

Our reference: **CHSFOI25-26.48**

Dear

DECISION ON YOUR ACCESS APPLICATION

I refer to your application under section 30 of the *Freedom of Information Act 2016* (FOI Act), received by Canberra Health Services (the Directorate) on **Wednesday 1 April 2026**.

This application requested access to:

'I am seeking access to information under the Freedom of Information Act 1982 and I request the following documents:

- *Statistics showing emergency vs elective caesarean percentage rates at The Canberra Hospital and North Canberra Hospital for the years inclusive of 2019-2025. Please provide rates for each hospital individually.*
- *Any documents, emails, records or other communication pertaining to media enquiries about elective vs emergency caesarean rates in Canberra Health Services in March 2026.'*

I am an Information Officer appointed by the Chief Executive Officer of the Directorate under section 18 of the FOI Act to deal with access applications made under Part 5 of the Act. The Directorate was required to provide a decision on your access application by **Tuesday 9 June 2026**.

I have identified **12** documents holding the information within scope of your access application. These are outlined in the schedule of documents included at [Attachment A](#) to this decision letter.

Decisions

I have decided to grant partial access to all 12 documents.

My access decisions are detailed further in the following statement of reasons and the documents released to you are provided as [Attachment B](#) to this letter.

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

- The FOI Act;
- The contents of the documents that fall within the scope of your request;
- The views of relevant third parties; and
- The *Human Rights Act 2004*.

The documents at reference 1 contained information that is outside the scope of the application, and I have decided not to disclose this information.

The documents at references 2-4 are partially comprised of information where information disclosure of which is taken to be contrary to the public interest under Schedule 1.6. Under Schedule 1.6, the documents are partially comprised of information that would reveal deliberations of Cabinet

and is therefore taken to be contrary to the public interest to release, under Schedule 1.6 (1) Cabinet Information (d).

Partial Access

The document is partially comprised of information that I consider, on balance, to be contrary to the public interest to disclose under the test set out in section 17 of the Act regarding personal information.

Public Interest Factors Favouring Disclosure

The following factors were considered relevant in favour of the disclosure of the documents:

- Schedule 2, 2.1 (a)(i) promote open discussion of public affairs and enhance the government's accountability; and
- Schedule 2, 2.1 (a)(ii) contribute to positive and informed debate on important issues or matters of public interest.

Public Interest Factors Favouring Non-Disclosure

The following factors were considered relevant in favour of the non-disclosure of the documents:

- Schedule 2, 2.2 (a)(ii) prejudice the protection of an individual's right to privacy or any other right under the Human Rights Act 2004.

On balance, the factors favouring disclosure did not outweigh the factor favouring non-disclosure as the redacted information contains the personal information and mobile phone numbers ACT Government employees and non-Act Government employees. Therefore, I determined the information identified is contrary to the public interest and I have decided not to disclose this information.

Charges

Processing charges are not applicable to this request.

Disclosure Log

Under section 28 of the FOI Act, the Directorate maintains an online record of access applications called a disclosure log. The scope of your access application, my decision and documents released to you will be published in the disclosure log not less than three days but not more than 10 days after the date of this decision.

Please be aware that no personal information will be included in the published information all other information will be published on <https://www.act.gov.au/open/foi-disclosure-logs/act-health-directorate-and-canberra-health-services-disclosure-logs>.

Ombudsman review

My decision on your access request 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 Directorate's disclosure log, 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

ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal (ACAT) review

Under section 84 of the Act, if a decision is made under section 82(1) on an Ombudsman review, you may apply to the ACAT for review of the Ombudsman decision. Further information may be obtained from the ACAT at:

ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal

Allara House

15 Constitution Avenue

GPO Box 370

Canberra City ACT 2601

Telephone: (02) 6207 1740

<http://www.acat.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.

Yours sincerely



Nic Stevenson

Senior Director

Office of the Chief Executive Officer

Canberra Health Services

09 June 2026



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION - SCHEDULE OF DOCUMENTS

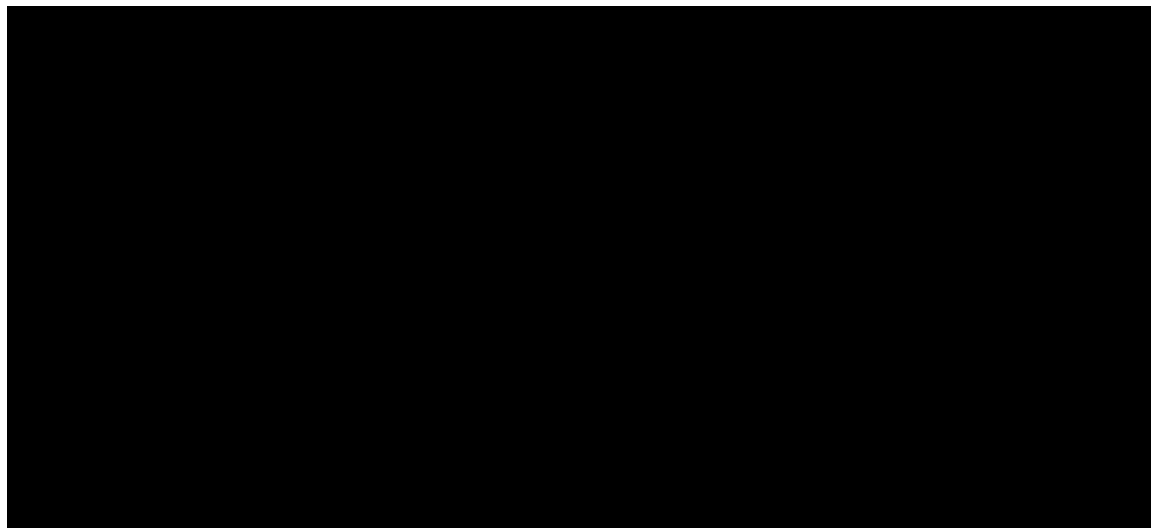
FILE NUMBER:	WHAT ARE THE PARAMETERS OF THE REQUEST:	APPLICANT NAME & TYPE:
CHSFOI25-26.48	I am seeking access to information under the Freedom of Information Act 1982 and I request the following documents: • Statistics showing emergency vs elective caesarean percentage rates at The Canberra Hospital and North Canberra Hospital for the years inclusive of 2019-2025. Please provide rates for each hospital individually. • Any documents, emails, records or other communication pertaining to media enquiries about elective vs emergency caesarean rates in Canberra Health Services in March 2026.	

Reference No.	Page No.	Description	Document Date	Status Decision	Factor	Open Access release status
1	1 - 2	Email - RE: Media enquiry update - 27 March 2026	30-March-2026		Schedule 2.2(a)(ii) Privacy Out of Scope	YES
2	3 - 8	Email - RE: New media enquiry (Region Canberra) - Review into ACT caesarean rates	30-March-2026		Schedule 1.6 Cabinet Schedule 2.2(a)(ii) Privacy	YES
3	9 - 15	Email - RE: New media enquiry (Region Canberra) - Review into ACT caesarean rates	31-March-2026		Schedule 1.6 Cabinet Schedule 2.2(a)(ii) Privacy	YES
4	16 - 22	Email - RE: New media enquiry (Region Canberra) - Review into ACT caesarean rates	31-March-2026		Schedule 1.6 Cabinet Schedule 2.2(a)(ii) Privacy	YES
5	23 - 26	Email - RE: New media enquiry (Canberra Times) - Caesarean sections	31-March-2026		Schedule 2.2(a)(ii) Privacy	YES
6	27 - 32	Email - RE: New media enquiry (Canberra Times) - Caesarean sections	31-March-2026		Schedule 2.2(a)(ii) Privacy	YES
7	33 - 36	Email - RE: For Action_ For input_ Media enquiry (Canberra Times) - Caesarean section rates	31-March-2026		Schedule 2.2(a)(ii) Privacy	YES
8	37 - 41	Email - URGENT -FOR APPROVAL: New media enquiry (Canberra Times) - Caesarean sections	01-April-2026		Schedule 2.2(a)(ii) Privacy	YES
9	42 - 44	Email - RE: Info on QoN caesareans	01-April-2026		Schedule 2.2(a)(ii) Privacy	YES
10	45 - 48	Email - RE: For approval: Media response (Canberra Times) - Caesarean sections	01-April-2026		Schedule 2.2(a)(ii) Privacy	YES
11	49 - 54	Email - COO Comments - : New media enquiry (Canberra Times) - Caesarean sections	01-April-2026		Schedule 2.2(a)(ii) Privacy	YES
12	55 - 58	Email - RE: For Action_ For input_ Media enquiry (Canberra Times) - Caesarean section rates	02-April-2026		Schedule 2.2(a)(ii) Privacy	YES
Total Number of Documents						
12						

Please be aware that under the *Freedom of Information Act 2016*, some of the information provided to you will be released to the public through the ACT Government's Open Access Scheme. The Open Access release status column of the table below indicates what documents are intended for release online through open access. Personal information or business affairs information will not be made available under this policy. If you think the content of your request would contain such information, please inform the contact officer immediately.

Information about what is published on open access is available online at: <https://www.act.gov.au/open-access>

GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601 | phone: 132281 | www.act.gov.au



Kind regards,

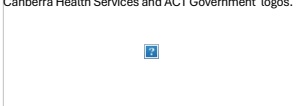
Brienne Connor | Director, Media

Mobile: [REDACTED] Email: brienne.connor@act.gov.au

Strategic Communication and Engagement | Canberra Health Services | ACT Government

Canberra Hospital, Yamba Drive, Garran ACT | canberrahealthservices.act.gov.au

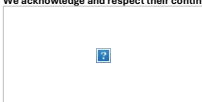
Canberra Health Services and ACT Government logos.



'Creating exceptional health care together.'

Canberra Health Services acknowledges the Ngunnawal people as traditional custodians of the ACT and recognises any other people or families with connection to the lands of the ACT and region.

We acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and contribution to the life of this region.



From: [Canberra Health Services Media](#)
To: [CHS, Health Services Support Unit](#); [Canberra Health Services Media](#)
Subject: RE: New media enquiry (Region Canberra) - Review into ACT caesarean rates
Date: Monday, 30 March 2026 12:07:25 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)

OFFICIAL

Yeah no worries, leave it with me.

From: CHS, Health Services Support Unit
Sent: Monday, 30 March 2026 12:03 PM
To: Canberra Health Services Media
Subject: RE: New media enquiry (Region Canberra) - Review into ACT caesarean rates

OFFICIAL

All good

Not yet – I think Liz is waiting to hear back from Alison. Are you happy to discuss with [REDACTED]?

Tnx

M

From: Canberra Health Services Media <CHSmedia@act.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 30 March 2026 11:16 AM
To: Canberra Health Services Media <CHSmedia@act.gov.au>; CHS, Health Services Support Unit <CHS.HSSU@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: New media enquiry (Region Canberra) - Review into ACT caesarean rates

OFFICIAL

Maddy* sorry!

