



## Meegan Fitzharris MLA

Minister for Health and Wellbeing  
Minister for Higher Education  
Minister for Medical and Health Research  
Minister for Transport  
Minister for Vocational Education and Skills  
Member for Yerrabi

Mr Tom Duncan  
Clerk  
ACT Legislative Assembly  
London Circuit  
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Mr Duncan *Tom*

Thank you for your letter of 12 February 2019, regarding petition 2-19 lodged by Ms Joy Burch MLA, about ACT Health to provide increased support for resource and infrastructure improvements at Canberra Sexual Health Centre. In response to the petition, I offer the following information.

The Canberra Sexual Health Service has an essential role in supporting the health of Canberrans and focuses on safe sex promotion, the testing and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases and the long-term management of HIV infection among other important functions.

The ACT Government is currently planning for the relocation and enhancement of infrastructure supporting the Canberra Sexual Health Centre, as part of the Surgical Procedures, Interventional Radiology and Emergency (SPIRE) Centre Project. The location of the SPIRE Centre will displace the existing Canberra Sexual Health Centre at Canberra Hospital, requiring an investment in new infrastructure. This investment will see the centre relocated and expanded to meet contemporary health design and clinical safety requirements, as well as to meet changing and increasing demands for the service.

Additionally, Canberra Health Services is focused on continued improvement and innovation in the delivery of their clinical services. To this end, work is underway improve the way in which Canberra Sexual Health Centre provides out-reach services, including the use of our community health centres and Walk-in Centres (WiCs) to deliver services closer to home and provide consumer advice and education. Most recently, this has included the promotion of access to chlamydia screening for young people at WiCs.

In addition to these new approaches, the Canberra Sexual Health Centre has a significant program of out-reach and in-reach services delivered in partnership with community organisations and other ACT Government partners, including the Aids Action Council, Karralika Programs Inc, Sexual Health and Family Planning ACT, Hepatitis ACT, University of Canberra Medical Centre, the Education Directorate, the Canberra Alliance for Harm Minimisation and the Sex Workers Outreach Project.

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### ACT Legislative Assembly

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Finally, I would like to acknowledge the ongoing and hard work of clinicians and staff from the Canberra Sexual Health Centre and extend my thanks to petitioners for bringing this important matter to my attention.

Thank you for raising this matter. I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Meegan', written in a cursive style.

Meegan Fitzharris MLA  
Minister for Health and Wellbeing

14 MAY 2019