

ACT HEALTH SYSTEM COUNCIL

Communique: 14 FEBRUARY 2024

The third meeting of the ACT Health System Council was held on 14 February 2024 and focused on infrastructure, services and service model planning, alongside funding mechanisms, and the Clinical System Governance Committee.

Planning for the Northside Hospital and the implementation of the Canberra Hospital Master Plan was discussed. Conversation centred on service design, community and clinician engagement emphasising the importance of planning for a future hospital capable of addressing various patient needs. Topics included: patient acuity, complexity and frailty; ICT systems; design standards; operating costs; and workforce sustainability.

Discussions also covered funding considerations contained in the National Health Reform Agreement (NHRA), the NHRA mid-term review Huxtable recommendations, as well as the Commonwealth and Local Hospital Network arrangements, cross-border agreement, and NGO commissioning. Council noted the unique factors for the ACT influencing health funding allocation and discussed the importance of a networked, integrated health care system.

The Clinical Systems Governance Committee provided an update on clinical governance, continuous improvement, safety, and quality. The Council recognised the significance of well governed data and the delineation between ACT Health Directorate and Canberra Health Services.

The implementation of the ACT Health Workforce Strategy and other workforce-related initiatives will be considered at Council's next meeting on 6 March 2024.