From: Canberra Health Services Media
Sent: Monday, 30 March 2026 11:16 AM
To: CHS, Health Services Support Unit <CHS.HSSU@act.gov.au>; Canberra Health Services Media <CHSmedia@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: New media enquiry (Region Canberra) - Review into ACT caesarean rates
 Thanks Maddie – is this advice good to progress to the MO?

From: CHS, Health Services Support Unit <CHS.HSSU@act.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 30 March 2026 9:25 AM
To: Canberra Health Services Media <CHSmedia@act.gov.au>
Subject: FW: New media enquiry (Region Canberra) - Review into ACT caesarean rates

OFFICIAL

Hi team – see below.

Tnx

Maddy

From: Lopa, Liz <Liz.Lopa@act.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 30 March 2026 9:18 AM
To: CHS, Health Services Support Unit <CHS.HSSU@act.gov.au>; Derrett, Alison <Alison.Derrett@act.gov.au>

Cc: Fleischer, Debbie <debbie.Fleischer@act.gov.au>

Subject: RE: New media enquiry (Region Canberra) - Review into ACT caesarean rates

OFFICIAL

Morning

C-Section rates were specifically included in the [REDACTED] to look into the sustainability of our services, as our c-section rates are quite high compared to national figures. The current examination into c-section rates is routine business being conducted by WYC. However, I have had a meeting in the diary with them to discuss for a while, and it is happening this week. There is an internal, routine review, but the meeting this week will be about whether we need to formalise this through governance a bit more, given the interest from outside parties. I also think we will need to expand the scope to include NCH and possibly include the Chief Medical Officer.

So – I have done my best with the questions below, given that we have the meeting this week and so we are not 100% clear on the answers.

Media team – could [REDACTED] be persuaded to wait a bit until we can get all the internal stakeholders together and then we can give him an interview next week?

Alison – this came from a question in question time to the Minister about c-section rates and her saying CHS was doing work to look into it. Which we are – but at the moment it is just WYC. What do you think of the answers below? The media interest has come just a little ahead of when we can answer all the questions.

Issue: Review into caesarean section rates

Outlet: Region Canberra

Journalist: [REDACTED]

Deadline: ASAP

Type of request: Request for interview and media response

Questions:

- What new data has prompted this? Canberra Health Services is always monitoring data for quality and safety purposes, to ensure the service is delivering exceptional care. Canberra public hospitals have a high c-section rate and it is prudent to examine the reasons for this and see if there are any improvements we can make. There are many reasons for birthing people to have a c-section birth, including for the safety of the baby and the birthing parent.
- Is it for whole of ACT, just public, or certain hospitals. CHS is responsible for public services, and that is what is being examined. [HCSD might have figures on the private hospitals, which would be useful].
- Who called for or ordered the inquiry - Minister, CHS, midwives? CHS routinely conducts reviews to ensure the quality and safety of our services.
- Who will conduct the inquiry? This is a routine, internal review.
- What are the terms of reference? These are to be determined – at this time, we are in an information gathering stage.
- Will it also include impact on the hospital system - cost, surgical and post-op capacity? At this time, the review is into the clinical reasons for the c-sections. We know that parents who give birth via c-section do have longer lengths of stay in the hospital after the birth, which does lead to higher costs. However, this

review is not focussed on those areas, but instead on the quality and safety of the care given to the birthing parent.

- When will it report? Yet to be determined.

From: CHS, Health Services Support Unit <CHS.HSSU@act.gov.au>

Sent: Friday, 27 March 2026 11:48 AM

To: Lopa, Liz <Liz.Lopa@act.gov.au>

Subject: FW: New media enquiry (Region Canberra) - Review into ACT caesarean rates

Importance: High

OFFICIAL

Hi Liz

As mentioned, for your advice.

Many thanks

Maddy

From: Canberra Health Services Media <CHSmedia@act.gov.au>

Sent: Friday, 27 March 2026 11:39 AM

To: CHS, WYC Executive Office <CHS.WYCExecutiveOffice@act.gov.au>; Canberra Health Services Media <CHSmedia@act.gov.au>; CHS, Health Services Support Unit <CHS.HSSU@act.gov.au>

Cc: Foote, Claire <Claire.Foote@act.gov.au>

Subject: RE: New media enquiry (Region Canberra) - Review into ACT caesarean rates

OFFICIAL

Thanks Liz.

Mick (the Minister's Media advisor) has also come back to say he's checked with the Minister's advisers and they have said CHS should be able to answer a few of the questions, so fingers crossed Liz Lopa is across this one.

Cheers,

Brie

From: CHS, WYC Executive Office <CHS.WYCExecutiveOffice@act.gov.au>

Sent: Friday, 27 March 2026 10:36 AM

To: Canberra Health Services Media <CHSmedia@act.gov.au>; CHS, Health Services Support Unit <CHS.HSSU@act.gov.au>

Cc: Foote, Claire <Claire.Foote@act.gov.au>; CHS, WYC Executive Office <CHS.WYCExecutiveOffice@act.gov.au>

Subject: RE: New media enquiry (Region Canberra) - Review into ACT caesarean rates

OFFICIAL

Good morning

I just asked Kath about this – she said the best person to assist in answering the below is Liz Lopa as she in discussions with HCSD.

thanks

Liz

Elizabeth Wray | Executive Officer

Email: chs.wycexecutiveoffice@act.gov.au

Division of Women, Youth and Children | Canberra Health Services | ACT Government

Building 11, Level 2 | canberrahealthservices.act.gov.au



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From: Canberra Health Services Media <CHSmedia@act.gov.au>

Sent: Friday, 27 March 2026 10:01 AM

To: CHS, Health Services Support Unit <CHS.HSSU@act.gov.au>; CHS, WYC Executive Office <CHS.WYCExecutiveOffice@act.gov.au>

Cc: Canberra Health Services Media <CHSmedia@act.gov.au>; Foote, Claire <Claire.Foote@act.gov.au>

Subject: New media enquiry (Region Canberra) - Review into ACT caesarean rates

OFFICIAL

Hi HSSU and WYC

We have received the enquiry via the Min's Office in response to a comment on ABC radio this morning that stated Canberra Health Services is conducting a review into caesarean section rates. Can you please confirm if this is true and if so, provide a response to the below questions and/or recommend who we could put up to speak with Region Canberra? Region Canberra is a print/online publication so it wouldn't be a TV/radio interview.

Issue: Review into caesarean section rates

Outlet: Region Canberra

Journalist: [REDACTED]

Deadline: ASAP

Type of request: Request for interview and media response

Questions:

- What new data has prompted this?
- Is it for whole of ACT, just public, or certain hospitals.
- Who called for or ordered the inquiry - Minister, CHS, midwives?
- Who will conduct the inquiry?
- What are the terms of reference?
- Will it also include impact on the hospital system - cost, surgical and post-op capacity
- When will it report?

Kind regards,

Brienne Connor | Director, Media

Mobile: [REDACTED] | Email: brienne.connor@act.gov.au

Strategic Communication and Engagement | Canberra Health Services | ACT Government

Canberra Hospital, Yamba Drive, Garran ACT | canberrahealthservices.act.gov.au



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From: Inman, Mick <Mick.Inman@act.gov.au>

Sent: Friday, 27 March 2026 9:47 AM

To: Canberra Health Services Media <CHSmedia@act.gov.au>; HCSD, Media <HCSDMedia@act.gov.au>; Smith, HannahX <HannahX.Smith@act.gov.au>

Subject: FW: Caesar rates

Hi Team,

[REDACTED] heard the wash up after Jo Clay was on 666 this morning.

[REDACTED] just wondering what’s prompted it and what we can provide.

Thanks. Mick

From: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@region.com.au](mailto:[REDACTED]@region.com.au)>

Sent: Friday, 27 March 2026 9:24 AM

To: Inman, Mick <Mick.Inman@act.gov.au>

Subject: Caesar rates

Caution: This email originated from outside of the ACT Government. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Morning,

Heard a brief headline on ABC that the ACT will inquire into caesarian birth rates that have hit 50 per cent and I'm keen to know more.

So:

What new data has prompted this?

Is it for whole of ACT, just public, or certain hospitals.

Who called for or ordered the inquiry - Minister, CHS, midwives?

Who will conduct the inquiry?

What are the terms of reference?

Will it also include impact on the hospital system - cost, surgical and post-op capacity

When will it report?

If you can furnish some one to talk to that would be great.

I note that there was a maternity services report in 2020 that examined Caesar rates.

Best,

[Redacted signature block]

Region

Logo for Region Group Pty Ltd



[Redacted contact information]

W. region.com.au



The content of this email is confidential and intended for the recipient specified in message only. It is strictly forbidden to share any part of this message with any third party, without a written consent of the sender. If you received this message by mistake, please reply to this message and follow with its deletion, so that we can ensure such a mistake does not occur in the future.

From: [Lopa, Liz](#)
To: [CHS, Health Services Support Unit](#)
Subject: Re: New media enquiry (Region Canberra) - Review into ACT caesarean rates
Date: Tuesday, 31 March 2026 3:54:22 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)

OFFICIAL

Let me get through the meeting and see - I don't mind doing it but I think someone clinical would have better appeal.

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: CHS, Health Services Support Unit
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2026 3:38:21 PM
To: Lopa, Liz
Subject: FW: New media enquiry (Region Canberra) - Review into ACT caesarean rates

OFFICIAL

Liz – who did you want to put up for the interview?

Tnx

M

From: Canberra Health Services Media
Sent: Tuesday, 31 March 2026 2:00 PM
To: CHS, Health Services Support Unit
Cc: Canberra Health Services Media ; Foote, Claire
Subject: RE: New media enquiry (Region Canberra) - Review into ACT caesarean rates

OFFICIAL

Hi Maddy

■ is happy to wait. MO has advised it would be good to set up an interview with him next week. We'll need to confirm with Liz if this would be with her or Kath/Sarah, as well as any support they would require ahead of the interview, e.g. talking points.

