

A HEALTH SYSTEM YOU TRUST

MAKING OUR HEALTH SYSTEM MORE TRANSPARENT AND ACCOUNTABLE

The ACT Greens want everyone to live a healthy and fulfilling life with free, accessible and inclusive health care when and where you need it.

But Canberrans don't have trust in our public health system to support them when they need help. People often face lengthy wait times, have concerns over their care, or have to travel for care because many services aren't available in Canberra. With the cost of living increasing, many people can't afford private health insurance and rely on the public health system. And they should be able to. You shouldn't have to have private health insurance to get the care you need, when you need it. .

The ACT Greens will rebuild public trust in the public health system to make it the preferred choice of care for Canberrans, and the preferred employer to grow and retain our critical workforce.

We'll do this by establishing an independent board for our health system to ensure it is governed openly and transparently, and delivering the right care for Canberra when and where they need it.

THE ACT GREENS WILL ESTABLISH AN INDEPENDENT HEALTH BOARD TO:

- ▲ Strengthen and oversee financial, organisational, and clinical governance frameworks
- ▲ Improve staff wellbeing, experience and best practice
- ▲ Provide scrutiny and oversight to ensure the ACT Government health services are held accountable

MATURING OUR HEALTH SYSTEM

The ACT's public health system is becoming more complex. As our community continues to grow, so does the range of health services needed to keep people living fulsome and healthy lives.

Currently, the ACT's public health system manages and operates a tertiary specialist hospital, a newly acquired hospital, a forensic mental health facility, an eating disorder rehabilitation facility, a palliative care facility, and five walk-in centres. It continues to grow and offer more services and employment opportunities across the spectrum of healthcare.

NSW, QLD, SA and Tasmania all have an independent board to oversee their district health networks. These boards scrutinise government services, hold health providers to account and ensure that their health systems best support their community.

Despite providing a similar range and complexity of services the ACT does not have a health board to provide this critical oversight function.

That's why the ACT Greens will establish a statutory independent board to create a more transparent and accountable public health system that improves health outcomes for Canberra.

In 2022, the ACT Government established an independent oversight board for the Dhulwa forensic mental health unit review which significantly improved outcomes for both consumers and employees.

HOW WILL IT WORK?

The board will have an independent chair and membership. Members will have a diverse range of expertise and include carer, consumer and union representation. Recruitment will include a diversity of expertise to improve the ACT health system's clinical care delivery, financial expertise, digital and information systems, human resources, health system development and First Nations health.

It will also include the CEO of Canberra Health Services and the Director General of the ACT Health Directorate, with the potential to include other senior public servants. The Commonwealth Government will be invited to nominate a representative to attend board meetings.

The constitution of the board, and the terms of its enabling legislation, will be co-designed with the community. This will include which matters can be discussed publicly and which will be discussed confidentially. Consultation will occur within the first half of next term.

To increase transparency, board meetings will be open to the public to attend and observe, as specified.

The board will report annually to the ACT Government and the ACT Legislative Assembly.

The board's strategic priorities will be detailed in its Terms of Reference and include:

- Integration of the delivery of care across primary, secondary and tertiary services.
- Focus on discharge processes, ensuring that individuals are

discharged into adequate care, and that no-one is discharged into homelessness or emergency accommodation.

- Establishing and maintaining more holistic financial, organisational, and clinical governance frameworks.
- Managing funding to ensure that public funds are used in a manner that is consistent with patient centred care.
- Greater emphasis on staff wellbeing and the adoption of best evidence care.

INVESTMENT: \$1M PER YEAR

- \$850k per annum for the remuneration of board members and Chair.
- \$150k to recruit, onboard and upskill board members.