	19/08/2020	
Cleared by:	Executive Group Manager	Ext: x49869
Contact Officer name:	Julie Nolan	Ext: x49835
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Julie Nolan	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/456	

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

GBC20/456

Portfolio: Health

ISSUE: CULTURE REVIEW

Talking points:

- The ACT Government invests significantly in the delivery of public health services to ensure safe, high quality healthcare for the ACT community and our surrounding regions. In addition to taking care of our community, we are also working hard to ensure that our staff are cared for and feel valued.
- On 16 May 2019 the Government agreed to implement the 20 recommendations of the *Final Report of the Independent Review into the Workplace Culture within ACT Public Health Services.*
- The mental health and wellbeing of our workforce are central to the changes that we will implement, ensuring our staff feel valued, safe and supported in the important work they do for our community.
- The effect of this will be a better public health system for staff and the Canberra community.
- Since May 2019, substantial work has occurred in reviewing and stabilising organisational and governance structures.
- The Culture Review Oversight Group and the Culture Review Implementation Steering Group have been established to ensure effective and efficient implementation across the ACT public health system.
- Through a comprehensive program plan, work is being progressed in an iterative manner to ensure that core objectives are met in a step-by-step process.

<u>Annual Review of Culture Review Implementation</u>

- The report *ACT Public Health Services Cultural Review Implementation: Inaugural Annual Review* was tabled in the ACT Legislative Assembly on 4 June 2020.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	07/08/2020	
Cleared by:	Executive Branch Manager	Ext: 49923
Contact Officer name:	Jodie Junk-Gibson	Ext: 49923
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Jodie Junk-Gibson	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/456	

- It is the first of three annual Reviews to be undertaken to meet Recommendation 19 of the Final Review to report on the extent of the implementation and progression of the 20 recommendations from the Review, and consequent impact on cultural changes within the health system.
- Mick Reid from Michael Reid and Associates, who led the Independent Review in 2018, undertook this first Review.
- The Review commenced in March 2020 and included one-on-one interviews with a cross-section of key internal and external stakeholders, including members of the Culture Review Oversight Group and Culture Review Implementation Steering Group.
- The Review identified that implementation of the 20 recommendations is tracking well, particularly areas that are in control of the individual arms of the health system. Progression by the three organisations on vision, values, altered workplace policies and human resources functions was particularly evident and encouraging.
- More work will occur over the next 12 months to progress the whole-of-system recommendations that the Review identified were not progressing at the same pace.
- Overall, the review confirmed we are heading in the right direction.
- The Oversight Group will be convening a workshop on 25 August 2020 with the key aims of reviewing the Group's Terms of Reference and discussing and agreeing on the roles and responsibilities of the Group. This workshop will be the first of two in response to the key finding of the Annual Review: "The Oversight Group should convene a strategic workshop to consider the issues raised in the Review".
- It was acknowledged that cultural changes takes time and requires sustained effort over several years. And the ACT public health system is in an early phase of positive change.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	07/08/2020	
Cleared by:	Executive Branch Manager	Ext: 49923
Contact Officer name:	Jodie Junk-Gibson	Ext: 49923
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Jodie Junk-Gibson	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/456	

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

GBC20/456

Portfolio: Health

ISSUE: ACT AIR QUALITY

Talking points:

Royal commission

- ACT Health Directorate (ACTHD) has contributed to submissions to the Royal commission into national natural disaster arrangements in regards to air quality in the ACT
- The Government supports the development of a standardised national air quality reporting and categorisation framework. This will improve communication to the public, ensuring high quality public health and air quality information is developed and provided to all Australians.

Community Impact

- During poor air quality events the ACTHD proactively issues public health information via Government websites, mainstream and social media.
- During the 2019-2020 bushfire smoke event our public health services observed increased smoke related presentations noting that these are not clinical indicators, rather patient reported. These presentations did not have a significant impact on overall Emergency Department presentations.

Community access to P2/N95 Respirator Masks

- The Commonwealth Government provided approximately 400,000 P2/N95 masks to the ACT in two instalments from the National Medical Stockpile between 5 and 7 January 2020.
- The ACT Government partnered with the Pharmacy Guild of Australia and the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia to distribute the masks to all ACT community pharmacies. These masks were then made available free of charge from pharmacies to sensitive groups who are most at risk of the health impacts of exposure to the smoke.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	03/08/2020	
Cleared by:	Conrad Barr	Ext:49262
Contact Officer name:	Conrad Barr	Ext:49262
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Conrad Barr	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/456	

Key Information

Air quality figures

- The highest level of PM2.5 recorded by ACT Health was on 5 January 2020, which reached an hourly reading of 2,496µg/m3 (microgram per cubic metre) at the Florey monitoring station.
- Between 28 November 2019 and 28 January 2020 there were 47 days where at least one station recorded an Air Quality Index (AQI) above the national standard (100-Poor). On the days that exceeded the standard, 35 days also exceeded the Hazardous (200) threshold.

P2/N95 Respirator Masks

- 82 ACT community pharmacies were provided with masks and a distribution fact sheet titled 'P2 / N95 masks - distribution of Commonwealth stock by community pharmacies' to ensure consistency of issuing across the territory.

Air quality monitoring

- ACTHD monitors air quality via three monitoring stations located at Civic, Florey and Monash:
    - An Air Quality Index (AQI) is a scale used to monitor air quality for a range of pollutants across the ACT, not just smoke, and is calculated in reference to national standards;
    - At other times, the AQI might be impacted by dust (PM10) or rarely, ozone.
    - Hourly information and 24-hour rolling averages are published on the public ACTHD website;
    - Health advice categories are also published on the website (based on the 24-hour rolling PM2.5 average).

Cleared as complete and accurate:	03/08/2020	
Cleared by:	Conrad Barr	Ext:49262
Contact Officer name:	Conrad Barr	Ext:49262
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Conrad Barr	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/456	

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

GBC20/456

Portfolio: Health

ISSUE: NGUNNAWAL BUSH HEALING FARM

Talking points:

- The Ngunnawal Bush Healing Farm (NBHF) provides a place of healing for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to feel safe and supported, while making ongoing and meaningful changes in their lives.
- Programs allow clients to participate in a range of cultural activities such as land management, mindfulness, music, yarning circles and a healing program.
- The seventh NBHF program commenced on 10 August 2020 and will be implemented over ten weeks to 15 October 2020.
- Ten individuals have been invited to participate in the program.
- A panel of providers has been established to deliver NBHF programs and is in place for two years until June 2022. Providers were selected in line with the ACT Government's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Procurement Policy.
- On 10 July 2020, the NBHF Advisory Board has also held its first meeting in 2020 virtually via Webex. The key items discussed were the:
    - Overview of the ACTHD Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Partnerships Team;
    - ACTHD's approach to the development of policies that address gaps and improve accessibility to culturally appropriate services and support within the health and emotional wellbeing sector;
    - Presentation on the Governance Review Final Report, a summary of the 12 recommendations and next steps; and
    - Update on the finalisation of the Healing Framework.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	06/08/2020	
Cleared by:	Executive Group Manager	Ext: 49699
Contact Officer name:	Michael Culhane	Ext: 49699
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Jon Ord	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/456	

- The second Advisory Board meeting was held 14 August 2020. The interim Healing Framework report was discussed with the Healing Foundation to provide a status update presentation at the next meeting, 4 September 2020.
- Expressions of interest (EOI) to expand the Advisory Board membership will be discussed at the next meeting, including agreement on the candidate selection method.