Kind regards

Brienne Connor | Director, Media

Mobile: ■ | Email: brienne.connor@act.gov.au

Strategic Communication and Engagement | Canberra Health Services | ACT Government

Canberra Hospital, Yamba Drive, Garran ACT | canberrahealthservices.act.gov.au



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From: CHS, Health Services Support Unit <CHS.HSSU@act.gov.au>

Sent: Tuesday, 31 March 2026 12:43 PM

To: Canberra Health Services Media <CHSmedia@act.gov.au>

Subject: FW: New media enquiry (Region Canberra) - Review into ACT caesarean rates

OFFICIAL

Hi team – Alison’s feedback below. Any luck with pushing back the timeline with [REDACTED]

Thank you

Maddy

From: Derrett, Alison <Alison.Derrett@act.gov.au>

Sent: Monday, 30 March 2026 2:43 PM

To: Lopa, Liz <Liz.Lopa@act.gov.au>; CHS, Health Services Support Unit <CHS.HSSU@act.gov.au>

Cc: Fleischer, Debbie <debbie.Fleischer@act.gov.au>

Subject: RE: New media enquiry (Region Canberra) - Review into ACT caesarean rates

OFFICIAL

Hi Liz happy with the responses, I think we need to continue to indicate that it is part of our normal review processes to review the data. The only other thing that may be worthwhile putting in here is that our normal review processes will involve our clinical teams

Regards

AD

Alison Derrett | Chief Operating Officer

Email: Alison.Derrett@act.gov.au

Office of the Chief Operating Officer | Canberra Health Services | ACT Government

PO Box 11 Woden ACT 2606 | health.act.gov.au

RELIABLE | PROGRESSIVE | RESPECTFUL | KIND



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Sent: Monday, 30 March 2026 9:18 AM

To: CHS, Health Services Support Unit <CHS.HSSU@act.gov.au>; Derrett, Alison <Alison.Derrett@act.gov.au>

Cc: Fleischer, Debbie <debbie.Fleischer@act.gov.au>

Subject: RE: New media enquiry (Region Canberra) - Review into ACT caesarean rates

OFFICIAL

Morning

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Alison – this came from a question in question time to the Minister about c-section rates and her saying CHS was doing work to look into it. Which we are – but at the moment it is just WYC. What do you think of the answers below? The media interest has come just a little ahead of when we can answer all the questions.

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Outlet: Region Canberra

Journalist: [REDACTED]

Deadline: ASAP

Type of request: Request for interview and media response

Questions:

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- Is it for whole of ACT, just public, or certain hospitals. CHS is responsible for public services, and that is what is being examined. [HCSD might have figures on the private hospitals, which would be useful].
- Who called for or ordered the inquiry - Minister, CHS, midwives? CHS routinely conducts reviews to ensure the quality and safety of our services.
- Who will conduct the inquiry? This is a routine, internal review.
- What are the terms of reference? These are to be determined – at this time, we are in an information gathering stage.
- Will it also include impact on the hospital system - cost, surgical and post-op capacity? At this time, the review is into the clinical reasons for the c-sections. We know that parents who give birth via c-section do have longer lengths of stay in the hospital after the birth, which does lead to higher costs. However, this review is not focussed on those areas, but instead on the quality and safety of the care given to the birthing parent.
- When will it report? Yet to be determined.

From: CHS, Health Services Support Unit <CHS.HSSU@act.gov.au>

Sent: Friday, 27 March 2026 11:48 AM

To: Lopa, Liz <Liz.Lopa@act.gov.au>

Subject: FW: New media enquiry (Region Canberra) - Review into ACT caesarean rates

Importance: High

OFFICIAL

Hi Liz

As mentioned, for your advice.

Many thanks

Maddy

From: Canberra Health Services Media <CHSmedia@act.gov.au>

Sent: Friday, 27 March 2026 11:39 AM

To: CHS, WYC Executive Office <CHS.WYCExecutiveOffice@act.gov.au>; Canberra Health Services Media <CHSmedia@act.gov.au>; CHS, Health Services Support Unit <CHS.HSSU@act.gov.au>

Cc: Foote, Claire <Claire.Foote@act.gov.au>

Subject: RE: New media enquiry (Region Canberra) - Review into ACT caesarean rates

OFFICIAL

Thanks Liz.

Mick (the Minister's Media advisor) has also come back to say he's checked with the Minister's advisers and they have said CHS should be able to answer a few of the questions, so fingers crossed Liz Lopa is across this one.

Cheers,
Brie

From: CHS, WYC Executive Office <CHS.WYCExecutiveOffice@act.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 27 March 2026 10:36 AM
To: Canberra Health Services Media <CHSmedia@act.gov.au>; CHS, Health Services Support Unit <CHS.HSSU@act.gov.au>
Cc: Foote, Claire <Claire.Foote@act.gov.au>; CHS, WYC Executive Office <CHS.WYCExecutiveOffice@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: New media enquiry (Region Canberra) - Review into ACT caesarean rates

OFFICIAL

Good morning

I just asked Kath about this – she said the best person to assist in answering the below is Liz Lopa as she in discussions with HCSD.

thanks

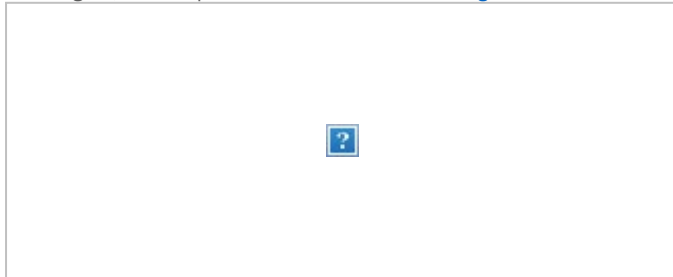
Liz

Elizabeth Wray | Executive Officer

Email: chs.wycexecutiveoffice@act.gov.au

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From: Canberra Health Services Media <CHSmedia@act.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 27 March 2026 10:01 AM
To: CHS, Health Services Support Unit <CHS.HSSU@act.gov.au>; CHS, WYC Executive Office <CHS.WYCExecutiveOffice@act.gov.au>
Cc: Canberra Health Services Media <CHSmedia@act.gov.au>; Foote, Claire <Claire.Foote@act.gov.au>
Subject: New media enquiry (Region Canberra) - Review into ACT caesarean rates

OFFICIAL

Hi HSSU and WYC

We have received the enquiry via the Min’s Office in response to a comment on ABC radio this morning that stated Canberra Health Services is conducting a review into caesarean section

rates. Can you please confirm if this is true and if so, provide a response to the below questions and/or recommend who we could put up to speak with Region Canberra? Region Canberra is a print/online publication so it wouldn't be a TV/radio interview.

Issue: Review into caesarean section rates

Outlet: Region Canberra

Journalist: [REDACTED]

Deadline: ASAP

Type of request: Request for interview and media response

Questions:

- What new data has prompted this?
- Is it for whole of ACT, just public, or certain hospitals.
- Who called for or ordered the inquiry - Minister, CHS, midwives?
- Who will conduct the inquiry?
- What are the terms of reference?
- Will it also include impact on the hospital system - cost, surgical and post-op capacity
- When will it report?

Kind regards,

Brienne Connor | Director, Media

Mobile: [REDACTED] | Email: brienne.connor@act.gov.au

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Canberra Hospital, Yamba Drive, Garran ACT | canberrahealthservices.act.gov.au



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From: Inman, Mick <Mick.Inman@act.gov.au>

Sent: Friday, 27 March 2026 9:47 AM

To: Canberra Health Services Media <CHSmedia@act.gov.au>; HCSD, Media <HCSDMedia@act.gov.au>; Smith, HannahX <HannahX.Smith@act.gov.au>

Subject: FW: Caesar rates

Hi Team,

[REDACTED] heard the wash up after Jo Clay was on 666 this morning.

just wondering what's prompted it and what we can provide.

Thanks. Mick

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 27 March 2026 9:24 AM
To: Inman, Mick <Mick.Inman@act.gov.au>
Subject: Caesar rates

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Morning,

Heard a brief headline on ABC that the ACT will inquire into caesarian birth rates that have hit 50 per cent and I'm keen to know more.

So:

What new data has prompted this?

Is it for whole of ACT, just public, or certain hospitals.

Who called for or ordered the inquiry - Minister, CHS, midwives?

Who will conduct the inquiry?

What are the terms of reference?

Will it also include impact on the hospital system - cost, surgical and post-op capacity

When will it report?

If you can furnish some one to talk to that would be great.

I note that there was a maternity services report in 2020 that examined Caesar rates.

Best,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Region

Logo for Region Group Pty Ltd



W. region.com.au



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From: [CHS, Health Services Support Unit](#)
To: [Canberra Health Services Media](#)
Cc: [Foote, Claire](#)
Subject: RE: New media enquiry (Region Canberra) - Review into ACT caesarean rates
Date: Tuesday, 31 March 2026 4:29:00 PM
Attachments: [image003.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)
[image007.png](#)
[image008.png](#)

Thanks Brie – Liz is keen to discuss this at their meeting on Thursday. She doesn't mind doing it but thinks someone clinical would have better appeal

From: Canberra Health Services Media
Sent: Tuesday, 31 March 2026 2:00 PM
To: CHS, Health Services Support Unit
Cc: Canberra Health Services Media ; Foote, Claire
Subject: RE: New media enquiry (Region Canberra) - Review into ACT caesarean rates

OFFICIAL

Hi Maddy

■ is happy to wait. MO has advised it would be good to set up an interview with him next week. We'll need to confirm with Liz if this would be with her or Kath/Sarah, as well as any support they would require ahead of the interview, e.g. talking points.

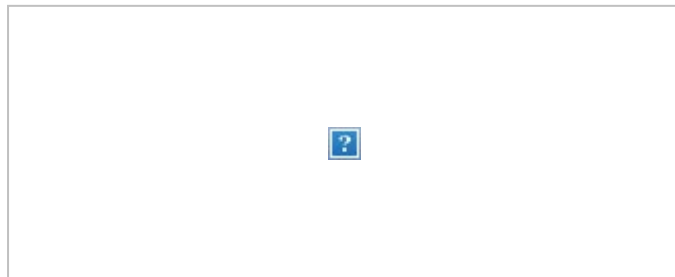
Kind regards

Brienne Connor | Director, Media

Mobile: ■ | Email: brienne.connor@act.gov.au

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From: CHS, Health Services Support Unit <CHS.HSSU@act.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 31 March 2026 12:43 PM
To: Canberra Health Services Media <CHSmedia@act.gov.au>
Subject: FW: New media enquiry (Region Canberra) - Review into ACT caesarean rates

OFFICIAL

Hi team – Alison’s feedback below. Any luck with pushing back the timeline with [REDACTED]

Thank you

Maddy

From: Derrett, Alison <Alison.Derrett@act.gov.au>

Sent: Monday, 30 March 2026 2:43 PM

To: Lopa, Liz <Liz.Lopa@act.gov.au>; CHS, Health Services Support Unit <CHS.HSSU@act.gov.au>

Cc: Fleischer, Debbie <debbie.Fleischer@act.gov.au>

Subject: RE: New media enquiry (Region Canberra) - Review into ACT caesarean rates

OFFICIAL

Hi Liz happy with the responses, I think we need to continue to indicate that it is part of our normal review processes to review the data. The only other thing that may be worthwhile putting in here is that our normal review processes will involve our clinical teams

Regards

AD

Alison Derrett | Chief Operating Officer

Email: Alison.Derrett@act.gov.au

Office of the Chief Operating Officer | Canberra Health Services | ACT Government

PO Box 11 Woden ACT 2606 | health.act.gov.au

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From: Lopa, Liz <Liz.Lopa@act.gov.au>

Sent: Monday, 30 March 2026 9:18 AM

To: CHS, Health Services Support Unit <CHS.HSSU@act.gov.au>; Derrett, Alison <Alison.Derrett@act.gov.au>

Cc: Fleischer, Debbie <debbie.Fleischer@act.gov.au>

Subject: RE: New media enquiry (Region Canberra) - Review into ACT caesarean rates

OFFICIAL

Morning

C-Section rates were specifically included in the [REDACTED] to look into the sustainability of our services, as our c-section rates are quite high compared to national figures. The current examination into c-section rates is routine business being conducted by WYC. However, I have had a meeting in the diary with them to discuss for a while, and it

is happening this week. There is an internal, routine review, but the meeting this week will be about whether we need to formalise this through governance a bit more, given the interest from outside parties. I also think we will need to expand the scope to include NCH and possibly include the Chief Medical Officer.

