



Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA

Minister for Health

Minister for Families and Community Services

Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs

Member for Kurrajong

Mr Ryan Hemsley
Interim Spokesperson
Molonglo Valley Community Forum
info@mvcommunityforum.org.au

Ms Monique Brouwer
Member
Molonglo Valley Community Forum

Dear Mr Hemsley and Ms Brouwer

Thank you for your letter of 30 March 2021 about the ACT Government's investment through the 2020-21 Budget in the Coombs Walk-in Health Centre pilot.

The Coombs Walk-in Health Centre pilot will be undertaken in partnership with the National Health Co-Op in Coombs and will focus on health care for women, children and young families in the area. The existing National Health Co-Op clinic already includes a large waiting room, facilities for staff and patients, and a dedicated parent/child space. This centre will pilot co-locating publicly funded appointment-based child and maternal health, antenatal health and lactation support with a General Practice that can provide short notice, urgent care.

The ACT Government committed approximately \$750,000 in the 2020-21 Budget over four years to pilot this new approach to deliver better integration of care with general practice closer to home. This investment aligns with the election commitment announced and costed by the ACT Treasury during the 2020 election campaign. I am pleased to advise that it is anticipated that the Coombs Walk-in Health Centre pilot will be operational in July 2021 to support the Molonglo region's growing population.

The ACT Government has also committed almost \$5.7 million in capital funding to deliver an outpatient imaging service at Weston Creek Walk-in Centre to improve community access to medical imaging. This will mean patients will not need to attend hospital to receive ultrasound, x-ray and CT scans, when they are referred to public imaging services by a Walk-in Centre or their doctor.

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In addition, the ACT Government has committed a further \$2 million in feasibility and site selection work for four additional Walk-in Health Centres in South Tuggeranong, West Belconnen, Inner South and North Gungahlin to deliver free and convenient public healthcare and better integrating with existing local health services closer to home. As was clearly articulated in ACT Labor's election commitment, it is expected that these new services will offer a combination of appointment and walk-in health services based on the needs of the local community.

We will work with local communities to ensure services in each centre are tailored to the needs of the region. We will also take the opportunity during this feasibility work to consider how the broader network of Walk-in Centres, Community Health Centres and these new local health hubs can best deliver the range of services Canberrans need in the right place at the right time.

For further information I encourage you to contact my Senior Adviser, Ben Tomlinson, via benjamin.tomlinson@act.gov.au or on (02) 6205 2661.

Thank you for taking the time to write to me and I hope this information is useful.

Yours sincerely



Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA

16 APR 2021