Key Issues

NBHF Review

- ACT Health Directorate (ACTHD) contracted Mr Russell Taylor AM, Director of Burbangana Group to review the service operations at the Ngunnawal Bush Healing Farm (NBHF), including several elements, one of which is a review of Governance arrangements.
- The review of governance arrangements is completed. The final report was received on 29 July 2019. It includes 12 recommendations, some of which have progressed in collaboration with the Advisory Board. The Advisory Board has been provided with a copy of the Final review of NBHF Governance Arrangements Report.
- The second element of the review is the review of programs. This element of the review has been paused pending the completion of a cultural Healing Framework.

Development of a NBHF Healing Framework

- The Interim Healing Framework Report was delivered to ACTHD on 31 July 2020. A Detailed Final Healing Framework Report is due 31 October 2020. The Healing Foundation was engaged to co-design a Healing Framework to:
    - identify healing priorities of Ngunnawal Elders and the broader ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community;
    - balance therapeutic support with strengthening cultural identity and connection;
    - embed principles to guide the practice of NBHF and partner agencies in supporting healing for clients in line with the Living Web Framework.
- The Healing Framework will shape NBHF policies and inform the nature and design of NBHF program curriculum and is being developed with close engagement with UNEC.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	06/08/2020	
Cleared by:	Executive Group Manager	Ext: 49699
Contact Officer name:	Michael Culhane	Ext: 49699
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Jon Ord	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/456	

Programs

- Program 7 is underway, with planning in train for an additional eight week program to commence on 2 November 2020 with up to 12 participants.
- The first two days of Program 7 were held at the Yarramundi Cultural Centre as flooding cut off access to the NBHF.
- A panel of providers has been established to deliver NBHF programs comprising Worldview Foundation Limited, Yurbay, Relationships Australia, Clybucca Dreaming, CIT Yurana Centre, TLMC Institute and Yeddung Mura (Good Pathways) Aboriginal Corporation.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	06/08/2020	
Cleared by:	Executive Group Manager	Ext: 49699
Contact Officer name:	Michael Culhane	Ext: 49699
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Jon Ord	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/456	

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

GBC20/388

Portfolio: Health

ISSUE: HYDROTHERAPY POOL OPTIONS ANALYSIS AND MARKET SOUNDING

Talking points:

- The ACT Government is exploring options for the development of a new hydrotherapy pool in Canberra's south.
- An external consultant undertook an options analysis, considering both standalone and an expansion of existing facilities.
- The Government also undertook a market sounding process which called for proposals from parties interested in working with the Government to develop a public hydrotherapy pool located in Canberra's south.
- The marketing sounding process closed on 14 February 2020, and the responses were considered as part of the options analysis.
- The Government recognises the value of hydrotherapy as an ongoing therapeutic activity for many people with chronic illness to maintain their mobility, manage their pain and foster overall wellbeing.
- The Government will consider the options closely and I look forward to making an announcement about the outcomes of this process.

Key Information

- The hydrotherapy pool at the Canberra Hospital closed on 29 February 2020. It did not meet the Australian Standards for Hydrotherapy Pools nor the current Australian Safety standards.
- The University of Canberra hospital, in Canberra's north, hosts a hydrotherapy pool facility which community groups such as Arthritis ACT can access.
- In late 2019, the ACT Government committed to exploring options to deliver a new hydrotherapy pool in Canberra's south to replace the hydrotherapy pool at the Canberra Hospital.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	07/08/2020	
Cleared by:	Executive Group Manager	Ext: 49805
Contact Officer name:	Liz Lopa	Ext: 49805
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Liz Lopa	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/456	

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

GBC20/456

Portfolio: Health

ISSUE: Lead paint

Talking points:

- It is understandable that some parents may be concerned about the level of exposure and any resultant risk to their child.
- **The most common exposure pathways to lead are ingestion (eating or drinking) and inhalation of dust containing lead particles.**
- **ACT Health has been supporting the Education Directorate in providing information about this issue since mid-2019.**
- The limited timeframe of exposure, potentially over 2 days, following the completion of the works, significantly reduces the likelihood of negative health effects from this exposure for anyone who has utilised the affected classrooms.
- Those parents whose children were present within classrooms found to contain lead dust and who have concerns as to the potential heath effect on their child are encouraged to speak with their GP.

Key information:

- Acute symptoms of lead poisoning, which are seen where there are high levels of lead exposure over a short period of time, include muscle pains, fatigue, abdominal pains, headache, nausea and vomiting, seizures and coma.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	20/8/2020	
Cleared by:	Executive Branch Manager	
Contact Officer name:	Conrad Barr	
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Conrad Barr	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/456	

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

GBC20/456

Portfolio: Health

ISSUE: HEALTH FUNDING AND ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PEOPLES' ACCESS TO EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT AND ELECTIVE SURGERY SERVICES

Talking points:

Health Funding

- The Government is investing significantly in infrastructure and services to meet the growing demand for health care in the ACT.
- Over the last decade, we have invested more than a billion dollars in health infrastructure, and we are continuing to invest.
- The ACT Government has increased health funding to $1.828 billion in 2019-20, almost double the $990.4 million expended by ACT Health in 2009-10.

Emergency Department timeliness

- The AIHW Emergency Department Care 2018-19 report shows there is no difference in the median wait time for Category 1 and Category 2 Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians who present to ACT emergency departments.
- For Categories 3 to 5, the median wait time is higher for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people by 2 to 4 minutes. Importantly, due to the relatively low total number of Aboriginal and torres Strait Islander people who present to the ACT's emergency departments, the reported numbers are subject to statistical variation.
- The Government is investing in additional staffing and infrastructure to improve emergency department performance, including:
    - an additional two senior staff specialists for Canberra Hospital's ED;
    - 12 additional beds at Canberra Hospital to reduce bed block;

Cleared as complete and accurate:	20/08/2020	
Cleared by:	Jacinta George	Ext:49969
Contact Officer name:	Jacob Fell	Ext:49349
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Jacob Fell	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/456	

- increasing Calvary Public Hospital Bruce's ED capacity by 50 per cent (22 treatment spaces), with new spaces having opened in a staged way during 2020, increasing the ACT hospital system's overall ED capacity by 20 per cent;
- providing alternative forms of clinical treatment through walk-in centres to allow the right treatment in the right place;
- investing in initiatives such as Hospital in the Home (HITH), and the Geriatric Rapid Acute Care Evaluation (GRACE) program, which provides treatment in residential aged care facilities and aims to reduce emergency department presentations and hospital admissions;
- communicating strategies and educating consumers on their treatment options as an alternative to emergency department care; and
- targeting initiatives for known high demand periods, such as during flu seasons.