So – I have done my best with the questions below, given that we have the meeting this week and so we are not 100% clear on the answers.

Media team – could [REDACTED] be persuaded to wait a bit until we can get all the internal stakeholders together and then we can give him an interview next week?

Alison – this came from a question in question time to the Minister about c-section rates and her saying CHS was doing work to look into it. Which we are – but at the moment it is just WYC. What do you think of the answers below? The media interest has come just a little ahead of when we can answer all the questions.

Issue: Review into caesarean section rates

Outlet: Region Canberra

Journalist: [REDACTED]

Deadline: ASAP

Type of request: Request for interview and media response

Questions:

- What new data has prompted this? Canberra Health Services is always monitoring data for quality and safety purposes, to ensure the service is delivering exceptional care. Canberra public hospitals have a high c-section rate and it is prudent to examine the reasons for this and see if there are any improvements we can make. There are many reasons for birthing people to have a c-section birth, including for the safety of the baby and the birthing parent.
- Is it for whole of ACT, just public, or certain hospitals. CHS is responsible for public services, and that is what is being examined. [HCSD might have figures on the private hospitals, which would be useful].
- Who called for or ordered the inquiry - Minister, CHS, midwives? CHS routinely conducts reviews to ensure the quality and safety of our services.
- Who will conduct the inquiry? This is a routine, internal review.
- What are the terms of reference? These are to be determined – at this time, we are in an information gathering stage.
- Will it also include impact on the hospital system - cost, surgical and post-op capacity? At this time, the review is into the clinical reasons for the c-sections. We know that parents who give birth via c-section do have longer lengths of stay in the hospital after the birth, which does lead to higher costs. However, this review is not focussed on those areas, but instead on the quality and safety of the care given to the birthing parent.
- When will it report? Yet to be determined.

From: CHS, Health Services Support Unit <CHS.HSSU@act.gov.au>

Sent: Friday, 27 March 2026 11:48 AM

To: Lopa, Liz <Liz.Lopa@act.gov.au>

Subject: FW: New media enquiry (Region Canberra) - Review into ACT caesarean rates

Importance: High

OFFICIAL

Hi Liz

As mentioned, for your advice.

Many thanks

Maddy

From: Canberra Health Services Media <CHSmedia@act.gov.au>

Sent: Friday, 27 March 2026 11:39 AM

To: CHS, WYC Executive Office <CHS.WYCExecutiveOffice@act.gov.au>; Canberra Health Services Media <CHSmedia@act.gov.au>; CHS, Health Services Support Unit <CHS.HSSU@act.gov.au>

Cc: Foote, Claire <Claire.Foote@act.gov.au>

Subject: RE: New media enquiry (Region Canberra) - Review into ACT caesarean rates

OFFICIAL

Thanks Liz.

Mick (the Minister's Media advisor) has also come back to say he's checked with the Minister's advisers and they have said CHS should be able to answer a few of the questions, so fingers crossed Liz Lopa is across this one.

Cheers,

Brie

From: CHS, WYC Executive Office <CHS.WYCExecutiveOffice@act.gov.au>

Sent: Friday, 27 March 2026 10:36 AM

To: Canberra Health Services Media <CHSmedia@act.gov.au>; CHS, Health Services Support Unit <CHS.HSSU@act.gov.au>

Cc: Foote, Claire <Claire.Foote@act.gov.au>; CHS, WYC Executive Office <CHS.WYCExecutiveOffice@act.gov.au>

Subject: RE: New media enquiry (Region Canberra) - Review into ACT caesarean rates

OFFICIAL

Good morning

I just asked Kath about this – she said the best person to assist in answering the below is Liz Lopa as she in discussions with HCSD.

thanks

Liz

Elizabeth Wray | Executive Officer

Email: chs.wycexecutiveoffice@act.gov.au

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From: Canberra Health Services Media <CHSmedia@act.gov.au>

Sent: Friday, 27 March 2026 10:01 AM

To: CHS, Health Services Support Unit <CHS.HSSU@act.gov.au>; CHS, WYC Executive Office <CHS.WYCExecutiveOffice@act.gov.au>

Cc: Canberra Health Services Media <CHSmedia@act.gov.au>; Foote, Claire <Claire.Foote@act.gov.au>

Subject: New media enquiry (Region Canberra) - Review into ACT caesarean rates

OFFICIAL

Hi HSSU and WYC

We have received the enquiry via the Min's Office in response to a comment on ABC radio this morning that stated Canberra Health Services is conducting a review into caesarean section rates. Can you please confirm if this is true and if so, provide a response to the below questions and/or recommend who we could put up to speak with Region Canberra? Region Canberra is a print/online publication so it wouldn't be a TV/radio interview.

Issue: Review into caesarean section rates

Outlet: Region Canberra

Journalist: [REDACTED]

Deadline: ASAP

Type of request: Request for interview and media response

Questions:

- What new data has prompted this?
- Is it for whole of ACT, just public, or certain hospitals.
- Who called for or ordered the inquiry - Minister, CHS, midwives?
- Who will conduct the inquiry?
- What are the terms of reference?
- Will it also include impact on the hospital system - cost, surgical and post-op capacity
- When will it report?

Kind regards,

Brienne Connor | Director, Media

Mobile: [REDACTED] | Email: brienne.connor@act.gov.au

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From: Inman, Mick <Mick.Inman@act.gov.au>

Sent: Friday, 27 March 2026 9:47 AM

To: Canberra Health Services Media <CHSmedia@act.gov.au>; HCSD, Media <HCSDMedia@act.gov.au>; Smith, HannahX <HannahX.Smith@act.gov.au>

Subject: FW: Caesar rates

Hi Team,

■ heard the wash up after Jo Clay was on 666 this morning.

■ just wondering what's prompted it and what we can provide.

Thanks. Mick

From: ■ <■■■■■■■■■■@region.com.au>

Sent: Friday, 27 March 2026 9:24 AM

To: Inman, Mick <Mick.Inman@act.gov.au>

Subject: Caesar rates

Caution: This email originated from outside of the ACT Government. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Morning,

Heard a brief headline on ABC that the ACT will inquire into caesarian birth rates that have hit 50 per cent and I'm keen to know more.

So:

What new data has prompted this?

Is it for whole of ACT, just public, or certain hospitals.

Who called for or ordered the inquiry - Minister, CHS, midwives?

Who will conduct the inquiry?

What are the terms of reference?

Will it also include impact on the hospital system - cost, surgical and post-op capacity

When will it report?

If you can furnish some one to talk to that would be great.

I note that there was a maternity services report in 2020 that examined Caesar rates.

Best,

■■■■■■■■■■
■■■■■■■■■■
■■■■■■■■■■

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From: [Canberra Health Services Media](#)
To: [CHS, Health Services Support Unit](#)
Subject: RE: New media enquiry (Canberra Times) - Caesarean sections
Date: Tuesday, 31 March 2026 1:04:51 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.jpg](#)

OFFICIAL

Will do

From: CHS, Health Services Support Unit
Sent: Tuesday, 31 March 2026 12:43 PM
To: Canberra Health Services Media ; Lopa, Liz
Cc: Foote, Claire
Subject: RE: New media enquiry (Canberra Times) - Caesarean sections

OFFICIAL

Thanks Brie, yes work with WYC on the data please. We will get the statement cleared as soon as we can.

Nic

From: Canberra Health Services Media <CHSmedia@act.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 31 March 2026 11:04 AM
To: Canberra Health Services Media <CHSmedia@act.gov.au>; Lopa, Liz
<Liz.Lopa@act.gov.au>; CHS, Health Services Support Unit <CHS.HSSU@act.gov.au>
Cc: Foote, Claire <Claire.Foote@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: New media enquiry (Canberra Times) - Caesarean sections

OFFICIAL

Hi all

Following up on the two caesarean enquiries. Canberra Times would like a statement today. For the breakdown of emergency vs elective c sections, I've advised we'll need more time on this one. Are you happy for me to reach out to WYC and NCH on this?

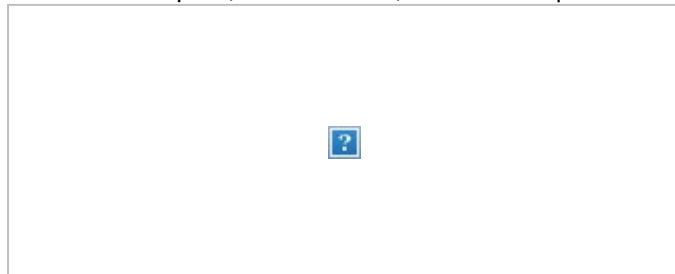
Kind regards,

Brienne Connor | Director, Media

Mobile: [REDACTED] | Email: brienne.connor@act.gov.au

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From: Canberra Health Services Media

Sent: Monday, 30 March 2026 4:04 PM

To: Lopa, Liz <Liz.Lopa@act.gov.au>; Canberra Health Services Media <CHSmedia@act.gov.au>; CHS, Health Services Support Unit <CHS.HSSU@act.gov.au>

Cc: Canberra Health Services Media <CHSmedia@act.gov.au>; Foote, Claire <Claire.Foote@act.gov.au>

Subject: RE: New media enquiry (Canberra Times) - Caesarean sections

Hi Liz

See attached the QON response to Jo Clay MLA and below a draft response that could be provided.

“Canberra Health Services routinely monitors its data to ensure the quality and safety of care. This routine monitoring has highlighted an increase in caesarean section rates in our public hospitals over the past several years.

Given this, we are undertaking an internal review to better understand the clinical drivers behind these decisions and to ensure women and families are receiving safe, high-quality, evidence-based maternity care.

Understanding why this increase has occurred, and whether there are opportunities to improve care, is exactly what this review will examine.

There are many clinical and personal factors that can lead to a caesarean section, including situations where it is the safest option for the baby or the birthing parent.

