

## ACT Health Media Statement

The recent charges laid against two ACT Health staff members for alleged sexual offences at Canberra Hospital have been dismissed.

ACT Health recognises the unique role it plays in providing services to members of the Canberra community during times in their life when they may be vulnerable as a result of an accident, illness, disability or bereavement.

ACT Health expects that all staff maintain a standard of behaviour that reflects the position they occupy and their responsibility to care for and assist members of the community using our services.

ACT Health therefore takes any allegations of impropriety or wrongdoing very seriously, and as in these two cases, works closely with the Australian Federal Police (AFP) to ensure that allegations are appropriately investigated. ACT Health maintains a commitment to an open and transparent process.

For the two individuals against whom charges were laid but have now been dismissed, and for the family and work colleagues, ACT Health recognises that this has been a difficult time and is committed to supporting their re-integration into the workplace.

ACT Health wishes to reassure the community of Canberra that patient safety is our highest priority, and that we have a range of processes in place aimed at encouraging patient safety and ensuring care is of a high standard. This includes undertaking background checks prior to engaging any employee, including police checks, registration checks and referee reports.

Considerable emphasis is also placed on ensuring all staff are aware of the expected standard of behaviour, the code of conduct and the values of ACT Health.

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media release