Elective Surgery timeliness

- The ACT has the lowest proportion Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Australia. Relatively small numbers can result in significant statistical variation from year to year.
- A review of CHS median wait time data for 2017 to 2020 has shown that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people had similar wait times for elective surgery compared to other patients for category 1 surgery (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people waited one day less) and category 3 patients (four days less).
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people waited longer for category 2 surgery than other patients (seven days more).
- Because of the high priority that this Government places on health services for our community, we are also continuing with investments previously committed to improve elective surgery access and timeliness.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	20/08/2020	
Cleared by:	Jacinta George	Ext:49969
Contact Officer name:	Jacob Fell	Ext:49349
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Jacob Fell	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/456	

- These include:
    - the commissioning of two new theatres at Calvary Public Hospital Bruce – both of which are now open;
    - expanded urology services and staffing, to meet the growing demand for urology surgery in the ACT; and
    - the Canberra Hospital Expansion, which will provide state-of-the-art operating theatres and critical care facilities to meet the acute health care needs of our region into the future.

Key Information

- On Tuesday 18 August 2020, the Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health and Community Services Organisation provided its current newsletter to all Members of the Legislative Assembly.
- The newsletter includes reference to elective surgery and emergency department timeliness information sourced from recent AIHW reports.
- Specifically, the newsletter states:
    - *Across Australia during the period 2014-15 to 2018-19 the proportion of people in the ACT who waited more than 365 days for surgery was 3 to 4 times higher than the average of all other jurisdictions. To take just one example, the number of Canberra women who waited longer than 365 days for gynaecological surgery was proportionately 425% of the Australian average.*
- The comparison of specific surgical categories between states and territories is not statistically valid due to the major differences in patient cohorts.
- The tables below show that when compared with their peer grouped hospital median waits times for gynaecology operations, Canberra Hospital has lower wait times than its peers and Calvary Public Hospital Bruce has lower waits times for Hysterectomy procedures but higher wait times for other gynaecological procedures.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	20/08/2020	
Cleared by:	Jacinta George	Ext:49969
Contact Officer name:	Jacob Fell	Ext:49349
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Jacob Fell	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/456	

AIHW: Gynaecology operations for 2018-19 Canberra Hospital against "peer" Major hospitals (AIHW definition of peer hospital type)

Operation	Canberra Hospital Median wait times	Peer "Major" Hospitals Median wait times
Total Hysterectomy	28 Days	46 Days
Curettage	2 Days	6 Days
Loop excision of the Cervix	29 Days	45 Days
Hysteroscopy	29 Days	30 days

AIHW Gynaecology operations for 2018 for 2018-19 Calvary Hospital against "peer" metropolitan hospitals (AIHW definition of peer hospital type)

Operation	Calvary Hospital Median wait times	Peer "Metro" Hospitals Median wait times
Total Hysterectomy	62 Days	70 Days
Curettage	Not available	6 Days
Loop excision of the Cervix	63 Days	40 Days
Hysteroscopy	54 Days	32 days

Cleared as complete and accurate:	20/08/2020	
Cleared by:	Jacinta George	Ext:49969
Contact Officer name:	Jacob Fell	Ext:49349
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Jacob Fell	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/456	

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

GBC20/457

Portfolio: Mental Health

ISSUE: COVID-19 Office for Mental Health Wellbeing and Office of the Chief Psychiatrist

Talking points:

- As the pandemic has progressed, the immediate effects on mental health across our community are becoming clearer. The longer term impacts are being monitored.
- The impact of COVID-19 has led to an increase in the number of people seeking mental health support and is expected to increase.
- In March 2020, the ACT Government provided funding to Lifeline for increased telephone counselling and in May 2020 announced a mental health support package of nearly $4.5 million.
- This support package will strengthen our mental health sector to adapt and expand services during the COVID-19 crisis and into the longer term.
- Some of the initiatives in the package include:
    - $1.44 million to respond to people experiencing acute mental health crisis in the community;
    - $500,000 for additional sub-acute accommodation for people exiting mental health inpatient units;
    - $341,843 for two new Canberra Safe Haven Cafes, which will a community based safe alternative to the emergency department and other treatment services;
    - $200,000 for Way Back Support Service to expand non-clinical support for people who have made a suicide attempt;
    - $250,000 for an Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander specific Mental Health program for suicide prevention; and
    - $100,000 for OzHelp to continue to support workplaces and to expand their service to people who have lost employment.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	17/08/2020	
Cleared by:	Elizabeth Moore	Ext: x49600
Contact Officer name:	Lee-Anne Rogers	
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Elizabeth Moore and Denise Riordan	Ext: 49600& x50687
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/457	

  - On 12 August 2020 the ACT Government announced it will provide a $1.7 million Children, Young People and their Families Package to help ease the financial stress for young carers, foster and kinship carers and young people. The package includes one off payments to non-government service providers to help them deliver services.

- In addition to the specific allocations in the package, $450,000 was provided for innovative initiatives in the NGO sector. The first round of applications for these grants closed on 17 July 2020 with the outcomes to be announced in August.
- The Aspen COVID-19 Surge Ward on Garran oval has been approved under the Mental Health Act. In the event that someone with COVID-19 who also experiences serious mental ill health and required treatment under the Act was admitted, the approval of the facility would ensure they continued to receive appropriate care.
- In addition, an ACT Mental Health and Wellbeing Oversight Group has been established to support coordinated whole of government communications planning for mental health and wellbeing.
- **M**ental health **initiatives are an important part of the ACT Government's Community Recovery Plan which is a multi-staged plan to support our community throughout the** recovery.
- The Office for Mental Health and Wellbeing and the Chief Psychiatrist are continuing to work closely across the ACT Government and the community sector to ensure coordinated and connected whole of community planning.
- The Office meets regularly with peak mental health non-government organisations to identify the emerging and ongoing issues impacting consumers, carers and community service providers.

Key Information:

- The ACT Health Directorate has worked with the Chief Psychiatrist on contingency planning for the functions and operations of the Mental Health Act in the COVID-19 environment, including developing a hierarchy of the Chief Psychiatrist delegations to ensure immediate continuity in the event that the Chief Psychiatrist is unable to fulfill her functions.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	17/08/2020	
Cleared by:	Elizabeth Moore	Ext: x49600
Contact Officer name:	Lee-Anne Rogers	
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Elizabeth Moore and Denise Riordan	Ext: 49600& x50687
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/457	

- A Deputy Chief Medical Officer for Mental Health has been appointed. The Chief Psychiatrists from all jurisdictions will have regular meetings with her, to provide advice and feedback to assist her in her role.
- The ACT COVID-19 scenario planning for the whole of the mental health system is progressing with consideration of the impact of the second wave and gradual easing scenarios.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	17/08/2020	
Cleared by:	Elizabeth Moore	Ext: x49600
Contact Officer name:	Lee-Anne Rogers	
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Elizabeth Moore and Denise Riordan	Ext: 49600& x50687
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/457	

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

GBC20/457

Portfolio: Mental Health

ISSUE: AIHW's Mental Health Services in Australia Report

Talking points:

Seclusion Events:

- As noted by Mrs Kikkert in Question Time on 23 July 2020, the ACT reported a rate of 10.9 seclusion events per 1,000 bed days which was higher than the national average. This figure is reported by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) in the Key Performance Indicators report of the Mental Health Services in Australia data collection.
- However, as reported by the AIHW this information is not without its caveats as high numbers of seclusion events for a few individuals can have a disproportional effect on the rate of seclusion reported.
- The AIHW note in their Restrictive Practices Report 2018-19 that the increased rates of seclusion for the ACT in 2017-18 and 2018-19 are due to a small number of clients having an above average number of seclusion events.
- This is a difficult area, although I can assure those opposite that Canberra Health Services staff take this matter very serious. Seclusion is used as a last resort when all standard methods for keeping the person and/or others safe have failed, or in emergency circumstances to ensure the immediate safety of people.