Changes in the complexity of pregnancies, maternal health needs and clinical decision-making may all play a role, and this will be assessed through this review.”

Cheers,

Brie

From: Lopa, Liz <Liz.Lopa@act.gov.au>

Sent: Monday, 30 March 2026 3:09 PM

To: Canberra Health Services Media <CHSmedia@act.gov.au>; CHS, Health Services Support Unit <CHS.HSSU@act.gov.au>

Cc: Canberra Health Services Media <CHSmedia@act.gov.au>; Foote, Claire <Claire.Foote@act.gov.au>

Subject: Re: New media enquiry (Canberra Times) - Caesarean sections

OFFICIAL

Hi Brie

Can I see the data table she is referring to? I would like to answer this with a statement that says this is what CHS is looking in to.

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From: Canberra Health Services Media <CHSmedia@act.gov.au>

Sent: Monday, March 30, 2026 2:38:05 PM

To: CHS, Health Services Support Unit <CHS.HSSU@act.gov.au>

Cc: Canberra Health Services Media <CHSmedia@act.gov.au>; Lopa, Liz <Liz.Lopa@act.gov.au>; Foote, Claire <Claire.Foote@act.gov.au>

Subject: New media enquiry (Canberra Times) - Caesarean sections

OFFICIAL

Hi all

In addition to discussions this morning around the Region Canberra enquiry we have received questions from Canberra Times on caesarean sections.

Issue: Caesarean sections

Outlet: Canberra Times

Journalist: [REDACTED]

Deadline: 11am, 31 March 2026

Type of request: Response

Questions:

1. What percentage of caesarean sections provided in the attached data tables were emergency caesareans compared to scheduled/elective ones?

X

• Why have these rates have increased over the past 3 years and since 2019 when the rate was closer to 30 percent?

For question 1, can you please confirm if we should reach out to WYC and NCH to confirm the percentage of emergency vs scheduled/elective caesareans? * We would need to confirm an extension to the enquiry should this be approved to go ahead. *

For question 2, I'm assuming we don't know this yet as this is something the review would be looking into. We could provide a line from the draft response to Region around having a high rate and this is why it's important we look into this, or could take the same approach with [REDACTED] and offer more information on the review in the coming weeks.

Kind regards,

Brienne Connor | Director, Media

Mobile: [REDACTED] | Email: brienne.connor@act.gov.au

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From: [REDACTED]@canberratimes.com.au>

Sent: Monday, 30 March 2026 12:42 PM

To: Canberra Health Services Media <CHSmedia@act.gov.au>

Subject: Info on QoN caesareans

Caution: This email originated from outside of the ACT Government. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi team,

Hope you're well,

Reaching out for clarification on some data released in a question on notice.

The data I've attached below shows caesarean rates at Canberra Hospital and North Canberra Hospital for the past 3 years- wondering if you would be able to provide any data on what percentage of these were emergency caesareans compared to scheduled/elective ones?

Also why these rates have increased over the past 3 years and since 2019 when the rate was closer to 30 percent?

(2019)

<https://questions.parliament.act.gov.au/details/11564d9e1431424f80bbccba2c59f8b1>

Deadline is 11am tomorrow.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

Australian Community Media

M [REDACTED]

A 121 Marcus Clarke Street, Canberra City ACT, 2600

W www.canberratimes.com.au



Born on Whadjuk Noongar land, I am living and working on Ngunnawal and Ngambri Land.

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From: [Canberra Health Services Media](#)
To: [Lopa, Liz](#); [CHS, Health Services Support Unit](#); [Canberra Health Services Media](#)
Cc: [Foote, Claire](#)
Subject: RE: New media enquiry (Canberra Times) - Caesarean sections
Date: Tuesday, 31 March 2026 2:05:12 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.jpg](#)

OFFICIAL

Hi Liz

I understand your concern about how elective versus emergency could be interpreted, particularly where decisions are made based on risk rather than clinical urgency at the time of birth. NCH has flagged this with me this afternoon as well but suggested we could include caveats on what 'elective' refers to.

I'm happy to take your advice on whether we provide the data or not.

After checking with WYC/NCH and Government Relations, CHS did not provide the response to the QON that the Canberra Times is referring to. This information was provided through HCSD and DAB.

Given this, we have two options:

1. We can approach HCSD/DAB to confirm whether they are comfortable providing the data, with clear caveats around how "elective" is defined and interpreted
2. We can advise the Canberra Times that CHS is unable to provide the data.

I'm comfortable to proceed based on your preference.

Kind regards,

Brienne Connor | Director, Media

Mobile: [REDACTED] | Email: brienne.connor@act.gov.au

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Canberra Hospital, Yamba Drive, Garran ACT | canberrahealthservices.act.gov.au



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From: Lopa, Liz
Sent: Tuesday, 31 March 2026 1:37 PM
To: CHS, Health Services Support Unit ; Canberra Health Services Media
Cc: Foote, Claire
Subject: Re: New media enquiry (Canberra Times) - Caesarean sections

OFFICIAL

I am worried about emergency vs choice. [REDACTED]
 [REDACTED]. So
 I do not think we should be releasing this data
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From: CHS, Health Services Support Unit <CHS.HSSU@act.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2026 12:42:57 PM
To: Canberra Health Services Media <CHSmedia@act.gov.au>; Lopa, Liz <Liz.Lopa@act.gov.au>
Cc: Foote, Claire <Claire.Foote@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: New media enquiry (Canberra Times) - Caesarean sections

OFFICIAL

Thanks Brie, yes work with WYC on the data please. We will get the statement cleared as soon as we can.
 Nic

From: Canberra Health Services Media <CHSmedia@act.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 31 March 2026 11:04 AM
To: Canberra Health Services Media <CHSmedia@act.gov.au>; Lopa, Liz <Liz.Lopa@act.gov.au>; CHS, Health Services Support Unit <CHS.HSSU@act.gov.au>
Cc: Foote, Claire <Claire.Foote@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: New media enquiry (Canberra Times) - Caesarean sections

OFFICIAL

Hi all
 Following up on the two caesarean enquiries. Canberra Times would like a statement today. For the breakdown of emergency vs elective c sections, I've advised we'll need more time on this one. Are you happy for me to reach out to WYC and NCH on this?
 Kind regards,

Brienne Connor | Director, Media

Mobile: [REDACTED] | Email: brienne.connor@act.gov.au

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Canberra Hospital, Yamba Drive, Garran ACT | canberrahealthservices.act.gov.au



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From: Canberra Health Services Media

Sent: Monday, 30 March 2026 4:04 PM

To: Lopa, Liz <Liz.Lopa@act.gov.au>; Canberra Health Services Media <CHSmedia@act.gov.au>; CHS, Health Services Support Unit <CHS.HSSU@act.gov.au>

Cc: Canberra Health Services Media <CHSmedia@act.gov.au>; Foote, Claire <Claire.Foote@act.gov.au>

Subject: RE: New media enquiry (Canberra Times) - Caesarean sections

Hi Liz

See attached the QON response to Jo Clay MLA and below a draft response that could be provided.

“Canberra Health Services routinely monitors its data to ensure the quality and safety of care. This routine monitoring has highlighted an increase in caesarean section rates in our public hospitals over the past several years.

Given this, we are undertaking an internal review to better understand the clinical drivers behind these decisions and to ensure women and families are receiving safe, high-quality, evidence-based maternity care.

Understanding why this increase has occurred, and whether there are opportunities to improve care, is exactly what this review will examine.

There are many clinical and personal factors that can lead to a caesarean section, including situations where it is the safest option for the baby or the birthing parent.

Changes in the complexity of pregnancies, maternal health needs and clinical decision-making may all play a role, and this will be assessed through this review.”

Cheers,

Brie

From: Lopa, Liz <Liz.Lopa@act.gov.au>

Sent: Monday, 30 March 2026 3:09 PM

To: Canberra Health Services Media <CHSmedia@act.gov.au>; CHS, Health Services Support Unit <CHS.HSSU@act.gov.au>

Cc: Canberra Health Services Media <CHSmedia@act.gov.au>; Foote, Claire <Claire.Foote@act.gov.au>

Subject: Re: New media enquiry (Canberra Times) - Caesarean sections

OFFICIAL

Hi Brie

Can I see the data table she is referring to? I would like to answer this with a statement that says this is what CHS is looking in to.

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From: Canberra Health Services Media <CHSmedia@act.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, March 30, 2026 2:38:05 PM
To: CHS, Health Services Support Unit <CHS.HSSU@act.gov.au>
Cc: Canberra Health Services Media <CHSmedia@act.gov.au>; Lopa, Liz <Liz.Lopa@act.gov.au>; Foote, Claire <Claire.Foote@act.gov.au>
Subject: New media enquiry (Canberra Times) - Caesarean sections

OFFICIAL

Hi all

In addition to discussions this morning around the Region Canberra enquiry we have received questions from Canberra Times on caesarean sections.

Issue: Caesarean sections

Outlet: Canberra Times

Journalist: [REDACTED]

Deadline: 11am, 31 March 2026

Type of request: Response

Questions:

1. What percentage of caesarean sections provided in the attached data tables were emergency caesareans compared to scheduled/elective ones?

X

• Why have these rates have increased over the past 3 years and since 2019 when the rate was closer to 30 percent?

For question 1, can you please confirm if we should reach out to WYC and NCH to confirm the percentage of emergency vs scheduled/elective caesareans? * We would need to confirm an extension to the enquiry should this be approved to go ahead. *

For question 2, I'm assuming we don't know this yet as this is something the review would be looking into. We could provide a line from the draft response to Region around having a high rate and this is why it's important we look into this, or could take the same approach with [REDACTED] and offer more information on the review in the coming weeks.

Kind regards,

Brienne Connor | Director, Media

Mobile: [REDACTED] | Email: brienne.connor@act.gov.au

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From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@canberratimes.com.au>

Sent: Monday, 30 March 2026 12:42 PM

To: Canberra Health Services Media <CHSmedia@act.gov.au>

Subject: Info on QoN caesareans

Caution: This email originated from outside of the ACT Government. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi team,

Hope you're well,

Reaching out for clarification on some data released in a question on notice.

The data I've attached below shows caesarean rates at Canberra Hospital and North Canberra Hospital for the past 3 years- wondering if you would be able to provide any data on what percentage of these were emergency caesareans compared to scheduled/elective ones?

Also why these rates have increased over the past 3 years and since 2019 when the rate was closer to 30 percent?

(2019)

<https://questions.parliament.act.gov.au/details/11564d9e1431424f80bbccba2c59f8b1>

Deadline is 11am tomorrow.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Australian Community Media

M [REDACTED]

A 121 Marcus Clarke Street, Canberra City ACT, 2600

W www.canberratimes.com.au



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accept legal responsibility for the contents of this message or attached files.

