

Elective Surgery Waiting List Reduction Plan Report for period October to December 2008

Australian Capital Territory Report

On 20 December 2007, COAG announced that the Commonwealth will provide \$150 million to the States and Territories in 2008 for an immediate national blitz on waiting lists. The aim of this Plan is that by the end of four years the backlog of patients waiting longer than clinically recommended for elective surgery will be dramatically reduced across Australia.

The Australian Government will provide up to \$600 million over four years for the Elective Surgery Waiting List Reduction Plan. The four year Plan includes three stages:

1. \$150 million to conduct an immediate national blitz, to help dramatically reduce the backlog of patients waiting longer than clinically recommended for elective surgery
2. \$150 million to make systemic improvements to the hospital system and improve elective surgery throughput in the long term
3. Up to \$300 million in dividend payments to States and Territories that dramatically increase the number of elective surgeries completed within the clinically recommended time by the end of the four year plan.

More information on the Elective Surgery Waiting List Reduction Plan can be viewed at www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/elective.

Under Stage One of the Plan, the ACT Government received \$2.5 million from the Australian Government to provide an additional 250 elective surgery procedures. These additional procedures will be delivered on top of the nearly \$49 million this government has funded since 2003-04. Funding for Stage One is targeted at patients who have been waiting longer than clinically recommended for elective surgery, ie long waits.

This project will focus on the ACT's elective surgery waiting list currently maintained within ACT public hospital system (i.e. The Canberra Hospital and Calvary Public Hospital). The list includes both ACT and NSW residents.

The ACT will provide treatment to a significant number of people who have been waiting for admission for longer than 365 days. In the case of Category 2 patients, this will also include patients waiting longer than six months. The funding being sought will enable the treatment and removal from the waiting list of 250 persons for various procedures.

ACT Elective Surgery Information

Table 1: Number of Patients Removed from Waiting List for Admission by Indicator Procedure (October to December 2008) - preliminary

Number of patients removed from waiting list for admission Quarter 2, 2008-2009			
Indicator procedure	TCH	Calvary	Total ACT Public Hospital
1 Cataract extraction	n.p.	n.p.	214
2 Cholecystectomy	37	33	70
3 Coronary artery bypass graft	26	0	26
4 Cystoscopy	90	75	165
5 Haemorrhoidectomy	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
6 Hysterectomy	18	20	38
7 Inguinal herniorrhaphy	39	15	54
8 Myringoplasty	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
9 Myringotomy	31	n.p.	n.p.
10 Prostatectomy	20	10	30
11 Septoplasty	13	33	46
12 Tonsillectomy	57	15	72
13 Total hip replacement	17	34	51
14 Total knee replacement	17	42	59
15 Varicose veins strip & ligate	46	n.p.	n.p.
16 Not applicable	1125	477	1602
Total	1545	984	2529

n.p. not published

Table 1 above shows the number of patients removed from the ACT waiting list for admission for surgery for the period October to December 2008. The quarter 2 result for 2008-09 is 2,529 patients admitted for surgery, up from 2,271 in the same quarter in 2007-08. ACT Public Hospitals provided 9,586 elective surgery operations in 2007-08, another record level of access to elective surgery in the ACT. This is 260 more people who have received elective surgery than the 9,326 recorded in 2006-07.

Table 2: Median Waiting Time for Indicator Procedures and Urgency Category (October to December 2008) - preliminary

Median waiting time for the 15 indicator procedures and urgency category Quarter 2, 2008-2009			
Indicator procedure	Median waiting time (days)		
	The Canberra Hospital	Calvary Public Hospital	Total ACT Public Hospitals
1 Cataract extraction	0	110	107
2 Cholecystectomy	65	122	98
3 Coronary artery bypass graft	7	0	7
4 Cystoscopy	67	48	48
5 Haemorrhoidectomy	195	77	87
6 Hysterectomy	49	54	49
7 Inguinal herniorrhaphy	64	132	90
8 Myringoplasty	357	0	357
9 Myringotomy	104	57	90
10 Prostatectomy	43	28	38
11 Septoplasty	153	615	545
12 Tonsillectomy	197	549	276
13 Total hip replacement	132	176	154
14 Total knee replacement	358	304	332
15 Varicose veins strip & ligate	238	341	249
16 Not applicable	36	45	39
Total	49	85	64
Urgency category			
Category 1: Admission within 30 days	12	15	13
Category 2: Admission within 90 days	96	92	93
Category 3: Admission at some time in the future	223	132	158
Total	49	85	64

Table 2 above shows that median waiting time statistics (50th percentile) from the waiting list for elective surgery, by indicator procedures for the period October to December 2008. Waiting times at admission for elective surgery by Categories 1, 2 and 3 at the 50th percentile is also reported in Table 2.

The additional \$2.5 million provided by the Commonwealth Government will target those specialities with the longest wait.

Additional information on elective surgery can be found in the ACT Health Public Services Performance report, a comprehensive quarterly report published on the ACT Health website at www.health.act.gov.au/reports

Table 3: Number of Patients Waiting by Urgency Category and by Surgical Speciality (October to December 2008) - preliminary

Number of patients waiting by urgency category and by surgical speciality Quarter 2, 2008-2009						
Surgical Speciality	Category 1		Category 2		Category 3	
	waiting	overdue	waiting	overdue	waiting	overdue
Cardiothoracic surgery			19	4		
Ear, nose and throat surgery	5		444	296	520	145
General surgery	18	4	328	146	92	11
Gynaecology	7		151	42	151	19
Neurosurgery	1	1	88	48	2	2
Ophthalmology			56	13	589	53
Orthopaedic surgery	4		885	598	279	90
Plastic surgery	3		142	68	57	19
Urology	24	7	410	234	208	43
Vascular surgery	10	1	24	8	74	6
Other	11		98	28	78	1
Total	83	13	2645	1485	2050	389

n.p. not published

The ACT Government also reports surgeon waiting times and operating sessions for ACT's public hospitals. This web page provides information on average waiting times for elective surgery for either a particular doctor or a clinical speciality. The web page shows the number of operating sessions a doctor has at either of the two Public Hospitals in the ACT. This information can be found in ACT Health's webpage at www.health.act.gov.au/waitinglists

Note: The data in this Report is preliminary.