Outcomes Measures

- In Question Time on 23 July 2020, Mr Parton asked about readmission rates within 28 days of separation and the improvement outcomes for people exiting inpatient episodes of care. These are multifaceted figures, from the Key Performance Indicators report, that do not necessarily account for the full range of services and quality in the ACT Mental Health System.

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Cleared by:	Deputy Director-General	Ext: 49180
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Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Michael Culhane	Ext: 49392
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/457	

- Firstly, the separations figures do not make a distinction between planned or unplanned readmissions. Secondly, the outcomes figures do not compare the relative severity of the admissions into acute care. These issues can make it difficult to effectively make comparisons to other jurisdictions.
- These also do not reflect the strong connections between community mental health care and the acute system in the ACT.
- In the Key Performance Indicators Report, the AIHW According to the AIHW, the ACT had the highest rate of community care up to seven days before admission to an inpatient ward, and a higher than national average rate of community care follow-up within seven days post-discharge. The ACT also provides the highest average number of community treatment days per three-month community care period.
- These are all examples of the wrap-around mental health support that is available to people in the ACT.
- Furthermore, the ACT Government expects these figures to improve as we are continuing to support both community and acute services.
- This includes our recent commitments through the ACT Government's Mental Health Support Package, announced in May. This support included:
    - $2.55 million of additional funds to community mental health organisations to support their existing services to meet increased demand from Canberrans;
    - $720,000 to expand the operating capacities of the Access Mental Health and the Home Assessment Acute Response Teams;
    - $720,000 to expand the operation of the Police, Ambulance, Clinician Emergency Response (PACER) program to 7 days a week; and
    - $500,000, to work in partnership with the Mental Health Foundation, to establish a temporary accommodation program for people exiting acute inpatient units who do not have safe and stable accommodation to exit into.

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- Each of these supports will help to improve the mental health outcomes of people with mental health needs in the ACT, across a variety of system settings. This is particularly important in response to the mental health and wellbeing impacts of COVID-19 in the ACT and across Australia.

Background:

- Mental Health Services in Australia is an annual series of data reports collated by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) that presents a picture of the national and jurisdictional responses for a range of mental health services in response to the needs of Australians. The Mental Health Services in Australia reports are updated progressively in a series of tranches throughout each year as the data becomes available.
- In Question Time on 23 July 2020 Mrs Elizabeth Kikkert MLA and Mr Mark Parton MLA, asked several questions relating to mental health data using the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare's (AIHW) Mental Health Services in Australia data sets.
- These questions related to seclusion rates and the readmission rates to, and improvement outcomes from, acute inpatient mental health services. The data for these questions comes from the Key Performance Indicators and Restrictive Practices Reports for 2018-19, which were released on 30 January 2020.
- The most recent release of the Mental Health Services in Australia was the Tranche 3 release on 21 July 2020, which included the reports:
    - Psychiatric Disability Support Services, 2018-19;
    - Specialist Homelessness Services, 2018-19; and
    - Mental Health Workforce, 2018.
- In the 2019-20 ACT Budget, the ACT Government has continued its investment into the expansion and development of mental health services in the ACT. This includes:
    - Committing over $20 million to expand the Calvary Public Hospital Emergency Department;
    - Nearly $7 million to boost the public inpatient mental health staffing in the Canberra Hospital;
    - $4.5 million to expand the Mental Health Consultation Liaison service at the Canberra Hospital to operate seven days a week;
    - Over $2.2 million to expand the public healthcare services for eating disorders; and
    - $2.8 million to establish an electroconvulsive therapy service within the Adult Mental Health Unit at Canberra Hospital. This will provide better access on

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Canberra's Southside to necessary therapy for patients experiencing mental health concerns like severe depression and psychosis.

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TRIM Ref:	GBC20/457	

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

GBC20/457

Portfolio: Mental Health

ISSUE: Culture Review

Talking points:

- The ACT Government invests significantly in the delivery of public health services to ensure safe, high quality healthcare for the ACT community and our surrounding regions. While taking care of our community, we are also working hard to ensure that our staff are cared for and feel valued.
- On 16 May 2019 the Government agreed to implement the 20 recommendations of the *Final Report of the Independent Review into the Workplace Culture within ACT Public Health Services.*
- The mental health and wellbeing of our workforce are central to the changes that we will implement, ensuring our staff feel valued, safe and supported in the important work they do for our community.
- The effect of this will be a better public health system for staff and the Canberra community.
- Since May 2019, substantial work has occurred in reviewing and stabilising organisational and governance structures.
- The Culture Review Oversight Group and the Culture Review Implementation Steering Group have been established to ensure effective and efficient implementation across the ACT public health system.
- Through a comprehensive program plan, work is being progressed in an iterative manner to ensure that core objectives are met in a step-by-step process.

<u>Annual Review of Culture Review Implementation</u>

- The report *ACT Public Health Services Cultural Review Implementation: Inaugural Annual Review* was tabled in the ACT Legislative Assembly on4 June 2020.
- It is the first of three annual Reviews to be undertaken to meet Recommendation 19 of the Final Review to report on the extent of the implementation and progression of the 20 recommendations from the Review, and consequent impact on cultural changes within the health system.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	07/08/2020	
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Contact Officer name:	Jodie Junk-Gibson	
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Jodie Junk-Gibson	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/457	

- Mick Reid from Michael Reid and Associates, who led the Independent Review in 2018, undertook this first Review.
- The Review commenced in March 2020 and included one-on-one interviews with a cross-section of key internal and external stakeholders, including members of the Culture Review Oversight Group and Culture Review Implementation Steering Group.
- The Review identified that implementation of the 20 recommendations is tracking well, particularly areas that are in control of the individual arms of the health system. Progression by the three organisations on vision, values, altered workplace policies and human resources functions was particularly evident and encouraging.
- More work will occur over the next 12 months to progress the whole-of-system recommendations that the Review identified were not progressing at the same pace.
- Overall, the review confirmed we are heading in the right direction.
- The Oversight Group will be convening a workshop on 25 August 2020 with the key aims of reviewing the Group's Terms of Reference and discussing and agreeing on the roles and responsibilities of the Group. This workshop will be the first of two in response to the key finding of the Annual Review: "The Oversight Group should convene a strategic workshop to consider the issues raised in the Review".
- It was acknowledged that cultural changes takes time and requires sustained effort over several years. And the ACT public health system is in an early phase of positive change.