From: [Keyes, Louise](#)
To: [CHS, WYC Executive Office](#)
Cc: [VanDiemen, Jane](#); [Wakefield, Katherine](#); [Elliot, Chloe](#)
Subject: RE: For Action: For input: Media enquiry (Canberra Times) - Caesarean section rates
Date: Tuesday, 31 March 2026 6:04:24 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.jpg](#)

OFFICIAL

Hi Liz

Could we add to the statement comment that the rise of c/s has also been rising in other states and territories over the last three years as well.

If you are able to get the date from the S&Q reports that would be great – does Kelly have them going back three years ago?

Kind regards

Louise

From: CHS, WYC Executive Office
Sent: Tuesday, 31 March 2026 1:10 PM
To: Keyes, Louise
Cc: VanDiemen, Jane ; Wakefield, Katherine ; Elliot, Chloe ; CHS, WYC Executive Office
Subject: For Action: For input: Media enquiry (Canberra Times) - Caesarean section rates

OFFICIAL

Hi Louise

The data requested can be pulled from the Quality and Safety Reports I have just been looking at earlier for the Continuity.

Did you want me to pull those numbers out for you too?

CHS Media have asked for this data in response to the request from the Canberra Times.

Many thanks.

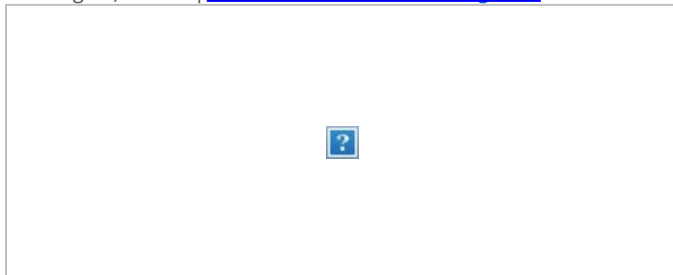
Liz

Elizabeth Wray | Executive Officer

Email: chs.wycexecutiveoffice@act.gov.au

Division of Women, Youth and Children | Canberra Health Services | ACT Government

Building 11, Level 2 | canberrahealthservices.act.gov.au



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From: Canberra Health Services Media <CHSmedia@act.gov.au>

Sent: Tuesday, 31 March 2026 1:01 PM

To: CHS, WYC Executive Office <CHS.WYCExecutiveOffice@act.gov.au>; CHS NCH GM <NCHGM@act.gov.au>

Cc: Canberra Health Services Media <CHSmedia@act.gov.au>

Subject: For input: Media enquiry (Canberra Times) - Caesarean section rates

OFFICIAL

Hi WYC and NCH teams

We have received an enquiry from Canberra Times on caesarean section rates, see two questions below:

1. The data I've attached below shows caesarean rates at Canberra Hospital and North Canberra Hospital for the past 3 years- wondering if you would be able to provide any data on what percentage of these were emergency caesareans compared to scheduled/elective ones?
2. Also, why these rates have increased over the past 3 years and since 2019 when the rate was closer to 30 percent?

Where I require your assistance is for question 1 – a breakdown of elective vs emergency caesarean sections. Can you please let me know if this is something you are able to provide for the attached info?

I have spoken to Liz Lopa, and we will provide a statement for question 2. The below is going through approvals at HSSU now. Statement:

“Canberra Health Services routinely monitors its data to ensure the quality and safety of care. This routine monitoring has highlighted an increase in caesarean section rates in our public hospitals over the past several years.

Given this, we are undertaking an internal review to better understand the clinical drivers behind these decisions and to ensure women and families are receiving safe, high-quality, evidence-based maternity care.

Understanding why this increase has occurred, and whether there are opportunities to improve care, is exactly what this review will examine.

There are many clinical and personal factors that can lead to a caesarean section, including situations where it is the safest option for the baby or the birthing parent.

Changes in the complexity of pregnancies, maternal health needs and clinical decision-making may all play a role, and this will be assessed through this review.”

Kind regards,

Brienne Connor | Director, Media

Mobile: [REDACTED] | Email: brienne.connor@act.gov.au

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Canberra Hospital, Yamba Drive, Garran ACT | canberrahealthservices.act.gov.au



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From: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@canberratimes.com.au](mailto:[REDACTED]@canberratimes.com.au)>

Sent: Monday, 30 March 2026 12:42 PM

To: Canberra Health Services Media <CHSmedia@act.gov.au>

Subject: Info on QoN caesareans

Caution: This email originated from outside of the ACT Government. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi team,

Hope you're well,

Reaching out for clarification on some data released in a question on notice.

The data I've attached below shows caesarean rates at Canberra Hospital and North Canberra Hospital for the past 3 years- wondering if you would be able to provide any data on what percentage of these were emergency caesareans compared to scheduled/elective ones?

Also why these rates have increased over the past 3 years and since 2019 when the rate was closer to 30 percent?

(2019)

<https://questions.parliament.act.gov.au/details/11564d9e1431424f80bbccba2c59f8b1>

Deadline is 11am tomorrow.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

Australian Community Media

M [REDACTED]

A 121 Marcus Clarke Street, Canberra City ACT, 2600

W www.canberratimes.com.au



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From: [Ramsay, Michelle](#)
To: [Derrett, Alison](#)
Subject: URGENT -FOR APPROVAL: New media enquiry (Canberra Times) - Caesarean sections
Date: Wednesday, 1 April 2026 3:12:27 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.jpg](#)

OFFICIAL

From: Canberra Health Services Media
Sent: Tuesday, 31 March 2026 4:48 PM
To: Lopa, Liz ; Canberra Health Services Media ; Derrett, Alison
Subject: RE: New media enquiry (Canberra Times) - Caesarean sections

OFFICIAL

Will do, thanks Liz. [@Derrett, Alison](#) - can you please let me know if you are also happy with the below.

“Canberra Health Services routinely monitors its data to ensure the quality and safety of care. This routine monitoring has highlighted an increase in caesarean section rates in our public hospitals over the past several years. Given this, we are undertaking an internal review to better understand the clinical drivers behind these decisions and to ensure birthing parents and families are receiving safe, high-quality, evidence-based maternity care. Understanding why this increase has occurred, and whether there are opportunities to improve care, is exactly what this review will examine. There are many clinical and personal factors that can lead to a caesarean section, including situations where it is the safest option for the baby or the birthing parent. Changes in the complexity of pregnancies, maternal health needs and clinical decision-making may all play a role, and this will be assessed through this review.”

From: Lopa, Liz <Liz.Lopa@act.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 31 March 2026 4:08 PM
To: Canberra Health Services Media <CHSmedia@act.gov.au>
Cc: Derrett, Alison <Alison.Derrett@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: New media enquiry (Canberra Times) - Caesarean sections

OFFICIAL

Thanks Brie – sounds good to me. Change women pls

From: Canberra Health Services Media <CHSmedia@act.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 31 March 2026 4:04 PM
To: Lopa, Liz <Liz.Lopa@act.gov.au>
Cc: Canberra Health Services Media <CHSmedia@act.gov.au>
Subject: FW: New media enquiry (Canberra Times) - Caesarean sections

OFFICIAL

Fyi – see draft statement below:

“Canberra Health Services routinely monitors its data to ensure the quality and safety of care. This routine monitoring has highlighted an increase in caesarean section rates in our public hospitals over the past several years.

Given this, we are undertaking an internal review to better understand the clinical drivers behind these decisions and to ensure women and families are receiving safe, high-quality, evidence-based maternity care.

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There are many clinical and personal factors that can lead to a caesarean section, including situations where it is the safest option for the baby or the birthing parent.

Changes in the complexity of pregnancies, maternal health needs and clinical decision-making may all play a role, and this will be assessed through this review.”

From: Canberra Health Services Media

Sent: Monday, 30 March 2026 4:04 PM

To: Lopa, Liz <Liz.Lopa@act.gov.au>; Canberra Health Services Media

<CHSmedia@act.gov.au>; CHS, Health Services Support Unit <CHS.HSSU@act.gov.au>

Cc: Canberra Health Services Media <CHSmedia@act.gov.au>; Foote, Claire <Claire.Foote@act.gov.au>

Subject: RE: New media enquiry (Canberra Times) - Caesarean sections

Hi Liz

See attached the QON response to Jo Clay MLA and below a draft response that could be provided.

“Canberra Health Services routinely monitors its data to ensure the quality and safety of care. This routine monitoring has highlighted an increase in caesarean section rates in our public hospitals over the past several years.

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Cheers,

Brie

From: Lopa, Liz <Liz.Lopa@act.gov.au>

Sent: Monday, 30 March 2026 3:09 PM

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Cc: Canberra Health Services Media <CHSmedia@act.gov.au>; Foote, Claire <Claire.Foote@act.gov.au>

Subject: Re: New media enquiry (Canberra Times) - Caesarean sections

OFFICIAL

Hi Brie

Can I see the data table she is referring to? I would like to answer this with a statement that says this is what CHS is looking in to.

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To: CHS, Health Services Support Unit <CHS.HSSU@act.gov.au>
Cc: Canberra Health Services Media <CHSmedia@act.gov.au>; Lopa, Liz <Liz.Lopa@act.gov.au>; Foote, Claire <Claire.Foote@act.gov.au>
Subject: New media enquiry (Canberra Times) - Caesarean sections

OFFICIAL

Hi all

In addition to discussions this morning around the Region Canberra enquiry we have received questions from Canberra Times on caesarean sections.

Issue: Caesarean sections

Outlet: Canberra Times

Journalist: [REDACTED]

Deadline: 11am, 31 March 2026

Type of request: Response

Questions:

1. What percentage of caesarean sections provided in the attached data tables were emergency caesareans compared to scheduled/elective ones?

X

• Why have these rates have increased over the past 3 years and since 2019 when the rate was closer to 30 percent?

For question 1, can you please confirm if we should reach out to WYC and NCH to confirm the percentage of emergency vs scheduled/elective caesareans? * We would need to confirm an extension to the enquiry should this be approved to go ahead. *

For question 2, I'm assuming we don't know this yet as this is something the review would be looking into. We could provide a line from the draft response to Region around having a high rate and this is why it's important we look into this, or could take the same approach with [REDACTED] and offer more information on the review in the coming weeks.

Kind regards,

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Mobile: [REDACTED] | Email: brienne.connor@act.gov.au

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From: [REDACTED]@canberratimes.com.au>

Sent: Monday, 30 March 2026 12:42 PM

To: Canberra Health Services Media <CHSmedia@act.gov.au>

Subject: Info on QoN caesareans

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Hi team,

Hope you're well,

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Also why these rates have increased over the past 3 years and since 2019 when the rate was closer to 30 percent?

