

## Request for Costing an Election Commitment

Name of proposal:	<b>Better Access to Healthcare – Specialist Outpatients Boost</b>
Person requesting costing:	Alistair Coe MLA
Date of request:	15 October 2020
Summary of proposal:	The Canberra Liberals will commit to a funding boost to conduct 30,000 more specialist outpatient services.
Issue the proposal will address:	This proposal will provide additional outpatient specialist services to support more Canberrans and reduce waiting times for appointments.

### What are the key assumptions that have been made in the proposal?

**Note:** The costing will be developed on the basis of information and assumptions provided in the costing request. The professional judgment of the Under Treasurer will determine whether these assumptions are adopted in the costing of the proposal.

The Canberra Liberals will provide a funding boost to provide additional outpatient specialist services to support more Canberrans and reduce waiting times for appointments.

On 1 July 2020, the Chief Minister and Minister for Health announced [a \\$30 million injection](#) into catch-up elective surgery and outpatient services, to make up cancelled services due to COVID-19.

According to [answers](#) to Questions on Notice 3170 and 3171, it was confirmed that \$3.5 million would deliver 14,000 specialist outpatient services. This averages to \$250 per service. This funding is targeted to catch-up the cancelled services.

The breakdown of the catch-up 14,000 specialist appointments is:

- Category 1: 12%
- Category 2: 43%
- Category 3: 45%

In an [update](#) to the ACT Legislative Assembly on 2 July 2020, the Minister for Health stated that this investment was for 2020-21.

In addition to the 14,000 catch up specialist outpatient services, the Canberra Liberals will further boost funding each year (indexed) into Canberra Health Services from 2021-22 to 2023-24 to conduct 10,000 more specialist outpatient services each year beyond the regular capacity.

What are the estimated revenue and operating costs each year (if available) and what are the capital requirements for this proposal and estimated costs each year (if available)?

	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	Total
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
<b>Revenue<sup>(a)</sup></b>					
<b>Expenses<sup>(a)</sup></b>		-2,531.3	-2,569.2	-2,614.2	-7,714.6
<b>Capital</b>					
<b>Depreciation</b>					

(a) A negative number indicates a decrease in revenue or an increase in expenses. The expenses row does not include depreciation costs.

Has any specific information or data been utilised in generating the proposal?

As outlined above, information used includes:

- [Joint media release from the Chief Minister and Minister for Health on 1 July 2020](#);
- [Answers to Questions on Notice 3170 and 3171](#); and
- [A statement made by the Minister for Health on 2 July 2020 in the ACT Legislative Assembly](#).

Where relevant, is funding for the proposal to be demand driven or a capped amount?

Capped.

Will third parties, for instance the Commonwealth or other State/Territories, have a role in funding or delivering the proposal? Does the proposal provide additional funding to, or redirect, any existing Commonwealth/State or Territory funding arrangements?

While the preference will be for specialist outpatient services to take place in the public system, there may be instances whereby the best clinical outcome for the patient is to see a private specialist.

Will funding/the cost require indexation?

Yes. CPI.

Who will administer the proposal?

The proposal will be administered by the ACT Health Directorate and Canberra Health Services.

How will the proposal be administered?

The proposal will be administered by the ACT Health Directorate and Canberra Health

Services.
Is the proposal part of a broader package?
This proposal forms part of the Canberra Liberals Policy on Better Access to Healthcare.
Has an allowance been made for expenses necessary to support the implementation of this proposal? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– If no, will the government agency be expected to absorb expenses associated with this proposal?</li> <li>– If yes, please specify the key assumptions.</li> </ul>
The ACT Health Directorate and Canberra Health Services will absorb any additional administrative costs associated with this proposal.
Will the proposal generate savings or offsets?
N/A
Has the proposal been previously costed by an external (third) party? Will a copy of this material, including any assumptions, be made available to Treasury?
N/A
What are the community impacts associated with the proposal? Who and how many people will be affected?
The thousands of Canberrans waiting every year for specialist appointments will be seen and treated sooner.
Are there any transitional considerations associated with implementation of the proposal? If so, how will they be managed?
N/A
What is the intended implementation date of the proposal?
1 July 2021
When is the proposal expected to be fully operational? Please provide details such as the start and end dates, the level of commitment during each period etc.
1 July 2021
Will the proposal cease, and if so, when?

30 June 2024

Is there any additional information relevant to this proposal?

N/A