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TRIM Ref:	GBC20/457	

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

GBC20/457

Portfolio: Mental Health

ISSUE: FUTURE PLANNING FOR HEALTH SERVICES ACROSS THE ACT

Talking points:

- ACT Health Directorate is developing a Territory-wide Health Service Plan. The Territory-wide Health Service Plan will identify priorities for health service development and redesign across the ACT. It will be based on a comprehensive assessment of health service needs across the care continuum on a geographic basis and for priority population groups. It will consider the range of public health services provided by Canberra Health Services, Calvary Public Hospital Bruce and other organisations in the community.
- Key considerations of the planning process will be:
    - Aligning services with need;
    - A focus on prevention;
    - Improving integration of services; and
    - Embracing technology.
- Between November 2019 and March 2020, approximately 80 consultation sessions were undertaken with stakeholders from Canberra Health Services, Calvary Public Hospital Bruce, non-government organisations (NGOs) funded by ACT Health Directorate and aged care providers in the ACT.
- Whilst further consultation and engagement with consumers and carers, the community and health service providers during March - June 2020 was put on hold due to COVID-19 response activities, a revised work program has now been developed for further engagement activities in late 2020. Planning for any further engagement activities will be progressed in consultation with the Health Care Consumers' Association and the NGO Leadership Group.
- The Territory-wide Health Service Plan was due to be completed by mid-2020. The Steering Committee has considered a revised work program to support finalisation of The Plan in the second half of the calendar year.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	07/08/2020	
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Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Jacinta George	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/457	

- A Mental Health Services Plan is also currently under development and will establish the medium to long term directions for public mental health services in the ACT. Emerging priorities that have been identified in the early stages of development of the Mental Health Services Plan are being used to inform decision making in response to current service demand issues.
- The Mental Health Services Plan will identify how priorities for mental health service development in the Territory-wide Health Service Plan and the soon to be launched ACT Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Plan 2019-2024 will be implemented.
- The Mental Health Services Plan was expected to be completed by mid-2020 but is now expected to be completed in the second half of the year.

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Contact Officer name:	Sarah Galton	Ext: 49661
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Information Officer name:	Jacinta George	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/457	

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

GBC20/GBC20/457

Portfolio: Mental Health

ISSUE: OFFICE FOR MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Talking points:

- The Office for Mental and Health and Wellbeing Work Plan sets out the ongoing commitment to enhance the mental health and wellbeing of our region, by partnering with government, non-government and the community to support the people in the ACT and surrounds experiencing mental health concerns.
- The Work Plan introduces the territory-wide vision for mental health and wellbeing:
    - A kind, connected and informed community working together to promote and protect the mental health and wellbeing of all.
- Activities being delivered under the plan this year include an Outcomes Framework for the mental health system, implementation of the Lifespan suicide prevention strategy, the Youth Aware of Mental Health program (YAM) and a Mid term Review of the Office.
- The Office is in the initial phases of the development of an online youth navigation portal for the ACT, and has commenced addressing the needs of children with moderate to severe mental health concerns.
- The Youth Aware of Mental Health (YAM) program commenced in two schools and has been well received. Due to the impact of COVID-19, the roll out of YAM was paused. YAM recommenced in Term 2 on Monday 15 June 2020.
- In addition to the work plan activities, the Office has taken a leadership role in identifying and addressing the significant impact of both the natural disasters and the current pandemic on the mental health of our community.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	06/08/2020	
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Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Elizabeth Moore	Ext: 49600
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/457	

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

Key Information:

- The Office retains a level of independence from the day-to-day running of ACT Health and has authority to conduct reviews and produce reports as the Coordinator-General deems necessary or at the request of the Minister for Mental Health.
- Within the 100 days from the commencement of the Coordinator-General, the Office for Mental Health and Wellbeing developed the Office Work Plan in conjunction with the peak non-government organisations
- The Workplan was launched on 30 April 2019 and is available on the Office website.
- The Mental Health and Wellbeing Inter-Directorate Committee (previously called the Agency Stewardship Group) has held regular meetings to oversee the development of the Work Plan and will continues to meet on a regular basis.
- The Office has completed the Community Engagement Commitment, an Evaluation Framework for the Office, the Review of Children and Young People in the ACT.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	06/08/2020	
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TRIM Ref:	GBC20/457	

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

GBC20/457

Portfolio: Mental Health

ISSUE: IMPACT OF THE NATIONAL DISABILITY INSURANCE SCHEME (NDIS) IN THE ACT MENTAL HEALTH COMMUNITY

Talking points:

National Disability Insurance Scheme

- The ACT was a trial site for transition to the NDIS, implementing the full scheme between 2014 and 2016. There are currently 894 participants who access the scheme based on psychosocial disability.
- The Office for Disability, in collaboration with the ACT Health Directorate, has been leading the national work to improve the NDIS response to people with lived experience of mental illness and psychosocial disability.
- Work is progressing on projects endorsed by the Disability Reform Council in December 2019 although there may be some delays as a result of the COVID-19 crisis. These projects address the issues identified for people with psychosocial disability including:
    - Access and Eligibility;
    - Linkages and Referral;
    - Assertive Outreach;
    - Responding to the Episodic Nature of Psychosocial Disability;
    - Psychosocial Disability Recovery Approach;
    - Information Sharing and Data Reporting; and
    - National Approach to Concurrent Supports.
- The National Disability Insurance Agency is also working with the ACT Government and local services on the rollout of their Psychosocial Disability Stream and Complex Support Needs Pathway. In considering this work, priority has been given to improving:
    - hospital discharges;
    - support coordination; and

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TRIM Ref:	GBC20/457	

  - planning.

- The Office for Disability has established a Community of Practice for mental health support coordinators in partnership with the mental health community agency peak the Mental Health Community Coalition ACT.
- COVID-19 has had a significant impact on the delivery of disability support across the country. The NDIA has responded through facilitating plan adjustments and exploring ways for support providers to manage and communicate regarding changing restrictions.
- Measures are also being implemented locally, through the ACT's Office for Disability.

National Psychosocial Support Measure (NPSM) and Continuity of Support (CoS)

- The ACT Government has a bilateral agreement with the Commonwealth for the National Psychosocial Support Measure (NPSM). Under this agreement, $2 million of ACT Government funding and $1.3 million of Commonwealth funding is allocated to provide psychosocial support services to assist people with mental illness who are not eligible for a funded support package through the NDIS in the ACT. The funding is spread over four years to the end of the 2020 - 2021 financial year.
- Continuity of Support (CoS) funding is also available from the Commonwealth as part of the 2018-19 Federal Budget to provide supports for people who previously received support under Commonwealth funded programs such as Partners in Recovery and who have not been found eligible for supports under the NDIS.
- Funds for both measures are being administered through the Capital Health Network, in partnership with the ACTHD, Canberra Health Services and other community stakeholders. The NPSM provided funds for two programs, offered by Flourish Australia and Woden Community Service. Funding for Continuity of Support was awarded to Woden Community Service (WCS).
- NGOs have been proactive in adjusting their modes of service delivery to meet social distancing requirements due to the COVID-19 crisis.