(2019)

<https://questions.parliament.act.gov.au/details/11564d9e1431424f80bbccba2c59f8b1>

Deadline is 11am tomorrow.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

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M [REDACTED]

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W www.canberratimes.com.au



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From: [Canberra Health Services Media](#)
To: [REDACTED] [@canberratimes.com.au](mailto:[REDACTED]@canberratimes.com.au)
Cc: [Canberra Health Services Media](#); [Foote, Claire](#)
Subject: RE: Info on QoN caesareans
Date: Wednesday, 1 April 2026 5:35:05 PM
Attachments: [~WRD3157.jpg](#)
[image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)

OFFICIAL

Hi [REDACTED]

Sorry for the delay in getting this to you. Please see below a response in relation to your questions around why the rates have increased over the past 3 years.

Attributable to a CHS spokesperson:

STARTS

“Canberra Health Services routinely monitors its data to ensure the quality and safety of care. This routine monitoring has highlighted an increase in caesarean section rates in our public hospitals over the past several years.

We will be working with our clinicians and midwives to better understand the clinical drivers behind these decisions and ensure birthing parents and families are receiving safe, high-quality, evidence-based maternity care.

Understanding why this increase has occurred, and whether there are opportunities to improve care, is exactly what this work will examine.

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Changes in the complexity of pregnancies, maternal health needs and clinical decision-making may all play a role, and this will be assessed through this review.”

ENDS

Regarding the request for data, this information is not available to us in a readily accessible format. It would require a staff member to manually review monthly reports from the past three to five years, which is a significant and time consuming undertaking.

It would also require a review of individual medical records, which is not something we are able to do, to determine whether caesareans classified as elective were by patient choice or due to underlying medical risk. As discussed on the phone, ‘elective caesareans’ are not always a matter of choice as it would indicate.

Kind regards,

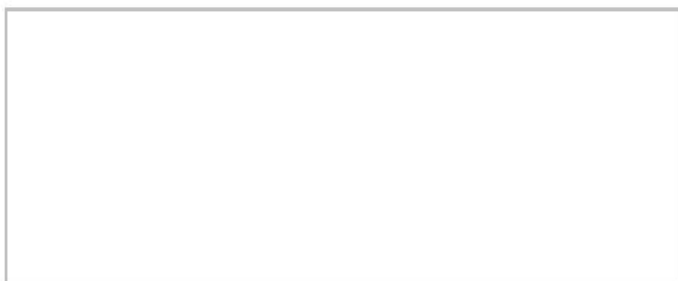
Brianne Connor | Director, Media

Mobile: [REDACTED] | Email: brianne.connor@act.gov.au

Strategic Communication and Engagement | Canberra Health Services | ACT

Government

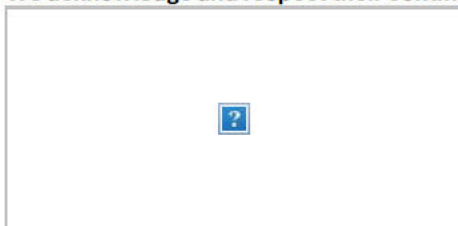
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From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Monday, 30 March 2026 12:42 PM

To: Canberra Health Services Media

Subject: Info on QoN caesareans

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Hi team,

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Reaching out for clarification on some data released in a question on notice.

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Also why these rates have increased over the past 3 years and since 2019 when the rate was closer to 30 percent?

(2019)

<https://questions.parliament.act.gov.au/details/11564d9e1431424f80bbccba2c59f8b1>

Deadline is 11am tomorrow.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

Australian Community Media

M [REDACTED]

A 121 Marcus Clarke Street, Canberra City ACT, 2600

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From: [Canberra Health Services Media](#)
To: [Inman, Mick](#); [Canberra Health Services Media](#)
Cc: [Foote, Claire](#)
Subject: RE: For approval: Media response (Canberra Times) - Caesarean sections
Date: Wednesday, 1 April 2026 5:34:36 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.jpg](#)

OFFICIAL

Thanks Mick, will send off now

From: Inman, Mick
Sent: Wednesday, 1 April 2026 5:27 PM
To: Canberra Health Services Media
Cc: Foote, Claire
Subject: RE: For approval: Media response (Canberra Times) - Caesarean sections
 Approved with one minor edit (review changed to work).
Attributable to a CHS spokesperson:

STARTS

“Canberra Health Services routinely monitors its data to ensure the quality and safety of care. This routine monitoring has highlighted an increase in caesarean section rates in our public hospitals over the past several years.

We will be working with our clinicians and midwives to ~~review~~ and better understand the clinical drivers behind these decisions and to ensure birthing parents and families are receiving safe, high-quality, evidence-based maternity care.

Understanding why this increase has occurred, and whether there are opportunities to improve care, is exactly what this work will examine.

There are many clinical and personal factors that can lead to a caesarean section, including situations where it is the safest option for the baby or the birthing parent.

Changes in the complexity of pregnancies, maternal health needs and clinical decision-making may all play a role, and this will be assessed through this review.”

ENDS

From: Canberra Health Services Media <CHSmedia@act.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 1 April 2026 5:11 PM
To: Inman, Mick <Mick.Inman@act.gov.au>; Canberra Health Services Media <CHSmedia@act.gov.au>
Cc: Foote, Claire <Claire.Foote@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: For approval: Media response (Canberra Times) - Caesarean sections

OFFICIAL

I agree – I’m not sure either but she has specifically requested a response by COB as they would still like the information on the review.

I have told [REDACTED] that the statement is very simple as it’s really early days but they were still very insistent.

From: Inman, Mick <Mick.Inman@act.gov.au>

Sent: Wednesday, 1 April 2026 5:06 PM

To: Canberra Health Services Media <CHSmedia@act.gov.au>

Cc: Foote, Claire <Claire.Foote@act.gov.au>

Subject: RE: For approval: Media response (Canberra Times) - Caesarean sections

Thanks. Working on this.

I'm confused why we've been asked to respond when she published this morning?

From: Canberra Health Services Media <CHSmedia@act.gov.au>

Sent: Wednesday, 1 April 2026 4:00 PM

To: Inman, Mick <Mick.Inman@act.gov.au>

Cc: Canberra Health Services Media <CHSmedia@act.gov.au>; Foote, Claire <Claire.Foote@act.gov.au>

Subject: For approval: Media response (Canberra Times) - Caesarean sections

OFFICIAL

Hi Mick

We have drafted a response to [REDACTED] questions below on caesarean sections. If possible, CT have asked for this by COB today.

We are unable to pull the data requested as this would require someone to manually go through each month from the last 3 years to determine the rates. It would also require us going through clinical records (which we wouldn't do) to determine what was an elective procedure vs one that was due to safety/other factors.

Attributable to a CHS spokesperson:

STARTS

"Canberra Health Services routinely monitors its data to ensure the quality and safety of care. This routine monitoring has highlighted an increase in caesarean section rates in our public hospitals over the past several years.

We will be working with our clinicians and midwives to review and better understand the clinical drivers behind these decisions and to ensure birthing parents and families are receiving safe, high-quality, evidence-based maternity care.

Understanding why this increase has occurred, and whether there are opportunities to improve care, is exactly what this review will examine.

There are many clinical and personal factors that can lead to a caesarean section, including situations where it is the safest option for the baby or the birthing parent.

Changes in the complexity of pregnancies, maternal health needs and clinical decision-making may all play a role, and this will be assessed through this review."

ENDS

Kind regards,

Brienne Connor | Director, Media

Mobile: [REDACTED] | Email: brienne.connor@act.gov.au

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Government

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From: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@canberratimes.com.au](mailto:[REDACTED]@canberratimes.com.au)>

Sent: Monday, 30 March 2026 12:42 PM

To: Canberra Health Services Media <CHSmedia@act.gov.au>

Subject: Info on QoN caesareans

Caution: This email originated from outside of the ACT Government. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi team,

Hope you're well,

Reaching out for clarification on some data released in a question on notice.

The data I've attached below shows caesarean rates at Canberra Hospital and North Canberra Hospital for the past 3 years- wondering if you would be able to provide any data on what percentage of these were emergency caesareans compared to scheduled/elective ones?

Also why these rates have increased over the past 3 years and since 2019 when the rate was closer to 30 percent?

(2019)

<https://questions.parliament.act.gov.au/details/11564d9e1431424f80bbccba2c59f8b1>

Deadline is 11am tomorrow.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

Australian Community Media

M [REDACTED]

A 121 Marcus Clarke Street, Canberra City ACT, 2600

W www.canberratimes.com.au



Born on Whadjuk Noongar land, I am living and working on Ngunnawal and Ngambri Land.

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From: [Ramsay, Michelle](#)
To: [Canberra Health Services Media](#)
Cc: [Lopa, Liz](#)
Subject: COO Comments - : New media enquiry (Canberra Times) - Caesarean sections
Date: Wednesday, 1 April 2026 3:50:10 PM
Attachments: [image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)
[image007.png](#)
[image008.jpg](#)

OFFICIAL

Hi Brie

Alison is happy to clear the below with the following additon:

We will be working with our clinicians and midwives to review and better understand the clinical drivers behind

Michelle

From: Derrett, Alison
Sent: Wednesday, 1 April 2026 3:47 PM
To: Ramsay, Michelle
Cc: Lopa, Liz
Subject: RE: URGENT -FOR APPROVAL: New media enquiry (Canberra Times) - Caesarean sections

OFFICIAL

Happy to clear with the following addition

I just think we should maybe add something like

We will be working with our clinicians and midwives to review and better understand the clinical drivers behind

Alison Derrett | Chief Operating Officer

Email: Alison.Derrett@act.gov.au

Office of the Chief Operating Officer | Canberra Health Services | ACT Government

PO Box 11 Woden ACT 2606 | health.act.gov.au

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We acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and contribution to the life of this region.



From: Ramsay, Michelle <Michelle.Ramsay@act.gov.au>

Sent: Wednesday, 1 April 2026 3:12 PM

To: Derrett, Alison <Alison.Derrett@act.gov.au>

Subject: URGENT -FOR APPROVAL: New media enquiry (Canberra Times) - Caesarean sections

OFFICIAL

From: Canberra Health Services Media <CHSmedia@act.gov.au>

Sent: Tuesday, 31 March 2026 4:48 PM

To: Lopa, Liz <Liz.Lopa@act.gov.au>; Canberra Health Services Media <CHSmedia@act.gov.au>; Derrett, Alison <Alison.Derrett@act.gov.au>

Subject: RE: New media enquiry (Canberra Times) - Caesarean sections

OFFICIAL

Will do, thanks Liz. [@Derrett, Alison](#) - can you please let me know if you are also happy with the below.

“Canberra Health Services routinely monitors its data to ensure the quality and safety of care. This routine monitoring has highlighted an increase in caesarean section rates in our public hospitals over the past several years. Given this, we are undertaking an internal review to better understand the clinical drivers behind these decisions and to ensure birthing parents and families are receiving safe, high-quality, evidence-based maternity care. Understanding why this increase has occurred, and whether there are opportunities to improve care, is exactly what this review will examine. There are many clinical and personal factors that can lead to a caesarean section, including situations where it is the safest option for the baby or the birthing parent. Changes in the complexity of pregnancies, maternal health needs and clinical decision-making may all play a role, and this will be assessed through this review.”

