

## **ELECTRICAL FAULT DEMONSTRATES ACT HEALTH'S SOUND DISASTER PLANNING**

ACT Health Chief Executive Dr Peggy Brown said today that last Friday's electrical fault at Canberra Hospital demonstrates the soundness of ACT Health's planning aimed at keeping the healthcare system running in the event of disaster.

"Our dedicated, proactive staff, coupled with ACT Health's sound business continuity plans ensured there was minimal impact on patients at the hospital," Dr Brown said.

"Last Friday morning, an electrical fault in one of the main electrical boards of the hospital caused a loss of power in a number of areas as well as smoke which set off alarm systems."

"This led to a loss of suction throughout the main hospital."

"Staff at the hospital soon set up a coordination centre to manage contractors, equipment and the flow of supplies from within the ACT and interstate."

"The centre and specialist electrical crews, together with ACTEWAGL, worked tirelessly on Friday, Saturday and again on Monday evening, to bypass the electrical board, replace, repair and restore systems. All work is now complete with all electrical and mechanical systems tested and are fully operational."

"Thermal scanning of all major electrical switchboard components has been conducted to ensure they are all working within the required specifications. In addition, scheduled maintenance programs continue to minimise any future disruption," Dr Brown said.

ACT Minister for Health Katy Gallagher also extended her congratulations:

"It is with great pleasure that I recognise and congratulate the many teams at Canberra Hospital and ACT Health on their smooth implementation of their business continuity plans," the Health Minister said.

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media release