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- The Commonwealth has commissioned the NOUS Group to do an evaluation of the NPSM and CoS implementation. Representatives from the CHN, Canberra Health Services and ACTHD met with NOUS on 27 May 2020 and an interim report is due shortly.

Key information

NDIS

- Timeframes have been agreed with the DRC in relation to project outcomes from the Mental Health Working Group (MHWG) for the NDIS and mental health interface. Some of these timeframes may be affected by the reprioritisation required.
- Representatives from the ACT Government (Office for Disability and/or ACTHD) sit on all Project Teams.
- Concerns have been raised that the NDIA response to COVID-19 has been too slow and does not go far enough with a lack of concrete actions and messaging. Also, that the response is uncoordinated with state and territory measures.
- The NDIA announced the results of their Annual Price review on 4 June 2020. There are 14 recommendations including:
    - the introduction of psychosocial recovery coaches;
    - improving clarity on the price settings for Supported Independent Living (SIL)
    - new features to provide opportunities for participants to access alternative living arrangements as part of Individualised Living Options (ILO);
    - driving innovative opportunities for participants in employment; and
    - introducing Programs of Supports to improve choice and control for participants and to provide more certainty for providers when delivering supports.

NPSM and Continuity of Support

- Programs funded under the NPSM include the New Path program, operated by WCS, and the Bloom Healthy Living, operated by Flourish.
- New Path is an early intervention mental health recovery program that supports people whose ability to manage daily activities and live independently in the community has been affected by mental health issues.
- WCS will receive $989,786 for the New Path program for the contracted period of February 2019 to June 2021.
- Flourish will receive $1,069,965 for the Bloom Healthy Living program for the contracted period of March 2019 to June 2021.

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- Both providers of the NPSM have been actively supporting people since April 2019. As at November 2019 there were approximately 30 participants in each program, with a steady flow of referrals.
- Referrals have come from a variety of sources including GP's, ACT Disability Aged Carer Advocacy Service (ADACAS), clinical mental health services (both inpatient and community) as well as from Housing services and self-referrals. Work continues to promote NPSM services across the ACT community.
- WCS have led the establishment of a Stakeholder Reference Group, incorporating both NPSM services in the ACT. This Reference Group will help to promote NPSM services and most importantly will work towards integrating the NPSM within the broader mental health sector. The Stakeholder Reference Group has been put on hold during the current COVID-19 crisis.
- WCS has established the Continuity of Support Program with $188,000 of Commonwealth Government funding. Continuity of Support is only available to people who were accessing services as at 30 June 2019 under Partners in Recovery (PIR), Day to Day Living program (D2DL) or Personal Helpers and Mentors (PHaMs) and who are found to be ineligible for the NDIS.

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TRIM Ref:	GBC20/457	

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

GBC 20/457

Portfolio: Mental Health

ISSUE: Mental health assessments - Section 309 of the *Crimes Act 1900*

Talking points:

- The challenges and demands currently being experienced in the acute mental health system are well known. In response, strategic planning is underway to address these issues through a variety of projects and pathways.
- One such strategy involves an investigation into what alternative approaches to section 309 assessments may be possible.
- Section 309 of the *Crimes Act 1900* provides a legislative mechanism for the Magistrates Court to order the transfer and mental health assessment of people involved in the criminal justice system.
- The Canberra Hospital is declared as an approved Mental Health Facility under the *Mental Health Act 2015* and is the only facility that receives patients for section 309 assessments. All section 309 assessments are carried out at the emergency department of the Canberra Hospital.
- ACT Health Directorate, as the health system steward, will work in collaboration with Canberra Health Services, the Chief Psychiatrist and the Department of Justice and Community Safety to investigate alternative approaches to facilitate necessary assessments to section 309 that may reduce demand on the emergency department and acute mental health services at the Canberra Hospital.
- This work is significant and requires cross directorate, legal and wider community consultation.

Key Information

- The *Administrative Arrangements 2019 (No 3)* allocate the *Crimes Act 1900* to Justice and Community Safety under the Attorney General.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	08/07/2020	
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Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Michael Culhane	Ext: 49392
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/457	

- An alternative approach under consideration is allowing for section 309 (s309) assessments to be carried out in a designated area by a mental health clinician within the court building rather than requiring the person to be transported to the emergency department. This would mean less disruption to the person and allow for a more streamlined service for the court.
- The onsite examination amendment may reduce demand by ensuring only people with mental or physical health that require acute hospital services for care or treatment are transported to the Emergency Department.
- During 2018-19, 137 people were referred to the Canberra Hospital Emergency Department under a s309 order for removal to an approved facility. Of these, 83 people were admitted.
- Legislative and policy changes required for any amendments are significant and will require:
    - cooperation from JACS (including Corrections, the courts and the Criminal Law Section);
    - consultation with other directorates (such as ACT Policing); and
    - costing of the financial implications of the proposed changes.
- Other options to consider are:
    - Offering people the opportunity to have an assessment as a voluntary patient. This is in keeping with the principles and objects of the *Mental Health Act 2015* for the least restrictive approach to mental health care.
    - Areas other than the Emergency Department could carry out s309 assessments where they are required, for example another health facility.
- ACT Health Directorate will continue to lead the work on this and other initiatives in consultation with Canberra Health Services, the Justice and Community Safety Directorate and the Chief Psychiatrist.
- ACT Health Directorate is working with Canberra Health Services to gather data to understand of the operation of section 309. The data collected for analysis includes the length of stay in the Emergency Department for a person on a s309 order. The availability of this data has been delayed due to the impact the COVID-19 response is having at Canberra Health Services.
- Analysis of the this data will provide an opportunity to identify periods of high demand for mental health services in the Emergency Department as well as providing a clear indication of general wait times for assessment under section 309.

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Lead Directorate:	Health	
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TRIM Ref:	GBC20/457	

Background Information

- Diversion from the justice system of those people who have a mental illness or disorder is an important aspect of contemporary justice systems.
- If a person appears before the courts and there is a concern that they may have a mental illness or mental disorder then the person can be assessed and the courts advised accordingly.
- In the ACT, the Forensic Mental Health Team has a Court Liaison service. Clinicians in the Court Liaison service provide mental health assessments and advise the courts about mental health issues. This may include requesting that an assessment under s309 of the *Crimes Act* is carried out.
- Alternatively, the magistrate can request a s309 assessment.
- Where the Court Liaison service is involved, approximately 80% of those referred for an assessment require admission. This number falls significantly if they are not involved.
- Following the assessment, if they do not require admission the Australian Federal Police are required to transport them to custody. This can at times involve long waits which has an impact on the client themselves as well as on the clinical service areas.