From: Lopa, Liz <Liz.Lopa@act.gov.au>

Sent: Tuesday, 31 March 2026 4:08 PM

To: Canberra Health Services Media <CHSmedia@act.gov.au>

Cc: Derrett, Alison <Alison.Derrett@act.gov.au>

Subject: RE: New media enquiry (Canberra Times) - Caesarean sections

OFFICIAL

Thanks Brie – sounds good to me. Change women pls

From: Canberra Health Services Media <CHSmedia@act.gov.au>

Sent: Tuesday, 31 March 2026 4:04 PM

To: Lopa, Liz <Liz.Lopa@act.gov.au>

Cc: Canberra Health Services Media <CHSmedia@act.gov.au>

Subject: FW: New media enquiry (Canberra Times) - Caesarean sections

OFFICIAL

Fyi – see draft statement below:

“Canberra Health Services routinely monitors its data to ensure the quality and safety of care. This routine monitoring has highlighted an increase in caesarean section rates in our public hospitals over the past several years. Given this, we are undertaking an internal review to better understand the clinical

drivers behind these decisions and to ensure women and families are receiving safe, high-quality, evidence-based maternity care.

Understanding why this increase has occurred, and whether there are opportunities to improve care, is exactly what this review will examine.

There are many clinical and personal factors that can lead to a caesarean section, including situations where it is the safest option for the baby or the birthing parent.

Changes in the complexity of pregnancies, maternal health needs and clinical decision-making may all play a role, and this will be assessed through this review.”

From: Canberra Health Services Media

Sent: Monday, 30 March 2026 4:04 PM

To: Lopa, Liz <Liz.Lopa@act.gov.au>; Canberra Health Services Media <CHSmedia@act.gov.au>; CHS, Health Services Support Unit <CHS.HSSU@act.gov.au>

Cc: Canberra Health Services Media <CHSmedia@act.gov.au>; Foote, Claire <Claire.Foote@act.gov.au>

Subject: RE: New media enquiry (Canberra Times) - Caesarean sections

Hi Liz

See attached the QON response to Jo Clay MLA and below a draft response that could be provided.

“Canberra Health Services routinely monitors its data to ensure the quality and safety of care. This routine monitoring has highlighted an increase in caesarean section rates in our public hospitals over the past several years.

Given this, we are undertaking an internal review to better understand the clinical drivers behind these decisions and to ensure women and families are receiving safe, high-quality, evidence-based maternity care.

Understanding why this increase has occurred, and whether there are opportunities to improve care, is exactly what this review will examine.

There are many clinical and personal factors that can lead to a caesarean section, including situations where it is the safest option for the baby or the birthing parent.

Changes in the complexity of pregnancies, maternal health needs and clinical decision-making may all play a role, and this will be assessed through this review.”

Cheers,

Brie

From: Lopa, Liz <Liz.Lopa@act.gov.au>

Sent: Monday, 30 March 2026 3:09 PM

To: Canberra Health Services Media <CHSmedia@act.gov.au>; CHS, Health Services Support Unit <CHS.HSSU@act.gov.au>

Cc: Canberra Health Services Media <CHSmedia@act.gov.au>; Foote, Claire <Claire.Foote@act.gov.au>

Subject: Re: New media enquiry (Canberra Times) - Caesarean sections

OFFICIAL

Hi Brie

Can I see the data table she is referring to? I would like to answer this with a statement that says this is what CHS is looking in to.

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From: Canberra Health Services Media <CHSmedia@act.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, March 30, 2026 2:38:05 PM
To: CHS, Health Services Support Unit <CHS.HSSU@act.gov.au>
Cc: Canberra Health Services Media <CHSmedia@act.gov.au>; Lopa, Liz <Liz.Lopa@act.gov.au>; Foote, Claire <Claire.Foote@act.gov.au>
Subject: New media enquiry (Canberra Times) - Caesarean sections

OFFICIAL

Hi all

In addition to discussions this morning around the Region Canberra enquiry we have received questions from Canberra Times on caesarean sections.

Issue: Caesarean sections

Outlet: Canberra Times

Journalist: [REDACTED]

Deadline: 11am, 31 March 2026

Type of request: Response

Questions:

1. What percentage of caesarean sections provided in the attached data tables were emergency caesareans compared to scheduled/elective ones?

X

• Why have these rates have increased over the past 3 years and since 2019 when the rate was closer to 30 percent?

For question 1, can you please confirm if we should reach out to WYC and NCH to confirm the percentage of emergency vs scheduled/elective caesareans? * We would need to confirm an extension to the enquiry should this be approved to go ahead. *

For question 2, I'm assuming we don't know this yet as this is something the review would be looking into. We could provide a line from the draft response to Region around having a high rate and this is why it's important we look into this, or could take the same approach with [REDACTED] and offer more information on the review in the coming weeks.

Kind regards,

Brienne Connor | Director, Media

Mobile: [REDACTED] | Email: brienne.connor@act.gov.au

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From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@canberratimes.com.au>

Sent: Monday, 30 March 2026 12:42 PM

To: Canberra Health Services Media <CHSmedia@act.gov.au>

Subject: Info on QoN caesareans

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Hi team,

Hope you're well,

Reaching out for clarification on some data released in a question on notice.

The data I've attached below shows caesarean rates at Canberra Hospital and North Canberra Hospital for the past 3 years- wondering if you would be able to provide any data on what percentage of these were emergency caesareans compared to scheduled/elective ones?

Also why these rates have increased over the past 3 years and since 2019 when the rate was closer to 30 percent?

(2019)

<https://questions.parliament.act.gov.au/details/11564d9e1431424f80bbccba2c59f8b1>

Deadline is 11am tomorrow.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Australian Community Media

M [REDACTED]

A 121 Marcus Clarke Street, Canberra City ACT, 2600

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accept legal responsibility for the contents of this message or attached files.

From: [CHS, Decision Support Unit Analytics and Reporting](#)
To: [CHS, WYC Executive Office](#); [Simpson, Sue](#); [CHS, Decision Support Unit Analytics and Reporting](#)
Cc: [Canberra Health Services Media](#)
Subject: RE: For Action: For input: Media enquiry (Canberra Times) - Caesarean section rates
Date: Thursday, 2 April 2026 2:20:20 PM
Attachments: [image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)
[image007.png](#)
[image008.png](#)
[image009.jpg](#)
[image002.png](#)

OFFICIAL

Dear Liz

Thank you for providing this information. I think it would be best if the response states that we are unable to provide this level of granularity of data as it would need to be pulled from operational systems and would therefore be subject to data maturation processes etc etc.

DSU Analytics and Reporting Team will be working towards developing this type of information when structured and validated data sources are in place.

With regards

Sue Simpson

[A/g Director, Business Relationships](#)

Decision Support Unit

Canberra Health Services

Ph: [REDACTED] or via teams

Email: chs.decisionsupportunit@act.gov.au



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From: CHS, WYC Executive Office
Sent: Thursday, 2 April 2026 1:39 PM
To: Simpson, Sue ; CHS, Decision Support Unit Analytics and Reporting
Cc: CHS, WYC Executive Office ; Canberra Health Services Media
Subject: FW: For Action: For input: Media enquiry (Canberra Times) - Caesarean section rates

OFFICIAL

Hi Sue

As discussed, seeking your assistance.

Attached is data that Wendy has pulled from DHR but this is very confusing and I don't think it is helpful.

Your advice would be appreciated.

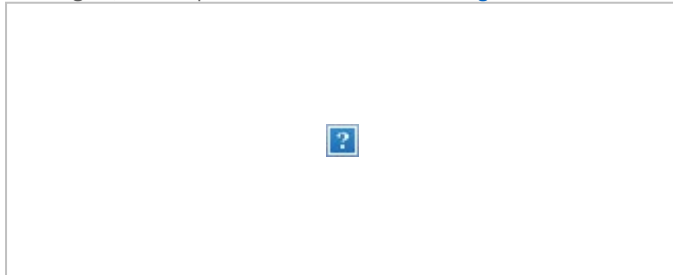
Liz

Elizabeth Wray | Executive Officer

Email: chs.wyccexecutiveoffice@act.gov.au

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From: Canberra Health Services Media <CHSmedia@act.gov.au>

Sent: Tuesday, 31 March 2026 1:01 PM

To: CHS, WYC Executive Office <CHS.WYCCExecutiveOffice@act.gov.au>; CHS NCH GM <NCHGM@act.gov.au>

Cc: Canberra Health Services Media <CHSmedia@act.gov.au>

Subject: For input: Media enquiry (Canberra Times) - Caesarean section rates

OFFICIAL

Hi WYC and NCH teams

We have received an enquiry from Canberra Times on caesarean section rates, see two questions below:

1. The data I've attached below shows caesarean rates at Canberra Hospital and North Canberra Hospital for the past 3 years- wondering if you would be able to provide any data on what percentage of these were emergency caesareans compared to scheduled/elective ones?
2. Also, why these rates have increased over the past 3 years and since 2019 when the rate was closer to 30 percent?

Where I require your assistance is for question 1 – a breakdown of elective vs emergency caesarean sections. Can you please let me know if this is something you are able to provide for the attached info?

I have spoken to Liz Lopa, and we will provide a statement for question 2. The below is going through approvals at HSSU now. Statement:

"Canberra Health Services routinely monitors its data to ensure the quality and

safety of care. This routine monitoring has highlighted an increase in caesarean section rates in our public hospitals over the past several years.

Given this, we are undertaking an internal review to better understand the clinical drivers behind these decisions and to ensure women and families are receiving safe, high-quality, evidence-based maternity care.

Understanding why this increase has occurred, and whether there are opportunities to improve care, is exactly what this review will examine.

There are many clinical and personal factors that can lead to a caesarean section, including situations where it is the safest option for the baby or the birthing parent.

Changes in the complexity of pregnancies, maternal health needs and clinical decision-making may all play a role, and this will be assessed through this review.”

Kind regards,

Brienne Connor | Director, Media

Mobile: [REDACTED] | Email: brienne.connor@act.gov.au

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Sent: Monday, 30 March 2026 12:42 PM

To: Canberra Health Services Media <CHSmedia@act.gov.au>

Subject: Info on QoN caesareans

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ones?

Also why these rates have increased over the past 3 years and since 2019 when the rate was closer to 30 percent?

(2019)

<https://questions.parliament.act.gov.au/details/11564d9e1431424f80bbccba2c59f8b1>

Deadline is 11am tomorrow.

Thanks,

[Redacted Signature]

Australian Community Media

M [Redacted]

A 121 Marcus Clarke Street, Canberra City ACT, 2600

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