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QUESTION TIME BRIEF

GBC20/457

Portfolio: Mental Health

ISSUE: SUICIDE PREVENTION PROGRAMS

Talking points:

Lifespan Suicide Prevention Framework

- The ACT Government committed $1.545 million in the 2018-19 Budget to establish a pilot version of the Black Dog Institute's LifeSpan Integrated Suicide Prevention Framework over three years to 2021.
- LifeSpan is an evidence informed approach to integrated suicide prevention.
- A LifeSpan Steering Committee, composed of key local agencies and stakeholders, guides this work.
- Five ACT LifeSpan Working Groups, focusing on Health Services, Schools, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander suicide prevention, Improving Public Safety and Community Awareness are also underway with membership from key stakeholders.
- Several key Lifespan initiatives have been modified in light of the pandemic.
- Question Persuade Refer (QPR) a free online suicide prevention training program has been actively promoted on social media platforms during the pandemic. There has been considerable increase in uptake of QPR training in the community over June and July.
- A 'QPR for Business' initiative, encouraging workplaces to enable staff to complete QPR Training, is being promoted in partnership with Healthier Work and Black Dog Institite.
- Mindframe Plus training in safe and purposeful media reporting and communication about suicide, provided by Everymind, will be conducted for local media and communication stakeholders in September.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	26/08/2020	
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Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Elizabeth Moore	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/389	

- A Lifespan Suicide Prevention Officer is supporting the implementation of suicide prevention training for clinical and frontline staff, and best practice guidelines for Emergency Departments in the ACT. This work is led by a Health Working Group consisting of key clinical and frontline partners.
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Suicide Prevention is a major priority for ACT Lifespan. An identified Project Officer is employed to support this work.
- A needs assessment for the provision of a culturally appropriate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander suicide prevention, aftercare and postvention service for the ACT has been completed, and will be used to inform the provision of key community suicide prevention strategies, including those implemented in response to the pandemic.
- Due to the pandemic, suicide prevention training for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health professionals, and an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Forum have been postponed as they require face to face delivery.

<u>Youth Aware of Mental Health (YAM)</u>

- In 2019, the Commonwealth Government allocated funding for the Youth Aware of Mental Health (YAM) Program to be delivered to year 9 students in high schools across the ACT in 2020 and 2021, as a key component of ACT Lifespan.
- YAM is an evidenced-based program developed to promote mental health and address suicidal behaviour in young people. and commenced in ACT high schools in February 2020.
- Due to the impact of COVID-19, the roll out of YAM was paused as the program model requires face-to-face implementation with students. YAM recommenced in Term 2 on Monday 15 June 2020, with plans for continued roll out throughout 2020.

<u>Way Back Support Service</u>

- The Way Back Support Service (Way Back), developed by Beyond Blue, is a non-clinical suicide prevention service that provides follow-up support to people for up to three months, after they have attempted suicide.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	26/08/2020	
Cleared by:	Elizabeth Moore	Ext: x49600
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Information Officer name:	Elizabeth Moore	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/389	

- In the ACT, Way Back is jointly funded by the ACT and Australian Governments and is delivered by the Woden Community Service.
- In the context of COVID-19, the Way Back Support Service has moved to working via an online platform, phone and SMS systems.

Key Information:

- According to the latest ABS data, there were 3,046 deaths by suicide across Australia in 2018.
- In 2018, 47 suicide deaths were recorded in the ACT, compared to 58 deaths recorded in 2017
- The five-year, age-standardised rate of suicide deaths per 100,000 people in the ACT has moved from 10.5 suicide deaths per 100,000 in the 2013-17 period to 10.7 in the 2014-18 period. Similar increases were also seen across all States and Territories and in the national average.

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Cleared by:	Elizabeth Moore	Ext: x49600
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Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Elizabeth Moore	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/389	

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

GBC20/457

Portfolio: Mental Health

ISSUE: ACT REGIONAL MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION PLAN

Talking points:

- The ACT Regional Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Plan (the ACT Plan) will be launched on 31 August 2020.
- The launch will be attended by key contributors to the plan, including consumers and carer representatives, Government and Non-Government mental health agency representatives, health care workers and members of the broader ACT community.
- The first section of the ACT Plan, Part A – the Framework, has been finalised and copies of the ACT Mental Health and Suicide Plan at a Glance were distributed from the second half of October 2019, as part of Mental Health Month.
- Endorsement of Part B – the Implementation Plan and Part C – the Monitoring and Performance Plan are currently being finalised by partner organisations.
- Due to the additional demands on primary health networks and other stakeholder organisations created by the COVID-19 emergency the Commonwealth has extended the due date to 31 December 2020. However, the full, three part ACT Plan is on track for completion closer to 30 June 2020, which is the date originally set by the Commonwealth Government in the Fifth National Mental Health and Suicide prevention Plan.
- The priorities for the ACT Plan were informed by, and align with, the Office for Mental Health and Wellbeing's vision and priorities, that were identified in codesign workshops with the ACT community in February 2019.
- These priorities focus on better outcomes through service integration, early intervention, whole of person care and suicide prevention.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	08/07/2020		
Cleared by:	Deputy Director-General		Ext: 49180
Contact Officer name:	Meg Brighton		Ext: 49180
Lead Directorate:	Health		
Cleared for release	Yes		
Information Officer name:	Michael Culhane		Ext: 49392
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/457		

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

Key Information:

- Further public consultations were carried out across November 2019 to inform the development of the remaining sections of the ACT Plan: Part B - the Implementation Plan and Part C - the Monitoring and Performance Plan.
- The Fifth National Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Plan prioritises effective regional planning and integration of mental health services. Development of the ACT Plan is a key commitment under this priority.
- From August to October 2018, a consultation forum and online consultation survey for the ACT Plan brought together diverse stakeholder input to identify priorities and strategies that form the basis of the ACT Plan.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	08/07/2020		
Cleared by:	Deputy Director-General		Ext: 49180
Contact Officer name:	Meg Brighton		Ext: 49180
Lead Directorate:	Health		
Cleared for release	Yes		
Information Officer name:	Michael Culhane		Ext: 49392
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/457		

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

GBC20/457

Portfolio: Mental Health

ISSUE: HEALTH DIRECTORATE STAFF CLIMATE SURVEY 2019

Talking points:

- The ACT Health Directorate's Workplace Climate survey was conducted between 8 and 26 November 2019.
- Summary results were presented to the Directorate executive and staff on 12 February 2020.
- The Culture Review Oversight Group received a briefing from the survey provider, Best Practice Australia, on 25 February 2020. This briefing outlined the survey design, purpose and metholodology.
- The high completion rate of 82 per cent indicates the survey results are statistically reliable.
- The results indicate the Directorate has a culture of 'consolidation', which means that 40-50 per cent of employees are engaged, and this is typical of a culture that is in transition.
- The results show strong agreement around several work culture indicators, including that the workplace is free from sexual harassment; that there is good workplace flexibility; and the value of Integrity is demonstrated by colleagues.
- The results also identify a number of aspects of the Directorate's culture which will be targeted as part of the post-debrief Action Planning. These include perceptions of favouritism, of behaviour not espousing the values; and of poor internal processes, systems and procedures.
- The Directorate executive group will continue to explore the results of the survey with staff, and integrate action plans into divisional business plans.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	19/08/2020	
Cleared by:	Executive Group Manager	Ext: x49869
Contact Officer name:	Julie Nolan	Ext: x49835
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Julie Nolan	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/457	

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

Key Information:

- 82 per cent of Directorate staff completed the survey. The average completion rate for an organisation with staff between 200-2000 staff is 63 per cent.
- Information that has the potential to identify business units or individual staff and/or managers will not be made available.
- Recommendation 2 from the Final Report of the Independent Review into the Workplace Culture within ACT Public Health Services (the Culture Review) contained an action item to conduct a staff survey in 2019.
- Results from the survey will inform the Directorate's response to the recommendations arising from Culture review.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	19/08/2020	
Cleared by:	Executive Group Manager	Ext: x49869
Contact Officer name:	Julie Nolan	Ext: x49835
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Julie Nolan	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/457	

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

GBC20/457

Portfolio: Mental Health

ISSUE: MENTAL HEALTH BUDGET INITIATIVES

Talking points:

- There are nine new mental health and justice health initiatives contained in the 2019-20 ACT Budget. They are:
    - AMHU additional beds (over four years - $6,976,000);
    - Expand Mental Health Consultation Liaison Service (over four years – $4,594,000);
    - Electroconvulsive Therapy (over four years - $2,565,000);
    - Expansion of the Justice Health Services at AMC (over four years - $1,074,000);
    - Police, Ambulance and Clinician Early Response Tri-Service Model (over four years - $147,000);
    - Diverting people with mental illness (over four years - $3,035,000);
    - Expansion of ACT Eating Disorder Service (over four years - $2,217,000);
    - Capacity Building for Mental Health Carers (over four years - $457,000); and
    - A Safer Canberra - Canberra Health Services resources for fixated threat management capability trial (over four years - $644,000).
- The new electroconvulsive therapy initiative also includes capital funding of $1.764 million in 2019-20 and $0.756 million in 2020-21.
- The initiatives will employ an additional 26.9 FTE in 2019-20, growing to 33.8 FTE by 2021-22.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	25/08/2020	
Cleared by:	Executive Branch Manager	Ext: 49869
Contact Officer name:	Kate Chambers	Ext: 49428
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Jean-Paul Donda	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/457	

Initiative Descriptions (with Budget Paper Descriptions):

- Expanding Public Inpatient Mental Health Care: The Government will boost administration, allied health, and nursing staff levels in the Adult Mental Health Unit. This will allow a more comprehensive psychosocial approach to support inpatients, as well as support workforce development and improved clinical care standards CHS E15 – 7 Day-a-week Mental Health Consultation Liaison service.
- 7 Day-a-week Mental Health Consultation Liaison service: The Government will expand the Mental Health Consultation Liaison service to operate at Canberra Hospital seven days a week, increasing the level of support available for people with mental illness.
- More Mental Health Services at Canberra Hospital: The Government will establish an Electroconvulsive Therapy service to operate within the Adult Mental Health Unit at the Canberra Hospital. This will provide access for mental health patients who previously have been unable to receive this treatment.
- Delivering better mental health care for people in crisis: The Government will undertake planning and design work for a Police, Ambulance and Clinician Early Response model to better manage acute mental health related incidents in the community.
- Alternative justice pathways for people with mental illness: The Government will expand Mental Health, Justice Health and Alcohol and Drug Services to address the over-representation of people with mental health concerns who are in contact with the criminal justice system.
- Expanding public healthcare services for eating disorders: The Government will establish an Eating Disorders Specialist Clinical Hub and a non-government operated, community-based intervention support service to expand the capacity and range of eating disorder services available in the ACT.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	25/08/2020	
Cleared by:	Executive Branch Manager	Ext: 49869
Contact Officer name:	Kate Chambers	Ext: 49428
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Jean-Paul Donda	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/457	

- Strengthening capacity for mental health carers: The Government will recruit two Carer Engagement Clinicians to pilot a range of support and psychosocial education activities to build capacity for the families and carers of people with mental health conditions.
- A Safer Canberra/Strengthening Public Safety and Security: The Government will provide several high priority requirements to strengthen the safety of the ACT as part of a National effort to address the risks associated with people who have a fixated threat, and to better protected crowded places from terrorism. The initiative is a two year trial.

Background Information

- Financial breakdown of the nine mental health and justice health new initiatives contained in the 2019-20 ACT Budget is provided in the table below:

Name	Recurrent				
	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	Total
	$000's	$000's	$000's	$000's	$000's
AMHU additional beds	1,680	1,722	1,765	1,809	**6,976**
Expand Mental Health Consultation Liaison service	800	1,234	1,268	1,292	**4,594**
Electroconvulsive Therapy (ECT)	0	488	999	1,078	**2,565**
Expansion of Justice Health Services at the AMC	258	266	273	277	**1,074**
Police, Ambulance and Clinician Early Response (PACER) Tri-service Model	147	0	0	0	**147**
Diverting people with a mental illness	731	749	768	787	**3,035**
Expansion of ACT Eating Disorder Services	179	442	683	913	**2,217**
Capacity Building for Mental Health Carers	226	231	0	0	**457**
A Safer Canberra - CHS resources for fixated threat mgt capability trial	82	277	285	0	**644**
	4,103	**5,409**	**6,041**	**6,156**	**21,709**

Cleared as complete and accurate:	25/08/2020	
Cleared by:	Executive Branch Manager	Ext: 49869
Contact Officer name:	Kate Chambers	Ext: 49428
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Jean-Paul Donda	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/457	

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

GBC20/457

Portfolio: Mental Health

ISSUE: 2019/2020 Half Yearly Performance Report ACTHD/LHN Mental Health Specific

Talking points:

There were no major variances within the Statements of Performance which was tabled in the Assembly on 13 February which related to Mental Health:

ACT Health Directorate

Output 1.3: Mentally Healthy Communities:

1.3.a - Percentage of mental health clients with outcome measures completed – was 6 percent higher than target due a sustained effort to complete outcome measures for eligible consumers.

1.3.b - Annual progress report on the implementation of the Office for Mental Health and Wellbeing Workplan 2019-2021 published – is on target to be met.

ACT Local Hospital Network

Output 1.1: ACT Local Hospital Network:

1.1.d – Acute Admitted Mental Health Services – was 3 percent below target.

Background Information:

- Directors-General (DG) and Chief Executive Officers (CEO) are responsible for delivering outcomes for the provision of services. Each DG / CEO is responsible to their Minister for the delivery of outcomes and for the provision of outputs as specified in each agency's budget papers. Performance indicators provide a succinct and transparent means by which ACT Government entities can present their performance and in so doing be held accountable.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	25/08/2020	
Cleared by:	Chief Finance Officer	Ext:49428
Contact Officer name:	Jean-Paul Donda	Ext:49643
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Kate Chambers	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/457	

- Section 30(E) of the Financial Management Act 1996 requires Ministers to prepare a half-yearly performance report for each directorate for which the Minister is responsible and report to the Legislative Assembly within 45 days of the end of the December period, this report must include:
    a. A progress report on delivery of outputs; and
    b. An explanation of any significant variations from performance criteria.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	25/08/2020	
Cleared by:	Chief Finance Officer	Ext:49428
Contact Officer name:	Jean-Paul Donda	Ext:49643
Lead Directorate:	Health	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Kate Chambers	
TRIM Ref:	GBC20/457	